

WINTER 2020-2021

Honey Brook United Methodist Church

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SUNDAY SCHOOL:

NO SUNDAY SCHOOL UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE!

WORSHIP: 10:45 AM

**NO FELLOWSHIP TIME FOLLOWING THE SERVICE
UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE!**

FROM THE PASTOR

END OF YEAR THOUGHTS!

2020 is coming to an end. What does that mean? Well, there is no doubt that this has been an especially difficult or at least unusual year. We tend to not like change...or at least, it takes us awhile to get used to changes. I am sure you are aware that there were a LOT of changes, new experiences and just plain struggles these past 10 months. I am sure you can think of additions to the list but here are 20 things about 2020

Flatten the curve: That's why there is tape on the floor and Plexiglas at every cash register

Toilet paper shortage: My first reaction when I heard this was, "Wait, What?"

Zoom: Other than a plane or something that goes really fast, I had no idea what zoom was. Now I know that is a way to meet long distance and look like the Brady Bunch.

President was impeached: Normally that would be the big story of the year. A bit more than a footnote in 2020

Distilleries began making hand sanitizer: I have no idea if this can work the other way.

A prince and princess decided to quit: Did not know they had that option

Virtual church: Guess we were kind of encouraged to make our services available online. Thanks to those who made it happen!!

Kobe Bryant died in a helicopter crash: Yes, that was in 2020

2 weeks to the gallon: Suddenly our vehicles were getting great gas mileage

Shopping: It was a great treat to be able to go to the store, assuming you remembered how to drive.

Australia on fire: That happened in 2020 though it seems like a long time ago and, no offense to Australia, but almost a minor story at this point.

Online shopping and food delivery: It's the new way to stay supplied

Online school: Saw this meme on the internet, "a year ago if I had been asked what the hardest part of a global pandemic would be, I would have never said, 'teaching 4th grade math.'" Continue to pray for students and teachers and parents!

Fires out west: That's right, the fire season was especially bad in America as well (it generally is not a good thing when "fire" is a season).

Hurricanes! Naturally, hurricane season has been bad as well. We went all the way through the alphabet and are still working our way through the Greek letters!! Some locations along the Gulf Coast have been hit several times this year.

Election: Pretty much everything about this election was unusual, though I guess it did provide a distraction from the rest of the list.

PPE: Did you know what ppe was back in January?

Sports? Sporting events happened this year but mostly at the wrong time. Was that The Masters a couple of weeks ago? Do they usually have the Masters during fire season or hurricane season? There should have been an Olympics in 2020 by the way.

Asteroid? Apparently, we were almost hit by an asteroid in August. I just saw that the other day...I totally missed it when it happened....guess there were a few other things in the news those days.

Oh, I just remembered, Murder Hornets. Enough said!

What can you say about that list and all the things I left off the list? I am just going to say this. GOD IS GOOD ALL THE TIME! If we put our faith in the wealth or security or institutions of this world, 2020 reminded us that we might be disappointed, "but blessed are those who trust in the LORD and have made the LORD their hope and confidence." (Jeremiah 17:7)

Perhaps we are hoping to kind of erase this year and start over from scratch. That would nice in many ways, but let's not erase the lesson that we must make the Lord our foundation and continue to place our hope in Him, regardless of what 2021 brings

Blessings to all this Christmas season

Pastor Ray

P. S. We recently received a message from Bishop Johnson encouraging everyone to remain cautious. At this point we plan to continue meeting on Sunday mornings with the precautions in place. We realize that some will choose not to attend because of these guidelines. Others will be reluctant to attend because of health and safety concerns or for other reasons. We understand and stress that we continue to be the Body of Christ, whether we are together physically, or spiritually.

Whether or not you are attending "in person", please do not hesitate to contact Pastor Ray or the church office with prayer concerns and any other Pastoral needs

Thank you for your faithfulness and for continuing to uphold Honey Brook United Methodist with your prayers, presence (one way or another), gifts, service and witness.

We remain in prayer for everyone's physical, emotional and spiritual health.

