



# MALTA UNITED



## Methodist Church

January 2021

### PASTOR JEREMIAH'S MESSAGE

I Corinthians 12:4: "There are different spiritual gifts but the same Spirit."

One of my favorite podcasters has in recent months been doing shows about human prehistory. He's been talking about how humans, after the last ice age, started finding new ways of living in settled communities all over the world, compared to the ways that most humans had been nomads for tens of thousands of years before that. What's interesting is that people found ways to be able to settle in so many different ways. In some places they discovered better ways to fish for the bounty of the seas. In some places people learned to hunt, catch, forage, and pick a wide variety of foods. In some places humans learned that the nuts of the trees can provide stable year round food, if you learn to process and store them the right way. The result of all this was that humans from the Americas, to Africa, to every place in between started living in the same places more or less permanently, as many of us do today. What I find fascinating is that humans could achieve the same goal in so many ways.

That got me thinking about how God works through people. In many ways, I believe in a pretty simple theology and purpose in life. I believe God loves us, wants us to be in relationship with God and wants us to love others. I believe Jesus shows us God's love. The thing is, though the same loving God calls to us all and Christ teaches us all to love, the ways we live that out are so varied. I've seen people serving God with hammers and nails, the written word, with a syringe, in the cab of a tractor, and so many more. Some people live out God's call

by teaching children, some by encouraging and supporting others, some through an emphasis in prayer, and list goes on and on. The point is, if all these people can follow God's calling, and they can bless other people. To go back to my initial paragraph, just as humans all over the world have learned what they can grow or gather in their part of the world to make a living, so God in a huge variety of ways, gifts us to know blessing and be a blessing to others.

2020 won't go down in history as a joyful year for many people, there are a thousand reasons for that, that we all know. However, as we enter 2021 there are thousands of ways that God will be gifting people to bless others and to grow closer to God. This new year, like all new year's, is a chance to dedicate our lives again or for the first time to loving God, deepening our relationship with God, and letting God's Holy Spirit show us how we can be a gift and blessing to others. The question is not, will God gift each and every one of us, but the question is, will we follow God's leading and use the gifts God gives us?

It is my hope and prayer that as we start this new year, we keep our ears, eyes, heart, mind and more open to the ways the Holy Spirit of God is calling to us. In the pain of our world today, there are so many ways we can help someone else in Jesus' Name. Whoever you are reading this, God is gifting you to help someone. Will you do it? I pray we all do, as we start this new year, and as we hopefully come towards the end of the pandemic. We can all, guided by God, help our society enter a new and better, and above all a more loving era. May we all use our gifts, diverse as they are, in Jesus' Name. Amen.

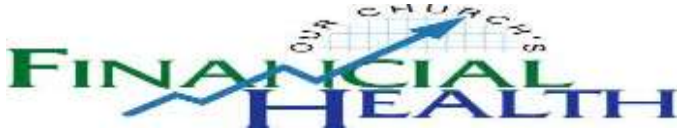
*Pastor Jeremiah*



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Dear Church Family,

This year has been unprecedented for our church. For much of the year our worship has been primarily online, as have been small groups, meetings, and other activities, and we are mailing out sermons like never before. Our Fall Supper was drive thru only, even communion has needed to be drive thru. We've had other issues, bats and squirrels in the church, air conditioner repairs, and updates to our Internet capabilities to stay in better communication with everyone. I am (we are) profoundly grateful to many of you who kept our church ministries flourishing in the midst of all of this upheaval.

Through all these challenges our church finances have remained strong. Our offerings continue as before. Several households in the church have started giving online as well, which has sped up the deposit of some offerings. (If you'd like more information on online giving, please let Pastor Jeremiah know, or contact the church for an "Automatic Deduction Authorization Form").

We've even begun our new capital campaign, which will continue over the next

3 years as we raise funds to maintain our facilities, and in particular look towards tuckpointing our building to keep it strong and stable for the coming decades. The support you continue to give the church has seen us through these waves so far and gives us the strength to look forward to the second half of 2021 when the pandemic will hopefully have ended, and at least some of our in-person ministries can begin again.

