

December 2021



the Visitor

a publication of Flushing United Methodist Church

Our Vision Statement

Preparing servants who make a difference in their community and the world by knowing Christ, following Christ and sharing Christ.



Sunday Worship

8:45 am Traditional Service & 11:15 am Contemporary Worship

Join us either online or in-person

Facebook.com/FlushingUMC or Youtube.com/user/flushingumc

Church Staff

Lead Pastor **JJ Mannschreck**

Office Manager **Rose Dessinger**

Director of Music **Christie Dover**

Custodian **Marlene Cooper**

Christian Ed. Director **Melissa Whalen**

Play Place Coordinator **Sarah Covert**

Place **Chloe Covert, Ellie Allyn, Ashley Sweers, Ellie Allyn**



Greetings from the desk of the Pastor! For some of us, we've been celebrating the Christmas Season since before the leaves began changing color – but all the same let me wish you again – Merry Christmas!

I used to have a very strict “no Christmas music or decorations until after Thanksgiving” policy in my home. But I was betrayed when I went to Seattle for a few days and returned to find that my children had insisted on decking the halls! I suppose the reason so many folks love to decorate, and decorate early, is because we are thirsty for some good news. The whole season of Christmas is a beautiful celebration, preparing us for the greatest good news – the birth of Jesus! After a hard year like we have had, I suppose I can understand why a few folks are eager to usher in the festivities. (And I'm a firm believer that eggnog is delicious any day of the year).

You know, I saw an article a few weeks back, where some of the news agencies were predicting significant trouble with the supply lines. Apparently there has been a shortage of our EXTREMELY valuable truck drivers, and the nation wide ability to get things where they need to go broke down a bit. That led to concerns that the shelves would be empty and Christmas would be ruined because none of the usual foods or decorations or toys would be available. Yet after this news, I saw facebook and other social media sites flooded with claims that “if you think Christmas can be cancelled by a broken supply chain – you may have forgotten what Christmas was all about.” I saw lots of those posts going around a few weeks ago.

Now, of course, we Christians know better than all that. We are actually quite famous for chanting about the “REAL reason for the season.” To quote the classic Dr. Seuss tale,

***Every Who down in Who-ville the tall and the small,
was singing! Without any presents at all!***

***He HADN'T stopped Christmas from coming!
IT CAME!***

*Somehow or other, it came just the same!
And the Grinch with his grinch-feet ice-cold in the snow,
Stood puzzling and puzzling: “how could it be so?”
It came without ribbons! It came without tags!
It came without packages, boxes or bags!”
And he puzzled three hours, till his puzzler was sore.
Then the Grinch thought of something he hadn’t before
Maybe Christmas, he thought, doesn’t COME from a store
Maybe Christmas....perhaps...means a little bit more!”*

As Christians we know all about that “little bit MORE” Dr Seuss was referring to. We know all about how God sent his son (we call him Jesus). We know all about how he came to die for our sins, to restore our relationship with God. We know all about how Jesus came and healed the sick, ate with sinners and taught all the people about the Kingdom of God. He gave sight to the blind, proclaimed the release of captives and set at liberty those who were oppressed. He performed miracles and taught us all about how to love one another (both with his teachings AND by his example).

Oh yes, we know all about that “little bit more.” And the best part of it all, is that we know that “little bit more” is coming no matter what kind of mess the rest of the world might be in. Because God loves you, and the good news of salvation through his Son Jesus (who loves you so much he said you were worth dying for), the good news of the baby born in the manger, while angels sang and shepherds watched and wise men were on their way to visit, that good news? Well, that story will never be on back-order.

Merry Christmas everyone, but until then – I’ll see you on Sunday.



By: Pastor JJ Mannschreck

Pastor's Bookshelf



Welcome to my bookshelf!

Each month I will discuss a recent book that I've finished.

disclaimer; I don't always have time to sit and read physical books, but I do quite a bit of my reading through audiobooks these days.

This month I'd like to talk about:

The Best Christmas Pageant Ever

by Barbara Robinson

My son Liam has become a voracious reader of late. To be honest, he's practically read every book in our house that's age appropriate. And I find myself scouring the shelves trying to find something that he CAN read that he HASN'T already. And in my search – I stumbled across this gem of a book that I read when I was a kid. I believe they actually made a movie out of this book. It's a quick read, only 80 pages or so, and it's about a fictitious Christmas Pageant set back in the 1970's. It's not normally the type of book I recommend in my Pastor reviews – but it is ABSOLUTELY what you need to read this holiday season. It's a beautiful story, told in a fun and cheeky way and it brought tears to my eyes with its beautiful message.

