

# God is Holding Your Life

Dear Hubbard Church Family, on the twelfth day of Christmas my true love gave to me—Epiphany!

We all know and adore the “Twelve Days of Christmas” song. And we enjoy the challenge of trying to remember every part, don’t we? Children especially enjoy singing it. This beloved song brings to mind the tradition throughout the history of the church to celebrate *twelve days of Christmas*, beginning with Christmas Day on December 25 and ending on the day of Epiphany, traditionally celebrated on January 6. On that day the Christmas-tide flows into the season of Epiphany.

Epiphany comes from two Greek words *epi* and *phaino*. Together the two words mean “to show forth” or “appear.” In the Epiphany season the church focuses on *showing forth* or *making known* to the whole world - the newborn Christ as “God in the flesh.” Epiphany uncovers *who* Jesus is and so forms the foundation for understanding *what* Christ has done for us, the focus of the Lent and Easter seasons.

The theme of “making Christ known to all nations” comes to our doorstep as members of the church no matter where we are. We are invited not only to recall the truth that Jesus died and rose for the whole world but to act on it by witnessing to all people, including those across the street, in our family, in the same aisle of the grocery store, and in the cubicle next to us. We can take seriously this Epiphany theme of “making Christ known” by focusing on Jesus’ way of witnessing.

This year, we will travel through Epiphany season in the book of Psalms with a series called, “God is Holding Your Life.”

Life is a series of exclamations from “O No!” to “Help!” to “Oh Yeah!” We can swing between disappointment, helplessness, and gratitude on a daily basis. There are also seasons of our lives

when we feel inundated with more of one than the others. As we enter the new year, we had hoped we would be past the “O No!” of the last several months. Instead, we find ourselves with ongoing prayers for “Help!”

The Book of Psalms knows all about this. Written over a span of time from exile and isolation to the rebuilding of the community, the poetry of the Psalms will accompany us in this series, reminding us that through it all, we can trust and even give our thankful “Oh Yeah!” because God is, indeed, holding our lives.

This series ends with Christ’s transfiguration and speaks of an active God whose light shines for all time and in all places. God is not silent, but calls the people to remember that they, too, can act on God’s behalf, holding all suffering peoples in hands of prayer and care and transforming the world that will shine bright into the future.

I pray that all of you have a blessed Epiphany season. I pray that we also “*become all things to all men*” (1 Cor 9:22) as we make Jesus known to our family members, our friends, neighbors, and our coworkers. May we join the shepherds on that first Christmas to glorify and praise God for all the things we have heard and seen (Lk 2:20). May it be so.

In Christ,  
*Pastor Lauren*





- for those needing healing and comfort
- for those members in assisted living and home bound
- for all who are sick with Covid-19, that they recover swiftly, and for all those who have lost loved ones.
- *for our military:* Derek Barnum, grandson of Pat Beaumont; John Johnson - deployed in the Middle East; Wyatt Hallstrom, grandson of Hank & Dolly Hallstrom; Jess Swanson, grandson of Jackie Swanson
- *for our missionaries:* Africa - Emily Dwyer, Deb & Rich Ried; Hungary - Richard & Martha Millhouse & family; Nicaragua - Belinda Forbes-Gutiérrez;

*If you would like to have a prayer request printed in the bulletin or newsletter, please inform the office. Remember, due to patient privacy, please get the permission from the person needing prayers to have their name printed.*

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## November 2020 Mission Giving

### DESIGNATED MISSION GIVING

Hubbard County Food Shelf	\$1,400.00
Mahube-Otwa	\$700.00
Wellspring	\$1,300.00
Living at Home	<u>\$700.00</u>
<b>Total for Designated Giving</b>	<b><u>\$4,100.00</u></b>

### MISSION COMMITTEE GIVING

<b>Total for Mission Committee Giving</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>
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<b><u>Total Missions Giving</u></b>	<b><u>\$4,100.00</u></b>
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# God's "Love Flows On" in Mission Giving

This has been a trying year, to say the least. However, God's love keeps flowing from the hearts of those at Hubbard United Methodist Church. Take a look at just some of the missions that you helped support this year:

God was in each of the nearly 300 Christmas cards that were delivered for the *Hubbard County Jail Ministry* – so thank you to all of you who brought cards and stamps and even calendars for this important ministry.

