



# MALTA UNITED



## Methodist Church December 2020

### PASTOR JEREMIAH'S MESSAGE

I admit 2020 has been a brutal year in some ways. Covid-19, the lives lost, the economic disruption, the disruption in our day to day lives, these things have got me down. Also, the social divisions in society based on Democrat or Republican, MAGA or anti-Trump, rural and urban, between people of different faiths, or ethnicities, or different education levels, these also get me down. Between Covid and its effects, and the divisions between people in our society, shoot, between people perhaps in our own families, it's a hard time.

Even so, I am excited, happy, and joyful that we have reached the Advent season. The 4 weeks before Christmas as we prepare to celebrate the birth of our Teacher, Savior, and Hope, Jesus Christ. The stories of Advent, of the prophecies understood to point to Jesus, of Mary and Joseph, Jesus' parents and their cousins, Zacharia, Elizabeth and John. These are some of the passages of the bible I know best and which always inspire me no matter how often I read them. The songs of the Advent and Christmas season, songs of love and songs of hope for a better world through Jesus Christ, I love them. For me, this time in the church year is probably the most inspiring. Remembering all the possibilities that Christ brought, just as every baby born is full of possibilities for their life. Despite the very real problems the US, and the world face, I have hope, and much of that stems from the fact that I believe the child born in Bethlehem more than 2000 years ago helped to change all existence for all time.

So this Advent, I invite you to please dig into the scriptures and think about the stories of Jesus'

birth. I invite you to join us for our Advent Study on Wednesday Nights, from the 2-23<sup>rd</sup> of December, as we look at these wonderful words together. I invite you to worship with us each week on Zoom, or to watch the worship videos on Facebook or YouTube as we use the old familiar Carol We Three Kings, as a way to think about who Jesus is and what he came to do. I invite you to participate in our Christmas Eve service, as we will, in a safe and socially distant way, hear the lessons about Jesus again, and sing the old familiar carols. I urge you and your household to spend this holiday season focused on what "Christmas is all about," Jesus and Jesus coming to change everything for the better. Finally in this season of giving, I pray you will help someone in some way however you can with your time, your talents, or your material blessings, let us share what it is we have this year.

Christmas is coming, it will be different than many a Christmas before. But it is coming with words of hope and joy and Good News from God. Let us prepare to welcome the Christ Child once more. Amen!!!

Blessings & Peace,  
Pastor Jeremiah

**NO PRAYER MEETING TONIGHT- NOV 25<sup>th</sup>**



**Thank you so much Tom & Nancy Plote, Frank Jouris, and Mary Lynn McArtor** for setting up the Nativity in front of our church. It looks great!



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**Our condolences to Sandy, and the  
Ralph Schafer Family on the passing of  
Ralph in November.  
A graveside service was held for the  
family / per Ralph's request.**

### COVID 19 UPDATE:

All 11 regions of IL will move into Tier 3 as of November 20, 2020. New mitigation to combat the surge of Covid across Illinois: Wear Mask & 6ft Social Distancing still in effect. Twenty Five % capacity – retail, personal care services, health & fitness, and hotels. No dining in or bar service, no indoor classes, events or meetings.

Hotline: 1 (800) 889-3931

Questions: [COVID19@dekalbcounty.org](mailto:COVID19@dekalbcounty.org)



### Upper Room Devotionals

are available. I can mail one to you  
Just call the church office at  
(815) 825-2118 or text Pastor Jeremiah at  
[castiger1@gmail.com](mailto:castiger1@gmail.com) and let him know.



### FALL ROAST BEEF DINNER/Drive Thru FOLLOW-UP

Thank you to everyone who had a hand in making our 2020 "Drive Thru" Roast Beef Dinner a wonderful event and a  
**HUGE SUCCESS!**

Many thanks go to all who helped sell tickets, organize the event, recruit helpers, those who prepared the delicious food, promote the event, prepared the meals, took tickets, delivered dinners, clean up, and so much more.

