



Steeple Chimes

January 2021

Monthly Publication by Stockton United Methodist Church, Stockton, MO.

Join us in Person, Online or in the Church Parking Lot!

*Like us on Facebook at "Stockton United Methodist Church" to join us Online.

*Parking Lot service on 88.5 FM every Sunday morning at 10:45 a.m.

*If you have any questions please contact the office at (417)276-4717



Pastor's Paragraph

On November 19, 2020 our bishop, Bishop Bob Farr issued guidance for United Methodist churches in Missouri who are continuing to meet in person. The pertinent part of the bishop's letter is as follows:

"If you must meet in-person for any type of gathering from public worship to staff meetings to small groups, **I am requiring that all United Methodists on all United Methodist property do the following minimum procedures to ensure the safety of all people.**

- Masks are to be worn by everyone apart from children 2 years and younger.
- Strict physical distancing of 6 feet between family units should be observed.
- Gathering spaces are not to exceed 25% occupancy.
- The gathering space must be sanitized between services held on the same day."

The time has come for our church to enforce the mask mandate for all services and other meetings in the church. Until further notice you **MUST WEAR A MASK** in our building. This applies to all outside groups using our facilities as well. Disposable masks will be provided by the church. If you do not have a

mask, one will be offered to you before entering worship.

There was a recent incident in our building where someone who refused to wear a mask exposed several women to the Covid 19 virus, including three of our regularly attending members. The bishop is very clear, if everyone doesn't wear a mask, our in-person worship services will be suspended. For those who simply cannot wear a mask, you are encouraged to participate on Facebook Live or by listening to the service in the parking lot on 88.5 FM.

For our own health and safety and for the health and safety of our brothers and sisters in Christ, whom we dearly love, I encourage you to comply with these required, non-negotiable mandates.

Blessings in Christ,

Pastor Jim Coffey

Faith for Personal Crises

Jim Coffey, *Pastor*

Do you ever struggle with such things as fear, guilt, failure, or doubt? How about the crises of death and grief? Starting Sunday, January 3, 2021 Pastor Jim is starting a new sermon series: **Faith for Personal Crises**. These messages will explore these issues from a biblical perspective.

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Announcements

Church Council *Highlights*

Marvin Manning, Lay Leader

Council convened for a brief meeting at 11:45 a.m.

December 20, 2020

Attendance: Chairman Marvin Manning; Pastor Jim Coffey; Rex and Susan Holt; Sherlene Netsch; Elizabeth Erickson; Mitch Ross; Cheryl Marcum; Linda Hall.

The meeting was opened by Marvin.

The November 15, minutes were approved.
(Sherlene/Sue)

Finance: Susan reported the checking balance as of November 30, of \$54,706.19. Ted had reported the 2021 budget will be the same as 2020, with the apportionment at 75%. Approved. (Rex/Sherlene)

Endowment Fund: Marvin cited that it has continued to grow.

Educational Fund: Marvin reported that C. Kimmi has about completed her college education. She has a recital coming up. She is doing great and has bloomed at Central Methodist University.

Trustees: Rex reported some plumbing problems: a stool stoppage in the basement; a leak under the kitchen sink; urinal leaking. All are being repaired.

Cheryl raised questions:

1. Personal information available online through the Steeple Chimes and prayer request.
2. She asked about the distribution of leftover food from Thanksgiving dinner instead of letting it remain in the refrigerator storage beyond a recommended time. Consensus was the committee leaders should decide the distribution.
3. Cheryl requested notification of committee new budget amounts that are approved.

Communications: Mitch reported the parts are in the mail to repair the blank screen in the sanctuary.

Pastor: Pastor Jim reported that the District Superintendent has requested Zoom conference calls after the first of the year.

Bishop Farr has mandated wearing masks at church.

Pastor Jim closed the meeting with prayer.

Linda Hall, Recording Secretary

Next council meeting will be held January 17, 2021, following morning services.

Class Gives to Home Delivered Meals

Ruth Ballenger, Faithful Servants

The Faithful Servants Sunday Class, under the leadership of Harold Beck, is continuing a tradition that began several years ago.

In July of 2013, the Korth Center made an appeal for funds to help continue their Home Delivered Meals program. One member of the Senior Center Board of Directors was also a member of the Sunday School class and echoed the need. The class took up a special offering that morning and made a commitment to continue the special gifts. Since that Sunday, the class has continued this practice on the first Sunday of every month. As of the first Sunday in December 2020, the total contributions to home delivered meals is \$7,174.23 thus living up to the class name, Faithful Servants.

Faith for Personal Crises

Jim Coffey, Pastor

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We have been through and are still living through a worldwide health crisis. In addition, we all have our own personal issues and crises we must deal with. Join us at 10:45 a.m. on Sundays for these encouraging messages.

A Prayer for Putting on a Facemask

Cheryl Y. Marcum, *Creation Care Ministry*

A United Methodist Woman in the Missouri Conference who was a student in three of my climate justice workshops in years past shared this prayer with a challenge. I share it with you in response to her challenge: "Let's see how many people we can bless and encourage with this prayer!"

