



# The Beacon

Volume 9 No. 12

DECEMBER 2020



## **Psalm 98:4-6**

*Shout for joy to the Lord, all the earth,  
burst into jubilant song with music;  
make music to the Lord with the harp,  
with the harp and the sound of singing,  
with trumpets and the blast of the ram's horn -  
shout for joy before the Lord, the King.*

*Break into song! God's saving power reaches out to every land and nation, to every human heart.*

*Merry Christmas to all!*



# EUMC Annual Christmas Giving

## ***Micki Barr Memorial Giving Tree***

This year, the Missions Team asks for “gift cards” (from Meijer’s, Walmart, or other big box stores) and “gas cards” (from EZ Mart, Meijer’s) – in any amount you wish to donate. These cards will be distributed to local families by the Missions Team during the week of Dec. 14<sup>th</sup>.



Please mail the cards to EUMC, Attn: Giving Tree, PO Box 261, Empire, MI 49630. The deadline is December 11. A member of the Mission Team will also be at EUMC on Dec. 11 from 9:00 AM – 11:00 AM, to collect any last-

minute gift cards.

♥ Thank you for helping to make Christmas a little more joyful for local families in need. ♥

## **DECEMBER - Pastor’s Discretionary Fund**



December’s mission of the month offering will go for numerous needs of people in our community. Your contribution will help to relieve the stress of rent and utility payments, car maintenance, gas costs, etc. It’s a blessing to those who receive and to those who give. Please mail your donation to: EUMC, Attn: Treasurer, PO Box 261, Empire, MI 49630;

mark the memo with: Pastor’s Discretionary Fund.

*The United Methodist Church's special giving structure ensures your generosity blesses as many people as possible in sustainable, strategic ways. Through your support, and our church, we fund many projects each year.*

At Christmas time, it is our annual custom to honor the Pastor and Staff (administrative assistant, music director, custodian) with a monetary Christmas gift to show our appreciation for all the work they do. If you wish to contribute, please mail your donation to EUMC, Attn: Treasurer, PO Box 261, Empire, MI 49630; mark the memo with: Staff Christmas Gift.

**The deadline is December 11.** A member of the Pastor Parish Team will also be at EUMC on Dec. 11 from 9:00 AM – 11:00 AM, to collect any last-minute donations.



# ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL MET NOV. 16



**PRESENT:** Roy Pentilla, Roger Noonan, Aggie Wilson, Jean Petersen, Kay Wilcox, Beth Noonan, Sandy Mallory  
(following CDC Guidelines with masks/social distancing)

The meeting was called to order at 4:00 PM.

**OPENING PRAYER** - Jean Petersen

Sandy Mallory reported that the Bishop strongly advised against any Advent or Christmas services. He also advised that everyone get a flu shot.

## OLD BUSINESS:

**Reminder:** The Annual church conference is November 17 at Frankfort UMC. The Pastor Parish Relations team will meet with the District Superintendent at 6:30 PM; the charge conference will follow [ZOOM is available for those who cannot attend in person]. The Committee on Nominations & Leadership is looking for volunteers to fill various positions for 2021. Please consider volunteering when contacted.

### **TEAM REPORTS:**

**Pastor:** Pastor sent an update via email. She was unable to attend as they were still under quarantine. She is very thankful for everyone's prayers, gifts of meals, and offers to help her and her family. She has been able to order groceries online and pick them up at the store. They put them in her trunk. Please keep safe (wear mask, wash hands, social distance). Amanda, Lidia, and Pastor Melody do not have any signs of COVID-19 currently. The health department has said they have to quarantine until Nov. 21. Amanda has been helping Lidia with her virtual schooling, so that gives Pastor a little break. According to the Health Department, Denny should no longer be infectious (as of 11/16), but they will contact his doctor to double check as he still has a cough.

**Worship:** The Bishop has encouraged worship teams to be innovative in planning worship services. Our worship services will continue online until further notice (Sundays at 9:00 AM – Facebook and website).