And also, a **BIG THANK YOU** to all who donated to make our event a

**100% PROFIT** this year;

**JONAMAC ORCHARD, JAMIE & LARISA WILLRETT,  
JODI SLADE, AND  
BRIAN & JACQUE FUCILLA.**

### 513 MEALS SERVED:

Tickets Sales:	\$8340
Donations:	357
Left Over Sales:	135
Extra Bake Sale donations mailed in:	90

**\$8922 PROFIT**



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### ANNUAL CHURCH CONFERENCE

**Thursday, December 10<sup>th</sup>**  
**at 7:00 p.m. SPRC 6:30 p.m.**

As with so much this year, our Annual Church Conference will be different due to the Covid-19 pandemic. We will be meeting via Zoom on Thursday, December 10<sup>th</sup>, at 7:00 PM. We will be approving our church budget, electing people to leadership positions for the next year, and talking about our church and where and how God is asking us to be the church in these unprecedented times. We will be led by our District Superintendent, Rev. Brian Gilbert. Anyone who is a member of the congregation is invited to be part of the conference with vote, and anyone (member or not) can listen in and be part of the conversation. I hope you mark your calendars to join us. The Zoom link will be emailed out to everyone prior to the meetings. Church Conference booklets are available. Let Pastor Jeremiah know, if you want one.

**It is NOT just a meeting consisting of many reports – it is a CELEBRATION of your church and its HOPE of accomplishments for the future.**

### Hub Cluster Christmas Carol Cruise



All 10 of the United Methodist congregations that make up the "Hub Cluster," these churches in and around Rochelle, are cooperating for a fun event

this Advent Season. Each church has picked a Christmas Carol, and made a devotional connected to it. If you drive by one of these churches (including ours very soon) you will see a large white sign with one of the Christmas Carols printed on it. Each sign will, in the upper right corner, have what is called a QR code (not sure what that stands for), and if you hold up a smart phone over that code as though to take a picture it will link you to the video reflection and a recording of the song. The carols have much to teach us about Christmas, and I know for me these sacred songs are some of my favorite parts of the Advent and Christmas season.

Now I also know that not everyone will want to drive around and visit all 10 churches, and some of you can't visit any of the churches. Luckily, these mediations and the music is available in other ways. If you go to YouTube.com and search for Hub Cluster, you can find our cluster YouTube channel and each video is there. You can go to our cluster web page here: <http://umchub.org/christmas/> Also we have a few DVDs so that a person could watch and listen at home, or finally we have the mediations and music on CDs if you'd like to listen to them that way.

I invite you to be part of "Christmas Carol Cruise." I pray these beautiful songs speak to your heart, and the mediations help you see aspects of the Christmas Story in new ways. Let us celebrate and sing praises to God together!







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### MALTA /AREA MILITARY MEN AND WOMEN CURRENTLY SERVING OUR COUNTRY

Almburg, Brett  
 Bakken, Benjamin P.  
 Bakken, Monique  
 Barclay, Kendra  
 Builta, Andy  
 Clark, Ben  
 Clark, Kerry  
 Howe, Chase  
 Hoyle, Steve  
 Brett Johnson & Mrs.  
 Samantha Johnson  
 Madsen, Jeff

Nelson, Michael  
 Norman, Jacob  
 Page, Greg  
 Peterson, Eric  
 Ritter, Matt  
 Swink, Ashley  
 West, Jonathon M.  
 West, Lawrence R.  
 Wilson, Kim  
 Woodyatt, John M.  
 Yedinak, Pete



## COOKIE WALK CANCELLED



Due to health and safety concerns caused by COVID 19, the **Cookie Walk for 2020 has been cancelled.** We hope and pray we will be able to have our usual beautiful cookies for sale in 2021.

If anyone would like to donate to our Christmas Cheer fund in lieu of baking or buying cookies, it would be greatly appreciated. We would still like to buy Gift Cards to put in the Malta Lions Club Cheer Boxes. The Gift Cards are always in a separate card, signed from "Friends at Malta United Methodist Church."

Please make your check to Malta UMC and mark it "Cookie Walk." Mail it to Larry Vint, Financial Secretary, 2711 Greenwood Acres Dr., DeKalb, IL 60115. Money should be in by Dec. 12, 2020.





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### THE UNITED METHODIST CELEBRATING

**"GIVING TUESDAY" ON DECEMBER 1<sup>ST</sup>**

Giving Tuesday — Dec. 1 this year — affords us an opportunity to help those we may not even know and make a difference in their lives.

Now in its fourth year, Giving Tuesday is celebrated in the United States on the first Tuesday after Thanksgiving, encouraging participants to give back in impactful ways to the charities and causes they support.

In 2014, more than \$2.5 million was donated online to mission and ministries through The Advance on UMC #GivingTuesday. More than 770 projects and missionaries received more than 8,700 gifts. The response was global, with donors from 25 countries taking part. It brought thousands of United Methodists together on one day to transform the world.

