



Our Lord's United Methodist Church

January 2022

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A Moment of Personal Privilege

Did you know that pastors work in fish bowls? By that, I mean, that whatever clergy do, professionally or personally, gets “amplified” through the lens of unrealistic expectation and/or false prestige placed upon by congregants or self-imposed by the pastor. Knowing this has always been a caution for me in being too ‘revealing’ of my personal life journey/experience and I keep things pretty close to the vest. Risking sharing my Dad’s journey with Alzheimer’s was hard for me and yet, you, Church, taught me that it was an ‘okay risk’ as many of you shared similar stories from your own life with me easing my worry. Then my Dad suddenly died. I knew I needed to share this with you, and yet, I was so afraid. And, once again, you, Church, offered me grace by your personal words, cards, and prayerful concerns for me. Thank you.

I have been distracted and surprised by the moments when grief shows up and your hearts have been a sustaining gift this holiday season of leadership, for sure. As I continue to give myself permission to take care of my heart, I give thanks for the volunteers and my wonderful staff that keep every aspect of church life moving forward. My joy-filled goal of working myself out of a job, as lay leadership and right staffing become more confident and empowered, continues to move forward!

Lastly, let me offer my deepest gratitude to those who have offered their generous financial support toward the vision of birthing a Memory Café at Our Lord’s to celebrate and honor my Dad and to meet an ongoing need in our area. Continue to join me in praying about this project and please complete the Memory Café survey card any time this month. Your responses will help move this project forward.

Thankful for each of you,
Pastor Kelly



A Word from Pastor Kelly

For the New Year

I offer you this prayer by (Maren C. Tribassi, U.S.A., 20th CENT.,ALT.) from the UM Book of Worship, #294:

Creative God, You make all things new in heaven and on earth.

We come to You in a new year with new desires and old fears, new decisions and old controversies, new dreams and old weaknesses.

Because You are a God of hope,
we know that You create all the possibilities of the future.

Because You are a God of love,
we know that You accept all the mistakes of the past.

Because You are the God of our faith,
we enter Your gates with thanksgiving and praise, we come into Your presence with gladness and a joyful noise, and we serve and bless You. Amen.

Faithful friends, we begin this new year as a family of faith celebrating our historic heritage and visioning our future in hopeful, helpful ways. May each of you know the value of your prayers, your presence, your gifts, your service and your witness to the strength and courage of the ministry we share into the world. May each of us step boldly, for God, out into God's kin-dom right here on earth, right now; as it is in heaven. God is with us, always and in all ways. Thanks be to God!

Peace be with each of you,
Pastor Kelly

***Lord, You have been our dwelling place in ALL generations.
From everlasting to everlasting, You are God.
Psalm 90:1, 2c***

Membership Class Invitation

Are you ready to deepen your connection to this faith community through membership? Perhaps you have a few questions about United Methodism or this community or maybe you'd like to know more about how you can contribute your gifts of time, talent, treasure, service and witness through the ministry of Our Lord's UMC. Have you made the decision to join Our Lord's but just shake at the thought of being "up front" for the welcoming into community?

Pastor Kelly will lead this 90 minutes teaching/Q&A hybrid class – culminating in an invitation to join, right then, without the need to be 'up front'!

Mark your calendar for Sunday January 23, 2022, and join via Zoom or in-person (masks required) beginning at 10:30 a.m. ending at noon.



Nicole Radzius	1/2	Howard Gygax	1/19
Zach Zwicky	1/8	Linda Sheedy	1/19
Emmalyn Ware	1/13	Jane Mackey	1/21
Faith Sheedy	1/15	Julie Dunham	1/21
Don Mains	1/16	Sue Yokosh	1/26
Lily Engel	1/18	Skip Holschbach	1/28

New Berlin Preschool

Excitement was in the air in the preschool classes during the month of December! Preparations for Christmas were in full swing, and a surprise visit from Santa just before winter break began was the highlight of the month.



The stockings were hung by the chimney with care...



