
The Parish Voice

Nappanee United Methodist Church



February 2023

Better Together

By: *Dianne & Dennis Debelak, Dick & Diana Smith*



On Monday, February 27, Better Together will meet for a 12:00 noon lunch at **Don Carlos Mexican Grill, located at 108 W. Market Street in Nappanee.** Parking is available in front of the restaurant and also to the west, in the public lot. Salsa and chips are complimentary and the menu can accommodate your taste buds....spicy or mild. **OLE!!** Everyone is welcome to come and enjoy a meal with us. As usual, the sign up sheet will be posted on the bulletin board by the church office. Contact us if you have any questions.



Finance Update

By: *Jenni Wysong, Finance Chair*

Borrowing from the children's Christmas program, "A Night Like No Other," the Finance Committee has deemed 2023, "A Year Like No Other." We are focusing on optimism, joyful celebration of the gifts to our Church, and careful and intentional stewardship of the business side of the church. We are facing difficult decisions, as the contributions to the church in 2022 were short of the expenses by \$23,000. We spent \$23,000 more than we took in – how? The PPP (Paycheck Protection Program) money we got from the government during the Covid-19 crisis to help keep our workforce employed helped us continue to pay bills and payroll costs when offerings fell short. That money is now all used up. We only have a cash balance in the bank for the general fund of \$1,100. This does not include the Endowment Fund, the Building and Maintenance Fund, or Missions, to be clear, as those are restricted funds which are not for paying salaries, NIPSCO bills, insurance bills, etc.

Of the \$250,000 spent in 2022, \$177,450 or 71% was for Staff payroll (including the church's portion of payroll taxes and the pension and insurance costs we cover for the pastor). \$57,500 or 24% was for the church and parsonage utilities and property and liability insurance. \$8,000 or 3% was for

office supplies, postage, website fees, etc. while \$4,800 or 2% was for worship supplies and Christian Education.

We as a committee are hoping there are still Offering Commitment Cards to be turned in...we need you! The number of folks who've committed on paper to supporting the church financially is down from last year. We understand economic factors facing our congregation, but those same factors and cost increases are facing the church as well.

Please prayerfully consider your giving commitment to our church in this time of need. We need more attendees in our pews and new families invited to worship with us. Do your part...invite a friend, a neighbor, an enemy even! Let's unite together to praise God and share his light to our community by funding the good works we do before we have to make tough staff cuts to remain solvent.



The Ad Council, after a lengthy discussion and review of information taken from the Courageous Conversation meetings, voted to NOT PROCEED with the disaffiliation process.

Knowing Christ and Making Christ Known



Our condolences to the family of Tom Slater who passed away December 11.

Our condolences to the family of Dean Guard who passed away on January 24th.

671 items donated to Open Door in 2022!



Thank you for the Love Offering

We, your church staff, would like to say Thank You for the many gestures of kindness received this holiday season and for the love offering. It is our joy to serve the congregation of the Nappanee United Methodist Church and we are blessed by your generosity.



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

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Parsonage: (574) 773-7259

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Sunday Worship

10:00 a.m.

In-person or available on YouTube



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Report on the Mitten Tree Project

Did you notice how full the Mitten Tree was? Sue Matthews reported that we collected a whopping 44 pairs of mittens and gloves, 3 pairs of socks, 2 pairs of earmuffs, 4 scarves, and 4 hats. They were divided between the two elementary schools in Nappanee. Someone even donated beautiful homemade scarves.

Thank you to everyone that helped with this project. Sue said that the schools were so appreciative as they were about to run out. Maybe we should do this again next year! Thanks to Sue for initiating the project and to everyone that donated.





FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS



FEBRUARY ANNIVERSARIES

- 03 Steven Miller Jr
- 03 Peggy Morlan
- 04 Phil Lehman
- 04 Bill Fales
- 05 Julie Mast
- 06 Kathy Goodman
- 07 Wayne Dinkeldein
- 08 Dick Smith
- 10 Julie Reed
- 11 Chad Brich
- 15 Pat Miller
- 16 Jane Carlson Miller
- 23 Mario Mast
- 23 Jessica Sword
- 25 Leo Williams
- 27 Kevin Reed

20 Claude & Jan Brown



Welcome to the Staff!