The basic thrust centers on a little church that has the same old Christmas pageant EVERY year, so much so that it's a bit stale. They've lost the meaning and the purpose behind what the pageant represents. But that all changes when the troublemakers in town (the kids from "that" family) show up one Sunday because they had heard there was free food at Coffee Hour, and then they all sign up for the lead roles in the Christmas Pageant while they're at it. They've never heard of the nativity and they know NOTHING about the story.

Turns out, in the process of explaining what the pageant means to the trouble-makers – all of the kids learn a little something about what the true Christmas story means. I highly recommend you go pick up this short little chapter book and let it teach us all about how we should be sharing the true meaning of Christmas with EVERYONE this year.

December Sermons and Scriptures



12/05/2021	<i>Hark The Herald Angels Sing</i>	Luke 1:26-38
12/12/2021	<i>The First Noel</i>	Luke 2:1-20
12/19/2021	<i>Away In The Manger</i>	Luke 2:22-40
12/24/2021	<i>Silent Night</i>	Luke 1:67-79, 2:1-7

One Service Only @ 10 AM

Sunday, Dec 26th and Jan 2nd

Pastor JJ will be on vacation for 2 weeks, so we will be having a guest preacher these two Sundays.

Office Closed for the Holiday

Pastor JJ and our office manager, Rose Dessinger will be on vacation Thursday, Dec 23rd thru Jan 3rd & will return on Tuesday, Jan 4th.

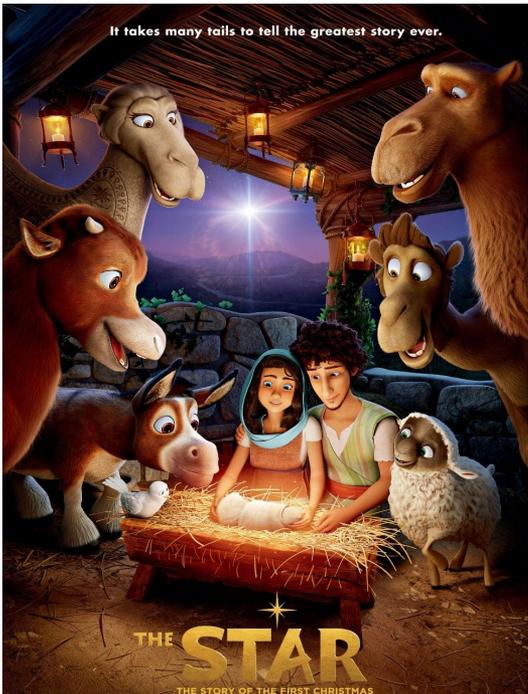
Family Promise Christmas Week at the Day Center

During what would have been our week to host families December 19-26th instead of hosting, we will be volunteering at the Day Center Tuesday, December 21st for the Christmas party and providing several dinners to be shared with families during the week.

Christmas Party-Volunteers are needed beginning at noon on the 21st to assist families as they pick up gifts, visit with Santa and enjoy refreshments. A sign-up list will be available at the Welcome Center. All are welcome to volunteer. You do not need to be a regular FP volunteer.

Dinners-We have set a goal of providing at least 3 dinners for 4 people to be shared with families during the week. Our dinners during host week are always special and we would like to share some of our favorite meals/foods during the holidays. A home cooked meal is always appreciated. You can either provide the entire meal for a family of 4 or make a part of the meal that we will put with food from others to make a dinner. Remember that dishes should be “kid friendly”.

Meals will be brought to FUMC on designated days and we will see that they get to the Day Center where the food will be picked up or delivered. Contact Denise Johnson at 810-869-2508 or Carolyn at 810-348-0653 for more details or to add you name to the list. A sign up list will be at the Welcome Center.



The Star
Saturday,
December 18th
@ 6:30 PM

**Come and watch
this month's family
movie: The Star**

**We'll also be doing
cookie decorating
Don't miss it!**



Christmas Pageant News

The youth of Flushing United Methodist Church will be hosting their first Christmas performance in a great while! This performance will take place :

Friday, December 17th,
@ 7:00 PM.

To ensure children are comfortable with both their parts and their songs, we will be holding practices during Kids' Church *each* Sunday.

We will also be holding a few **weekday rehearsals** on:

Wednesday, December 1st (6:30-7), Monday, December 6th (6-7)

Monday, December 13th (6-7)

and **dress rehearsal** on

Thursday, December 16th (6-7:30).

We look forward to a wonderful performance to share with family and friends!



Santa Wave
December 18th
5—6:30 PM
***Come and watch**
The Star afterwards!

Drive thru and wave to Santa! You can also get a (safe distancing) photo with him!



Christmas Memorials



Remember someone special this holiday season by giving a Christmas Memorial Donation. The poinsettias soon to adorn the Centrum will serve as a reminder of the donations given in honor of or in memory of friends and family members.

