



Hebron United Methodist Church
9811 Main Street, P.O. Box 323, Hebron, IL 60034

Catch the Spirit!

www.hebronmethodist.org

DEC 2021/JAN 2022

The Pastor Ponders...

...What Will Bring Us
Closer to God?

*"The people who walked in darkness have
seen a great light; those who lived in a land
of deep darkness – on them light has shined."*

Isaiah 9: 2

I really enjoy the scriptures from Isaiah that are so much a part of our Advent and Christmas readings. Not only are they familiar, but they are filled with a sense of hope and expectation. While some of the prophecies were not fulfilled during Isaiah's time, we, on this side of the Christ event, see the marvelous ways that God had been working all along.

When Isaiah's listeners looked at the world around them, it was far from what God intended, it was far from what they desired, it was far from the visions that Isaiah was proclaiming. I'm sure that the folks thought it was an impossible dream. But Isaiah didn't want the people to stay focused on the darkness. Isaiah's intention was to move them forward into the light, to give them a goal, something positive for which to strive, hope for the future. *(Continues on page 2)*



Join us this Christmas Season!

****Mark Your Calendar****

Sunday, December 5th
Council Meeting 9:00 a.m.

Sunday, December 12th
Community Caroling begins at St. John's
after worship

Sunday, December 19th
Children's Christmas Program 10:30 a.m.
Lunch, Games, Christmas Fun 11:30 a.m.
Tufo School of Music Fall Musicale 2:00 p.m.

Friday, December 24th
Christmas Eve Candlelight Service 7:30 p.m.

*Thank you to everyone who participated in our
special Hanging of the Greens worship service
on November 28th!*

The Pastor Ponders (continued)

I was reading an article from David Lose, President of Luther Theological Seminary in preparation for writing my sermons this Advent. Lose suggested that, rather than focus on the world that we are living in, what would happen if we started to dream, to imagine the world we would like to live in, the world as God might have planned it, the ideal world? If that world was now, how would we act? What would our attitudes be? What if we began behaving/thinking as if that world were already here?

Lose then brought his readers closer to home. Picture your ideal Christmas. Warm, family time? What do you need to do to mend/strengthen relationships to make that happen? Relaxed, peaceful? What do you need to do or to let go of to make that happen? A joyful celebration? What lifts your spirits? Will you find time to make that happen?

What brings you closer to God? To other people? To feeling hope, peace, joy, and love in your heart? Christmas music? Then play a lot of it. Old movies? Hallmark movies? Make time to watch them. Spending time with friends? Do it. Drive around and look at the lights. Volunteer at a shelter, food pantry, community feeding program. Visit a shut-in. Read the old, familiar Bible stories. Sing/play a recording of *The Messiah*. Do whatever it takes to soften your heart, to feel the hope, to see the possibilities, to dream dreams, and then to realize that all of these grand visions have become possible.

“For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.” Isaiah 9: 6

May you be drawn closer to the God who is always with us,
Pastor Char



Building Update

The concrete work on the Wesley Room entryway is complete. Many thanks to Big Z Farms for the large monetary donation towards the project and for the many hours of demolition work using bare hands, sledge hammers, and a large skid loader. Thank you Zeke and Jennifer Nickels, and Zach Nickels, for making this part of the renovation ready for our contractor, Arnie, who is scheduled to begin in a couple of weeks.

-Steve Johnson and Shirlee Correll, Building Committee



Quick Reminders

- There will be no livestream of the worship services on December 19th and December 26th
- No Sunday School Class on December 26th
- Our next newsletter will be issued in February 2022

N.O.W. Team - Nurture

As I was pondering what to write this month, I came across this article and I would hope that we'd like to live by these Commandments also: 10 Christmas Commandments (*Anonymous - The following item appeared in a church newsletter and contains some good advice that will help us keep selfishness in check this Christmas*)

You shall not leave 'Christ' out of Christmas, making it 'Xmas.' To some, 'X' is unknown.

You shall prepare your soul for Christmas. Spend not so much on gifts that your soul is forgotten.

You shall not let Santa Claus replace Christ, thus robbing the day of its spiritual reality.

You shall not burden the shop girl, the mailman, and the merchant with complaints and demands.

You shall give yourself with your gift. This will increase its value a hundred fold, and the one who receives it shall treasure it forever.

You shall not value gifts received by their cost. Even the least expensive may signify love, and that is more priceless than silver and gold.

You shall not neglect the needy. Share your blessings with many who will go hungry and cold if you are not generous.

You shall not neglect your church. Its services highlight the true meaning of the season.

You shall be as a little child. Not until you become in spirit as a little one are you ready to enter into the kingdom of Heaven.

You shall give your heart to Christ. Let Him be at the top of your Christmas list.

Anyone keeping these commandments is sure to have a blessed Christmas.

Words cannot express how grateful we are for all of your generosity this last year; mission giving, tissue products for the Hebron Community Food Pantry, support of the Secret Santa program sponsored by the Alden-Hebron Schools, and items for our Mitten tree. Now that we are back in our sanctuary full-time the possibilities for the coming year of outreach and mission programs are endless!!

