



# MALTA UNITED



## Methodist Church

January 2023

### PASTOR JEREMIAH'S MESSAGE

*19 Therefore, go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, 20 teaching them to obey everything that I've commanded you. Look, I myself will be with you every day until the end of this present age." (Matthew 28:19-20, Common English Bible)*

This passage has become known in Christian history and theology as the great commission. This passage offers key guidance for how Jesus Christ asks us to invite others to follow his teachings. This passage also is at the root of the mission statement of the United Methodist Church: to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.

I thought of this passage and this mission statement as we start a new calendar year. New Years brings New Year's resolutions. In my experience many of these resolutions aren't something brand new. Rather they are incorporating things we already know by bringing blessings to us and others into our lives. For instance in my life, I know I need to exercise in 2023. Now something I need to do in this new year is do more stretching exercises. These aren't the same as some things I've

done in the past, but they are exercises. The key idea is the same, even though what I need to do might be different.

In the year ahead all of us as individual followers of Jesus Christ, and as a community named Malta United Methodist Church we will be called to live out the great commission. We as a community will be asked to think about how we can help make disciples of Jesus Christ and help transform our world. That commission isn't new. It's almost two thousand years old. However, how we do this, I think that's likely to be new and different. There will be discussion about how we organize our congregation to make decisions, about how we work in partnership with other churches, about how we can best use our building to bless our community, and discussions about things that I am not thinking of, as I write this because they will come up as the months progress.

The question for all of us is how we can be open to God's guidance in the weeks and months ahead, so that as individuals we can follow Jesus. and so that as a community we can live out Christ's commission. Let us enter this year with our hearts open and see how God will guide us. Happy New Year!

Pastor Jeremiah



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## ANNUAL CHURCH CONFERENCE

### UPDATE:

**Wednesday, Dec. 7, 2022**

**SPRC met at 6:30 p.m. and the rest of the congregation met at 7:00 p.m.**

Attendance: Ed Cheek, Tom Plote, Harry Berg, Marilyn Berg, Kitty Jouris, Ruth Hueber, Mary Lynn McArtor Marcia Hueber, Dave Gommel, Nancy Plote, Sue Augustine, Bill Augustine, Pastor Jeremiah Thompson

Pastor Jeremiah Thompson, who presided in the absence of our District Superintendent, Brian Gilbert called the meeting to order at 7:04 p.m.

We opened by singing "Spirit Song." accompanied by Nancy Plote. Mary Lynn McArtor read scripture from Matthew 3:13-17. The Message from Bishop Hopkins was read in unison. Pastor asked if anyone present remembered his or her baptism. A brief discussion on "remembering our baptism" followed. We also discussed briefly what God is calling us to do in the New Year. Suggestions included getting people together/bringing them into the church, possibly through potlucks, game nights, etc. How do we confess Jesus as our Savior? Participate in worship, prayer group, interest groups, Bible study, Outreach to the wider area—Salvation Army Food Pantry, Angel Tree, Midwest

Mission, etc. We sang hymn "Love Came Down at Christmas."

Sue Augustine presented the Statistical Report on Membership. Pastor wants us to see the positive points in our report, not the fact we are losing some off our membership roll. The positive points are: we have a Sunday School of 8 children; we have an Adult Sunday School; we have a student in confirmation; we had two adult baptisms; and we have three new/active members.

A vote was called for and passed to remove seven people from our Membership who have been inactive and did not respond to our communication for three years. Final membership total is now 116.

Next we reviewed the Nominations for Lay Leadership for 2022-2023. --Add Nancy Plote to Finance & Stewardship --Add Mary Lynn McArtor to Church Council --Add Kitty Jouris to Records & History. Voted to approve the list as amended, noting Ed Cheek is now our Annual Conference Delegate. Marcia Hueber and Mary Lynn McArtor are Certified Lay Servants. Ed Cheek, chair of our Church Council, signed their requests for renewal.

The Budget recommendation was received from Staff Parish Committee. Pastoral salary increase of 3% equal to \$100 per month is recommended. Pastor also requested a \$10,000 parsonage exclusion be allowed.

Bring on  
the  
NEW YEAR!

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Motion was made to approve budget as recommended. Motion carried.

