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## December Reflection

*“Let’s confirm what the Lord has revealed to us.”* Luke 2: 15b CEB

The gospel account of Jesus’ birth begins with Mary and Joseph complying with the need to be counted. And, it is when they are in Joseph’s hometown that Mary delivers her baby – Jesus.

We begin our December journey with an accounting, of sorts. Our annual Church Conference gives the community an opportunity to come together, to conduct church business, and hear the voice of the church as we comply with the Conference requirements around membership, leadership and pastoral compensation. We will also bless ministry team reports and pray with thanksgiving and with hope for all that has been and all that is to come.

New this year is a pre-conference time of sharing and blessing new revelations and the work of the accountable leadership board around visioning for our church. Please plan to attend both the pre-conference and the business meeting to follow.

We’ve been actively praying for the intervention of the Holy Spirit in the midst of post pandemic church planning and your revelations will have merit going into the new year. My thanks to each person who was prompted by the Spirit to add a leaf to our Harvest Tree of Revelation. I will be praying over these leaves with joy and hope toward good fruit bearing.

Come together, Church, on Sunday, December 4th, as we confirm what the Lord has revealed to us, so far!

Peace be to each of you,  
*Pastor Kelly*



## A Word from Pastor Kelly

### December Reflection 2.0

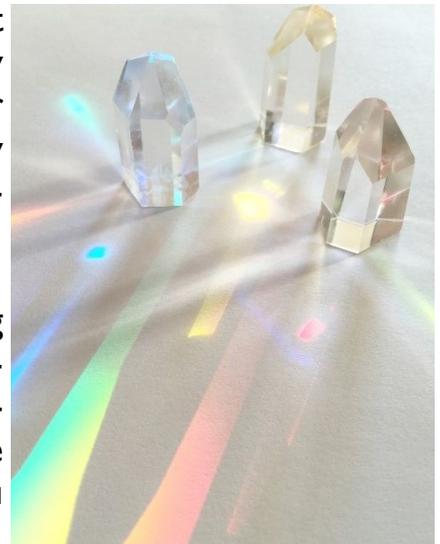
*They said, "Glory to God in heaven, and on earth peace among those whom God favors." Luke 2:14 CEB*

True, December begins with reckoning and celebration. We will continue, in our weekly worship, to "Reflect the Sacred" with anointing, centering and reflection on scripture. You might pick up the journal or share coffee conversations that will bring you closer to Jesus' birth and his life and Way.

The December preparations for the birth of Jesus give us intentional space to contemplate our discipleship path for the coming year. Setting our ministry course at Church Conference gives way to our personal investment in said ministry for 2023. Maybe you'll offer a one-time financial gift or a regular pledge. Volunteering to serve, teach, plan or tend might heighten God's call upon you in new ways that will be life-giving!

December is the time to 'try on' lots of possibilities. Chat with me, look into your heart more deeply, listen closely and watch what others are doing that might pique your interest – God reflects light through multiple facets. Stay alert and be in prayer as each of us strives to join the angels giving glory to God in heaven.

ALL of creation is invited to join the angels in glorifying God and seeking peace.. Share your December reflections with siblings in Christ who will cherish your journey, ask you good questions and affirm how you are growing in faithful discipleship this Advent Season as you "Reflect the Sacred".



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

*Pastor Kelly*



# Blue Christmas Service

Saturday, December 3rd  
11:00 a.m.

A service of reflection and remembrance  
A service of healing and hope



## Christmas/New Year's Service Schedule

Christmas Eve (in-person/ live-streamed) 6:30 p.m.

Christmas Day Lessons & Carols (in-person/ live-streamed) 9:30 a.m.

New Year's Day - Celebration of Holy Communion  
(in-person/ live-streamed) 9:30 a.m.

# MONDAY FUNDAY

Monday Funday is a fellowship time to come together with other people. All are welcome: women, men, young adults, neighbors and friends. We come together to develop a greater understanding of our faith with a devotional & discussion and to build our friendship with others. It's a joyful atmosphere with lots of laughter.

Don't miss out - come and join us on the third Monday of each month at 10:00 a.m. in the church Garden Room. We will meet on December 19th for a special Christmas program and on January 16, 2023. If you are in a need of a ride, please contact the office or Rebecca Radick at 262-679-2710.

*"Let no one ever come to you without leaving better and happier.*

*Be the living expression of God's kindness: kindness in your face,*

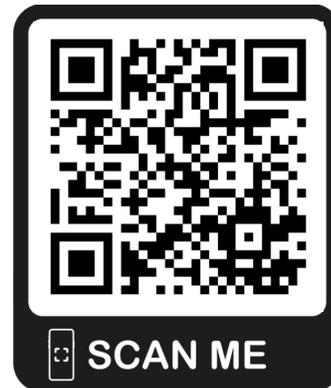
*Kindness in your eyes, kindness in your smile."*

-Mother Teresa

Submitted by Rebecca Radick

## Exciting News!!

Our Lord's now has a QR code! You can find the code on all of our publications, such as the worship bulletin, SALT newsletter, the What's Happening emails, etc. The code will also be shown on the screen during the offering portion of the weekly worship service. Use the camera on your phone to scan the code to contribute a gift to support our church's ministries and to explore our website.