**Finance:** As of October 31, 2020: **Income - \$111,497; Expenses - \$104,484; Net Income - \$7,013.** We applied for equitable compensation of \$4,000 from the Conference and received approval. **100% of Ministry Shares** (apportionments) have been **paid in full.** Northern Waters District Ministry Grants will be available in 2021. We should take advantage of this program to purchase a video camera to record worship services in the sanctuary. Roy proposed that we do not take any endowment funds this year. **Consensus.** He submitted the proposed 2021 budget. A **motion** to adopt the 2021 budget was made by Jean Petersen, **second** by Roy Pentilla. **Passed.**

**Trustees:** The Trustees made the following recommendation: A **Motion** by Jean Petersen that Administrative Council establish a "Roofing Fund" to collect donations for replacing parsonage roof and/or the church roof in the future; **second** by Roy Pentilla. **Passed.** Jean advised that two back doors were replaced at the parsonage and all repairs are done there now. She asked Roy to turn on the hot water and let it run for 5 minutes whenever he is at the church.

**Memorial:** Aggie reported that \$1,200 in memorials have been received since June. It was suggested that a \$100 donation from Memorials be moved to the "Roofing Fund" to establish it on the books. **Consensus.**

**Missions:** **New ministry** – "adopt a school staff person" program. Jean said about 30-35 more people are needed to send cards to Glen Lake School system personnel. To date, there are 30 volunteers from EUMC, 2 from St. Philip Neri.

**Safety Team:** Will keep the church family informed as to when we will return to worship services in the church.

## NEW BUSINESS:

The Virtual Northern Waters District Conference will be held on Jan. 23, 2021. There are items that need to be voted on:

1. **District Budget** (including the breakdown of District Ministry Shares by church [EUMC's proposed ministry share is \$1,069.14 for 2021]) and
2. **Slate of District Officers**

### **VOTE RESULTS:**

- |                                    |          |
|------------------------------------|----------|
| 1. 2021 Proposed District budget   | APPROVED |
| 2. 2021 Slate of District Officers | APPROVED |

## OTHER BUSINESS

**2020 Giving – deadline 12/11.** Mail "gift cards" (whatever amount you choose) to EUMC, PO Box 261, Attn: Treasurer, Empire, MI 49630. **Someone will be at the church on 12/11 from 9:00 to 11:00 if you want to drop off your donation for:**

- Christmas giving to local families (**Giving Tree gift cards**) – these will be distributed by the Missions Team
- **Staff Christmas gifts** - distributed by Pastor Parish Relations
- **Monthly Mission Offering** – Pastor's Discretionary Fund – to assist local families in need.

ADJOURNMENT: 4:30 PM Motion by Roger Noonan; second by Roy Pentilla. Passed

NEXT MEETING: TBD  
Respectfully submitted,  
Beth Noonan, Secretary

# EMPIRE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH CHARGE CONFERENCE

NOVEMBER 17, 2020 AT 7:00 PM by ZOOM

Frankfort UMC, Frankfort, MI

**PRESENT:** Rev. Jodie Flessner - District Superintendent, Pastor Melody Olin, Tom and Jean Petersen, Jan Lyon, Kay Wilcox, Roy Pentilla, Roger Noonan, Sandra Mallory

## WELCOME & OPENING PRAYER:

District Superintendent Rev. Jodie Flessner welcomed us. The D.S. asked what has EUMC celebrated since the last Charge Conference. Among the comments received: Pastor has led us in innovative ways, especially during Covid-19. We were fortunate to have AV equipment in place to begin online worship services (on church Facebook page and website) in March. In June we added Sunday worship services at Johnson Park through October (weather-related) with Pastor preaching from the back of a pickup truck. We had an electronic keyboard for music and enjoyed two communion services. We have a weekly ZOOM bible study. Pastor delivered special little gifts for the church family on Mother's Day and Father's Day which we all enjoyed. We developed a safety protocol for the church and even had a fund raiser (Return Bottles & Cans) and raised \$1,000. Fellowship is difficult; UMW held monthly meetings (social distancing & masks) in Fellowship Hall with 8-10 women. AA and NA use fellowship hall for their recovery meetings, as well. We plan to apply for a 2021 District Ministry grant to be able to purchase a video camera and associated equipment to film worship services in the sanctuary. Leelanau County is experiencing a population growth; some business are doing OK, others not so much. We have partnered with St. Philip Neri in ministry to Glen Lake School District by praying for staff and teachers this year.

The District Superintendent challenged us to determine what are essential needs for EUMC; to think about them and be ready to act upon them, on the other side of COVID-19.

Rev. Melody Olin led us in prayer.

Sandra Mallory was elected secretary.

