
Vision

December 2020

On Nov. 16, 2020, Bishop Bard of the Michigan United Methodist Church asked UMCs across the state to close in person worship for Advent and Christmas. This means that we will not be worshipping in person on Christmas. A disappointment, I know.



We will continue to livestream on our Facebook every Sunday at 10:00 am. Even if you do not have a Facebook account, you can get to our Facebook page to watch:

<https://www.facebook.com/CaledoniaUnitedMethodist/>

If you can't be with us at 10:00, the recording will be available on Facebook for you to view at anytime.

Serving ~ Strengthening ~ Connecting ~ Our Community

- ~ **Serve** our community in the name of Jesus Christ by spreading the Good News of God's unlimited love and forgiveness;
- ~ **Strengthen** faith through Christian education for people of all ages;
- ~ **Connect** in Christian fellowship with our family, our community, and the world.

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came to being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness does not overcome it. (John 1:1-5)

The Gospel of John has the most epic and poetic opening of any of the Gospels. This is most likely because, out of all the Gospels, John has the highest Christology. Meaning that John focused a lot on Jesus' divinity, whereas the other Gospels focus much more on Jesus' humanity. So this opening from John reminds us that Jesus, the Word, the revelation of God, has been a part of God's story from the very beginning. Everything came to life through him.

John also talks about how this life was the light of all people, and how this light shines so brightly that the darkness does not overcome it. Nothing in this world, no evil or pain or heartache, can overcome the light of Jesus.

As we come to the final month of 2020, a year that has been shrouded in so much darkness, it's important to remember that the light of God has continued to shine. Though we couldn't meet in a sanctuary, though we couldn't sing our hymns, though we couldn't share in coffee hour together, God continued to be with us. A light that darkness could not overcome.

As we end this year together, I invite you to reflect on where God showed up in the darkness.

- Where, in the past year, did you see and experience God?
- What has been a source of light for you?
- How can you continue to carry God's light into the world in 2021?

May we remember that God is with us. Light in the darkness. Hope in the middle of uncertainty.

Blessings to you and to all. Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays!

Rev. Elizabeth Hurd



At Home Advent

Earlier in the month of November, Erin sent an e-mail out to everyone with a document for At Home Advent. I encourage all of you to use this as a resource to connect with God this Advent.

2021 Vision Team

In 2021, Caledonia United Methodist Church will walk through a visioning process.



We will ask the questions: *Where are we at now? Where do we want to go in the future? Who do we want to be 10 years from now?*

We are looking to build a team of 10 people to help lay out a vision for the future of Caledonia United Methodist Church and its ministry in the community and the world.

If you would like to be a part of the Caledonia United Methodist Church 2021 Vision Team, please email Pastor Elizabeth at pastor.elizabeth@caledoniaumc.org

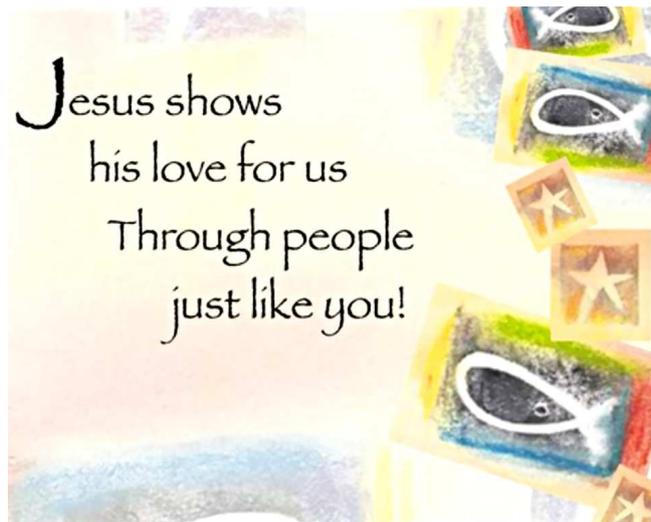
Please remember that we like to thank our Church Staff for all the hard work they perform for us each year. We achieve this by presenting a love offering to each employee at Christmas. Donations for this love offering will be taken until Dec. 13 and the presentation will occur on Dec. 20.



Checks can be made out to: "CUMC" but please make a notation on the check: "Love Offering". Donations must arrive at the Church by Dec. 13 and thank you!

Welcome Sharon Burkart!

Sharon Burkart has agreed to be our Lay Leader in 2021. You may know Sharon from the Missions Committee, as she's led our mission connection with God's County Cooperative Parish. As we step into a new year, still in the middle of a pandemic, I thank Sharon for taking on this position.



Thank You Thom!

At the end of 2020, Thom Kohl will be stepping down from various leadership positions in Caledonia United Methodist Church, including our lay leader position. For many of the past years, Thom has served CUMC faithfully. He has been an essential part of our team as we've transitioned from in-person to online worship, helping to build up our livestreaming capabilities. He has represented CUMC at Annual Conference, making sure your voices and your concerns were heard by the Michigan UMC. He led Bible Studies and Adult Sunday School for us as well. I have enjoyed working with him, as he has made sure I have heard the concerns and hopes of the church as well. I thank him for the times he has stepped in to share devotions and sermons with you all. As he steps down from these various positions, I invite you to send him thank you notes for all he has done for our church family. Thank you Thom!