Miss Leslie read a Christmas story



Making Christmas cookies



Excited preschoolers posing with Santa



Santa listened carefully as the preschoolers gave him their wish lists



Point of Connection

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

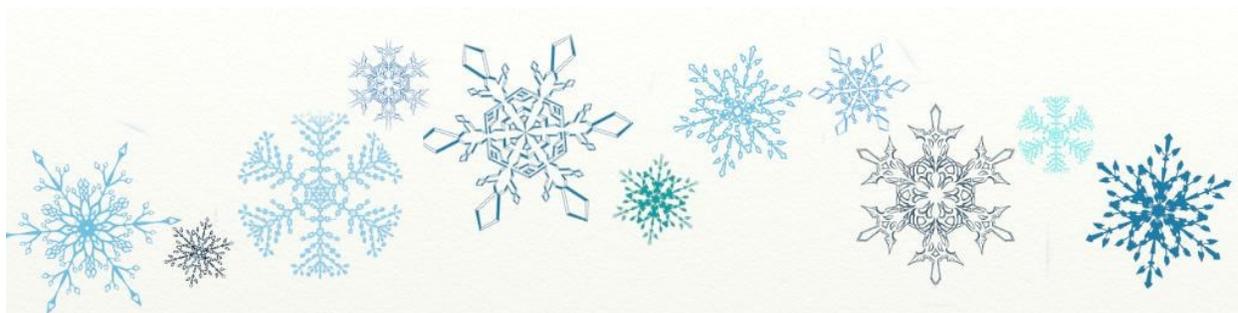
Live on Pastor Kelly's [Facebook](#) page and then posted on the church [website](#).





January Calendar of Events

- Sunday, 1/2 Worship Service w/Holy Communion, 9:30 a.m.
- Tuesday, 1/4 Taking down of church Christmas decorations, 1:00 p.m.
ALL are invited to help
- Wednesday, 1/5 Advent Book Study, 12:15 p.m., Fellowship Hall/Zoom
- Sunday, 1/9 Worship Service, 9:30 a.m.
Epiphany stars available for pick-up or mailing
- Sunday, 1/16 Worship Service, 9:30 a.m.
- Monday, 1/17 Monday Funday, 10 a.m., Garden Room
- Friday, 1/21 February SALT articles due
- Sunday, 1/23 Worship Service, 9:30 a.m.
Membership Class, 10:30 a.m., Garden Room/Zoom
- Tuesday, 1/25 ALB Meeting, Zoom only, 6:30 p.m.
- Sunday, 1/30 Worship Service, 9:30 a.m.



2022 Giving Envelopes

While moving from behind the Wesley Room to the current finance office (attached to the church office), unused giving envelopes were found from the past several years.

Let's start using up all those extras instead of throwing away perfectly good envelopes. The envelope packs look the same as years past. The only difference is the dates **will not** match up to the 2022 Sundays and your envelope number will be higher than in the past.

Giving envelopes will be ready for pickup before and after worship starting Sunday, January 2nd. If you have not yet turned in your pledge for 2022 and would like giving envelopes, please contact Wendi Haubert at finance@ourlordsumc.org or 414-425-7030.

Thank You!!

Thank you to all who have volunteered to assist in various ways in our worship services over the past several weeks:

Kathy Depies

Mark & Rebecca Radick

Tony and Linda Suminski

Chuck and Pat Garrigues

Linda and Loyal Sheedy

The Veit family

Pat Mehring

Judie Liebenstein

Mary Schulz

Leslie MacIntyre

Debbie Huyck

Sue Albers

Volunteers are always welcome! If you'd like to assist in our Sunday worship services, please be sure to fill out an orange "I Want to Help!" card (located in the narthex) and drop it in one of the orange offering buckets, or call or email the church office at (414)425-7030 or office@ourlordsumc.org.

Honoring Gwenda Szczygielski

The following letter was read at the annual Charge Conference on December 5, 2021, as part of a special recognition of Gwenda and her many years of service.

Letter Honoring Gwenda Szczygielski

Today is a special day to celebrate someone in our church family. This church and all its events have been an important part of her life.

Gwenda joined Our Lord's UMC in 1976. Our Lord's is known as a mission-oriented congregation and always active in several community programs. This has been Gwenda's model as well.

The United Methodist Women's group has been a large part of Gwenda's life. Through the years she has been the president and program organizer for our unit. She was involved in the Metro South District board and attended several School of Mission weeks to learn about study programs to teach back at our church and even helped organize several District UMW events within our church.

Gwenda has been involved in the Mission/Outreach committee, a part of the Sunday School program, and has helped organize many events to enrich the women, men and others from local UMC in the area. The UMW group meets weekly to make crafts for the annual Cookie and Craft Sale, from which the money raised goes to mission groups locally, nationally and world-wide. Gwenda has helped us grow spiritually with the Reading Program and build up our own church library, has worked with the Women's Day of Renewal/Retreat, and many Speaker programs. She has also gotten us to volunteer at many community programs such as the Jail Ministry, cleaning and painting apartments at TLP in Milwaukee, The Gathering meal program, The Cathedral Center for women and children (where the ladies' quilts, fleece, and lap blankets go), UMCOR collections, the College luncheon program and personally she does bell ringing for the Salvation Army. Gwenda has a heart for hospitality and social events, such as the Patchwork Boutique Salad Luncheon for the community, our Homebound Luncheon, the annual Tasting Bee, a Christmas Thank You Tea (which she hosted in her own home), annual summer outing events and Saturday Afternoon at the Movies events at church.

