



# MALTA UNITED

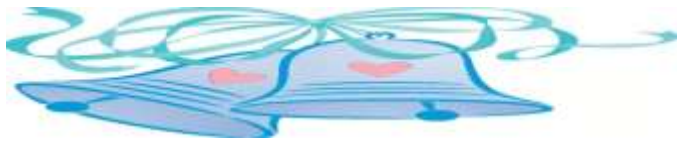


## Methodist Church

OCTOBER 2023



### PASTOR JEREMIAH'S MESSAGE



#### Wedding Announcement from Pastor Jeremiah

I would like to happily announce that I will be getting married to my fiancé, Dr. Laura Jean Heideman on Saturday, December 30 at 4:00 PM. The wedding will be at Malta United Methodist Church, but only a small ceremony with the children, our parents, and our siblings' households. With me serving two churches, Laura and I both having very large extended families, and a very large social circle, we couldn't afford a large wedding, and so we will share our day with those closest to us.

I will be taking the following day, Sunday, December 31<sup>st</sup> off, and there will be a Sunday of Christmas Music for our worship service, as that Sunday is in the midst of the 12 Days of Christmas. So it will be a joyful and fun Sunday to celebrate the end of 2023 with the songs of the Christmas Season. I will be back to work on January 3, 2024.

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#### What it Means to be Methodist: CONNECTIONALISM

When a person is ordained as an elder in the United Methodist Church (the UMC), as I was in June of 2010. We take many vows to engage in a ministry of service, preaching, teaching, and "order." I think ministries of service, like visiting people, preaching, or teaching, like a small group, are self-explanatory, but that last one "order" might not be. In our tradition, this ministry of order consists of helping local churches be efficient stewards of resources and run smoothly, but also to explain and participate in our connectional ministry.

The UMC, and all its predecessor bodies, like the Evangelical United Brethren, is a connectional denomination. We are not one congregation, but part of a wider web that spans the USA, and many other parts of our world. As an Elder in our tradition, I am expected to play a role in ministries beyond the local church and also to help the local congregation understand how we are connected to the wider denomination, what the benefits are, let you know when there are issues, and also make sure the congregation knows how its voice can be part of the decision making process. All of this is particularly important, as there have been various situations that have affected our denomination lately. Sadly not all of them are positive, in particular many churches have left our denomination. So given all the recent events, I wanted to share some information with you all and ask you to please talk to me if you have questions or concerns. There have been some misunderstandings in some churches recently and I fear

some deliberate misinformation in other parts of Illinois, as well.

So, what does it mean to be a connectional church? Well the idea behind it is, that congregations can do more in partnership than alone, to share Christ's Message and to engage in ministries of love, compassion, and justice to our world.

What does this mean practically? I'd like to address three key areas:

1. From the beginnings of Methodism we hold our building and property (including the parsonage) in trust from the Annual Conference. In other words, the Annual Conference, in our case the Northern Illinois Annual Conference, owns our building not the local congregation. One might ask why? It goes back to the conference helping to found our faith community, more than 160 years ago. The conference assigned pastors to come and preach and set up the "Methodist Society" that became our congregation and the various societies that became all the other congregations. The societies supported by traveling pastors (the circuit riders) if they thrived in a community or area could then choose to become a formal congregation. Now I don't know, if it was the case in Malta, but in many cases when congregations decided to start building buildings (rather than meeting in homes, as they had previously done) the conference often gave money to buy land or build the buildings. As the years passed, this also meant that the conference supported churches in other ways; such as training pastors, taking on legal responsibilities on behalf of congregations and many more. When a congregation ceases to exist and doesn't merge with another congregation, as NW did with Malta, the building and land revert to the conference, and then they decide what to do with it. All of this is very different from churches that are "Congregational" in their governance, because they own their buildings and land.

