



Manchester United Methodist Church

## *The Chimes*

413 East Butler St.

**December 2020**

Phone 563-927-4439

[www.umcmanchester.com](http://www.umcmanchester.com)

E-mail: [mumc@umcmanchester.com](mailto:mumc@umcmanchester.com)

No live worship on Christmas Eve...

### **Calling All Volunteers**

*Notes from SPPRC Chairperson Mike Wade*

### **Youth on Wednesday nights**

This year's ADVENT STUDY

### **End of the year contributions...**

### **COVID-19 & Finances**

And the final count for OCC  
boxes this year is...

*Scrip News*



## ***A note from Pastor Phil...***

***In those days Caesar Augustus issued a decree that a census should be taken of the entire Roman world. 2 (This was the first census that took place while Quirinius was governor of Syria.) 3 And everyone went to their own town to register. 4 So Joseph also went up from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to Bethlehem the town of David, because he belonged to the house and line of David. 5 He went there to register with Mary, who was pledged to be married to him and was expecting a child. (Luke 2:1-6)***

Have you ever stopped to think about this story? Seems like Luke is giving us a bunch of unnecessary information. In our current pandemic reality though, I think it takes on new meaning.

First there is this demand, during the winter, of a despot of a King whose greed requires that there be a census in the most difficult time of year to travel. Then we have a virgin, who through the mystery of faith is very pregnant, and is told by her husband that there needs to be a road trip. And then there is the 90 miles that separate Nazareth to Bethlehem. 90 winding, hilly, muddy miles...On a mule no less.

In our 21st century minds this seems to be inconvenient, but we can make it in less than a couple hours, with the heat on...

For this Holy couple it will take a journey of 4-7 days on the cold open road. With Joseph walking and Mary on the mule, very pregnant. I personally have never been pregnant, but I would assume that for Mary things couldn't seem much worse. Well, until she has the holy child in a barn, I guess. Yet this is the journey that will fulfill scripture, so that those who witness it will believe, and will share this joyful story of God's amazing love with others so they too will know hope and believe. And one will tell another through time and place until it comes here to share it with me so that once again, I will be encouraged and be assured in the love of God, and believe.

This year has been so difficult. A pandemic as we have never experienced, potential denomination split, civil unrest, and an election that has been filled with angst. We have traveled a path unlike any in our history, and one that has created division in people. It seems as if our 90-mile journey has gone on for 9 months! But lest we forget at the end of this journey the Christ Child is born, in a barn, laid in a feed trough. No matter how difficult it has seemed, God's love is still abundant, God's grace is for all, and God in authority is still on the throne. Because of this we can know love and hope eternal. This is what is most important! We are not destined to accept this last year as our "new normal." Instead it is just a part of our journey, that in its conclusion will find us kneeling at the manger, with our eyes focused on the true face of God. Here to free us from our burden of sin, here to love us sacrificially, here so that we will be welcomed there with Him in the Kingdom with our feet beneath the Heavenly Table. Godself has come near, we are not alone. And so we will worship! Perhaps differently than we hoped, but it shall be worshipping all the same in thanksgiving for all God has accomplished on our behalf. Amen.

**MUMC Single Board**

**November 17**

**6:00 p.m.**

**via Zoom**

**Present:** Ruth Voshell, Bruce Nodurft, Charlie Dighton, Pastor Phil, Mark Reth, Jean Gross, Janine Stellick, Bill Scanlon, Wayne Birkenholz, Pam Vap, Mike Wade.

Chairman Mark Reth called the zoom meeting to order. Our devotion for the meeting was from Isaiah 61:3 which reminds us that God is always present with us especially in times of adversity such as we are experiencing at the present time. Good can always be found in the bad things that come our way. We need to give thanks as Thanksgiving day approaches once again and remember that our hope is in the Lord who created everything in his image.

Prayers and praises were lifted up followed by a prayer for guidance from Pastor Phil.