If you would like to contribute to our new "Capital Campaign", please send your checks made out to Malta UMC and marked as "Capital Campaign" to Larry Vint at 2711 Greenwood Acres Drive, DeKalb, IL. 60115

As 2020 comes to an end, and we look to resolutions for 2021, I ask you to consider what you feel God is asking you to give of your financial resources to our church. How can we give of our financial resources, and other talents and time as well, to bless each other and our community in Christ's Name? Let us pray about this and see where God would lead each of us.

May you have a Merry Christmas, all 12 days, and a blessed New Year, as we give thanks for another year in ministry together.

In Christ,  
**Pastor Jeremiah** and  
The Finance Committee



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### ANNUAL CHURCH CONFERENCE

#### **UPDATE: December 10, 2020**

SPRC met with Pastor and the D.S. at 6:30 p.m. and the rest of the congregation met at 7:00 p.m. We had 15 people join us on zoom along with Pastor Jeremiah and Pastor Brian Gilbert, District Superintendent. Pastor Jeremiah started the meeting with a prayer and Pastor Gilbert, D.S. read Ephesians 2:14-22. He explained how Paul related to being a Christian, and how it is more than just following the rules. Everybody belongs because of what Jesus has done through the Cross. God is pleased to dwell in us and we are the church. We talked about our core values and what we have learned as a church over the last 9 months. We certainly have become more creative and adaptable. We discussed, and many shared how we are feeling God's Grace through the pandemic. The Business part of the meeting was opened and Lay Leadership Nominations were approved, along with Pastor's salary, house exclusion and account reimbursement. Lay Leaders: Marcia Hueber and Mary Lynn McArtor were affirmed and Pastor Gilbert, D.S. praised them for their service and dedication. Membership was reviewed

and no one was removed from the Membership Roll this year. Pastor Gilbert, D.S. expressed sympathy for those members who have passed this year and acknowledged that these members would be welcomed into the presence of God. At the end of the meeting Pastor Jeremiah stated how impressed he was by the way the church has adapted during this pandemic. Tom Plote spoke on behalf of the church, how we appreciate all that Pastor Jeremiah has done this year, especially during the pandemic. He has gone above and beyond his duties and has continued to stay strong in his service to God, our church, and the community. Pastor Gilbert, D.S. wanted to let everyone know that he is available and anyone can reach out to him at anytime. He asked that we continue to grow in God, and in His Love & Grace. The meeting adjourned 7:39 p.m. with everyone reciting The Lord's Prayer.



Pastor Judy Giese sent a nice note wishing everyone a Merry Christmas and enclosed her address:

**Rev. Judy Giese  
DeKalb County Rehab & Nursing Center  
2600 North Annie Glidden Rd.  
DeKalb, IL 60115**



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"I enjoy receiving mail from friends and family and hope to hear from you. Wishing you all a Blessed Christmas season and a Happy New Year in 2021."

*Judy Giese*



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

Almburg, Brett  
Bakken, Benjamin P.  
Bakken, Monique  
Barclay, Kendra  
Bulta, 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



**Send Cards & Letters (anytime) to the Troops,**

**but during the holidays it is especially  
welcoming and appreciated.**

This is the way you can communicate your support and thanks to the troops. It is not possible to write directly to or be a direct pen pal with a deployed soldier. You send them to SOT, we send them forward.

**It's time to have fun. Here are some writing tips:**

- Be positive. They are meant to uplift and encourage.
- Be thankful. Be sure to communicate your appreciation for the soldiers' sacrifices and dedication to us and our country.
- Be respectful. These women and men have earned it more than most of us!
- Be kind. Remember most of us have never and will probably never have to endure the difficulties that these soldiers have experienced.
- Be encouraging.
- DO NOT include your email or mailing address
- DO NOT use your last name
- If it is a classroom or workplace or group project, you can include a group photo.
- Leave them unsealed for inspection or they won't go

**Send them to:**

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

Thank you for thinking of the troops! We will send them to deployed soldiers, Sailors, Marines, and Airmen.





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### CHURCH COUNCIL NEWS:

The Church Council met on December 7<sup>th</sup> and was held via ZOOM with 12 members and Pastor Jeremiah present.

