



MALTA UNITED



Methodist Church

January 2022

PASTOR JEREMIAH'S MESSAGE

Psalm 22

1 My God, my God, why have you forsaken me? Why are you so far from helping me, from the words of my groaning?

2 O my God, I cry by day, but you do not answer; and by night, but find no rest.

This Psalm is the one that Jesus quoted as he died on the cross; it's a Psalm where the Psalmist pleaded with God for help in times of trouble and expressed their true feelings in a time of pain. It's not an easy or fun Psalm to read, but it's a Psalm I think most people can identify with if they are honest. There are times when we feel alone, even abandoned by God.

I thought of this Psalm as I considered the start of 2022. The last two years have been I think for American society, as a whole, the most stressful and painful of my lifetime. Much of that stress has stemmed from the Covid-19 pandemic, and I believe the pandemic has made all the other tensions in our society and world that much worse. Now sadly as we start 2022, we are in this December seeing another wave of Covid, with the Omicron variant causing more cases of the virus here in our area, and that has already affected some of our church activities and may affect more. It's hard!

It's hard not being able to do so many things we once enjoyed. It's hard remembering those lost and seeing the continuing impact of a virus on our lives. For me it's hard to see so much fear, misinformation, and anger thrown around when we need love and compassion to help each other. It's hard.

God knows it's hard. God in the form of Jesus Christ, somehow fully God and fully human knows that life is hard sometimes. God knows about the cold, and the soreness, the fear, the anguish, the frustration, all of it. As the theologian and philosopher Alfred North Whitehead put it God is one "who understands." As we face a New Year, that may frankly have a higher degree of difficulty than any of us want, I take comfort that the Psalms, and Jesus, and so many other places in the bible give us permission and words to express if we feel struggle right now. God can take us truly saying what we feel, and God won't stop loving us for feeling it. It's okay this winter if we need to cry out to God in some way.

I believe that God is with us, as we move from the season of Christmas to Epiphany. We remember Emmanuel, Jesus Christ, God with us, and remember that God is with us! God loves us. God is guiding us all towards something better, something better in this

world and the next. God will give us the strength we need. God will comfort us when we cry, God loves us and there is nothing we can do about it. So, in whatever way we need, let us speak to God. Let us know that God is there, and that makes this a not Happy New Year, for happiness is short term, but Joyful New Year for God's love can give us joy, peace, and hope in all times. May you feel God's love as we start this New Year. Let us all be guided by that love to do what we can for the best 2022 possible, for us and for all people, in Jesus' Name, Amen.



A special THANK YOU to The "Candy Lady" Sweets, who donated chocolate almond bark and peppermint bark to our church Cookie Walk. That was very "sweet" of them! You can learn more about them on their Facebook page, "Magic in a Mug."

Cookie Walk

THANK YOU!

**COOKIE WALK WAS
A GREAT SUCCESS
ANOTHER
RECORD YEAR SET!**



Thank you to all who baked cookies for our Cookie Walk. Every year we say we have a bigger and more beautiful selection

than ever! But this year I think it truly was! The wonderful bakers in our church did not let us down.

A special thanks to all those who "walked" at our Cookie Walk and purchased cookies. With everyone's support, including some generous monetary donations, we raised **\$1,566.55**. Our profits will be going into the Capital Improvement Fund of our church to support the continuing repairs on our church building.

THANK YOU again to all who contributed to our success!

Sue Augustine, Chair
Membership Care Committee

I would also like to give **special thanks** to the members of my committee who go above and beyond to bake and work at the Cookie Walk. Each member is a special blessing. They are: Katie Fenstermaker, Vickie Heins, Rachel Rempfer, Vicky Vint, Hope Willrett, and Marcia Hueber.

We also **thank our special helpers**— Larry Vint (who also bakes) runs our scale and takes care of our accounting, and Danielle Rempfer, Kai Crouch, Denise Showalter, and Nancy Plote who jumped in to help where we needed them. We appreciate their help tremendously.