God is good all the time!

Kind of continuing the “end of the year” theme, thank you to everyone who worked on the forms and was a part our recent Charge Conference. Pastor Ray shared the following “state of the church” report:

Throughout the New Testament, we read of members of the early church living out their faith in difficult times. These Disciples of Jesus Christ followed His footsteps and changed the world even in the face of ridicule, persecution and hardship as they were faithful to the mission given by Jesus in Matthew 28:18-20:

“Then Jesus came to them and said, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore, go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely, I am with you always, to the very end of the age.”

We, at Honey Brook United Methodist Church, have that same mission. Specifically, we state that our mission is to introduce everyone to the love of Christ, strengthen all in the truth of Christ and encourage everyone to grow as Disciples of Christ. Of course, whatever we are able to accomplish is only because God is working through us. His light is shining within us and out to the community.

He is still the God whom we have worshiped and served since a Methodist congregation began worshiping in Honey Brook in the 1800’s. While 2020 has proven to be a challenging year, God has not changed. Though we sometimes see only challenges and difficulties, He is aware of the possibilities and the blessings He has in store.

Of course, we know that the Covid-19 pandemic has brought changes to the ministries and activities of the church. Sunday morning attendance is understandable lower but, thanks to the hard work and generosity of many, our services are now available online. In fact, we are reaching more individuals each week than we did before all of this happened. We were also able to offer a virtual Vacation Bible School and Zoom prayer meeting.

Several community events had to be cancelled in 2020 but we always want to be active in our neighborhood. As we move forward,

we hope that things will “get back to normal” but we will also continue to look for new ways to share the good news of Jesus Christ.

Jesus told His disciples that the world would recognize them by their love for one another (John 13:35) Godly love is described in I Corinthians 13:4-7

“Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. ⁵ It does not dishonor others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. ⁶ Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. ⁷ It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres.”

This type of love is needed more than ever in this world. May we be known as those who treat one another in this way. And be thankful that God treats us this way!! Even as He loves each of us enough to pursue us like a shepherd searching for a sheep from his flock that had gone missing and welcomes us as the loving father welcomed His prodigal child, may we take advantage of every opportunity to be His people, His representatives, His body; Ambassadors for Christ as we read in 2 Corinthians 5:20.

He has blessed us with the gifts and resources necessary to accomplish the tasks for which He calls us. Thank you to everyone who uses their talents and energy to support the ministries of our church. As a pastor, I complete an annual Statistical Report for our church. One question on this report is, “how many people in your congregation are involved in ministry beyond Sunday worship services?” Of course that answer for our church is “almost everyone” as we all take part one way or another!

This year has brought some changes financially as well. Income and expenses have both decreased. The good news is that Once again, we will pay 100% of our connectional ministries obligation along with our normal expenses. Thank you all for your generosity! **Copies of the 2021 budget approved by Connecting Team are available in Fellowship Hall**

May we never forget that as we work and worship and serve and give (upholding the church by our prayers, our presence, our gifts, our service and out witness), we are simply the vessels that God is using. "For God, who said 'Let light shine out of darkness' made his light shine in our hearts to give us the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Christ. But we have this treasure in jars of clay to show that this all-surpassing power is from God and not from us." (2 Corinthians 4:6-7) We press on with confidence not because we are so special but because the God we serve who is living and working through us is truly that special. Please join me in praying regularly for our church, for one another and for those that God leads into our lives! When His people pray, God promises to do wonderful things (2 Chronicles 7:14)

Blessings to all and thank you for the privilege of being the Pastor here at Honey Brook United Methodist Church.

Pastor Ray Voran

THANK YOU TO DAVE, ASHLEY, CATHY AND EMILY AND EVERYONE WHO MAKES SURE WE HAVE SOUND AND VIDEOS DURING OUR SERVICES. AND FOR RECORDING AND POSTING SERVICES ONLINE!! YOU ALL DO A GREAT JOB! WE WILL NOW BE NEEDING FOLKS TO HELP WITH THE LIVESTREAMING OR RECORDING AS WELL.

