

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.”

January, 2020
Volume 4, Issue 1

THE PASTOR PONDERES ... *What’s new?*

I am about to do a new thing: new it springs forth, do you not perceive it? (Isaiah 43: 19)

New, fresh, recent, novel, untouched. Newborn, new beginnings, new creation, new covenant, new and improved. For the most part, we associate new with something better, greater possibilities, excitement, mystery, anticipation, energy, opportunities. I am amazed and comforted by the fact that God always leaves room for something new. God always gives God’s people a chance to move forward and/or to put the past behind and begin again, if necessary.

2019 was a very good new year! We enhanced the outside of our church property in a variety of ways, improving the aesthetic appeal and the integrity of the building, demonstrating our stewardship of God’s creation, remembering the saints that went on before us, and giving ourselves a place to sit and enjoy some alone time with God. From new shingles on the roof, to the Memorial Garden, to the glass block windows, to the pollinator pocket, to heating system repairs, to the newly repaired bell, God was glorified in the way that we worked together to use our time and financial resources to do something new to make our headquarters for mission more appealing and functional.

But new didn’t stop with the building. New continued on by helping us to develop as followers of Jesus Christ. New! The Easter Cantata! New! Summer Church School! New! Kid-space.2! New! A Monday/Wednesday class for our newly named preschool – The United Methodist Church of Antioch Preschool (UMCAP)!

New baptisms! New members! New! The Good Friday Prayer Walk! New! The Community Day of Blessing!

God does not want us to rest on our laurels. There is always something new, something more to be done. So to welcome in the new year here at the United Methodist Church of Antioch, we will be selling the parsonage and buying a new one. We will welcome new members, a new budget, new leadership. We will have the opportunity to renew our spirits through renewing our vows to God, accepting power for our new life in Christ through Holy Communion, and renewing friendships through potlucks, projects, studies, and other fellowship activities. We plan to create a new pictorial directory which will aid us in recognizing those new (and not so new) faces. We plan to work on a new cantata to be presented later in the spring. We will have a new Confirmation class. Hopefully, we will have a new door. And, we will make room for the new by getting rid of some of the old – cleaning out cabinets, closets, and other spaces. I look forward to all of the new things God will be doing here this year. It should be pretty exciting.

Happy New Year!
Pastor Char



A VIEW FROM THE PEW

As many of you know by now, I'm easily confused. I know it's self-inflicted. For instance, when something gets accomplished (by others or by me, doesn't matter) I ask, is that the best that can be done? If a problem is solved, is that the best solution?

If it happens to be a question or dilemma, is the answer the right one, the wrong one, or both? Here's an example of something I came across.

I like to read old sermons from the past. They give an insight into what was prevalent and the thinking at the time. Some time ago I read this and recently came across it again as a quote in the book *Great Christian Quotes*. The question is from a 1744 sermon by *Johnathan Edwards*. He asked, "What is it that chiefly makes you want to go to heaven when you die?" If you have a simple answer, I truly admire you. If you have trouble, or multiple answers, all of which seem right AND wrong, let's talk about it.



Mike DeBenedetto, Lay Servant

2020 BUDGET UPDATE

Thank you for turning in your pledge cards. If you have not done so, there is still time. To date, we have \$164,652 pledged to the general operating fund, the fund from which we pay most of our bills. We are grateful for your generosity. We had \$18,430 pledged to the capital improvement fund. Unfortunately, we found out there is some confusion about the capital improvement fund pledges.

The capital improvement funds are used for large, long term projects, like a new boiler. Maintenance of the facility is done through the general operating fund. During the fourth quarter, we had an unusually high amount of maintenance that needed to be done. There has not been enough money in the general operating fund to pay all our bills.

If you pledged money to the capital improvement fund thinking we could use that money for general maintenance, please consider changing that pledge to the operating fund. All you need to do is call the church office and ask that it be changed from capital improvement to general operating.



MISSIONS

Epiphany Sunday

Next Sunday, January 5th, we will celebrate the gifts of the Wise Men by bringing our own gifts to honor Baby Jesus. In this spirit, please consider bringing baby items for *Open Arms*, especially baby wipes and diapers, sizes 5 and 6. Your contributions will be most appreciated.



Cookie Walk

This annual event earned \$1,876.60, and the Christmas sales for that day and since then have earned \$235. This money will go towards the Rainbow Covenant projects. Thanks to everyone who helped raise this money.



