
The Parish Voice

Nappanee United Methodist Church



December 2023

Welcome our December Pastor!



The Rev. Dr. David Schrader comes to us to celebrate the richness of Advent and Christmas. David has served churches throughout the North part of the state, including serving as District Superintendent for our area. After completing 13 years as Senior Pastor at Grace UMC in South Bend, he has retired – and like many retired pastors, continues to serve part time. He is an Associate Superintendent, helping the Rev. Dr. Lundy in her work – and helping us in this coming month.

Please wear your nametag and be sure to come for this time of excellent worship!



Office Hours

Rev. Dr. David Schrader will have office hours on Tuesdays and Thursdays, from 9 am -12pm, for the first 3 weeks of December.

Kathy will be out of the office on Thursday, December 7th, so the bulletin will go out Wednesday, December 6th.



We Did 60 Shoeboxes!

By: Dorothy Haney, Missions Rep

Thanks to everyone that participated this year in the Operation Christmas Child shoebox project. Our church collected 40 filled shoeboxes to take to the First Brethren Church and 20 online shoeboxes. That makes 60 shoeboxes on their way to 60 boys and girls around the

world. Thanks also to Roxy who set up the display table, Sandy that did the computer stuff, Alison that helped the Sunday School kids fill boxes, Joanna that took the boxes to the church, Sue M who introduced this project, and everyone else that donated items or shipping expenses. Remember to pray that your shoebox will show the love of Jesus to a special child of God.



What is a "Perfect Gift?"

To me a 'perfect gift' is one I don't have to dust or store, is useful, fits perfectly, and won't be returned. This really is the description of an 'alternate gift'. Instead of giving material gifts this Christmas, make Christmas even more meaningful by choosing gifts that help those in need...gifts to people that are struggling. There are gift catalogs on the table in the narthex for suggestions, from soccer balls to honeybees, blankets to medical care, and in all price ranges. With dozens of great gift ideas, you'll find something for everyone on your Christmas shopping list... (even Uncle John)...and it will be a gift that truly lasts a lifetime. Give hope in Jesus' name this Christmas.

Knowing Christ and Making Christ Known

Reminder

The Detwilers are going to place an order for gift cards other than Martin's. Check the list at the Welcome Center. The gift cards will be here in time for Christmas.



Let's Go Caroling

Join us to spread some Christmas cheer! Meet in Fellowship Hall at the church on Sunday, December 17th at 4:00 pm. We will team up and go to some of our shut-ins around town and share some Christmas songs and cheer! Dress warm and bring those Christmas bells, hats and big smiles.



Maizie Hope London was baptized on November 19th. She is the daughter of Nick & Lindsay London.



To my church family, Thank you for the cards, phone calls, visits, food, and especially all the prayers during my surgery and recovery. And a special thank you to Jo Slabaugh who demonstrated not only Christian love, but servitude. She came over several times during my recovery to clean the cat boxes! That was love in action.

Diana Smith



Thank you all so much for your care, showering me with wonderful cards -- so many of the comments in those will stay with me a long time. And for the multiplicity of gifts. You have demonstrated once again that you know how to show kindness. I was able to be with you a short time, and I am humbled by the blessing you have been in my life. Thank you.

Mary Hubbard

The *Parish Voice* is the monthly newsletter of the Nappanee United Methodist Church

Articles are due the 20th of each month

Editor reserves the right to edit for content and space.

Articles submitted after the deadline may not be included.



Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday
9:00 AM-12:00 PM

Church: (574) 773-4183
Parsonage: (574) 773-7259

office@nappaneeumc.com
www.nappaneeumc.com



Sunday Worship

10:00 a.m.