God was with us as we delivered \$400.00 worth of gift cards to the *Toys for Girls and Boys and Tiny Tots Program* which will, in turn, bless so many children... And that's just what was dropped off at our church! Others of you delivered your own gifts and gave money directly for this program as well!

Through your generous donations to *Pastoral Discretionary*, and in collaboration with other churches, God was with us as we were able to purchase clothing, help with food, gas and rent for several people in our community as they struggle to provide for themselves and for their families during this season...

God was with us as we continued to volunteer time and give monetarily to *Meals on Wheels*, so meals could be delivered to seniors allowing them to remain in their own homes, thus helping prevent the need for premature nursing home care or assisted living.

God was with you as gave generously to *UMCOR* in the amount of \$8,075.00, so that help and relief could be provided around the world to those in need.

God was with us as we were able to continue to support and give an additional \$500.00 to *Dr. Belinda Forbes*, a United Methodist Missionary working in Nicaragua with *Accion Medica Cristiana*. Dr. Forbes serves with AMC as International Liaison for Community Health.

God was with us as you again, generously gave \$1,236.80 to the *Just Love (Minneapolis)* program and another \$70 toward the annual *Love Offering*.

God was with us as we were able to help three mothers through the *Family Safety Network* here in Park Rapids, and you donated to *Living at Home*, *Mahube*, and the *Hubbard County Food Shelf* to the tune of over \$10,657.45, and we sent over \$11,000.00 in donations above and beyond our budgeted 10,000.00 to fulfill our commitment to *WellSpring*.

Some of you have been knitting and quilting and sewing... One person has been putting together care kits for the pregnancy center – kits filled with soaps and shampoos and lotions for mothers in need, and taking their grandchild with them to deliver these kits...

Another of you knitted prayer squares to be given out to those who are in need of knowing that God is with them, and that they will always have us with them as well as they hold onto this *pocket prayer square*...

And also, some of you received a beautiful, quilted bookmark in the mail from some unbelievably caring quilters.

Some of you answered the call to “*Go Light Your World*” on Facebook, sending cards to the Doctors and Nurses, and Essential Workers who are on the Front Lines of the Covid-19 pandemic... Others of you did some secret shopping, and still others of you offered to help anyone who needed someone to talk to over the holidays if they were all alone...

And this is just to name a few! You have spent this entire year, just being the Christmas Story – being Jesus - wherever you were. HUMC, this year you have given \$42,938.95 to help others in need. This is what being a follower of Christ looks like! You did it in big acts **as well as** the little acts of generosity and kindness. In a year where it seemed everything was turned upside-down due to the pandemic, protests, and politics, and you did not know how to **BE** the church anymore, you went from simply listening to the message, to becoming the messenger. To **BEING** the Word made flesh.

Friends, **THIS** is what it looks like to BE the Christmas story! Because of each of you, God’s “Love Flows On” for so many. Thank you. Thank you. Thank you.

In Christ,

Pastor Lauren

Below is a Christmas greeting (in part) we received from one of the missionaries that the Hubbard Church supports. Dr. Belinda Forbes is a United Methodist Missionary working in Nicaragua with Accion Medica Cristiana. Dr. Forbes serves with AMC as an International Liaison for Community Health.

*Hello Hubbard UMC,*

*With this email I am sending Christmas greetings to you and the Hubbard UMC congregation and my thanks for your ongoing support of me as your missionary, especially during this difficult year of the pandemic.*

*I have my giving list from 2020 and would like to acknowledge the annual support of \$2,500 to my missionary Advance 12109Z that was posted on May 20, 2020. Thank you for this support to keep missionaries sustained in our places of service, especially during this time when churches are challenged to meet their budget commitments.*

*If you have not seen it, here is the link for a Christmas Thank You from all the Global Ministries missionaries. I was part of the team that put it together and I feature in at least one photo. I hope there is still time for you to use it in worship or post it to the church website or link to a newsletter.*

*<https://vimeo.com/483629620>*

*If you are interested in other connections in mission, or hurricane response updates, much can be found on my blog site*

*[www.belindagbgm.blogspot.com](http://www.belindagbgm.blogspot.com)*

*May you all stay safe and healthy and may this Christmas bring you hope and possibility that comes to us once more in the Christ Child. Please extend my greetings to the rest of the Hubbard UMC congregation.*

*Grace and peace,*

*Belinda Forbes*

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*"God is not calling us just to survive and mark time until this pandemic is over. God is calling us to reimagine and relearn what it truly means to be a church that is life-giving and world-transforming."*

## A Little of This and That



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"Our hope is not in the new year, but in the One who makes all things new."

