

Aurora First United Methodist Church

January 2021

Heart to Heart, House to House, Town to Town, One Kingdom to Another

A Note from our Pastor Rev. Ryan Goode:

As I write this we are in the middle of one of my favorite times of the year, that gap between Christmas and New Years Day. The busyness of the Advent season leading up to Christmas has calmed a little, my kids have new toys to entertain themselves with, the new year is almost here, and there is a sense of hope, and anticipation for all that could be in the next twelve months. Many people like to make resolutions for the new year, some people pick a word that they hope will define their year, others like to ignore anything is even happening and adopt the motto, "New Year...same me!" Whatever your approach to the new year I think most of us would agree we are ready for a fresh start! We are rushing to put this past year behind us and have a new start. As I mentioned in my sermon a few weeks ago, even Time Magazine has declared 2020 as the worst year ever for most people that are alive today.

As we look forward to entering this new year, I want to encourage you to take some time to pause and look back on the year that we have just lived through. You might hesitate to do that, I know some people live by the axiom, "Never look back!" If you do a quick search on the internet for "Looking back" you will find all sorts of encouragement to press ahead, not to live in the past, and reminders that looking back is a waste of your time. I want to push against that. Looking back gives us opportunity to see where we have been and the things that have shaped us and more importantly looking back allows us to be mindful of God's presence and our faithfulness.

One of my favorite books in the Bible is the book of Deuteronomy. In the book, God's people are told over and over to remember what God has done for them. Deuteronomy 4:9 says, "Only be careful, and watch yourselves closely so that you do not forget the things the things your eyes have seen or let them slip from your hearts as long as you live." What can you do to intentionally remember all that God has done in your life this past year? To keep God's faithfulness from slipping from your heart? Sure, there have been tough moments, even devastating moments, but have you experienced God's presence during those times? Find some way to record them, make the time to reflect on it.

A practice I have used for several years is to make space in my journal or a notebook to reflect on the past year. I write out things in the past year that have impacted me such as songs, movies, books, events. Then I make a little chart with a section for each month. I think search through my email, journal, text messages, phone photos, and calendar to write out the major events that happened that year. Once I have compiled that information I like to reflect and make notes on where I have experienced God's presence, and lessons that I

have learned. This might not be a process that you follow exactly but I encourage you to take an hour or two in the next few days to reflect on this past year. There has been a lot of bad, that is certain, but I think as you reflect on this past year you will also find moments of good, moments of God's presence,

When we remember God's protection, God's faithfulness, God's comfort, God's deliverance, God's love, we grow in our love for God and when our love grows our desire for obedience grows as well! Let's start 2021 with a brief pause to reflect and give thanks to God and then prayerfully set our intentions to live in obedience to Jesus this year. Claim the time and create the space to reflect on God's work over this past year. As you reflect on the year, my prayer is that you will see how loved you are by God and that you would desire to live this year in obedience to Jesus. May God bless you and your family in 2021 and may you be mindful of God's presence always.

Pastor Ryan

“Faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen” (Hebrews 11:1). Thank you, Holy Spirit, for strengthening our faith in God, in goodness, in life and in love. *The Newsletter Newsletter*

**ALWAYS PRAY TO HAVE EYES
THAT SEE THE BEST IN PEOPLE
A HEART THAT FORGIVES THE
WORST, A MIND THAT FORGETS
THE BAD, AND A SOUL THAT NEVER
LOSES FAITH IN GOD.**

January Calendar Events...

Special dates

New Year's Day... *January 1, 2021*
Epiphany... *January 6, 2021*
Baptism of the Lord... *January 10, 2021*
Martin Luther King Day... *January 18, 2021*
Week of prayer for Christian Unity... *January 18-25*
Inauguration Day...*January 20, 2021*

Happy Birthday

January 1st ... Jenna Haller
January 4th ... Danny Martin
January 10th ... Lisa Morehead
January 13th... Madeline Mosio
January 24th... Ben Turner

Happy Anniversary

January 26th ... Roger & Debbie Fehling

Self Help Meetings

AA meet Sundays @ 8 pm
NA meet Mondays @ Noon
Women of Courage meet Tuesdays @ 6pm
AA meet Tuesdays @ 8 pm
AA meet Wednesdays @ Noon
AA meet Fridays @ Noon
AA meet Saturdays @ 8 pm

Weekly Calendar

Pastor Office Hours Wednesdays 9:30 - Noon
Zoom Bible Study @ 2 pm A new series of study
will begin January 5th...Ryan will send you a reminder
link if you would like or you can connect at:

(<https://us02ewb.zoom.us/j/889220482230>)

Thursday Morning Worship - 9 a.m. on Facebook

Every Sunday...our Sunday Worship Service
is available on Facebook IF YOU DO NOT have
access to Facebook if you will e-mail
janbuscher@yahoo.com she will send you
a link every Sunday morning and you can watch
the service using that link at your convenience.

The **Mountain Mission** truck is scheduled
to be at AFUMC JANUARY 12th...

You may bring all the wonderfully good
and usable items you are no longer using
to Church... Ryan is in the office on
Wednesday mornings from 9:30 to noon...
If you need assistance getting your items
to Church PLEASE call and leave a
message so arrangements can be made...

With the notice giving us our Pick Up date
they included:

Stores and Customers Emergency
Needs...