This year, several United Methodist agencies and ministries are participating in Giving Tuesday, offering United Methodists a variety of ways to contribute online to ministry. Here is a list of some opportunities to contribute through the denomination:

- The United Methodist Board of Higher Education and Ministry welcomes [contributions to the scholarship funds it administers](#).
- United Methodist Communications welcomes gifts to [communication and information technology for international development](#).
- Imagine No Malaria welcomes [donations to help it reach its goal](#) of raising \$75 million to combat malaria. Recently, the initiative announced it had reached 90 percent of its

goal. Imagine No Malaria offers [resources](#) that can be shared with

- The United Methodist Board of Discipleship welcomes donations to [E-readers for theological education in Africa, Ebola prevention resources and the Wesley Pilgrimage](#).
- The United Methodist Board of Global Ministries welcomes giving [to missionaries and the denomination's Advance designated-giving projects](#). Global Ministries will allocate matching funds up to the first \$1 million in gifts to Advance projects received online from midnight to 11:59 p.m. CST.
- The Society of St. Andrew welcomes gifts to its hunger ministry and will match every dollar donated with 10 pounds of potatoes, pledged by the ministry's generous farmers. [EndHunger.org](#)



**Next meeting of Church Council is  
Monday, December 7<sup>th</sup> on Zoom.  
They meet every other month.**

#### **CHURCH COUNCIL TEAM:**

**Pastor Jeremiah Thompson**

**Church Council Chair: Ed Cheek**

**Secretary of CC: Sue Augustine**

**Church Finance: Bill Augustine**

**Church Financial Secretary: Larry Vint/Nancy Plote**

**Church Treasure: Kevin McArtor**

**Lay Leader Delegate: Jodi Slade**

**Alternate Lay Delegate: Mary Lynn McArtor**

**Church Education: Kitty Jouris**

**Ruth Hueber**



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### **Malta UMC Lay Leadership**

**Church Council Chair: Ed Cheek**

**Board of Trustees Chair: Tom Plote**

**Committee of Finance & Stewardship Chair:**

**Bill Augustlne**

**Staff Pastor & Parish Relations Chair:**

**Marcia Hueber**

**Worship Ministries Chair: Jodi Slade**

**Mission & Outreach Chair: Mary Lynn McArtor**

**Christian Education Chair: Kitty Jouris**

**Membership Care Chair: Sue Augustine**

**Committee on Lay Leadership Chair:**

**Pastor Jeremiah**

**Committee on Records & History Chair:**

**Marilyn Berg**

**If you are interested in joining one of these groups, please contact the Chair. They would love to hear from you!**



### **ANGEL FOOD SURPRISE CAKE**

2 Angel Food Cakes baked

2 Cans Pie Filling (Cherry, Apple or Blueberry)

1 lg. box Vanilla Pudding (Cooking type)

Break cakes into small pieces and place into a 9x13 inch cake pan. Cook the pudding and pour over cake pieces. Let Cool. Pour cans of pie filling over pudding and chill.



### **FARMER'S PRAYER**

A pastor attended a men's breakfast in the middle of a rural farming area of the country.

The group had asked an older farmer, decked out in bib overalls to say grace for the morning breakfast.

"Lord, I hate buttermilk," the farmer began. The visiting pastor opened one eye to glance at the farmer and wondered where this was going.

The farmer loudly proclaimed, "Lord, I hate lard." Now the pastor was growing concerned.

Without missing a beat, the farmer continued, "Lord, you know I don't much care for raw white flour."

The pastor once again opened an eye to glance around the room and saw that he wasn't the only one to feel uncomfortable.

Then the farmer added, "But Lord, when you mix them all together and bake them, I do love warm fresh biscuits.

So Lord, when things come up that we don't like, when life gets hard, when we don't understand what you're saying to us, help us to relax and wait until you are done mixing. It will probably be even better than them biscuits. Amen."





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### Advent Small Group

The season of Advent starts the church calendar each year. This is a time to, as with New Year's resolutions, examine our faith lives and set out how we want to grow closer to God and follow the teachings of Jesus Christ more fully for the next 12 months. For me, long before I became a pastor, being part of a small group, meeting together to pray and look at the bible and talk about faith with others shaped me and nurtured my faith. I believe in such settings we have great opportunity to really dig into what the bible has to say to us in our lives today, and learn from each other.

