



The Activator

January 2021

A monthly newsletter from the United Methodist Church of Hudson

Mission Statement of the Church:

As followers of Jesus Christ we want to lead our community to a growing faith.

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CHRISTMAS - EPIPHANY SEASON ends January 6

With the long-awaited birth of Christ our Savior, came a *thrill of hope!* And the *weary world* rejoiced at the breaking of a *new and glorious morn!* Think of it!



It was a holy night when all anyone could do was *fall on their knees, hear the angels' voices, and worship the newborn King!*

When we really think about it, we may become as excited as the shepherds on the first Christmas Night and want to *tell everyone who will listen about what had happened and what the angels had told them.*

It might be helpful to take some time this year's end to reflect and record our own God-stories. Acknowledge the challenges, especially things we thought we couldn't survive but did! This can be a powerful tool for the future when we need a reminder of how resilient we truly are with God's help.

And a great read for our grandchildren and others when they want to know about Jesus and us.

After all, we are making history every day we endure this pandemic and we have God-stories to tell!

Those stories will be important to fellow Christians of our HUMC family, too. In order to survive, we need the support of other Christians who share our spiritual journey.

It is as important for faith communities to support one another as much as any other family.

If 2020 has taught us anything, it's how much the people in our lives, including our church family, mean to us, so let's spread some happiness. Let's write down how much the persons we love mean to us & let them know. Short notes or long letters, phone calls, texts or e-mails will lift their spirits and ours.

And what about our loved ones and church family who are mostly home and isolated? Call ahead to tell them to anticipate you are walking or driving by and make sure they see you. Pause in their driveway and wave. Or tell them you will honk your horn each time you drive by to share God's love.

Watch and share our Worship online and know when *we walk in the Light, as He is in the Light, we have fellowship with one another*, whether we are in-person or online. Know that most weeks through-out these nine months there have been new "likes" or "views" of our online efforts. We are reaching others with God's messages.

It seems more family members are "attending" ball games and concerts online now more than ever did in person.

Speaking of the internet, host an online party. A lovely time for all is possible by playing games

and singing. When we are online, there's no need for a mask, so show your face, smile lots and enjoy what can't be done in person. And then do it on a regular basis; start a Bible study or a book club or share devotional thoughts. With winter weather upon us, continue to "meet" online to remain in touch.

It is wise to be kind to ourselves, too. This COVID Christmas, it may have been hard not to feel a little Grinchy. But before you "steal" your own Christmas joy, or try to fast forward into the new year, look for ways to enjoy each day, the present.

Accept that the pandemic caused Christmas to look different than usual and make the best of it, like so many Christians through bad times before us.

We can find some new ways to celebrate—and some ideas may be so good we'll have new traditions for the future.

Spread joy. Let's smile behind our masks; people can see our eyes twinkle. Greet store clerks and bank tellers, servers and passers-by with a "Happy New Year," or "Happy Holidays." Wear masks with bright or colorful designs or draw a smile on disposable ones. Spread the joy of Jesus everywhere you go.

This pandemic has forever changed our lives, even similar, to the way lives were changed that first Holy Night. Still, like the Bible says, *we can show we are Christians by our love.* We can still bring the joy of Jesus to celebrations and warmth into our own hearts and the hearts of others, including our church family because we know the true meaning of that first Holy Night!

Pastor Audrey:)




O Holy Night

The stars are brightly shining
 It is the night of the dear Savior's birth!
 Long lay the world in sin and error pining
 Till he appeared and the soul felt its worth.
 A thrill of hope the weary soul rejoices
 For yonder breaks a new and glorious morn!
*Fall on your knees. O hear the angel voices.
 ... O night when Christ was born.*

Led by the light of faith serenely beaming
 With glowing hearts by His cradle we stand.
 So led by light of a star sweetly gleaming
 Here come the wise men from Orient land.
 The King of kings lay thus in lowly manger
 In all our trials born to be our friend.