The Chair of the meeting entertained a motion to adjourn. Marilyn Berg moved, Tom Plote seconded. Meeting adjourned at 7:50 p.m.

Sue Augustine,  
Secretary of Church Council



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

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

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

**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.



### Upper Room Devotionals

are available for  
January/February.



### CHURCH COUNCIL NEWS:

Next Meeting of CC is February 6, 2023  
Finance 7:00 p.m. / Church Council 7:30 p.m.

#### Church Council Committee:

**Pastor Jeremiah Thompson**

**Church Council Chair: Ed Cheek**

**Secretary of CC: Sue Augustine**

**Trustees Chair Tom Plote**

**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**



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THANK YOU!  
2022 COOKIE WALK  
WAS A GREAT SUCCESS -  
ANOTHER RECORD YEAR!

Thank you to all who baked cookies for our Cookie Walk. It is true that every year we say we have a bigger and more beautiful selection than ever! It happened again this year! I think it truly was bigger and better than ever! 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. Thanks also to Marilyn & Harry Berg for taking orders at Oak Crest, then coming and filling them, and delivering them back to Oak Crest.

With sales on Saturday, some very generous monetary donations, and leftover sales on Sunday morning we raised a new record: \$1,889. Our profits will be going into the General Fund of our church to help pay end-of-year expenses.

Thank you to our special helpers – Larry Vint (who also bakes) runs our scale and takes care of our accounting, Daniel Rempfer, Kati Crouch, Niki Rempfer, Denise Showalter, Nancy Plote, and Karshone Penn. They were a huge help

the day of our Cookie Walk and we appreciate their help tremendously.

I would also like to give special thanks to the members of the committee who go above and beyond to help organize, bake and work at the Cookie Walk. Each member is a special blessing: Katie Fenstermaker, Rachel Rempfer, Vicky Vint, Hope Willrett, Marcia Hueber, and Vicky Heins. We all agree it is a FUN and rewarding event for our church and community!

THANK YOU again to all who contributed to our success!

Sue Augustine, Chair  
Membership Care Committee



Thank you to everyone for your prayers, who sent cards, called, visited and sent gifts.

All were greatly appreciated!

*Denny & Vicky Heins*

Denny is doing better each day. Brain bleed is healing itself and the swelling is down. He may have headaches up to 6 months, but each day we see improvement. He is very weak and gets dizzy, but eats well and we believe with time and prayers he will be back to his "energizer bunny" status.



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## Malta UMC Lay Leadership



	<b>BIRTHDAYS</b>
1	Molly Heins-Doughty
4	Elaina Anderson
6	Ethan Fenstermaker
8	Randy Boyden
14	Jenny (Plote) James & 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

Church Council : 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



**NO TODAYS SISTERS MEETING IN JANUARY!**

They will meet again on Thursday, February 16<sup>th</sup>  
at 9:30 a.m. at Malta UMC.





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### 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.

### 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.)



Dear Malta UMC, we are very grateful for your donation of \$580 to **The Salvation Army**. Your donation allows us to continue serving our community throughout the holiday season and the new year to come.

Starting in **JANUARY**

### Children's Sunday School

Will meet on the 2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Sundays  
of each month at 4:00 p.m.



### Greeters for January

- |    |                      |
|----|----------------------|
| 1  | Mary Langley         |
| 8  | Marcia Hueber        |
| 15 | Harry & Marilyn Berg |
| 22 | Noel Arndt           |
| 29 | Denny & Vicke Heins  |



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## NOMINATIONS FOR LAY LEADERSHIP 2022-2023

### Malta UMC Nomination for Lay Leadership

- **Church Council**

- Ed Cheek Chair, and Annual Conference Delegate
- Nancy Plote, Financial Secretary
- Sue Augustine, Church Council Secretary
- Bill Augustine, Finance Committee Chair
- Kevin McArtor, Treasurer
- Kitty Jouris, Christian Education
- Jodi Slade, Worship Committee
- Ruth Hueber, At Large
- Mary Lynn McArtor, At Large
- Tom Plote, Board of Trustees
- Marcia Hueber, SPRC
- Marilyn Berg, Records and History
- Pastor Jeremiah