How Can You Serve the Church in 2021?



Nominations Committee is looking to fill two more positions in 2021. We are looking for someone to serve on our **Staff Parish Relations Committee (SPRC)**. SPRC supports our pastor and church staff. They meet once a month to liaison with the pastor, as well as address any staffing questions that come up.

Nominations is also looking to fill a position on the **Finance Committee**. This committee meets once a month to go over the financial health of the church. They also set the budget for each budget year.

If you feel inclined to serve the church in either of these positions, please let the office know. Thank you.

Please note: The deadline for January newsletter items will be December 15th due to the limited Christmas office hours.

Pastor's Pup-date



Hi all! Lucy here. I've heard my human say that this year has been hard for all humans. There's something called COVID going around, and people are worried about it. They had to stay home and wear masks. My human even led online worship at home for a little while (Did you hear me bark when that was happening?) I know it's been a hard year for humans, but I think it's been a great year for dogs. See, when my human started staying home it meant I got to spend more time with her! And then I got to experience new things, like jumping up in her lap to see other humans trapped in her computer! We also went for a lot more walks this year. Sometimes, in the summer, I got three walks in one day. It was amazing! I think other dogs have felt the same way. I know this virus is scary for humans, but I feel thankful that I've gotten to spend more time with my human. I hope all you humans have found things to be thankful for this year!

Love and Barks,
Lucy

Birthdays and Anniversaries

Happy Birthday

4 ~ Scott Handley
~ Gladys Miller
5 ~ Haden Bovee
~ Patrick Bradley
9 ~ Sabrina Burd
~ Samantha Handley
12 ~ Tom Jacobs
~ Jenna Knight
14 ~ Kyle Makarewicz
15 ~ Katie Schenk
17 ~ Sue Burd
~ Sharon Burkart
~ Brian Seper
19 ~ Todd Brown
20 ~ Micalan Villanueva
22 ~ Larry Lanning
28 ~ Jean Arins
~ Bernie Overholt
30 ~ Judy Kidder

Happy Anniversary

9 ~ Jim & Deb Oldfield
13 ~ Ivan & Betty Bourn
~ Scott & Tasseey Handley
14 ~ George & Karen Edgar

If you don't see your name on our birthday and anniversary list, please let us know so you can be included!

Caledonia Community Churches Blood Drive Holy Family Church, 9669 Kraft Ave. SE, Caledonia

Thank you from Versiti-Blood Center of Michigan, to all who gave the gift of life by donating blood at the Caledonia Community Churches drive on November 10th. 66 pints of blood were collected (26 units over goal).



A special thank you to all volunteers who support this lifesaving ministry and office staff at each church. Also, thank you to everyone for wearing your mask and adhering to social distancing guidelines.

2021 blood drives (Tuesday): Jan 12, Mar 9, May 11, July 13, Sept 14, Nov 9

*Appointment times are every 5 minutes. Donors without appointments will be fit into an open timeslot. You may schedule an appointment up until midnight the day before the blood drive. If interested in donating blood on **January 12** you may sign up online at https://donate.miblood.org/donor/schedules/drive_schedule/124628 or call Char Mello, chairperson 616-901-2803. Please join us for good fellowship and yummy snacks.*

December

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2 9:30 am Staff Meeting 6:00 pm Wild & Free Student Ministry	3 9:30 am Online Devotions 5:00 pm "Sermon on the Mount" Study	4	5 6:00 pm Caledonia Christmas Parade
6 <i>2nd Sunday of Advent</i> 10:00 am Worship 12:00 - 6:00 pm Brann's Fundraiser	7 7:00 pm Scouts	8	9 9:30 am Staff Meeting 6:00 pm Wild & Free Student Ministry	10 9:30 am Online Devotions 10:00 am UMW 6:30 pm Finance Committee 7:15 pm Ad. Council	11	12 8:00 am Trustees
13 <i>3rd Sunday of Advent</i> 10:00 am Worship	14 7:00 pm Scouts	15	16 9:30 am Staff Meeting 6:00 pm Wild & Free Student Ministry	17 9:30 am Online Devotions	18	19
20 <i>4th Sunday of Advent</i> 10:00 am Worship 12:00 - 6:00 pm Pizza Hut Fundraiser	21	22	23	24 <i>Christmas Eve</i> 9:30 am Online Devotions 7:00 pm Christmas Eve Service	25 <i>Christmas Day</i> <i>Merry Christmas</i>	26
27 10:00 am Worship	28 6:30 pm SPRC	29	30	31 <i>New Year's Eve</i> 9:30 am Online Devotions		

Church Office Closed December 24 - January 3

Caledonia United Methodist Church
250 Vine Street
Caledonia, MI 49316



December 24 at 7:00 pm on Facebook.
More details coming soon.