



## ANOTHER PERSPECTIVE

A quarter of the 21st century will be gone in two years. Can you believe it? In my youth, I, like many who read this, never gave much thought to the 21st century. Sci-fi books, television and the movies gave us a glimpse of what life might be like. Did any of us growing up in the 50s or 60s really think about how we would be part of a future that far off? The future can be burdensome. The past is over, we're living the present, but what's coming is full of "what ifs." The future is seen differently through the eyes of the optimist and the pessimist, naturally. Some of us are both, I believe. This year is an election year and is shaping up to add more divisiveness to our already shaken democracy. The first sentence above indicates I'd like this year to be 2025. In lieu of a "New Year's resolution," can we decide now until this November if we will be part of the problem or the solution? We all know the quote, "A house divided against itself cannot stand." No one is ever 100% right or 100% wrong.



*Michael DeBenedetto*

## MISSIONS

### *Kids Above All*

The *Mission Committee* would like to thank all of you who sponsored a child for *Kids Above All*. It was a great outpouring of love and generosity. We would also like to thank *Dan and Janet Fluck* along with *Tom Kessell* for loading and delivering the gifts to Waukegan. Happy New Year!



*The Mission Committee*

## MORE ON MISSIONS

### *Cookie Walk/Resale Shoppe*

A heartfelt thank you to everyone who worked so hard to make the *Cookie Walk and Christmas Resale Shoppe* successful again this year. To the bakers, people who helped set up/tear down, and everyone who donated/came out to shop, the sale would not have been possible without your coming together and helping. All proceeds, over \$3,000, are donated to our *Mission Links Commitment*. *Mission Links* help us/United Methodists live out the beatitudes and be a blessing for projects around the block and around the world.



*LouAnn Holmes & Missions Committee*

### *PADS*

Our first *Mission Project* for this year is a **PADS** collection. Please bring items throughout the month of January, and we will deliver at the end of the month. The PADS website lists the following needs, *please no personal hygiene products* - they have plenty. Visit the PADS website to learn more about PADS, their programs and ways to help: <https://www.padslakecounty.org/>



- Shelf-stable items in microwaveable ready bowls, such as Easy Mac, Chef Boyardee, Dinty Moore Meals, Cup of Soup, Ramen Cups
- New Clothing: New toddler and kids winter coats

## MORE ON MISSIONS

*PADS*, continued

- Men's and women's sweatpants and sweat-shirts (M-XL)
- New women's underwear and sports bras (S-2XL)
- New men's underwear/boxers (M-2XL)
- New men's and women's T-shirts (M-2XL)
- New long johns-thermals (various sizes)
- Gift cards: Jewel, Walmart, Gas, Fast Food.
- Survival Supplies, such as, Tents, Sleeping Bags, Duffle Bags, Backpacks (larger size)

*Human Relations Sunday, January 14.*

**Human Relations Day** is a denomination wide Special Sunday designed to celebrate and raise awareness to further the development of better human relations by involving congregations in community and youth outreach. A special offering will be taken the Sunday before **Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s** birthday. Gifts received for the offering build King's vision of "the beloved community" through programs such as **Community Developers and United Methodist Voluntary Services and Youth Offender Rehabilitation Programs**. Churches are encouraged to donate through their local churches.



*Socks for the Soul, February*

Our February focus will be **Open Arms Mission**. One week each month, during November through March, Open Arms distributes warm socks for each family member along with their food and milk. Our simple request of you is to donate packages of new warm socks, any size, men, women, boys, girls and infants. More information to come.



*Next Missions Meeting* will be January 14th after 2nd service in the white room.

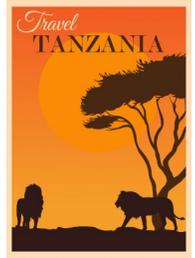


*Carol Cichonski*

## MORE ON MISSIONS

*Joy in the Harvest*

**Claudia Wertz** had her second knee replacement surgery on October 2nd in Rockford, Illinois. She had to have it done in the USA because Medicare will not pay for overseas procedures. This knee did not go as well as the first knee but she is making progress, and they expected to leave for **Tanzania** on December 13th to fulfil their missionary duties. They are thankful for prayers said on behalf of their ministry and Claudia's healing.