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Gwenda's past-time activities are reading, knitting, outings with friends, and gardening. She is proud of her English heritage and will happily share her stories and tell you the best places for sightseeing if you are planning a visit to England. She has also traveled to Africa and Australia, so talk to her if you're planning a trip to either of those places.

Gwenda has certainly lived up to the UMW purpose by being a coordinator and traveling. When you walked around our church property during the spring and summer months, you could see all the hard work she had done in the flower beds and church garden. Her love for gardening led her to join the Milwaukee Rose Garden Society and planting and yard work at United Methodist Children's Services. Gwenda makes Our Lord's a loving and caring community of women, who have developed our faith in God and reaching out to those in need locally and globally. We thank Gwenda for all she has done and the friendships that have been built through the years.

Written by Rebecca Radick, along with many comments from other friends of Gwenda's.



Our fellowship group has met inside the church for the last three months from 10:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. in the Garden Room. It has

been a fun and rewarding time to be together with our church friends. The next gatherings are planned for January 17th and February 21st. Please consider joining us in the coming year. Our meetings are open to everyone! If you have any questions, please contact Rebecca Radick at (262) 679-2710.

2022 Epiphany Star Words

Beginning Sunday, January 9th, you may pick up your 2022 Epiphany star word at church on Sundays. If you would like to pick up your star at another time, or if you need your star mailed to you, contact Tabitha at the church office by phone at (414) 425-7030 or by [email](#).



As the Christmas Season comes to an end and we enter into a New Year, it has a way of reminding us how blessed we are - blessed with loved ones and friends, delicious food, warm shelter, and many material things.

Once we realize that every good and perfect gift is from God (James 1:17), we must find ways to give back to Him.

Most of us make New Year's resolutions, such as to quit smoking, stop drinking, manage our money better, or lose weight and exercise more. Many Christians will resolve to read more of the Bible, pray more daily, or attend church more regularly. These are all good goals – physically and spiritually. However, we fail to keep most of our resolutions because there is no power in a resolution alone. Philippians 4:13 tells us "I can do everything through Him who gives me strength." If God is at the center of your resolutions, they have more power to succeed. But it depends on your true commitment to it. If it is God's will for something to be fulfilled, God will enable you to fulfill it.

So how can you bring God into keeping your resolutions? Some suggestions...

- Pray for wisdom to choose the right goals, and for God to give you the wisdom to fulfill those goals.
- Rely on God's strength to help you along the way.
- Find an accountable partner who can help you and encourage you.
- Don't become discouraged with failures. Instead, allow failures to motivate you further.
- Give glory to God first, and not to become too proud or vain.
- Honor God by taking care of the body He has given you.
- Honor God by speaking words of love and encouragement.
- Give goods and money to God's children in need.
- Give of your time in volunteering for a Christian cause.
- Discover your spiritual path by living from your heart, trusting in God, and trusting in the abilities God gifted to you.

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Regardless of the specifics of our resolutions, we must realize that all we have comes from the Lord, and choosing to share it and give it back will produce so much joy in 2022. Won't it be an amazing year if our faith resolutions include a prayer to pray every day?

Dear Lord, you have given me everything, and I give myself to you today. You can have my body, my thoughts, my words, and my actions. I know I'm going to need a lot of help with this, so send me your strength. Help my day be part of making this a better year for all. Amen.

Submitted by Rebecca Radick, with inspirations from study guides



Becas con Bendiciones

In a follow-up to the December SALT article entitled, "Becas con Bendiciones of Honduras: A Few Thoughts on Courage" and some thoughts shared by Mary Schulz during the worship service on Sunday, December 19th, we have received over \$2570.00 in generous donations. These donations will allow over 21 children to attend school through the Becas con Bendiciones sponsorship program in Honduras. This is in addition to the 7 scholarships that Our Lord's Zimmerman Foundation sponsors every year.

Thank you to ALL of our courageous donors!

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

New Berlin Preschool and Our Lord's community filled up two Christmas trees with hats, scarves, mittens and socks. As of December 29th, 44 pairs of gloves/mittens, 47 hats, 12 scarves, 25 pairs of socks, 2 coats, and 17 gift cards have been donated. These items were delivered to the United Methodist Children's Services Transitional Living Center on Tuesday, December 28th, due to an urgent need. Another drop-off is scheduled in January for any additional donations that may come in. Thank you to all who donated!



Check out UMCS at: <https://www.umcs-wi.org>
Find Our Lord's at: <https://www.ourlordsumc.org> where you can safely give a designated financial gift anytime.

