News

from Court Street United Methodist Church

The Gift Remains

¹⁹ Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰ teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age."

Matthew 28:19-20

The Greek verb translated go, is a present participle (going). "While you are going, make disciples of all nations." Jesus knew the disciples were consumed with uncertainties and a myriad of questions. To reassure His disciples, Jesus reminds them, "I am with you always, to the end of the age." Many of us forget that once Emmanuel (God with us) came as a baby, He never intended to leave us! From the cradle to the cross, Jesus was God's eternal gift! That Gift Remains!

T.D. Jakes, in his novel titled Follow the Star, sets the context for the day after Christmas.

Christmas is over...

When all is said and done, and sung, and celebrated, what is left of this happening called Christmas? What difference does Christmas really make, and why is it special in the lives of believers? It is the fact that our Gift Remains! Jesus is the Gift of Christmas! Unlike all the trimmings of the season, Jesus stays! Jesus makes Christmas a perpetual reality, because He is present with us always!

There is something comforting about getting back to normalcy after a consumer-hyped Christmas. Then again, nothing is normal or ordinary when Jesus fills our lives twenty-four hours, three hundred sixty-five days a year! Many times during the Christmas season we see many pictures and images of Jesus lying in the manger, and we forget that He is seated on the right hand of God making fervent intercession on our behalf, for our highest good.

Jesus is The Gift that makes His home in our hearts, day after stressful day! Jesus is The Gift throughout the year, that keeps burning in our hearts, because He never goes away! We live in the presence of the Gift, and the Gift lives within us! Let us let the Gift flow through us, so that the presence of Jesus will spill over into our everyday thoughts and deeds. Bring a little Christmas into everyday!

Jesus is not only in our midst when we gather together as the Body of Christ, but He is also present as we scatter into the world to witness. When the Holy Spirit came then Jesus could be with His people everywhere they go. I pray you will experience Christmas, while "going" with the Gift that remains!

> Grace. Pastor Cal



The mission of Court Street UMC

nurturing, serving community of Christ.

welcoming,

The Chimes

Lay Leadership

Lay Delegate to Annual Conference

Diane Risley David Risley

Alternate Lay Delegate to Annual Conference

Jeanine Wang

Administrative Council Chair

Joan Tunnell

Staff/Parish Relations Chair

Sue Cram

Finance Chair

Mike Davis

Stewardship Chair

Jeanine Wang

Treasurer

Gene Ferry

Endowment Chair

Mike Davis

Trustee Chair

DuWayne Stanis

Lay Leader

Georgalee George

Nurture & Outreach

Georgalee George

Worship Chair

Ioan Tunnell

Local Missions Chair

Helen Gibbons

Christian Education Chair

Diane Lutmer

Arts Committee Chair

Richard Wang

United Methodist Women

Sue Cram

United Methodist Men

DuWayne Stanis

Jeremiah Ministry Rep

Joan Tunnell

JFON Liaison

Kay Galloway

PLEASE NOTE: All dates and times for events in this newsletter are tentative. We will update the congregation through Facebook, the church's website, and e-blast if and when changes take place to the upcoming schedule. Until then, stay healthy.

Stewardship's Calling Ministry Seeks Your Help

Be devoted to one another in love. Honor one another above yourselves. Romans 12:10, NIV

Court Streeters are known for stepping up, giving of themselves with huge hearts, and filling the needs of others. We pray that you will do this again. Members of our church family are hurting. Whether it be from illness, a loss, anxiety, or isolation, many of our people are struggling. We are aware of many who are distressed, yet many may be suffering alone. One of the agonies of our COVID isolation is that we are not even aware of the hurt that others are experiencing.

Pastor Cal and Teresa are in the core of the current health crisis. They are in prayer with the ill, supporting the grieving, visiting where allowed, and ministering to those in distress. They need us, and they need us now! We are being called to minister to one another like never before.

The Stewardship Team is organizing a Calling Ministry. Like Stephen's Ministry and the Barnabus' Visitation Ministry, we will be structuring this program to ensure that all our people are being checked on through a phone call or other no-contact means. Volunteers are being recruited to make a regular contact (based upon the need) to several folks within our church family.

Are you willing to be a light in the darkness? If you are willing to contact members, checking on their safety and well-being, please contact Jeanine Wang at wang.jeanine@yahoo.com or call (815) 218-1700, or contact Verlette at ChurchAdmin1@courtstreetumc.org.



Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God, and whoever loves has been born of God and knows God.

1 John 4:7, ESV

Like us on

Follow us on

See pictures on





www.courtstreetumc.org

VIRTUAL Angel Tree 2020



Thanks to ALL of you for purchasing and providing funds for the gift cards this year under the Virtual Angel Tree program. Because of your generosity, a gift (Walmart gift card valued at \$20, age appropriate Christian literature, and certificate to request a free Bible)

was purchased for 55 children from 17 families in our church neighborhood and in the nearby area. Each child received 1 gift on behalf of the incarcerated parent. Additionally, extra funds were left over to provide a Walmart gift card valued at \$20 for each caregiver. May God bless you all, for it is in giving that we are richly blessed. We ask that you continue to pray for the incarcerated parents and their families.

All our children were provided for, but I was unable to request more children as all in Illinois were assigned by early December. We are sorry if everyone who wanted to participate couldn't, but we are thankful for all that we as a church were able to do this year. Next year, hopefully, we will be able to return to the traditional way of doing Angel Tree.

Gene and Barb Ferry

CROP Hunger Walk 2020



Thank you to everyone who participated. Because of you, we were able to reach our \$1,500 goal for Rock River Valley Pantry Co-

alition and Church World Service.



UMM will not meet monthly for breakfast until further notice.



The Chatterbox Supper Group will not meet until further notice.

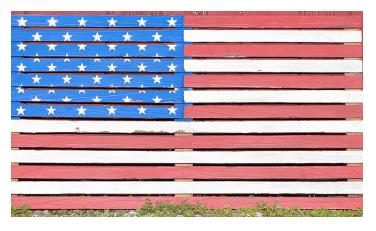


The UMW will not hold general meetings or luncheons until further notice.

Please continue to support UMW charities like JFON, Remedies, and Rosecrance by mailing your dues to the church, marked attention UMW, or to Diane Risley at 4850 Black Oak Trail, Rockford, IL 61101.

Remember to make checks out to Court Street UMC - UMW.

Health & Wellness: A Message from Scott Morris, M.D., M.Div.



Written by Scott Morris churchhealth.org

James Baldwin once wrote, "Children have never been very good at listening to their elders, but they have never failed to imitate them." Recently, I have thought long and hard about what it means to be an American. What are the characteristics that make me proud of my country and the people I share this land with? Here are ten attributes I hope our children come to imitate.

- 1. Americans believe in showing kindness to strangers. As a country of immigrants, we know the impact of welcoming those who come to our shores seeking safety and hope. Kindness defines how we greet all strangers.
- 2. We believe in forgiveness. Americans are the most forgiving people in the world. It doesn't always happen, but isn't that what we should strive to do?
- 3. We bind up our wounds together. Abraham Lincoln has been invoked in a variety of ways lately. My favorite Lincoln quotation is this: "I don't like that man. I must get to know him better." I hope we can remember Lincoln's second inaugural address, given soon after the end of the Civil War, when he pledged to go forward "With malice toward none; with charity for all; with firmness in the right, as God gives us to see the right, ... to bind up the nation's wounds." These words should guide us again.
- 4. Compromise is not a dirty word. The American Constitution was intended to make "compromise and accommodation" the norm in our political world. I

want to believe we can return to a time when compromise is an aspiration.

- 5. We are part of the larger world. I am desperate to return safe travel around the world. I love seeing other cultures. It makes me expand my own view of the big beautiful earth God created. Without this view, the world we inhabit shrinks.
- 6. We are worthy of trust. After World War II, America became the leader of the Free World because we were seen as trustworthy. I pray we are once again seen as worthy of trust.
- 7. We are a country of laws. Laws are written in the best interest of our whole society, not just to benefit a few. When did that change?
- 8. We use our manners. I have lived most of my life in the South. I was taught to say, "Please" and "Thank you." I want our kids to do the same.
- 9. We honor service and sacrifice. Here of late, it feels to me that we have made it trivial to honor those who serve. Whether the military, first responders, teachers or health care workers, people truly engaged in service do so for a lifetime. America has been built and sustained by these people. I hope we can commit ourselves to honor them in ways beyond applause.
- 10. We hold our freedoms with respect for all. The First Amendment gave us a right to speak freely and worship God in the way we choose. These values drove the Pilgrims, the Irish, the Italians, the Mexicans, and countless others to come to America. We must respect these virtues and allow people to exercise them.