If you have not already let the church know when your **ANNIVERSARY** is - (including year), please do so by sending an email to maltaumc@outlook.com or call the church office at (815) 825-2118.



	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



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.



2 Frank & Kitty Jouris
 9 Sue Vaughn
 16 Noel Arndt
 23 Hope Willrett & Gene Hickey
 30 Ruth Hueber





Our Thoughts & Prayers go out
Judie Cochrane & Family
on the passing of **Jimmy Cochrane**
in mid-December.

Judies address is, if you wish to send cards:
Heritage Woods
2626 Annie Glidden Rd. Apt. 110
DeKalb, IL 60115

PRAIRIE SOUTH LAY ACADEMY



4 Dates:

Sunday, January 9: 1-4:00 p.m.
Wed, January 12: 6:30-8:30 p.m.
Sunday, January 16: 1-4:00 p.m.
Wed, January 19: 6:30-8:30 p.m.

To get credit for taking each course, you
must complete all 10 hours of the course.

ON ZOOM / COST \$20

COURSES: Leading Worship &
For The Common Good

Contact: Marcia Peddicord at (815) 872-2821 or
Email: marcia.peddicord@gmail.com



PRAIRIE SOUTH LEADERSHIP TRAINING

DATE: JANUARY 22, 2022
TIME: 8:30 A.M. – NOON
PLACE: DEKALB UMC
COST: \$5.00

MASKS REQUIRED / NO FOOD PROVIDED

(BRING YOUR OWN DRINKS AND SNACKS)

Registration: 8:30 – 9:00 a.m.

Worship: 9:00 – 9:20 a.m.

Classes: 9:30 – Noon

CLASSES ARE:

Staff Parish – Rev. Arlene Christopherson;
Intentional Discipleship by Armania Drane;
Vitality by Rev. Jim Bell;
Anti-Racism by Rev. Jeremiah Thompson;
Treasurer/Financial - TBA;
Hospitality & Friendship by Rev. Paul Lee.

MALTA UMC NOMINATIONS FOR LAY LEADERSHIP **2021-2022**

CHURCH COUNCIL

Ed Cheek, Chair
 Nancy Plote - Financial Secretary
 Tom Plote – Trustee Chair
 Sue Augustine – Secretary of Church Council
 Bill Augustine – Finance
 Kevin McArtor – Church Treasurer
 Mary Lynn McArtor - Lay Leader
 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
 Rodney Hueber
 Justis Willrett (Young Adult)

FINANCE & STEWARDSHIP

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

STAFF, PASTOR & PARISH RELATIONS

Marcia Hueber, Chair
 Frank Jouris
 Jamie Willrett
 Vicky Vint
 Dave Gommel

Marilyn Berg
 Jodi Slade

MALTA UMC NOMINATIONS FOR LAY LEADERSHIP 2021-2022 continued

MISSION & OUTREACH

Mary Lynn McArtor, Chair
 Jodi Slade
 Ed Cheek
 Marcia Hueber
 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
 Marcia Hueber
 Vicky Heins

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

MALTA UMC NOMINATIONS FOR LAY
LEADERSHIP 2021-2022 continued

DISCIPLESHIP TEAM

Pastor Jeremiah
Niki Ruth
Ruth Hueber



FELLOWSHIP/COFFEE HOUR

has been **CANCELLED**
until further notice!

Covid-19 Restrictions

Dear all, it is with heavy heart that I share this message. Due to the recent increase in Covid-19 infections in our area we will not be having meals or food at church until further notice. We hope this will be short term, but taking off our masks for eating and drinking, considerably raises the chance of germs being spread. So until this latest wave of the Covid-19 is passed we need to do all we can for the health and wellbeing of everyone.



from **THE SALVATION ARMY!**

We are very grateful for your donation.

Your generous donation allows us to continue serving our community throughout the holiday season and the new year to come.

Your donation was more than a gift of money- you also gave the most important thing of all for the human spirit – a gift of hope!



from **NEIGHBORS IN CHRIST
ECUMENICAL**

On behalf of the Neighbor's in Christ Ecumenical Center, we would like to thank you for your generous donation of \$643.00. it will help out our organization to fulfill its mission.



