



# MALTA UNITED



## Methodist Church December 2021

### PASTOR JEREMIAH'S MESSAGE

I am ready for Advent this year and I was ready for it last year too. Let's be frank, 2020 and 2021 have been emotionally hard years. First of all, the pandemic has killed 750,000 of our fellow Americans and millions more in other nations.

That weighs on my heart. However, honestly the tensions in our society based on political ideology I find even more stressful and painful. It seems in many ways that everything has become a liberal or conservative issue. If one talks about the environment, combating racism, vaccines, how to make our schools safer, these and other issues that we need to talk about as they affect people's lives, have become landmines that seem to frequently blow up into arguments where no one listens to each other or seeks common ground. (I need to listen better, as well.)

Then beyond the wider world, there has been the unexpected financial stress our church has faced due to repairs to our roof. I thank God for the amazing generosity of the congregation which has already made that stress much less than it could of been. Yet, still a financial strain and talking out loans is stressful.

Personally, I've been walking through the divorce process for months, and though our family is healthier and in many ways happier, it's been an emotionally brutal period. The financial stress and arrangements have not been easy in anyway, and my children and I have needed to adjust to a new life that is very different from what came before.

So in light of all these stresses and the others all around us, I need Advent this year. I need this season when we remember the themes we see in the Birth of Jesus; hope, peace, joy, and love. I

need the reminder that things looked bleaker, were much bleaker for Jesus' family than they are for me now. Yet amid stress, strain, economic crisis, political upheaval, and more, 2000 years ago God entered into this world as a vulnerable and helpless baby just as all of us entered into this world.

I need the reminder of Emmanuel, God is with us. I need the reminder of God reaching out to the shepherds to share the good news, even when others wouldn't have given them a second thought. I need the reminder of an amazingly brave teenager named Mary, who risked her life and her reputation to help when God asked her. I need the reminder of Joseph, who listened to God when others would have had him listen to his pride and kick Mary and her baby boy to the curb. I need the reminder that God loves us, and I need the reminder of what the angels said to the shepherds- "Fear Not!"

So, as we enter this Season of Advent and then the 12 days of Christmas, I invite all of you to really ponder the old familiar Christmas story. I encourage you to read the scriptures and let them tell you the story. The Christmas story is about brave people, saying yes to God, and through them God changing all existence forever. The Christmas story is about God loving everyone more than any of us can imagine. The Christmas story is life giving; so may it give us life, hope, peace, joy, and above all it reminds us of God's love and inspires us to love others in Jesus' Name. Amen.

Blessings, Peace, and Merry Christmas

Pastor Jeremiah



**Thank you so much Tom Plote** for setting up the Nativity in front of our church. It looks great!



## Upper Room Devotionals

for November/December are available.

I can mail one to you

Just call the church office at  
(815) 825-2118 .

## A very important

# **“SPECIAL CHARGE**

# **CONFERENCE”**

**HAS BEEN SCHEDULED FOR**

**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 5<sup>TH</sup>**

**AFTER WORSHIP SERVICE AT 9:00 A.M.**

### **One item will be on the agenda –**

A vote needs to be taken by the “members” of Malta UMC to authorize the Annual Charge Conference Trustees to act on behalf of our Congregation dealing with the Chapter 11 Bankruptcy of the Boy Scouts of American.

This vote is very important as it could have financial impact for our congregation.

All members of the church who can be there “in person” will be eligible to vote. All others may be present, and ask questions, but you cannot vote.

Pastor Jeremiah, as an elder in good standing in the Northern Illinois Annual Conference will be presiding over this Special Charge Conference.



# ANNUAL CHURCH CONFERENCE “Summary”

The Annual Church Conference was held on Sunday, October 31<sup>st</sup> at 3:00 p.m. at Malta U.M.C. Rev. Brian Gilbert, District Superintendent called the meeting to order and Pastor Jeremiah Thompson opened the meeting with prayer. Rev. Brian Gilbert, D.S. read the Scripture: Mark 4:35-41 and gave his message on the storms the disciples of Christ had to face in the New Testament and how this message would relate to us today as a church and followers of Jesus. After Rev. Gilbert finished his message and followed it with discussion by asking 3 questions: 1. What are some of the storms our church faced this past year! 2. How do we see Jesus be a “way maker” for our church? 3. Where is our church being called to help others this next year? Pastor Jeremiah asked us to celebrate because the church has received between \$72 - \$76,000 in a matter of 8 weeks for the Capital Improvement Fund for repairs on our church building. During the Business section, Pastor Jeremiah presented the Resolution to Church Conference to approve church roof repairs - approve borrowing \$150,000 from Resource Bank – and to approve the mortgage of Parsonage property to be used as collateral. After some discussion a vote was taken and approved. Next the Lay Nomination Report was discussed, voted on and approved. Staff/Parish/Relations Chair: Marcia Hueber informed the Church that the new Custodian has been hired to replace John Hansen. It is Joan Tucker who will work 6 hours a week at \$15/hour. Tom Plote commented that Joan is doing a wonderful job! Next we moved on to approving our Lay Servants: Marcia Hueber and Mary Lynn McArtor. Rev. Gilbert requested a vote and it was approved. Mary Lynn McArtor encouraged others to become Lay Servants. She said it helps you to grow. The Membership Report was discussed next. Anna Butler and JoAnn Hackbarth had received a