The formation of the **Global Methodist Church** saw many churches in the USA (over 4,000) disaffiliate from the **United Methodist Church**. **Joy in the Harvest's** support base has been 99% from the UMC, so **Joy** has been impacted. **Lowell** wrote they still have a financial challenge and anyone wishing to donate to their ministry may send a check to the USA office address: Lowell & Claudia Wertz, Joy in the Harvest, Box 496, Lansing, Illinois 60438.

## OUR YOUNG PEOPLE

*Sunday School/Youth Group*

After looking at the different versions of the Nativity story in the Gospels, the Sunday School/Youth used craft sticks and clay (and a lot of glue!) to create their own crèches!



Sunday School/Youth will resume on Sunday, January 7th at 9:15. If you have any questions, please contact **Elisa Gueffier** at [elisagueffier@gmail.com](mailto:elisagueffier@gmail.com).

*Elisa Gueffier*

## MORE ON OUR YOUNG PEOPLE

### UMCA Preschool

December was a fun and busy month in the preschool. The hallways were decorated with all of the children's names on Christmas lights. The two year old class surprised **Ms. TeKeesha** and **Pastor Katie** in the office with a snowball fight; they also ambushed me in the hallway.



The four year old class spread Christmas cheer by going caroling. With the mild weather we were able to enjoy the use of the playground more than we ever have in the month of December. We enjoyed Pajama Day, popcorn, and watching the **Polar Express**. Learning about the birth of Jesus and celebrating his birthday were the highlights of the month. We talked about being kind to others, and to go along with that the children were asked to earn \$0.50 by doing a chore at home. With their money they were able to go shopping at the resale tables. Thank you to **Judy Degand** and her sister **Nancy Foster** for providing the items for the children to choose



from. With the help of the preschool families we were able to collect many items for the **Open Arms Mission**. We had a wonderful Christmas concert, the children sang **Jingle Bells**, **The Reindeer Hokey Pokey**, and **Happy Birthday**. **Pastor Katie** shared a story about the birth of

Jesus; we enjoyed birthday cake and a Santa visit.

## MORE ON OUR YOUNG PEOPLE

### UMCA Preschool, continued

We will return from our Christmas break the week of January 8th, and believe it or not we will start the process for fall registration on January 22nd. Registration forms will be available on the website [UMCAntioch.org](http://UMCAntioch.org). Just click on the preschool link in the menu. If you have any questions please contact Kim Dodd at [umcapreschool316@gmail.com](mailto:umcapreschool316@gmail.com) or 847/395-1259.



Blessings,

**Kim Dodd**, Director

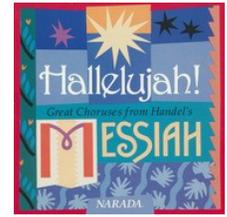
## UNITED WOMEN OF FAITH

United Women In Faith of Antioch will not be meeting the months of January, February and March, 2024. Please join us on Wednesday, April 3rd, 2024 at 11:45 am for a bring-your-own-lunch and meeting in Wesley Hall.

### *Madrigal Singers from Antioch High School*



## MUSIC DEPARTMENT, continued



## MUSIC DEPARTMENT

### *Organ Recital, Kay Sutton*



### *Our Members and Pastor in the Messiah Performance*



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](mailto:umc.antioch@att.net)  
Website: [umcantioch.org](http://umcantioch.org)  
Like us on Facebook:  
United Methodist Church of Antioch

Our regular in-person worship schedule is Sunday mornings at 8:00 am and 10:30 am. Christmas Eve morning service will be one service at 9:15 am. Christmas Eve services will be 5:00 pm (family friendly service) and 7:00 pm (traditional with Communion) We also go live on our **Facebook** page. The link for the recorded service can be found on our website at [umcantioch.org](http://umcantioch.org). Please join us in person or online for worship!

*[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**