

It is the mission of Jackson Center United Methodist Church to: Embrace the needs of all people to bring the love of Jesus, Our Lord and Savior

January 2021
Volume 2 Issue 1

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JC United Methodist Church
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The Guided Light

A Word From The Pastor

Stephen Luzader

Let's Begin With God

To whom then will you compare me, or who is my equal? says the Holy One. Lift up your eyes and see: Who created these? He who brings out their host and numbers them calling them all by name; because he is great in strength, mighty in power, not one is missing. Why do you say, O Jacob, and speak, O Israel, "My way is hidden from the LORD, and my right is disregarded by my God?" Have you not known? Have you not heard? The LORD is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth. He does not faint or grow weary; his understanding is unsearchable. He gives power to the faint, and strengthens the powerless. Even youths shall faint and be weary, and the young will fall exhausted; but those who wait for the LORD shall renew their strength, they shall mount up with wings like eagles, they shall run and not be weary, they shall walk and not faint. —Isaiah 40:25-31

As you and I stand on the threshold of a new experience, in this New Year, consider this; "Let Us Begin With God." Let us not treat God as a mere accessory or as optional, but as God the Creator, the Redeemer, the Comforter—who is part of any worthy endeavor to bless and help.

So the question is: "How Do We Begin With God?"

LET US BEGIN HUMBLY

We must be honest about ourselves at the very outset. How very limited we are, but how unwilling we are to admit! However, we will learn about ourselves sooner or later. The prophet cried to the callow young men and women whose lives were yet before them: "Remember...your Creator in the days of your youth." Be humble. Be honest. Remember where you came from. Are you and I gods, or are there limits to what we are and can become through our own strength? You and I must confess to being driven by pride, envy, selfish desires, and anger. The idea of "fearing God" is all about realizing there is something bigger, and it's not us. Beginning with God begins with us humbly understanding that he is God and we are not.

LET'S BEGIN CONFIDENTLY

That is possible only if we look to God for our resources, rather than ourselves. The stories of the Bible tell us that God is able to bring victory and success into these faltering, ineffectual lives that have suffered so many humiliating defeats. He will deliver us, in His own way, and in His own time. We may begin with God at a significant juncture in our life, confident that He will be with us (Emmanuel) all the way. The unspeakable love of God is able to absorb our defections and despair. Remember, we cannot live victoriously without God's continuing help. We must begin confidently with God.

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LET'S BEGIN DECISIVELY

Our unhesitating commitment to God must be without reservation. There must be no private sanctuary for self. We must open the curtain of concealment over any loyalty, any love, any selfishness, anything contrary to God's idea and plan! For that, we must faithfully and consistently seek God's grace; otherwise, our inner life will be like an empty house, cleaned and swept, and perfectly prepared as a residence for anything or anyone besides God. There are few things more distressful than a spiritual vacuum. God in His mercy gives us Christian friends and companions and a church family. God gave us prayer. God gave us love; therefore, as we attend church, participate in relationships, read the Bible, pray, and live lives of unselfish love and tender care, God pours his power into our lives and thus enables us to do those things we could never do through our own strength. The importance of "beginning with God" OR going deeper with God becomes more clear as we welcome the dawning of another year. God's Kingdom waits for us in 2021, will we have the courage to make the resolution to join Him? Let's begin!!!

Grace and Peace,

Pastor Stephen

JCUMC Officers & Committee Chairs

Chair: Eric Voress
Recording Secretary: Daleen Braun
Treasurer: Wendy Carter
Trustees Chair: Ron Ludwig
Finance Chair: Todd Lotz
SPRC Chair: Kim Voress
Outreach Chair: Amanda Shaffer
Lay Leader: Brent Kerns

Lay Member, Annual Conference:
Wendy Carter/Kim Voress
Congregational Care Coordinator:
Emily Allison
FLC Treasurer: Jack Toomey
Childrens' Ministry Director: Morgan Shaffer
Student Ministry Director: Jessica Zorn
Worship Chair: Pastor Stephen Luzader

Childrens Ministry

Morgan Shaffer

Nothing to report. Looking forward to when we can get back together with our kids!

Youth Ministry

Stephen Luzader

No report given.

Ushers/ Counters/Pew Angels

For **January:**
Ushers: Daleen and Tia Braun
Money Counters: Kathy Smith and Daleen Braun
Pew Angel: Dailyn Shaffer

For **February:**
Ushers: Ron & Sheryle Ludwig
Money Counters: Amanda Shaffer and Wendy Carter
Pew Angel: Erin Pence

Lay Readers

Lay Readers for the month of October are:

January 3rd: Bev Suttles
January 10th – Jack Toomey
January 17th – Amanda Shaffer
January 24th – Barry Elliott
January 31st – Bev Wren

The 6 month lay reader schedule is available from Amanda. Please remember that if you cannot read on your assigned Sunday, it is up to you to find a replacement. Thanks!

Card Ministry

Emily Allison

From September 10th to December 10th, Emily sent a total of 33 cards in the name of the church. If you would like to help Emily with her card ministry, you can drop off cards or stamps in the office and we will make sure they get to her.