Creator God, as I prepare to go into the world, help me to see the sacrament in wearing this piece of cloth. Let this be a tangible and visible way of living a love for my neighbors, as I love myself.

Christ Jesus, since my lips will be covered, uncover my heart, that people will see my heart in the crinkles around my eyes. Since my voice may be muffled, help me to speak clearly, not only with my words, but with my actions.

Holy Spirit, as the elastic touches my ears, remind me to listen carefully and caringly to all those I meet. May this simple piece of cloth be a shield and banner, and may each breath it holds, be filled with your love, I pray. Amen.

By Rev. Richard Bott, moderator
Presbyterian Church of Canada

Recycled Yard Signs and Bulbs Good for Creation

Cheryl Y. Marcum, *Creation Care Ministry*

November 15 and 18, our Go Green Team hosted its annual light bulb recycling drive and, for the first time, also collected political yard signs for recycling.

Seven households in our community recycled 196 political yard signs, including steel stands. The people who brought in tall stacks of old political signs told us how happy they were to finally have a place to recycle them! The oldest I recognized, an Ike Skeleton sign! Most were made from the hard-to-recycle corrugated plastic, polypropylene, identified by the resin identification number 5.

Commonly used for bottle caps and yogurt containers, PP-5 is often the plastic of choice for yard signs because it is lightweight, rigid, durable and water resistant. After much non-productive research looking for a company that could recycle PP-5, Rose, in the city of Springfield recycling office, searched and searched until she found just one for the job. It accepted the signs only during the month of November.

Sixteen households recycled 212 light bulbs: 76 florescent tubes, 2 light emitting diode (LED) tubes, 20 compact florescent lamps (CFLs) and 114 incandescent light bulbs. Carol Montgomery and Shirley McElroy set the best examples of saving lots of bulbs to recycle. In addition to recycling the glass and metal in all of the bulbs, this responsible recycling kept over 1,020 mg of toxic and valuable mercury out of our environment.

Residents who missed this local annual recycling drive can recycle CFLs for free at Lowe's or Home Depot; look for the drop bin inside the entrances. Recycle florescent tubes in Springfield at the Computer Recycling Center or Complete Electronics Recycling, both charge \$1 per tube, a small price to pay to prevent releasing toxic mercury into our environment where it damages human health. As bulbs burn out in your home, save them in a safe place and bring them to our 2021 bulb recycling drive.

The Go Green Team exists to tend God's garden, to take actions to help renew God's good creation. Thank you to all who participated.

Christmas Quilts

Jacky Vincent, *Comforter Project*

Nine quilts were delivered to Family Services. These are for children in foster care that have not previously been given a quilt from the Comforter Project. This year, most were teenagers. Thank you for your diligent work, ladies.

Go Green Team Picked up Trash, Prayed for City Residents

Cheryl Y. Marcum, *Creation Care Ministry*

Six Go Green stewards walked through Stockton neighborhoods Saturday morning, December 5, picking up trash and praying for God's blessings on residents. After walking for about an hour and a half, they reported finding less trash than usual on most streets. Their combined collection: one 65-gallon trash bag of waste headed to the landfill; a 5-gallon bucket-full of aluminum cans recycled at the SUMC bins; and one 65-gallon bag full of comingled plastic bottles, tin cans, paper, and corrugated cardboard, plus a few glass bottles, recycled at the city recycling center.

Finding the degraded remains of single-use plastic shopping bags that have been exposed to sunlight for extended time was particularly disgusting. Ultraviolet sunlight photodegrades the plastic into micro-particles that are impossible to collect. Wind and rainwater runoff transports bits the size of a pin head and smaller far away. Water always runs downhill towards the oceans, and it carries the micro-particles which absorb all manner of toxins along the way. Animals and sea creatures mistake the tiny particles for food which eventually kills them. The smallest particles enter the human food chain and is now even found in human breast milk. We urge everyone to choose to use reusable shopping bags and when you see a plastic bag along the road, pick it up and dispose of it with household trash before it photodegrades.

Walkers commented how satisfying it was to see members of our community where they live, pray for them, clean up our community, and see immediate results. Participating in this fifth annual community prayer walk was an act of faith, of love for neighbors shining forth in action.

The SUMC Go Green Team exists to take action to help renew God's good creation. We invite you to join us as we strive to live out our faith as good stewards of this "pale blue dot" we call home.



Prayer walkers were Kim Chism Jasper, Marcia Hornbeck, Sharon Linnartz, Diedre Senecal, Rita Higley, and Cheryl Marcum.

Annual Contribution Statements

Laura Ronald, *Financial Secretary*

The individual Annual Contribution Statements for 2020 will be emailed to church members in January. If you prefer a paper copy or have questions, please contact Laura Ronald.

Recycle Christmas Lights Now through January 24



- Bundle each string
- Wrap end of cord to secure
- Deposit in white bin beside SUMC recycling cabinet

PLEASE, NO PLASTIC BAGS!