UMW Mission Crafters

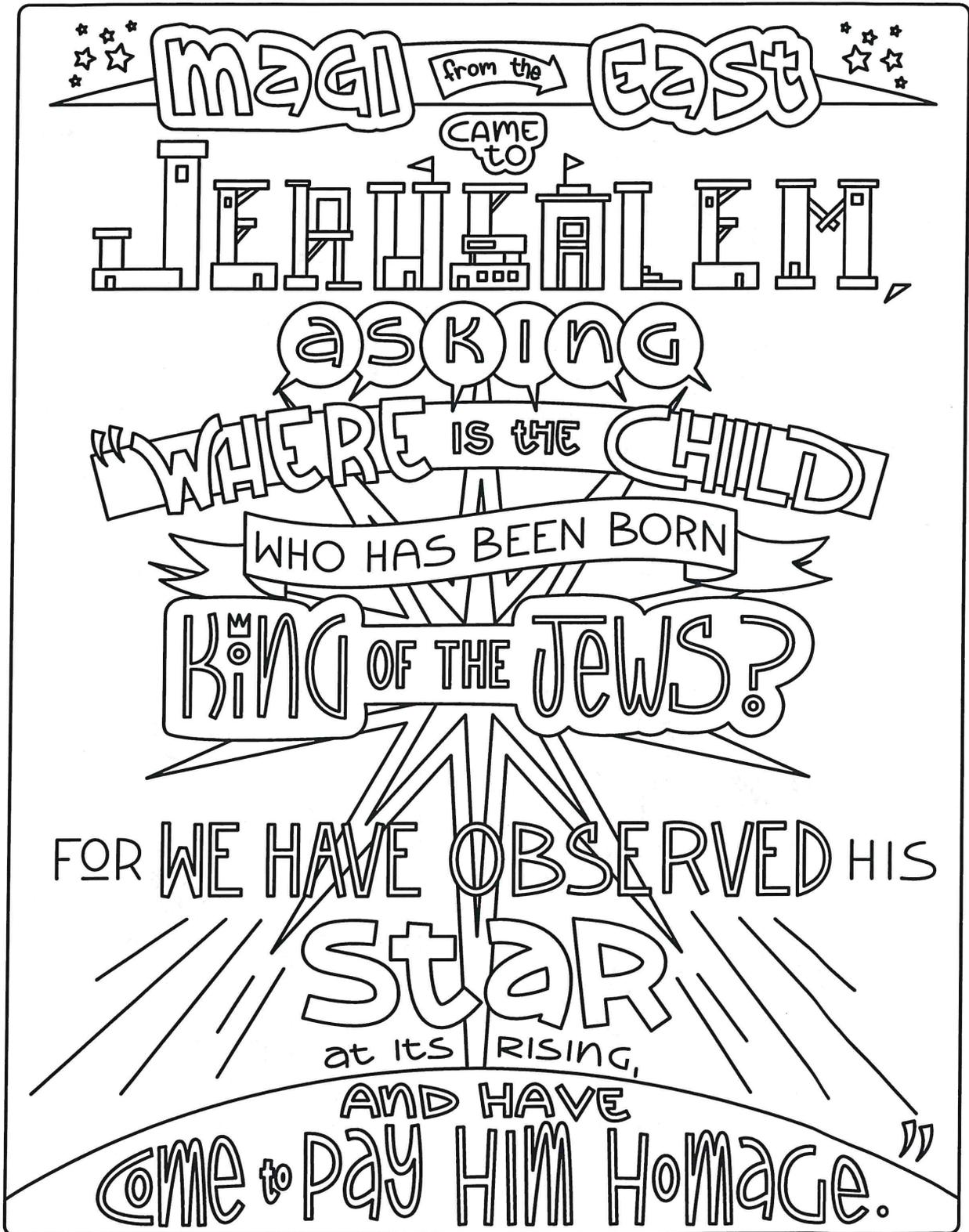
The Mission Crafters were busy in November and December making fleece blankets and other blankets for The Cathedral Center. Thanks to Carol, Carolyn, Chris, Cindy, Debbie, Gwenda, Margo, Pat, Rachel, and Rebecca, 10 blankets were delivered in mid-December by Linda Suminski.

We're taking a break during the month of January, but beginning February 2nd we will be working on bookmarks for area schools. ALL women of the church are welcome to join us on Wednesdays at 1:00 p.m. in the Garden Room!



UMW Mission Crafters *above from left to right:* Cindy Long, Pat Garrigues, Carol Heinert, Rachel Kaufman, Debbie Huyck

Bottom photo from left to right: Carol Heinert, Rachel Kaufman, Chris Gygax



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!