**Finance:** Bruce is in quarantine and asked Ruth to fill in his absence with needed paperwork. He reported that the church insurances for next year are increasing with no changes being made at the present time. Fifty-eight Estimate of Generosity cards have been returned which is down from last year. Total amount of those cards for giving estimates was \$149,401 also down from last year. He will be emphasizing continued giving in spite of the disruptions to church programming as the bills continue to need to be paid. October income amounted to \$18,531 with expenses of \$16,913 without apportionments. \$16,732 has been paid toward our apportionments this year. The Brick-by-Brick campaign has cash on hand of \$98,405 as of the end of October. Bruce will continue to keep our congregation updated on finances in the *Weekly Blast* and the monthly *Chimes*.

**Trustees:** Charles Dighton reported that the snow and ice removal people are ready to go and Roger Erickson will be cleaning the east parking lot only and piling the snow on the west parking lot.

**Worship:** Ruth thanked Mike Wade for helping with the taping of our church services since we are back to virtual viewing.

**Christian Ed:** Pastor Phil said an advent study book is on order which will include a daily reading/devotional for families to use at home during advent. The sermon focus for each week of advent will come from this study book. The cost of the book is \$6.50 and they can be picked up at the church office from Kat or someone can deliver one to you if you are unable to come to the church.

**Missions:** Due to the lack of our Angel Tree project this year as well as Operation Santa Claus locally the **Pay it Forward** group in Manchester is taking this on as a project that will serve over 200 children in our community. Eight hundred dollars from the Angel Tree fund and undesignated missions funds will be put toward this effort.

**Reaching and Receiving:** The ministerial association is taking part in drive-thru Christmas displays sponsored by the Delaware County Fair Board to be held at the fairgrounds this year. The association will be pooling resources from their churches to purchase a lighted nativity scene. Reaching and Receiving will donate \$300 from their budget for this endeavor.

**Congregational Care:** Calls to members of our church family continue to be made but less frequently.

**Staff Parish:** Mike Wade will be having a sign-up list for volunteers to man the church office while Kat is on maternity leave with an approximate starting date of January 1, 2021.

**Lay Ministry:** Bill Scanlon shared how difficult it is for him and everyone as we miss seeing our church family.

Pastor Phil said security concerns have been addressed and he has received no complaints. The church will be locked at all times when Kat is there alone and when she goes to lunch.

Mark shared the following: 2020 will no doubt go down in history as one of the least favorite for many of us. As the year winds down and we head into the Advent and Christmas season this year more than ever we need to look for the good instead of reflecting on the bad.

Meeting adjourned at 7:25 p.m. followed by the Lord's Prayer. Our next zoom meeting will be held on December 15 at 6:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jean Gross  
Secretary

**October Financial Report:**

Year-to-date income: \$191,819

Year-to-date expenses: \$190,286



# Manchester United Methodist Church

413 E Butler St.

563-927-4439

[kat@umcmanchester.com](mailto:kat@umcmanchester.com)

Dear church family, The Safety Team has decided to continue our online and radio worship on Sunday Mornings. This is due to a substantial increase in COVID cases in Delaware County, and a further concern that these numbers may very well increase over the holiday season.

The current plan is to make service available once again by video on Sunday morning. It can be accessed on the website at [www.umcmanchester.com](http://www.umcmanchester.com), on the church Facebook page as well as KMCH on Sunday nights at 6pm. **There will be no live worship on Christmas Eve. Christmas Eve Service will be online. Our plan is to hold off on live worship until January 17<sup>th</sup>, 2021** and services will remain at 8:30 and 10:00 Sunday mornings.

## **For the safety of all our church family the following rules must be followed for live worship:**

-Everyone must enter through the front doors (North entrance), regardless of where you park.  
-Everyone must be wearing a mask before you can enter the building. (With the exception of babies or toddlers) If you need a mask there will be some near the entrance. Please grab the first one on the end don't dig to find a different one because yours has flowers on it. A free will offering box will be available if you'd like to donate for your mask. (We do have some smaller masks for toddlers and little kids if parents would like one.) If you refuse to wear a mask you will not be allowed in the building.

