

2023 JANUARY / FEBRUARY



From Pastor Rob

Welcome 2023! As I consider the past year, I remember wondering at this last year. What does God have planned for not only me, but what does God have planned for New Journey, and each of you? I wondered what this year would be like. I prayed that all of us would have an exciting year in fellowship and ministry. Now I find myself doing it all over again this year. I am asking for all of you to pray for our world. We need to pray for decrement from God each day as we move forward in our mission to share Jesus with those that surround us daily. So, as we start a new year all over again let us look with eyes wide open and with expectations to see God at work through and within each of us. Happy New Year to each of you!

Pastor Rob

MUSICAL NOTES



Happy New Year!

We are now halfway through the choir 22-23 season! If you would like to join, we will continue to have choir practice at 7pm on Wednesdays. All are welcome in the Agape Choir. The choir will sing *The Hallelujah Chorus* from Handel's *Messiah* for Easter Sunday. I will update everyone when those rehearsals begin.
~Emma Hall

Feel free to contact me at: NJUMC.ChoirDirector@gmail.com

This year's Cookie Walk was very successful. There were orders for 191.5 pounds of cookies, an increase of 23.5 pounds over 2021 orders. Total amount sent in support of Cross-Cultural Ministries was \$1769.00.

I would like to thank all who supported this effort: those who donated supplies or money to purchase supplies, those who baked at home, those who were at church for the bake days, and those who purchased the cookies, fudge, and caramels. I would especially like to thank Sharon Stephayn for being my co-chairperson. Believe it or not I have already started to think about the 2023 Cookie Walk and ways to make the bake days at church more productive.

Again, my heartfelt thanks to all involved in this year's Cookie Walk.

Cindy Jackson Cookie Walk chairperson

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

**For anyone without health insurance
2nd Saturdays, Jan 14, Feb 11 & Mar 11
8:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. More dates will be
published in subsequent newsletters.**

**Volunteers are always needed.
Please call Dr. Sherry O'Donnell's office
at (269) 408-1777.**



Cross-Cultural Ministries Donna, TX

A very special thank you to Cindy Jackson, the chairperson of the Cookie Walk, and CCM board member, for her very hard, and tirelessly dedicated work. It has made a tremendous difference every year.

A heartfelt thank you for the blankets, which were given out this Christmas. We are grateful to Brenda for organizing the blanket making. We told the women about our church family in Michigan, who's hands lovingly created them with the warmth of Christ's love. This Christmas cold snap will make a greater impact, with our people's places not having any heat.

None of this would be possible without the support of your prayers.
Thank you to the New Journey United Methodist Women for the donation of \$100. It was a very sweet, and unexpected Christmas gift! God bless you all!
Jennifer and Nancy

INSIDE THIS NEWSLETTER

From Pastor Rob/Musical Notes.....	1
H.E.R.B.I.E. Clinic/Evy's Closet/ Cross-Cultural Ministries/Can tabs collection.....	2
Compassion International Mission/ Sunday School News.....	3
Special Sundays/Liturgist List.....	4
Mark Your Calendars.....	5
VEP's Single Women' Group.....	5
Committee Reports.....	6
United Women in Faith.....	7
Prayer List.....	8
Birthdays	9



UMW no longer collects can tabs, but the Ronald McDonald House in South Bend does! Please collect your can tabs and put them on the platform inside the circle drive door. Nancy Comfort will see that they get to RMH in South Bend. Thanks!

