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# The Parish Voice

Nappanee United Methodist Church



December 2022

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## Kafakumba Missionary Visits Mission Meeting

By: Dorothy Haney, Missions Chair



Nate Steury of the Kafakumba Pastors' School in Zambia came to our mission committee meeting recently to give us an update about some of the many projects of the mission there. We were pleased that 6 guests also attended.

Nate told of the importance of the Pastors' School in educating pastors from both Congo and Zambia. The pastors attend the school for 30 days each year for 8 years to graduate and become a minister in the United Methodist Church. Last year 18 pastors graduated. 160 pastors attend and many bring their wives and family. The wives receive practical training in the Bible and other life skills while the children are cared for in God's Kids groups while their parents attend classes.

Kafakumba Christian School started with a preschool and each year another grade is added. Next year in January 2023, they will add a 7<sup>th</sup> grade class. Plans are now to go on through high school.

Some of you may remember the water ministry that our church and the Nappanee Rotary Club worked together on. The result of this project was sending a borehole well drilling rig that digs wells in communities, near clinics, schools, and churches. They have dug over 2,300 wells so far, improving health and living conditions. They also repair wells that are broken.



One of their new projects is building the Kafakumba Clinic. They asked us to pray for their need for a full-time doctor.

Kafakumba is on our mission budget list yearly, and so far this year, no funds have been given through our church. Hopefully, you will help fund this worthy mission before the end of this year. Just write "Kafakumba" on your offering envelope.

Nate said that not only do they appreciate our monetary help, they also have several projects to raise money themselves. These projects also provide jobs for the local people. One of their most profitable is beekeeping and selling

honey. The honey has the label 'Floral Feast' which can be purchased on Amazon. They also raise goats and chickens. Another project is a lovely retirement home where people from around the world can come to retire in this beautiful country.

Nate said they can 100% promise you that every penny we donate goes to support the mission. We really learned a lot from Nate about this well-managed mission and we appreciated his coming to our church to learn about the many ways they serve the Lord there in Zambia.



## Holiday Sunday School Schedule

On Christmas Day, Sunday December 25, there will be no Sunday School scheduled. We will have our regular Worship Service at 10:00. New Year's Day is also on Sunday! On Sunday, January 1, 2023 children's and youth Sunday School will not meet. Adult Sunday Schools will meet at their class's discretion. The regular Worship Service at 10:00 will be conducted. Have a blessed holiday season!

Knowing Christ and Making Christ Known



THANK YOU for all of your kind comments, cards and good

wishes for my retirement! And a big thank you to all the people who planned, created and attended my retirement luncheon! I am very blessed to have such a loving church family. You are truly appreciated!

-Joanna Guckenberger



### Let's Go Caroling

Join us to spread some Christmas cheer! Meet in Fellowship Hall at the church on Sunday, December 18 at 4:30. We will team up and go to some of our shut-ins around town and share some Christmas songs and cheer! Then back to the church for refreshments. Dress warm and bring those Christmas bells, hats and big smiles.



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.*



### Office Hours

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



### Our Staff

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Organist: Diana Smith  
dsmith46550@gmail.com

Custodian: Kathy Goodman

### Christmas Tree Memorials

Thank you 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. Your loved one's picture may be included in the slide presentation, if you so desire. You may turn in pictures at the church office. You may also email pictures to Sandy at sandy.macgowan@gmail.com. The pictures need to be turned in by December 14th.





## God is Love

*By Pastor Kevin Reed*

“If I speak in the tongues of men or of angels, but do not have love, I am only a resounding gong or a clanging cymbal. If I have the gift of prophecy and can fathom all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have a faith that can move mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing. If I give all I possess to the poor and give over my body to hardship that I may boast, but do not have love, I gain nothing.” 1 Corinthians 13: 1-3 (NIV).

As I write these words, I am sitting in my office and contemplating the large number of books on the bookshelves. While I do not have quite as many books as someone who is nearing retirement from pastoral ministry, I am amazed at the sheer volume of bundled pages that have been splashed with knowledge and ink. Some of them are funny. Some of them are serious. Some of them are confusing. Some of them are strikingly clear and concise.

I’ve read almost every book in my personal library. That’s a lot of words and a lot of ideas (some of which are good and useful). I have encountered a great deal of knowledge. However, fathoming all knowledge is nothing without love.

Love in scripture is an interesting word. It is such a big concept, and it is the most defining characteristic of God. God is love. When we talk about love in the sense of God, it is an all consuming passion for the best experience, environment, and situation for everyone, especially someone else. This kind of love is always working, always striving, and yet never threatening or demanding. It is a love of purpose, a love that actually gives value to the knowledge we have.

Throughout scripture, we are told that God loves us and that God desires the best for us. We know that God desires that all people are saved and that they find their place in his family. We know that we can encounter God through prayer, worship, ritual, gathering, and sharing. However, we also know that something is missing.