Prayer Chain

Do you have a prayer request through the week that you would like added to the prayer chain? If so, you can do so by calling Rose Ann Kerns at 937-596-5214. If you are not on the prayer chain, but would like to be, please let Rose Ann know and she will get you added to a chain.

UMW News

Sharon Zimpfer

There was no meeting in December, and the January meeting has also been cancelled.

Giving

As we continue to navigate through COVID, please don't forget your faithful giving to the church. We have several ways you can give- you can drop it in the offering plate, you can mail it in to the church or drop it off in the office, OR you can sign up for online giving! There is a link on our website, or you can call Amanda for help.

Weekly giving needed to sustain ministry: \$2280.52

Average weekly giving (December) \$1790.00

Church Council

Amanda Shaffer

The JCUMC Administrative Council met on December 10, 2020 with 8 members and one guest present. Pastor Stephen opened the meeting with a devotion from Zechariah 2:4-6 and a prayer.

The minutes from October had been previously sent to all members. With no corrections or additions, Jack moved and Brent seconded to approve the minutes. Motion passed.

Wendy handed out the financial reports. She reported that she had to draw from the church's line of credit to pay for the furnace repairs, the tree removal, and lawn care. Jack gave the FLC report. There were no rentals that came in in November. The opening balance on November 1st was \$12, 335.68. Expenses were \$65.13, leaving an ending balance on November 30th of \$12,270.55. With no more discussion, Brent moved and Ron seconded to approve all financial reports. Motion passed.

Ed and Wendy gave the finance report as Todd was not present. Todd and Wendy had discussed moving the church accounts to Peoples Federal on account of US Bank closing at the end of December. Wendy is concerned with the finance charges. Ed informed the council that there may be a new financial institution coming to town, and so therefore it was moved by Brent and seconded by Ron to table the decision on moving banks until we know for sure. The motion carried. In the meantime, Wendy will make the deposits in Botkins each Sunday, and Amanda offered to help when necessary. The motion will be brought back to council in the coming months.

Stephen asked the council for their recommendation on Christmas Eve service and beyond that he could take back to the Worship committee. After much discussion the recommendation was to either split Christmas Eve into 2 services in person, or to do it online with special music. The council also recommended that the church service remain online only at least until after the first of the year.

Online giving was also discussed. A motion was made by Wendy and seconded by Jack that we send out a letter to all members of the congregation explaining how to do the e-offering. Motion passed, Amanda will look into getting the info from the company.

Pastor Stephen's report was solely a pleas to all committees that they set up REGULAR meeting schedules for 2021. This will help the church run much more smoothly.

In old business: The church was not able to get in on the grant application for an AED, so we will have to explore other ways to get one. Ideally, we would like to have one for the church, and one for the FLC. Stephen updated the

This Month's Events

January 9th, 9am

Sanctuary, JCUMC
Advent Cleanup

January 14th, 7pm

Fellowship Hall, JCUMC
Church Council Meets

January 17th, after Church

Lounge, JCUMC
Outreach Meeting

January 19th, 7pm

Fellowship Hall, JCUMC
Worship Committee

council on the Revitalization Grant that we applied for through the conference. We are ecstatic to report that we were given half of what we asked for. That money will start arriving in January. Since we didn't receive all we asked for, some projects will have to be put on hold, but we are excited for what we will be able to do.

In new business:: Ed asked Wendy to keep an eye on the Vectren bill and make sure it has AEP listed as our gas provider. If not, please let him know. Ed also brought up the Administrative gifts of appreciation. He passed out a sheet with the proposed amounts; Jack moved and Brent seconded to approve the gifts as proposed. Motion passed. Stephen would like to hold a confirmation class in the fall. This being Ed's last meeting as council chair, the entire council thanked him for his service. His leadership has been much appreciated. We are grateful to Eric Voress for agreeing to take over in January.

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With no other business before the council, the meeting was adjourned with a prayer. The next council meeting will be January 14th @ 7pm.

Worship Committee

Rev. Stephen Luzader

Worship committee met on December 15th at 7pm. After hearing the recommendations of the Administrative Council, the worship committee unanimously voted to return to in person worship WITH singing and responsive readings. The first Sunday back will be December 20th.

The 2021 Worship committee meeting schedule is:

January 19th
February 16th
March 16th
April 20th
May 18th
June 22nd
July 20th
August 17th
September 21st
October 19th
November 16th
December 21st

All meetings will be at 7pm.

SPRC News

Kim Voress

No SPRC report.

Outreach News

Amanda Shaffer

The angel tree was amazing as usual! Thanks to your generosity, and the generosity of our outside sponsors: Maplewood UMC, Plastipak, JC FFA,

JC FCA, We Care Fund, JC American Legion, Bombas Socks, and Grace Lutheran, we were able to provide Christmas for 27 kids and 9 seniors!

A big thank you to Pastor Stephen who graciously delivered our items to the Ronald McDonald House. They were very grateful for all items that were donated. Thank you to all who helped with that.

