



Newsletter

JANUARY 2023

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!

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

SPPRC:

It is with great pleasure that the SPPRC welcome back Rev. Sheila Baker for the period of time that Pastor Wade and Patti are able to travel and get some well deserved respite. We pray for their safety and good health as well as for Pastor Sheila and her husband Keith. Please let them know with a warm welcome they are appreciated. Pastor Sheila's contact information is sfbaker1031@gmail.com, Home 269.628.4882, Cell 269.501.0224. Welcome Sheila and Keith.

ONLINE WORSHIP DURING THE WINTER

For those who enjoy worshiping with the CUMC online, we want you to know that the service during the months of January, February and March will include only the sermon recorded during the in person service on Sunday mornings.

The production of an entire experience of worship (hymns, prayers, children's time, scripture, etc.) will not be recorded by our interim pastor, Sheila Baker. When Rev. Panse returns in April, the full worship service will again be produced for our online viewers.

Thanks for your understanding and patience. Blessings.

Thank You Notes Received

THANK YOU

Please receive our heart felt 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 generous Christmas gift as well as letting me be a part of your worship service. It’s a great honor for me, and I appreciate each one of you very much!” - Audrey

Dear Church Family,

I am truly blessed to serve such a kind, generous congregation!

Thank you for the Christmas gift, I am humbled and honored to be your Church Secretary. Blessings to all, Liana

Cassopolis UMC:

Thank-you for your gift to the Readers to Leaders Michigan Conference-wide appeal. Your gift of \$600.00 (as of 11.30.22) will support scholarships for children in Liberia to attend school kindergarten through graduation. Your gift also supports the opening of new CDF-Freedom School sites to allow more children to experience the excitement of summer reading and healthy learning. Your gift is an important piece in showing Michigan that United Methodists care about children and education!

Rev. Jon Reynolds and Lisa Batten, Readers to Leaders Campaign Co-Chairpersons

Dear Friends in Mission,

The dear people you just helped with your gift to UMCOR may never have the opportunity to meet you, but if they did, I am certain their response would be

--Thank you!

Since 1940, UMCOR has served as the humanitarian agency of The United Methodist Church, providing disaster response and relief to areas impacted by natural and man-made disasters around the world. And through your financial support, you are serving within a vital network of interactive relationships as UMCOR responds to increasingly-frequent and destructive storms- sharing 100% of donated funds with those in need! Together, may we continue to reveal the love of God for men, women, and children of all ethnic, racial, cultural, and national backgrounds and to demonstrate genuine love for our neighbors.

Grace and Peace,

Roland Fernandes, General Secretary

INSPIRING WORDS:

" Kindness is like snow. It beautifies everything it covers." - Kahlil Gibran

Such a wonderful surprise for Chris!



Thank you to the Sewing Sowers for the beautiful quilt for Chris! It was a delight to watch his reaction when presented with this awesome gift. Your talent and time are greatly appreciated.



Please remember that we are once again collecting new mittens, gloves, hats and socks for boys and girls in our local schools this winter. All donated items can be put on the mitten tree or in the designated box in Wood Hall and will be distributed by Barb Mesko as needed. Thank you so much for your continued support!

JANUARY SCRIPTURE INSPIRATION:

Though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be white as snow.

Isaiah 1:18



January



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1 <i>Holy Communion</i> 	2	3	4	5	6 <i>John & Gretchen Kelley</i> 	7
8 Worship 10 AM	9	10	11	12	13	14
15 Worship 10 AM	16	17 Sewing Sowers Meet <i>Isabel Kennedy</i>	18	19	20	21
22 Worship 10 AM	23 Rob Dohm	24	25	26	27	28 St Paul Lutheran Food Pantry 11:30 - 1
29 Worship 10 AM	30	31 <i>Norma McRae</i>				

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