Special recognition was given to Jacque Fucilla and Jodi Willrett for their organization and planning of the very successful drive-through Fall Supper. Over 500 meals were served and profit was nearly \$9,000. Jamie & Larissa Willrett, Jacque & Brian Fucilla, Jodi & Ken Slade, and Jonamac Orchard were recognized for their significant donations covering Fall Supper expenses.

Evergent will be the new Internet provider for our church. We will now have Internet in the sanctuary allowing better live broadcast of services and video broadcasts of services when in-person church resumes.

Dave Gommel gave an update on dispersal of items in the Northwest Church building. Former NW members and Malta members have had the opportunity to secure items. Many thanks to Dave and Jeanette Gommel for their work and dedication to this project.

Trustees chair, Tom Plote, reported the new A/C unit has been installed at the church. We are still looking for mason contractors to bid on tuck pointing the church building as well as someone to do fascia and gutter repairs.

Jodi Slade reported on the virtual meeting of the Northern Illinois Annual Conference. Three pieces of legislation were passed:

- 1) Anti Racism Training

- 2) Redistricting will take our conference from six districts down to five.
- 3) Budget for 2021 of \$4.2 million

Next Ad Council meeting will be February 1 at 7:30 pm, following Finance meeting at 7 p.m.

*Sue Augustine*, Secretary

### Church Council Committee:

**Pastor Jeremiah Thompson**

**Church Council Chair: Ed Cheek**

**Secretary of CC: Sue Augustine**

**Church Finance: Bill Augustine**

**Church Financial Secretary: Larry Vint**

**Church Treasure: Kevin McArtor**

**Lay Leader Delegate: Jodi Slade**

**Alternate Lay Delegate: Mary Lynn McArtor**

**Church Education: Kitty Jouris**

**Ruth Hueber**



**Pastor Jeremiah & Megan Thompson**  
(13 years)



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.





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The support of our “virtual” Cookie Walk was amazing. Thank you to all who donated to our fund. With the \$800 collected we were able to buy 50 gift cards in the amount of \$16 to add to the Cheer Gifts given by Malta Lions to many families in the Malta community. Malta Lions gave Walmart gift cards, so we decided to purchase Hickey’s gift cards from Malta United Methodist Church. Thank you for sharing in spreading Christmas Cheer to many in Malta.

### Membership Care Committee



Janice Frye would like to thank the Church and Malta Lions Club for their wonderful gifts, and for remembering her during these difficult times. She would also like to say *thank you* to her church family and everyone for your prayers, words of encouragement, thoughtfulness, and caring. “It is very over whelming to know that so many care, but it is very heartfelt and greatly appreciated.”

*Janice Frye*

Janice is doing much better  
and is getting stronger everyday!



## 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

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



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### BIRTHDAYS

	BIRTHDAYS
1	Molly Heins-Doughty
4	Elaina Anderson
6	Ethan Fenstermaker
8	Randy Boyden
14	Jenny Plote & Becky Piquett
16	Denny Heins
19	Sydney Sandberg
23	Jason Hill
25	Dennis Abbott
26	Sandy Schafer
27	Troy Mattis, Gene Hickey, Rodney Engstrom
28	Stephen Otto



### SNOWBALL FUDGE

- 1 2/3 c. sugar
- 3 c. mini marshmallows
- 2/3 c. Carnation evaporated milk
- 1 tsp. vanilla
- ¼ tsp. salt
- ½ c. chopped nuts
- 1 c. chocolate chips

Blend sugar, milk and salt in large saucepan. Heat to boiling, stirring constantly.

Boil 5 minutes, time it. Remove from heat. Stir in chocolate chips until melted.

Add 1 ½ Cups miniature marshmallows and stir until melted. Stir in vanilla. Fold in nuts. Fold in remaining 1 ½ cups miniature marshmallows and pour into buttered 8x8 pan quickly before marshmallows melt. Cool before cutting.