Names for whom gifts have been given will be listed in the December 24th Christmas Eve bulletin. A suggested donation is \$10, but all donations are welcome. Donations given will support:

Flushing Christian Outreach Center

The FCOC is an inter-denominational organization made up of a team of dedicated and passionate volunteers from the Flushing area, reaching out with God's love to help meet the physical, spiritual and emotional needs of the people in our community. Their volunteers are committed to helping provide food and clothing to those in need within the Flushing community, as well as connecting them with appropriate local resources.

FCOC's vision is to respond to the needs of the whole person with the goal of inviting them into a relationship with Jesus Christ and his church.

Christmas Memorials

(Return to church office by Sunday, December 19)

Attached is a gift of \$ _____

Given in loving **Honor/Memory** of *(Circle one, please):*

Given by: _____

Giving Opportunities from our **Mission Team**

**We offer two more ways to be a blessing
to others during this Christmas season:**

Angel Tree

We are helping Flushing area families that need help this Christmas. Help them put items under their tree by getting an angel on the Angel Tree (\$25 gift limit). Please return wrapped item (place the angel back on the gift) by Sun, Dec 19nd.

Christmas Eve Offering

This year we will be giving all donations we receive on Christmas Eve to help support Chad Schlosser from InterVarsity. Chad Schlosser has been leading InterVarsity (IV) on the campus of University of Michigan Flint since 2010. InterVarsity emphasizes small groups in their campus ministries. These create opportunities for students to process faith, be invited into community and for spiritual growth. Chad's job is U of M – Flint but if time allows, he makes connections at Mott Community College .

Dec 24

**5 pm Traditional Service
7 pm Contemporary Worship**

Join us live online
& in-person



**Christmas Eve
Candlelight
Services**

Let's worship and sing together!

2021 United Methodist Women Bake Sale

**Join us in making buckeyes in the kitchen
Tuesday, November 30th at 10 am .**

Sorry, NO tea rings this year due to Covid restrictions.

We will sell trays of cookies made by our members.

**Come help package cookies
Wednesday, December 1st at 1 pm.**

**Cookies and Buckeyes will be for sale
at the Candle Walk December 2nd and 3rd
and at the church Sunday, December 4th or until sold out.**

All profits are used for missions.

Come and buy them while the goods last.

ENJOY THE CANDLE WALK ...

DEC 2 & 3, 6-9 PM

BEGIN & END FROM...

FLUSHING UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

FREE PARKING! INSIDE BATHROOMS!

COME JOIN US BY THE FIRE!



FREE HOT DRINKS!

SUPPORT UNITED METHODIST WOMEN'S MISSION WORK

BUY HOMEMADE GOODIES &/OR GIFTS...

COOKIES - \$8/tray. BUCKEYES - \$7/bowl

RADA CUTLERY (various prices)!

Christmas is Coming Christmas is Coming!!!

And so is the

Annual UMW Christmas Auction

Please join us for a fun



Girls Night Out



On

Wednesday, December 8, 2021 at 6:30 p.m.

in the Fellowship Hall of the Church

Bring a Friend!

All church members are invited to attend the auction to enjoy appetizers and bid on baked goods and gift items.

Proceeds go to the pastor's *Assist Day* Fund.

Please join us this year for an evening of fun, fellowship and laughs! Bring your wallet or checkbook – you never know what you might find!

**Men's
Breakfast**



Faith - Food - Fellowship - Fun

Men's Breakfast

Sat., Dec 11th

@ 8:30 am

Liberty Restaurant
6277 W Pierson Rd, Flushing

Finance Snapshot through October 2021

Budget for 2021 - General Fund: \$324,361

Received in Oct 2021: General: \$32,066

Capitol: \$2,057

Received YTD: \$ 276,260

2021 Apportionments: \$41,297

100% current on 2021 payments!