Becky Reckamp

ChildServ

Christmas gifts have been delivered! Thank you to all who contributed. Hats off to *Carolyn Keller* for organizing this project and to *Irv Metz, Pat Metz, Joe Nance, and Karen Nance* for delivering the gifts.



PADS

THANK YOU from the *PADS* lunch group and *St. Mark's Lutheran PADS* site. We delivered hats, gloves, scarves and socks to *St. Mark's* on our last *PADS* night: 46 hats, 31 pairs of gloves, 10 scarves, one hat and glove set, and one package of socks. They were going to distribute everything the very night that we delivered them. We hear that more are on the way to the donation bin. Blessings to all of you.

Carol Cichonski

Meeting Scheduled

The *Missions Committee* is scheduled to meet on January 10th at 10:30 am.

CHURCH SCHOOL 2020

Looking forward to seeing everyone at Sunday School in 2020! Join us as we explore the main stories of the Bible, plus music, crafts and more every Sunday from 9:15-10:15am. We welcome all preschoolers through 6th graders. Have questions? Contact me at 847.946.3410 or elisagueffier@gmail.com.



Elisa Gueffier

UMCA PRESCHOOL

The Best Preschool Under the Sun

December was a very joyful month in the preschool. The parties, sing-a-longs and celebrating the birth of Jesus were all exciting things to look forward to. Our Monday-Wednesday Enrich-



ment students especially enjoyed being invited to listen to the Madrigal Singers from Antioch High School. The teachers and I were very proud of how well behaved the children were. The children were surprised when they heard familiar songs.



January is right around the corner, and we are getting ready to start registration for the 2020-2021 school year. Currently enrolled families will be given the opportunity to register their children first, and then registration will be open to the general public starting in February. We will have an open house on Friday, February 7th from 6:00-7:30 pm for anyone that is interested in learning more about the preschool. Please spread the word to your friends and neighbors. We would love it if you could share this event on Facebook.

The weather in January can be very cold and unpredictable causing us to stay indoors more than we want to. If you are interested in sharing a talent, reading a story or doing a special project with the children this would be a great month to do it. Please email or call me if you would like to schedule something. My contact information is umcapreschool316@gmail.com or 847-395-1362.



Kim Dodd, UMCA Preschool Director

FUN FOR GOLDEN GEMS

We had a wonderful Christmas celebration at *Golden Gems*! About 50 people enjoyed the ham and trimmings dinner. *Shelby Wais* performed a fabulous dance. *Carol Dunn* did a raffle. Everyone went home with a prize and a goodie bag.

Golden Gems is a group for anyone from UMCA, St. Stephen's, or St. Ignatius who is 80 years old or over. If you are turning 80 anytime in 2020 please let your church office know so you can be invited to our next *Golden Gems* luncheon. We want you to join us!



PERFORMANCE OF HANDEL'S MESSIAH

The Festival Arts of Antioch presented its performance of Handel's Messiah on December 15th. We enthusiastically congratulate our own *Nikki Georgia, Phil Georgia, Glenn Hoffmann, Mike Lapke, and Becky Reckamp* for being a part of this wonderful program.



Please remember to submit articles for *The Messenger* by the 15th of the month!



'tis the Season



Play, Learn and Grow... Together!



2020

Each new year brings us new opportunities to know Him more, to walk in faith, and grow by His grace.

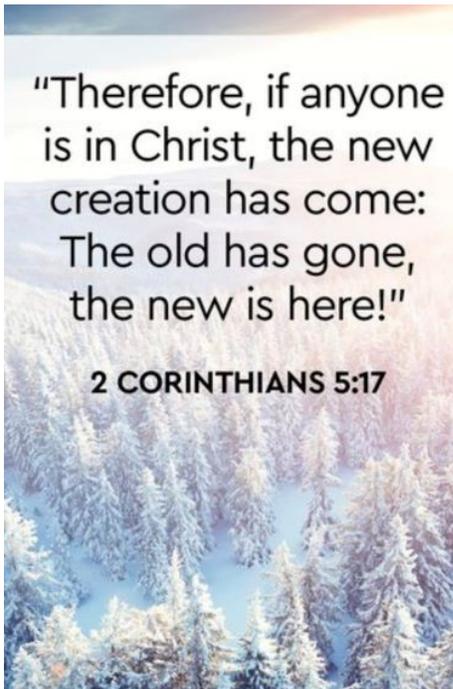
May your year be blessed in the Lord.