—Unknown

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"Ye know not what the Lord is working out of this, but ye shall know it hereafter."

—Samuel Rutherford

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"What a wonderful thought it is that some of the best days of our lives haven't even happened yet."

—Anne Frank

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"No one is useless in this world who lightens the burdens of another."

—Charles Dickens

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"Learn to light a candle in the darkest moments of someone's life. Be the light that helps others see."

—Roy T. Bennett



# Hubbard Women's News

We wish to THANK all who donated cards and postage for the Christmas Card Jail Ministry Project. We were able to present approximately 275 cards for the project.

We also want to Thank all who helped compile the Advent Books and the UMW Christmas letters that were sent out to all those listed in our HUMC Phone Directory this year.

We wish everyone a (hopefully) uneventful 2021 New Year.

Now here's a project for you to make and try! Delicious!!!

## Easy Quick Microwave Pear Cranberry Crisp

4 Bartlett Pears - Firm, peeled & slices	2 Tbs. Water
1/4 C. Old Fashioned Oats	1/2 C. Crushed Pecans
1/2 C. Dried Cranberries	2 Tbs. Melted Butter
1 Box Lemon Jello	1/2 C. Crushed Pecan Shortbread Cookies (Keebler's)

1. Combine in a large bowl, mix pears and cranberries. Sprinkle pear mixture with 1 whole box of Lemon Jell and 2 Tbs. of water. Stir to coat evenly.
2. Spoon mixture into a 8X8 microwave safe pan. No oil or flour needed.
3. Mix crushed cookies, pecans, oats and melted butter. Spoon over fruit.
4. Cook in microwave 16-18 minutes until top is light brown and bubbly (check every few minutes as each microwave cooks differently)
5. Enjoy!



## Testimonies of Being Held

Pastor Lauren is looking for Video, Audio and Written Testimonies of how have you felt “Held” over the past months. This is your opportunity to share how you have felt the love and support of others, of our congregation, and of God, during this time of Pandemic. Please email Pastor Lauren directly no later than January 12<sup>th</sup> to submit your testimony at: [pastorlaurenhauger@gmail.com](mailto:pastorlaurenhauger@gmail.com). And If you need help with a video, we can help you!

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## Send in Your Prayer Requests and Praises

We continue to be a community of believers, especially in this time of pandemic. Even though we are unable to join together for in-person worship and fellowship, we can still come together in other ways to encourage and pray for each other.

Remember, to let the HUMC office know if you have any prayer requests or praises that you would like known to the congregation. You can email them to Brenda in the church office at [hubbardumc@unitelc.com](mailto:hubbardumc@unitelc.com) or call the church office at 218-732-0224.

Every Friday, we send out an email with a weekly Prayer Guide that helps us to know how we can pray specifically for those in need. We will also forward those on to Deb Haagenson and Gail Manlove so they can alert those signed up for the email and phone Prayer Chains.

We would love to hear about your praises too. We need to be able to thank God for the good things that He brings us through and blesses us with.

As we are reminded from Philippians ~

*Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God.*

Philippians 4:6 ESV



If we missed your name on this list, please call the office so it can be corrected. Also, please let us know if you are celebrating a special birthday or anniversary and would like this included in our newsletter. We wish all of those celebrating in Birthdays Best Wishes!

### January Birthdays

Bob Boyd	4
Nash Selander	4
Mary Sue Skelton	8
Melvin Bolton	11
Cheryl Steinborn	14
Lauren Hauger	15
Carolyn Carter	16
Martha Tacker	16
Betty Barrett	18
Janet McMillen	19
Jennie Anderson	20
Janet Munson	21
John Davis	22
Don Balk	23
Edna Underwood	24
Lily Friedl	27
Robyn Wimmer	30

### February Birthdays

Lynne Boulden	1
Ed Poitras	1
Pat Tanner	2
Brent Selander	2
Day-Ana Fietek	3
Cecilia Taggart	4
Renee Manlove	6
Tom Good	7
Boo Groth	7
Tonya Bolton	8
Terry Greenawalt	9
Avryl Thornton	13
Dick Boehmer	14
William Brunsdale	17
Jenny Seaton	19
Jim Vogt	20
Donald Saunders	23
Phoebe Anderson	24
Eileen Bolton	28