**Adoption of previous Conference Minutes:** Rev. Jodie Flessner

**Approved**

## LAY LEADERSHIP COMMITTEE REPORT:

Motion to accept the Lay Leadership Committee Report as submitted, with the Administrative Council continuing to fill any openings remaining, with the Administrative Council confirming these persons. [Copy will be published in January newsletter and posted in Fellowship Hall.]

Pastor Melody Olin

**Approved**

## MEMBERSHIP REPORT:

At the 2019 Charge Conference, we had 79 members. Since then, we have had one member removed by death (Rod Meade); none were removed by transfer; for an estimated year-end membership of 78. We have 50 constituents.

Pastor Melody Olin

## BUSINESS OF THE CHURCH CONFERENCE:

Roger Noonan, chair – Staff/Pastor Parish Relations Committee, presented the Business of the Church Conference as follows: the pastor's total compensation for 2021 as recommended by the Ad Council - \$45,559.00; the household furnishings allowance set [this is designating part of the salary and is not in addition to salary] - \$3,000.00; pastor's medical reimbursement for 2021 - \$2,750.00; no Special Recommendations were made; and 100% of ministry shares have been paid, as of this date.

Roger Noonan

**Approved**

## CLOSING PRAYER:

Pastor Melody led us in a closing prayer.

Respectfully submitted,  
Sandra Mallory, Secretary



### ***Our Vision Statement:***

A community who goes out, serving in love, sharing Christ.  
**"Go, Serve. Share Christ."**



**BIBLE STUDY  
THURSDAYS  
2:30 pm**



**(via iPad, Cell Phone, Laptop, desktop & computer)**

Thursday Bible Study is taking the holidays off and will resume on January 7, 2021. Our next Bible Study – Jeremiah Lamentations - will begin on January 7 at 2:30 PM. If you wish to participate, please contact Tom Petersen and order a student study book. Some of the major ideas explored: speaking for God, desire for revenge, being angry with God, covenants, human nature, what to hope in, and power. These studies are 13 weeks each and help readers strengthen their understanding and appreciation of the Bible by enabling them to engage the Scripture on three levels: (1) What does the Bible say? (2) What does the passage mean? (3) How does the Scripture relate to my life? The meaning of the selected passages is made clear by considering such aspects as ancient customs, locations of places, and the meanings of words. The simple format makes the study easy to use.



*Praise  
to the Lord*



**Please continue to support the church by mailing your offerings to:  
Empire United Methodist Church, PO Box 261, Empire 49630  
or by contacting Roy Pentilla [[erpentilla@aol.com](mailto:erpentilla@aol.com)]  
for on-line giving**

***(we still need to pay for utilities, staff, and other bills  
to keep the church going).***

If you wish to contribute to the **Pastor's Discretionary Fund**, or **this month's Mission: Pastor's Discretionary Fund**, please make the notation on your check or on the envelope.



## CELEBRATING ADVENT

Week 1: November 29, 2020

THIS PLACE IS A MESS!

[Isaiah 64:1-9](#) & [Mark 13:24-37](#)

**Reader One:** If ever there was a year we needed Advent, this is the year. We hardly know how to describe the year we have lived through. We hesitate to reflect on all the mess around us in 2020. All we know is that nothing seems right, nothing seems like it used to be, nothing. We need Advent!

**Reader Two:** The prophet Isaiah cried out for us, “O that you would tear open the heavens and come down ... To make your name known ... so that nations might tremble at your presence.” So tear through the mess, O Lord, and come down to us again. We long to be your people, a people of hope.

**Reader One:** We light this first candle as a sign of our hope. Hope that you can meet us, even in the mess of our world. Hope that you still see us, though we feel we are lost in the rubble. Let this light be the guide that brings us to Emmanuel once more.

**Reader Two:** O Come, O Come Emmanuel. Vs. 1

Week 2: December 6, 2020

### CLEAN-UP CREW

[Isaiah 40:1-11](#) & [Mark 1:1-8](#)

**Reader One:** Our lists are long, even in this strange mess where we live these days. And we want to do it right, we want to be safe, but we want to be able to enjoy the season. We’ve got work to do to put right what has gone wrong, to heal what is broken, to mend the relationships, and to prepare for the company that will come.

**Reader Two:** The prophet Isaiah reminded us that there is work to be done. “Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight in the desert a highway for our God.” When God comes in, then healing is to be found, but we need to make the way; we need to open the door into our lives.

**Reader One:** So, we light these candles as a sign of our faith that the God we worship is not far from us and that we can clear the way for that God to come and dwell with us. We light these candles in faith that company is coming.