Truly He taught us to love one another.
 His law is love and His gospel is peace.
 Chains shall He break for the slave
 is our brother
 And in His name all oppression shall cease.
 Sweet hymns of joy
 in grateful chorus raise we,
 Let all within us praise His holy name.



Just for KIDS

"A New Year – A New You"
Find the words from 2 Corinthians 5:17.

A	D	F	H	L	N	R	T	Y
C	E	G	I	M	O	S	W	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9


“ e ”

8 4 2,3 7 2,3 3 6,7 7 2,3 4,5 3

1 6 9 6,7 6 2,3 4,5 7,8 4,5 6

1,2 4 7 4,5 7,8 8 ’ 4 2,3 4,5 7,8 1

6 2,3 8,9 1,2 7 2,3 1 8 4,5 6,7 6 ;



8 4 2,3 6,7 5 2 4 1 7,8

3,4 6,7 6 2,3 8 4 2,3

6 2,3 8,9 4 1 7,8

1,2 6,7 5,6 2,3 !”



January

- 1 – Ferren Sadler
- 4 – Kirk Lundberg
- 14 – Jean Clausen
- 18 – Sharon Koger
- 21 – Dave Tolander
- 26 – Ron Bowers
- 27 – Jerod Sadler
- 29 – Jim Raymond
- 31 – Alan Clausen



REMEMBER TO PRAY FOR...

Carol Ann Cowling
Mavis Floss
Doug Coonrad
Erin Adair
Health Care Workers
First Responders

Our shut-ins
Mel Bartels
Margaret Mumm
Dee Vandenberg
Lila Epling



Don't forget to check out the Church Library.

Are you missing the online worship link that is e-mailed on Sunday mornings? If so, be sure we have your current e-mail address by sending it to Mary at hudumc@msn.com.



Watch for announcement of reopening for in-person worship by e-mail and Facebook. The Bishop's Team designated the pause through January 10th, back in November. Now we'll wait to see what they say, what happens with winter weather and what the after Christmas virus surge does when it hits that week. There will continue to be online worship offered.



Food Bank Sunday January 3, 2021

"If you offer your food to the hungry and satisfy the needs of the afflicted, then your light shall rise in the darkness. -- Isaiah 58:10 (NRSV)

We continue to request your support of the Northeast Iowa Food Bank by donating non-perishable food and non-food items and money through the church. The first Sunday of the month, January 3rd, will be designated "Food Bank Sunday".

The Northeast Iowa Food Bank's fall student food drive provided 107,397 meals from six Cedar Valley schools. Participating schools were: Cedar Falls High School, Hudson, Union High School, Valley Lutheran, Waterloo Christian, Waterloo East, and Waterloo West.

There is a container in the entryway for your donations of food and non-food items. If you prefer to give a monetary donation, make your check payable to the church with a notation that it is for the Food Bank. Your donation will show on your statement of giving to the church.

For every \$10.00 the food bank receives, they can provide approximately 40 meals. Your donations do make a difference. Can you help this month?



Community Church of Hudson plans to resume weekly community meals in a "To Go" fashion on Wednesday, January 27th, from 5:30 – 6:30 p.m. Reservations will be required.

More information and details on reservations will be available soon and will be forwarded.



December 2020

Offering:

December	6	1,835.00
	13	650.00
	20	2,450.00
	27	125.00
		\$ 5,060.00

Also received:

Apportionment:	\$	1,525.00
Northeast Iowa Food Bank		25.00
Trustees Interest		619.50
Angel Tree		125.00
Missions		33.00
Rent		1,050.00
TOTAL	\$	3,377.50



We were helped this year by receiving a forgivable PPP loan through our local bank

that was guaranteed by the U.S. Small Business Administration because of COVID, as a way to help pay our staff. But it was mostly your generous giving that allowed us to pay our apportionments and askings, as well as all our local expenses to date with a bit of a balance to carry over. Thank you to all those who have generously given.