-Everyone must sit where the ushers seat you. It is not likely that you will sit where you always sit. You will be seated in the order you arrive. (Please be patient, this is temporary.) Please sit and wait for service, don't wander around church. We are still asked to practice social distancing. You may use the restroom if necessary. The yellow restrooms, located on the same level as the library and the restroom in Wesley Hall will be open for use.

-All Bibles, Hymnals, Visitor cards, pens and offering envelopes have been removed from the pews in order to make sanitation between services easier. If you need envelopes for offering please get some in the office some time during the week or use your own and have them ready before service. Offering boxes will be available as you exit worship.

-When worship has finished everyone will be excused in the same way in which we do communion. The ushers will dismiss by row. When dismissed please leave immediately. Don't stop to talk with anyone. If you need to talk please call the person or perhaps meet in the park across the street from the church. We need everyone off church grounds as soon as we possibly can in order to prepare for the next service. Everyone must exit through the south doors near the parking lot. (Again regardless of where you parked.)

-Last but not least, please do not stop to talk to pastor. He would love to talk to everyone but he has to continue to social distance as well. He will be in his office and he'll wave as you exit church but his office will be locked. If you need to speak with him please call or email. [pastorphil@umcmanchester.com](mailto:pastorphil@umcmanchester.com) or 563-927-4439.

Thank you for your patience and understanding at this time.

-God Bless  
MUMC Staff



## MANCHESTER UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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ε Mike Wade/SPPRC Chairperson / [mumc@umcmanchester.com](mailto:mumc@umcmanchester.com)

November 23, 2020

Dear Church Family,

**Subject:** Volunteer(s) Needed

As many of you know, Kat Rogers, our Administrative Assistant will be adding an addition to the Rogers team in January 2021. Due to Covid-19 protocol she must go into quarantine by December 27, 2020 to ensure she is COVID-19 safe prior to delivery.

Kat is planning on taking maternity leave until sometime around February 22, 2021. During this time, we will need somebody to take and respond to phone calls and provide some assistance to the Pastor. It is expected at this time that office hours will be from 9:00 AM -3:00 PM, Monday – Thursday. Kat does expect to be able to complete some tasks during the quarantine period and after birth from her home, until her return to the church office.

More details on the expected tasks needed will be developed in the next couple of weeks. If you feel you have any interest in helping out at the church office during this time period, please contact Kat at the office by phone (563-927-4439) or by email [kat@umcmanchester.com](mailto:kat@umcmanchester.com).

Sincerely,

Mike Wade  
SPPRC Chairperson



## MANCHESTER UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

ε Mike Wade//SPPRC Chairperson / [mumc@umcmanchester.com](mailto:mumc@umcmanchester.com)

Dear Church Family,

The Christmas season is once again upon us! In the tradition of this church family, we hope to present a gift to the pastor and staff members. Although we have not been able to meet at the church very often this year, Pastor Phil and our staff have been working tirelessly to ensure that the church has been safe to enter and to keep in communication with our church family in many new and different ways.

If you are interested in taking part in this project, please drop off your gift at the church or mail it to the main church office. Please make checks payable to: MANCHESTER UNITED METHODIST CHURCH SPPRC and note gifts in the memo. Please submit any gift by December 23, 2020. A time and method to deliver your gifts to staff we be determined at a later date.

Manchester United Methodist Church

ATTN: SPPRC  
413 East Butler Street  
Manchester, IA 52057

Please be sure all gifts are in by **December 23<sup>rd</sup>**, so they may be presented at a time and place to be determined at a later date.

This is sent to you in the spirit of the Christmas Season and it is the hope of the SPPRC that you will accept it in the true spirit of Christmas.

