



NOVEMBER/DECEMBER



From Pastor Rob

Hello New Journey UMC!

We are entering the Thanksgiving and Advent seasons, both are seasons of reflection, thankfulness and preparation. It is important for us not to get caught up in the secular preparation of these seasons, but be mindful of what blessings we have as God’s people!

I wanted to share with you a little bit about what Advent means. The season of Advent, which comes from the Latin word adventus meaning “coming” or “visit,” begins four Sundays before Christmas and ends on Christmas Eve. Advent is the beginning of the liturgical year for Christians.

During Advent, we prepare for, and anticipate, the coming of Christ. We remember the longing of Jews for a Messiah and our own longing for, and need of, forgiveness, salvation and a new beginning. Even as we look back and celebrate the birth of Jesus in a humble stable in Bethlehem, we also look forward anticipating the second coming of Christ as the fulfillment of all that was promised by his first coming.

With that in mind I begin to get excited (me excited, no way!) because we celebrate that something has changed, it is a new beginning, a new birth in how God has shown us all Grace. With Jesus being born it changes everything for all who repent of their sins and become followers of Christ! I cannot help but stand in awe of God that we are all on this Journey together. How does something like this even happen? The answer my friends is that we have said yes to God. We have said we will follow Him every day. We have said we are your disciples, Lord. Now we pray and listen to God in this season of new birth. We will pray for God to continue to lead us in our mission to reach out to this community. To share the good news of Jesus to those that God puts in our everyday life. We all have so much to offer in our witness of what God has done for us.

I ask you all to pray and ask God to lead our New Journey family, your sisters and brothers in Christ in this mission to reach Niles in a whole new way. That we will be there for those in need to touch their physical lives as well as their Spiritual lives!

May God bless every one of you this Thanksgiving, Advent season, the New Year, and our church New Journey UMC!

Pastor Rob

From Pastor Brian.....

Precious Lord, This is my desire – to walk along the path of life that You unfold for me, even as Jesus, my Lord, walked along it, in steadfastness of faith, in meekness of spirit, in lowliness of heart, in gentleness of love because outward events have so much power in scattering my thoughts and disturbing my inward peace in which alone the voice of Your spirit is heard. Do You, gracious Lord, calm and settle my spirit by Your power which alone can bring all my thoughts and desires into Your gracious love. All I have is Yours. God do what You seem is best to Your will. For I know not what is best. Let not the cares or duties of this life be too heavy for me. Please, lighten my burden, that I may follow Your ways in quietness, filled with thankfulness for Your mercy, and reaching out to others in Your service – In Jesus’s Christ Name - Amen.

H.E.R.B.I.E Clinic

For anyone without health insurance

2nd Saturdays, Nov 13, Dec 11 & Jan 8

8:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. More dates will be published in subsequent newsletters.

Eye examination equipment has been installed!

Volunteers are always needed.

Please call Dr. Sherry O'Donnell's office at (269) 408-1777.

Cross-Cultural Ministries ***Donna, TX***

Again, Nancy Watts would like to thank the New Journey UMC family for their generous donations during the month of July and for baking and purchasing cookies during the Cookie Walk. She thanks her church family for supporting Cross-Cultural Ministries.

THE TABLE Meal Ministry

Has begun meeting back here at New Journey United Methodist Church, since the weather has turned colder, every Thursday at 4 p.m. to build community and to benefit the lonely, the homeless, and the low-income. The mission we have is not just to fill the belly, but to also enrich the mind and feed the soul through the building of relationships and meaningful conversations. We have a bible study each week. All are welcome to join us. Our ultimate goal is to glorify God through the relationships and the care.

Thank you for your generous donation of ground meat from the purchase of livestock at the Berrien County Youth Fair!

Donations of whole food staples are welcome, like beans, brown rice, pasta, fresh butter or olive oil, canned or frozen vegetables, frozen or canned meat and fruit. Desserts are also a special treat people enjoy.

Donations of time to join us, talk with people and help facilitate the hospitality we are thankful to offer, in partnership with New Journey UMC, are also welcome! Please contact Katy Monroe 269-449-5443 for more information.

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UMW no longer collects can tabs, but the Ronald McDonald House in South Bend does! Please collect your tabs and put them on the platform inside the circle drive door. Thanks!

