



MALTA UNITED



Methodist Church December 2023

PASTOR JEREMIAH'S MESSAGE

We are entering, I believe my favorite season of the Church Year, Advent, the preparation for Christmas and then Christmas, itself, all 12 wonderful days. In the traditions of the church, this is the start of our church year. We start our year with Jesus' birth, since his birth began what would become our faith tradition. I know for me and my family, even more than usual, this will be a new start, as on December 30 during the 12 Days of Christmas, I will marry Dr. Laura Jean Heideman and begin a new life and family with her.

As we begin this season, I invite you to think about what new things God is doing in your life? This may sound strange, but I think in the Christmas story, which is perhaps one of the best-known parts of the Bible to many of us, there is always something new, something exciting, and something blessed. We live in an era where many say our best days are behind us, but can we see what good God is, through Jesus, still in this world? Can we be like shepherds or wise men, on our way to see Jesus and celebrate something new?

A final thought for us all. Though this is a joyful season, it can also be a hard season. The days are short, the nights long and cold. Often in this season of busyness we can feel stressed. Often in this season where we celebrate with family and friends, we miss those who can't be with us, or who aren't with us on this side of eternity any more. If during this season there is a sadness even grief, feel it, and know that God is with you. Many churches hold the longest night, or a blue Christmas service, though we won't this year, it's okay for us to experience all the emotions. In the Christmas story itself, we see how people faced ups

and downs, even struggles and dangers, and through it all Jesus was born bringing hope, peace, joy and love to our world.

May this season of waiting, and of remembering God's greatest gift to us, be a time of healing, of hope, of looking towards what God is doing and will do in the time to come.

May you have a blessed and very merry holiday season!

Pastor Jeremiah



Christmas Eve (Sunday, December 24th) Morning (11 a.m.) and Evening services (4 p.m.)

Christmas Eve falls on a Sunday this year and so we will have both a morning and a late afternoon service to celebrate the season, and both will be very special.

For our morning service our choir is preparing a Christmas Cantata with singing and scripture readings as we celebrate the coming of Emmanuel, God with us, Jesus Christ. This will be a wonderful service and you won't want to miss it. If you can't be here in person, we invite you to watch it via Facebook live.

In the afternoon at 4:00 PM, as is our tradition we will have our Christmas Eve Candlelight Service. This will be a service of scripture, song, and story. We will hear the passages that describe Jesus' birth, we will sing some of the old Christmas Carols,

and there will be short reflections on the story of the Jesus coming to us. Finally, we will end the service with a candlelight singing of Silent Night, and since we have electric candles, you won't even spill any hot wax on your skin or clothes. (That service will also be broadcast on Facebook live, if you can't be with us in person)

We hope these services will really lift your hearts towards God, and we encourage you to invite others to join us. Christmas Eve services (or Christmas Music services) are some of the best worship services of the year to invite guests to. There is even research to back it up. So invite others to celebrate this season of hope, peace, joy, and love with us!

CHILDREN'S AFTERNOON



In **December**, Children's Sunday School will meet on December 10th at 4:00 p.m.



Aubree, Elaina, Daviian, Ethan, Mrs. Ruth, McKenzie, Rylee, Azalea, & Shelby are all enjoying their Bible lessons.

COMING SOON
YOU ARE INVITED
to a
HOLIDAY CONCERT
by
JAZZ IN PROGRESS
at Sycamore UMC
Saturday, December 2nd
from 7-8:00 p.m.

Food pantry items or free will offering will be taken.
Also on Live Stream
www.facebook.com/JazzinProgress



FOR THE BLESSINGS IN OUR CHURCH!

NANCY PLOTE
for her Dedication & Service to playing the organ/piano every Sunday
and for helping in so many other areas also.

KITTY JOURIS & RUTH HUEBER
for their Dedication to our Sunday School Children.
They are the future of our church.

