

CHURCH STREET UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

THE LINK

Volume MMXXII, Issue 12 - December 20, 2023



Happy New Year! Can you believe it is already time to begin writing 2024 on our correspondence? I am rather certain that we just started writing 2023. And yet, here we are.....2024.

I don't know about you, but I don't make New Year resolutions. I see January as a time to get excited about the potential the next twelve months hold. God is always up to something good and we can look forward to the new year with confident expectation (hope).

When I sit and reflect on 2023, I see God's hands all over the year. January 12th will be forever etched in our memory. God was gracious to us on that day. I see the miracle of no loss of life.

We had difficult conversations during the spring, but God was there with us. In 2023, people fell in love, and we witnessed their marriages; babies were born and we celebrated with their baptism. Some graduated from high school and college. Others retired and are enjoying a new phase of life. We heard laughter and giggles as the halls were filled with children attending Bible school. I could go on and on about all the wonderful things that happened in 2023, but the list would consume this newsletter.

In 2023, we also remembered those saints who have gone before us. While we grieve their absence, we celebrate with great joy the work God did in and through them to make us and Church Street UMC to be better followers of Christ.

I also recognize that 2023 was difficult for some individuals. In fact, 2023 was difficult for many of us. The beauty of it is that looking back, I can confidently say that God never left us. I know that God has used the heartache and the difficulty of the year to make us a better and stronger congregation.

I look forward to 2024 because I believe what God's Word promises: "I am convinced *and* confident of this very thing, that He who has begun a good work in you will [continue to] perfect *and* complete it until the day of Christ Jesus [the time of His return]". (Philippians 1:6, Amplified Bible)

I pray we all walk confidently into 2024 believing that God continues to work all things together for good.

In His Service,
Diane



Church Street Staff

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Office Hours

Monday through Thursday

8:00 am to 5:00 pm

Friday

8:00 am to 1:00 pm

Music Ministry Notes From Gordon

It is hard to believe we are moving quickly toward the ending of one year and the beginning of another new year. 2024 is fast approaching! I once again share the following hymn text by Frances R. Havergal which may serve as an encouragement to you.

Another year is dawning, dear Father, let it be,
In working or in waiting, another year with Thee;
Another year of progress, another year of praise,
Another year of proving Thy presence all the days.

I cannot thank everyone who made Christmas 2023 such a wonderful time of worship. From our Advent readings/candle-lighting by our Confirmands, to our Young Musicians sweet ringing/singing, to special solos/offertories, each Sunday during Advent was a very special time for worship. I especially wish to thank our Chancel Choir for the dedication to each service of worship. Their music truly helped us focus on the true meaning of the Christmas season. Their presentation of Nativity Suites on December 17th was a highlight of our Christmas worship! I wish to personally thank Beau & Laura Beth Boyd for serving as our wonderful narrators. Thank you, thank you one and all!

The new year is an excellent time to join the Chancel Choir. The choir will soon begin work on new worship anthems and would welcome male or female voices to the choir. Come visit a 5:00 p.m. Wednesday evening rehearsal and see what a great time we have together.

Another year is dawning, dear Father, let it be,
On earth, or else in heaven, another year for Thee.

Gordon



The Children's Ministry



Welcome to 2024! As we begin our new year with optimistic EXPECTATIONS, let's keep in mind the Christmas JOYS of HOPE, PEACE, FAITH and LOVE. Let's be INTENTIONAL by putting GOD first in all that we think and do. Remember that GOD IS WITH US whatever the circumstance!

Here are a few New Year's Resolution suggestions for our children to make, but they seem like good ones for adults, too!

	YES		YES
Read My Bible	___	Tell My Friends about Jesus	___
Go to Church	___	Obey My Parents	___
Pray	___	Attend Sunday School	___

Children, please color the picture and turn it in at Sunday School on January 7th for a PRIZE!



I will support Church Street United Methodist Church with my.... PRAYERS

Current: Pat Deavor, Dorris Sherrer, Caroline Thomas, Bill Sellier, Jerry Shelby, Mary Nell Mayo, Brenda Glover, Wayne & Elaine Stewart, Linda Spivey, Peter Bradsell, Buddy Swift, Ashley Moore Norris, Ray Delp, Allen Reeves, Sherry Taylor, The Family of Fred McCormick, Sharon Clary

Ongoing: Buc and Gwen Shaw, Blake Flanagan, Robert Revel, Jimbo Barrett, Gloria Adams, Lee & Wanda Calame, Cassandra Steele, Peggy Cross, Sonny Nelson, Bob Simpson, Linda and Jesse Harris, Danny Jordan, Shelby Breedlove, David Saylor, Jim Kennedy, Amy and Jim Sims, Kathryn Hardy, Bill Livingston, Clark Schatz, Shannon Miller Cook, Bert Beers, Mark Rogers, Will Bennett

Homebound: Eloise Trammel, Jean Walker, Edna Wiechers, Anita Waldrop



I will support Church Street United Methodist Church with my.... PRESENCE

Average attendance YTD as of December

Sunday School: 55

Worship Service: 115

We hope to see each of you each week for our regular Sunday Schedule with Breakfast at 8:30 a.m., Sunday School at 9:15 a.m., and Worship Service at 10:30 a.m.

If you miss a service, be sure to listen to the prior week's sermon on Sundays, at 9:00 am on Dixie Country - WDX 100.1.



I will support Church Street United Methodist Church with my.... GIFTS

As the year quickly comes to a close, remember your pledge and help us finish the year financially strong.

The Church Office will be open Friday, December 29th, or place in the offering plate Sunday, December 31st, for final contributions.

All 2023 contributions sent by mail must be postmarked by December 31st.

Thank you to every member of Church Street United Methodist Church for your kindness and generosity. Your very thoughtful and generous gifts during the Christmas season were blessings to each of us.

Your Church Staff

January News at Leika's

We love Winter at Leika's!!

January begins with one of our favorite units: Winter & Signs of Birds!!

"All the birds are mine." Ps 50:11

Then we will be busy learning about famous artists and making our own renditions of famous works of art during our unit on ART & Famous Artists

"Stop and consider the wondrous works of God." Job 37:14

Leika's Art Show will begin on January 25. Please walk down the Leika's Hallway to view our masterpieces.

Our month ends with our unit on SHEEP!

"My sheep hear my voice, and I know them and they follow me." John 10:27



I will support Church Street United Methodist Church with my.... SERVICE

Teams Serving in January

Ushers: Andy Stewart, Deans Barber, Rex Jones, James Drinkard, Logan Cowart, Drew Wendland, Frank Speed, Mike Reynolds

Security: William Free, Jamie Thomas, Wood Spivey, Steve Todd, Em Moore

Worship Stewards: Gail Lovelady & Jan Justice

Collection Counters: Gail Lovelady & Linda Haskell

If you are unable to be present, please find a replacement and contact your captain.

January Meetings

Trustees

Tuesday, January 9, at 5:00 pm in the Grist Library

Finance

Thursday, January 25, at 5:00 pm in the Grist Library

Church Council

Thursday, January 25, at 5:45 pm in the Grist Library

Please contact your chairperson or the Church Office if you will not be able to attend.



Placing flowers on the altar is a wonderful way to honor or memorialize a loved one or a special person in your life. Or... you may have some lovely flowers in your garden you would love to share!

Please consider providing flowers in the sanctuary one Sunday.

Contact the church office to be added to the flower calendar!



As the new year approaches, prayerfully consider ways that you can pray for and serve the Church - your Church. When you volunteer, not only does the Church grow, the Kingdom grows, and you grow.

For more information on areas of service and volunteer needs, contact any of the ministerial staff.

**I will support Church Street United Methodist Church with my....
WITNESS**

Living Treasures
will meet **Thursday, January 18th,**
at 12:00 noon in Windham Hall.
Join us for lunch, fellowship and a
wonderful program.

This group of senior adults (60 and above) meets the third Thursday of each month for a catered lunch at 12:00 noon and the program ends at 1:00 pm. The cost is \$8.00 per person and reservations are not required.

Circle Meetings

Catherine Revel Circle
will meet **Monday, January 8th,**
at 3:00 pm in Windham Hall



Sunday School Breakfast

Please mark your calendars for Sunday,
January 7th, for a church wide
Sunday School Breakfast at 8:30 am in
Windham Hall.



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