Evy's Closet

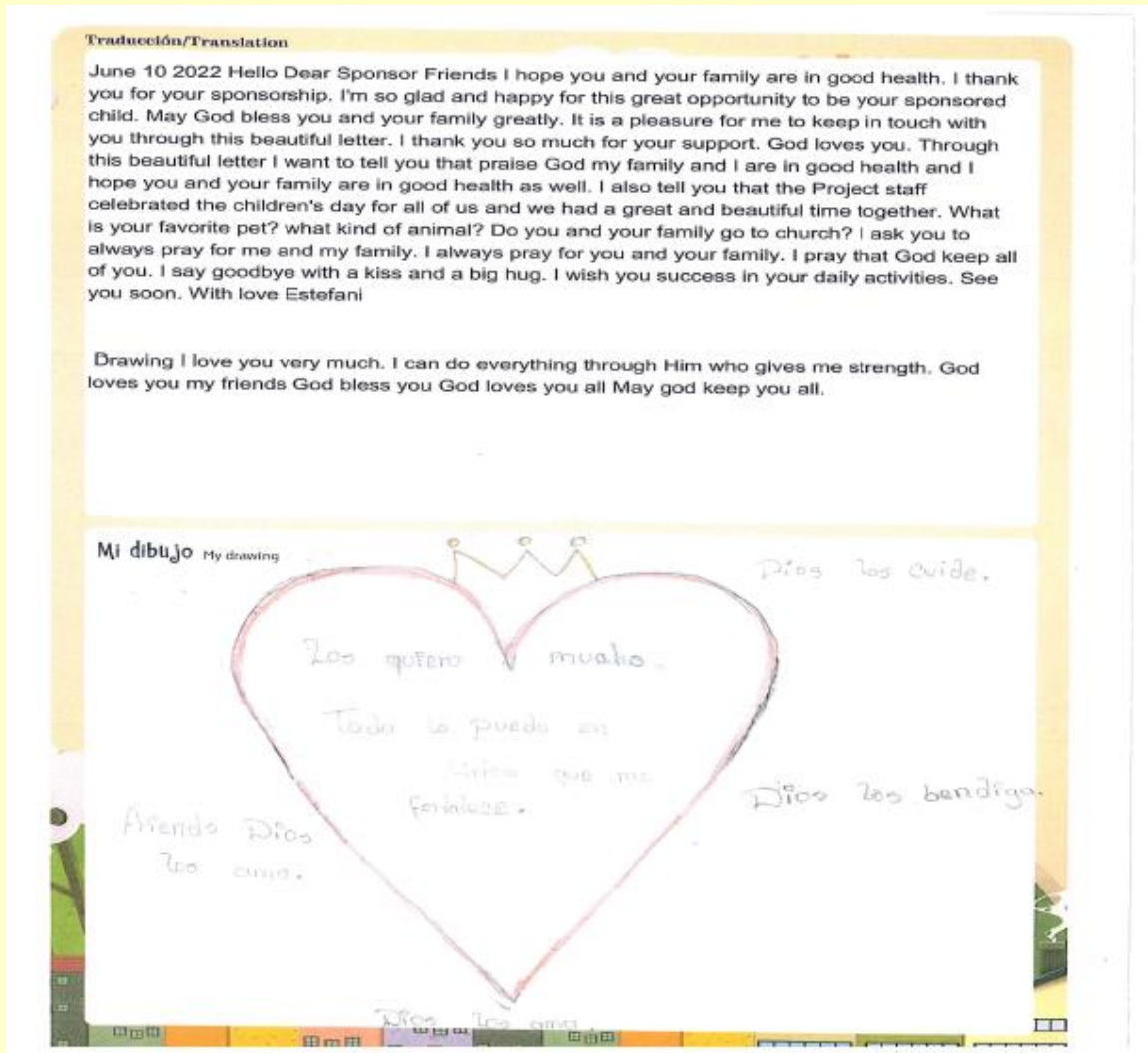
Evy's Closet is open for shopping hours from 4 to 6 p.m. on Thursdays. The amount of donations we have received has been phenomenal.

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 collect toiletry items to fill the toiletry bags. The size of items that hotels offer, small toothpaste, Kleenex, toothbrushes, makeup samples, and Chapstick are all great donations for the bags and are very appreciated by our shoppers. Donations can be left outside Evy's Closet in the hallway.

Thank you all for your generosity!

Our Compassion International Child: Estafani Christina Morales Peralta sent a letter:



She is becoming a very special young lady. Donate to our Compassion International Child by including your contribution in your check and marking your contribution envelope as Mission in the month of February.

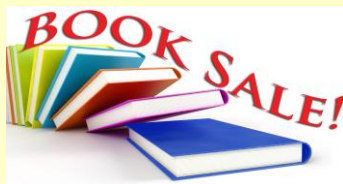


Rev. Elton Orpurt plans to continue the Adult Sunday School class in January. The class meets at 9:00 a.m. in the Gather Inn.