And to all the others who go above & beyond-behind the scenes. **THANK YOU.**



HAPPY 99TH BIRTHDAY (11/14/23)
to

“DOROTHY STODDARD”

**We Celebrated with her during Coffee/
Fellowship time on Sunday, Nov. 12th**

**The article below was sent to our
Prairie South District for their
newsletter and we wanted to share it
with you also.**

In 1935, Dorothy became a member of the Malta United Methodist Church. During high school years she was collector of funds from Sunday School classes. She sang in the choir and taught Sunday School for over 20 years. She was Junior Choir Director for a few years and taught Bible School for many years along with Church Historian for over 20 years. Dorothy was Treasurer of the United Methodist Women for the Malta church on and off for many years. She was treasurer for DeKalb District United Methodist Women for 4 years, which involved in the bookkeeping of the Jennings Lyon Nursing Home in Sheridan. There were 62 churches sending funds to the district at that time.

Soon after her term, it was decided to close the Jennings Lyon Nursing Home and she was involved in the finance portion of getting that settled. It was turned over to the Sheridan Methodist Church who now runs this as a Child Day Care Center. Dorothy traveled to meetings in Chicago serving on the Northern Illinois Conference Board of Pensions for 13 years. Normally, this is a 10 year term, but they wanted rural people and women so she served a

longer term. A number of times over the years Dorothy served as chairman of the annual church Chicken Dinner as well as chairman of the annual rummage sale (both were sponsored by the United Methodist Women) – usually also being the treasurer for the event. She was the “instigator” for organizing cookbooks - both the “Home Cookin’ in the 1950’s and “More Home Cookin’” in 1981 which were compiled with the help of many church members. The Farm Progress Show was held in Malta in 1975 on the Jim Willrett farm. The attendance was approximately 300,000 over the 3-day period. Dorothy was co-chairman of the (7) food tents, along with co-chairman of the host food tent (hosted by Malta Methodist Church). Each food tent had to have 60 people helping each of the 3 days of the show and the host tent served food to the workers the entire week prior and the day after the show. In order to get 60 workers each day they had relatives from out of state come to help out. All other tents were hosted by other churches from the area. During the Farm Progress Show, money was collected by a local banker and a state government man. Following the show, the churches had to take the state to court to get the sales tax money back which was due to them due to tax exempt status. That was quite a challenge!

Dorothy also served on the 125th and 150th Anniversary Celebration Committees for the church.

**We are all grateful and blessed for
Dorothy’s service to Malta UMC and
the Community and wish her a
wonderful & healthy 99th year.**



**Denny & Vickie Heins - December 23rd
(47 Years)**

**Harry & Marilyn Berg - December 30th
(17 Years)**



The **SALVATION ARMY ANGEL TREE** was put up **Sunday, November 26th**. Please take an Angel from the Angel 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 **Friday, December 7th**. The Salvation Army greatly appreciates your support.



DECEMBER GREETERS

- 03 Harry & Marilyn Berg
- 10 Carol Sandberg
- 17 Hope Willrett & Gene Hickey
- 24 / 11:00 a.m. Marcia Hueber
- 24 / 4:00 p.m. Denny & Vicke Heins



DOING THE MOST GOOD

Special Need: Toilet Paper

Please bring with other non-perishable foods anytime throughout the year for the Salvation Army Food Pantry and place the items in the box in the church narthex marked "**FOOD PANTRY**".

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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?



Midwest Mission's

**EVERY CHILD NEEDS
SCHOOL SUPPLIES**

For **\$35 – 5 children** will be gifted with needed school supplies.

Please help!

Send your donations to
Midwest Mission's Distribution Center
1001 Mission Drive, Pawnee, IL 62558



HELPING OUR KIDS

at Malta Elementary School

SPECIAL NEEDS: Kid's Underwear & Socks

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.)



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

SPONSORED BY THE MALTA SEEDLING COMMITTEE

MALTA'S CHILI COOK-OFF

**Saturday
Feb. 3, 2024
6 - 9 PM**

at Malta Historical Society Building



Do you make amazing Chili?

Compete to be crowned

"BEST CHILI IN MALTA"

Tickets \$10 donation

Ticket includes chili samples, corn bread, and dessert.
Attendees will be the judges!



Register to compete by contacting:
Malta.Seedlings@gmail.com
or on Facebook @MaltaSeedlingProject

Proceeds from this fundraiser will go towards Malta Seedling Committee's community improvement efforts.