Sincerely,

Mike Wade  
SPPRC Chairperson



### The Clothing Closet

Open on Monday mornings from 8:00-12:00. Masks are required. The closet will accept only winter donations especially winter coats. Children are also asked not to attend at this time. Thank you.



### Second Helpings

Every 1st and 3rd Monday of the Month Second Helpings will have drive thru service at the church from 4:00-5:00pm. Frozen meals will be given to those in need. If you have any questions please contact the office. God Bless.



### YOUTH GROUP

Youth has begun meeting in person. We meet on Wednesday nights in Wesley Hall from 6:30-7:30 grades 5th-Seniors. There will be no meal served at this time and masks are required. If you have any questions please contact the office. See you there!



10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary OCC Drop-Off Location  
*Manchester United Methodist Church*

*Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; his love endures forever. Psalm 107:1*

The year 2020 is getting a bad rap; however, we have so many reasons to give thanks to God for his blessings and provisions and his everlasting love for each of us!

I thank God for this congregation and your willingness to open up our church to serve now for 10 years as a Drop-Off Location for Operation Christmas Child.

I thank God for all the volunteers who made this year's collection season a success. Some of their jobs included:

- Inventorying and organizing packing party supplies
- Packing boxes at our mini packing parties
- Working at our Drop-Off Location
- Loading shipping cartons and transporting shoe boxes to the Collection Center in Waterloo

I thank God for all the donors who brought items for our mini packing parties, gave money to cover shipping costs, and packed boxes whether physical boxes or those built online.

I thank God for everyone who prayed for this ministry and our efforts to share the gospel with children around the world. At the end of National Collection Week, we collected 1480 shoe boxes at our Drop-Off Location and had another 21 donated online. While this fell short of our goal of 2,020, I know God has a plan for each and every one of these boxes and the children who will receive them. THANK YOU for your continued support of this ministry!

Left: Gracie packs boxes in a shipping carton.

Middle: This crew loaded 92 shipping cartons Sunday afternoon. Just one more day to collect boxes!

Right: During downtime at the Drop-Off, Mary Jane, Noelle, Kaci, and Meghan prep items for next year's packing party.



Left: Gracie packs boxes in a shipping carton.

Middle: This crew loaded 92 shipping cartons Sunday afternoon. Just one more day to collect boxes!

Right: During downtime at the Drop-Off, Mary Jane, Noelle, Kaci, and Meghan prep items for next year's packing party.



## Advent Study

This year has been full of unique firsts. Not because we wanted change, but it was forced upon us due to the pandemic. Our Advent season included. We are back to video/radio only worship, which is edifying but I think we would rather be together. But what about our Advent Small Groups? This year, because of the significant spike in our county and community I do not feel comfortable planning small groups to meet for our Advent study. If you have a small group you are comfortable with and would like to meet that is fine, but this is just not the year for everyone to be involved in a small study group.

What I do urge our church family to do is to get the Advent Study Book "Not Yet Christmas" by J.D. Walt (In the church office for \$6.50 apiece) and do this as an individual or family study at home. We chose this study deliberately because it is a daily devotional. You can read one page per day, perhaps before a meal, and discuss your thoughts as we prepare the way for the coming of the birth of our Savior. Each week in worship we will focus on one of the devotionals from the previous week.

You can pick up books in the church office, or if you are not going out you can call Kat in the church office and we will hand deliver them to you.

Prayers that all remain safe and blessed.

Peace

Pastor Phil

## **YOUR END OF YEAR CONTRIBUTIONS**

Please be advised that Sunday, **December 27<sup>th</sup>** is the deadline for contributions to be credited to you for the year 2020. Also, anyone wishing to have a record of their 2020 giving for tax purposes or otherwise should contact the church office with their request (927-4439). We would like to mail them to you electronically if possible, so please include your email address with your request. We will mail your statement to you if that is your preference. Thank you.

## **COVID-19 & CHURCH FINANCES**

By now you are probably aware that because of the increased cases of Covid-19 our live worship services on Sunday mornings have been canceled until at least January 2021. It seems like it was not that long ago that we had to cross this bridge, but here we go again!

As finance chairman, I am asking you to repeat your performance of several months ago and to again make that extra effort to financially support our church. Not having the opportunity to place our contribution in the offering plate puts an extra strain on each of us, but it is vitally important that we continue to contribute. While we continue to try and hold the line on expenses, there are bills that must be paid. We still have payroll to meet and utility expenses to pay. In addition, there is a quarterly insurance payment in November and a quarterly premium on the elevator contract. November and December are usually the two months where our contributions are the greatest and help us to end the year in a positive financial position. For that to happen this year, each of us is going to have to make an extra effort to contribute. So please prayerfully consider mailing your contributions to the church, or dropping it off at the office or in the mailbox outside the office marked 'finance'.

Earlier this year when the church was faced with this predicament, you responded very generously. Please respond in a similar way to this challenge again.

God bless each of you.

Bruce Nodurft, finance chairman

## SCRIP NEWS!!

It's December and that means it's time to let the MUMC scrip team help you with your gift needs! Scrip is ideal for many reasons: easy to send to out-of-town gift recipients, ease of purchase and use, no chance of your credit card being compromised, and now in these Covid days it allows you to not browse through stores searching for gifts.

Our gift card company, Great Lakes Scrip, has hundreds of options available. From clothing to movie theaters to home improvement to online ordering to restaurants, we have you covered! If we don't have it on hand we can probably order it for you. You can find a complete list of available options on [shopwithscrip.com](http://shopwithscrip.com), or speak with a scrip team member for more information.

We have some new offerings this year! Here are three in particular you may want to check out, all in \$25 denominations:

- Freddy's Frozen Custard and Steakburgers, with locations in Cedar Rapids, Waterloo, and Dubuque as well as many other cities.
- Happy Dining. This card is good at any of six restaurants, giving it great flexibility: Buffalo Wild Wings, The Cheesecake Factory, Cracker Barrel, PF Chang's, Red Lobster, and McCormick & Schmicks.

Happy Moments. This one too has great flexibility for the user, as it is good at seven places: Buffalo Wild Wings, the Cheesecake Factory, Red Lobster, Bed Bath and Beyond, Macy's, Sephora, and Regal Theaters.

Gift cards are also a great choice for stocking stuffers! During the holiday season many retailers offer \$5 to \$15 cards - perfect for showing appreciation to paper carriers, teachers, coaches, hairdressers, etc. These can be used at all locations. Examples are [amazon.com](http://amazon.com), Applebee's, Barnes & Noble, Bath & Body Works, Bruegger's Bagels, Culver's, Dairy Queen, Fareway, Hardee's, iTunes, Olive Garden / Red Lobster, Panera Bread, Pizza Hut, Starbucks, Subway, and Target. These will need to be ordered in advance in most cases.

All orders will need to be in by Monday, December 14 to to guarantee delivery by December 22. If you have any questions about what we have available or about scrip in general, call Kat in the office or anyone on the scrip team. You can place orders through Kat (927-4439), Chris Mundy (920-5865), or anyone on the scrip team.

We appreciate your business, and remember - all our profits go directly back to our church! Your purchases are a win-win!

Your MUMC scrip team,

Carol Dighton, Kathy Evarts, Linda Gearhart, Alice Kluesner, Terry Larson, Erin Learn, Chris Mundy, and Vicki Spellerberg.



