



# The Connection

December 2020

A monthly publication of the

**Millington United Methodist Church**

*Our Mission: To Know Christ, and to Make Him Known*

## December

### Scripture Readings

Instead of the daily scripture readings, this month I thought I'd have each of you read a chapter of the Gospel of Luke each day for the month of December leading up to Christmas Eve. You can either read them yourself or share with your family or friends and create a wonderful memory during this Christmas season. It's great that the chapters and the days of the month coincide so perfectly. And it's a wonderful way to remember the TRUE meaning of Christmas.

### December Special Days

1. National Pie Day
2. National Play Basketball Day
3. National Hug Day
4. National Cookie Day
5. National Blue Jeans Day
6. National Mitten Tree Day
7. Pearl Harbor Day
8. Christmas Tree Day
9. Christmas Card Day
12. National Poinsettia Day
13. National Violin Day
14. National Roast Chestnuts Day
15. National Cupcake Day
16. Stupid Toy Day
17. Maple Syrup Day
18. National Cookie Baking Day
19. Hard Candy Day
20. National Caroling Day
21. Ribbon Candy Day
22. Cookie Exchange Day
23. Christmas Eve Eve
24. Christmas Eve
25. Christmas Day (Jesus Birthday)
26. Candy Cane Day
27. Visit the Zoo Day
28. Chocolate Candy Day
29. National Tick Tock Day (Clock)
30. Bacon Day
31. New Years' Day



## December Birthdays

1. Judi Snover
3. Karily Dickson
9. Sam Crawford  
Alex Newcombe
13. Chad Fabbro
17. Jennifer Shores
18. Janine Britt
22. Ed Ingram
23. Jason Trato  
Kim Blackmer
25. Jesus Christ
28. Jeff Newcombe
29. Kayla Levis
31. Griffin Gohsman



~Pastor~

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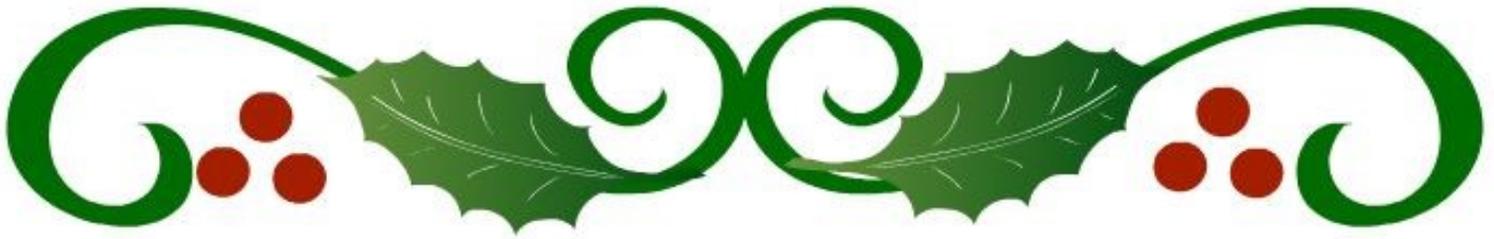
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**Church Office Hours:**





Greetings in Christ Jesus,

(As I write this, it is November 23; three days before Thanksgiving.)

I want to bring forth a few subjects. I hope to bring some clarity and hope.

First, as you should know by now, the church has been closed to public worship and all public and semi-public gatherings. The Council (your elected leadership) made this decision due to the spike in Covid cases, which in turn brought on these directives from the State and County governments, as well as our Bishop, who is urging us to remain closed until the end of the year. The Council decided to follow the directives until December 8<sup>th</sup>, when it will revisit the issue. At that time, we will evaluate the current information and proceed from there. As Pastor, I think the Council has chosen a prudent path.

Now, let's have a little conversation. I'm putting my cards on the table, so to speak. I'm 61, and there are many in our congregation who are older than me, and some who are much older than me. I'm at the bottom of the high-risk group (60 and over). This plague seems to prefer an older vintage. But not exclusively. Many with various conditions at any age can be affected. But as we grow older, the vast majority of us get weaker and get some of those various conditions. Am I wrong?