Back Pack Food Program

Due to the virtual school/in-person school schedule, the Back Pack Food Program is not operating at this time. Greg and Melissa Rough will let us know when this program will resume.

Evy's Closet

Evy's Closet is open for shopping hours from 4 to 6 p.m. on Thursdays. The amount of donations we have received has been phenomenal. We are still trying to figure out where to put them all and have even donated some to the women who stay at KPEP, a half-way house in Kalamazoo. Thanks to the Scotts and Bud Nichols for getting those items collected and delivered!

Because we have so many items, we do not limit the shoppers to 2 items, they get 3 bags to fill each time they shop up to four times per month. Thank you so much for all the donations.

We would like to thank the donors of materials to make toiletry bags for our shoppers and toiletry items to fill the bags. The size of items that hotels offers when you stay are a great size for the bags and they are free for you to take!

Thank you all for your generosity!



MUSICAL NOTES

It's hard to believe Thanksgiving and Advent are only a few weeks away!

The Agape Choir has some meaningful songs to sing during this Holy time of year and we hope you enjoy them!

I am retiring from my Choir Director duties here at New Journey. I will still be leading hymn singing and participating in the music activities here, just not directing. We will be welcoming a new Director soon, if we have not already done so at the time of this publishing!

I want to thank Jennifer and her page turner, Lem for all of their hard work accompanying the choir over these past years. Thanks also to Deb for directing the Joyful Ringers and playing the organ. She makes it fun for all of us!

The Agape Choir and Joyful Ringers appreciate your love and support of our ministry here at New Journey.

I thank all of you for embracing me during the transition and these past 8 years I have been your Choir Director. I look forward to continuing my musical service to New Journey, just from the choir loft!

Make a Joyful noise unto the Lord each and every day!

Blessings during this Thanksgiving and Advent Season,

Brenda Engel



Sunday School News

The **Adult Sunday morning class**, led by Pastor Rob plans to start in November and continue until the study of "Crossing Boundaries" by David W. Scott is complete. Come as you can. All are welcome. We meet in the Gather Inn. You can contact Pastor Rob for more information at 574-261-5139. There are a few books ordered. If you would like one to start reading, please see Pastor Rob. More books will be ordered, as necessary.

The **Children and Youth class**, led by Youth Director, Shannon Pollitt and assisted by Sharon Stephayn, is in the planning stages. We are still working on organizing and re-decorating the youth rooms in the basement to hold classes. You can contact Shannon for more information at 269-377-2110.

ATTENTION SINGLE LADIES OF ALL AGES AND CIRCUMSTANCES:

VEP's is an interdenominational fellowship group for single women of any age, circumstance or church in our community. Since none of us are the original members we think the initials stand for **Very Exceptional People**. We meet for lunch one Sunday a month, March to November, at an area restaurant. (Whoever is the hostess picks the restaurant). If you are interested in joining us, please call Pam Montgomery at 683-2192.



The decorating the church for Advent and Christmas will be a little different this year. The Worship Committee is asking people when they are available to decorate. You can stop in as you are able during the week, for example and a project will be assigned to you. Please email the church at newjourneyumc2561@gmail.com what days and time(s) you are available to help. With many hands, the decorating will not take long!



The annual **Thanksgiving Dinner** for the community hosted by New Journey will need your help. Instead of serving a sit-down meal, we will be preparing the meals for pick up only. Help is needed to prepare the meals ahead of time and the day of distribution. Donations of food and contributions to purchase food will be accepted and a sign-up sheet will be available in the narthex and church office.

Christmas Eve service times: New Journey UMC will have a Candlelight Service on Christmas Eve, December 24th at 7:30 p.m. Morris Chapel UMC has invited us to join them at 6:00 p.m. Christmas Eve for an evening service. Pastor Brian and Pastor Rob will be performing both services.

Plans are underway for our annual **Christmas Dinner**. It will be served the same way as the Thanksgiving Dinner. Help is needed to prepare the meals ahead of time and the day of distribution. Donations of food and contributions to purchase food will be accepted and a sign-up sheet will be available in the narthex and church office.

Poinsettia ordering will begin at the beginning of December. Please watch the bulletin and your email for the order form or call the church office. Thank you.

Yes, there will be a Book Sale in January! Nancy McCreedy says they don't need any more books since they are trying to sell the ones we have and will donate all the remaining books to Shelf Life Books on 4th Street in Niles. Stay tuned for more information! If you are interested in taking over this General Fund Raising project from Nancy going forward, please contact her. She is retiring from this after 2022.



Committee Reports

++++++MISSIONS OPPORTUNITIES FOR NOVEMBER AND DECEMBER++++++

November – Berrien County Cancer Service/Milano’s Cancer Fund

The Berrien County Cancer Service, Inc. provides a unique nursing service for the people of Berrien County. We specialize in skilled home nursing care for cancer patients and those with related serious illnesses at no cost.

December – Niles Salvation Army Adopt-a-Family/Grace Children’s Hospital Pediatric Clinic

Salvation Army Adopt-a-Family provides an opportunity for us to purchase presents and food for Christmas for a large family in the Niles area. [Grace Children’s Hospital](#), founded in 1967, is recognized as Haiti’s leading medical facility dedicated to the treatment of children with tuberculosis (TB). Each year, the hospital receives thousands of children who are suffering from TB, HIV, and other chronic diseases. [Grace Children’s Hospital is an Advance Special](#) of the General Board of Global Ministries.

++++++HOSPITALITY++++++

We are planning on having the community Thanksgiving Dinner and Christmas Dinner on each holiday, but as a carry out only food service. Reservations will be taken for people to pick up the number of dinners they reserve ahead of time. No deliveries will be available. Help will be needed to prepare the meals ahead of time and the day of distribution. Donations of food and contributions to purchase food will be accepted and a sign-up sheet will be available in the narthex and church office. For more information, please contact Amy Wade at 574-261-3205.

++++++TRUSTEES++++++

The Grace Church has been rented to a group that is part of the Free Seventh Day Adventists. This agreement is on a month-to-month basis and we are still trying to sell the property as before, but at a reduced price.

On the west side of the Sanctuary, please note the new roofing material on the roof of the emergency exit from the Fellowship Hall to 3rd Street.

Thanks to all who helped with the Fall cleanup day on October 23. We got a lot done!

Finally!! The elevator is back in service. We are now working with ThyssenKrupp Company and we have signed a one-year service contract with them. In the near future, they will be installing a Solid-State Starter which will help make the elevator last longer. Also, a new door edge will be installed to make the elevator safer.

Dick McCreedy, Trustees

++++++FINANCE++++++

As 2021 draws to a close we want to thank you for your generous support this past year. We would also ask you to consider New Journey United Methodist for any year end giving you may be contemplating. Year-end statements of giving will be distributed after the first of the year. The 2022 offering envelopes will be distributed in November/December. If you did not receive yours, please contact the church office at 269-683-7250.

++++++CONGREGATIONAL CARE++++++

Life is filled with ups and downs, challenges, changes and difficulties. These things strengthen our faith and we are assured of God’s presence and promises. And because of the intense love of Jesus, we know His joy, and we can share that with others. Please remember our church family in your prayers and acts of kindness. The holidays are coming, too! How fun to surprise someone in our church family with a call or card!!



We will celebrate All Saints’ Day on Sunday, November 7th during worship service and remember those who have passed away since last year’s All Saints’ Day Sunday.

Here is the list of people we are aware of who have passed away. If your loved one is not on this list, please contact the church office.

Norma Arnold, Joe Benjamin, Barb Burton, Elda Dillman, Helen Dunlap, Carol Gillespie, Mary Mace, Helen McClain, Vivian Newgent, Dr. Rev. Thomas Rough, Gladys Shroyer, Clayton and Margaret Walker.

God be with the loved ones of those who have passed.



UMW Corner

Fall is already here----- who knew this year would go so quickly. Thinking of past events, thank you to those that said "yes" to participating in UMW Sunday on September 26th. We were blessed to have our District UMW President, Linda Burton-Collier as our speaker. And thanks to our church family who donated to our "Bake-Less Bake Sale". That will help us continue our mission efforts locally and our District pledge to Missions.

Some of us went to the first "in-person" District event in two years at Allegan UMC on Saturday, October 2nd. It was wonderful being together and able to worship, sing, and fellowship over lunch and hear various good speakers.

It felt good to have a normal Circle meeting October 6th, when we participated in the Annual UMW "World Thank Offering". Many, many coins were collected these past eighteen months as we had plenty of time to reflect on God's blessings.

Now, looking ahead, we are planning the usual potluck and program on Wednesday, November 3rd at Noon in Fellowship Hall. Bring a dish to share. Place settings and beverages will be provided. Guests are welcome. Come and enjoy good fellowship and food and hear a special program by Georgia Boggs, the long-time 1st Ward representative to Niles City Council. She votes with wisdom and Christian values and it will be very educational and prompt a lot of questions, I'm sure.

Executive Board meets Wednesday, November 17th when we will be planning next year's events and updating the membership directory. We welcome everyone's ideas and especially new members!



Mark your calendars for Mary-Martha Circle's Christmas lunch out on Wednesday, December 1st. Guests are welcome! We'll have a sign-up sheet in the office and the name of the restaurant closer to the time.

The Christmas by Candlelight event unfortunately, will not be held this year (unless another group takes it over).

Jeannine Severeid,
UMW President

Prayers for our Church Family

Please review the Prayer List, and notify the church office of any updates!

Cancer Patients

Julie McCready
Sharon Dircks
Patti Seidner (*Friend of Jim Gillispie*)
Julie Rice (*cousin of the Hams*)
Marion Eldred
Earl Corak
Claire (*Richard Ham's sister*)
Elton Orpurt

Health Concerns

Sherry Hans (*Friend of Amy Wade*)
Nancy Rheinholt
Patrick Apple
Debbie Pingel
Kathy & Rob Di Addezio
Earl Nimtze
Dixie Pingel
Timmy (*Jennifer's son*)
Moonyean Quick
John Wade
Shawn (*Starla Miller's nephew*)
Patricia Ham
Janet & husband John (*friends of Pastor Rob and Kathe*)
Scott Schofield
Michael Lee (*Brenda Severeid's husband*)
Madelin Merkle
Jennifer Watts
Carol Noid
Valerie Wurn
Anslie Rink-Scott (*Ernst's granddaughter*)
Bonnie Garwood's father (*Ernst's daughter-in-law*)
Marilyn Sheets
Doug Nie
Kenny and Vicki Earl
Ron Lakes (*Sue's friend*)
Camille Hayden (*Nancy Comfort's Step-Mom*)
Melanie & CJ (newly diabetic)
(*Kathy Scott's niece & son*)
Jason & Bonnie Garwood

Pam (Ross) Todd
Chris Hay (*Niece to Jane Heflin*)
Gail Peterson
Nancy Comfort
Becky (*Kathy Scott's friend*)
Rose Aravena
Rex Dillman
Jack Scott
Sarah Merrill (*Vicki Earl's daughter*)
Imogene Orpurt
Judy Mark
Jason Pingel
Dennis Comfort
Avery & family (*friend of Bob Burton*)
Bob Burton
Janice Querry (*John Wade's sister*)
Mary Varner
Lucile Markel
Faith Ernst
Dave (*Ham's Nephew*)
Jaime Aravena (*Rose's husband*)
Katrina (*Faith Ernst's daughter*)
Nancy Watts
Mindy Corak
Bill Carter
Carole Fowler
Shannon Pollitt
Bonnie (*From Morris Chapel*)
Marsha (*friend of Pam Montgomery*)
Mason Mitchell, Jr.
Pat (*Jane's friend*)
Richard Ham
Tamra Binkley (*Laura Garner's friend*)
Tom Adcox (*friend of Engel's*)
Carter's grandson
Bonnie & Don Nie

Prayers for Our Shut-ins: Marilyn Sheets, Evelyn Andrews, Lucile Markel, Dick Noble, Lynn Schweinzger, and Megan Vite.

New Journey United Methodist Church
302 Cedar Street
Niles, Michigan 49120

SUNDAY SCHOOL

9:00 AM

SUNDAY WORSHIP

10:30 AM

Office Hours

Monday – Thursday
9:00 AM – 12:00 PM

Phone: 269-683-7250 **Fax:** 269-683-7256

Pastor Rob Snodgrass: rsnodgrass72@gmail.com

Brenda Engel, Secretary: johnwesley2561@sbcglobal.net

New Journey UMC is a downtown church with a Vision to Breathe In & Breathe Out:

Breathe In – To nurture the spiritual development of persons of all ages through worship, education, and fellowship; and to live the Core Values of Prayer, Faith, Love and Compassion.

Breathe Out – To be in ministry for and with persons who are 50–75 years of age in our community.