This week, I hope and pray that all Americans will remember the things that have made our country strong. Yes, we will elect a president. But the fundamental nature of being an American does not depend on a single individual; it depends on our collective nature and the principles we practice.

Together we can humbly move forward toward a dream our children, too, will embrace.

LOCAL MISSIONS COMMITTEE CHIMES REPORT FOURTH QUARTER REPORT DECEMBER 13, 2020

Members: Helen GIBBONS-Chairperson, Joanne DILL, Barbara FERRY, Kay GALLOWAY, Annette GILLETTE, Margaret RHOADS, Susan ZIMMERMAN

COURT STREET UMC is in mourning for the impact this COVID experience is having on our city and on our entire community. Still, Local Missions is ending this fourth quarter of 2020 GRATEFUL. We are grateful because of YOU OUR COURT STREET DONORS. We continue to be saddened by not being able to worship together. However, we are so very GRATEFUL, AGAIN for the faithful contributors at OUR church. Your caring and extreme generosity is BEYOND OUR WORDS TO THANK YOU. Do continue to MAIL IN your donations to the LOVE OFFERING ACCOUNT. The church office will CREDIT your church account as usual. AGAIN, THANK YOU ALL SO VERY MUCH. With God's Blessing, we shall be able to worship together in church.

Local Missions Balance on October 31, 2020 (BEFORE the deducted donations below) (\$1,734.35).

Donations to be made December 14, 2020:

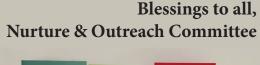
\$ 50.00	Boys and Girls Club of Rockford
\$ 50.00	Carpenter's Place
\$ 50.00	CASA Winnebago County Court-Appointed Special Advocate For Children
\$ 50.00	Childrens Safe Harbor
\$ 50.00	Childrens Home and Aid
\$ 25.00	Christ The Carpenter UMC (Food Pantry)
\$ 100.00	Goldie B. Floberg Center (children, teens and adults with special needs)
\$ 100.00	Life Scape Community Services (Meals-On-Wheels)
\$ 50.00	Shelter Care Ministries (The Jubilee Center - Meals)
\$ 25.00	Miss Carlys (Home-Based Charity) Carly Rice and Jacob Rush
\$ 25.00	RAMP (Children & Adults With Disabilities)
\$ 50.00	REMEDIES (Renewing Lives – Domestic Violence)
\$ 25.00	Rockford MELD
\$ 25.00	Rockford Rescue Mission (Pitney Place for Women)
\$ 50.00	Rockford Urban Ministries
\$ 50.00	Rock House Kids
\$ 100.00	Rock River Valley Food Pantry
\$ 25.00	The Salvation Army (Women's Restorative Justice Program)(Shirley's Place)
\$ 50.00	Veteran's Drop-in-Center
\$ 950.00	Total LOCAL MISSIONS Donations in December, 2020

(Helen Gibbons-Chairperson)

The Chimes

Court Street UMC Friends,

Please call or write some of your church family. It has been a lonely year for many. Reach out and give them a smile.





lease let me thank you, your congregation and your wonderful pastor, all who supported me in my recent accident and hospitalization at St. Anthony's.

The first non-hospital staff mem-L ber I met at St. Anthony was your Parish Nurse Teresa Field, and the first prayers I shared were with her. When Pastor Culpepper graced my room, it brought about a welling of emotion and joy. We spoke and reflected and prayed for 45 minutes.

I appreciate the care and support you express, your outreach into the community, your mission support and now, your care to visit the sick.

Stanley Campbell, executive director Rockford Urban Ministries



January

The German Midwife by Mandy Robotham Avon

FROM THE PUBLISHER

The USA Today Best Seller.

An enthralling new tale of courage, betrayal and survival in the hardest

CSUMC Book Club 2021

of circumstances that readers of *The* Tattooist of Auschwitz, The Secret Orphan and My Name is Eva will love.

Germany, 1944. A prisoner in the camps, Anke Hoff is doing what she can to keep her pregnant campmates and their newborns alive.

But when Anke's work is noticed, she is chosen for a task more dangerous than she could ever have imagined. Eva Braun is pregnant with the Führer's child, and Anke is assigned as her midwife.

Before long, Anke is faced with an impossible choice. Does she serve the Reich she loathes and keep the baby alive? Or does she sacrifice an innocent child for the good of a broken world?

Published in the UK as A Woman of War

Mandy Robotham's highly awaited next book, The Secret Messenger, is out now.