I've been a pastor for 17 years. In that time, I learned the worst season was and is flu season. I know it's going to hit my congregation (just like every congregation) and we must protect ourselves, especially our most vulnerable. Quite a few years ago a flu hit very hard in Port Huron. My congregation at the time decided to close for two weeks, at its peak. That flu season 2 of my flock went home and a few more were hospitalized. One of those hospitalized was a younger person with respiratory problems. But the high-risk group was the same. I was unable to visit any care facilities or have normal home visitations. That is where I find myself again, today. Dealing with a real hard respiratory infection. This is where we find ourselves today.

If this all sounds a little dark. Well, it is.

However, we can deal with it, we can overcome it. As they say, "this isn't our first rodeo". We'll do what has proven to be right over the years. Our knowledge and experience do hold the framework of the actions necessary to protect ourselves. We're specifically dealing with Covid right now. But it shall pass. Then something else will come along. We'll take the best actions we know now, and in the future when need be. And they're really simple and easy.

Let's go through them again.

If you're sick...stay home!

You can read your Bible. You can re-run my old sermons on our Facebook page or listen to them on disc (available upon request at the church). That is how you can show love...by protecting others. As your Pastor that is how I will see it.

If you're in a high-risk category...stay home!

Show the wisdom of your years, the quickness of your youth. You are in charge of protecting yourself. I'm not expecting 100% compliance on number 1, you shouldn't either. You too can read your Bible or do the other things mentioned above. (Remember audio discs are available upon request at the church!)

Wash your hands.

Yes, this is another really easy one (just like 1 and 2). No matter the season, no matter the occasion, no matter where you are (including the church), wash your hands at every opportunity. Here we (cont.)

have another opportunity to show love by protecting others. And, as a bonus, protecting ourselves. (Soap and Water are available for Members, Attendees, and Visitors at the church)

When you sneeze or cough...cover your mouth!

That's the mainline for viruses, and who knows what else. Plus, it's just plain yucky! Show some love (and even respect) for those around you. Remember what you were taught very young. When you sneeze or cough cover your mouth! Since most of us cough into the side of our fists, it is important to remember number 3...Wash your hands.

(Special Note)

If you cough or sneeze on one your audio discs of my sermons, just throw it out. You can get another one! (They are available upon request at the church)

It sounds rather elementary, does it not? These are the things we can and should do, as individuals, to protect others and ourselves. We already know this. We just need to be more diligent. (Not just now. But, after. Always.) When things escalate, as they are now, we as a community will strengthen our protections. Up to and including closing our facility.

Now, let's talk about caution and fear. We who follow Jesus Christ do not walk in fear. We don't even fear death (Jesus turned that mental concern into a thought of joy and expectation). But caution isn't fear, anymore than meekness is weakness. The Scriptures teach us to be contemplative, thoughtful, and wise. And to be fearless! The Church will overcome. Because He has overcome!

As we head into the Advent Season, no matter how we celebrate it, let's keep our focus on the One who gives us eternal life and strengthens our spirits in the hardest of times.

Love and Blessings,  
Pastor Nick

P.S.

I would like to commend Barb, Don, and Rich for their hard work throughout this entire situation. It brings great confidence to know we have such capable people serving us. (I request they get extra prayers of blessings). PN





## Mission Notes for December

I am certain all of you who read this realize this has been an unusual year. A strange time. We, all of us, have experienced drastic changes in the way we live our lives in order to avoid getting the coronavirus. Most of us know of someone who has come down with the "VIRUS".

"Change is the essence of life". What does all this have to do with our mission as a church?? We have not met as a committee since September and now we are in a "shutdown" for at least 3 weeks.

We are evaluating our mission budget in view of a financial shortage due to decreased attendance over the past 8 months and will have more to say about this next month. The way we celebrate Thanksgiving, Christmas and the New Year will certainly be different this year.

The "reason for the season" still exists. We are grateful for all the blessings God has bestowed on us as individuals, families, and our nation. We are also grateful to Jesus being willing to come to earth and walk among us, teach us about the kingdom of God, then to die in our stead.

The Mission we are supporting this month is the angel tree project. I am certain you are familiar with this. This year is different. Diana Slough, our angel tree coordinator, will be calling those who have provided gifts for the children in the past, and ask if you are willing and able to be involved again this year. These children of incarcerated parents appreciate these gifts and in addition to the gifts, each family will receive a Bible and some other spiritual materials.