**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 annual **Book and Bake Sale** is back and will be held during the Hunter Ice Festival on Saturday, January 14th from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. From 9:00 a.m. to Noon books will be 50 cents and a \$5.00 Bag Sale will begin at noon until 1:00 p.m. Yummy baked goods will be sold for you to enjoy with free coffee! Proceeds from the Book Sale go to the General Fund and Bake Sale money goes toward the Mary/Martha Circle Missions donations throughout the year. Volunteers are needed Wednesday January 11th to move books from the book room to the Fellowship Hall that morning. People are needed to put the letters on the tables and more volunteers are needed to be greeters and cashiers on Saturday January 14th. See the sign-up sheet in the Narthex or contact the church office. Thank you, Pam Montgomery.

♥ *happy* ♥
Valentine's
♥ *day* ♥

Mark your calendars for Sunday, February 12th for a Lasagna Dinner after church to celebrate Valentine's Day. This event is hosted by the Hospitality Committee.

Committee Reports

++++++MISSIONS OPPORTUNITIES FOR JANUARY and FEBRUARY++++++

We use Mission Giving to aide in God's work, here in the United States and internationally. The need is great everywhere! No amount is too small. Simply mark on your envelope the amount of your offering which you wish to be directed toward the mission of that month. Your gifts will be sent to the mission at the end of the month, and will help to lighten their hearts as well as yours. Thank you for helping to do God's work and bless you for your future gifts.

Your Mission Committee

*Note: Coins for UMCOR are a separate gift collected every Sunday.

January – UMCOR Disaster Response United States

Contributions to this ministry provide much needed funding to help people in the United States recover from disasters like devastating fires, hurricanes, flooding and tornadoes.

February Mission - Please see page 3 of the newsletter for information about our **Compassion International Child: Estafani Christina Morales Peralta.**

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

The community Thanksgiving Dinner went very well. We appreciate all the help: donations of food, contributions to purchase food and help to prepare, serve and clean up! Special thanks to Amy Wade, Mike Kohler, Tim Rogers, Ian Stephenson, and Dave Hodgman.

A Lasagna dinner, complete with salad, garlic bread and desserts is planned for after church on Sunday, February 12th to celebrate Valentine's Day. More information will follow in the bulletins and emails.

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

We hope you have noticed the new railings on the west and north sides of the Sanctuary. The railings on the West side were ruined a couple of years ago by a car crash at Third and Cedar. The other railings were rusted and in poor condition, so we also replaced them. Thanks to Pastor Rob and Larry Mallory for repairing the concrete steps and to Schuell Fence Co. for a good job on the railings.

The new "Pelican" control system for the heating and cooling is now complete and working well.

The Board of Trustees signed a contract with a potential buyer for the Grace Church Building and property. There are several contingencies in the contract such as surveys, inspections, zoning issues, etc. that have to be resolved before the deal is final. We hope that this is completed no later than February.

We are considering an estimate for plaster repair in the Sanctuary.

We have signed a deal with Custom Computer Company for replacement of our camera and monitors to upgrade our security system. ~ Trustees

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

As 2022 draws to a close we want to thank you for your generous support this past year. Year-end statements of giving will be distributed by Mid-January. When filling out your offering envelopes please indicate your check number on the line and indicate your category of giving: General, Missions, UMCOR or other. If you can avoid large bags of coins, it would be appreciated, as it takes a long time to count coins. Please convert them to cash at your own banking institution and include the amount in your giving.

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

The list of special people with special circumstances and needs is located outside the church office by the bulletin board and mailboxes. If you know of anyone who should be added or is in the hospital or in need of the pastor, please let him know. And for all of us, when God brings someone to mind, pick up the phone and call or send a card. We need each other and need to stay connected, especially during the winter months.



United
Women
in Faith

UMF Corner

Greetings and God's best to all in this new year from your New Journey UMW (Women in Faith). Looking back at the old year, (filled with challenges and changes) we learned to be flexible and patient and our faith grew. Thanks to all our church family for your continued love and support. In addition to meeting all our District pledges and contributions, we made \$900 in year end donations to: Salvation Army \$300; Life Plan \$300; Cross-Cultural Ministries \$100; and two special people \$200.

To help us all get into the Christmas spirit, a new special event was held Sunday, December 11th – the Christmas Carol Tea for all the women of the church and their guests. We were saddened to lose two wonderful, long-time members, Lorraine Armitage and Lucile Markel and thrilled to welcome new member, Nancy Nimitz.