ANGEL TREE THANK YOU

A big Thank You to all who gave to the **Salvation Army Angel Tree** this year!

A car load of gifts and grocery items were delivered, along with nearly \$1000 in monetary donations to the food pantry.

Thank you all for your generous support!

The Outreach Committee



THURSDAY NIGHT “Sunday School”

All children up through 3rd grade are invited to join us for Thursday Night “Sunday School” at 5:30 on the first and third Thursday of the month. We will be looking at the stories of Jesus over the next few months and will have times of singing, activities, and prayer. As soon as we safely can, we will resume providing a meal for the kids. We need more adults (or teens) to help. If you’d like to help, please contact Pastor Jeremiah at 815-592-3764, or at castiger1@gmail.com.



MALTA /AREA MILITARY MEN AND WOMEN CURRENTLY SERVING OUR COUNTRY

Almburg, Brett
Bakken, Benjamin P.
Bakken, Monique
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.
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.



On the table in the Narthex are copies of the **School Supply list for Malta Elementary School Kids**, copies of the **Midwest**

Mission “Top Needs” Supply list, January Newsletter, January/February Upper Rooms.



HOLD FAST TO THE MAST

Strengthening Our Spiritual Lives LAITY CONVOCATION 2022

Saturday, February 12, 2022

9-Noon / Via Zoom

www.umcnic.org/calendr/laity-convocation-2022

Registration opens: January 3



Upper Room Devotionals

are available for January/February.

I can mail one to you!

Just call the church office at
(815) 825-2118 or email the church
at maltaumc@outlook.com



CHURCH COUNCIL NEWS:

Next Church Council meeting will be February 7th at
7:30 p.m. / Finance meets at 7:00 p.m.

Church Council Committee:

Pastor Jeremiah Thompson

Church Council Chair: Ed Cheek

Secretary of CC: Sue Augustine

Church Finance: Bill Augustine

Church Financial Secretary: Nancy Plote

Church Treasurer: Kevin McArtor

Church Trustee Chair: Tom Plote

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

Discipleship Chair: Pastor Jeremiah

**If you are interested in joining one of these
groups, please contact the Chair.**

**They would love to hear
from you!**



CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT FUND



If you wish to contribute to the Malta UMC Capital Improvement Fund, please send your donations to:

Nancy Plote, 411 S. Malta Road, Malta, IL 60150



**HELP MIDWEST MISSION
DISTRIBUTION CENTER
with their "TOP NEEDS".**

"PERSONAL DIGNITY KITS"

NEEDED: Toothpaste – 2.5 oz. or larger, Wash Clothes (Bath), Hand Towels (Bath)

"HOMECARE KITS"

NEEDED: Liquid Laundry Detergent – 32-64 oz., Dish Soap – 16-34 oz., Liquid Household Cleaner – 16-40 oz. (No Spray).

"MEDICAL EQUIPMENT & SUPPLIES"

NEEDED: Folding walkers, crutches, canes, wheelchairs, shower chairs, and orthopedic supplies.

"LAYETTE KITS"

NEEDED: Onesies, Donations of \$2 for Diaper Cream, Cloth Diapers (sewing instructions are on the website), Receiving Blankets – 28" by 28" or 32" by 32" (store bought or handmade).

"STUDENT KITS"

NEEDED: Box of 12 Colored Pencils and Rulers.

"SEWING MACHINES"

NEEDED: Electric and Treadle

Please place your items in box in the narthex marked Midwest Missions. Their Goal is 6,000 Pounds!

If you want to assemble full kits, the information is located on the website: www.midwestmission.org under "Kits, Projects, and Patterns."



SALVATION ARMY FOOD PANTRY

You are welcome to bring Non-Perishable

Food anytime throughout the year for the Salvation Army Food Pantry. Place it in the box in the narthex marked **"FOOD PANTRY"**. (Cleaning Supplies and personal hygiene items are high on the needed list. They have plenty of tooth brushes.)