**SHARING
GOD'S
GIFTS**



Happy Birthday

<i>Sarah Lewis</i>	<i>Dec 1</i>	<i>Bo Shufelt</i>	<i>Dec 17</i>
<i>Cindy Alexander</i>	<i>Dec 4</i>	<i>Nolan Rowley</i>	<i>Dec 19</i>
<i>Trudy Grindstaff</i>	<i>Dec 4</i>	<i>Arlie Wisenbaugh</i>	<i>Dec 19</i>
<i>Pam Merrifield</i>	<i>Dec 5</i>	<i>Maxine Schmalzer</i>	<i>Dec 20</i>
<i>Stephen Venable</i>	<i>Dec 5</i>	<i>Bob Krueger</i>	<i>Dec 22</i>
<i>Lori Stauffacher</i>	<i>Dec 8</i>	<i>Hannah Nettleton</i>	<i>Dec 23</i>
<i>Barb Covert</i>	<i>Dec 9</i>	<i>Denise Sands</i>	<i>Dec 23</i>
<i>Dean Mosey</i>	<i>Dec 11</i>	<i>Elizabeth Fonger</i>	<i>Dec 24</i>
<i>Lindsey Wagner</i>	<i>Dec 11</i>	<i>Jim Thomas</i>	<i>Dec 24</i>
<i>Bruce Hathaway</i>	<i>Dec 13</i>	<i>Ron Kipp</i>	<i>Dec 25</i>
<i>Ramsey Lechota</i>	<i>Dec 14</i>	<i>Katelyn Messina</i>	<i>Dec 27</i>
<i>Daniel Machir</i>	<i>Dec 14</i>	<i>Velma Graham</i>	<i>Dec 28</i>
<i>Evelyn Johnson</i>	<i>Dec 15</i>	<i>Kyler LeCureux</i>	<i>Dec 28</i>
<i>James Napier</i>	<i>Dec 15</i>	<i>Joyce Schlicht</i>	<i>Dec 28</i>
<i>Judy Bloodworth</i>	<i>Dec 16</i>	<i>Lilah Williams</i>	<i>Dec 28</i>
<i>Nick Bodis</i>	<i>Dec 17</i>	<i>Cathy Metz</i>	<i>Dec 31</i>



December Babies!



Flushing Christian Outreach Center

Helping People - Changing Lives

We need you! The Flushing Christian Outreach Center has just opened a large clothing center on Pierson Rd. in Flushing. We would love to have you serve alongside of us as we provide free clothing to our friends in need. If you are interested or would like more information, please call Terry Bigelow at 810-487-2223. We are a fun-loving group of people looking to make new friends. Come join us!

A Special Recognition

On behalf of the Flushing Christian Outreach Board of Directors, Terry Bigelow presented Evelyn Johnson with a plaque recognizing her 40 plus years as the chair of the Clothes Closet, beginning at the Flushing United Methodist Church before becoming a part of FCOC. She has worked tirelessly making a positive difference in the lives of many deserving people. The plaque is proudly displayed in the new clothing center located at 6122 Pierson Rd, unit 9, in Flushing. The clothing center opens November 15.



Items
Flushing
Christian
Outreach
Center
Is
Collecting:

During the month of **DECEMBER**
we are collecting:

Chunky Soup & **Shampoo**

Thank you for your support!
FLUSHING CHRISTIAN
OUTREACH CENTER

Our Church Family

Aware of a concern or joy in our family? Please notify the church, so we can share them with you. Only first names will be published in prayer concerns.

Prayer Room



Please remember in your hearts and prayers:

- + Grayson, with breathing issues
- + Baby Briar, in the hospital
- + John, recovering from heart and diabetes issues
- + Lisa, with liver cancer beginning chemo
- + Cathy, in hospital with colon issue
- + Ruth, hurt herself in a fall
- + Dave, loss house and garage in fire
- + Cousin, Liz who is dying
- + Gary, with bowel obstruction
- + A co-workers wife with cancer
- + Prayers for baby, Robert in NICU
- + Prayers for Jason and his wife
- + Continued healing daughter that overdosed
- + Medical staff at Ascension Hospital
- + Covid at schools
- + Corbin and wife, Hope with covid
- + Co worker, Chastity
- + Continued prayers for Mary & Don
- + Dave, with cancer
- + 14 yr old son with leukemia
- + A friend who lost her mom
- + Diane with ongoing health issues
- + Janet as she waits for test results

With Heartfelt Sympathy

To Ellen Hulet, friends and family on the death of her husband, Harry.
To Jan Vaughn, friends and family on the death of her husband, Bill.
To Mel Weeden, friends and family on the death of his wife, Donnie.

May these families be uplifted by our prayers.

Ad Council Meeting

**Monday, December 13th @ 7 pm
in the Heritage Room.**

You can also attend via Zoom.

We will email a link to all Ad Council members.

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Worship Servants

Scripture Readers 8:45 am

Dec 5– Sue Durling
Dec 12 – Dave Lewis
Dec 19 – Carolyn Malaski
Dec 26 –

Coffee Hosts 10:00 am

Dec 5–
Dec 12 –
Dec 19 –
Dec 26 –

Coffee Hosts 10:00 am

Dec 5–
Dec 12 –
Dec 19 –
Dec 26 –

Greeters has been reinstated!

We need “No Contact” Greeters for both Services and volunteers for Coffee Hour at 10 AM.

If you would like to serve, sign up sheets are on the Welcome Center in the Lobby.

We are looking for volunteers who would like to be put on a regular schedule for coffee hour. If you are interested in serving, please sign up in the lobby and we will email you a schedule.

Also, there is a sign up sheet to serve in December. Please sign up today!

**Due to Covid-19, to ensure proper safe distancing practices we will not be needing ushers for the month of December.

Articles for November Newsletter:

Deadline: December 20, 2021

FLUSHING UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
413 E MAIN ST
FLUSHING MI 48433-2029

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