# Happy Birthday

# Happy Anniversary

Jerry Ridenour.....	12/03
Vicki Spellerberg .....	12/03
Clifford Swanson .....	12/03
Les Carlson.....	12/05
Tiffany Feldmann .....	12/05
Julia Hopkins.....	12/06
Michael Wade .....	12/06
Michael Ryan .....	12/07
Lori Clemen.....	12/08
Mark Philgreen .....	12/08
William Wolter.....	12/11
Christian Zehr.....	12/11
Kenze Tutton .....	12/12
Jeffrey Nystel .....	12/14
Luanne Becker .....	12/15
Jennifer Sellner .....	12/15
Gary Gibbs.....	12/18
Donna Reeder.....	12/19
Jeanne Taylor.....	12/21
David Gaskill.....	12/24
Pat Swanson .....	12/26
Marilyn Hamman .....	12/28
Linda Kerton .....	12/28
Janie Vogt .....	12/28
Travis Mensen .....	12/29
Blair Heims.....	12/30
Terri Mueller.....	12/31
Kat Rogers.....	12/31
Phil Rogers.....	12/31
Kathy Waterman.....	12/31

Verle & Donna Hankins .....	12/24
Richard & Judy Fox .....	12/28
Ron & Janie Vogt.....	12/30
Ken & Lisa Edaburn.....	12/31

*"Behold, a virgin shall be with child,  
and shall bring forth a son, and they  
shall call his name Emmanuel, which  
being interpreted is, God with us." -  
Matthew 1:23*

**Good Neighbor Home**  
**105 McCarren Drive, Manchester**

<u>NAME</u>	<u>ROOM #</u>	
Catherine Manson	S-24	LG Print
Delores Timmer	S-25	LG Print
Jim Dekeyser		
Jeane Taylor		

**The Meadows**  
**220 McCarren Drive, Manchester**

John Tyrrell	109	LG Print
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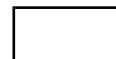
# December

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Worship @ 8:30am & 10:00am	Second Helpings  Drive Thru Only 4:00- 5:00	<b>December 23rd CHIMES DEADLINE</b>	Youth Group 6:30-7:30 Wesley Hall Grades 5-12	December Mission: Chainsaw Teams		
		1	2  Youth Group 6:30-7:30  Wesley Hall	3	4	5  8:00PM <b>Community Meeting</b>
6  Worship @ 8:30am & 10:00am	7  Second Helpings  Drive Thru Only 4:00- 5:00	8	9  Youth Group 6:30-7:30  Wesley Hall	10	11	12  8:00PM <b>Community Meeting</b>
13  Worship @ 8:30am & 10:00am	14	15  <b>Single Board Meeting</b>	16  Youth Group 6:30-7:30  Wesley Hall	17	18	19  8:00PM <b>Community Meeting</b>
20  Worship @ 8:30am & 10:00am	21  Second Helpings  Drive Thru Only 4:00- 5:00	22	23  <b>CHIMES DEADLINE</b>	24  Christmas Eve	25  	26  8:00PM <b>Community Meeting</b>
27  Worship @ 8:30am & 10:00am	28	29	30	31  <b>HAPPY NEW YEAR</b>		



Manchester United Methodist Church  
413 E. Butler St.  
Manchester, IA 52057-1612

**Return Service Requested**



**TO** \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

*Office Hours*

**Monday & Wednesday**

**9:00am-5:00pm**

**Tuesday & Thursday**

**9:00am-3:00pm**

**Friday**

**Church is Closed**

**We invite you to join us for  
worship on Sunday mornings at 8:30am &  
10:00am or visit our website  
[www.umcmanchester.com](http://www.umcmanchester.com)  
Or listen to KMCH 94.7 at 6:00pm on  
Sunday Nights**



The MUMC Chimes  
Official Newsletter of the  
Manchester United Methodist Church  
413 E. Butler Street (563) 927-4439

The Ministry Team at MUMC includes:  
The Entire Congregation  
Reverend Phil Rogers  
Secretary: Kat Rogers  
Church Custodian:  
Dennis Porter  
Christian Education Director:  
Choir Director & Organist:  
Bell Choir Director:  
Mission Coordinator:

Articles printed as submitted.

Prepared, printed and prepped-to-mail  
at MUMC.

Please forward any new addresses to  
the church at  
413 E. Butler or call 563-927-4439

Thank you!