**Reader Two:** O Come, O Come Emmanuel.

Week 3: December 13, 2020

### DECK THE HALLS

[Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11](#) & [John 1:6-8, 19-28](#)

**Reader One:** We want everything to look nice: the decorations of the season, our homes with their lights and tinsel, wreaths, and ribbons. We want to lighten the darkness around us, bring beauty to the ugliness that wears us down. We decorate because it is tradition. Because it lifts our hearts. Because it makes us feel like children again. We deck our halls because company is coming.

**Reader Two:** The prophet Isaiah smiled when he said, “God will give a garland instead of ashes, the oil of gladness instead of mourning, a mantle of praise instead of a faint spirit.” No matter how far we feel from the spirit of the season, God promises to decorate us with love and with joy.

**Reader One:** We light these candles as a sign of our joy in the beautiful things of this season – not just the things that glitter and flash, but the deeper things, the beauty of the heart and the soul, the beauty of love shared in service and hospitality. We light this candle of joy because company is coming.

**Reader Two:** O Come, O Come Emmanuel.

Week 4: December 20, 2020

### WAITING ON THE THRESHOLD

[2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16](#) & [Luke 1:26-38](#)

**Reader One:** We live on the brink every day. We stand on the threshold between this world and the next one. We live and move between the ordinary and divine, between the mundane and the mystery. Too often, we forget to look up and see the angels in our living room. We forget that the love we give and live is a sign of eternity, God with us, right now. We forget that company is coming.

**Reader Two:** Luke tells us that God’s favor came to a girl, an ordinary girl. It might have been you or your daughter; it might have been the girl down the street or your grandchild. But the messenger of God came and greeted her and said, “The Lord is with you.” What a gift and a promise: Emmanuel, God is with us.

**Reader One:** We light these candles with peace in our hearts for the promise of proximity, the nearness of God. Even when we forget to listen, to lean into that presence, God is as close as our own breath. This, in a confused and confusing world, is a peace that passes all understanding. It is the peace that knows that company is coming.

**Reader Two:** O Come, O Come Emmanuel.

Christmas Eve: December 24, 2020

**WELCOMING THE GUEST**

*Our Christmas Affirmation*

Advent hope moves us; Advent love leads us; Advent joy stirs us; Advent peace stills us, that we might affirm our King Jesus. It is time we set flame to this Advent affirmation by lighting the Christ Candle.

**We believe that Jesus is the Son of God. He was born of the Virgin Mary in Bethlehem of Judea. He was the long-awaited Messiah whose coming was prophesied. The same Jesus lives today in our hearts. He deserves our highest loyalty and total commitment. In Jesus Christ our hope is fulfilled; our love is consummated; our joy is complete; and our peace is sealed.**



Rejoice, a Savior is born.

**A savior is born, indeed. Joy to the world!**



## New Year Prayer

Thank you Lord for giving me

The brand new year ahead.

Help me live the way I should

As each new day I tread.

Give me strength and courage

So a shoulder I might lend.

The year ahead is empty,

Help me fill it with good things

Each new day filled with joy

And happiness it brings.

Amen

**Happy New Year**

**Serving as the Hands & Feet of Christ  
136 Years in Empire  
1884 - 2020**

*The Beacon* is published monthly by The EMPIRE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH. Our mailing address is: PO Box 261 - 10050 Michigan Street, Empire, MI 49630. We can be reached at 231.326.5510 or [www.empireumc@centurytel.net](mailto:www.empireumc@centurytel.net). Information and items for publication must be received at the church office by the 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of the month.



***EUMC Mission Statement***

*"To live out a faith in Jesus Christ through our efforts to hear others, share in God's truths, join in worship, and celebrate in the Joy of God's grace."*

**SUNDAYS**

**10:00 AM**      **Worship Service – Facebook online**  
8:00 PM      AA Group

**MONDAYS**

**9:00-1:00**      **Church Office open**  
10:00 AM      Worship Team

**WEDNESDAYS**

**9:00-1:00**      **Church Office open**  
8:00 PM      NA Group

**THURSDAYS**

**9:00-1:00**      **Church Office open**  
10:00 AM      Worship Team

**THE CHURCH BUILDING IS CLOSED  
UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE  
CHECK YOUR EMAILS – FACEBOOK - WEBSITE  
FOR CURRENT INFORMATION**



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