
The Parish Voice

Nappanee United Methodist Church



January 2023

Missions Recap

By: Dorothy Haney, Missions Chair



Thank you to everyone that helped with the missions of our church in 2022! We had a great year! From collecting underwear in January for Broadway Christian Parish, to giving to UMCOR for the disasters in Kentucky and Florida. We filled backpacks for school kids and shoeboxes for children around the world. Children were sponsored through Compassion International to open opportunities for them. We gave to Ukrainian relief.

We learned how our funds help with the water projects in Zambia, and pastors are educated to present the Gospel at Kafakumba Pastors School. Some of our people volunteer at Open Door and we bring items for the grocery cart. During the year, we read to children at the Boys and Girls Club.

Now it's a new year and we need to start again with some new projects and continue the ones still needed. Thank you Sunday School Classes, women's groups, the Thrift Shop, and individuals for giving and supporting these projects.

What new opportunities will we have in 2023 to serve Jesus by serving others!?!
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Better Together



There is a date change for the January Better Together. Our first gathering for 2023, will be on **TUESDAY, January 24th at 11:45 am**. We have reserved a room at The Dutchmaid Restaurant, across from the Rentown Country Store located at 1535 Third Road, Bremen. So after lunch you can walk across

the road and shop at Rentown!! Looking forward to seeing you all!

WOW

By: Karen Tobias

The next WOW meal will be January, 11th at 5:15 pm. We will be serving chicken casserole, green beans, applesauce and a dessert.



Pursue Jesus — and your passions

If you struggle with making and keeping resolutions, you're not alone. It can be discouraging to focus on what you're doing "wrong" and all the difficult changes in store. Yet January offers great opportunities to listen to God's direction. After all, Jesus came to give us abundant life and wants us to pursue him.

As you review the previous year, ask: What brought me joy? How did I grow? How did I help others? What did I do that no one else could have done? Whether your list includes spending time outside, mentoring or coaching young people or making crafts to give away or sell, continue doing what brings you joy. God gives us each unique gifts and circumstances, so live passionately for him this year!

Knowing Christ and Making Christ Known

“Write it on your heart that every day is the best day of the year.”

—Ralph Waldo Emerson

“If you can’t fly, run. If you can’t run, walk. If you can’t walk, crawl, but by all means, keep moving.”

—Martin Luther King Jr.



Another Year for God

Another year is dawning; dear Father, let it be, in working or in waiting, another year with thee....

Another year of progress, another year of praise, another year of proving thy presence all the days.

Another year of service, of witness for thy love; another year of training for holier work above.

Another year is dawning! Dear Father, let it be, on earth, or else in heaven, another year for thee.

—Frances Ridley Havergal



In the event of inclement weather requiring us to cancel church activities, or worship services, you will find the notification listed on WNDU (channel 16), WSBT (channel 22), and on the church Facebook page.



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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Sunday Worship

10:00 a.m.

In-person or available on YouTube



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Pastor's COLUMN

Embrace the New Year with a New You

By Pastor Kevin Reed



“Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here!” 2 Corinthians 5:17 NIV

I once had a membership to a gym. I think I even walked in the door of the facility a few times, but mostly I supported their business with my monthly contribution.

I cannot say that I really benefited much from my financial investment. This was probably due to needing to be present and actively using the machines, services, and other equipment to really see any difference. By not exercising in the gym, I really did not accomplish anything.

I'm already seeing the advertisements to join gym, buy exercise equipment, and get a juicer (or other healthful food creator). We do this every year. We gorge ourselves through the holidays of Thanksgiving, Christmas, and New Year's Eve. We stress, eat, and stress eat. Then, the calendar flips, and we decide something needs to change. We need to get healthy. We need to take better care of ourselves. We need to make some changes.

Our desire to be better causes us to get exercise machines that become clothes racks, special kitchen equipment that takes up counter space, and memberships that get used for about two weeks. But the truth is, nothing really changes. We end up right back where we were, except we are poorer and a little sadder.

Experts tell us that if we really want to make a change, we need to consistently make small decisions, small changes. Those small changes add up over time. It also means that if we fail to make the better choice once in awhile we do not have to feel like a failure. It also does not feel like an impossible climb of an icy mountain.

So, maybe the gym membership isn't essential, but it got me thinking about another membership in my life. I am a member of God's family.

And I think about the nature of my relationship with God. Is it really where I want it to be? Am I really using all the equipment and services God has given me in my life? Are there ways I can work at my spiritual health? And can I do it in small, meaningful ways?

What would it mean to add five to ten minutes of scripture reading five days a week to my life? How difficult would it be to spend some of my commute to work in prayer with God a few days in the week? Could I sing a lot with praise music while making dinner a few times each week? Are there little changes, little decisions that I could make that would help me deepen my relationship with God?

And what happens if I do not get it done on a day I would like to? Well, I could do it when I think about it. Or I can make it a priority tomorrow.

None of these are big changes. None of these cost money. None of these are setting out to read an entire devotional book a week or starting a practice of fasting twice a week. However, one small change can make a huge difference. That difference will definitely be felt over time.





JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

- 01 Betty Ferrell
- 02 Jerry Freet
- 03 Dean Guard
- 04 Asher Reed
- 05 Beau Stankovich
- 05 Erin Garl
- 08 Jeff Stillson
- 08 LeeAnn Beehler
- 08 Jan Neidigh
- 09 Ben Leavitt
- 10 Jane Leavitt
- 12 Janice Cunningham
- 12 Eric LaVine
- 14 Mason London
- 19 Carol Miller
- 21 Rick Tetreau
- 22 Dana Parciak
- 29 Yvonne Murphy
- 30 Helen Nusbaum



JANUARY ANNIVERSARIES

- 01 Harold & Cindi Umbaugh
- 09 Steve & Tammy Campbell
- 21 Steve Phillips & Joanna Guckenberger
- 23 Andy & Jenni Wysong
- 26 Dick & Susie Pletcher
- 27 Dean & Sally Guard
- 30 Larry & Dorothy Haney



General Giving

November 13	\$ 7,234.
November 27	\$ 10,635.
December 11	\$ 8,483.

Building Upkeep & Property Fund

November 13	\$ 854.
November 27	\$ 540.
December 11	\$ 678.

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



In-Person Worship

December 4	83
December 11	87
December 18	104
December 25	49

Sunday School Attendance

December 4	42
December 11	47
December 18	48

Monthly Financial Report



General Fund

	November	Year-to-date
Giving	\$ 22,547.	\$ 224,538.
Spending	-\$ 16,480.	-\$ 227,230.
Tithe Paid	-\$ 1,448.	-\$ 20,546.
Total Surplus or (Deficit)	\$ 4,619.	\$ 3,368.
Tithe in Arrears	-\$ 873.	-\$ 2,551.

Building & Maintenance Fund

	November	Year-to-date
Giving	\$ 1,533.85	\$ 31,639.10
Spending	\$ 0.00	-\$ 13,632.04
Net Surplus or (Deficit)	\$ 1,533.85	\$ 18,007.06
Fund Balance		\$ 21,741.30
Special Project Fund		\$ 14,856.59