



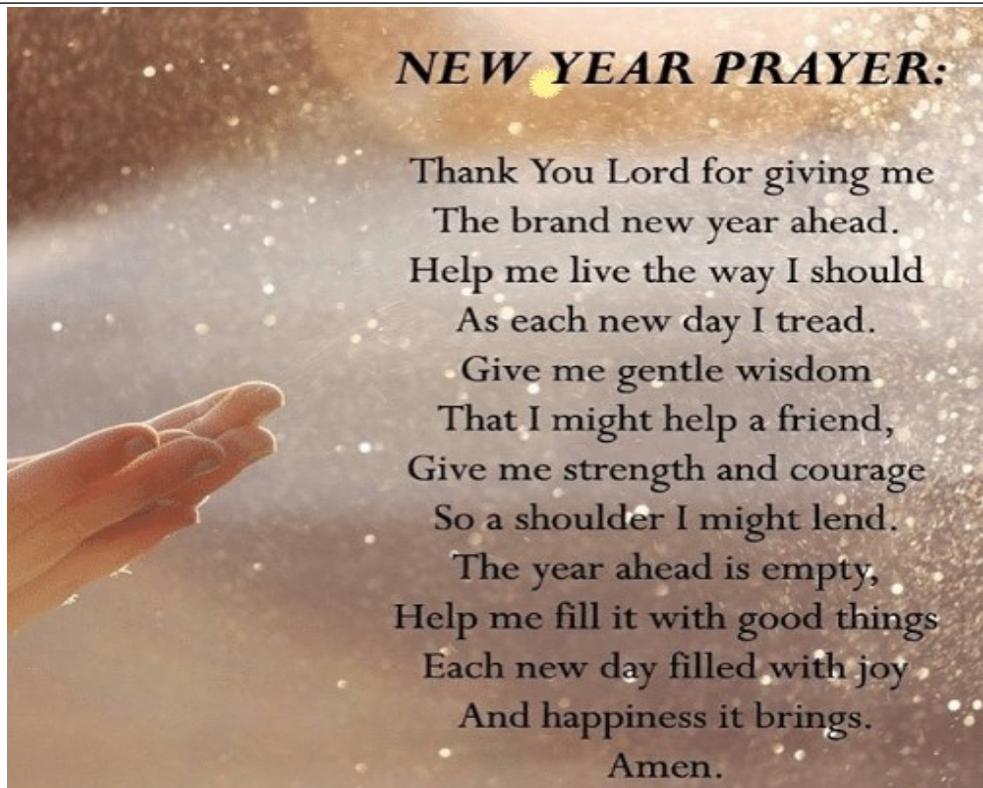
The Beacon

Volume 58 Issue 1

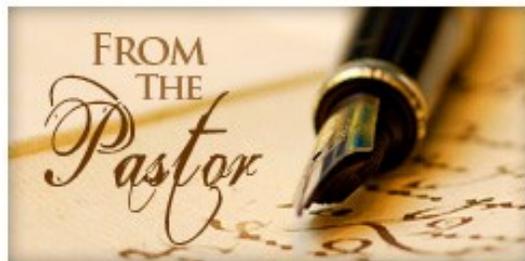
January 2021

University United Methodist Church
Welcoming all to grow as disciples of Christ as we
worship, learn, and serve in community.

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Music Staff: Melanie Wambsganss, Elaine Wellborn
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Pastor Jeff's information: Email Address: jpotter@greatplainsumc.org or phone 785-580-5468



Happy New Year!

The new year always brings with it a sense of renewal and hope. I imagine that most of us probably enter every new year hoping that it is even better than the year before. Perhaps this is even more the case as we enter into 2021 and look back on 2020, a year filled with challenges unlike any other year in our collective memory. And so we look forward with great hope that 2021 will be a better year than last!

And there are many promising glimpses giving us hope that in many ways this will be the case. And even as we long for and celebrate the ways that things might “get back to normal,” let’s commit to not just letting all things simply go back to “the way they’ve always been.” We can be a part of moving the world forward to a place brighter and better than ever before! That’s part of the beauty of new life in Christ!

We get to keep growing and growing in our love of God and one another.