2. Also, as part of the connectional system we pay conference apportionments each year to the Annual Conference. This money in large part, goes to various missions and outreach projects in Illinois, the US, and the world. Some of this money also

goes to supporting the pensions of retired pastors, their widows or widowers, or the children of pastors who've died while those children are still minors. Some of this money also goes to the administration of the conference and denomination. But my understanding is, that no more than a quarter of apportionments goes to such administration with most of the money that does, being salaries for the bishop, and other conference employees. These apportionments are based on a church budget. Basically, the more a church spends on itself, the more it is asked to pay in apportionments. Churches that spend large amounts on employees or certain types of internal ministries, pay more than churches that don't. However, if a church is spending money for ministries beyond itself, for instance helping poor children or low-income senior citizens, that does not make their apportionments go up. For Malta UMC, I believe our apportionments will go down for 2024 because the congregation is no longer paying my full salary, but only half of it. But I cannot at this time tell you the exact amount it may drop.

3. As a connectional church, pastors to this congregation are appointed by the Bishop. Most of you are likely more familiar with this process, having been part of the church for some time. Basically, in conversation with the pastor and the local church the Bishop and their cabinet seek to appoint a pastor whose gifts match the needs of the local church and to send pastors to communities where they will have the resources they need for their families. For instance, I've known multiple pastors who had children who suffered from developmental delays or other health problems and so could not live at home, but rather lived in residential facilities. These pastors could be appointed to churches within a short driving distance of those facilities so they could continue ministry, but also love and support their children.

There are many other aspects to Connectionalism, but this is already a long article. I believe in Connectionalism and I wouldn't have become a pastor in the UMC, if I didn't. However, conferences and even denominations don't always

make the best choices. I'd like to say there's never been a mistake by a bishop or no church or conference has ever wasted money, but we all know that's not true. However, I think being part of this web allows us to do greater ministry, and it protects us in many ways. I am proud and happy to be part of the UMC connection. As a part of our conference, we always have a lay delegate at our annual conference who votes on resolutions there that affect us and other churches here in Northern Illinois. Our delegate can help elect the people who go to the bodies beyond the Annual Conference that make other decisions, like electing bishops or setting policy for the denomination. We need to have a lay delegate at the conference, if we want our voice heard.

In recent years and months, some aspects of Connectionalism have been talked about, due to some congregations voting to leave the UMC and become independent or to join a new denomination called The Global Methodist Church. As I write this, I believe 37 congregations in Illinois have made the decision to leave the UMC, 8 in our Northern Illinois Annual Conference and 29 in the Illinois Great Rivers Annual Conference (that is Central and Southern Illinois). The reason these churches left concerns ministry by and with Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer, Intersex, and Asexual individuals LGBTQIA. The majority of United Methodists in the US and Western Europe, or at least most of the delegates they elected to wider church bodies, want the church to accept LGBTQIA persons more fully including, as pastors and church staff. However, some people have strongly opposed making such changes.

Due to the divisions in our denomination, our General Conference, the final global deciding body of the church, allowed for a process for congregations to leave the denomination with their buildings for a brief window over the past few years. A window, that to my understanding is now closed. For a church to leave, they needed to have a solid majority of their members in favor of leaving, and they needed to pay 5 years' worth of unfunded pension liability based on their apportionments. If a congregation did this, they

could either become an independent church, or join the new Global Methodist Church, which is opposed to greater LGBTQIA inclusion. Some churches went through this process and left, some churches started it but didn't want to leave and so have remained. It is possible some more churches might leave in the State of Illinois, but I think it is very doubtful that any more in our conference will leave.

So why did I write this very long article? It's important that people have information. None of this is secret, but if we don't talk about it regularly people might not know, and this information can seem like a secret. In particular as some churches have left, or as buildings are sold, like we did with the old NW building, or DeKalb UMC did with their old building, some of these policies come up and if people don't understand them there can be misunderstandings and even conflict, which has occurred in some other congregations recently.

I have only scratched the surface of all the aspects of Connectionalism and the history of our church, but I hope this information is helpful, and I hope if you have any questions, you will ask me. If I don't know the answer, which is quite possible, we can find it somewhere. We are a community, a loving community, and as such, it's important we understand each other and also communicate well. Understanding and honest communication, I believe is one of the most important ways we can love each as Christ taught us to.

Blessings and Peace,

*Pastor Jeremiah*





**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.**



- 1 Ed Cheek
- 8 TBA
- 15 Ruth Hueber
- 22 Jacque Fucilla



**CHURCH COUNCIL NEWS:**

**Church Council Meeting**

**Monday, October 2**

Finance at 7:00 p.m. / CC Council 7:30 p.m.