Copies of the 2021 church budget are available on the glass case at the entrance to Fellowship Hall

PASTORS BLOG

Another way we are trying to stay connected, grow as the body of Christ, and also Ignite His Light in an attempt to reach those outside the church is a new blog by our pastor. Well....it was started by the pastor but we can all be part of it! You can find it and read the current posts here.....

<https://revoran.blogspot.com/>

Please feel free to share this with friends and family and anyone else. I continue to make a good faith effort to keep things up to date and add posts on a regular basis. You are welcome to add your thoughts, comments, questions and ideas for future topics.

Thank you for your support and ideas.



CHOIR NOTES

Thank you very much to everyone who has led singing and shared in the worship services by providing the solos and duets for special music. We continue to sing our praise to the Lord!!

CHRISTMAS EVE!

It will feature small group singing instead of a large choir but we will be having our Christmas eve service this year! It will begin at 7 pm on Thursday December. The service will be recorded and then available online for those unable to attend.

And a big thank you to everyone who helped decorate the church as we prepare for Christmas!!!



Community Outreach



Thank you everyone for participating in the Operation Christmas Child Shoebox ministry. We filled and shipped 39 boxes this year. And don't forget the Honey Brook Police Department toy drive, food items for Steeple to People and also the Mitten Tree this Christmas season. By the goodness and grace of God we are able to share in blessings and be a blessing in our neighborhoods and around the world!

CONFIRMATION!

Good News Everybody! A church confirmation class began in August. It might be a bit different than past classes but we will still spend our time learning about what it means to be a member of the church and a Disciple of Jesus. The plan is to be able to celebrate our new confirmands on Easter Sunday, April 4, 2021.

Please keep Emily Majcher and Trent Rutt in your prayers as they navigate these waters along with 2 young people from the New Holland Church

PRAYER MEETING

We will continue to hold weekly prayer meetings thru zoom and encourage those who are able to participate. Weekly emails will be sent with all of the information you will need to be part of the group. . Please continue to send prayer requests to the church office or to

Pastor Ray so that they can be added to the prayer chain. While we are separated physically, we continue to be joined together spiritually as the body of Christ!

Committee on Nominations Report for 2021

Thanks to everyone who has agreed to serve this year. **You may take note of several vacancies, biggest need is for someone to take charge of the Finance Committee (Walter has agreed to provide training and help along the way but it is time for him to step down!). We also have an opening for our Lay Member to Annual Conference.**

Contact Pastor Ray or the church office with questions or if you are interested in these or any positions.

SLATE FOR 2021

Key: **New in the position**

_____ Vacancy

Lay Leader: **Jean Refford**

Lay Member of Annual Conference:

Representatives to Morgantown Area Connexion:

Connecting Team (aka Administrative Board)

Chairperson: _____

Vice Chairperson: _____

Secretary: Pat Henry

Membership: Committee Chairpersons, Lay Leader,

Committee on Nurture:

Chairperson: Jean Refford

Members: Chairpersons or representatives from Worship, Christian Education, & Pastoral Care Committees

Worship Committee:

Nursery Coordinator: Ruth Romig

Usher Representative: Jeff Heagy

Altar Guild: Shirley Woolwine, **Ryli Rutt, Sarah Majcher**

Musicians: Ashley Rutt, Teresa DiPietro
Worship Coordinator: Shirley Sweigart
Church Secretary: Pat Henry
Media Team Representative: Dave Fellenbaum, Cathy Heagy,
Emily Majcher, Ashley Rutt
Fellowship Committee Representative: Ruth Romig
Choir Representative: 5 Choir members are already on this committee.