3rd letter this year and we did not hear back from them. Sue Augustine, Membership Chair presented their names at Church Conference to have them removed from Membership. Rev. Gilbert asked for a vote and it was approved. Open Forum followed: Pastor Jeremiah invited anyone to talk to him about his Pastor's Report he presented to Church Conference, if they had any questions about it. Vicke Heins asked why we had to wear masks to church, when we all sit at least 6' apart, but can take them off at Fellowship where we are sitting 3' apart after Worship. Rev. Gilbert said we are following the DeKalb Co. Heath Care Guidelines. Mary Lynn said Choir would like to start again. Rev. Gilbert said we can sing in church, but the Choir must wear masks and have social distancing and possibly prove if you have been vaccinated. Ruth Hueber asked why we haven't look into getting a grant for the church repairs. Rev. Gilbert said there are no grants for church building maintenance. Churches do not qualify for maintenance grants. There are grants for Ministry or Agriculture we could look into. We could also explore getting on the Historical Registry, but need to check it out thoroughly before committing or restricting the church to their rules. Next year Pastor Jeremiah is going to apply for a K-Town & Country Grant for \$1500 for VBS. Pastor Jeremiah asked everyone to say the Lord's Prayer together for Closing. Adjourned at 4:30 p.m. Donuts and juice were furnished by Jonamac following in the fellowship hall.



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

- |  |                   |
|--|-------------------|
| Almburg, Brett                           | Nelson, Michael   |
| Bakken, Benjamin P.                      | Norman, Jacob     |
| Bakken, Monique                          | Page, Greg        |
| Barclay, Kendra                          | Peterson, Eric    |
| Builta, Andy                             | Ritter, Matt      |
| Clark, Ben                               | Swink, Ashley     |
| Clark, Kerry                             | West, Jonathon M. |
| Howe, Chase                              | West, Lawrence R. |
| Hoyle, Steve                             | Wilson, Kim       |
| Brett Johnson & Mrs.<br>Samantha Johnson | Woodyatt, John M. |
| Madsen, Jeff                             | Yedinak, Pete     |

Send them to:

**Support Our Troops  
13791 N. Nebraska Avenue  
Tampa, FL 33613.**



**HUB CLUSTER  
CHRISTMAS SERVICE**

**Sunday, December 5<sup>th</sup> at 3:00 p.m.  
at Chana UMC  
with cookie decorating  
following the service.**



MALTA UMC



## December 11, 2021 9-11 a.m.

Please help us by baking your favorite Christmas cookies and adding them to our sale. We are asking members / friends of our church to bake 4 dozen Christmas cookies and bring them to the church on Saturday morning, December 11<sup>th</sup> before 8:00 a.m.

Spread the word about our Cookie Walk to all your friends. And join us on **Saturday, December 11<sup>th</sup>** to “Walk” the Cookie Walk and choose cookies and candy from our beautiful and delicious assortment.

All profits this year will be donated to our church Capital Improvement Fund as we help keep our building in good repair for all in the community to use and enjoy for many years to come.

Masks will be required in the building and social distancing will be enforced.



Next meeting of Church Council is  
Monday, December 6<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 p.m.  
Finance at 7:00 p.m.  
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: Nancy Plote  
Church Treasure: Kevin McArtor  
Lay Leader Delegate: Jodi Slade  
Alternate Lay Delegate: Mary Lynn McArtor  
Church Education: Kitty Jouris  
Ruth Hueber



## Malta UMC Lay Leadership

Church Council Chair: Ed Cheek  
Board of Trustees Chair: Tom Plote  
Committee of Finance & Stewardship Chair:  
Bill Augustine  
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



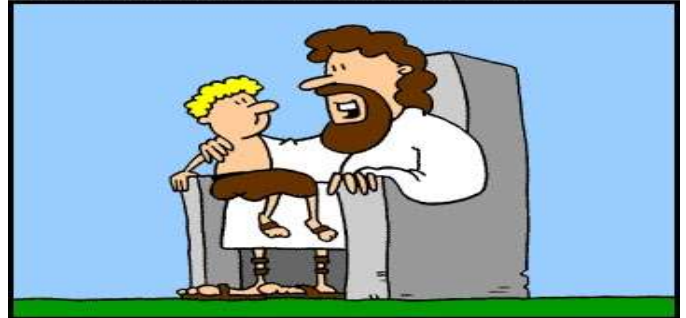
Happy Anniversary

Denny & Vicke Heins - December 23<sup>rd</sup>  
(45 Years)