Printed copies of a Devotional Study Guide and a Companion Journal for our Advent series, "Reflecting the Sacred" are both available in the narthex. Please feel free to take one of each to guide you in your personal devotions during this Advent season. If you would prefer a digital copy, please call or email Tabitha in the church office.

## 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
Paul Davis	12/4
Hans Tanner	12/5
Wendi Haubert	12/6
Hope Sheedy	12/7
Dylan Holschbach	12/9
Mark Yokosh	12/11
Pat Mehring	12/20
Larry Piasini	12/23
Loyal Sheedy	12/27

Nicole Radzius	1/2
Zachary Zwicky	1/8
Emmalyn Ware	1/13
Faith Sheedy	1/15
Don Mains	1/16
Lily Engel	1/18
Howard Gygax	1/19
Linda Sheedy	1/19
Jane Mackey	1/21
Julie Dunham	1/21
Sue Yokosh	1/26

A decorative banner for the December calendar of events. The text "December Calendar of Events" is written in a blue, cursive font. The background is a light blue gradient with soft, out-of-focus bokeh lights and a large, detailed white snowflake on the right side. The bottom edge of the banner features a row of white, feathery or pine-like branches.

Thursday 12/1	Handbell practice, 5:00 p.m.
Saturday 12/3	Blue Christmas service, 11:00 a.m. (in-person only)
Sunday, 12/4	Worship service w/Holy Communion, 9:30 a.m. Pre-conference brunch, 10:15 a.m. Church Conference, 11:15 a.m.
Tuesday, 12/6	Staff meeting
Wednesday, 12/7	Mission Crafters, 1:00 p.m., Garden Room
Thursday, 12/8	Handbell practice, 5:00 p.m.
Sunday, 12/11	Worship service, 9:30 a.m.
Tuesday, 12/13	Staff meeting
Wednesday, 12/14	Mission Crafters, 1:00 p.m., Garden Room
Thursday, 12/15	Handbell practice, 5:00 p.m.
Sunday, 12/18	Worship service w/handbells, 9:30 a.m.
Monday, 12/19	Monday Funday, 10:00 a.m., Garden Room
Tuesday, 12/20	Staff meeting
Saturday, 12/24	Christmas Eve worship service, 6:30 p.m.
Sunday, 12/25	Worship service/Lessons & Carols, 9:30 a.m.
Monday, 12/26	Church office closed
Tuesday, 12/27	Church office closed



Wisconsin Conference  
of The United Methodist Church



## BASIC LAY SERVANT MINISTRY CLASS

### On-Line via Zoom

Leader: Rev. Amy Powell

**Day One:** Friday, January 13, 2023, 6pm to 9pm

**Day Two:** Saturday, January 14, 2023, 9am to 3pm

*You must register and participate in both the Friday evening and Saturday class in order to receive a completion certificate!*

The United Methodist Church recognizes that ministry is not only a clergy endeavor. God calls all Christians to their own unique service. The Basic Lay Servant Class is the entry course to Lay Servant Ministry. Lay Servant Ministry classes are designed to help laity discover and/or further explore their own unique call-in serving God, neighbor, and the greater church.

**Class Book:** Each person will need to purchase their own book prior to the start of class. The class book is *Lay Servant Ministries: Basic Course Participant's Book* by Sandy Jackson. It can be ordered at [cokebury.com](http://cokebury.com) or [amazon.com](http://amazon.com).

**Technology:** Each participant will need good internet access and access to a computer equipped with web camera and microphone sound. There is no need to purchase a Zoom subscription. A class link will be sent to you via email prior to class.

**Deadline:** January 6, 2023

**Register here:** <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/60B0548AAA82CA1F94-basic>

**Questions:** Contact Rev. Amy via email [powellmama@gmail.com](mailto:powellmama@gmail.com) or call 608-220-5873.

***Register early as class size is limited!***

## *ON THAT NIGHT*

### A Blessing

On that night when  
you are holding  
your very last hope,  
thinking to let it go  
as too small to be saved  
or sanctified;

on that night when  
you turn away at last  
from the far horizon  
over which you had thought  
your life would come  
to find you;

on that night,  
believe me  
this is where  
the ache  
will give way  
to the mystery

and the blessing  
that seemed so distant  
will quietly  
come to meet you,

holding your heart  
in its two  
luminous hands.