We’ll start off the new year in worship with a short covenant renewal on January 3rd. From there we will begin a lectionary series from umcdiscipleship.org called “Follow Me!” reminding us of what it means to follow Jesus in this time and in this place. Though we miss one another and grow tired of Zoom, YouTube, Facebook, email, and what have you, let us keep heart and look forward to a new year with great anticipation and new hope in Jesus Christ! It is a blessing to be in ministry with you!

In Christ,
Pastor Jeff



01.03.21 - *Living the Celebration* - Covenant Renewal - Ephesians 1:3-14

Follow Me! (UMC Discipleship Series)

01.10.21 - Epiphany Sunday - *Tearing Apart the Heavens* - Mark 1:4-11

01.17.21 - *Anything Good* - John 1:43-51

01.24.21 - *Follow Me* - Mark 1:14-20

01.31.21 - *What Have You to Do with Us?* - Mark 1:21-28



MISSIONS

Blessing Box: Stacey Cooper has been distributing food from what we had collected in the church for December. As the weather turns colder, warm items are great things to donate: Instant coffee packets, hot chocolate mixes, tea bags, ramen noodles, crackers, cans of soup, cans of spaghetti and meat, etc. Please keep giving, and call Stacey to sign up for a month in 2021 to fill the box.



We continue to join with Westminster Presbyterian Church in handing out lunch packets to children in the Topeka Public School district. The month of December has been on Wednesday rather than Friday to accommodate holidays. We also handed out knitted caps for those in need and bags of candy on December 22nd for the Christmas weekend.

"Truly, I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these my brothers, you did it to me." (Matt. 25:40)

HOPE CIRCLE

HOPE Circle did not meet in December.



THE SCHOOL IN ANAPRA STILL NEEDS OUR HELP.

We were in Anapra in March, but with the threat of Covid19, we have decided not to make our usual mission trip at Thanksgiving. We keep up with them and as if the conditions were not bad enough before, they are much worse now. Pastor Antonio indicates that 180 factories in the area have closed down, putting many of the people in Anapra out of work. In an effort to help, the school has cut tuition in half and is not even charging tuition to those in the most desperate situations. Two parents of students at the school have died due to the virus. Many are hungry so the Briones are starting a free lunch program. They have about 130 enrolled but all classes will be via distance learning so these lunches will need to be distributed. Many families do not have Wi-Fi or even a computer so Antonio is finding ways to provide these. As if their budget was not tight before, all these extra costs mean they really need our help. Some of us are already upping our support but if any of you feel moved to help, please write your check to University UMC and include "Anapra" in the memo line. We are all suffering through this but some have it much, much worse. Thank you for your support.

JUMP

Our justice ministry has begun researching the newly selected problem area: Mental Health and Addiction. The committee decided to pursue addiction in particular as a subcategory of mental health. So far, we have met with Valeo Behavioral Health, the VA Hospital and the Kansas Department for Health and Environment. We learned that a critical element for people in recovery from addiction is follow up care. Additionally, for civilians seeking treatment through Valeo there is typically a 30 day waiting period before people can get into treatment. It is unlikely that people will stay sober while waiting to get into treatment. Valeo does have a social detox program and a 28 day inpatient treatment program for substance abuse. The VA also has inpatient treatment.



Work on transportation continues. We won a commitment for \$100,000 for workforce transportation in 2021. Go Topeka did not present a plan for a program to replace SOTO and NETO in 2021. Those ride to work programs are ending on December 31st. Go Topeka made a commitment to JEDO in the December 11 JEDO meeting to have a program up and running by January 1. Our justice ministry is holding Go Topeka accountable to make sure there is a plan in place for riders on January 1st so riders can get to work in the new year.

For more questions or updates about our justice ministry, please contact Stacey Cooper at univumc@sbcglobal.net. For current or interested members of the justice ministry, we will meet on zoom to plan for the Nehemiah action on February 11th at 5:30 p.m. please RSVP to your team leader by February 10th.

Madison Sorsen,
JUMP Associate Community Organizer

POINSETTIAS

This year instead of buying poinsettias, people were asked to donate the \$10 that they would have paid if Worship had purchased poinsettias that were ordered. Those that purchased the poinsettias were able to choose which church sponsored charity they wanted the money to be donated to. The charities that the money will go to are Anapra, Blessing Box, Doorstep, Fellowship & Faith and JUMP.

