

THE MESSENGER

HOPE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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JANUARY 2021

From the Pastor:

Dear Friends, I have such a variety of thoughts and feelings as this year 2020 ends and a new one begins. I am sure that you do, too. The word that keeps popping into my head and into my prayers is: renewal. Our God has promised to make all things new. We find renewal and grace in Jesus. It is true. I am thinking that we need to adopt the spirit of that song by Helen Lemmel which she wrote back in 1922. (Yes, Barbara's hymn histories have raised my awareness of those people of faith who wrote and composed so others could sing.) Surely, you remember it:

"Turn your eyes upon Jesus, look full in his wonderful face,
and the things of earth will grow strangely dim in the light of his glory and grace."

This little hymn aids my worship because looking to Jesus is what I seek to do every day. I have to admit, however, that I would change part of it or maybe add a second verse to it. Yes, when we focus on Jesus our difficulties, sorrows, and struggles do grow strangely dim because we are assured of the awesome love of Christ. That is where I am, praise God! However...we live in this earth right now. It's where the Lord has placed us. I need to be aware of what is happening on this earth, as my Lord was. The hurting, the sorrow, the poverty, the injustice, the fear, the corruption must come into focus if I am to live faithfully in this world as a follower of Christ.

I know you get that, dear church family and friends. That is why we reach out to one another and to our neighbors; that is why we raise our voices and speak to our legislators; that is why we offer a Food Bank and support for homeless families. I've said it a thousand times this year, but it is so simple and it makes the point – we are here on this earth to live the love of Jesus. Thank you for doing that and please keep your eyes on Jesus for the strength and the insight as to how that happens in your life day by day in 2021 and beyond.

Our God is interested in renewal. God's plan is for us to be whole and well in every way – yes, physically and spiritually as we move toward greater health in 2021, but also our well being involves relational health, emotional health, financial health as we seek to be good stewards of what the Lord has entrusted to us. Our God has a plan for vital United Methodist ministry in

Havertown and our churches living the love of Jesus together are part of the plan for renewal that God has in mind. Praise God for the opportunities that lie before us! May we respect life and cherish it, be gentle and thoughtful with all of our words, and consider what the Lord would have us do every day as we rise and turn our eyes and hearts upon Jesus. I have to add this final familiar line, with a slight variation: "Wise Ones Still Seek Jesus." May it be so.

- So thankful for our shared ministry, Pastor Mary Jane

THANK YOU SO MUCH!

Your Christmas Gift to me takes my breath away! You are supportive and loving and I am so thankful for each one of you and so blessed to be serving the Lord with you. Thank you, Church Family, for your generous gifts! ~ Pastor Mary Jane



WORSHIP THEMES FOR JANUARY SUNDAYS

Dial: 646-558-8656 Meeting ID – 816 7211 3179

for Sunday Services Here is the zoom link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81672113179>

Sunday, Jan. 3: Holy Communion,
10:30 a.m. – Epiphany Sunday

Sunday, Jan. 10:
10:30 a.m. – Baptism of the Lord, renewal of our baptismal vows

Sunday, Jan. 17:
10:30 a.m. – Human Relations Day

Sunday, Jan. 24:
10:30 a.m. – Ecumenical Sunday

Sunday, Jan. 31:
10:30 a.m. – 4th Sunday after the Epiphany



We miss you - please attend ZOOM Worship

Dear Church Family, Our need to offer virtual worship and not gather at the church has gone on much longer than ever imagined. Many of you are not joining us on Sunday mornings and we truly miss you! Please consider joining us in Worship each week. If you are having trouble "zooming" or calling in, please let me know and we will help. It is vital that we worship together and we would love to "see" you! All are in our prayers, Pastor Mary Jane

SUNDAY SCHOOL

ZOOM meeting - "Sunday School" for our children and youth of all ages.

It is a ½ hour time slot each week on Sundays from 4:30 –

5 p.m. There are video stories, songs, crafts and fun. Classes are for preschool, elementary, and youth. Help is needed, though, from our parents, grandparents, aunts and uncles and friends to help make this happen.

If you haven't received a link for this Sunday School, please let Pastor Mary Jane or Pastor Brenda know. All children and youth are welcome! Topic: Sunday School

Time: **Every week on Sunday at 4:30 PM** Eastern Time (US and Canada)

The Link to Join Zoom Sunday School Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85642915933?pwd=Ulk0aFJEcWJYQINoWmV5NIhHdnM1UT09>

Meeting ID: 856 4291 5933

Passcode: 538708

Dial: +1 646 558 8656 US (New York)



CHURCH CHAT! Please feel welcome to "Zoom" at 7:30 p.m. each Thursday. It's a chance to get together! We would love to see you.

Topic: **Hope Church Chat**

Time: **Thursdays, 7:30 PM** Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/8652811554>

Meeting ID: 865 2811 5541

Dial: +1 646 558 8656 US (New York) (Please be aware that there may be some cost to call in.)



A Message From Pastor Brenda at Union...

During the Advent, Christmas, and now into the holy season of Epiphany, it has been mentioned throughout the season of LIGHT. God's LIGHT, and Jesus, the LIGHT of the World.