February

The Giver of Stars by Jojo Moves Pamela Dorman Books

March

Caste: The Origins of Our Discontents by Isabel Wilkerson Random House



Use the code to complete Isaiah's prophecy about Jesus, our Savior.



CODE:

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 R S T U V W X Y Z A B C D E F G H I J K L M N 0 P Q

 10
 23
 13
 17
 14
 6
 18
 21
 21

 11
 14
 12
 10
 21
 21
 14
 13

6 24 23 13 14 1 15 4 21

12 24 4 23 2 14 21 24 1

22 18 16 17 3 8 16 24 13

14 5 14 1 21 10 2 3 18 23 16

<u>15 10 3 17 14 1 , 25 1 18 23 12 14 </u>

24 15 25 14 10 12 14

ISAIAH 9:6, NIV

Answer: And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Isaiah 9:6, NIV





Monthly YouTube episodes are designed to keep the CSUMC congregation connected through musical performances, education & health tips, recipes, church & bible history with Rev. Wang, prayers from Pastor Cal, and special interviews.

Next Episode: Wednesday, Jan. 27th @ 5 p.m.

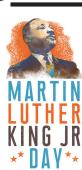
Church is Closed



Friday, January 1

&

Monday, January 18

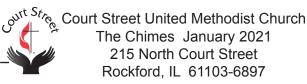


Open Hourts... Open Mindla... Open Doors 215 North Court Wast Fundtioner Canacta (1) 90 d 6011 Occupations and Canacta Canac

2020 Directory

We are currently updating our church directory and records. Please submit a confir-

mation of your current contact info (mailing address, phone #, and email address) to communications@court-streetumc.org.



Return Service Requested

Phone: (815) 962-6061 Fax: (815) 962-9754 www.courtstreetumc.org

Thank you for volunteering!

January 3, 2021

10:00 Ushers: The Sue Cram Team Sound Tech: Tim Welk Video Tech: Steve Ripley

Acolyte:

Liturgist: Volunteer welcome.

January 10, 2021

10:00 Ushers: The Sue Cram Team Sound Tech: Stan Tunnell Video Tech: Steve Ripley

Acolyte:

Liturgist: Volunteer welcome.

January 17, 2021

10:00 Ushers: The Sue Cram Team Sound Tech: Ryan Welk Video Tech: Steve Ripley

Acolyte:

Liturgist: Volunteer welcome.

January 24, 2021

10:00 Ushers: The Sue Cram Team Sound Tech: Tim Welk Video Tech: Steve Ripley

Acolyte:

Liturgist: Volunteer welcome.

January 31, 2021

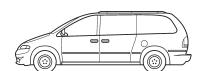
10:00 Ushers: The Sue Cram Team Sound Tech: Stan Tunnell Video Tech: Steve Ripley

Acolyte:

Liturgist: Volunteer welcome.

If you wish to receive <u>The Chimes</u> electronically or to be removed from this mailing, please call the church office at (815) 962-6061 or e-mail: Communications@courtstreetumc.org.





The Ride to Church Program has been suspended until further notice.

Court Street United Methodist Church Staff

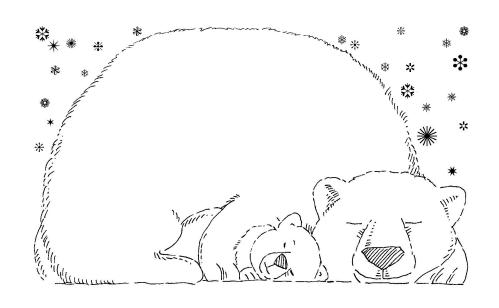
Rev. Calvin Culpepper	Pastor	ext. 220	cculpepper@courtstreetumc.org
Ryanne Ludington	Director of Christian Education		ludingtonryanne@gmail.com
James L. Crow	Director of Arts Ministries	ext. 209	jlcrow@live.com
Krysta Tilges	Assistant to Arts Ministries		ktilges@gmail.com
Jack Armstrong	Director of Music	ext. 221	gogo234@att.net
Andrew Mertzenich	Organist		andrew.mertzenich@gmail.com
Teresa Field	Parish Nurse		Teresabsf5@yahoo.com
Verlette Gorman	Church Administrator	ext. 202	ChurchAdmin1@courtstreetumc.org
Tiffany Wilken	Publications Secretary	ext. 200	Communications@courtstreetumc.org
Bert Cromwell	Nursery		
Mike Smith	Maintenance Engineer	ext. 295	Maintenance@courtstreetumc.org