### January Anniversaries

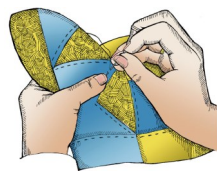
Bill & MarySue Skelton	14
Jim & Nancy Vogt	31

### February Anniversaries

Bob & Julie Smith	2
John & Evelyn Davis	5
Dan & Cheryl Howland	14



## Care And Comfort



Threads of Love

### **All We Had To Do Was Ask!**

*For we are God's handiwork,  
created in Christ Jesus to do good works which  
God has prepared in advance for us to do. Ephesians 2:10*

In early December the Threads of Love Quilters received word that there were no more hand-knit Prayer Squares to give to those in need of care and comfort!. All of the small, colorful knit squares had been distributed, along with this enclosed prayer:

*"When you feel lonely or need comfort,  
reach for me in your pocket.  
There are prayers knit in every stitch for comfort,  
encouragement,  
love and hope for your safety and well being.  
You are not alone – God and our prayers are with you always."*

What to do! The quilters, along with almost everyone else at HUMC, were hunkered down, sheltering in place, following the rules to help contain the spread of the dreaded COVID-19 virus.

What to do! Well, what about an email alert? Knitters needed!

Yes! A message was quickly sent to the HUMC quilters, who up until March 2020, met every Tuesday in the Fellowship Hall to design, cut, sew and tie quilts of all colors and sizes, or to cut and tie warm fleece blankets.

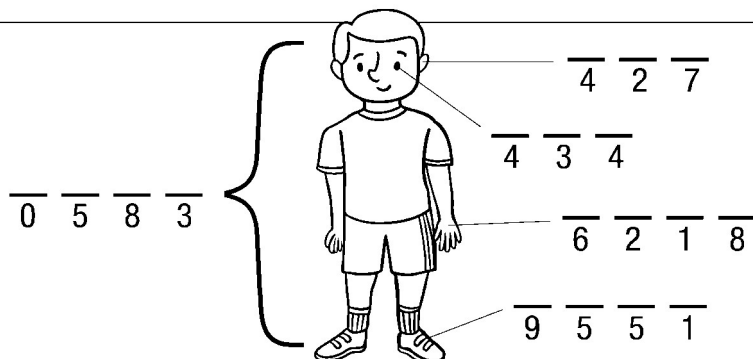
Within a week, prayer squares began arriving in the mail or dropped off at the church door. Thank you quilters for your "good works." All we had to do was ask!



# WORKING IN UNISON

Just as body parts work in unison, the church – the body of Christ – is to work together for God’s purposes.

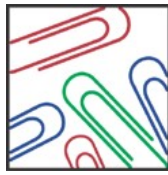
*Directions: Fill in the letters for each body part. Add up each part's number total, and use those totals to complete the Bible passage.*



Now if the \_\_\_\_\_ should say, “Because I am not a \_\_\_\_\_, I do not belong to the \_\_\_\_\_,” ... And if the \_\_\_\_\_ should say, “Because I am not an \_\_\_\_\_, I do not belong to the \_\_\_\_\_,” it would not for that reason stop being part of the \_\_\_\_\_. If the whole \_\_\_\_\_ were an \_\_\_\_\_, where would the sense of hearing be? If the whole \_\_\_\_\_ were an \_\_\_\_\_, where would the sense of smell be? ... As it is, there are many parts, but one \_\_\_\_\_.

1 CORINTHIANS 12:15-17, 20, NIV

Answer: body = 16, eye = 11, ear = 13, hand = 17, foot = 20



## FROM THE CHURCH OFFICE

### Church has been Rekeyed

For those who have keys to the Hubbard Church, we wanted you to be aware that new locks have been installed throughout the whole church building. At this time, only staff and committee chairpersons will be assigned keys. If you have questions, please contact Brenda in the office at 732-0224.

Due to Governor Tim Walz's continued Executive Orders due to Covid-19, the Hubbard United Methodist Church will continue to be closed to "In Person" services and fellowship **Until Further Notice.** Pastor Lauren and Brenda are in the church office during regular office hours, Tuesday - Friday from 8:30am - 1:00pm

Please remember that the deadline for submitting information for the next month's newsletter is the **18th of the Month.** The next issue will be for **February**, so all information needs to be in by **January 18th!**



Volunteers from Hubbard United Methodist Church deliver Meals on Wheels to Park Rapids residents once every 5 weeks. This month, delivery will take place **January 11-15.** If you are interested in becoming a delivery person for this rewarding activity, please contact Steve Hill at 218-252-8895. "Thank You" to our many dedicated volunteers.