Men's Winter clothing
Socks and underwear
Children's Shoes/Coats
Good pots and pans
Good Used Furniture
Toys

Processing Plant Needs...

16 oz & 8 oz Coffee cups
Air Fresheners (Aerosol Cans)
Dust mops
Toilet Bowl Cleaner
Sanitizing wipes
Paper towels
Furniture polish
Windex
Hand soap (liquid)

"God's Mission...In the Mountains"

"Your Mission...In His Service"

UNITED METHODIST MOUNTAIN MISSION

Jackson, Kentucky

*Don't forget you can bring in your
Gently Worn, Used and New Shoes
thru January 15th for the St. Mary's
School project. If it isn't convenient
to bring them to AFUMC you may
take them to St. Mary's or call Jim
at (812) 584-7883 and he will
arrange a time for him to meet you.*

Thank You notes to us....

Thank you very much for your thoughtfulness and generosity to me and my family this Christmas season. Your individual gifts and cards have meant so much to us. The card and gift from the church was very generous and appreciated.

Thank you!

Pastor Ryan, Kara, Asa, Ellie and Hudson

Dear Friends,

I am humbled and grateful for your generous gift to me at Christmas! God has blessed me to be in your service as organist. May He bless and be with you and yours in the coming year!

Love,

Jim Waldon

We say Thanks to and for....

-Ryan and Jim for the love and care so willing given to us... for the Christmas Eve Service...for coordinating our service each week for on line viewing...for the special love and caring as they prepare for our on-line services each week....

-Special THANKS to our congregation and friends for their continued support financially...your generosity is greatly appreciated. Even though we are not able to worship in person our monthly bills must be paid.

-Thanks to Ryan and to all his "helpers" for the ZOOM Christmas Party we shared with Hamline Chapel UMC members...

-To our Trustees and Church officers for working through all the restrictions imposed by the Covid Pandemic...

-Again to the Hart's for decorating the Sanctuary for Christmas...

-For the lighted outdoor Advent Wreath sharing with and reminding our community the "Reason for the Season"...

In our thoughts and prayers...

Let us share our concerns and blessings with the Lord...

Prayers for our Nation during the pandemic virus and the racial tensions.

Prayers for our President, our City, our County, our State and our Country's elected leaders, our World Leaders

Prayers for our Service men and women and their families

Prayers for Healthcare workers; First Responders; Military Personnel; Chaplains;

Pharmacists; Grocery workers; Mail Carriers; Delivery Workers; Undertakers. Clergy and their churches; Teachers & Students; Bus Drivers

Prayers for those fighting for their lives; for those who have lost loved ones; for families; for individuals in financial distress...

Our Prayer list of friends and families... Ardis & Bob Bischoff, Mike & Kelley Davis, Tami & Rob Coombs, Debbie Fehling, Ron Denney, Roger & Patty Rullman, Sharolyn Martin, Hudson Goode, Dan Hurley, Lee Ann Phillippee, Tom DeVille, Rev. Pam Wooden, John Hubbartt, Londalea Murray, Pam Dean, Donna Dean, Dave Giffin, Mike Crider, Abby David, J D Giffen, Peggy Benham, Ken Batchelor, Lisa Worthington, Rob Walton, Dave Reidel, Danny & LuAnn Martin, Faye Martin, David Gutman, Nancy Ross, David Bowling, Rachel Schuler, Mike Nowacki, Bill Levell, Shawn Viltarda, Lisa Turner, Bob Strautman, Linda Van Cleef, Michale Renner, Keith Bangert, Gabe Arnsperger, Kathy Robinson, Josh Hensley, Meredith Carp, Jaxson Salisbury, Gary Hartman, Mike Ross, Jeremy Beard, Nielen Hansen, John Palmer, John Cox, Charles Ott, Angela Shaw, Tim Bennett.

Those in Nursing Homes & Assisted Living... LaVerne Whitman, Martha Kaiser, Rick Strzynski, Patricia Clark, Kevin Adams, Mary Ball, Opal LaFollette, Doris Spencer, Bob McDaniel

Shut Ins: Jerry Stonebraker,

Sympathy to the families of... Bob Myers, Bob Ernsting, Virginia Knippenberg, Alice Schuler, Greg Mills, Sandy Fairfield, Liz Canterbury, Carl Lykins, Cary Eichel, Terry Porter, Jemma Glenn, John Blasdel Sr., Tish Hopping

Local Missions: AA, NA, CASA, Heart House, St. Vincent de Paul, Clearinghouse, YES Home, Parent Cafes **United Methodist Missions:** Red Bird Mission, Mountain Mission, UMCOR

Praises: John Hubbartt, (John's lung transplant went well, he and Shelley are staying at their daughter's closer to his doctors and the transplant team, possibly will be coming back home soon!

***We are serious about prayer...** Some names have been on our prayer list for many, many months... If you have a concern that you would like us, as a church, to pray for **please** let us know. In an attempt to keep our prayer list current we are asking that you provide us the following information: YOUR NAME: (required); NAME OF THE ONE NEEDING PRAYER: (be sure you have their permission to make this concern known); NATURE OF REQUEST: (surgery, health concerns, etc. Pastor visit). You can make a note and place it in the offering plate, call the church with the information, mail a note, email the pastor (ryangoode1@gmail.com), Janet Hart (janbuschur@yahoo.com) or Janet Petty (jpetty@embarqmail.com)... maybe you would like a special prayer for yourself...