The Salvation Army appreciates all you give.



HELPING OUR KIDS

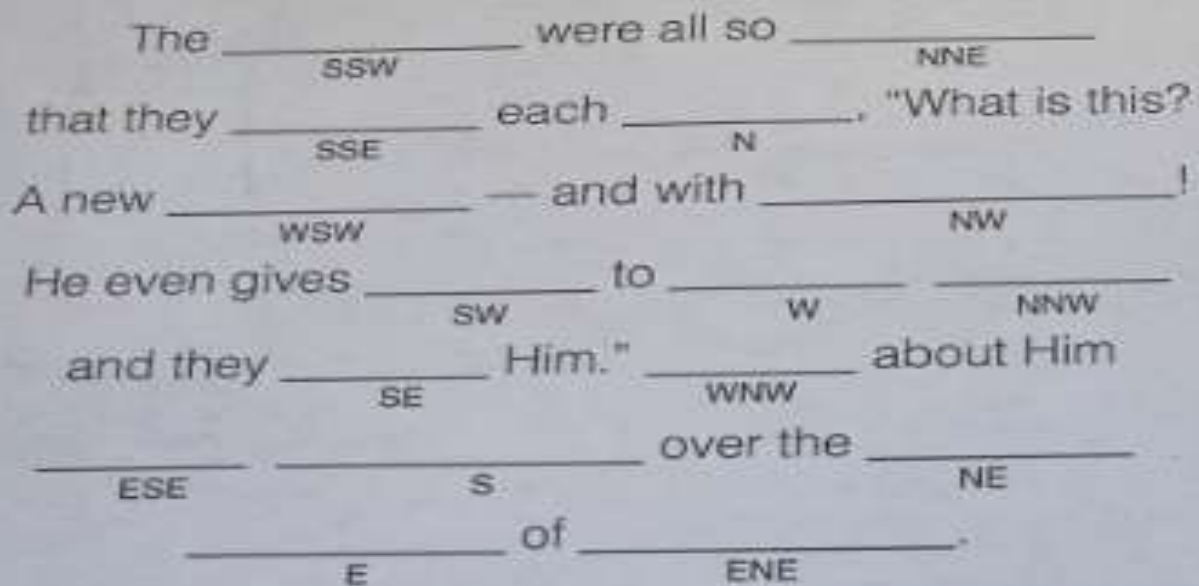
at Malta Elementary School:

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.)

CHECK OUT the Rainbow Covenant Book "MISSION LINKS" – Living the Beatitudes

at umcnic.org/missionlinks It is a digital magazine: Call to Action & Connection.





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

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
2022						1 HAPPY NEW YEAR
2 Epiphany Sunday with Communion	3 Office Open 8-Noon	4	5 Office Open 8-Noon Prayer Meeting 7pm	6 Office Open 8-Noon Sunday School (K-3) 5:30-6:30pm	7	8
9 1st Sunday after Epiphany "Baptism of the Lord"	10 Office Open 8-Noon	11	12 Office Open 8-Noon Prayer Meeting 7pm	13 Office Open 8-Noon 4H 6:30 p.m.	14	15
16 2nd Sunday after Epiphany	17 Office Open 8-Noon	18	19 Office Open 8-Noon Prayer Meeting 7pm	20 Office Open 8-Noon Sunday School (K-3) 5:30-6:30pm	21	22 Prairie South Dist. Leadership Training DeKalb UMC 9:00 -Noon
23 3rd Sunday after Epiphany "Ecumenical Sunday" Pastor Gone	24 Office Open 8-Noon	25	26 Office Open 8-Noon Prayer Meeting 7pm	27 Office Open 8-Noon Today's Sisters 9:00 a.m. in Fellowship Hall	28	29
30 4th Sunday after Epiphany	31 Office Open 8-Noon					

Malta UMC
(815) 825-2118

maltaumc@outlook.com

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



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

TO: