

Northern Voice Newsletter

Winter 2022

God Meets Us in the Reality

Not long ago I was talking with my professor who said, “God meets us in the reality, not elsewhere.” Reality is often messy. It is reassuring to know that God meets us there. How could it be otherwise? Our Creator God, who gave us life, knows us – knows everything about us. “O Lord, you have searched me and known me! You know when I sit down and when I rise up; you discern my thoughts from afar. You search out my path and my lying down and are acquainted with all my ways. Even before a word is on my tongue, behold, O Lord, you know it altogether” (Psalm 139:1-4).

As we turn the calendar to 2022, we can only ponder what lies before us. The new year will include expected and unexpected joys, blessings, sorrows, challenges, and uncertainties. We cannot change the reality of what is to come, but we can control how it is that we encounter these significant life events, beginning with prayer.

I have been struck by both the simplicity and the beauty of prayer. Anne Lamott shares this: “Here are the two best prayers I know: ‘Help me, help me, help me’ and ‘Thank you, thank you, thank you.’”

In Luke 11, one of Jesus’ disciples approaches and makes a simple request: “Lord, teach us to pray, just as John [the Baptist] taught his disciples” (v.1) In response, Jesus teaches the disciples what has become known as the “Our Father” or the “Lord’s Prayer” (we will explore this further during Lent). I lie down and sleep; I wake again, for the Lord sustains me. (Psalm 3:5)

As the calendar year closes and a new one begins, let’s think about our sleeping and our waking. How many full and peaceful night’s sleep did you have? How many mornings did you wake up feeling rested and glad to be alive? How many nights were spent awake, fretting over something?

(continued ...)

How many mornings started out with a feeling of dread or annoyance? How many of your nights are wasted on things you have no control over? How many of your mornings are spent frustrated and harried? Each day is a gift from God! ... and life is too short! What can we stop or change to make our sleeping and waking better this year?

May we remember in the darkest of nights and in the harshest of mornings, that the Lord sustains us. And may we remember to start and end the day with prayer, even if it's simply, "Lord, help me, help me, help me," in the morning, and "Lord, thank you, thank you, thank you" at night, because it's there, in our heartfelt prayers, that God meets us, and blesses us, and nourishes us. God's peace be with you in this new year,

Pastor Lauren



Merry Christmas! The choir is still "on pause" as we wait for the go ahead to sing for you again. We miss providing anthems, especially this time of year. We appreciate the extra effort Terry puts in to make Sundays full of music that stirs our souls. Doug on soprano sax adds "the icing on the cake" on the Sundays he plays!

We are planning on dedicating Sunday, January 9th to a "Hymn Sing" Sunday. We will sing some of our all-time favorite hymns, including our favorite Christmas hymns!

But, we need your help!

Between now and 1/2/22, email 2-3 of your favorite hymns to the church office - hubbardumc@unitelc.com - and we will poll the top favorites to sing on January 9th.

May the joy of Christmas be with you and yours!
Jennie Anderson





October 2021 Mission Giving

DESIGNATED MISSION GIVING

UMCOR	\$650.00
Pastor's Discretionary	<u>\$1100.00</u>
Total for Designated Giving	\$1750.00

MISSION COMMITTEE GIVING

Total for Mission Committee Giving	\$0.00
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<u>Total Missions Giving</u>	<u>\$1750.00</u>
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November 2021 Mission Giving

DESIGNATED MISSION GIVING

Toys for Girls, Boys & Tiny Tots	\$150.00
Meals on Wheels	\$415.00
Wellspring	\$2500.00
Pastor's Discretionary	<u>\$535.00</u>
Total for Designated Giving	\$3600.00

MISSION COMMITTEE GIVING

Toys for Girls, Boys & Tiny Tots	\$935.00
UMCOR Project Boxes	<u>\$129.61</u>
Total for Mission Committee Giving	\$1064.61

<u>Total Missions Giving</u>	<u>\$4,664.61</u>
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2021 UMCOR *Year in Review*

The United Methodist Committee on Relief answered many appeals for assistance in 2021. What follows are some key responses and a few of the major grants awarded this year to help alleviate suffering around the world.

By Christie R. House

December 08, 2021 | ATLANTA

In 2021, the United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) provided a caring presence and humanitarian aid for people impacted by severe weather, earthquakes and volcanoes, COVID-19 lockdowns, political unrest and armed conflicts. It also provided shelter, comfort and at times solutions for refugees, asylum seekers and other migrants along their journeys. UMCOR was born in the throes of World War II and, by God's grace, United Methodists continue to support UMCOR today in response to many complicated disasters that severely affect individuals, families and communities.