Pastoral Care Committee: Jean Refford, Joyce Rock, Shirley Sweigart,
Ethel Wingenfield

Christian Education:

Chairperson: Cathy Heagy
Adult Department: Ethel Wingenfield
Sunday School Treasurer: _____
Music: Ashley Rutt
Sunday School Teachers, Assistants & Substitutes: Cathy Heagy,
Allison Majcher, Bre Jackson
Nursery Coordinator: Ruth Romig

Committee on Outreach (Missions)

Chairperson: Cathy Heagy
Members at Large: Linda Leisey, Kristin Thomas,

Committee on Witness:

Chairperson: Karen Fellenbaum
Members at Large: Jean Refford, Ethel Wingenfield,
Members of the Media Team: Dave Fellenbaum, Cathy Heagy,
Emily Majcher, Ashley Rutt

Membershiip Secretaries: **Doris Houck & Pat Painter**

Historians: Kathryn Conrad, Linda Leisey, Pat Henry, Teresa DiPietro, Jill Daly

Committee on Finance:

Chairpersons: _____ (Walter Labs has been filling this role)
Chairperson of Stewardship: Walter Labs
Lay Member, Annual Conference: _____
Connecting Team Chairperson _____
Chairperson of Nurture: Jean Refford
Chairperson of Witness: Karen Fellenbaum
Chairperson of Christian Education: Cathy Heagy
Representative, SPRC: Linda Leisey
Representative, Trustees _____
Trustee Treasurer: Jack Martin
Lay Leader: Jean Refford
Financial Secretary: Pat Henry
Treasurer: Faye Max
Lead Counter: Alfreda Labs,
Counters: Byrnie Ford, Lew Gable, Faye Max

Staff-Parish Relations Committee:

Chairperson: Linda Leisey
Lay Leader: Jean Refford

Class of 2021

Linda Leisey (2)
Karen Fellenbaum
Sandi Souden

Class of 2022

Lori Hartz
Byrnie Ford
Eileen Seldombridge

Class of 2023

Bre Jackson
Doris Houck
Dee Fagan

Trustees

Chairperson: As Elected by the Trustees
Trustee Emeritus:

Class of 2021

Jim Woolwine
Diane Vosburgh
Jim Seldomridge

Class of 2022

Don Refford
Dave Fellenbaum

Class of 2023

Brandon Rutt
Lew Gable
Jack Martin

Cemetery Committee

3 members appointed by Trustees

Memorial Committee:

Trustee Representative
Finance Committee Representative
SPRC Representative

Leisey Scholarship Committee

Linda Leisey
Jill Daly
Jim Woolwine

Committee on Nominations

Class of 2021

Alison Majcher
Pat Henry

Class of 2022

Linda Leisey

Class of 2023

Beverly Jackson
Barbie Stoltzfus

Again...thanks to everyone for your gifts and service!!

Shine on Spotighting our youth: Ashley Rutt will be sharing some information about our great young people in these newsletters but I cannot make the format work correctly so...

1. Here is the basic information about Grace Majcher but keep reading!

Grace Elizabeth Majcher

Age: 9 Birth date: October 29 Grade: 3 School: Honey Brook Elementary

interest/hobbies: Soccer and Karate

Favorite color: Teal; Favorite food: Eggs

Favorite Christmas Sunday school song is "Joy to the World."

Church Task: Collecting Offering in Sunday School and Reading the prayer during Sunday school opening.

Grace is one of four children in the Majcher family. She enjoys karate where she has received a white belt with a blue stripe and loves to play soccer. She has participated in karate for a couple of years and has been playing soccer since preschool. Grace says that her most memorable moment of this year was when her soccer team placed first in their division and she will be receiving a trophy. Graces' favorite thing about school is reading. After school she enjoys playing with her friends and her dog, Kiwi. This summer she had the opportunity to go to the beach and to Massanutten, Virginia, where she got to hike, go horseback riding and experience other outdoor activities.
You are His Masterpiece Ephesians 2:10

.....Copy and paste this link in your internet browser to see her beautiful picture and the wonderful way Ashley actually put this together:

https://docs.google.com/document/d/12WdrhftQC3hb37Ydk88op1_L6uG07V-1gw17WPu2SZk/edit?usp=drivesdk

One Final note: If anyone can use a queen sized box spring or queen/full metal bed frame, contact Pastor Ray

And MERRY CHRISTMAS TO ALL!!!