Have a blessed Christmas everyone,
Shirlee and Alberta, co-chairs Nurture

And do not neglect to do good and to share with others, for with such sacrifices God is pleased. Hebrews 13:16



N.O.W. Team - Outreach

December's Mission Focus is the last link in our mission giving (formerly Rainbow Covenant). This month we are asking for gifts of support for missionary David Makobo N'Shikala (#3021869). "David's work in Senegal involves assistance to farmers in making their labor and the land more productive. Senegal is a small country on the west coast of Africa. It lacks significant natural resources but is adaptable to the cultivation of millet and peanuts and the raising of livestock. The Senegal United Methodist Mission dates to 1989 and has some 19 congregations. Membership has grown steadily in the predominantly Muslim country." As always you can give online (<https://hebronmethodist.org/online-giving/>), use an offering envelope in church, or send a check to Hebron United Methodist Church Attn: Dawn P.O. Box 323 Hebron, IL 60034.

-Kate Johnson, Outreach

Welcome Francesca!

We'd like to give a warm welcome to the newest member of God's family! Francesca Ruby Bugar, daughter of Lucas & Deidre Bugar and granddaughter of Margie Moore, was baptized at the HUMC on November 14, 2021. May God bless you sweet Francesca as you grow in the Lord!



HUMC KIDS!

We have been learning about the awe-inspiring story of Moses. This unit focused on seeing and feeling the presence and protection of God, who is always with us. We now shift our focus to learning about our favorite time of year - Christmas! We would like to invite you all to join us at 10:30 a.m. on Sunday, December 19th. The HUMC Kids will be leading the worship service that day with a retelling of the birth of our Lord! Please join us on this special day, followed by some food and fun in the Fellowship Hall!

Also, please note that there will be no Sunday School on December 26th. Blessings to you all this Christmas season!

Stephanie Claussen,
Sunday School Teacher



Happy Birthday!

Kim Garrett 12/8
Mary Beth Wilson 12/10
Debbie Arnold 12/11
Isela Elverman 12/13
Marge Lopeman 12/19
Olivia Barrios 12/19
Natalie Elverman 12/22
Kris Bottlemey 12/24
Oliver Schaid 12/26
Glen Walker 12/27
Travis Garrett 12/28
Grant Johnson 12/29
Jim Wilson 12/29

Happy Anniversary!

Debbie & Jeff Arnold 12/5



Last month our District Superintendent, Rev. Jeffrey Bross, visited our church for our annual Church Conference. We are looking forward to a new year of doing God's great work as a church in the NIC Prairie Central District.



Cultivating Health Ministries

Thanks to all who filled out a Cultivating Health Ministries Wellness Survey! We will be reviewing these surveys and announcing 2022 programming in the new year!

Dear Lord, please hear our prayer for the following...



Adam Garrett recovering from surgery

Alberta Austin

Shirlee Correll's mother-in-law, Donna, as her health deteriorates

Wendy Schaid's friend, Alberto who was diagnosed with cancer

Dr. Dan & Denise Staten

Alice & Gordie Johnson

Harold & Juanita Bailey

Dick & Jeneil Border

Dave Dickey

Joan O'Halloran experiencing health problems

Katelyn Winter Sampson

Pastor Char & Glenn's daughter-in-law, Julie, and her family, as they deal with the effects of MS

Nora Winn at the Fair Oaks Nursing facility

Luke Moore

Anita Landry, her son-in-law, Emil & her daughter, Cora

Our former Pastor Jim & Char

Our former Pastor Paul & Lynn

Dorothy Peterson & her family

Betty Garrett & her family

Arlyne Mummer

We pray for all who have suffered as the result of natural disasters.

We pray for protection and safety for all those who defend and protect us.

We pray for the victims and families of all who have been affected by and from violence.

We pray for the return of goodwill and unity among all people.

We pray for all those affected by COVID-19 and its variants and their families; and we pray for the safety of all medical staff and personnel during the care of all patients.

We pray for our church, the Village of Hebron, and all leaders - local, state and national; our church leaders in Hebron, our Prairie Central District Sup't., our Bishop and the entire UMC.

We pray for the names in our hearts that they will be kept safe from harm. God bless us all. Amen.

*All Saints Sunday &
Dedication of Gifts on
November 7th*



JOIN US FOR WORSHIP SUNDAYS AT 10:30 A.M. / SUNDAY SCHOOL 9:45 A.M.

We livestream our Scripture Lesson and Sermon on Sundays around 11:00 a.m. on Facebook @9811MainStreet

Red Bird Mission Tree

Our Red Bird Mitten Tree is back! Please consider giving to the Red Bird Mission this winter. From now until December 19th we will be collecting hats, mittens, gloves and scarves, and pinning them to our Mitten Tree. Monetary donations will also be accepted. Let's fill up our tree this year with these much needed items! Thank you!



**You are warmly invited to our
Christmas Eve Candlelight Service!
Hebron United Methodist Church
Friday, December 24th
7:30 p.m.**



FIRST CLASS POSTAGE

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