IN HONOR OF:

Our Families	Charles & Linda Benton
My mother, Gayle Dick	Pam Campbell
Our Children, Shannon, Atticus, AJ, Bryce, Max, Josh & Scout	David & Stacey Cooper
Our Children & Their Families, Ryan Ogle, Pricilla Hare & Sherry Peters Parker	Mike & Mary Peters
Our Children & Grandchildren	Bob & Linda Reece
Patrick & Andrew Ross	Becky Ross

IN MEMORY OF:

Our Fathers & Linda's Mother	Charles & Linda Benton
Our Fathers, Myron Cooper & Gordon Smart	David & Stacey Cooper
Our Parents, Melvin & Norma Peters, Clarence & Dorothy Larsen & Sheila Peters	Mike & Mary Peters
Jordan, Our Parents & Brothers	Bob & Linda Reece
My Parents & Grandparents	Becky Ross
Debby Smith	Bob & Dar Smith
Jeff Springer, Dennis & Irma Crisp, Janie Crisp	SuziyCrisp Springer & Family
Steve Whitney, Francis & Woodie Campbell, Shane Campbell	Diana Whitney

FELLOWSHIP & FAITH

Adrienne Martinez, Administrator of Fellowship and Faith.

“Just touching base with everyone to let know you we are done with the Christmas give away for this year! We received toy donations from many Churches as always, plus many checks came in as well. I'm a little tired but I will try and remember them all here; if I missed one forgive me, but rest assured we did "the Dance of Joy" for all donations. We received toys from Tecumseh UMC, Berryton UMC, Susanna Wesley UMC, University UMC, and Toys for Tots. We also were blessed once again with hats and gloves from Berryton UMC, University UMC, Silver Lake UMC, Stull UMC, and blankets were donated by University UMC, Susanna Wesley UMC, and Stull UMC. With the board members help this year we wrapped and gave away 303 Christmas gifts to 22 Families, and 21 Food Baskets, because the one family only wanted gifts for his son. So all together we handed out gifts and food to 114 people; they were all very happy and send their thanks to you all for making their Christmas a joyous one.

I was able, with the help of Nanny, my awesome family, and Pete, to either deliver or have the families pick up their gifts and food baskets on Friday so we do not need any help Saturday with handing out the Christmas give away after all, because IT'S ALL DONE. I will possibly sleep in this Saturday morning, at least until eight.”

CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES

Linda Benton and Mary Peters put together gift bags containing a Christmas cookie and hot chocolate mix and gave to the staff and students of UCD.

Talented Shannon Cooper baked and decorated the cookies.



BUILDINGS & GROUNDS

We haven't met for some time but things still need to be done such as maintenance to the building. Thaine is working on the contract to fix the elevator. Bob Bearce is contacting the snow removal group to make sure we get snow removed when necessary. Gary Weekly is resigning from head of B&G because of his health, also making Bob Bearce as lead for 2020-2021. We all are doing what we can during the Covid19 times.



FINANCE

Many thanks to each of you who have kept our church running throughout this pandemic. Thank you to all who have kept up their pledges and supported the church in so many ways. Blessings to each of you in the new year. We will be back together soon.

Karen Myers
Finance Chair



UPDATE ON 2021 PLEDGES

As of 12/8, UUMC had received 2021 Operating pledges totaling \$103,044. This compares to 2020 pledges totaling \$123,952. The majority of this decrease is due to 11 givers who pledged in 2020, but had not yet pledged for 2021. There is still time, if you have not already done so, to complete a pledge card, or to contact Mike Peters, UUMC Financial Secretary @ 785-608-5811 (Voice or Text) or crazywheel@aol.com with your 2021 pledge.

PENTATONIX

If you have never heard of Pentatonix, they are an a cappella group that sings covers of songs and original music they have written. If you have not heard Pentatonix's new song, *Amazing Grace-My Chains are Gone*, you are missing something wonderful. Give them a listen and you won't be disappointed. Go to YouTube and just type in Pentatonix Amazing Grace.