So, I invite you all to start of your "New Year" as part of our small group for Advent. We will meet on Zoom starting on Dec 2<sup>nd</sup>, from 7-8 on Wednesday Evenings, each week of Advent thru Dec. 23<sup>rd</sup>. Each week, we'll look at one of the biblical figures who is part of the story of Jesus' birth. These were real people, people with strengths and weaknesses. People who I believe we can identify with and learn from, as we see how they responded to the amazing new thing that God did through Jesus Christ. We will look at the following 4 people; Zachariah the Priest, Elizabeth the Faithful, Mary the Brave, and Joseph the Compassionate. You are invited to read their stories ahead, but even if you miss a reading still please participate each week. Finally, there is no cost for this study. So here is our plan:

- Wednesday December 2, 7:00-8:00:  
Zachariah the Priest, Luke 1:5-25 and 57-79

- Wednesday December 9, 7:00-8:00:  
Elizabeth the Faithful, Luke 1:24-25, 39-45, 57-64
- Wednesday December 16, 7:00-8:00: Mary the Brave, Luke 1:26-56, Luke 2:1-7
- Wednesday December 23, 7:00-8:00:  
Joseph the Compassionate, Matthew 1:18-25, Luke 2:1-7

I hope you can join us for a wonderful time of learning, discussion, and growing together in faith. If you have any questions or would like more information please email me at [castiger1@gmail.com](mailto:castiger1@gmail.com), or call me at 815-592-3764.



### Christmas Eve Carol Service

Covid-19 has changed so much how we "do church," this year, but it doesn't mean we still aren't the church, and it doesn't mean that like the Whos in Whoville in the famous "How the Grinch Stole Christmas" we can't sing praises to God for the joy of Christ's Birth.

Our Christmas Eve service this year will be a service of Christmas Carols, with reading scripture passages about the birth of Christ, and singing songs of praise. We cannot, as we would like all to gather in the sanctuary to sing, but we can still sing. On **Christmas Eve, December 24 at 4:00 PM** we will have a service you can access in one of two ways.



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One, you can drive to the church and park in the lot and parking places around our building. Then you can tune in on your car radio to **FM 88.5** to the service. Each time there is a Christmas Carol you are invited to sing along in your car just as loud and joyfully as you want (Just keep the windows rolled up because of Covid. We will have song sheets with the words for you to sing along.)

Or if you would prefer, or can't be at the church, you can tune in on Zoom at 4:00 PM December 24, on your computer or smart phone for the service, and sing along that way. (Put your computer or phone on mute please. Lots of voices singing together on Zoom doesn't work very well. Sadly, it is not a Joyful Noise to God.) For the Zoom service we have the words on PowerPoint slides.

This won't be our traditional candle light Christmas Eve Service. It is true, but we will still be able to gather and remember Jesus, who is the reason for this holiday. The reason for our faith, and the source of our hope, peace, joy and love. So, come let us sing and celebrate on Christmas Eve.



### NORTHWEST CHURCH DISPERSEMENT OF CONTENTS

*The Malta United Methodist Church has formed a committee which is working to disperse the contents of the now closed Northwest Malta United*

*Methodist Church. Many items have been moved to the Malta Church. The Northwest Church Members had the first opportunity to decide if there are any items that they wanted.*

*If you would like to take a look around the Northwest building to see what is there, please contact Dave or Jeanette Gommel, and they will arrange this. Jeanette's phone number is 815-751-1126, and Dave's is 815-751-8224. They will also be glad to answer any questions you have.*

*Here is a link to some pictures:*

<https://photos.app.goo.gl/uRzBsyKfg6AHDQX49>  
but remember, NW Church members have been to the church and removed some items.

There is also a PDF List of what was available.

Email the church at:

[maltaunitedmethodistchurch@outlook.com](mailto:maltaunitedmethodistchurch@outlook.com) and it will be sent to you.

*The committee has determined that if members of the church wish to obtain an item, they may do so by making whatever donation to the Malta United Methodist Church they feel is appropriate and mailing it to Larry Vint, 2711 Greenwood Acres Drive, DeKalb, IL 60115. Please let either Dave or Jeanette know which items you are taking so that they can keep track of what items are left. Please don't be shy about asking to see contents or taking any items you are interested in. The committee would like to see as many things as possible put to good use.*

Thank you.

Dave & Jeanette Gommel

Malta UMC Church Committee





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happy anniversary

**Denny & Vickie Heins - December 23<sup>rd</sup>**  
(44 Years)

**Harry & Marilyn Berg - December 30<sup>th</sup>**  
(14 Years)



We can't let this great milestone go un-noticed!



**HAPPY BELATED  
ANNIVERSARY**

**GERRY & MARY LYNN MCARTOR**

November 26, 2020

*A love that grows is a love that lasts.  
As you share the rest of your life together,  
may your days be filled with laughter and love.  
May you always cherish each other,  
and all of the wonderful memories,  
that you have shared in your  
60 Years of Marriage.*

If you have not already let the church know  
when your **ANNIVERSARY** is  
(including year),

please do so by sending an email to  
[maltaunitedmethodistchurch@outlook.com](mailto:maltaunitedmethodistchurch@outlook.com)  
or call the church office at (815) 825-2118.