"...Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love Him." — 1 CORINTHIANS 2:9 KJV



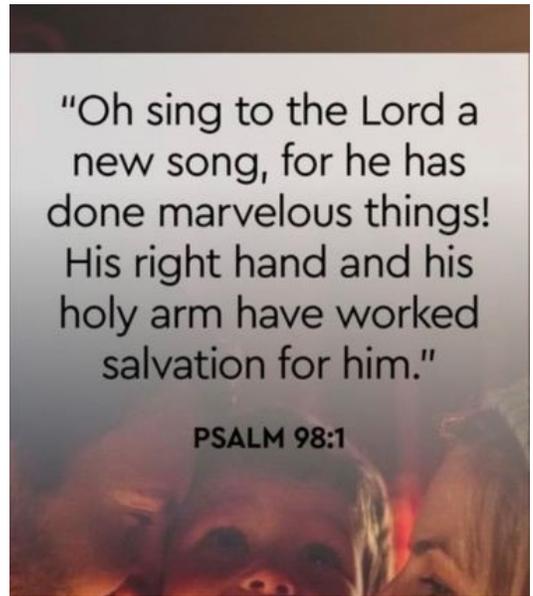
"Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here!"

2 CORINTHIANS 5:17



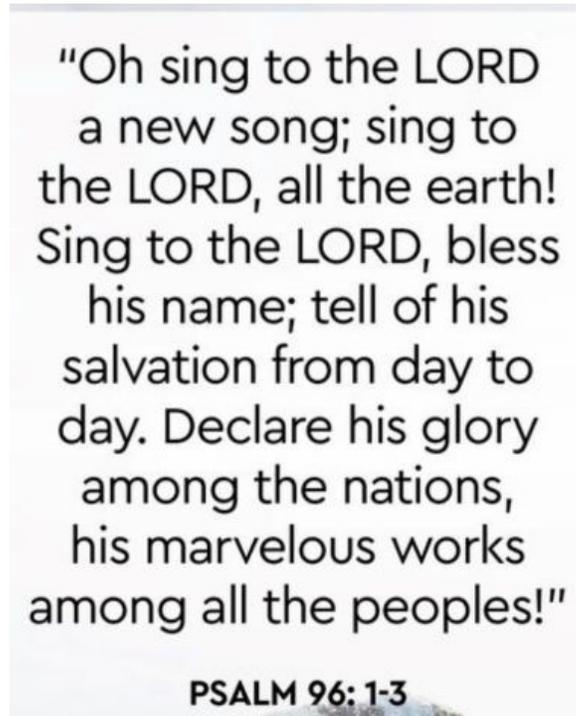
"Oh sing to the Lord a new song, for he has done marvelous things! His right hand and his holy arm have worked salvation for him."

PSALM 98:1



"Oh sing to the LORD a new song; sing to the LORD, all the earth! Sing to the LORD, bless his name; tell of his salvation from day to day. Declare his glory among the nations, his marvelous works among all the peoples!"

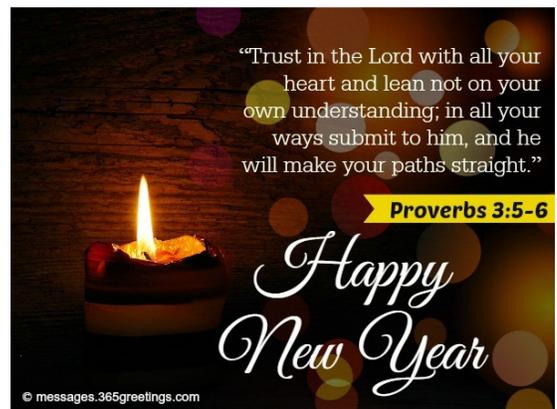
PSALM 96: 1-3



"Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight."

Proverbs 3:5-6

Happy
New Year



The United Methodist Church of Antioch
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Like us on Facebook:
United Methodist Church of Antioch

Join us on Sunday:

Worship: 8:00, 10:30 am
Church School 9:15 am
Youth Choir 8:45 am
Chancel Choir 9:15 am

[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**