Stockton United Methodist Church

January Calendar of Special Events

Current as December 29, 2020. For updates, visit www.stocktonumc.org/calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
					New Year's Day Pastor's Personal Day Office Closed	6-10p Rm. 100
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Epiphany 9:45a.m. SS 10:45a.m WC/S	9-10 a.m. Yoga FLC 9:30a.m. CP Rm. 100		9 a.m. Yoga FLC 6-10p. Rm. 100	7 a.m-5 p.m. WIC-Rm. 100	Pastor's Personal Day Office Closed	6-10p Rm. 100
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
9:45a.m. SS 10:45a.m WC/S	9-10 a.m. Yoga FLC		9 a.m. Yoga FLC 6-10p. Rm. 100	7 a.m-5 p.m. WIC-Rm. 100	Pastor's Personal Day Office Closed	6-10p Rm. 100
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
9:45a.m. SS 10:45a.m WC/S 11:45a.m. CCM/Rm 203	Steeple Chimes Deadline 9-10 a.m. Yoga FLC 9:30a.m. CP Rm. 100		9 a.m. Yoga FLC 9a.m.-2p.m. TT Rm. 100 6-10p. Rm. 100	7 a.m-5 p.m. WIC-Rm. 100	Pastor's Personal Day Office Closed	6-10p Rm. 100
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
9:45a.m. SS 10:45a.m WC/S	9-10 a.m. Yoga FLC		9 a.m. Yoga FLC 6-10p. Rm. 100	7 a.m-5 p.m. WIC-Rm. 100	Pastor's Personal Day Office Closed	6-10p Rm. 100
31						
9:45a.m. SS 10:45a.m WC/S		KEY SS -Sunday School WC -Worship Celebration S -Sanctuary W -Welcome Area E -Education Wing CCM -Church Council Meeting FLC -Family Life Center LSHF -Lake Stockton Healthcare Facility CP -Comforter Project TT -Tomorrow's Treasures				



Stockton United Methodist Church

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January Calendar of Events

Current as of December 29, 2020. For updates visit www.stocktonumc.org/calendar

Special Events

- ★ **January 2021** Steeple Chimes going digital.
- ★ **United Methodist Women** Will resume meeting the second Tuesday in November.
- ★ **United Methodist Men** Will not meet until further notice.

Mark Your Calendar Beyond January . . .

- ★ **February 2021** SAMA "Souper Bowl" canned soup drive.

★ If you need prayers or to add someone to our Prayer List please contact the office via phone, email, or mail.



Financial Report *Church Financial Information*

★ Full financial reports are in the church office and are available to any church member or constituent upon request (in person or by mail)





Birthdays and Anniversaries

Happy Birthday! Blessed Anniversary!

(Personal information not included in Steeple Chimes Web Version)



SAMA Food Pantry

January Needs: Toilet paper, spaghetti sauce (no glass jars)

SUMC Cancellation Policy



Sunday mornings. In the event of inclement weather on a Sunday morning, the pastor, in consultation with the chairs of the board of trustees and church council, will assess the risks and decide as early as possible whether to cancel Sunday school and worship. A decision to cancel will be announced immediately on the [SUMC Web homepage](#) and recorded on the church answering machine (276-4717). Those who asked to be notified will receive telephone calls.

Small groups. Class/group leaders and event organizers will notify class members and registered participants of cancellations soon as possible.



event as

The Mailbox

Dear Church Members,

Thank you so much for offering Thanksgiving meals to the community. It is a wonderful gesture, especially in these difficult times. Your generosity and efforts are greatly appreciated.

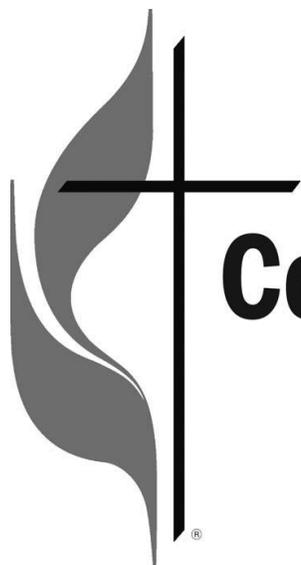
P.S. The extra touches you did like offering gluten free cookies and more environmentally friendly packaging (as compared to Styrofoam) were also noticed and appreciated.

So, thank you for that as well! 😊 "Anonymous"

Servants

Liturgist: Doyle Fry

Sunday Morning Greeters: John & Ellen Morris



People
Connecting with **Jesus Christ**

STOCKTON UNITED METHODIST CHURCH



Steeple Chimes

Stockton United Methodist Church

708 E. Hwy 32, Post Office Box 329, Stockton, MO 65785

Telephone (417) 276-4717

E-mail stocktonumc@windstream.net

www.stocktonumc.org

Worship 10:45 a.m.

Jim Coffer, Pastor

Jacky Vincent, *Organist*

Sunday School 9:45-10:30 a.m.

Rose Mary Owens, *Director of Music*

Mary Anne Manring, *Pianist*

Parking Lot 88.5 FM

Facebook Live 10:45 a.m.

Return Service Requested