Alison Stair has been hired as the new Children's Ministry Coordinator. Her start date is February 1st.



General Giving

December 25	\$ 12,987.
January 1	\$ 1,590.
January 8	\$ 2,196.

Building Upkeep & Property Fund

December 25	\$ 965.
January 1	\$ 175.
January 8	\$ 176.

The amount needed each Sunday to meet the program budget is **\$5,781.**



ATTENDANCE

In-Person Worship

January 1	76
January 8	71
January 15	72
January 22	57

Sunday School Attendance

January 1	21
January 8	34
January 15	43
January 22	33

Monthly Financial Report



General Fund

	December	Year-to-date
Giving	\$ 22,643.	\$ 246,686.
Spending	-\$ 21,218.	-\$ 248,448.
Tithe Paid	-\$ 1,110.	-\$ 21,656.
Total Surplus or (Deficit)	\$ 315.	\$ 3,368.
Tithe in Arrears	-\$ 1,259.	-\$ 3,810.

Building & Maintenance Fund

	December	Year-to-date
Giving	\$ 1,478.37	\$ 33,287.90
Spending	\$ 917.95	-\$ 14,549.99
Net Surplus or (Deficit)	\$ 560.42	\$ 18,737.91
Fund Balance		\$ 25,156.88
Special Project Fund		\$ 15,070.85

Answering the “Impossible Question”

By: Dorothy Haney, Missions Chairperson



I imagine that many of us have been asked to answer an impossible question for a report at work. Kathy, our administrative assistant, asked me to help with a report for the conference asking how many mission projects were completed and how many people were served by those projects.

So I was rather befuddled when thinking about those questions. Does that mean how many mission organizations we send money to from our mission budget? Then how many people were served at that mission from the money we sent them? We have 19 missions we choose to help fund each year. The Thrift Shop and individuals send even more.

For example, take the Bible in the School program. How many children learn that Jesus loves them from that program. Then to take it a bit further, how many children go home to tell their family about what they learned, and that makes even more. When the children grow up, they tell their children.

Maybe I’m getting carried away, but every penny we give to missions is like a drop in a lake. It just keeps going on as God multiplies it to help the poor, feed the hungry, and spread the Gospel at home and throughout the world.

But to answer the original question, I realistically came up with 9 actual projects completed in 2022, reaching nearly a thousand people that we helped in tangible ways, from the items in the grocery cart for Open Door to 352 pairs of underwear. That’s what we do in missions. Remember to include missions regularly in your offerings. We’ll let God take it from there.



UMW

By: Sue Matthews

Our officers have graciously agreed to continue to serve in the same capacity as last year. If anyone would like to partner with either Ruth, Deb, or Sue, please let us know. Our new handbooks will be in mailboxes soon. If you are still interested in remaining a member of UMW, whether it is Sarah Circle, Rebekah Esther Circle, or a Member at Large, please be sure to pay the \$15 to Ruth as soon as possible so your name can be included in our handbook. Although plans could change, as of now, we did not schedule any fundraisers. If there is any meal you would like for us to continue doing, please let one of the officers know your interest in helping with that fundraiser. If you are not currently a member, but would like to know more about the United

Methodist Women, please ask Ruth, Sue, or any previous officer. Our purpose is to know God and to experience freedom as whole persons through Jesus Christ, as well as develop a creative, supportive fellowship. We hope you will continue with us in that purpose.



WOW

By: Sue Matthews

Our January meal had a few faces we had not seen for a few years. They did not know we had started serving a WOW meal again. Let’s continue to spread the news that we still are “Wandering in On Wednesday”, albeit not as often as before Covid. Karen’s menu last month was delicious. Please continue to **sign up** if you plan to attend, or if you know of someone who is not able to sign up themselves. It really helps us out immensely. As the days get dark earlier, most people are arriving sooner. If you cannot come until later, we will continue to serve meals from 5:15-6.

The menu for **February 8th** is scalloped potatoes and ham, Asian salad, and dessert. The ham was donated by Allison and Sue for this meal. If there is a meal you would like for us to serve, please let us know. We are limited in the amount of time we have and the cost of some ingredients (sorry, no fillet mignon), but Karen and I would love to have your suggestions. We hope to see your name on the sign up sheet for the February 8th meal.