**Church Council Committee:**

**Pastor Jeremiah Thompson**

**Church Council Chair: Ed Cheek**

**Secretary of Church Council: Sue Augustine**

**Church Finance: Bill Augustine**

**Church Financial Secretary: Nancy Plote**

**Church Trustees Chair: Tom Plote**

**Church Treasurer: Kevin McArtor**

**Worship Ministries Chair: Jodi Slade**

**Alternate Lay Delegate: Mary Lynn McArtor**

**Church Education: Kitty Jouris**

**Ruth Hueber**



**October**

- 1 Carol Sandberg
- 8 Hope Willrett & Gene Hickey
- 15 Kitty & Frank Jouris
- 22 Marcia Hueber
- 29 Denny & Vicke Heins



If you haven't been called to be a Greeter, and want to be, let Vicke know, and she will put you on the list. Thank you.

**MARK YOUR CALENDARS**



Our yearly Church Conference will be on **Wednesday, November 29 at 7:00 PM at Grace UMC of Maple Park**, our sister church in our two-point charge. All members of the church, of any age, have a vote at our conference. We will be approving our leaders for the congregation, approving a budget, dealing with some trustee questions, and reporting on where we are as a church. We will also have a chance to meet with our sister church, and the evening will be directed by our District Superintendent Rev. Dr. Brian Gilbert. There will also be refreshments to follow the meeting. I hope you can attend this yearly meeting as we celebrate where we are as a church, prayerfully think about our future, and finally make some decisions for our congregation.

**Conference Forms are in your mailboxes and due to Vicke by Monday, November 13, 2023.**

**Prayer & Fellowship 6:30 PM**



**7:00 PM**



**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 of Records & History Chair: Marilyn Berg

**ROAST BEEF DINNER**  
**DRIVE THRU ONLY**



**MALTA UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**  
S. Third & Sprague, Malta, IL

**SATURDAY**  
November 4, 2023  
4:30-6:30 P.M.

 **Drive thru Only** 

**Menu:**  
Beef Pot Roast  
Mashed Potatoes & Gravy  
Sweet Green Peas, Raspberry-Applesauce Jello Salad  
Fresh Baked Rolls  
Assorted Pies



**Tickets:**  
Adult: \$20  
Double Meat: \$25  
Half Portion: \$10

Tickets available from church members,  
Resource Bank in Malta  
or call 815-825-2118  
Ticket Deadline 10/27/2023



1	BRIAN FUCILLA
3	NORMA HOPKINS GERALD MCARTOR
5	RODNEY HUEBER
7	MARY LOU HUEBER
10	ELIS JO PIQUETT
11	MARCIA HUEBER
14	TIM CARTER
16	JACOB MCARTOR
17	PAUL BUTLER
22	BRAD GARRETT
25	STEVE SANDBERG

**REMEMBER THIS DATE**



# Cookie Walk

**Saturday, December 9, 2023**



## 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.) Also, 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.)

**SPECIAL NEED: Children's Underwear**

## 14<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL Make a Difference DKC



## "FEED MY STARVING CHILDREN"

**MOBILE PACK EVENT- November 9 – 12**

**The Suter Company**

1015 Bethany Road, Sycamore



Habitat for Humanity is a Christian ministry answering the call to respond to neighbors in need. Habitat for Humanity needs your help! We are trying to locate persons or families who need adequate housing, but who cannot meet the financial burden and we would like to help build them a home.

Habitat for Humanity of DeKalb county to Hold Family Selection Meetings for people interested in becoming Habitat homeowners. The sessions will take place on **Monday, October 16, 2023 at noon** and **Thursday, October 19, 2023 at 7:00 p.m. via zoom**. Preregistration is required. The requirements and qualifications for being accepted as a partner family will be explained at the meeting. **You only need to attend one session.**

Contact Habitat by email at:  
[familysupport@habitatdcil.org](mailto:familysupport@habitatdcil.org) to register.

