

The United Methodist Church of Antioch

THE MESSENGER

“The mission of the United Methodist Church of Antioch is to grow in faith, worship God following the teachings of Jesus Christ, and be instruments of God’s love, through the Holy Spirit, as we reach out to our community and the world.”

December, 2020
Volume 4, Issue 12

FROM PASTOR KATIE’S KEYBOARD...

As we worship in December, we are in the season of Advent for the first part and will be focusing on lessons that help us to **“Fear Not!”** Each Sunday in Advent will focus on a different character in the story of the nativity and what he/she/they fear and how that applies to what we might also fear. The lesson of how they find faith despite their fear is a beautiful thing for us to think about during this year, particularly.



Then, of course, we begin the season of Christmas on Christmas Eve. It will be so good to begin our celebrations and make sure they linger all the way to Epiphany – when the Magi finally arrive to the child Jesus. Our Christmas celebrations will be celebrated online, of course, and there is an opportunity for you to reflect on both the Advent and Christmas seasons in our **Memorial Garden** in person. Please see the full article about



this elsewhere in the newsletter for all the details. You will be able to do this walk-through experience starting December 19th through January 6th, whenever it fits into your schedule.

The Sunday after Christmas will be great fun, as we will have a service of **Lessons & Carols**. The whole worship service is Scripture readings and Christmas carols!

I pray you will find ways to prepare your hearts to receive the infant Jesus in the manger, but also to prepare for Jesus to return. We can



prepare for Jesus to come in multiple ways during this season of preparation. I hope that we will find ways to lay aside our fears and step out in faith, with Christ’s leading.

- December 6th Luke 1:26-38 & 46-55
Fear Not, Mary!
- December 13th Matthew 1:18-25 ***Fear Not, Joseph!***
- December 20th Luke 2:8-14 ***Fear Not, Shepherds!***
- December 24th Luke 2:1-20 ***Fear Not, Everyone!***
- December 27th Various ***Service of Lessons & Carols***

I look forward to seeing you in worship personally or virtually! It is a good thing for us to be able to continue to worship our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, in as safe a way as possible, no matter what is happening in the world.

Pastor Katie Voigt



ALTERNATIVE PERSPECTIVE

December is arguably the most significant month of the year. For one, it means the end of a calendar year with a new one around the corner. For some reason, it doesn't seem to me that 2020 will ever end. The comic strip "Frazz" from the *Chicago Tribune* the Sunday before Thanksgiving summed it up pretty well. (It's amazingly insightful—*Google* it!)



The student *Caulfield*, is explaining to *Frazz*, the school's custodian, why he was surprised that Thanksgiving hasn't been canceled in 2020. *Caulfield*, "This hasn't been the most generous year. Everybody had their normal taken away. A lot of people lost a great deal more than that. They lost chunks of their education, lost opportunities, lost jobs, lost a sense of security, lost ability to move about, lost friendships over disagreements, lost friends permanently, lost their homes, and many actually lost their lives. It seems like if we have anything to be thankful for, it's survival." If all we are ever thankful for is what we haven't lost, or will not lose, then maybe we don't fully understand hope and gratefulness. My very best to all this Advent season.



Mike DeBenedetto, Lay Servant

FINANCE UPDATE

As the church begins its new year, the *Finance Committee* is starting work on the 2021 church budget. For the past several years, we have used a budget model called the faith-based budget. This means rather than our expenses equaling our income, we create a budget based on what funds are needed to do the things we need to do to accomplish our goals.



Based on pledges received as of November 24, 2020, we anticipate \$143,320 in income. Of course, we also receive donations from people who don't pledge and from special appeals. This is where the faith part of our budget comes from. We believe in our congregation and know that when the need arises and a special appeal is made, you step up. With God's blessing, we will continue to do as much good work in 2021 as we can.

Peace in 2021,
Linda Hensgen



MEMORIAL GARDEN CHRISTMAS WALK OPENING DECEMBER 19TH!

This summer and fall I enjoyed worshipping in the *Memorial Garden*. The peaceful tranquility of praying and listening to the worship service settled my soul. I would gaze at the several bushes and rocks and flower beds, listen to the wind chimes, and gaze at the stained-glass windows of the *Sanctuary*. Road noise was replaced in my mind by *Nicole* singing a hymn, *Pastor Katie* preaching, and birds chirping. If it hadn't been for this pandemic, I don't believe I would ever have taken the time to sit and meditate in the *Memorial Garden*. My Sundays had always been spent scurrying back and forth between the *Choir Room*, *Sunday School* and the *Sanctuary*. Sitting in the garden, worshipping, I came to treasure our *Memorial Garden*.