~Jan Richardson



### **Church Office Holiday Hours**

The church office will be closed on:

Monday, December 26th

Tuesday, December 27th

Monday, January 2nd



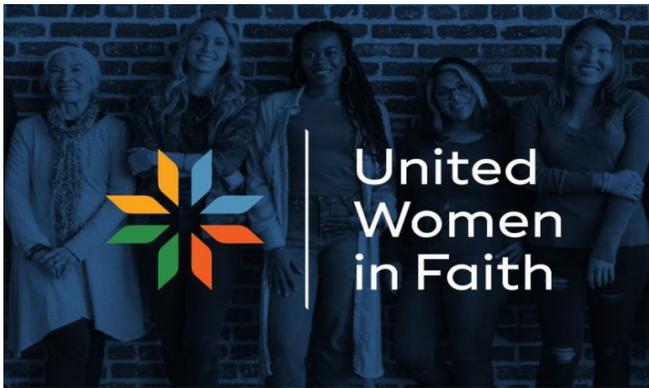
## *BYOP - "Bring Your Own Poinsettia"*

Beginning Sunday, December 11th, you may bring your own poinsettia to church to help decorate the altar. Be sure to put your name on your plant and complete a dedication form (located on the Welcome table in the narthex) or let the church office know if you'd like to celebrate, honor or remember a loved one in the Christmas Eve bulletin insert. Please be sure to take your plant home with you after the New Year's Day service.

## **New Parking Lot Banners are Installed!**

Dan from BPI Color worked all day on November 29th installing our new parking lot banners. The banners offer welcome greetings on the street side and peace upon departure in 6 languages! We are grateful to Dan Spitz of Design Basics for the great banner layout!





## UWF Reading Program

Several women have decided to participate in the UWF Reading Program for 2022-2023, and it has some thought-provoking books. One is *The Four Winds* by Kristin Hannah. It is set against the Dust Bowl in the 1930s and tells of the struggles of one woman to overcome their effects on her life and her children. This book is from the Social Action category.

Another thought-provoking book is *The Book Woman of Troublesome Creek*, which is from the Education for Mission category. Again, this book, based on real events and people, is set in the 1930s and tells of the struggles of one woman, with a blood disorder that has turned her skin blue, known as a "Blue," to persevere in her job as a Pack Book librarian. It gives some great insights into life at that time in Appalachia.

These well-written books show the extraordinary strength of women able to overcome the prejudices in the societies of that period. If you need more information about the UWF Reading Program, please contact Gwenda Szczygielski at [gm53151@wi.rr.com](mailto:gm53151@wi.rr.com) or 262-786-5265.

## UWF World Thank Offering Observance

Six women came to the special World Thank Offering service. During the year, members put aside coins and notes to recognize God's special blessings in their lives, such as everyday things as clean water and adequate food. The books listed in the Reading Program article make you appreciate such items all over again.

Rebecca Radick, as Spiritual Growth coordinator, put together several readings about the history of UWF, which was most informative. Afterwards, the attendees talked about why they were involved with UWF. The most common responses were the opportunity to get to know like-minded women in the church and the emphasis on being involved with missions and helping others.

In the new year, for a change of pace, the crafters hope to go out for lunch and enjoy the fellowship in different surroundings.



## Mission Crafters—Bookmarks are a Hit!

Mission Crafters donated 2000 handmade bookmarks to local schools and libraries in September. It's evident that the bookmarks are much appreciated by the recipients! Many thanks to the Mission Crafters members for their work and dedication to serving our local community.

Hi,  
Thank you so much for the wonderful bookmark donation! The kids at Poplar Creek love them! We appreciate your donation. Thank you for thinking of us at Poplar Creek Elementary.

Sincerely,  
Poplar Creek Library

To Our Lord's United Methodist Church  
We are so grateful for your time and effort in creating the beautiful bookmarks that you shared with our students. The kids were very excited to receive them. We appreciate you!

The Library Staff  
at Orchard Lane Elementary



We are glad to share several avenues of giving this Advent and Christmas Season. Your joyous giving, through the power of the Holy Spirit, serves to strengthen the love we are called to share with our sisters and brothers. May we all recognize Jesus' call to love one another, in the same way God shares his love with each and every one of us.

These first two options directly benefit of United Methodist Children's Services (UMCS). Our Lord's UMC is a long-term partner with UMCS. UMCS makes a real difference in the lives of families and children in Milwaukee. The UMCS leadership team are always so appreciative of the many ways OLUMC serves their mission in Christ. The third giving option splits the donations between UMCS and the United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR).