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### MALTA UMC NOMINATIONS FOR LAY LEADERSHIP 2020-2021

#### CHURCH COUNCIL

Ed Cheek, Chair  
Larry Vint - Financial Secretary  
Sue Augustine – Secretary of Church Council  
Bill Augustine – Finance  
Kevin McArtor – Church Treasurer  
Mary Lynn McArtor - Lay Leader  
Florence Butler, Alternative Lay Delegate  
Kitty Jouris – C.E.  
Jodi Slade – Lay Delegate to Annual Conference  
Ruth Hueber  
Pastor Jeremiah

#### BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Tom Plote, Chair  
Larry Vint  
Frank Jouris  
Dave Fenstermaker  
Bill Augustine  
Justis Willrett (Young Adult)

#### COMMITTEE ON FINANCE & STEWARDSHIP

Bill Augustine, Chair 2019  
Tom Plote  
Larry Vint  
Kevin McArtor  
Mary Lynn McArtor  
Dave Gommel

#### STAFF, PASTOR & PARISH RELATIONS

Marcia Hueber, Chair  
Mary Lynn McArtor  
Frank Jouris  
Jamie Willrett  
Vicky Vint  
Dave Gommel  
Marilyn Berg

#### MISSION & OUTREACH

Mary Lynn McArtor, Chair  
Jodi Slade  
Ed Cheek  
Marcia Hueber  
Elvin Plapp  
Denny Heins  
Sue Vaughn

#### CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Kitty Jouris, Chair  
Danielle Rempfer  
Mary Lynn McArtor  
Jackie Fucilla – S.S.  
Annika Anderson

#### MEMBERSHIP CARE

Sue Augustine, Chair  
Hope Willrett, Secretary  
Rachel Rempfer-Hill  
Vicky Vint  
Katie Fenstermaker  
Mary Langley  
Marcia Hueber  
Vicke Heins





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## Methodist Church January 2021

### MALTA UMC NOMINATIONS FOR LAY LEADERSHIP 2020-2021 continued.

#### COMMITTEE OF LAY LEADERSHIP

Pastor Jeremiah, Chair  
Marcia Hueber  
Mary Lynn McArtor  
Vicky Vint

#### COMMITTEE ON RECORDS & HISTORY

Marilyn Berg, Chair  
Kaye Dinsmore  
Marcia Hueber  
Carol Sandberg  
Norma Hopkins  
Pat Siebrasse



Dear Malta UMC, **thank you** for your thoughtful and very generous gift. The \$16 gasoline card will certainly be helpful. I don't know why you are so very kind to me, but I deeply appreciate it. I'm praying you all have a most joyous Christmas and a blessed New Year.

Sincerely,  
**Cynthia W.**



### Upper Room Devotionals

are available for January/February.

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.

AS THIS NEW YEAR APPROACHES FIND INSPIRATION AROUND YOU, AND GOD WITHIN YOU, TO BE ALL THAT YOU CAN BE.



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### January 2021

# TIME FOR KIDS

Today's Epistle tells about something special we have received from God. To find out what it is, color the spaces with dots.



*Happy New Year  
If it didn't bring you joy  
just leave it behind  
Let's ring in the new year  
with good things in mind.*

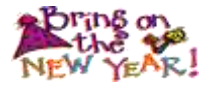
*Let every bad memory  
that brought heartache and pain  
And let's turn a new leaf  
with the smell of new rain*

*Let's forget past mistakes  
making amends for this year  
sending you these greetings  
to bring you hope and cheer  
Happy New Year*





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## Methodist Church January 2021

### 2021

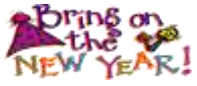
# JANUARY

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

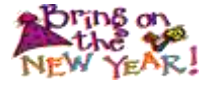
**NO “IN CHURCH WORSHIP”  
UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE!**

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					1 Happy New Year	2
3 Epiphany Sunday	4 Worship Committee Meeting 6:30 pm (Tentative)	5	6 Prayer Meeting 7pm	7	8	9
10 Baptism of the Lord	11	12	13 Prayer Meeting 7pm	14	15	16
17	18	19	20 Prayer Meeting 7pm	21	22	23
24 Ecumenical Sunday	25	26	27 Prayer Meeting 7pm	28	29	30
31						





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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