### Make a Difference in Your Life and the Lives of Others!



Hubbard UMC has a Telephone Prayer Chain and an Email Prayer Chain. You can pray any time, anywhere, in your own way. Joining our prayers together can really make a difference in many lives.

If you have questions or are interested in the email prayer chain contact: Deb Haagenson at [debhaagenson@catholichealth.net](mailto:debhaagenson@catholichealth.net) and for the phone prayer chain call Gail Manlove at 218-366-5458.



## COVID-19 Vaccines

There are currently two authorized and recommended vaccines to prevent COVID being distributed in the United States. Here are some things you need to know about the new vaccines:

- The safety of the vaccine has been a top priority throughout the development and deployment of the vaccines. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has developed a tool, called v-safe, to rapidly detect any safety issues with the vaccine.
- Vaccination will help protect you from getting COVID-19. Two doses are needed (either 3 or 4 weeks apart, depending on the specific vaccine you get).
- The vaccine cannot give you COVID-19. The vaccines do not use the live virus that causes COVID-19.
- The CDC is making recommendations for who should be offered the COVID vaccine first during the initial phases when vaccine supply is limited (see below).
- After vaccination, you may have some side effects. This is a normal sign that your body is building protection. The side effects may feel like the flu but should go away in a few days.
- Vaccine doses purchased with U.S. taxpayer dollars will be given to the American people at no cost. However, vaccination providers may charge administrative fees for giving the shot.
- The first two COVID vaccines are being used under an Emergency Use Authorization (EUA) from the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA). Other vaccines are still being developed and tested.
- COVID vaccines are one of many important tools to help stop this pandemic. It is important for everyone to continue with all the safety tools we have been using, including masking when around others, staying at least 6 feet away from others, avoiding crowds, and washing your hands often.

## Recommendations for Who Gets Vaccinated First

Because the supply was expected to be limited at first, the CDC provided recommendations about who should be vaccinated first. The recommendations are based on recommendations from the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP), an independent panel of medical and public health experts.

The CDC recommendations for allocating vaccine are as follows:

Phase 1a	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Healthcare personnel</li><li>• Residents of long-term care facilities</li></ul>
Phase 1b	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Frontline essential workers <i>(firefighters, police officers, corrections officers, food and agricultural workers, US Postal Service workers, manufacturing workers, grocery store workers, public transit workers, education sector workers, e.g., teachers, support staff, daycare workers)</i></li><li>• People aged 75 years and older</li></ul>
Phase 1c	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• People aged 65 – 74 years</li><li>• People aged 16 – 64 with underlying medical conditions</li><li>• Other essential workers <i>(people who work in transportation and logistics, food service, housing construction and finance, information technology, communications, energy, law media, public safety, and public health)</i></li></ul>

As vaccine availability increases, vaccination recommendations will expand to include more groups. The goal is for everyone to be able to easily get a COVID-19 vaccination as soon as large quantities of vaccine are available.

## Living with the Pandemic: Minnesota and Hubbard County COVID-19 Activity

- The 7-day rolling average of the percentage of tests that are positive in Minnesota is 5.2%. (The 7-day positivity rate was

11% at the end of November and as high as 15% in mid-November.)

- While case counts have slowed in December, Minnesota has reached two grim milestones this month. We now have had more than 400,000 positive COVID cases in our state and more than 5000 COVID deaths.
- Case counts have slowed in December in Hubbard County. Through December 29 we have seen 170 new cases in December, compared to 408 in October and 650 in November. The total number of COVID cases experienced in Hubbard County through December 29 are 1,366 and the total number of deaths is 37.
- The 14-day test positivity rate for Hubbard County is at 10%. (This is down from a positivity rate of 24% at the end of November.)
- The current 14-day case count per 10,000 residents in Hubbard County is 60. This is the number school districts consider when making decisions about education delivery models. (The 14-day case rate per 10,000 was 168 at the end of November.)
- COVID-19 vaccine administration for healthcare workers in Hubbard County began the week of December 21.

Happy New Year...stay safe everyone!

Deb Haagenson

HUMC Parish Nurse

Sources for the above information plus additional resources include:

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/index.html>

For information about how the mRNA COVID-19 Vaccines work visit:

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/different-vaccines/mrna.html>