



Newsletter

JANUARY 2024

Worship God.

Follow Jesus.

Serve Others.

“I keep asking that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the glorious Father, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and revelation, so that you may know him better.”

Ephesians 1:17

Dear Friends in Christ,

Together we have spent the weeks of December preparing in Advent and celebrating at Christmas the incarnation of God in the person of Jesus Christ. We have learned a lot, worshiped a lot, and sang a lot in recognition of the hope, love, joy and peace that alone Jesus Christ can bring to our world and our lives. Thanks be to God that Christ the Lord has come into the world!

The apostle Paul writes to the church in Ephesus (and to the church in Cassopolis) that now that Christ has come into the world, Paul’s prayer is that we may know Him (Jesus) better. This is a prayer already being answered as the Spirit of God grants us wisdom and revelation. Every time we read the Bible, worship together, and offer our prayers to God, the Spirit of God is present and working in our midst. Interceding on our behalf, the Holy Spirit works to give us the wisdom and revelation, understanding and insight, to know Jesus better and apply that which we know to our lives.

And isn’t that what wisdom is? The application of knowledge to our lives. We may know individuals who have great knowledge and much information. We often call them “smart”. But until these smart individuals actually apply this knowledge and information to their lives and let it make a difference in how they live, we would not describe these same individuals as wise.

My New Year resolution, prayer and determination, is to be wise. And that is my desire and focus as your Pastor. To help each of us and all of us grow in the knowledge, love and understanding of God through our Lord Jesus Christ and to apply that truth and insight to our lives. Please join me in this pursuit.

Blessings to you in the New Year.

Wade S. Panse, Pastor

Monday January 15th is Martin Luther King, Jr. Day and there are many ways to celebrate and recognize the accomplishments of this champion of the Civil Rights movement.



Advancing the Dream Annual MLK Program, January 14-15

Presented by League for Encouraging Empowerment (L.E.E.) of Cassopolis.

On Sunday, January 14, at United Presbyterian Church, the 26th Annual MLK Program held at 4:00 PM. Monday January 15, there will be a community breakfast and round table discussion at 9:00 AM, followed by the Annual March and Prayer at 11:00 AM.

*March will begin at Postal Office.

Martin Luther King, Jr. Events, January 15-20, 2024. Participation is free and open to all ages, backgrounds, and ability levels. This year's celebration will involve hundreds of companies, institutions, groups and individuals centering around the theme 'Power of One Voice'.

Find out more at lakemichigancollege.edu/mlk

Thank You!

Patti and I thank you very much for the prayers, gifts, and many cards (both “get well” and “Merry Christmas”) that we have received during the month of December. Ever since Thanksgiving, I have been struggling to stay on the better side of the COVID virus, some weeks better than others. But knowing you have been thinking and praying for us has made a world of difference. Thank you. And the kindness and generosity of the Christmas gifts to us and the entire church staff is greatly appreciated. We have a wonderful staff who gives time and talent generously throughout the year. Thank you for showing your love through the generous Christmas gift. Blessings.

*Dear Church Family,
Thank you so much for the Christmas Love gift! I am so blessed to be able to serve as your church secretary and I am filled with gratitude for the generosity and kindness of my church family.
Blessings, Liana Heath*

WELCOME TO REV. SHEILA BAKER AND HUSBAND, KEITH

Once again during the months of January, February and March, we welcome the pastoral heart and preaching gifts of the Rev. Sheila Baker. Allowing for the months of respite and renewal for our Pastor, Wade Panse and wife Patti, the Bakers travel together from Gobles, MI to give leadership and inspiration to our congregation here in Cassopolis each Sunday morning. Thank you Sheila and Keith, we appreciate your time and dedication to our Lord, Jesus Christ, and to this local church.

INSPIRATION FOR THE MONTH OF JANUARY

“For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God” Ephesians 2:8





The SPPRC called upon the congregation almost too late to make anything happen for adopted families. But you all make us so proud that we were able to make Christmas happen for not just 1, but 3 families. We cannot thank you enough for your generosity and love. Blessing to all of you for the coming year. Happy New Year.



Now that colder weather has returned, we have begun collecting new mittens, gloves, hats and socks for our local elementary students in need. All of your generous donations will be delivered by our own, Barb Mesko, throughout the winter months. Thank you, Barb, for your kindness and devotion to this project.

HUMOR FOR THE MONTH OF JANUARY

From a local church sign:

Forget about the Elf on the Shelf. How about You in the Pew?



JANUARY



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

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