



SALT

Our Lord's United Methodist Church

December 2021

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Blue Christmas: Saturday, Dec. 11, 2021 11:00 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall

The holiday season is not always a time of joy for everyone. Sometimes, the increased hours of darkness propel people into a feeling of darkness and sadness too; and consequently there is an increased sense of guilt for not being happy about the holidays. Surely loss of loved ones weighs upon our hearts as we find empty chairs at our tables and remembrances fading. Relationship changes, loss of employment or purpose in retirement can also trigger a darkness within us at this time of year.



The Blue Christmas gathering is centered in the faithfulness of God-with-us as we journey our days acknowledging the difficult steps along with the easy ones. "The Light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it." John 1:5 is a promise that guides the readings, the silent moments and the actions of naming and remembrance for our time together. This is a safe and welcoming space for your feelings of fear, sadness, uncertainty, anger and hope as you accompany one another in the ever-present love of God into this holiday season.

Come, just as you are. There is a place for you here.

*Due to church protocol, no food or beverage will be served. However, your beverage purchased or from home is allowed. Masks are mandatory in the space and we'll be distanced a bit as well. Our greetings to one another will be by sign (wave) rather than by physical touch (hug) and this gathering will be limited to one hour inside. We'll close our gathering by taking a light outside as a beacon of hope for ALL the hurt in the world and you are welcome to continue in fellowship outdoors as long as you wish.



A Word from Pastor Kelly

The Word “Gift”

This time of year people find joy in and are totally stressed out by the word “gift”. There is that wonderful joy of finding the right gift, of watching grandchildren open a gift and of the warm feeling that the act of gifting brings when we help those in need. The other side of the coin, though, brings a gut-punching dread to deciding what to give family members (of any age) who have everything; the financial worry about the probable overspending ahead just to get every gift you have in mind and perhaps, for some of you, there is the constant reconciling of the trappings of the societal season and your religious desire for a calmer, more focused Advent journey.

“Whoever speaks or renders service” is the definition for ‘gift’ found in 1 Peter 4:11, and the spiritual gifts in 1 Corinthians 12 speak to the Greek word *charis*, which means “grace”. Both references point our human action toward the praise and glory of God.

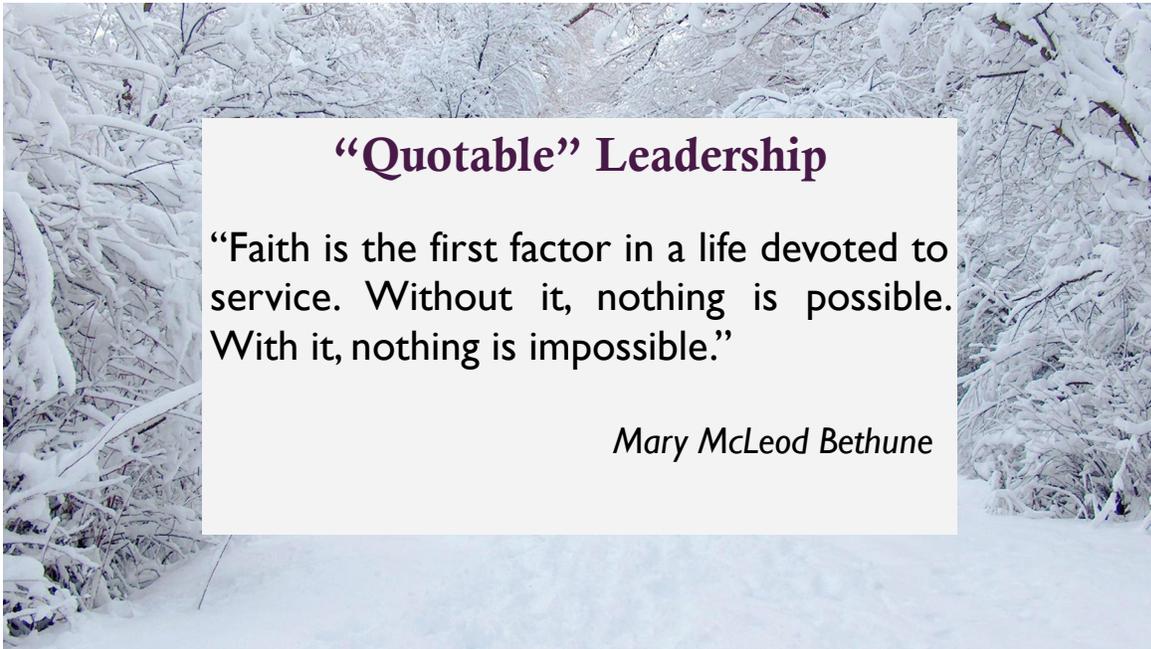
Whatever the word “gift” brings to your mind and heart, I pray that you will also commit your ‘gifting action’ to the praise and glory of God. Friends, this includes gifting yourself with life-giving practices this season that you can actually receive as a “gift”. Is prayer time a gift in your life? Does a walk on a park path feel like a gift to you? Will a warm beverage with a friend be a mutually shared gift? Can remembering a loved one who has passed with a financial memorial be a gift of remembrance and resurrection?