Haiti earthquake and tropical storm relief

The 7.2 magnitude earthquake that struck Haiti on August 14, 2021, required both immediate relief and long-term recovery planning. The death toll was estimated at 2,200, while more than 12,200 people were injured, that 40% of Haiti's total population still needs humanitarian assistance. The situation was exacerbated by Tropical Storm Grace, which struck the island two days later.

UMCOR has responded by coordinating efforts with ecumenical partners and various programs of Global Ministries, such as Global Health. Immediately following the quake, grants for emergency medical supplies to the Église Méthodiste d'Haiti (Methodist Church in Haiti) for two medical clinics and to Service Chrétien d'Haiti for the Les Cayes General Hospital were awarded. In addition, UMCOR partnered with ACT Alliance, of Geneva, Switzerland, and the Community Coalition of Haiti to meet basic humanitarian needs with cash assistance for families, food, hygiene, health, shelter, protection and livelihoods support.

A grant of nearly \$100,000 to the Methodist Church of Haiti will support a mobile clinic and a water purification project, helping to fill a gap left by the loss and damage of health facilities. This grant is funded significantly with a gift from First United Methodist Church in Roanoke Rapids, North Carolina, in memory of the Rev. Sam Dixon, the former head of UMCOR and a former pastor of First UMC. Dixon perished in the 2010 Haiti earthquake along with another Global Ministries' colleague, the Rev. Clint Rabb. The gift from First UMC was matched by UMCOR.

Afghanistan and Afghan refugee resettlement



(PHOTO: IBC)

A second major response for UMCOR in 2021 requiring multiple strategies and partners has been the unrest and uncertainty in Afghanistan as well as the evacuation of Afghans following the U.S. military withdrawal there. UMCOR is working with long-standing partners to provide humanitarian relief in Afghanistan. Grants are supporting displaced families in the Kabul, Kunduz and Mazar-i-Sharif areas. UMCOR's grant with the International Blue Crescent assisted their deliveries of relief boxes to displaced families in Afghanistan. In the U.S., UMCOR is urging congregations to partner with Church World Service (CWS) to resettle Afghan refugees.

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United Methodist churches can apply to UMCOR for up to \$1,000 in reimbursement for costs associated with resettling families. CWS is one of nine resettlement agencies approved by the U.S. Department of State.

Relief and recovery efforts in the U.S.

In the United States, hurricane season has passed, and while most storms remained at sea, a few made landfall year. UMCOR's U.S. Disaster Response office connected this with several different conferences in the path of Hurricane Ida and earlier in the season with conferences affected by hurricanes Henri and Fred.

The California-Nevada and Oregon-Idaho conferences received grants, technical assistance and training for to the 2021 Dixie and Bootleg fires. It can take years, particularly for communities hard-hit, like Paradise, CA, In 2018, to recover and rebuild after fire.

The Pacific North West Conference received a grant in November 2020 to begin a recovery program for the Okanogan County fire in Washington state, which includes the Colville Reservation. In 2021, UMCOR continued accompaniment with the Pacific NW Conference with an additional fire recovery grant to help coordinate volunteer teams assisting at least 53 households with repair and reconstruction.

The Michigan Conference received a recovery grant to follow up with last year's Great Lakes Bay flooding, working under Michigan state's Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) disaster case management project. An earlier grant helped to fund the conference's case management program with other partners. This grant will help the conference rebuild homes and provide disaster case management for families not yet fully recovered.

(continued...)

Emergency funds also aided the Texas, Central Texas and North Texas disaster response efforts after the winter storm and flash snow event that disrupted the state's infrastructure.

The Rio Texas Conference received a grant for an April hailstorm that damaged the entire town of D'Hanis, and the Texas Conference received additional relief funds to continue plumbing repairs in homes and churches severely affected by the winter storms.



Please Pray ~

- *for healing and comfort:* Joan, Chuck, Terry, Karl, Linda, Betty, Jen, Joan, Hope & Brian, Arlene, Lois (consult weekly prayer guide for details)
- *for those members in assisted living and home-bound:* Vida Hume, Jackie Swanson, Bill Zigmant, Betty Porter
- *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, John, Jess
- *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.***

**Consider joining one of our Prayer Chains- either email, telephone or both! You can pray any time, anywhere, in your own way. Joining our prayers together can really make a difference in many lives. Call the office for details...
218-732-0224**



Hubbard Women's News

Boy!!! NEW-NEW-NEW-around the corner -- New Year-New Thanks-New Jobs-New HOPES-New (hopefully) Health to all here locally and abroad.

A SPECIAL THANK YOU to all who contributed the stamped Christmas cards for our Jail Ministry Project. We have now topped the 200 mark (a little less than 2020 but OK.) Katy Grisamore will be picking them up and delivering her magic at the jail again. In advance she and the inmates really appreciate your effort to help. This is the only means they have of contacting family or friends at Christmas time. Many do have children also. Again, Thank You!

The UMC is taking a breather for the months of Jan. and Feb. 2022. Our next meeting will be held on Wed., Mar. 2, 2022, at 1 pm in the music room. Plan on attending for a re-organization of officers. Also, ideas for new mission projects will be discussed (making those dollars and cents count.)

Lastly, be GOOD to YOURSELF and remember --- No one is alone – God is always behind you in whatever you do or wherever you are.

HAPPY HOLIDAYS TO ALL!!!

Hubbard United Methodist
Women





Save the Dates!
Save the Dates!
6-week Women's Bible Study -
1/10/22 - 2/16/22

Monday's at 1pm: January 10, 17,
24, 31; February 7, 14
Wednesday's at 7pm: January 12,
19, 26; February 2, 9, 16

Sign up in the Welcome Area or call the office (Space is Limited)

Set Apart: The Holy Habits of Prophets and Kings

Set Apart is a dynamic study of 1 and 2 Kings that examines the holy habits of the prophets and kings who were set apart by their close walk with God. Each week we will explore the central story of one of these intriguing men of God and the specific practice each observed, as well as what the Bible teaches about this practice. Each of these characters was trying to follow God while carrying out his calling on earth. As we consider their example, we will discover that even prophets and kings struggled and grew in their faith through spiritual practices, and we will learn how to follow God's unique purposes for us.

Session One: Solomon / Being Consecrated

1 Kings 1,3,8,10-11

Session Two: Elijah / Listening

1 Kings 17,18,19

Session Three: Elijah and Elisha / Mentoring

1 Kings 19, 2 Kings 2-3,6-9, 13

Session Four: Elisha and Naaman / Practicing Humility

2 Kings 5

Session Five: Hezekiah / Worshiping God

2 Kings 18

Session Six: Josiah / Discovering God's Word



Birthdays and Anniversaries

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

February Birthdays

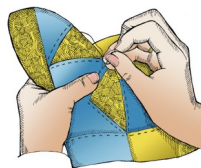
Dick Boehmer	14
William Brunsdale	17
Jenny Seaton	19
Jim Vogt	20
Donald Saunders	23
Phoebe Anderson	24
Eileen Bolton	28

March Birthdays

Tom Stetzler	1
Hank Hallstrom	2
Shirley Green	5
Jackie Lundstrom	9
Beth Daugherty	11
Mary Claire Hansen	11
Bob Roman	12
Ken Manlove	18
Chuck Daugherty	15
Jill Eisele	17
Jack Derr	18
Oliver Manlove	18
Peggy Novak	21
Joanne Torfin	23
Blake Daugherty	24
Andrea Otto	25
Tom Carew	28
Jeff Hauger	30
Dick Lundstrom	31



Care And Comfort



Threads of Love

We Will MEET Again!

It seems like forever, but the Threads of Love Quilters will meet again, as soon as it is safe to do so. In the meantime, we continue to fulfill our mission by distributing quilts, fleece blankets or prayer shawls to those in need of care and comfort. Many of you have continued to sew, quilt, tie or knit at home, and for that we say "Thank You."

The poem below is a reminder of our times together! We will MEET again!

LET'S TALK!

Many things are discussed on our list,
And quilting is only one.
With friends we've made we want to talk
About everything under the sun.
So it's not just our quilts we write about
But the rest of our world as well --
Our families, big things that happen,
Little things that are fun to tell.
Here's a place to let off a little steam
About things that have not gone right,
To celebrate our triumphs,
To sympathize with another's plight.
Oh sure -- the quilt topics are important --
Information and explanations abound,
But it's the feeling of belonging and friendship
That keeps us all coming round.

Winter Anniversaries:

Bill & MarySue Skelton	1/14
Jim & Nancy Vogt	1/31
Bob & Julie Smith	2/2
John & Evelyn Davis	2/5
Tack & Martha Tacker	3/18

Worship Service Attendance:

We are now counting attendance in two ways. As usual we note the number who are in-person on Sunday morning. Then later in the week we check the number of "views" online. These numbers are added together to give us a more accurate count. Keep in mind that often there are 2 or more people watching together online and the number of views, increases all week. We feel so blessed to be able to offer this option during a challenging time!