Love is not just about accepting things as they are. If I really desire the best for someone else, then sometimes that means I need to encourage them to not stay where they are. Loving someone who is living in brokenness means that



I come alongside them to help with the healing. Loving someone trapped in a pattern of destruction and pain means that I bring comfort and encouragement, but also that I help them see God’s leading them to freedom and life.

The season of Advent is the expression of that longing and searching. Advent is the time when we prepare because something is coming.

Love came down at Christmas-time. It is in that moment that everything begins to come to life. Jesus is the incarnation of loving your neighbor, unlocking the mysteries of God, and speaking words of life with authority. Jesus is the expression of love that breathes life into knowledge, hope into kind acts, and possibility into disciplines of faith. Jesus came to change and transform because something is missing.

As you read through the Christmas story again this year, consider the possibilities. Think about all those people who have waited so long to see God’s greatest expression of love. Consider those who have been waiting for the transforming power of God. And then be reminded that that love lives in us as Christ Jesus is the Lord of our lives. Because of that love, the gifts we give, the help we offer, the friendship we extend has value. During this season of Advent and Christmas, I pray that the knowledge of Jesus Christ may become expression of the all-consuming love of God.





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

- 27 Jackie Pletcher
- 29 Karen Tobias
- 30 Bob Strang



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



General Giving

October 9	\$ 8,938.
October 30	\$ 14,440.

Building Upkeep & Property Fund

October 9	\$ 575.
October 30	\$ 1,395.

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



In-Person Worship

October 30	75
November 6	77
November 13	61
November 20	81
November 27	80

Sunday School Attendance

October 30	38
November 6	42
November 13	37
November 20	42
November 27	38

Monthly Financial Report



*General Fund*

	October	Year-to-date
Giving	\$ 24,217.	\$ 201,786.
Spending	-\$ 23,579.	-\$ 211,085.
Tithe Paid	-\$ 1,270.	-\$ 19,098.
Total Surplus or (Deficit)	-\$ 632.	-\$ 28,397.
Tithe in Arrears	-\$ 1,254.	-\$ 1,678.

*Building & Maintenance Fund*

	October	Year-to-date
Giving	\$ 1,916.81	\$ 30,305.25
Spending	-\$ 1,718.80	-\$ 13,632.00
Net Surplus or (Deficit)	\$ 198.01	\$ 16,673.25
Fund Balance		\$ 21,741.30
Special Project Fund		\$ 14,778.98



### CHRISTMAS GIFT IDEA!



Do you have someone on your Christmas list that is hard to buy for? Or someone you would like to honor? Pick up a Christmas Gift Catalog at the mailboxes and choose a project from one of the several catalogs.



### Encourage a Student!

The last special offering envelope in your offering box is for United Methodist Student Day. This offering helps students that attend United Methodist churches with their education. We extend a hand to help them with their career goals. Together we support their efforts to become the Christian leaders of tomorrow.

Thank you to everyone that contributed to the Operation Christmas Child shoebox project. The Debelaks delivered 31 filled shoeboxes to Grace Point, and 25 were built online, making a total of 56 shoeboxes, plus monetary contributions for shipping. Continue to pray for the child that will receive your box.



### Finance Committee

*By: Dianne Debelak, Finance Chair*

Just an update..... we have received approximately 64% of our 2023 Expense Budget in commitments from our congregation. Thank you so much for your diligence in responding to the 2023 Stepping Up Campaign. To date, there are still roughly 70 commitment cards that have not been returned to the church and we are still hoping to receive more of them back before the end of the year. I would like to thank the members of the Finance Committee for all their help to our church family and to me over the past several years that I served on this Committee.



### Better Together

Better Together will resume after the holidays on January 23rd. We will be planning a lunch event at 12:00 noon. More details will follow soon. Happy Holidays everyone.

Dennis and Dianne Debelak  
Dick and Diana Smith

### WOW

*By: Sue Matthews*



Thank you so much to everyone who signed up ahead of time for the November WOW meal. Karen appreciated the advance notice. We have

been serving about 45 people each month so far. Please feel free to invite friends to come too. Please don't forget to sign them up as well so we have an accurate count and know how much to prepare. The meal for December 14<sup>th</sup> will be chicken and noodles, mashed potatoes, green beans and pie.

Those who agreed way back 5 months ago to help with the meals have been so faithful to volunteer their time. Thanks to Kent, Betty, Linda and Dave D., Steve and Joanna, Donna, and others who have helped with desserts. Because of all you helpers and attendees, we will continue to serve meals again in the coming year. If anyone else would like to help, if we have a few more volunteers, we might be able to add a second Wednesday each month. Anyone interested? Just text, call, or put a message in my or Karen's mailbox.



### Holiday Cheeseballs

Cheeseballs will be available for pick-up on December 11th. There will only be a total of 250 made, so please make sure you sign-up on the sheet outside the office to ensure you get some.