Gratitude lacing every gift action, I think, enhances the gifting action into the world to the praise and glory of God. Folx appreciate being thanked and people seem more willing to offer and receive gratitude for people, actions and things in their lives. This is a great “gift tag” for every gift you give this season!

Each of you is a gift to my heart and I am giving God thanks and praise for this community of faith this season.

Happy Advent, Merry Christmas and Peace to each of you,

Pastor Kelly



A Word of Thanks

Thank you to Our Lord's church family for all the love and support during these last few months. Perry was deeply appreciative of all your prayers, cards, photos, texts, and visits. Sarah, Ben, Vicki and I send our thanks for all that as well, but also the food! How great it's been to be the recipients of something nutritious (or sweet) we could grab when life was so hectic.

Special thanks to Pastor Kelly for her endless prayers and visits, making certain all of us knew how much we were loved, by God, and by you. Her guidance, words of hope and consolation were such a comfort.

We send our gratitude for the presence of so many at the cemetery in Oostburg as well as the service at the Healing Chapel. We hope you felt the love poured out for all.

The Huyck Family

Memorial Announcement

My family and I offer deep, heartfelt gratitude for each card, and word of condolence offered after the passing of my Dad on November 17th. I want to personally thank the Board for your continuing care as I navigate the journey of grief while caring for the needs of the congregation.

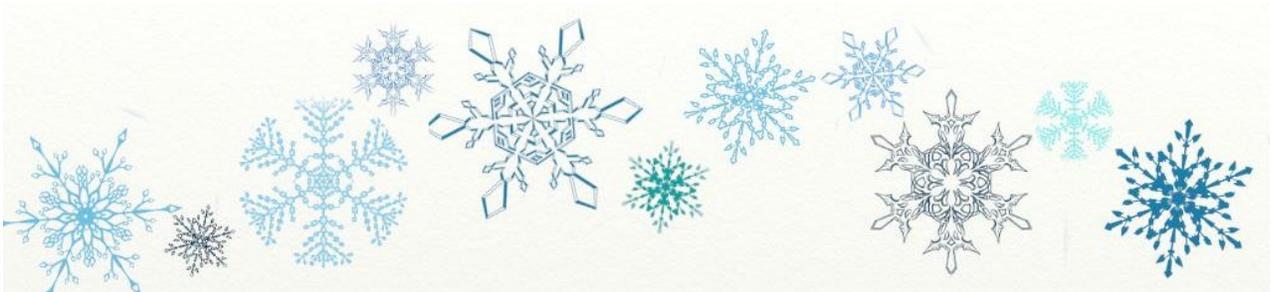
I have been asked about a memorial for my Dad and I've been praying about what would be appropriate and meaningful. Honoring someone who lived far away and whom most of you did not even know is hard. As I shared my Dad's journey with Alzheimer's many of you spoke personally to me about your journey with a loved one or your own caregiving experience for someone you knew and loved. So many of you prayed for my family through each stage of Dad's illness. Thank you.

I feel called to memorialize my Dad by honoring his experience in my context – that of ministry here at Our Lord's. To that end, I'm working through the planning phase for the birthing of a Memory Café to be hosted here at Our Lord's – and your memorial gifts will be the seed money for this new ministry.