Be safe and healthy,

*Maury Chapin*

Mission Chair



**Nothing is scheduled at this time**

**Stay tuned...**



## SCRIP Gift Card Order Form

Please call the church office if you want to place an order at 989-871-3489. Please continue to support the MUMC

Children's program by purchasing gift cards whenever you can! A complete list of cards available to order is on the table in the narthex. The following cards are usually available in the church office. There are 100's of cards available to order.

Aeropostale \$25	Amazon \$25	Applebee's \$25	Bed, Bath, & Beyond \$25		
Bob Evans \$10	Buckle \$25	Burger King \$10	Cold Stone \$10		
Cracker Barrel \$10 & \$25	Fazoli's \$25	Gordon's Food Service \$25	Home Depot \$25	JC Penney \$25	
Jo Ann's \$25	Kohl's \$25	Logan's Roadhouse \$25	Lowe's \$25		
Macy's \$25	Marathon \$25	Meijer \$25	Menard's \$25	Michael's \$25	Nike \$25
Old Navy \$25	Olive Garden/Red Lobster \$25	Oriental Trading \$25			
Panera Bread \$10 & \$25	Speedway \$25	Starbucks \$10 & \$25	Subway \$10	Sunoco \$50	
Taco Bell \$10	Tim Horton's \$10	TJ/Maxx/Marshall's \$25	Under Armor \$25		
Uno's \$25	Visa \$ 50	Walmart \$25	Wendy's \$10		

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone # \_\_\_\_\_

<u>Card Name</u>	<u>Qty x \$ amt</u>	<u>Amt Due</u>
_____		\$ _____
_____		\$ _____
_____		\$ _____
_____		\$ _____
_____		\$ _____
_____		\$ _____
Total Amount Due		\$ _____

Check # \_\_\_\_\_ or Cash

**Orders should be paid for at time of order.**

**Checks payable to MUMC write SCRIP on the memo line.**

**For a full list of cards available to order please see Barb in the Church Office.**

# Finance



# Moment

“God grant you the light in Christmas,  
which is faith; the warmth of Christmas,  
which is love; the radiance of Christmas,  
which is purity; the righteousness of  
Christmas, which is justice; the belief in  
Christmas, which is truth; the all of  
Christmas, which is Christ.”

- Wilda English

*We appreciate your support of our church this year. When we give, we show that our faith matters, and the church matters. Thank you for giving generously to our church, and trusting that God's work is being done.*

## **United Methodist Women**

The December 14<sup>th</sup> meeting has been cancelled. There will be no potluck. The next scheduled meeting is January 11<sup>th</sup> at 1pm. Thank you to all who donated to our Bake-less bake sale. For those who still wish to donate, you can direct your donations to the MUMW. I'd like to wish all of you a blessed Advent and Christmas!

*Love to all,*

*Jennie*



# Merry Christmas

## Upcoming Events and Information...

### Virtual Charge Conference

Sunday, December 13th

2:30 pm

The Church Office will be closed on:

December 24, 25, and 31 and January 1.

Watch your emails for any updates!

### SPECIAL

Church Council Meeting

Tuesday, December 8th

7pm



### SCRIP Gift Card Program

Christmas, Graduations, Teachers Gift, Weddings, Showers, Birthdays and Anniversaries, or just to say Thank You...don't forget you can purchase or order your SCRIP Gift Cards from Barb in the church office. Proceeds from this program go to help support our Children's programs. There are several cards available in the office and 100's you can order. We just recently earned another \$46.31 towards the youth group account. Thank you. See Barb in the church office if you would like to purchase or order cards.

Thank you to all those who help raise money for our Children's program by recycling your ink cartridges. There has been a change effective March 1, 2020, the only thing that Planet Green will accept after that date is ink cartridges. Please bring your items to the church office to be collected. Thank you!

### What we recycle:

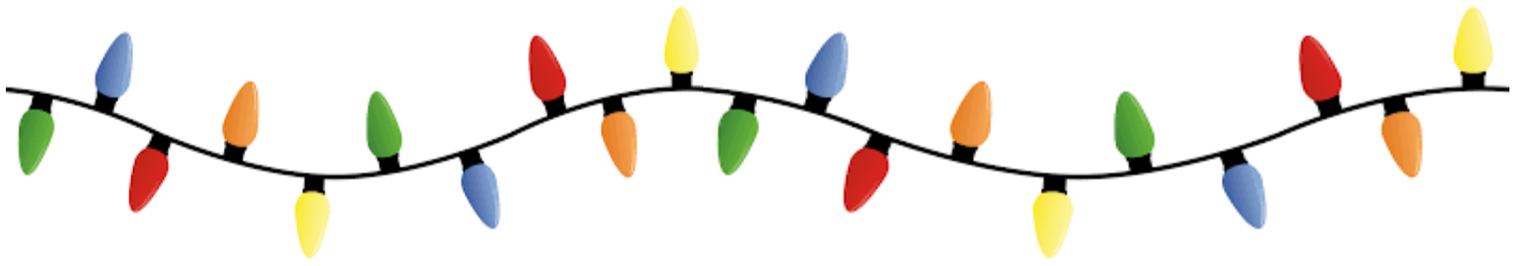
### Ink Cartridges

We will **NO LONGER ACCEPT** cell phone & accessories, GPS & radar detectors, calculators, eBook Readers, iPods/MP3 Players, Digital/Video Cameras, PDAs, iPads/Tablets, Video Game Consoles & Accessories.

### Shorty's Grocery

Will be having a box in the store for anyone who wishes to donate hats, scarves and gloves for the winter season. All items collected will go to the Millington Needy Families Fund.





## *Upcoming Events and Information...continued*



Millington United Methodist Church will be hosting and sponsoring the blood drive here on Friday, January 8th from 1:00-6:45 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall.

For info or appointment, visit

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

(sponsor code: MillComm) or

Call 1-800-RED CROSS

(1-800-733-2767)

### **Instructions for hearing our worship services:**

Below is a link to an audio only recording of our worship services. You can click on the link below or if that does not open the file you can copy the link below and paste into your browser.

<https://1drv.ms/u/s!Aveu5HWwPJYJqXRJSP9KyG7Eygle?e=KMhXeY>

The video of the message is also available on the Millington UMC Facebook page.

### **Christian Symbol**

Advent Wreath—The Advent wreath is a symbol of watchfulness and increasing joy as we anticipate Jesus' birth. The wreath's circular shape symbolizes eternity, or life without end. The candles remind us that Jesus is the Light of the World—he brought light and life to a dark world (see John 1:4-5). On each of the four Sundays of Advent, we light a new candle. As the light grows, so does our hope and joy.



*For God so loved the world that he gave His one and only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life.*  
-John 3:16



## December 2020

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b> 7:45 pm SPRC & Dist. Supt. Zoom mtg.	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>6</b> 2nd Sunday of Advent Sunday virtual worship	<b>7</b> Pearl Harbor Day	<b>8</b> SPECIAL Church Council Mtg. 7:00pm  Christmas Tree Day	<b>9</b> Christmas Card Day	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b> National Poinsettia Day
<b>13</b> 3rd Sunday of Advent Sunday virtual worship  2:30pm Virtual Charge Conf.	<b>14</b> National Roasted Chestnuts Day  	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b> Maple Syrup Day	<b>18</b> Charles Wesley's Birthday  National Cookie Baking Day	<b>19</b> Hard Candy Day  
<b>20</b> 4th Sunday of Advent Sunday virtual worship	<b>21</b> Ribbon Candy Day  	<b>22</b> Cookie Exchange Day	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b> Christmas Eve    Church office is closed	<b>25</b> Merry Christmas!  	<b>26</b> Candy Cane Day  
<b>27</b> Sunday virtual worship	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b> Watch Night New Year's Eve Church office is closed		

### *A Note from Barb...*

*No one can deny that this year has been very different. It's been physically, mentally and emotionally very trying for most of us. However, Christmas is the time of year to remember all those, past and present, that have touched our lives in ways even they could not possible know.*

*There are so many people in this church that touch my life every day and I feel so blessed to have the opportunity to be here. My wish for all of you this Christmas season is this:*

*May you never be too grown up to search the skies on Christmas Eve. May you not just think about Christmas as opening gifts, but opening our hearts to those around us. I wish for you at Christmastime, happiness, peace, prosperity, warmth and love. And taking the time to create beautiful and everlasting memories.*

*May this Christmas end the present year on a cheerful note and make way for a fresh and bright New Year!*



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**Our Mission: To know Christ and to make Him known**

Check out our Sunday service online on our Facebook page at :

**Millington United Methodist Church**