



MALTA UNITED



Methodist Church January 2024

PASTOR JEREMIAH'S MESSAGE

Happy New Year!

May God bless and guide you, everyone you love, and all the world, this year of **2024**.

As we enter this New Year, we all see new things on the horizon. I know I particularly feel that, as I enter my new life with my new spouse Laura Heideman, and as we make a new home together with the children. I know for some people connected to our congregation this New Year will bring new children into families. I expect there may be people who will have new jobs, or perhaps new clients. Who knows, maybe this year will even bring a bit extra as 2024 is a leap year.

This is the time of New Year's resolutions. Many of these, such as improving our health, improving communication with others, learning something new, getting finances in order, and others, are all worthwhile things. Are you making any resolutions this year? The other question is what are we doing about our relationship with God this New Year?

Could this New Year start a new pattern of Bible reading, of daily prayer, of volunteering with some organization working for love, peace, and justice in our world?

I invite you to prayerfully consider what God might be inviting you to this year. All of us have some way we can be closer to God, and show love to others. Maybe God is inviting you to do something brand new, maybe to start again something you used to do, maybe to build on a foundation you've already laid. The New Year is a new opportunity for us to grow closer to God and to brighten our world in Jesus' name. So what is God inviting us to this year?

Blessings and Peace,
Pastor Jeremiah



Throughout the New Year, and each step of the way,
May Christ be your portion, your joy and your stay.
With God's precious precepts your daily delight
To lead and encourage in paths that are right.

"The Lord is my Shepherd," how precious the word!
He'll lead in green pastures, His promise is heard.
"Beside the still waters"—what comfort and rest!
What peace there is found upon Jesus' breast.

His "goodness and mercy," each day may you prove,
His comforting presence, His infinite love!
With richest compassions, each morning anew,
May multiplied mercies be showered on you!

"My cup runneth over," His grace so abounds,
That fullest enjoyment in Jesus is found.
"The Lord is my portion," this may your soul say,
And you will be happy each step of the way.



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ANNUAL CHURCH CONFERENCE

UPDATE:

Minutes from Church Conference at Grace UMC, Wednesday, November 29, 2023 at 7:00 p.m.

Present from Malta UMC: Pastor Jeremiah, Denny & Vickie Heins, Kitty Jouris, Ruth Hueber, Tom & Nancy Plote, Marilyn Berg, Ed Cheek, Dave Gommel, Jodi Slade, Bill & Sue Augustine.

Called to Order at 7:05 p.m. by Rev. Brian, Gilbert, Dist. Supr.

Opening Prayer by Pastor Jeremiah

Scripture reading, Message and Questions by Rev. Gilbert

Business:

Lay Leadership Nominations
Passed as presented 11/29/23

Clergy Compensation:
Pastor's Salary \$25,000,
\$2750 Reimbursement,
\$15,000 Housing Exclusion
Passed 11/29/2023

Statistical Report: Total 9 removed

Removing: Beth Burlison, Hailey Dickman, Sidney Dickman, Rodney Engstrom, Amy

Engstrom, Nathaniel Engstrom, Noah Engstrom, Gary & Alice Pileski
Passed as presented 11/29/23

Lay Servant Reports:

Marcia Hueber approved for renewal as a Certified Lay Servant.
Passed 11/29/23

Mary Lynn McArtor does not want to be renewed this year.

Recommendation/Resolution for Land Transfer by Malta UMC at CC:

Resolution:

Transfer the ownership of the following graves in the Malta Cemetery: Block 4, Lot 1, Graves 1,2 & 3 to the Malta Cemetery Association in the hopes that the Cemetery Association would find an appropriate use for them by someone in financial distress.

Ownership of this block of graves will be transferred to the Malta Cemetery Association with the future decision for use to be made by members of the Malta Cemetery Association Committee.

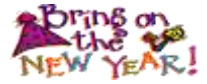
Adopted Resolution passed:

11/29/23

Lord's Prayer said by all, led by Pastor Jeremiah and Adjourned at 8:00 p.m.