ACTION GROUPS FOR FELLOWSHIP COFFEE HOUR

APRIL/AUGUST/**DECEMBER 2023**

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
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

MAY/SEPTEMBER 2023/**JANUARY 2024**

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
Sandberg, Carol	815-761-1254
Sandberg, Sheli	630-677-7900
Showhalter, Denise	815-764-5238
Tucker, Joan	815-981-6209
Willrett, Donna	815-825-2870



Coffee Hour for **DECEMBER**

03	Larry & Vicky Vint
10	Noel Arndt & Shirley Kyler
17	Bill & Sue Augustine
24	NO COFFEE TIME at 10:30 a.m.
31	Frank & Kitty Jouris



TODAY'S SISTERS

They will meet on **Thursday, December 21st**

Today's Sisters will be having a
Christmas Luncheon / **TBA**



MALTA /AREA MILITARY MEN AND WOMEN CURRENTLY SERVING OUR COUNTRY

Almburg, Brett	Norman, Jacob
Bakken, Benjamin P.	Nunez, John
Bakken, Monique	Nunez, Nicolas
Builta, Andy	Page, Greg
Clark, Ben	Peterson, Eric
Clark, Kerry	Ritter, Matt
Howe, Chase	Swink, Ashley
Hoyle, Steve	Tucker, Bryan J.
Johnson, Brett & Mrs	West, Jonathon M.
Johnson, Samanth.	Wilson, Kim
Madsen, Jeff	Woodyatt, John M.
Nelson, Michael	Yedinak, Pete

Send Cards & Letters (anytime) to the Troops,

Send them to:

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

KEEP THEM IN YOUR PRAYERS!



Christmas Movie Night with Grace UMC
Sunday December 17, 3:00 PM

Each year we hear the Christmas story, the story of the birth of Jesus. But do we really consider what it was like for the Holy Family and the others in the story? What it was like for Mary, a teenager, to be asked to help bring Jesus into the world and what it could have cost her. What it was like to live under the thumb of the Roman puppet King Herod. What the struggle that Joseph faced was like? Who the Wise Men were and what their seeking Jesus means?

You are invited to join Grace UMC (506 Willow Street, Maple Park) on Sunday, December 17 for a viewing of the 2005 Film, The Nativity Story. Rated PG (the film does not depict any violence, but does refer to the actions of King Herod when he tried to kill Jesus as an infant.) This movie attempts to help us look at the birth of Jesus from other angles, not just as we hear in the Christmas Carols and in the Nativity sets, but more broadly the world that Jesus was born into, and who his earthly parents were. It is a film and not the bible itself, but it can help us think more about the Christmas Story we may think we know so well, and there are moments of humor and joy as well. (Also, we will have popcorn)

After the movie there will be a bit of time to talk about it with others and share your thoughts, and any reflections you have about the movie or the Christmas Story. Join us for this fun event!



**To Florence
and the Butler Family
on the Passing of
Paul Bulter on Nov. 18th.**

**There will be an Open House /
Celebration of Life at Oak Crest on
Saturday, December 9th from 1-4 p.m.
Memorial gifts can be sent to
Oak Crest in Memory of Paul.**

**COOKIE WALK IS
COMING.....**



December 9, 2023

9-11 a.m.

Please help us by baking your favorite Christmas cookies and adding them to our sale. Spread the word about our Cookie Walk to all your friends. And join us on Saturday, December 9 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 Capital Improvement Fund as we help meet our goal.

**MALTA UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
\$8.00/POUND**



2023 OUTREACH & MISSION MINUTES

Members in attendance: Mary Lynn McArtor, Chair, Ed Cheek, Denny Heins, Marcia Hueber, Jodi Slade. Absent: Sue Vaughn & Pastor Jeremiah

The Outreach & Mission Committee met following Worship Service on Sunday, February 5, 2023. The purpose of this meeting was to complete a plan for the Malta United Methodist Church to meet the requirements of LIVING THE BEATITUDES.

A CALL TO ACTION AND CONNECTION.

We reviewed the 2023 Northern Illinois Conference General Church offerings 2023. There are seven Sundays which special envelopes will be bulletin inserts. Money collected as offerings will be mailed to the conference.