My Dad loved visiting with people and the Memory Café will be a place where people who are journeying with Alzheimer's/Dementia and other neuro maladies can come and visit together – it'll be safe, easy to navigate, offering the joy of good company and a warm welcome – both things my Dad embodied as he moved through every phase of his life.

So, thank you, in advance, for your memorial gifts that will seed this new ministry project for 2022. I pray that the new year will bring new opportunities for Our Lord's to connect to the greater community as we strive to say: "There's a place for you here!" Please designate your gift: 'Memorial Seed'.

Pastor Kelly



Point of Connection

Virtually connect Tuesdays and Fridays on
Point of Connection
@ 9:30 a.m.

Live on Pastor Kelly's [Facebook](#) page and
then posted on the church [website](#).



Happy Birthday!

Debby Slater	12/3	Alex Beer	12/8
Norma Hunsaker	12/4	Dylan Holschbach	12/9
Paul Davis	12/4	Mark Yokosh	12/11
Hans Tanner	12/5	Pat Mehring	12/20
Wendi Haubert	12/6	Larry Piasini	12/23
Hope Sheedy	12/7	Loyal Sheedy	12/27





December Calendar of Events

Wednesday, 12/1	Advent Book Study, 12:15 p.m., Fellowship Hall/Zoom UMW Crafters, 1 p.m., Garden Room
Friday, 12/3	Decorating the Church for the season, 1:30 p.m.
Sunday, 12/5	Worship Service w/Holy Communion, 9:30 a.m. Church Conference, 11:30 a.m.
Wednesday, 12/8	Advent Book Study, 12:15 p.m., Fellowship Hall/Zoom UMW Crafters, 1 p.m., Garden Room
Saturday, 12/11	Blue Christmas Service, 11 a.m., Fellowship Hall
Sunday, 12/12	Worship Service, 9:30 a.m.
Monday, 12/13	Monday Funday, 10 a.m., Garden Room
Wednesday, 12/15	Advent Book Study, 12:15 p.m., Fellowship Hall/Zoom
Sunday, 12/19	Worship Service, 9:30 a.m.
Monday, 12/20	January SALT articles due
Wednesday, 12/22	Advent Book Study, 12:15 p.m., Fellowship Hall/Zoom
Friday, 12/24	Church office closed Christmas Eve Worship Service, 6:30 p.m.
Sunday, 12/26	Worship Service, 9:30 a.m.
Monday, 12/27	Church office closed
Wednesday, 12/29	Advent Book Study, 12:15 p.m., Fellowship Hall/Zoom
Friday, 12/31	Church office closed

Another Exterior Paint Job Completed!

Many thanks to Mark Radick who took on the job of painting the exterior of the door in the Fellowship Hall. It looks wonderful!





Changes in UMW

Due to a variety of reasons, Gwenda Szczygielski has stepped down as president of Our Lord's UMW unit, effective December 1. However, this UMW unit will continue to provide opportunities for fellowship and mission work for the women of Our Lord's church. The crafters will continue to meet on Wednesdays at 1:00 in the Garden Room to work on a variety of projects. All women of the church are welcome to these sessions.

If you have any questions about UMW, please contact Carol Heinert, Margo Hoelzer, Debbie Huyck, Chris Gygax, Rachel Kaufman, or Cindy Long.

Fellowship and Crafting

The crafters will meet twice during the month of December and take a break for the Christmas holidays.

Wednesday, December 1st
 Wednesday, December 8th
 1:00 p.m.—Garden Room

This time is open to all women of the church who want to fellowship and/or work on crafts at the same time.



PLEASE NOTE THE DATE CHANGE!
 We will be meeting during the second week of the month on Monday, December 13th, at 10:00 a.m. This way you will have more time to prepare for your Christmas celebrations. Consider inviting someone to come with you to hear an Advent devotional. Christmas is a time of many expectations of our hopes and dreams. They may stay the same each year, but our journey to Bethlehem is always different. Come to learn about a richer understanding of Christmas.