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**To MALTA UMC
from
SALVATION ARMY
for your generous donation of
\$720.**

**Your donation allows us to
continue serving our
community throughout the
year to come.**



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:

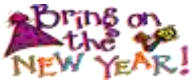
**Support Our Troops
13791 N. Nebraska Avenue
Tampa, FL 33613.**



Condolences to the Janice Haws Family on the passing of **Janice (Heins) Haws** on December 20th. Visitation at Anderson Funeral Home 4-7 on Friday, December 29th and Funeral at Anderson's at 11 a.m. on Sat. Dec. 30th with Graveside and Luncheon following at Malta Historical Building. Keep the Haws and the Heins Family's in your prayers.

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





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Next Meeting of CC is February 5, 2024
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

SPRC Chair: Derek Rempfer

Church Financial Secretary: Nancy Plote

Church Treasurer: Kevin McArtor

Worship Chair: Jodi Slade

Missions Chair: Mary Lynn McArtor

Christian Education: Kitty Jouris

At Large: Ruth Hueber

THANK YOU!

**COOKIE WALK WAS A
GREAT SUCCESS!
ANOTHER RECORD 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! It happened again this year! 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. With sales on Saturday, some very generous monetary donations, and

leftover sales on Sunday morning we raised just over \$2,200, setting a new record! Our profits will be going into the Capital Improvement Fund to continue with our needed building repairs.

Thank you to our special helpers—Larry Vint (who also bakes) runs our scale and takes care of our accounting, and Danielle Rempfer, Kai Crouch, Niki Rempfer, Nancy Plote, and Karshone Penn. They were a huge help the day of our walk and we appreciate their help tremendously.

I would also like to give special thanks to the members of my 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**



Upper Room Devotionals
are available for
January/February 2024



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TODAYS SISTERS

Does NOT meet in January!
Meet again on Thursday,
February 15th at 9:30 a.m.
at Oak Crest.

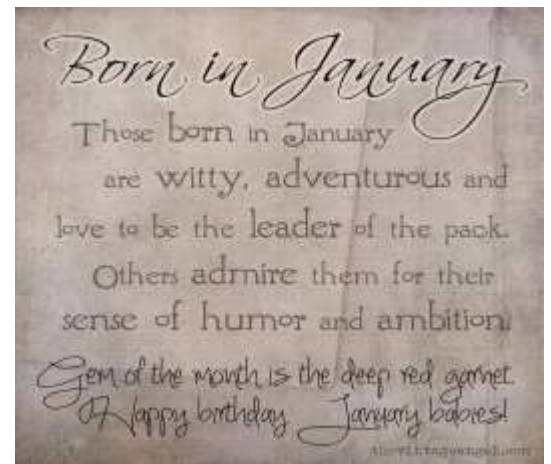


Greeters for January

- 07 Harry & Marilyn Berg
- 14 Frank & Kitty Jouris
- 21 Sandy Schafer & Roger Gustafson
- 28 Larry & Vicky Vint

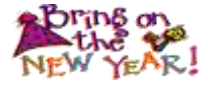


BIRTHDAYS	
1	Molly Heins-Doughty
4	Elaina Anderson
6	Ethan Fenstermaker
8	Randy Boyden
14	Jenny (Plote) James & Becky Piquett
16	Denny Heins
19	Sydney Sandberg
23	Jason Hill
25	Dennis Abbott
26	Sandy Schafer
27	Troy Mattis, Gene Hickey, & Rodney Engstrom
28	Stephen Otto





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2024 NOMINATIONS FOR LAY LEADERSHIP

Church Council

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

Board of Trustees

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

Finance and Stewardship

Bill Augustine, Chair
 Kevin McArtor, Treasurer
 Nancy Plote, Financial Secretary
 Tom Plote
 Larry Vint
 Ed Cheek
 Mary Lynn McArtor
 Dave Gommel

Staff Parish Relations

Marcia Hueber
 Frank Jouris
 Derek Rempfer
 Vicky Vint
 Dave Gommel
 Marilyn Berg
 Ed Cheek

Worship Ministries

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

Mission and Outreach

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

Membership Care

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





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2024 Nominations for Lay Leadership CONTINUED

Christian Education

Kitty Jouris, Chair
Danielle Rempfer
Jacque Fucilla
Annika Anderson
Ruth Hueber
Nancy Plote

Committee on Records & History

Marilyn Berg, Chair
Marcia Hueber
Carol Sandberg
Kitty Jouris

Lay Leadership/Nominations

Pastor Jeremiah, Chair
Mary Lynn McArtor
Marcia Hueber

the cups, and bringing a simple treat (such as a box of donut holes or cookies). KEEP IT SIMPLE! If no one signs up, no treats! Whoever arrives first can make a pot of coffee.

HELPING OUR KIDS

at Malta Elementary School

SPECIAL NEEDS: Children's Underwear & Sox

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.



SUNDAY MORNING COFFEE TIME / FELLOWSHIP SIGN-UP SHEET

Beginning in January we will be doing a "Simple" Coffee Time at 10:30 a.m. before church. There is a sign-up sheet on a clipboard in the Fellowship Hall. We are asking those who participate in the Sunday morning Coffee Time to sign up in advance to take turns making the coffee, getting out

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.



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Lowell & Claudia Wertz
P.O. Box 1344
Kigoma, Tanzania



December 2023

Dear Friends,

Isn't this the greatest time of year? Thanksgiving, followed by Christmas, followed by New Year. I wanted God to show me this year what to be thankful for.

Paul lists in Romans 1 all kinds of evil sins, but it puts thanklessness to God on top of the list. We need to be thankful **for** various things and people, and thankful **to** God, the source of everything.

God showed me the usual list -- things and loved ones. None of those were removed from the gratitude list. But this year a few additional surprises came along. First, was life itself. I am only here because He gave me and keeps giving me life. I hadn't thanked Him enough for my very existence.

Next was a real surprise. I was to be thankful for my Ford F250 truck. During our early marriage, we never had a car worth more than \$200. Claudia scrapped the frost with her credit card from the inside of the windshield -- the heater didn't work. Engine mounts were shot and she had to press the accelerator very gently lest the engine would rear up trying to leave the engine compartment. There were always problems, breakdowns, and frustrations.

A few years ago, when we got our new travel trailer, we needed a vehicle that could safely pull it. Claudia's Mom had worked as a cafeteria cook, living a modest life. When the Lord called her home, she left us some money. We used it to pay for most of the F250. It works, it is comfortable, and it hasn't broken down. Every time I drive the truck, my heart is filled with gratitude to Mom. I love her for this blessing. Thank you God, for Mom.

Many of our believing friends have lost loved ones or are facing serious health crises. Yet in their grief there is a tender thankfulness to God. They are grateful for good years spent with a spouse or for past health and hope for healing. There is thankfulness for His mercy and love when it was most needed. There is assurance in knowing the God of love. This thankfulness is holy and precious. The baby of the manger has become the greatest reality of our lives. He is Savior, Lord, King, and Friend.

Thank you God, for Christmas. Thank you for Jesus Christ -- Your one and only Son.

Love,

Lowell + Claudia



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2024



SUNDAY

MONDAY

TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY

THURSDAY

FRIDAY

SATURDAY

	1 Pastor out of town	2 Pastor returns on WED. JAN 3rd	3 Prayer Group 6:30 p.m. NO Choir Practice	4	5	6
<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; margin-bottom: 10px;"> EMERGENCY CONTACT: Hannah Phillips Mollenkamp Sycamore UMC (512) 350-5494 </div>						
7 Epiphany Sunday with Communion	8 Youth Group 6PM at Grace UMC	9 Worship Mtg 7PM Zoom	10 Prayer Group 6:30 p.m. NO Choir Practice	11 4H 6:30 p.m.	12	13
14 2 nd Sunday after the Epiphany Pastor at Oak Crest 3:00 p.m. Children's Sunday School 4:00 p.m.	15	16	17 Prayer Group 6:30 p.m. NO Choir Practice	18 NO Today's Sisters in January	19	20
21 3 rd Sunday after the Epiphany	22 Youth Group 6PM at Grace UMC	23	24 Prayer Group 6:30 p.m. NO Choir Practice	25	26	27
28 4 th Sunday after the Epiphany Children's Sunday School 4:00 p.m.	29	30	31 Prayer Group 6:30 p.m. NO Choir Practice.			

Choir Practice resumes on Wednesday, February 7th

Today's Sister's next meeting is Thursday, February 15th at 9:30 a.m. Oak Crest



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Malta UMC

(815) 825-2118

maltaumc@outlook.com

Rev. Jeremiah Thompson, Pastor

Vicke Heins, Adm. Assistant



Keep Informed on: Maltaumc.org

Malta United Methodist Church
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Malta, IL 60150