## ACTION GROUPS FOR FELLOWSHIP/COFFEE HOUR



### OCTOBER 2023

**Co-Chairs:**

**Cook, Dawn & Doug** 815-757-3303  
**Slade, Jodi & Ken** 815-761-2753  
**McArtor, Denice & 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  
 Rempfer, Niki & Derek 815-501-7885  
 Willrett, Hope & Gene Hickey 815-901-8486  
 Willrett, Larisa & Jamie 815-761-4781

### NOVEMBER 2023

**Co-Chairs:**

**Heins, Vicke & Denny** 815-252-0841  
**Hueber, Marcia** 815-762-0010

Anderson, Ann & Marlin 815-825-2695  
 Berg, Marilyn & Harry 815-761-6232  
 Fenstermaker, Katie & David 417-291-2031  
 Hunt, Brenda & Jay 815-762-9845  
 Jordal, Linda & Jerry 815-601-6262  
 Quincer, Alice & Jim 815-761-8750  
 Siebrasse, Pat 815-970-5304



### SALVATION ARMY FOOD PANTRY THEY ARE IN NEED OF FOOD!

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"**.

The Salvation Army appreciates all you give.



## TODAY'S SISTERS

Thursday, **October 19<sup>th</sup>** Today's Sisters will meet at Oak Crest at **9:30 a.m.**

They meet the 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of each month from 9:30 – 11:00 a.m. in the Conference Room at Oak Crest off of door 26.

**ALL WOMEN ARE WELCOME!**



Thank you to **Kitty Jouris** for cleaning up the Craft Room on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor of our church. It looks **AWESOME!**

Thank you to **Marilyn Berg** and her committee on cleaning up the office upstairs and organizing the history of our church.

Thank you **Ruth Hueber** for keeping our parking lot and around the church cleaned up and for all your beautiful decorations each season.





**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 othopedic  
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](http://www.midwestmission.org) under "Kits,  
Projects, and Patterns."



**CRAFTS**



For God, who commanded the light to shine out of darkness, hath shined in our hearts, to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ. 2 CORINTHS 4:6-7





# October 2023

Vicke's Hours: Monday, Wednesday, & Thursdays from 8-Noon

SUNDAY

MONDAY

TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY

THURSDAY

FRI

SATURDAY

<b>1</b> 18 <sup>TH</sup> Sunday after Pentecost with Communion <b>World Communion</b> <b>Sunday Special Offering</b> <b>POT-LUCK AFTER WORSHIP</b>	<b>2</b> <b>Church Council</b> 7:30 p.m. <b>Finance</b> 7pm	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b> <b>Prayer Group</b> 6:30 p.m. <b>Choir Practice</b> 7pm	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>Vicke on Vacation Monday, Wednesday &amp; Thursday            October 2 – 6 / Office Closed</b>						
<b>8</b> 19 <sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost <b>Pastor/Oak Crest</b> <b>3:30PM</b> <b>Kid's Sunday School NOON</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b> <b>Prayer Group</b> 6:30 p.m. <b>Choir Practice</b> 7pm	<b>12</b> 4H 6:30 p.m.	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>15</b> 20 <sup>TH</sup> Sunday after Pentecost	<b>16</b> <b>Worship Committee Meeting</b> 7PM on Zoom	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b> <b>Prayer Group</b> 6:30 p.m. <b>Choir Practice</b> 7pm	<b>19</b> <b>TODAY'S SISTERS</b> 9:30am at Oak Crest	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>
<b>22</b> 21 <sup>st</sup> Sunday after Pentecost <b>Kid's Sunday School NOON</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b> <b>Prayer Group</b> 6:30 p.m. <b>Choir Practice</b> 7pm	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>
<b>29</b> 22 <sup>nd</sup> Sunday after Pentecost	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>				

**MARK YOUR CALENDAR!**

**FALL SUPPER - SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 4<sup>TH</sup>**  
**ANNUAL CHURCH CONFERENCE 7:00 P.M. / WEDNESDAY,**  
**NOVEMBER 29<sup>TH</sup> AT GRACE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH IN MAPLE PARK.**

**Malta UMC**  
**(815) 825-2118**

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

Rev. Jeremiah Thompson, Pastor

Vicke Heins, Adm. Assistant

Office Hours:

Mon – Wed – Thurs 8-Noon.



Keep Informed on our Web Page at:

[maltaumc.org](http://maltaumc.org)



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

TO: