Messenger of Christ

Christ United Methodist Church
5200 South 48th Street
Greenfield, WI 53220
Rev. Mao Her, Pastor

DECEMBER 2019

TN: 414 421-0202
FAX: 414 421-3437
Email: christumc1@sbcglobal.net
Website: http: //greenfieldchristumc.org/

Are We There Yet?

"Finally, brethren, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is of good repute, if there is any excellence and if anything worthy of praise, dwell on these things. **The things you have learned and received and heard and seen in me; practice these things; and the God of peace will be with you."**

~ Philippians 4:8-9 (NASB)

As we enter another Advent Season, I am reminded of my own journey with God that began over 40 years ago in a refugee camp in Thailand. As an infant in my faith I relied on the faith of my parents and my church family to form me as a believer, *and* informed me of who God is. As I got older and began to hear God speaking to me through the reading of scripture, I began to serve Him and became aware of my sins … of my shortcomings.

When I was in my teen years, I was afraid that I would never be good enough to serve God or be worthy of entering His Kingdom. It was hard for me to believe that this Holy God could ever love or accept someone like me, and it was because I found myself doing the things I knew I should not be doing. My sins were ever before me and I am so aware of them. But as I matured in my faith and came to a deeper understanding of God's grace and love for me, I became confident and more forgiving of myself. I knew I needed to rely on God's mercy and grace in order to continue growing as a Christian.

As great as this was, I still found myself not meeting God's standard of holiness or perfection. I struggled with pride and selfish ambitions. I judged others with my measurement of perfections … as if I was somehow better than others. I did not realize it, but I was becoming more and more like the Pharisees who Jesus called 'hypocrite'.

My need to control my life and the life of others took me on a painful journey that would result in answering His call in my life … to become who I am today … *your pastor.* I still have a long way to go for sure! But my understanding that my life as a Christian is one of learning and devoting myself to the teachings of my Lord Jesus Christ all the days of my life, has enabled me to stand before you every Sunday morning. If I thought that I had to be perfect in order to do what I do … I would not be able to get up every morning!

As we embark on another season of Advent, keep in mind that we are on a journey, *not one of perfection*, but one of peace, hope, joy and trust … which leads to love of God, self and others. In order to get to where we want to go, we must hold all these in tension. And we do that by keeping our thoughts on things that are *true, honorable, pure, lovely, and of good repute.* But more than that, we are to put them into practice. Because by doing so, the God of peace will be with us and we will have fruit to show.

No… we are not there yet… nowhere near where we want to be! But as followers of Jesus Christ we continue the journey home knowing what lies before us. So, my prayer for you is that God will grant you peace and grace no matter where you find yourself in this journey. Life for sure is messy and we live in a very troubled world, but we have a God of peace and of order. We have a God who promises to guide and comfort us in the messiness of life and in this chaotic world.

For sure we have not yet arrived, but we can take HOME His promises … knowing that every season of life takes us closer to being with Him.

Merry Christmas to you and your family!

Peace and Grace,
Pastor Mao Her

ADVENT SERMON SERIES!



ARE WE THERE YET?

1St SUNDAY OF ADVENT
December 1, 2019
"PEACE: *Begins with a decision*" (Romans 13:11-14)

2ND SUNDAY OF ADVENT
December 8, 2019
"HOPE: *Rooted in God's promise*" (Romans 15:4-13)

3RD SUNDAY OF ADVENT
December 15, 2019
"JOY: *Outbursts of generosity*" (Isaiah 35:1-10)

4TH SUNDAY OF ADVENT
December 22, 2019
"TRUST: *Following God's direction*" (Matthew 1:18-25)

CHRISTMAS EVE
December 24, 2019
"LOVE: *Living in the light*" (Isaiah 9:2-7)

Join us for worship in December as we journey through Advent!

LECTIONARY READINGS FOR DECEMBER

1st
Isaiah 2:1-5
Psalm 122 *(UMH 845)*
Romans 13:11-14
Matthew 24:36-44

8th
Isaiah 11:1-10
Psalm 72:1-7, 18-19 *(UMH 795)*
Romans 15:4-13
Matthew 3:1-12

15th
Isaiah 35:1-10
Luke 1:46*b*-55 *(UMH 199)*
James 5:7-10
Matthew 11:2-11

22nd
Isaiah 7:10-16
Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19 (*UMH 801)*
Romans 1:1-7
Matthew 1:18-25

24th
Isaiah 9:2-7
Psalm 96 (*UMH 815)*
Titus 2:11-14
Luke 2:1-20
Christmas Eve

25th
Isaiah 52:7-10
Psalm 98 (*UMH 818)*
Hebrews 1:1-4 (5-12)
John 2:1-20
Christmas Day

29th
Isaiah 63:7-9
Luke 148 (*UMH 861)*
Hebrews 2:10-18
Matthew 2:13-23

31st
Ecclesiastes 3:1-13
Psalm 8 (*UMH 743)*
Revelation 21:6*a*
Matthew 25:31-46
New Year's Eve

Birthdays This Month…

4th Judy Riedy
20th Holly Dondajeski
31st Paul Tulppo

Please wish them a HAPPY BIRTHDAY when you see them!



VOLUNTEERS FOR DECEMBER

COMMUNION SERVERS
1st Beth Schramm & Pam Seri

COUNTERS
1st Janet Brown & Pam Seri
8th Steve Montgomery & Nancy Wolski
15th Carrie Montgomery & Dorothy Pike
22nd Denise Edlund & Mylee Vang
29th Janet Brown & Nancy Wolski

GREETER(S)
1st Don & Judy Larson
8th Carol & Dave Olson
15th Ernie & Bev Bennett
22nd Pam Seri
24th Josh & Nancy Wolski
29th Denise & Gary Edlund

LAY LITURGIST
1st Denise Edlund
8th Ron Stinson
15th Pam Seri
22nd Marge Freitag
24th
29th Shanna Bude



MINI COFFEE HOUR
1st Judy Riedy
8th Don & Judy Larson
15th ***MORE***
22nd **HELP**
29th ***NEEDED*, PLEASE**

USHERS
1st Judy Riedy, Mary Pitman, Pat Nefstead
8th Janet Brown, Diane Steeno, Beth Schramm and Shanna Bude
15th Carol & Dave Olson, Flo & Larry Graham
22nd Ardy & Dick Straub, Denise & Gary Edlund
24th
29th Don & Judy Larson, Nancy Wolski and Dorothy Pike

Thank you to all of our volunteers!

If you are **not able** to be in church on your designated Sunday, **please try to switch with someone else,** and then contact Jo in the church office. Thanks!

UMW CORNER

United Methodist Women

Martha Fellowship

Wednesday, December 18th @ 6:45 PM

We will meet to enjoy an evening of fellowship during this Christmas season and as in the past we'll each bring 3 dozen cookies for our cookie exchange.

All women are invited to join us for this social time.

The UMW Caring Circle

Next Meeting is Thursday, December 12th @ 10:00 AM.



The Men's Breakfast, which is held on the first and third Tuesday of each month at 7:00 AM, is held at George Webb's Restaurant on S. 76th Street in Franklin.

We hope you will join us there!

Thank you to the November volunteers who made the coffee and shared those delicious treats each week!

Coffee & Conversation

Please see the signup sheet in the narthex for December—see Carol Olson if you need help with making the coffee!

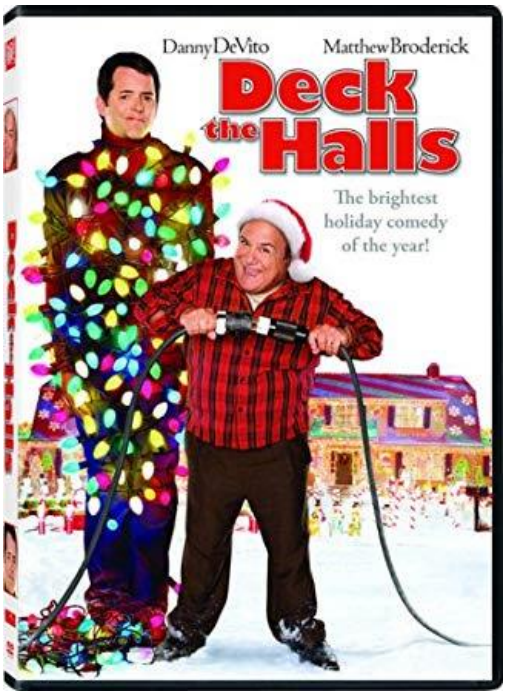
ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL…
Mark your calendars…

December 1st:
Short Study of old and New Testament accounts of the Birth of Jesus
December 8th:
Christmas Books and Art from Class Members
December 15th:
Family Celebrations and Traditions!

No more Sunday School until January 5th.

Our Next Movie Series Movie

Will be shown on December 3rd and will be shown in the Sanctuary at 6:30 PM…



Popcorn will be provided… Bring your own beverage…

~~~~~~~~~~ ~~~~~~~~~~

More Movie Series Movies…
Through June 2020

January 7th	The Lady in the Van
February 4th	The Pajama Game
March 3rd	The Importance of Being Ernest
April 7th	Hello Dolly
May 5th	The Birdcage
June 2nd	Christopher Robin



All movies will be shown in the Sanctuary at 6:30 PM. Popcorn is provided, bring your own beverage, or purchase one at church.


~~~~~~~~~~



‘Larry under the Bridge’

We will be serving 12 bag lunches on the second Monday every other month. Please see the following dates, and mark your calendars.

- **December 23rd**
- January 13th
- March 9th
- May 11th
- July 13th
- September 14th
- November 9th



We will assemble the bag lunches the Sunday before they are to be served, after the Worship Service.

Volunteer Opportunity…

December 23rd, we need a couple of volunteers to assemble the 12 bag lunches to provide meals for the homeless.

We will assemble the lunches immediately following church.

If you would like to make a monetary contribution, please enclose your check or cash in an envelope and mark it, “Larry Under the Bridge.”

Please let Jo Rivers, Nancy Wolski or Janet Brown know if you are able to help. Thank you!!

Volunteer, and Put a Smile on a Senior Citizen’s Face

Eras Senior Network (formerly Interfaith) needs volunteer drivers to take seniors to their medical appointments, the pharmacy, the grocery store or the bank. Eras – Engage, Relate, Advocate, Support – has provided supportive services at no charge for older adults 60+ since 1991, based on the Neighborhood Outreach Program (NOP) model.

Please call 414-488-6500 to learn more about volunteer opportunities to help seniors in our community.

Volunteering is very flexible – choose when, where, and how you’d like to serve. Older adults are very grateful for the assistance!

Special thanks to Nancy Wolski and Janet Brown for their work in making sure our altar area is beautiful and up to date liturgically.

You both do a fantastic job. Thank you!



MILWAUKEE HMONG NEW YEAR

DECEMBER 7-8, 2019

LOCATION: FAIR GROUND



Hmong New Year is lots of fun!

Taste Hmong culture, food, entertainment and more...

Contact the office or Pastor Mao if you would like more information or JOIN her on December 7th.

DECEMBER 2019

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
8 9:00 AM – Adult Sunday School – Short study of Old and New Testament accounts of the birth of Jesus 9:45 AM – Fellowship Time 10:15 AM – Worship Service – Sacrament of Holy Communion Nursery Available	**2** **6:30 PM – Accountable Leadership Board Meeting** 	**3** 7:00 AM – Men's Breakfast @ George Webb's Restaurant 6:00 PM - Jazzercise 6:00 PM – Growth Group – The Gospel of Mark 6:30 PM – Movie Night ~ *"Deck the Halls"*	**4** **6:00 – 7:30 PM – Growth Group - Freezer Meals with Janet Brown**	**5** 5:00 PM - Prayer Meeting 6:00 PM - Jazzercise	**6** 	**7** **Milwaukee Hmong New Year @ St Fair Park**
8 9:00 AM – Adult Sunday School – Christmas books and art from class members 9:45 AM – Fellowship Time 10:15 AM – Worship Service – Nursery Available **Noon – Combined Circuit Church Conference @ Oak Creek UMC**	**9**	**10** 6:00 PM - Jazzercise	**11** 	**12** 10:00 AM – Caring UMW 5:00 PM – Prayer Meeting 6:00 PM - Jazzercise	**13** Pastor Mao @ Hmong Caucus Meeting @ Christway UMC	**14** Pastor Mao @ Hmong Caucus Meeting @ Christway UMC
15 9:00 AM – Adult Sunday School – Family celebrations and Traditions 9:45 AM – Fellowship Time 10:15 AM - Worship Nursery Available **Steve Montgomery Providing Special Music**	**16** 	**17** 7:00 AM – Men's Breakfast @ George Webb's Restaurant 9:30 AM – Card Club 6:00 PM – Jazzercise	**18** 6:45 PM – UMW Martha Fellowship	**19** 11:00 AM – Bingo with Goodwill COC South 5:00 PM – Prayer Meeting 6:00 PM - Jazzercise	**20** 	**21**
22 NO Adult Sunday School 9:45 AM – Fellowship Time 10:15 AM – Worship Service led by Ron Stinson Nursery Available **Make 12 bag lunches for Tomorrow!** **NEWSLETTER DEADLINE**	**23** **Larry Under the Bridge**	**24** 7:00 PM – Christmas Eve Candlelight Service 	**25** Christmas Day  **Church Office Closed**	**26** 5:00 PM – Prayer Meeting 6:00 PM – Jazzercise	**27**	**28** 
29 9:00 AM – Adult Sunday School 9:45 AM – Fellowship Time 10:15 AM – Worship Service led by Ron Stinson Nursery Available	**30**	**31** New Year's Eve				

The NEWSLETTER DEADLINE FOR January is:

December 22nd

CHRIST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
5200 South 48th Street
Greenfield, Wisconsin 53220

Worship …….. 10:15 AM
The Sacrament of Holy Communion is served on the First Sunday of each Month
Rev. Mao Her……Pastor
Church Office …….. 414 421-0202
Email……. christumc1@sbcglobal.net
Website…… http://greenfieldchristumc.org/
Rev. Dr. Hee-Soo Jung……Resident Bishop
Rev. Forest Wells…….……District Superintendent

Open hearts. Open minds. Open doors.
The people of The United Methodist Church®

CHRIST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
5200 South 48th Street
Greenfield, WI 53220



2019