



# Newsletter

**FEBRUARY 2022**

**Worship God.**

**Follow Jesus.**

**Serve Others.**

Dear Friends in Christ

I can only think of two books I have ever read more than once. The Bible and "My Utmost for His Highest" by Oswald Chambers. This year I am reading once again the daily devotions from the book by Oswald Chambers.

In a recent reading I was impressed by the perspective invited from Galatians 1:15 "But when it pleased God...". The challenge was simply this...always watch for God to act, but do not assume how God will act. Expect a surprise.

This truth has expanded my anticipation and appreciation for God to act in my life, in my family, in our church and in our world. And with this expectation, my experience of God has multiplied many times over.

As Chambers concludes, "always be in a state of expectancy, and see that you leave room for God to come in as He likes." You will be surprised and you will be blessed.

Wade Panse, Pastor

*If anyone has any suggestions about how to distribute our most recently accumulated God Dollars, please contact the church office or a member of the church administrative council.*

FROM THE GUEST PASTOR'S Pen



Greetings My Friends!

A recent commercial caught my attention. It showed an old woman sitting in a helicopter taking off from the helipad of a luxury hotel. She never spoke, but her smiling face spoke louder than any words could. The tag line was: “when was the last time you did something for the first time?”

I'd like to raise this question in a little different fashion: “when was the last time you did something for the first time in church? If you think about it, Jesus’ ministry was very innovative, unpredictable and challenging. Can you imagine being one of the first disciples? Again and again Jesus challenged their beliefs, their expectations and he tried to move them out of their comfort zone.

Do you wonder sometimes, like I do, how Jesus would challenge us if he were physically among us today? The truth is that the unseen resurrected Christ *is* challenging us today just as he did his disciples of long ago. And another truth is that we really don't like challenges and new experiences. We are creatures of habit and we like to find a reassuring constancy in church. We like to be **comfortable** in church, not **challenged**.

If we are to be people of the resurrection, we better figure out in what way Christ is challenging us. We also need to look to ourselves to see if we are open to changes for the purpose of reaching out to others in the name of Christ that Christ's challenge might require?

Are we open for new ways of worship? Are we open for spiritual experiences that move us beyond our comfort zone? Are we willing to do something for Christ that is out of our comfort zone? Are we willing to grow spiritually? Are we willing to invite people to Christ?

Perhaps God is challenging you to do something you have never done, such as teach a Bible class or be a worship reader, or spearhead a new ministry, or volunteer for an outreach event or start a Praise Band! Remember the Unseen Christ is always with us and his challenges can either be heeded or ignored. Do *you* heed or ignore? Which do you think pleases him most?

Shalom, Pastor Karen

### NEWS FROM YOUR CHURCH SECRETARY

After eight years serving as secretary to you and this church, I am retiring – again! I am staying in the position until June of this year, and hopefully we will have someone in place to take over and make for a smooth transition. I have loved every minute of working for this church and our dear Pastor Wade Panse, but now I want to just show up for church and be simply another member of the congregation.

Our Pastor/Parish Committee is actively looking for my replacement, so if you have input, please see one of the the members of that committee. (Char Hiemstra 269-268-7066, JoLynn Watts 248-240-9777, Liana Heath 574-612-2140 & Kelley Nickel 269-445-7977)

Again, I have felt privileged to serve as secretary, and I am not going anywhere. It is so much easier for me since I know I will still see all of you on a regular basis.

Love, Vicki Beebe

### THANK YOU NOTES RECEIVED

*Dear CUMC:*

*Thank you for your Christmas generosity. It will be well spent and is much appreciated. God bless you all!!*

*Love, Tina Grice*

*Thanking all the ladies of your church for the fabric for quilting. With your fabric and notions you are making it possible for me and others to do quilts for the elderly and needy in our community. Wishing you happy holidays and blessings to all.*

*Sara Joe, Chinle, AZ*

*Hello Cassopolis*

*We received a package on 11/4/21 with very nice, lovely fabrics. We enjoy using it. Love you, the Lord protect you.*

*Maggie M Lincoln Family, New Mexico*



*Cassopolis UM Church:*

*We personally thanks you for making our work possible. Your kindness this past year supported our work, and your generosity helped our limited funding.*

*Domestic & Sexual Abuse Services*



Thank you to Bill Loux for continuing to keep our church walkways and stairs clear of ice and snow this winter. We appreciate you, Bill!

The church is pleased to report that a second Cassopolis United Methodist Church Scholarship has been awarded. This scholarship went to Hannah Brodine Watts, granddaughter of Michael and Jo Lynn Watts. Hannah attends Monroe Community College in New York. Congratulations, Hannah!

### **Sermons for February**

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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### **The Chosen**

The Story of Jesus: for Us

Imagine if you could see the life of Jesus through the eyes of the people who walked on earth with him. What would that look like? *The Chosen*, an acclaimed series, allow us a glimpse into that world. A masterful weaving of both historical and fictional material portrays the Gospels in a new and different way.

Come watch, discuss and reflect with others from our Cassopolis community.

Hosted at St. Ann Parish

421 N. Broadway, Cassopolis 269-445-3000

TUESDAYS, FEBRUARY 15 - APRIL 5, 10 -11:15 AM



# FEBRUARY

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		<b>1</b> <i>Greg Connelly</i> <i>Brenda Willey</i>	<b>2</b> <i>Jo Lynn Watts</i>	<b>3</b> <i>Jane Moraw</i>	<b>4</b> <i>Nova Rae Keeter</i>	<b>5</b>
<b>6</b> Worship 10 AM Communion	<b>7</b> <i>Larry Garver</i>	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b> <i>Mary Nelson</i>	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>13</b> Worship 10 AM	<b>14</b> Valentine's Day 	<b>15</b> Sewing Sowers meet 10 AM  <i>The Chosen - St Ann Church</i>	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b> <i>Kelley Nickel</i>	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>
<b>20</b> Worship 10 AM  Noisy offering - LADD Dances	<b>21</b> <i>Yvonne Kern</i> Presidents' Day 	<b>22</b> <i>Jim Beebe</i>  <i>The Chosen - St Ann Church</i>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b> <i>Pat Hayden</i>	<b>26</b> <i>St Paul Lutheran Food Pantry 11:30 - 1</i>
<b>27</b> Worship 10 AM  <i>Aleah Dahlgren</i>	<b>28</b>					

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