Our first Mary-Martha Circle meeting isn't until Wednesday, April 5, 2022. However, we are busy getting ready for the Book and Bake Sale (after being canceled last year) on January 14th during the Hunter Ice Festival. Please come – the best homemade baked goods in town and great books for only 50 cents.

We are honored Nancy Nimitz said yes to the invitation to join the Board. Special thanks from me and continuing on the Board are officers:

Secretary	Jan Pollitt
Ass't. Secretary	Nancy Boose
Treasurer	Nancy Calay
Ass't. Treasurer	Jeannine Severeid
Correspondence Coordinator	Brenda Engel (@ Large)

Mission Board Members: Dee Rough, Elaine Carter, Nancy Nimitz and Suzie Caldwell.

Newsletter: Jeannine Severeid. Jan Pollitt will continue as Mary/Martha Circle Leader.

All women are welcome to come to any meeting and see what we are about. I can say it's a very special group of women who love God and each other and are dedicated to making the world a better place through their prayers and mission ministry.

Jeannine Severeid,
UMW President



The Blood Drive will be here at New Journey on Tuesday, Feb. 7, 2023 from Noon to 5:45 p.m. We are providing the space to continue our mission and ministry for the Red Cross.

Prayers for our Church Family

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

Cancer Patients

Pam (Ross) Todd
Sharon Dircks
Gail Peterson
Marion Eldred
Earl Corak
Claire Wiggins (*Richard Ham's sister*)

Luke Fannon (*Brenda, John & Ron's
nephew-in-law*)

Ray Boon (*Carol Wilfert's b-i-l*)
Chris Hay (*Niece to Jane Heflin*)
Nancy Comfort
Becky (*Kathy Scott's friend*)
Rose Aravena
Jack Scott
Elton Orpurt
Glenn Litchfield
Dwayne White (*Pastor Rob's
nephew*)

Health Concerns

daughter)

Kenny and Vicki Earl

Nancy Rheinholt

Patrick Apple

Debbie Pingel

Kathy & Rob Di Addezio

Bonnie & Don Nie

Dixie Pingel

Moonyean Quick

Nancy Boose

Chuck & Faith Ernst

Sean (*Starla Miller's nephew*)

Janet & husband John (*friends of Pastor Rob and Kathe*)

Michael Lee (*Brenda Severeid's husband*)

Nancy Watts

Elaine & Bill Carter

Jennifer Watts

Carol Noid

Anslie Rink-Scott (*Ernst's granddaughter*)

Bonnie Garwood's father (*Ernst's daughter-in-law*)

Marsha (*friend of Pam Montgomery*)

Jennifer Bobelenyi, son Timothy and her Dad

Tamra Binkley (*Laura Garner's friend*)

Pat (*Jane's friend*)

Charles Hall

Sarah Merrill (*Vicki Earl's*

Imogene Orpurt

Judy Mark

Jason Pingel

Dennis Comfort

Barb Magrane

Bob Burton

Mary Varner

David Litchfield

Lindsey Wahl

Jason & Bonnie Garwood

Jaime Aravena (*Rose's husband*)

Katrina (*Faith Ernst's daughter*)

Mindy Corak

Melva Kohler (*Mike's Mom*)

Carole Fowler

Bonnie (*From Morris Chapel*)

Doug Nie

Cain

Starla Miller

Wayne Stiles (*Watts' friend*)

Jeannine Severeid

From Dick and Pat Ham: We are thankful for the prayers and positive thoughts. After two back surgeries and both hip replacements, we are hopeful Dick will not have the pain he had experienced. Some things have improved for Pat, and she is grateful. Also, thank you for prayers for his sister Claire's cancer, she is in remission.

Happy Birthday



Happy Birthday to the following who celebrate JANUARY and FEBRUARY birthdays

Courtney Rough	January 2
Wesley Gundlock	January 3
Barbara Magrane	January 4
Jill Gundlock	January 8
Nancy McCreedy	January 22
Carol Wilfert	January 27
Zechariah "Z" Burgess	January 31
Larry Mallory	January 31
Jeff Morgan	February 5
Heather Mitchell	February 8
Terry French	February 11
Deb Litchfield	February 13
Susan Severeid	February 20

If your special day is not listed or the date is wrong, please call the church office and let us know.

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

Pastor Rob Snodgrass: rsnodgrass72@gmail.com

Brenda Engel, Financial Secretary: newjourneyumc2561@gmail.com

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 all persons in our community.