A Glass of Milk by Author Unknown

One day, a poor boy who was selling goods from door to door to pay his way through school, found he had only one thin dime left, and he was hungry. He decided he would ask for a meal at the next house. However, he lost his nerve when a lovely young woman opened the door. Instead of a meal he asked for a drink of water.

She thought he looked hungry so brought him a large glass of milk. He drank it slowly, and then asked, "How much do I owe you?"

"You don't owe me anything," she replied. "Mother has taught us never to accept pay for a kindness."

He said..... "Then I thank you from my heart." As Howard Kelly left that house, he not only felt stronger physically, but his faith in God and man was strong also. He had been ready to give up and quit.

Year's later that young woman became critically ill. The local doctors were baffled. They finally sent her to the big city, where they called in specialists to study her rare disease. Dr. Howard Kelly was called in for the consultation. When he heard the name of the town she came from, a strange light filled his eyes. Immediately he rose and went down the hall of the hospital to her room.

Dressed in his doctor's gown he went in to see her. He recognized her at once. He went back to the consultation room determined to do his best to save her life. From that day he gave special attention to the case.

After a long struggle, the battle was won. Dr. Kelly requested the business office to pass the final bill to him for approval.

He looked at it, then wrote something on the edge and the bill was sent to her room. She feared to open it, for she was sure it would take the rest of her life to pay for it all. Finally she looked, and something caught her attention on the side of the bill.

She read these words.....

"Paid in full with one glass of milk"

(Signed)

Dr. Howard Kelly

Tears of joy flooded her eyes as her happy heart prayed: "Thank You, God, that Your love has spread abroad through human hearts and hands."

DOORSTEP

The year 2020 was challenging for everyone in some way. Doorstep has felt very blessed during the year with the volunteers who were comfortable coming in to help the staff provide services, and sort donations... and there were many donations with people being home! We also felt very blessed, and supported by all of our donors, and the community as a whole, who helped keep our food shelves stocked throughout the year, and the monetary donations which kept our doors open, and services being provided.

We will start 2021 operating the same way we have been in 2020, with phone intakes for services, and appointments for the clothing room.

At this writing we have not distributed our Christmas items yet, however, Doorstep still adopted the usual 260 households from the Christmas Bureau. This is over 800 individuals who will receive food, gift cards, blankets and health kits. We appreciate everyone who sent monetary donations to help with the increased budget to provide the gift cards this year; and, those who donated blankets, towels and hygiene items.

There will be no Operation Soup Line this year as the Board could not figure out a COVID-19 safe, fundraising positive, way to carry out the event. We have asked our regular sponsors to still donate the funds and basically 'sponsor Doorstep' instead of the event this year as to not lose quite so much money by not having the fundraiser.

We will still proceed with SouperBowl Sunday, February 7th with the collection of soup and crackers to help stock our pantry! Please collect these items to bring to your congregation, or to Doorstep.

We cannot stress enough how thankful and blessed we feel to be so supported during this difficult time as we continue to help our neighbors in need the best way possible.



DOORSTEP

Neighbors Helping Neighbors

UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

This will either be a Christmas to remember or to forget. The choice is yours. We will all have things to remember and things better forgotten. Things that matter and things that don't.



Just a brief update on my situation. I am on new medication to stop production of estrogen/progesterone to starve the Cancer. On December 28, I will begin radiation therapy five days a week that will go on for 4-6 weeks. The good news is that the Cancer had not migrated to the lymph nodes.

Further good news is that they have already started the vaccination process with at least two vaccines that seem promising. However, we are still paying for the Thanksgiving holiday frivolity and now have Christmas to look forward to. I don't blame families for wanting to get together to celebrate Christmas, but I wonder about the logic in traveling across the country at this time, or even getting the whole family together for one big blowout. I think my family will be keeping it very simple this year. I would normally be having the whole family at my home for Christmas Brunch, but that has been cancelled. I'm thinking it will be just me, myself, and I at my house this year.

Perhaps we need to concentrate on the real meaning of Christmas and leave off with the gift exchange. I'm not against people having some fun in the midst of all this misery, but sometimes there is a price to pay that outweighs the fun.

An executive meeting of UMW was held on December 5th. Distribution of the treasury was the main order of business. We were able to support 20 missions/organizations, district UMW and the church as planned for 2020. Thanks to all who helped with the Facebook Market Place (thrift sale) and the drive through chicken and noodle dinner (bazaar).