I'm pleased to announce that our *Worship/Return Team* has been planning a nativity walk in our *Memorial Garden* for this Christmas. We are designing a place for you and your family to visit during the day or evening to meditate on our Savior's coming and birth. The walk will begin on the north side of the *Anderson Education Wing* and proceed throughout the *Memorial Garden*. Starting with Advent, and continuing with a book walk (*The Christmas Star*) you will encounter all of the familiar characters in the nativity scene among sparkling Christmas lights. If you choose to come after dark, bring an extra light to help read the book signs. There will be some light from the lights in the display. No scheduling is needed; we only ask that you wear masks and social distance if another group comes at the same time.



Come experience the wonder of Christmas in our very special *Memorial Garden*. Traditions are very much a part of how each of us celebrates this upcoming season. Hopefully, a new tradition will help ease the disappointment of pausing some of our time-honored ones. The *Christmas Walk* will remain up through Epiphany. Invite your friends and family!

Debbie Gillette, Director of Music

MISSIONS

Cookie Walk

This year because of the COVID-19 pandemic we will have to try a different approach than raising money from the cookie sale. All proceeds earned from our cookie/stocking stuffer sale and the **Christmas Resale Shoppe** solely support what our church donates to the **Rainbow Covenant** for the year. Because we can't bake this year the **Missions Committee** is asking you

to please consider donating what you would normally spend on ingredients making the cookies or what you would have spent buying the cookies and **Resale Shoppe** items. On December 12th from 9:00 am -1:00 pm outside of the church (in a tent) we will have a stocking stuffer/dog treat sale. Masks and social distancing will be required. **Pastor Katie** will make announcements regarding this during church services.

Any questions please call the church office at 847/395-1259 or call **Lou Ann Holmes** at 815/675-6552

PADS

Even in this crazy year, there are many things to be thankful for. The November donations were bountiful, and they fill me with such gratitude for our church's generosity in hard times.

No focus this month, except maybe something that

you enjoy, fast food gift cards and travel size personal hygiene products (mouth wash without alcohol). This

drive will be announced on Sunday, December 20th, with December 27th as the collection date. The hotels provide microwaves in their rooms but no refrigeration or cook tops. Please shop with those restrictions in mind. Some suggestions are listed below:

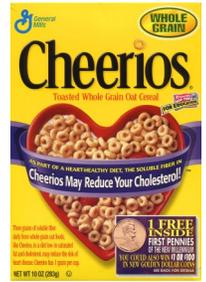


raising money from the cookie sale. All proceeds earned from our cookie/stocking stuffer sale and the **Christmas Resale Shoppe** solely support what our church donates to the **Rainbow Covenant** for the year. Because we can't bake this year the **Missions Committee** is asking you



PADS, continued

- Oatmeal
- Cereal
- Juice boxes
- Bottled water
- Soups with pop tops
- Ramen noodles in a bowl
- Gift cards for Burger King, Wendy's, etc.
- Chicken or tuna, premixed with seasonings, often in a foil pouch
- Crackers with cheese or peanut butter filling, healthy snacks, baked chips, pretzels, nuts, granola bars, individually packaged raisins



Please call the church office at 847/395-1259 or call/email **Carol Cichonski**, 847-265-1214 or ccichonski@comcast.net with requests for donation pick-ups, if you are not able to bring your donation to the church.

SPECIAL MESSAGE

Many thanks to all who participated in the drive-by on my birthday and those who sent the lovely cards. It all was much appreciated and made my 95th very special!



Thank You!

Carol Maplethorpe



MORE ON MISSIONS

CROP Walk

The *SASSY Ladies Team* (Sallie Stoner, Anne Dickson, Shelby Wais, and Sally Rodgers) participated in the *CROP Hunger Walk* on November 7th. The two *Sallies* completed the entire walk, but we all had great fun! During our activity we saw some friends, including *Pastor Katie* and her mother, *Eleanor*.



Thank you, UMCA, for your support! Take care and stay safe!