- **Board of Trustees**

- Tom Plote, Chair
- Larry Vint
- Frank Jouris
- Dave Fenstermaker
- Bill Augustine
- Justis Willrett
- Rodney Hueber

- **Finance and Stewardship**

- Bill Augustine, Chair
- Nancy Plote, Financial Secretary
- Tom Plote
- Larry Vint
- Kevin McArtor, Treasurer
- Mary Lynn McArtor

- Dave Gommel

- **Staff Parish Relations**

- Marcia Heuber, Chair
- Frank Jouris
- Derek Rempfer
- Vicky Vint
- Dave Gommel
- Marilyn Berg
- Jodi Slade

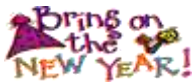
- **Worship Ministries**

- Jodi Slade, chair
- Nancy Plote, Co-chair
- Ed Cheek
- Marcia Hueber
- Kitty Jouris
- Hope Willrett
- Niki Rempfer
- Vicke Heins, Church Secretary
- Pastor Jeremiah

- **Mission and Outreach**

- Mary Lynn McArtor, Chair
- Jodi Slade
- Ed Cheek





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### ACTION GROUPS FOR 2022/2023



January 1	Mary Lynn McArtor
January 8	Tom & Nancy Plote
January 15	Ed & Becky Cheek
January 22	Mary Langley & Beth Burlison
January 29	Mary Lynn McArtor and Nancy Plote

### FRIENDSHIPS ARE LIKE A CUP OF COFFEE

Some are strong or some are weak  
but once you meet  
it warms a piece of your heart forever.



### MAY/SEPTEMBER 2022 JANUARY 2023

<b>Co-Chairs:</b>	
Sandberg, Terry & Steve	815-762-1035
McArtor, Mary Lynn & Jerry	815-751-3658
Plote, Nancy & Tom	815-751-2925
Burlison, Beth	815-384-3284
Check, Ed & Becky	815-761-0696
Langley, Mary	815-384-3333
Lynch, Connie	815-825-2722
Sandberg, Carol	815-761-1254
Sandberg, Sheli	630-677-7900
Showhalter, Denise	815-764-5238
Tucker, Joan	815-981-6209
Vaughn, Sue	815-762-5414
Willrett, Donna	815-825-2870

### JUNE/OCTOBER 2022 FEBRUARY 2023

<b>Co-Chairs:</b>	
Cook, Dawn & Doug	815-757-3303
Slade, Jodi & Ken	815-761-2753
McArtor, Denise & Kevin	815-751-5812
Anderson, Annika & Matt	815-762-7569
Arndt, Darla & Ed	815-825-2701
Engstrom, Amy & Rod	815-901-0286
Fucilla, Jacque & Brian	630-248-5695
Gommel, Jeanette & Dave	815-751-8224
Mattis, Katie & Troy	815-825-2063
Rempfer, Niki & Derek	815-501-7885
Willrett, Larisa & Jamie	815-761-4781





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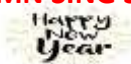


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# 2023



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<b>1 Epiphany Sunday</b> No Communion <b>HYMN SING SUNDAY</b>  Pastor on Vacation	<b>2</b>  Pastor Back today!	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b> Prayer Group 6:30 p.m. Choir Practice 7:00 p.m.	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>8 Baptism of the Lord with Communion</b>  <b>Oak Crest 3:00 p.m.</b> <b>Children's Sunday School 4:00 p.m.</b>	<b>9</b> Confirmation Class 6-7 p.m.	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b> Prayer Group 6:30 p.m. Choir Practice 7:00 p.m.	<b>12</b> 4H 6:30 p.m.	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>15 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday after the Epiphany</b>  <b>Mission Meeting after Worship in Fellowship Hall</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b> Prayer Group 6:30 p.m. Choir Practice 7:00 p.m.	<b>19</b> <b>NO</b> Today's Sisters in January	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>
<b>22 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday after the Epiphany</b>  <b>Children's Sunday School 4:00 p.m.</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b> Prayer Group 6:30 p.m. Choir Practice 7:00 p.m.	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>
<b>29 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday after the Epiphany</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>				



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**Malta UMC**

**(815) 825-2118**

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

Rev. Jeremiah Thompson, Pastor

Vicke Heins, Adm. Assistant



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

Malta United Methodist Church  
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