We normally meet on the third week of the month in the Garden Room, so mark your calendar for January 17th at 10:00 a.m. **WISHING YOU A BLESSED AND JOYOUS HOLIDAY SEASON!**





As we enter the Advent season and preparing for the holidays let us also take time to be in prayer. This time of year can be hectic and stressful for many of us. There is so much to do, like finding the perfect present, pre-

paring the best meal for family gatherings and attending holiday parties. However, we need to stay in prayer during this time, as Christmas is a present from God. We need to remember the reason for the season and stay in the present to feel His true love. Prayer offers a beautiful way to remember the joy and hope this season brings and look at all the wonderful blessings we have been given. Many of us still struggle in this season because we feel out of our comfort zone. We feel insecure with our emotions, we are out of our routines, and there are extra expectations put on us, both in our jobs and our homes. It's also hard to understand our world today and how we need to live in it. But there is one thing that doesn't change and that is God's Love for us! God is good and will always be near us, even when we feel overwhelmed by life and all that's happening around us. God is near to take care of us and His love for us will never change! We are precious to Him! When we feel anxious, we need to turn to prayer and meditate on Scripture.

Here are a few verses to bring encouragement and affirm the Lord's steadfast love and His presence in our lives: (scripture verses from GNTD):

- ~ "Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever." Hebrews 13:8
- ~ "For God has said, "I will never leave you; I will never abandon you." Hebrews 13:5
- ~ "Trust in the Lord with all your heart. Never rely on what you think you know. Remember the Lord in everything you do and He will show you the right way." Proverbs 5:6
- ~ "I have instructed you to be confident and not afraid or discouraged, for I, the Lord your God, am with you wherever you go." Joshua 1:9
- ~ "Your Word is a lamp to guide me and a light for my path." Psalm 119:105

Prayer:

Dear Lord, You are the Light of the World, You were born in darkness. Help us walk to Bethlehem this Christmas, guided only by faith in Your unending Love. Please let our light shine for Your glory, every day. Amen!

Submitted by Rebecca Radick, with excerpt from UMW and other devotionals

Becas Con Bendiciones of Honduras: A Few Thoughts on Courage

During pre-pandemic days, the Becas Con Bendiciones (which means Scholarships with Blessings in English) program was supported mainly by the Christian Living Sunday School Class and other interested members at Our Lord's. The program was founded by Sara and Henry Clines after a year of serving as volunteer missionaries working with the local Methodist missions' staff in Honduras. They observed the grinding cycle of poverty being generationally repeated due to a lack of education. They felt God's call to create a ministry which helped children obtain an education while providing spiritual enrichment with the assistance of local Pastors and laypersons.

For supporters of this ministry, there are two ways in which support can be provided for children. A donation of \$120 is considered a child sponsorship to assist students with costs necessary for school. Donations to be used for medicines, eye wear, tutoring and student transportation is another way to support the children of Honduras. Pat Garrigues and Karen Haubert have been faithful gatekeepers of this ministry in helping to translate the letters from students supported by Our Lord's.

Throughout the reading of Tom Berlin's book, Courage, I've been asking myself and now you as a reader, how do we as a church embrace this ministry? How do we elevate the voices of need as observed by Sara and Henry Clines in Honduras? In our mutual grief in all the loss due to the pandemic, how do we reach children living in need we can barely imagine? In all honesty, I have to be reminded of this giving opportunity every year at this time. I have not been a faithful gatekeeper. I've been forgetful. I am in need of others to lift my eyes to see beyond my own backyard. How can we as a church community help each other keep Honduras, a place highly impacted by Covid-19, grinding poverty, and limited health care front and center of our call to be the hands and feet of Jesus?

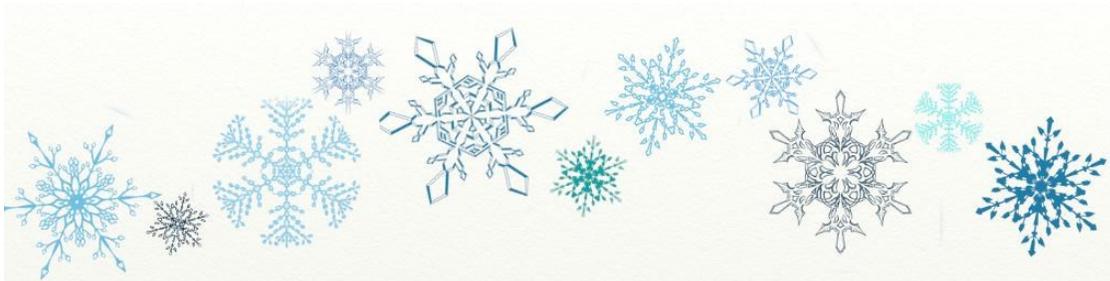
While thinking about my learning from Tom Berlin, my first action was to place a call to Sara and Henry. While making a phone call may not take a huge amount of courage, I need to take steps to build conviction. So I talked to their message service. I asked Henry and Sara for an update, not to limit giving but to help us be more involved and informed of how we can help. I am hoping we can build a deeper, wider vision of care as we learn from "boots on the ground."