Average Attendance from Nov.1- Dec.19th (excluding Thanksgiving, Storm Day & Blue Christmas) = 88



Lighting the Way for Others

When Ida Nelson, head tribal clerk of a remote Alaskan village, Igiugig, (Igg-gy-yaw-gigg), heard an airplane flying low

after dark, she knew something was wrong. Indeed, the medevac flight was coming to pick up a sick child.

Because the local airstrip's lights had been vandalized, the plane was having trouble landing. Nelson began alerting neighbors and within minutes, villagers lined the runway with their vehicles, headlights blazing. The pilot was able to land and then safely deliver the sick child to an Anchorage hospital. The airlift service praised the resident's determination, but Nelson describes their effort as "normal" and "ordinary."

What everyday actions can you use to provide light amid darkness? How can you shine Jesus' light in a world that needs him?



The church office is always looking for volunteers to help with mailings and phone answering, etc. First, let me say a great big *thank you* to those who have already given their time! Thank you also for your understanding during this time of transition~ Sue

This Northern Voice Newsletter, (the 2022 *Winter Issue*) will be the last newsletter until April. If you have information that you would like conveyed to the congregation, please contact the church office and we will send it in the weekly email.



Volunteers from HUMC deliver Meals on Wheels to Park Rapids residents once every 5 weeks. Our winter dates are as follows: Jan.31-Feb.4 & Mar. 7-11.If you are interested in becoming a delivery person for this rewarding activity, please contact Arnie Kuhn at 701-730-3667 or arniekuhn46@gmail.com.

"Thank You" to our many dedicated volunteers.

That Verse by Pastor Lauren

The idea of being “knit together in love” creates an image of warmth and comfort, doesn’t it? These words from the apostle Paul to the church in Colossae were issued when he was absent from them, and they really needed encouragement and guidance. Each word Paul crafted was hewn in a way that would provide nurture, understanding, and a stronger, more united Christian community.

The message was intentional and strategic, based in the witness of Christ Jesus. Just as the structure of Paul’s ancient rhetorical style bound the young Christian church together so that it would grow stronger and flourish, I am reminded of the sequences of stitches that are lovingly and prayerfully secured when parishioners knit prayer shawls, create quilts, and fashion tie blankets for Hubbard Church’s members in times of need, illness, or change. Grief and hardship are lonely spaces, and this ministry becomes a source of reassurance and knowledge of God’s love, even though we may feel far from our gracious God’s reach at times.

There is such a beautiful process in making these soft and strong creations: People of the church often donate various yarns and materials, and all are welcome to help in the ministry whether you can stitch or sew or not. Supplies are provided along with instruction for those who want to learn. Volunteers work from home or when able, gather at church to visit, create, and pray together. The process can take weeks to months, depending on the complexity of the stitch, pattern, and size of the project as well as the speed of the creator.

Each person works at a different pace but completes a gift of love that connects Hubbard Church with those who need us most. Beyond the visual beauty of each piece, much prayer goes into their warmth and comfort. With each

repetitive stitch and knot, is an invitation to pray for the future recipient. I envision the physical rhythm of stitching and tying becomes an opening to “breath prayers,” such as “Come Holy Spirit.”

I imagine a pattern with three-stitch repetition can even be a way to focus on the Trinity—God as Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Whichever prayers the creator chooses, they help keep the hands moving while offering a sense of stillness in mind and heart.

The final result, a gift to someone in need, ultimately becomes an extended conversation of presence between God and the creator—which is also a gift of deepened faith.

In the past year, our families and friends have sustained hard losses. Loved ones have been ill. Some recovered. Others have died. Prayer shawls for those grieving or those who are about to enter a time of transition in life create a sense of warmth and reassurance, regardless of the outcome.

One parishioner spoke of a prayer blanket her spouse received during his recovery, and as a caregiver, she was able to sleep for the first time in weeks, wrapping herself up in it as a mantle of prayerful protection. Another person in our community received a prayer blanket as she entered her final days of life. It was a source of comfort for her family as they entered that transitional time. At HUMC, we are a community knit together in God’s love, focusing our eyes upon the works of Jesus, and filled with the Holy Spirit.

If you are looking for a creative, prayerful endeavor, consider joining the “Threads of Love” ministry.



If you know of someone who could be strengthened by the prayers of our volunteers and a tangible token of encouragement and God’s love, please contact Sue Harmon, Joy Derr or Pastor Lauren.



Tribute to Marj Nordstrom

Marj passed away on Tuesday, Dec. 21st, 2021.
She graced HUMC for many years with her musical talents, wonderful sense of humor and infectious smile. If you would like to send a card:

Fred Nordstrom
1343 Pelican Road
Sanibel, FL 33957