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



The **ANGEL TREE** was put up **Sunday, November 28<sup>th</sup>**. Thank you Jodi Slade. Please take an Angel from the tree and help make this a special Christmas for a family in need. You can either buy a gift for a child, or there are tags to make a monetary donation to the food pantry /or bring an item for the food pantry. All gifts must be returned, unwrapped to Malta UMC by Sunday, December 12<sup>th</sup>. The Salvation Army greatly appreciates your support.



Thanks to Christopher Huffman 12-24-1998  
HOW ABOUT IF INSTEAD OF GIVING YOU EVERYTHING THAT YOU THINK YOU WANT FOR CHRISTMAS I GIVE YOU WHAT YOU NEED?



DOING THE MOST GOOD

**HELP NEEDED - BY  
THE SALVATION ARMY**

830 Grove Street, DeKalb, IL 60115

**TO VOLUNTER** 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!**



**SIGN-UP SHEET**

on the table in the narthex for:

1. Adult Acolytes needed
2. Adults to learn the Video/Sound System for Sunday morning worship.



Advent Bible Study started on Monday November 29<sup>th</sup> and for the next 4 weeks on Monday Evenings, our Church will be doing an Advent Study entitled “All the Good.” Through reading, daily devotionals, and video we will be thinking about preparing out hearts for Jesus to again come into our world and our lives, and also pondering how we can carry Jesus’ love to others. The study will be from 7:00-8:30 p.m. each week. You can join us in person/or on Zoom. All members of the church, Middle School aged and up are invited to join us for this study, as we prepare our hearts for Christmas, and consider how we can gift the love of Christmas to others. Books are available in the church office. Please join us!

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

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**Christmas Eve Worship,**  
**December 24<sup>th</sup> at 4:00 p.m. at Malta UMC**  
**Christmas Day is on Sunday,**  
**Saturday, December 25<sup>th</sup>**  
**Have a Wonderful & Blessed day!**  
**Sunday, December 26<sup>th</sup>**  
**Hymn Sing Sunday**



**Northwest Malta UMC** has a few more **Church Pews** for sale. If you are interested, contact Dave Gommel or Tom Plote. Thank you.

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## **CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT FUND UPDATE**

Our bell tower and church have new roofs, complete with new gutters and downspouts. The bell tower, chimney, and parapet wall have been repaired, with tuck-pointing, stone and brick replacement. In total we have paid LN Construction and Exteriors **\$114,356.23**. Our hearts are filled with gratitude to the faithful givers who have contributed **\$72,410** to this project. Malta UM Church has much to be thankful for, as our building has been secured before winter sets in. A loan from Resource Bank has enabled us to pay the bills on time. In 2022 soffit and fascia repair along with tuck-pointing our building and miscellaneous painting will be done. Please consider your contributions now and in the future as we work toward getting our building in good repair. Checks should be made to Malta UM Church Capital Improvement Fund and sent to: **Nancy Plote, 411 S. Malta Rd. Malta, IL 60150**



## **DECEMBER GREETERS**

- |    |                      |
|----|----------------------|
| 05 | Marcia Hueber        |
| 12 | Sue Vaughn           |
| 19 | Bill & Sue Augustine |
| 26 | Denny & Vicke Heins  |



## **HELPING OUR KIDS**

**at Malta Elementary School**

The school supplies needed are: boxes of crayons with 24 colors, glue sticks, boxes of #2 pencils, boxes of Kleenex, 3 ring binders, plastic school folders, black dry erase markers, scissors (for younger and older children), and boxes of regular colored markers (I believe they come in boxes of 8 colors). Finally, a donation of a new stocking hat, pair of gloves, or mittens would be wonderful (hand-made mittens and hats are also okay, as long as they are new.)



## **TODAY'S SISTER**



**Holiday Luncheon**

**Wednesday, December 15<sup>th</sup>**  
**at Sue Augustine's home at**  
**11:30 a.m.**

Sue Augustine has generously offered to host our Today's Sisters Christmas luncheon in her home. Sue would like a count of how many people will be attending. Please let Sue, Marilyn or Vicky know if you who plan to attend.