We are committed to be a connectional giving church. We will pay 100% of the churches conference and general church apportionments. The 2023 amount is \$10,834. Our church membership is 116 divided into our church amount equals \$90.00 per member.

Our church gifts are to be sent by the treasurer to P.O. Box 5656, Carol Stream, IL 60197-5656. It is suggested the funds be mailed each quarter.

We as the Outreach/Mission Committee unanimously decided to select the same Advanced Projects as we had in 2022. (See Mission Links 2023)

Local outreach activities will be supported in the community as in the past. MISSION COMMITTEE PLAN: Support the Giving Tree/Salvation Army, Crop Walk, Salvation Army Food Pantry, DeKalb County Community Gardens, Malta Community Garden Plots by growing produce for others, and other opportunities as they arise. Habitat for Humanity of DeKalb County, and Malta School children with school supplies, hats, mittens, etc.

Submitted by Mary Lynn McArtor



MISSION LINKS 2023

(FORMALY RAINBOW COVENANT)
Living the Beatitudes 2021-2024

Mission Links Book

I. APPORTIONMENTS 2023 - First-Mile Giving:	\$10,834	Pg. 5-7
We are committed to meet our apportionments in full, and we set these additional goals.		
II. Advance Projects – Second-Mile Giving:		
Global Advance Projects		Pg. 13
Lithuania In Mission Together (#12168A)		
UMCOR/Emergency Relief Projects (Undesignated)		Pg. 20
Midwest Mission – MMDC (#50000150)		
US Based Advances		Pg. 21
Tree of Life Ministry – Prairie, S. Dakota (#123615)		
Northern Illinois Conference Projects		Pg. 23
NIU Wesley Foundation at NIU (#50000135)		
Outdoor & Retreat Ministries “Camps”		
Scholarships (#50000036)		
NIC District Projects		Pg. 26
Rockford Work Camps (#60000234)		

Pastor: Jeremiah Thompson

Mission Chair: Mary Lynn McArtor

DECEMBER 2023

Vicke's Winter Hours:
M-W-Th 8:00 a.m. –NOON



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					1 Lions Club Senior Luncheon Setup	2 Lions Club Senior Luncheon <small>Fellowship Hall Reserved</small>
3 1 st Sunday in Advent w/Communion Fellowship Hall Reserved 12:30 -5pm	4 Church Council 7pm Finance 730pm CC	5	6 Prayer & Fellowship 6:30 p.m. Choir Practice 7:00 p.m.	7	8	9  Cookie Walk 9-11 a.m.
10 2 nd Sunday in Advent Oak Crest 3:30pm Kid's Sunday School 4:00 p.m.	11 Youth Group 6PM at Grace	12	13 Prayer & Fellowship 6:30 p.m. Choir Practice 7:00 p.m.	14 4H 6:30pm	15	16
17 3 rd Sunday in Advent	18	19	20 Prayer & Fellowship 6:30 p.m. Choir Practice 7:00 p.m.	21 Today's Sisters Luncheon TBA	22	23
24 Christmas Eve 11 a.m. "Christmas Cantata" 4:00 PM Christmas Eve Candle Light Service	25 Christmas Day 	26	27 Prayer & Fellowship 6:30 p.m. Choir Practice 7:00 p.m.	28	29	30 Church Reserved PASTOR's WEDDING Pastor Out of Town
31 PASTOR OUT OF TOWN 1 ST Sunday after Christmas Day HYMN SING SUNDAY	<div> PASTOR OUT OF TOWN FROM SATURDAY, DECEMBER 30 TO WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 3, 2024 </div>					

Malta United Methodist Church

(815) 825-2118

maltaumc@outlook.com

Rev. Jeremiah Thompson, Pastor

Vicke Heins, Adm. Assistant

Mon – Wed – Thurs 8-Noon

Keep Informed on our Web Page at:

Maltaumc.org



MERRY CHRISTMAS

Members & Friends of Malta UMC

Jeremiah Thompson, Pastor

Vicke Heins, Adm. Asst.

Nancy Plote, Organist,

Marcia Hueber, Pianist,

Tom Plote, Trustee Chair,

Niki Rempfer, Choir Director

Terry O'Conner, Custodian

Malta United Methodist Church

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Malta, IL 60150