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Secondly, will you prayerfully join in asking God for clarity and hope in supporting the children of Honduras? Next, can you get your donation to the church office by Christmas? Just add Becas or Scholarship with Blessings in the memo portion of your check. The office needs to send out our donation before the end of the year so we need to act quickly. Drop your donation in one of the orange "offering" buckets on Sundays or donate safely through the church [website](#). Type the amount you wish to donate in the "Other" box, and type "Becas Con Bendiciones" in the box to the right.

Finally, consider the hope you can send to a child and a family you may never meet. May God use each dollar to bring the good news of love and light to the children of Honduras.

Submitted by Mary Schulz



Holiday Celebration at Milwaukee County Jail



Many thanks to everyone who donated Christmas cards for the Holiday Celebration at the Milwaukee County Jail. As always, you were very generous. All of the cards will be greatly appreciated by the recipients.

Gwenda Szczygielski

THANKSGIVING FOOD DRIVE

Our collaborative Harvest Gathering with the New Berlin Preschool collection was a success! Between your donations and a 'promise to complete' gift, we were able to meet our goal of donating 80 of each item to United Methodist Children's Services. Our 449 pounds of food was used along with other donations to pack 82 boxes of Thanksgiving food! Thanks be to God for each generous gift!



stuffing Mix	13	58	GOAL 80
Instant Mashed Potatoes	20	56	80
Sweet Potatoes	6	45	80
Gravy Mix	19	67	80
Cranberry Sauce	16	44	80
Corn Bread	18	59	80
Instant Pudding	22	76	80

New Berlin Preschool and Our Lord's UMC Collaborative Holiday Collection December 2021

The Mission Team here at Our Lord's is inviting us to support United Methodist Children's Services' Transitional Living Center families by donating during the entire month of December.

Please donate NEW items of ALL sizes for ALL genders.

- *Hats
- *Gloves
- *Mittens
- *Scarves
- *Socks

These items are distributed to clients and guests as needed throughout the entire winter season, so the need is great.

\$10 gift cards to Wal-Mart, Target and Pick and Save are also being accepted.

Bring your new items* to 5000 S. Sunnyslope Rd.

**These are not holiday presents – no gift wrap needed.*

- ~ Toss in the barrels at the door nearest the church office Monday through Friday during office hours, 8:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.
- ~ Send in with your students to adorn a 'mitten tree'
- ~ Bring to worship on Sunday morning at 9:30 a.m.

All items will be delivered by the Missions Team the first week of January.

Thank you for participating!

Check out UMCS at: <https://www.umcs-wi.org>





From all of us in the church office, thank you so much for your continued support during this past year.

We wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a blessed New Year!

*Wendi Haubert
Tabitha Manning
Pastor Kelly*

There's a place for you here!



**Join us for Sunday worship!
9:30 a.m.**

There are three ways to worship—choose what works best for you!

***In-person worship in the church sanctuary (masks are required.)**

***Worship from the comfort of your vehicle in the church parking lot. Services are broadcast through speakers mounted in the parking lot.**

***Watch the live-stream of our services on our [Facebook](#) page, or watch at a later time on our [website](#) or [You Tube](#) channel.**



Want to know “What’s Happening” at Our Lord’s?

A weekly electronic newsletter containing information about upcoming events is sent out on Sundays. If you aren’t currently subscribed but would like to be, [email](#) the church office.

A monthly calendar of events is posted on our [website](#).

**OUR LORD’S
UNITED
METHODIST
CHURCH**

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Visit our website!