**We ARE GOING TO HAVE the ANGEL  
TREE** but in a different way this year.  
We are requesting monetary donations  
instead of presents. Your check should  
be made out to **Salvation Army**, and  
sent to 830 Grove St., DeKalb, IL 60115.  
Designating "Angel Tree from Malta  
UMC" on your check. With all the events  
of 2020, the need for assistance with  
monetary gifts for families is likely to be  
much greater this year. Salvation Army  
greatly appreciates your support.

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HOW ABOUT IF INSTEAD OF GIVING YOU  
EVERYTHING THAT YOU THINK YOU WANT FOR  
CHRISTMAS I GIVE YOU WHAT YOU NEED?



# MALTA UNITED



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DOING THE MOST GOOD

### HELP NEEDED - BY

### THE SALVATION ARMY

830 Grove Street, DeKalb, IL 60115

**TO VOLUNTEER** and see where

you can help, go on line at

[www.salarmydekalb.org](http://www.salarmydekalb.org)

or call (815) 756-4308.

Office Hours are: Monday – Thursday,  
8:30 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Friday: 8:30 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.

**MONETARY DONATIONS ALWAYS WELCOME!**



As Tropical Storm Eta, which was a Category 4 hurricane in the Gulf of Mexico, crossed over Florida on its way toward the Atlantic Ocean, Typhoon Vamco hit the Philippines with winds equal to a Category 2 hurricane. Both storms have been deadly, causing severe flooding and displacing hundreds of thousands – all during a pandemic.

**PLEASE HELP UMCOR** – Be a part of an enduring legacy of hope. **Give Today!**

Please send your check to:

**Global Ministries/UMCOR**

**P.O. Box 9068**

**New York, NY 10087-9068**



	DECEMBER
2	Brenda Hunt and Jalen Jouris
8	Joanne Abbott
10	Frank O. Jouris
12	Katie Crouch
14	Kaye Dinsmore
16	Joel Hueber
17	Katie Fenstermaker
19	Austin Arndt
21	Donna Willrett
22	Max McArtor
23	Abiella Thompson
25	<b>JESUS</b>
29	Joanne Hackbarth
30	Carol Sandberg





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**NO** Prayer Meeting Tonight - NOV 25th

**DECEMBER 2020**



**Vicke's Office Hours: M-W-Th 8:00 – Noon**

**NO “IN CHURCH WORSHIP”  
UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE!**

SUNDAY

MONDAY

TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY

THURSDAY

FRIDAY

SATURDAY

		1  GIVING TUESDAY	2 <b>ADVENT BIBLE STUDY</b> 7-8 PM on Zoom	3	4	5
6 2nd Sunday of Advent On Zoom, Facebook & YouTube	7 Church Council 7pm Finance 630pm ON ZOOM	8	9 <b>ADVENT BIBLE STUDY</b> 7-8 PM on Zoom	10  Annual Church Conference 7PM /SPRC 630PM ON ZOOM	11	12 Cookie Walk <b>CANCELLED</b> 
13 3 <sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Advent On Zoom, Facebook & YouTube	14	15	16 <b>ADVENT BIBLE STUDY</b> 7-8 PM on Zoom	17	18	19
20 4 <sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent On Zoom, Facebook & YouTube	21	22	23 <b>ADVENT BIBLE STUDY</b> 7-8 PM on Zoom	24 Christmas Eve 	25 Merry Christmas 	26
27 1 <sup>st</sup> Sunday after Christmas On Zoom, Facebook & YouTube	28	29	30 Prayer Meeting on Zoom / 7PM	31 New Year's Eve 		



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## MERRY CHRISTMAS



**WISHING YOU ALL  
GOD'S PEACE & LOVE  
THROUGHOUT THE NEW YEAR!**

*Pastor Jeremiah, Vicke Heins, Marcia Hueber,  
Nancy Plote, Hope Willbrett, & John Hanson*

Malta United Methodist Church  
201 E. Sprague Street (P.O. Box 158)  
Malta, IL 60150

**Malta UMC**  
**(815) 825-2118**

[maltaunitedmethodistchurch@  
outlook.com](mailto:maltaunitedmethodistchurch@outlook.com)

Rev. Jeremiah Thompson, Pastor  
Vicke Heins, Adm. Assistant  
Mon – Wed – Thurs 8-Noon.

Keep Informed on:  
[Maltaumc.org](http://Maltaumc.org) and  
Facebook:  
MaltaUnitedMethodistChurch