The HUMC Finance Committee

Our 2020 Apportionments were \$681 less than 2019 and were allocated as follows:

- General Church - \$2,389
- Iowa Conference Ministries - \$6,903
- Iowa Conference Mission - \$1,939
- Total for 2020 - \$11,231**
- Northeast District Asking – 453

TREASURER'S REPORT

Approved 2020 budget:	\$86,154.00
Approved budget through December:	\$86,154.00
Apportionments due for 2020:	\$11,231.00
Apportionment payment per month:	\$ 936.00

	<u>Monthly</u>	<u>YTD</u>
Giving towards budget:	\$ 6,585.00	\$ 58,058.79
Budget Expenses:	\$ 16,169.00	\$ 73,686.00
Giving Apportionments:	\$ 1,525.00	\$ 4,683.78
Apportionment Payments:	\$ 11,231.00	\$ 11,231.00

With 100% of the year completed, our giving is at 79% of actual expenses and 67% of budget year to date. Our expenses are 86% of total approved 2020 budget. I'm glad to report that all of our apportionments have been paid. We also donated \$110 to Northeast Iowa Food Bank.

Please send your offering to the church (P O Box 146; Hudson, IA 50643) or use our online giving option on our website (hudumc.org).



Watch for and "reply all" to e-mails from church, pastor and leaders: hudumc@msn.com; deedee2x4@aol.com; dwt9497@aol.com; pastorayoung@gmail.com

Church "business" is being done over e-mail with "reply all" discussions and votes. Please participate to keep our church operating and our members safe while we are not holding in-person Worship and meetings.

SAVE^{the}DATE

Bishop Laurie Haller's Conversations on the Ministry of Local Church and Conference Finances

As a follow up to Bishop Laurie Haller's Epiphany Address, she will be hosting virtual conversations on the ministry of local church and conference finances.

These conversations will be livestreamed at four different times on two Saturday mornings. Please choose the time and date that works best for your attendance:

- Saturday, January 23 at 9:00 a.m.
- Saturday, January 23 at 10:30 a.m.
- Saturday, January 30 at 9:00 a.m.
- Saturday, January 30 at 10:30 a.m.

Bishop Laurie Haller invites all clergy and laypersons in the Iowa Conference to an Epiphany Address: *Watching Over One Another in Love*. The address will be Livestreamed on Monday evening, January 4, 2021, from 7:00 to 8:00 p.m. The address will be recorded for future viewing.

The address is based upon the Gospel Lesson for the Epiphany of Jesus Christ, Matthew 2:1-12. She intends to offer both a word of hope for the New Year and will share with you several initiatives designed to address areas of our life together as a church.

Included in these initiatives will be reports on the formation of Circuit Ministry, church finances, a process for reimagining the Conference Connectional Ministries Council, UM Camping and Retreat Ministries, and ways of caring for our clergy.

Following her address, there will be a time for questions and answers using the email address: vision2032@iaumc.org. These conversations are for all local church pastors and lay members of local churches, especially for lay members who are key leaders in their churches.

The health of our local churches is directly related to the financial health of the members and friends of our congregations. In the same way, the health of the Iowa Conference's financial ministry is directly related to the financial health of local churches. When it comes to the ministry of Jesus Christ, we are all in it together.

Bishop Laurie will provide an opening devotion for the conversations before leaders from the Conference

Council on Finance and Administration provide information and invite questions and comments through the email: vision2032@iaumc.org.

All of these upcoming events will also be Livestreamed to the Iowa UM Church Facebook page.



Thank you for the gift certificate and Christmas wishes. It was very thoughtful.

John Claussen

I want to say thanks for the thoughtful Christmas gift you gave me. I appreciate it! Here's to a better New Year!

Charles Mumm

Thank you for the Christmas gift. Your generosity always overwhelms me, especially this year. I am so blessed to work for/with such a great group of people.

Mary Rekers

Thank you to our church family for the beautiful red poinsettia plant. It has brightened up our home this Christmas season. We appreciate your thoughtfulness. Thanks again and we wish you all a Happy New Year and a healthy 2021.