Here are some interesting quotes from famous people about LIGHT:

*There are two ways of spreading **light**: to be the candle or the mirror that reflects it.*

Edith Wharton

*Darkness cannot drive out darkness, only **light** can do that. Hate cannot drive out hate, only love can do that.*

Martin Luther King, Jr.

*Christmas is joy, religious joy, an inner joy of **light** and peace.*

Pope Francis

*Hope is being able to see that there is **light** despite all the darkness.*

Desmond Tutu

There are over 100 verses about LIGHT in the Bible. Some you have heard read in recent scriptures. Here are some for you to contemplate:

Matthew 4: 16- *The people who sat in darkness have seen a great **light**, and for those who sat in the region and shadow of death **light** has dawned.*

Psalms 27: 1- *The Lord is my **light** and my salvation, whom shall I fear? The Lord is the stronghold of my life, of whom shall I be afraid?*

John 1: 5- *The **light** shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.*

Lastly, I give you an Epiphany blessing:

*Hold fast to stars, people.
Hold fast to stars,
for stars fall to earth sometimes,
and Saviors are born in barns,
and all that does not live is not dead,
and someday there will be peace on earth.
Hold fast to stars.*





Ronald Cherwinski Family
William Irving Family
Rishi Harrisersad
Al Evans
Doris Peabody
Our at-home members

Herman Kirby
Natalia (little girl having surgery)
Pat and Mike Cutillo
Ann Manzi
Those ill with coronavirus
Our church and world...

(Please let us know of others...)

*Happy January
Birthdays*



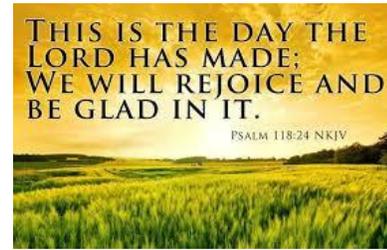
Happy Birthday to the following people with January birthdays:

Alvin Evans	01/11
Kate (Reisch) Fleming	01/14
Cindy Mariani	01/17
Laura Reisch	01/23
Amanda Osborne	01/24
Marge Kelleher	01/30

Please let us know if we are missing your Birthday!

A Prayer for the New Year:

Almighty Lord God, give us true faith,
and make that faith grow in us
day by day. Also give us hope and love,
so that we may serve our neighbors
according to your will;
through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord,
who lives and reigns with you and the
Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.



United Methodist Women

January 25 zoom at 7 pm

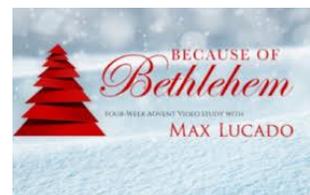
All women of Hope and Union are invited to the 4th Monday UMW meeting via zoom at 7 pm on January 25. We will have our Pledge to Mission Service, "Knitted Together and Reaching Out." We'll also talk about a soup sale to raise money for our pledge to mission. Start saving jars for soup.

2021 OFFERING ENVELOPES:

The 2021 Offering Envelopes are available for pick-up. They have been placed in the Narthex. Please call the church office to arrange a time to pick them up. We ask that you pick up a shut-in's and deliver them. We thank you in this endeavor to get all of the envelopes delivered as soon as possible.

NOTE: Please use the boxed 2021 envelopes that you are given for your offerings. This helps in the recording of contributions since it has your account number on them.

BIBLE STUDY: here is a meaningful Study offered by Ann Eves at 2 p.m. each Friday. This study is "*Because of Bethlehem.*" Call Ann or Pastor MJ for the link if this study and timing works for you!



We hope that you can join us!

A NEW TUESDAY EVENING STUDY – WELCOME!

Finding Peace in an Anxious World

Fear of getting COVID-19, loss of jobs, gun violence on the streets, and separation from family and friends are just a few of the potential causes of anxiety for us all. Everyone is invited to participate in a 4 week zoom study on **Tuesday evenings in January at 7 pm** when we will look at how we can really find peace in a world that is full of all kinds of anxieties. The serenity prayer will be our guide, with selected scripture verses from Proverbs providing wisdom from God. The weekly sessions will focus on the key words of the serenity prayer. January 5, serenity; Jan. 12, acceptance; Jan. 19, courage; Jan. 26, wisdom. God, grant me the serenity to accept the things I cannot change, courage to change the things I can, and the wisdom to know the difference.

Here is the link:

Topic: Tuesday Evening Study

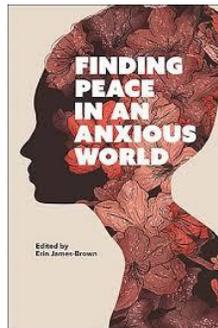
Time: This is a recurring meeting Tuesdays at 7 p.m.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85342885989?pwd=ejdLQXR3SEZ6U0lk3NOaFlyUGE3UT09>

Meeting ID: 853 4288 5989

Passcode: 602157 Dial: +1 646 558 8656 US (New York)



Helping Ministries Continue...

The Hope Food Bank continues to serve folks who are facing food insecurity each month on the third Saturday of the month from 1-3 p.m. "Sally Kiner, our Coordinator, reports that the Food Bank is full and overflowing onto the back pews in the chapel, so no food donations will be needed until March. Thanks so much for your support, church family, in so many ways. Financial gifts are still welcome." The Food Bank is open on the third Saturday from 1-3 p.m. This month that is January 16.