**ACTION GROUPS  
FOR FELLOWSHIP/COFFEE HOUR**



APRIL/AUGUST/**DECEMBER 2021**

**Co-Chairs:**

**Jouris, Kitty & Frank** 815-751-3238  
**Vint, Vicky & Larry** 815-751-5178

Abbott, Joanne & Dennis 815-825-2563  
Arndt, Noel 815-751-0404  
Augustine, Sue & Bill 815-762-5553  
Butler, Florence & Paul 815-761-4788  
Glen, Stella 815-761-2302  
Hill, Rachel & Jason 630-441-0585  
Hueber, Ruth 815-764-9932  
Kyler, Shirley 815-751-2435  
Schafer, Sandy 815-825-2364  
Thompson, Pastor Jeremiah 815-592-3764  
Willrett, Hope & Gene Hickey 815-901-8486

MAY/SEPTEMBER 2021/**JANUARY 2022**

**Co-Chairs:**

**Sandberg, Terry & Steve** 815-762-1035  
**McArtor, Mary Lynn & Jerry** 815-751-3658  
**Plote, Nancy & Tom** 815-751-2925

Burlison, Beth 815-384-3284  
Cheek, Ed & Becky 815-761-0696  
Langley, Mary 815-384-3333  
Lynch, Connie 815-825-2722  
Sandberg, Carol & Del 815-761-1254  
Sandberg, Sheli 630-677-7900  
Vaughn, Sue 815-762-5414  
Willrett, Donna 815-825-2870



**UPCOMING  
EVENTS**

**IN MALTA:**

**December 11, 2021**

MALTA LIONS CLUB

**CHRISTMAS TREE LIGHTING**

**Carolers are welcome!**

**Carolers sing from 5-5:45 p.m.**

**Christmas Tree Lighting at 5:45 p.m.**

**SANTA CLAUS** arrives at **6:00 p.m.**

**at the HISTORICAL BUILDING.**

**Christmas Cookies**

**(bought or baked) NEEDED!**

Contact Vicke at (815) 252-0841 and she will pick them up, or you can drop them off by Friday, December 10<sup>th</sup> at 502 S. 4<sup>th</sup> Street – Malta.

The Malta Township Library also has an event from 4-7:00 p.m.

***CHECK OUT BOTH!***

**December 18, 2021**

**Malta Lions Club**

**HOUSE DECORATING CONTEST**

All houses in the 60150 area code and that are **“lit up”** from 6-8 p.m. will be judged.

If you live in the country, however you will need to send a note to [trickyvicke@hotmail.com](mailto:trickyvicke@hotmail.com) and let us know your address. We will be doing only the Village of Malta & Prairie Springs Subdivision unless we are notified.





# DECEMBER 2021

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



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			<b>1</b> <b>Prayer &amp; Fellowship 7 p.m.</b> <i>In person/or zoom</i>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>5</b> 2nd Sunday of Advent <b>Special Charge Conference</b> after Worship  <b>Fellowship Hall reserved 11-5 p.m.</b>  *Hub Cluster Christmas Service at 3:00 p.m. at Chana UMC	<b>6</b> Church Council 7:30pm Finance 7pm   7-8:30P.M. <i>In person/or zoom</i>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b> <b>Prayer &amp; Fellowship 7 p.m.</b> <i>In person/or zoom</i>	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>  <b>Cookie Walk</b> <b>9-11 a.m.</b>
<b>12</b> 3 <sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Advent	<b>13</b>  7-8:30P.M. <i>In person/or zoom</i>	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b> <b>Prayer &amp; Fellowship 7 p.m.</b> <i>In person/or zoom</i>  <b>Today's Sisters</b> Holiday Luncheon at Sue Augustines	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>
<b>19</b> 4 <sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent	<b>20</b>  7-8:30P.M. <i>In person/or zoom</i>	<b>21</b> 1 <sup>ST</sup> Day of Winter	<b>22</b> <b>Prayer &amp; Fellowship 7 p.m.</b> <i>In person/or zoom</i>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b> <b>Christmas Eve Service at 4:00 PM</b> 	<b>25</b> <b>Merry Christmas</b> 
<b>26</b> 1 <sup>st</sup> Sunday after Christmas <b>HYMN SING</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b> <b>Prayer &amp; Fellowship 7 p.m.</b> <i>In person/or zoom</i>	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b> <b>New Year's Eve</b> 	

**Malta United Methodist Church**

**(815) 825-2118**

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

Rev. Jeremiah Thompson, Pastor

Vicke Heins, Adm. Assistant

Mon – Wed – Thurs 8-Noon.



# **MERRY CHRISTMAS**

**WISHING YOU ALL**

**GOD'S PEACE & LOVE**

**THROUGHOUT THE NEW YEAR!**



*Jeremiah Thompson, Pastor  
Vicke Hein, Church Secr.,  
Nancy Plote, Organist,  
Marcia Hueber, Pianist,  
Tom Plote, Trustee Chair,  
Hope Willbrett, Music,  
and Joan Tucker, Custodian*

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