- Mitten, Hat, and Sock tree – These very practical gifts can be hung on the “mitten tree” located in the narthex. Items go directly to children through UMCS.
- Gift cards – Please purchase cards for Target, Walmart, or Pick 'n Save in \$10 denominations. Drop the cards into the Church in the narthex. Cards collected through December 11<sup>th</sup> will be available for UMCS's Christmas Party. Cards after that date will still go to UMCS where they will be put to good use beyond the holiday season.
  - \*Some feel gift cards are not very personal. Yet they are an important part of the UMCS mission. These cards empower individuals to make good decisions in their family spending practices. They can make personal decisions in selecting gifts for their loved ones using these gift cards. Please recognize the true meaning these gift cards offer to those who receive them.
- Monetary giving - Christmas mission giving will serve two areas of need. The monies will be split between:
  - \*United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) in support of the worldwide needs and
  - \*United Methodist Children's Services in support of local community needs.

Both organizations make a difference for God's people, whether near or far. Mark your donations with "Christmas" so we can account for your gifts, or simply click the Christmas giving box if you give online.

Donations will be accepted through the entire month of December. If you have any questions, please contact Mark Radick or Karen Haubert.

*The Missions Team*

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## News from The Gathering

Unfortunately, The Gathering has suffered a chemical fire. Here is the latest update I received from the volunteer coordinator:

"We were just able to go in with the insurance and health inspectors on Wednesday and I am meeting with them again tomorrow. Everything will very likely have to be disposed of and replaced. All three rooms had been filled with a chemical smoke; no flames, but the smoke left a toxic film on, and possibly in, every pot, pan, stove, oven, etc. We are working on what an alternative serving and prepping situation might look like for next Monday. We will serve our Thanksgiving meal out of a van on Saturday. We will not be able to cook in the building for quite some time. So, we are looking for donations to help us make robust bag dinners. I will keep you posted. Thanks!"

Watch the future What's Happening emails for opportunities to donate and volunteer at The Gathering.

*Submitted by Margo Hoelzer*





One example of how Our Lord's Church gives its members the opportunity to be involved in a meaningful ministry is becoming a part of Caring Ministries. We have come to believe that what we do is at the core of

what being a Christian community of faith is about.

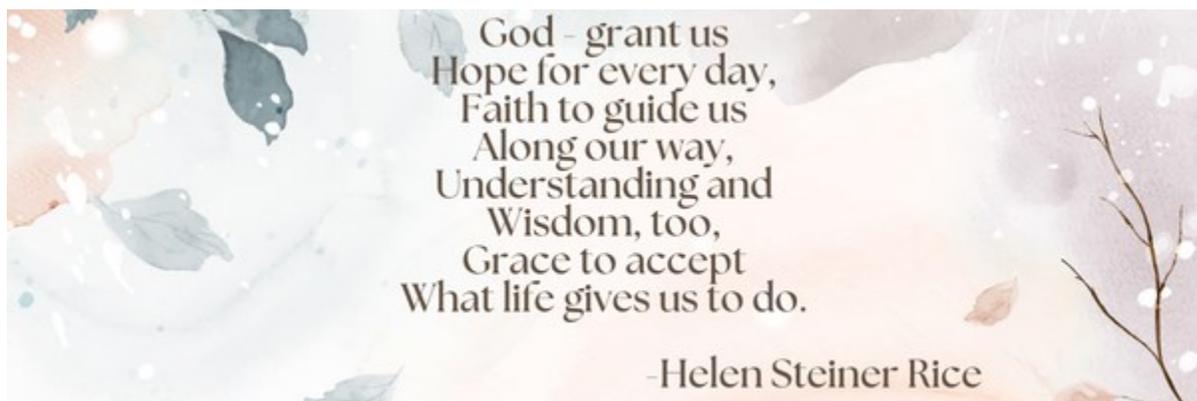
It has given us a way to serve God more faithfully, and in the process, we have been blessed in many ways. We hope the members/friends here think of us as a friend who cares, gives support, and help them feel stronger. When experiencing life difficulties and severe illnesses, people need support. Our team is here to provide care to everyone who needs it.

Galatians 6:2 says to "Bear one another's burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ." God calls us to reach out to those in need and hurting. We are to use our gifts and talents to bring Christ's love into our church and community and help the church be a warm and loving place.

If you are in need of our support, feel free to talk with any of us: Chris Gygax, Carolyn Huebsch, Karen Haubert, Lynda McDowell, Rebecca Radick, and Pastor Kelly. If you feel called by God to show love to others, please consider joining the Caring Ministries team!

We are very grateful for our community and we hope and pray that everyone has a wonderful, blessed Christmas season!

*Submitted by Rebecca Radick*





# MERRY CHRISTMAS

FROM THE STAFF OF OUR LORD'S THANK YOU SO  
MUCH FOR YOUR ONGOING SUPPORT IN THE  
MINISTRY WE SHARE.

WE WISH YOU ALL A VERY MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A  
BLESSED NEW YEAR!

*TABITHA MANNING  
WENDI HAUBERT  
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 optional.)**

**\*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!



Scan to make a donation to support our church's ministries.