Birthdays

Name	<u>Date</u>	Name	<u>Date</u>	Name	<u>Date</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Date</u>
Crawford, Owen	1	Tunnell, Stanley	6	Meligan, Brian	15	Cairnes, Jeannine	28
Liddell, Alex	1	Norman, Bettye	7	Ewald, Elizabeth	17	Killingsworth, Jean	28
Zeilinger, Phil	1	Wandell, Matthew	7	Hutchcroft, Elaine	20	Ludington, Jeremy	28
Schaub, Matthew K.	2	Palmer, Glenn	10	Kelsey-Powell, Judith	20	Paquette, Sarah	28
Addis, Robert	3	Scheffel, Alyssa	10	Mann, Jared	20	Bates, Alyssa	29
Walters, John	3	Strunk, Bryce Christian	10	Peters, Judith	20	Fibrow, Lindsey	30
Ludington, Alex	4	Cox-Rodgers, Jaxon	12	Theisen, Kaye	20	Solchenberger-Wandell,	30
Hoover, Ruth	5	King, Addyson	12	Eichman, Sally	21	Chelsie	
Welk, Ryan	5	Faruqui, Noah	13	Swansbro, Donald	23	Armstrong, David	31
Crow, James	6	Baker, Ray	14	Zyvert, Danielle	23	Vandre, Alex	31
Hoople, Allen	6	Crow, Thomas	14	Rupp, Ashley	26		



Anniversaries

Name	Date	Year	Married
Stanicek, William and Kathleen	10	1959	62
Rhoads, Ray and Margaret	26	1964	57

Our prayers and sympathy go to the family of:

Virginia Gustafson who died November 12, 2020 Raymond "Tom" Thomas Vosburgh who died November 16, 2020

January 2021

Trustee meetings cancelled until further notice. In-person worship services are suspended until further notice. All other dates are tentative.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	Court Street '	 United MetI 	 hodist Chur 	cch	Church Closed	2 8:00 AM Rockford Rhythm/Phantom Regiment
3 10:00 AM Worship Service	4	5 9:00 AM "Busy Bag Ladies" 9:00 AM History & Archives 9:00 AM Quilters 3:30 PM Staff Meeting 7:00 PM Grace Awakening	6 9:30 AM Head Start	7 9:30 AM Head Start 10:00 AM Painting Class 10:00 AM Stewardship Team 1:00 PM The Journeymen	8 10:00 AM Head Start 1:30 PM Head Start	9 8:00 AM Rockford Rhythm/Phantom Regiment
10 10:00 AM Worship Service	11 5:30 PM Worship Committee	12 9:00 AM "Busy Bag Ladies" 9:00 AM History & Archives 9:00 AM Quilters 3:30 PM Staff Meeting 7:00 PM Grace Awakening	13 9:30 AM Head Start	14 9:30 AM Head Start 10:00 AM Painting Class 1:00 PM The Journeymen 2:30 PM Head Start	15 CHIMES DEADLINE 10:00 AM Head Start 1:30 PM Head Start	16 8:00 AM Rockford Rhythm/Phantom Regiment
17 10:00 AM Worship Service 4:00 PM CSUMC Book Club		19 9:00 AM "Busy Bag Ladies" 9:00 AM History & Archives 9:00 AM Quilters 3:30 PM Staff Meeting 7:00 PM Grace Awakening	20 9:30 AM Head Start 5:30 PM No IL Wood Turners	21 9:30 AM Head Start 10:00 AM Painting Class 1:00 PM The Journeymen	22 10:00 AM Head Start 1:30 PM Head Start	23 8:00 AM Rockford Rhythm/Phantom Regiment
24 10:00 AM Worship Service		26 9:00 AM "Busy Bag Ladies" 9:00 AM History & Archives 9:00 AM Quilters 3:30 PM Staff Meeting 6:15 PM Knitting Group 7:00 PM Grace Awakening	27 9:30 AM Head Start	28 9:30 AM Head Start 10:00 AM Painting Class 12:00 PM Jeremiah Exec. Board 1:00 PM The Journeymen 2:30 PM Head Start	29 10:00 AM Head Start 1:30 PM Head Start	30 8:00 AM Rockford Rhythm/Phantom Regiment
31 10:00 AM Worship Service	***	*****	***	****		*****