In-person or available on YouTube



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Custodian: Kathy Goodman

FREE ZOOM TRAININGS:
 Saturday, January 27, 2024
 9 AM - 12 PM (CT)/10 AM - 1 PM (ET)
 and/or
 Saturday, February 10, 2024
 8 AM - 11 AM (CT)/9 AM - 12 PM (ET)

**LEADERSHIP
UNIVERSITY**



WORKSHOPS INCLUDE:
 Staff Parish
 Finance and Trustees
 Church Council/Single Board
 Growing Young (Youth Ministry)
 Children's Ministry
 Lay Leadership
 Messy Church
 Digital Church
 Outreach: Food Pantries & Beyond
 Planned Giving and Endowments



New Books in the Library

By: Pat Lehman, Librarian

Making Sense of the Bible by Adam Hamilton recommended by Pastor Mary. The title says it all. Several fictional novels have been added with more coming later. *Olive Kitteridge* by Elizabeth Strout. This book was winner of the Pulitzer Prize. At times stern, at other times patient, at times perceptive, at other times in sad denial, *Olive Kitteridge* is a retired teacher. She deplores the changes in her little town of Crosby, Maine, and in the world at large, but she doesn't always recognize the changes in those around her. Another new book is *The Red Book* by James Patterson and David Ellis. To Detective Bill Harney, the newest member of the Chicago PD's elite strike force, getting shot in the head, stalked by a state's attorney, and accused of murder by his fellow cops is all part of breaking a case.



Thanks to the Leavitt Family for decorating the church! You are invited to make a donation toward the Christmas trees in honor or memory of a loved one. The sign-up sheet is posted on the bulletin board beside the office. You may turn in pictures at the church office or email pictures to Sandy at sandy.macgowan@gmail.com. (If you previously submitted a picture, we can use that one if you like.) The pictures need to be turned in by December 13th.

Note from Dorothy Haney, Mission Representative on the One Board Council--

Operation Christmas Child is the first mission project that's been completed since we changed to the One Board concept for the business of our church. I am only the *coordinator* of mission projects. That means that any, or all of you, are now on the mission committee, so to speak. I need ideas for what you'd like our church to do for missions in the coming year. Ideas such as have a collection of items, raise funds, sponsor a project, volunteer to help at a local mission, have another Million Can March, go on a mission trip...ideas that will result in short term commitments. This way more of us can be involved in our mission of showing God's love in multiple ways.



Financial Report

Offerings for October = \$21,905
 (down 10.3% or \$2,517)
 Year-to-date \$216,405 (up 7.4%
 or \$14,907)
 Expenses for October = \$19,390
 (down 22% or \$5,459)
 Year-to-date \$209,815 (down
 8.7% or \$20,033)



The continued savings due to the interim pastoral payroll situation have allowed

us to begin building a bit of a cash reserve in the general fund despite the rising utility and insurance costs. The One Board studied financial results comparing 2019 through 2023 to identify trends in giving as well as categories of expenses. Careful thought will be needed to build a 2024 budget that prioritizes the impact of our ministry within the boundaries of our historical levels of contributions.

- 04 Betty Collins
- 05 Sandy Jenkins
- 07 Kent Schwartz
- 08 Mel Lemler
- 08 Randy Croy
- 08 Bonnie MacGowan
- 08 Pat Miner
- 09 Mike Will
- 11 Sally Guard
- 11 Jade Sipic
- 14 Summer Stillson
- 16 Barb Zimmerman
- 20 Ruthann Stork
- 22 Diana Smith
- 26 Nancy Stover
- 29 Karen Tobias

In-Person Worship

October 29	81
November 5	107
November 12	89
November 19	104
November 26	87

Sunday School Attendance

October 29	37
November 5	32
November 12	37
November 19	49
November 26	33



WOW

The next WOW meal will be Wednesday, December, 13th. Serving starts at 5:15 pm. The meal will be scalloped potatoes & ham, green beans, and pie. Please make sure to sign up on the sheet outside the office. If you wish to help provide a dessert, sign up on the right side of the sheet.



- 05 Tom & Kathy Anglin
- 08 Dave & Alison Stair
- 09 Rick & Sandy Jenkins
- 16 Jerry & Beth Huff
- 30 Jack & Mary Miller

