



# Newsletter

**JANUARY 2022**

**Worship God.**

**Follow Jesus.**

**Serve Others.**

*"...The gifts you sent. They are a fragrant offering, an acceptable sacrifice, pleasing to God."*

Philippians 4:18

Dear Friends in Christ,

In the verse above, the Apostle Paul expresses gratitude for the gifts received from the church in Phillippi. In the weeks preceding Christmas, this church has shown great generosity to many individuals, some known, some unknown. But it's fun to imagine the joy and gratitude by all who received a blessing from our kindness.

Somewhere in the world there are forty children who are smiling radiantly because they received the Operation Christmas Child gift boxes that our congregation contributed in early December. All across our county there are happy children who have received the gifts of comfort and warmth through the numerous hats, scarves, mittens, gloves and socks disbursed from our "mitten trees" here in our fellowship hall. From the shopping cart, also in our fellowship hall, there have been food supplies and various home items contributed to the Helping Hands community assistance store in downtown Cassopolis. The Cass County Animal Shelter has received cleaning products and food to help maintain an important ministry to the lost and lonely animals of our county. Our church has hosted a college graduation party, a wedding shower, and numerous birthday observances with refreshments and gifts appropriate for each occasion. Through a "noisy offering" received once a month, November and December offerings benefited our student scholarship fund and Special Olympics events. Christmas gifts given to persons of need in our church and to an "adopted family" in our community enriched and gladdened the lives of each recipient. Two overflowing boxes containing "Toys for Tots" were collected and distributed from our congregation through the campaign sponsored by the Marine Corps Reserve. Our church staff was blessed with monetary gifts for Christmas expressing the congregations appreciation for the ministry of those in our employment. And finally, a special offering for those adversely affected by the tornadoes in Kentucky was especially generous exceeding \$1400! (continued...)

So what can we say about such generosity and kindness? Thanks be to God! And borrowing the phrase from the Bible, may our gifts be an acceptable sacrifice, pleasing unto God.

Blessings to all of you in the New Year.

Wade S. Panse, Pastor

### **From Pastor Karen Wheat:**

Greetings Friends!

I am so looking forward to being with you once again! And this time, I'll even get to see you face to face (mask to mask)! You have been such a welcoming congregation that it makes it a joy to serve you! My prayer is that we will have a wonderful journey together in these coming months and things in the world will be somewhat less stressful.

2021 has been a very stressful time in our world. With Covid, political unrest, just to name a few, there have been so many factors contributing to the unrest that one needs a score card to keep track. Sometimes, I think, we get so stressed out that we can see no way out and we don't know where to turn or what to do. The obvious answer is to turn to God, but sometimes we forget the obvious and just try to work things out on our own. Big Mistake. Every time we try to be a do-it-yourselfer, we mess things up even more.

As we enter into this New Year of 2022, lets really try to let God be God and follow God, rather than try to lead God. May our prayer be the prayer of the Psalmist in Psalm 5:8b "...*please lead me in your righteousness. Make your way clear right in front of me.*"(CEB) Frankly, all of Psalm 5 is pretty good reading.

If we truly seek God's direction, we will find it. It won't be a big front page headline. It won't even seem obvious unless we are really looking for it. But if we seek, we will find. And when we do, we will know it is of God, because we will experience a peace and well-being.

The future path is always uncertain, but we know God has something great in store for us. He only asks that we as individuals, and as a church, trust him. He is God, after all.

Find assurance in the words of the old hymn, "*I know not what the future holds, but I know who holds the future, it's a secret known only to Him..*"

Blessings for a Happy New Year!  
Pastor Karen

# Revival - Faith As Wesley Lived It

## Winter Sermon Series – January 23 – February 27

The 1700's were a time when society was polarized, when rationalism had led people to believe they no longer needed God, when the rich struggled with materialism and the poor with lack of necessities. Sound familiar?

Into this world a priest and Oxford professor named John Wesley came to trust in Christ and then began preaching a faith that would bring a revival of Christianity throughout the British Isles and across America. Wesley's message and his faith continue to speak to 21st Century Christians – calling for a revival of our hearts and souls so that our lives and our world might be changed.

This winter series, based on Adam Hamilton's book *Revival* takes us on a six-week journey to Wesley's England, following his life and exploring his defining characteristics of a Methodist Christian. Wesley's story is our story – it is our heritage, it defines our faith and it challenges us to rediscover our spiritual passion.

### Sermons

January 2 – Home By Another Way

January 9 - The New Hokey Pokey

January 16 - Jumpin' Jehosaphat

January 23 – Wake Up!

January 30 – Holy Cow!

February 6 – A Crisis of Faith

February 13 – Mercy Me

February 20 – What's So Amazing About Grace

February 27 – Now What?

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*Thank you to all who contributed to Toys For Tots or bought gifts for our “adopted” family this holiday season. We filled two Toys for Tots boxes, and delivered many gifts of toys, clothing and household items to our family. Once again, our congregation was very generous.*

**TWO KEYS WERE FOUND IN THE CHURCH PARKING LOT. IF YOU THINK THEY MIGHT BE YOURS, SEE VICKI BEEBE IN THE CHURCH OFFICE.**

THANK YOU NOTES RECEIVED:

*Please receive our heartfelt thanks and appreciation for the generous Christmas gift presented to us and all our church staff on Sunday, December 19. You all are very thoughtful, and your kindness is a blessing. Thank you.*

*Pastor Wade & Patti Panse*

*Thank you so much for the donation of hats, gloves, mittens and socks! These are coming in very handy as the weather gets colder! We really appreciate how much you care for our kids.*

*Sincerely, Tammi Preston, Sam Adams Elementary School*

*Dear Church Family:*

*Thank you so very much for the generous Christmas gift. It is truly a blessing to be able to serve as secretary to this church, and I love you all.*

*Vicki Beebe*

*Dear Cassopolis Church Family:*

*Thank you for the generous Christmas gift and for the opportunity to play for your service and be part of your church. I really appreciate you all so very much.*

*Love, Audrey Fenwick*

*Dear CUMC Family:*

*Thank you for the scholarship and graduation reception. It was wonderful to celebrate with all of you. I appreciate the support and encouragement you have given me throughout my college career.*

*Love, Mary Wright*

## CASSOPOLS UNITED METHODIST SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

Our recently established a Scholarship program will assist our youth pursuing higher education at a college, university or trade school. Our first scholarship was given in December to Mary Wright. If you are a member of this church and have a close relative who could use a scholarship, pick up an application in the church office. This scholarship program is made possible through donations and fundraising.



Mary Wright, our first CUMC Scholarship recipient, is a recent graduate of Western Michigan University. Mary will begin her career as a kindergarten teacher in January.

We celebrated this happy event with a reception following worship.

Mary is the daughter of member Karen Wright, and granddaughter of Barbara Mesko.

We are continuing to collect warm hats, gloves, mittens and socks (no scarves, please) for the children in our community. Please remember to bring in some items for our "mitten tree."





# JANUARY

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						<b>1</b> 
<b>2</b> Worship 10 AM Communion	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b> John & Gretchen Kelley 	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b> <i>Mary Bruegel</i>
<b>9</b> Worship 10 AM	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>
<b>16</b> Worship 10 AM Noisy offering - Domestic Assault Shelter	<b>17</b> <i>Isabel Kennedy</i>	<b>18</b> Sewing Sowers meet 10 AM	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>
<b>23</b> Worship 10 AM  <i>Rob Dohm</i>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>  <i>Dawn Atkinson</i>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>
<b>30</b>	<b>31</b> <i>Norma McRae</i>					

**If your special date does not appear on this calendar, please let the office know.**