Sally Rodgers

CHURCH DIRECTORY UPDATE

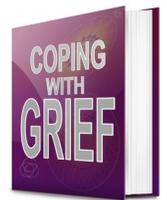
The church directory has been finished, submitted, and ordered from *Lifetouch* this last week. *Lifetouch* will send a sample to us for approval, and once that is done we can start production on all the church directories. They will be sent to the church once completed which will be sometime this coming month. You all will be notified when the directories are available for pickup at the church office. Thank you for your patience during this difficult time.

Barbara Cantrell



GRIEFSHARE

This year is an especially difficult time to lose somebody you love, and at *GriefShare* we understand that. *GriefShare* is a multi-dimensional tool offered currently online and over *Zoom* to help you with your grief. We know what it means to grieve and we are dedicated to helping others through their own, no matter who they've lost or what stage of grief they are in. Currently we are starting the fourth week of the thirteen week program but welcome all grieving people at any week. All are welcome. Please contact *Ken Graesser* at 847/420-0241, *Barb Cantrell* at 847/804-0361 or the office at the church at 847/395-1259 and we will get you the help you are seeking. We know grief can be debilitating so we encourage all to pick up the phone and join us weekly. Blessings to you all.



Barbara Cantrell

MISSION COMMITTEE MEETING

The *Missions Committee* is scheduled to meet Wednesday, December 2nd at 10:30 am via *Zoom*. If you need the link, please email me or *Pastor Katie* for that information

Rebecca Reckamp

UMCOR DISASTER RELIEF

On Sunday, December 27th, we will be taking a special offering to support *UMCOR Disaster Relief*. In prior years, as disasters (tornadoes, floods, hurricanes, tsunamis, wild fires, etc.) happened locally, within our country, or around the world, we were asked to contribute to those relief efforts as they occurred. Last year, we began asking for your support of all the relief efforts by the taking of a special offering at the end of the year. On that Sunday, there will be special offering envelopes provided for your contributions. Thank you for your generosity.

Carleen Wurster





ONE BLESS'ED NIGHT

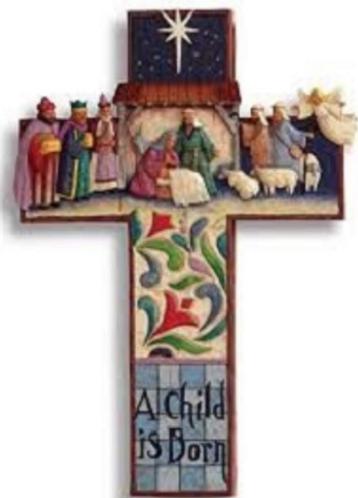
By *Robin Zelaya*

On a journey from afar
Only guided by a star
Was Mary the Virgin bride
Traveling with Joseph by her side

To Bethlehem they were heading
But no room were they getting
For the baby to be born
Oh so early in the morn

They came upon a peaceful manger
Where the animals held no danger
And through the miracle of birth
Jesus Christ came unto this earth

To this day there is celebration
Throughout every God enriched nation
To remember the birth of our Savior
One bless'ed night in a manger



MERRY CHRISTMAS, ALL!

The United Methodist Church of Antioch
848 Main Street
Antioch, IL 60002
Office: 847/395-1259
Pastor: Rev. Katie Voigt
Office Email: umc.antioch@att.net
Website: umcantioch.org
Like us on Facebook:
United Methodist Church of Antioch

Please join us online for worship. Link provided
at www.umcantioch.org or on Facebook

[Jesus said] “the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you everything, and remind you of all that I have said to you.”

John 14: 26

The Holy Spirit embodies the life force of the universe, the power of God, the animating energy present in all things and captured by none. Therefore we pray:

May the gifts of the Holy Spirit bring fire to the earth so that the presence of God may be seen in a new light, in new places, in new ways. May our own hearts burst into flame so that no obstacle, no matter how great, ever obstructs the message of God within each of us. May we come to trust the Word of God in our heart, to speak it with courage, to follow it faithfully and to fan it to flame in others. May the Jesus who filled [all kinds of people] with his Holy Spirit fill the world and the church with new respect for [all people’s value], power, and presence.

Give us, Great God, a sense of the Breath of Spirit within us as we pray for our church, our community, our Christian Education department, and ... (*State the goal in your own life at this time for which you are praying.*) —**Sister Joan Chittister**