Heavenly Father, we know you are always with us and we love you. Forgive us for putting our happiness before the real meaning of Christmas. We thank you for the gift of Your Son which is the real reason for the celebration. Amen

Jo Miller, UMW President



TO OUR MEMBERS & FRIENDS WITH SPECIAL CONCERNS:

Jo Miller's son - John, Pam Campbell, Lisa Eiben, Jane Noble, Pam Land, Norma Pike, Michael Springer, Donna Spray, Steve & Jan Kendall, Steve Hearrell, Dave Schaffer, Gary Weekly, Evie Unkefer's granddaughter-Ettie, Diana Whitney's cousin-Rocky, Marlys Aune, Richard Brown, Debra Hayes & Family, the Kisners, the Ferrells, the Schmelzles, Our Police Officers: Randy Bailey and Wendi Winans and our devoted caretakers, the essential/front line people who face COVID-19 daily, our enemies, peace for our world and prayers for our country.

Our congregation members in the Retirement Centers: Gayle Dick, Joanne Armstrong (Plaza West); Peggy Harrison, Jerry Hinton, Sue Holm & Dave Wexler, Marie Culver and Maxine McDaniel (Brewster Place); Ann Fredrickson (Lexington) and Ardith Granger (Aldersgate). And for all nursing homes themselves, all the essential people watching over all the people.

OUR CONDOLENCES TO THE FAMILY OF GRACE REICHLER WHO PASSED AWAY ON NOVEMBER 26TH.

OUR CONDOLENCES TO ANN FREDRICKSON AND FAMILY IN THE DEATH OF JIM FREDRICKSON ON DECEMBER 13TH.

TO THESE DISTRICT CHURCHES:

3 January Hoyt	10 January Lecompton	17 January Mayetta- Potawatomi	24 January McLouth	31 January Meriden
Norma Miller Delbert Boling	Rob Ernest Mary Sue Sledd	Howard Sudduth Karen Burns Judy Thoman	Jamie Norwich - McLennan Sandra Nowasll	Gina Tyler Judy George



Prayer Requests

Please contact the UUMC office if you know of someone who should be included or removed from our prayer list.

If you would like to be notified by e-mail when there are new prayer requests, such as church members in the hospital, surgeries, births, deaths, etc., or if you have a prayer request you would like others to know about, contact Mary Winans at mewinans1950@gmail.com or phone 785-224-4155 and leave a message. If you do not have email and would like to be notified by phone, please call the office at 235-2331.

January Birthdays

- 2 Ryan Wills
- 4 Kelm Lear
- 8 Cheryl Walters
- 14 Mary Ann Bearce
- 14 Allen Kershner
- 14 Shannon Wilder
- 17 Angela Wellborn
- 19 Pastor Jeff Potter
- 21 Lexi Hayes
- 24 Bill Wagnon
- 27 Dean Kisner
- 28 Larry Ferrell

Milestone Birthdays

4 Kelm Lear 18
27 Dean Kisner 70



January Anniversaries

- 8 Dean & Linda Kisner 44
- 28 Randy & Carla Hearrell 50



If you know of a birthday or anniversary that has been omitted or is not correct on this list, please call the office and let us know.

<p>3 January Isa 60:1-6 Ps 72:1-7, 10-14 Eph 3:1-12 Matt 2:1-12</p> <p>10 January Gen 1:1-5 Ps 29 Acts 19:1-7 Mark 1:4-11</p> <p>17 January 1 Sam 3:1-10 (11-20) Ps 139:1-6, 13-18</p>	<p>17 January 1 Cor 6:12-20 John 1:43-51</p> <p>24 January John 3:1-5, 10 Ps 62:5-12 1 Cor 7:29-31 Mark 1:14-20</p> <p>31 January Deut 18:15-20 Ps 111 1 Cor 8:1-13 Mark 1:21-28</p>
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The **Beacon** is published
monthly for the members
and friends of University
United Methodist Church.

2021
Happy New Year

*** SUNDAY SCHEDULE ***
9:15 a.m. Worship Service
VIA Facebook

You can also view on YouTube
Links found on our website listed on
the front page.