Blessings, Ed and Marlys Smith

THANK YOU for the many Christmas gifts, greetings, and especially your prayers.

Pastor Audrey

Special thanks for Don and Diane Schulz for delivering poinsettias and gifts on behalf of the Hudson UM Church and Women.



There can be space for YOUR article here next month. E-mail your news to hudumc@msn.com by January 25th about what's happening at HUMC.



COVID-19 has prevented us from visiting our families, friends, and even neighbors. In this addition, we will be catching up with...Edward and Marlys Smith

Ed and Marlys have been members of Hudson United Methodist Church for about 54 years!

Ed was born in Waterloo, Iowa, in October 1935, the second child in his family with an older sister, Beverly and two younger brothers, Harlan and Charles. I, Marlys, was born in Cedar Falls, Iowa, the first child in the family with two younger brothers, Merrill and Marvin and one younger sister, Marilyn "Mary Kay".

Ed attended Hudson School first through 12th grade, graduating in 1955. I attended Waterloo Schools - Lafayette Elementary, East Jr. High School and East Waterloo High School graduating in 1954.

We met on June 30, 1956, on a blind date arranged by Larry and Audrey Andorf. We went to a movie at a drive-in theater.

We were married at Linden Methodist Church in Waterloo, Iowa on May 11, 1957. We have been married 63 years now.

Ed worked at John Deere. He first worked in the Heat Treat as a Furnace operator. Then he went into inspection in the heat treat. Eventually he moved to the Product Engineering Center as an Inspector of new John Deere Parts, experimental tractors that were going to go into production - new tractors in downtown Waterloo. He retired from John Deere after 36 years. Earlier in his life he had several jobs...Waterloo Corrugated Box Factory, School Bus Driver, Snyder Equipment, Reinbeck, Hudson Dairy - a milk route and Homeway Construction.

What jobs did I have? I worked at Swirly Top Drive-In, Waterloo; Sky View Drive-In Theater; High School Co-op job at First Baptist Church, Waterloo; and Prudential Insurance Company clerk. Then I worked as church secretary at the Hudson United Methodist Church, later adding the treasurer's job for a total of 33 years.

We lived in Waterloo the first 8 or 9 years of our marriage and then built our house in Hudson where we remain today. Except for those few years in Waterloo, Ed has lived in Hudson all his life. I grew up in Waterloo.

We have a son, Steve, and a daughter, Delores "Dee". Steve and his wife, Linda, live in Marshalltown and Steve works at Walmart in Marshalltown. Linda works as the office manager at the Marshalltown Masonic Temple. They have two daughters. Ashley and her husband Fred, a native of Brazil live presently in Doha, Qatar, where Fred is a Recruiter of International Students for Northwestern University of Evanston, Illinois. Ashley currently is not working outside the home although she had been working in daycare. Their second daughter, Lindsey and her husband Jared live in rural Marshalltown. Lindsey works for Emerson (formerly Fisher Controls). Jared works for Ritchie Industries in Conrad, Iowa. Lindsey and Jared have two little boys (our great grandsons!) Isaac is 5 and Cameron is 2.

Dee and her husband Ron live in Waverly, Iowa. They, along with Ron's sister, own and operate the Waverly Sales Company selling cattle and famous for the Waverly Midwest Horse sales twice a year. Dee and her sister-in-law run the cafe within the sale barn. Ron runs the business and the sales and is an auctioneer. Dee is also a Mary Kay beauty consultant and enjoys that second job. They have two boys. Bill does custodian work at the sale barn and lives at home. Robert also lives at home and works at the Waverly Hy-Vee Store. He has worked there twelve years now.

We stay mostly at home during this COVID Virus. Of course, when we go out we wear our masks. Both of us walk with the help of our walkers. We have help two days a week from "At Home with Western Home". Our helper does our laundry and light cleaning. We are happy to be able to stay in our own home with lots of help from friends, neighbors and relatives. Praying for an end to this terrible COVID-19 pandemic and a return to normal living in 2021.

May God bless all our church family.