The outreach committee will be having REGULAR meetings in 2021. Those meetings will be right after church on the following Sundays:

January 17th
March 21st
May 16th
July 18th
September 19th
November 21st

Trustees

Ron Ludwig

The parking lot door has been fixed. We had talked about changing the locks on all the doors as there are keys out there that cannot be located. At this time, I feel it is too expensive to do so, and so the trustees will revisit this later in the spring. The FLC is getting new smoke detectors from the fire department – the ones currently in the facility are more than 8 years old. The tree on the Sprague property was removed for \$640.00. This included grinding up the stump and hauling away the chips. Scott Lotz was given the logs for helping to tear down the house. We are looking at a couple of different companies to do the maintenance on the HVAC systems at the church, parsonage and FLC. More information will be forthcoming as those decisions are made.

Appalachia Service Mission Trip

What is ASP? ASP is a Christian based outreach ministry that combines meeting physical needs (home repair) with spiritual needs (relationship building) for home owners in parts of Tennessee, Kentucky, West Virginia, North Carolina, and Virginia.

Who Can Go? Any student currently in 8th – 12th grade may serve on an ASP trip. Any adult, who has passed a background check, may serve as a crew leader on an ASP trip. This year we are looking to take two crews which would be 10 students and 4 adult crew leaders. 1 crew = 5 students and 2 adults.

When is the trip? We will be leaving from Jackson Center On Sunday, June 13th and will be returning on Saturday, June 19th, 2021. ALL participants are required to leave with us on the 13th and return with us on the 19th.

Where are we going? As of this moment we do not know our exact location. Our first choice this year is Kentucky, and our 2nd choice is West Virginia, so, one of those two states.

How much is an ASP trip? This is the big question. Right now it will cost each student between \$700-750, spread out over multiple payments. Do NOT let that number panic you, we are hoping

that number will come down based on donations, and various fundraising projects. If you are interested in going but feel money may be an issue, please talk with us before saying “no”.

What's next? If you are interested in reserving a spot on this year's trip you will need to fill out a Volunteer Statement and Registration Form along with your \$150.00 non-refundable (unless the trip is cancelled) payment. The deadline to register is January 18th, 2021, OR when all slots are filled. Anyone registering after all 10 spots are *continued on page 5*

filled will be put on a waiting list. IF we have enough on the waiting list to form a third crew, we will.

If you would like more information, have questions, or would like a registration form, please contact the church office at (937) 596-6919.

2021 Committees

Trustees:

Ron Ludwig
John Klinger
Warren Sprague Jr
Tim Rostorfer
Deb Elliott
Tyler Pence
Vic Hurley

Finance:

Todd Lotz
Bev Wren
Brent Kerns
Deb Elliott
Wendy Carter
Deb Mann
Evan Zorn

SPRC:

Kim Voress
Ricki Maxwell
Ashleigh Gross
Stephen Luzader
Jack Toomey
Wendy Carter
Brent Kerns
Erin Pence

Mission/Outreach:

Amanda Shaffer
Ashleigh Gross
Jess Zorn
John Klinger
Kira Klinger
Deb Elliott
Ricki Maxwell
Karinne Lotz
Dailyn Shaffer

Worship:

Stephen Luzader

Clara Mae Leininger
Cora May Heintz
Amanda Shaffer
Emily Allison
Terri Hejduk
Bev Wren
Kathy Smith
Dee Schramm
Ricki Maxwell

The 2021 Church budget was confirmed at the charge conference on November 18th and is available outside the office or at the back of the sanctuary if you are interested in one.

2021 Lay Reader Schedule

Jan 3rd: Bev Suttles
Jan. 10th: Jack Toomey
Jan. 17th: Amanda Shaffer
Jan 24th: Barry Elliott
Jan. 31st: Bev Wren
Feb 7th: Karen Sprague
Feb. 14th: Wendy Carter
Feb 21st: Bev Suttles
Feb 22nd: Jack Toomey
Feb 28th: Amanda Shaffer
March 7th: Barry Elliott
March 14th: Bev Wren
March 21st: Karen Sprague
March 28th: Wendy Carter
April 4th: Bev Suttles
April 11th: Jack Toomey
April 18th: Amanda Shaffer
April 25th: Barry Elliott
May 2nd: Bev Wren
May 9th: Karen Sprague
May 16th: Wendy Carter
May 23rd: Bev Suttles
May 30th: Jack Toomey
June 6th: Community Service
June 13th: Amanda Shaffer
June 20th: Barry Elliott
June 27th: Bev Wren

If you would like to be a lay reader, please let the office know. We are always in need of fill-in readers, and you can be added into the rotation for the second half of the year.



A New Year's Plan

By: Unknown

I tried to think of a clever new phrase-
A slogan to inspire the next 365 days,
A motto to live by this coming New
Year,
But the catchy words fell flat to my ear.

And then I heard His still small voice
Saying, "Consider this simple, daily
choice:
With each new dawn and close of day
Make new your resolve to trust and
obey."

"Don't look back, caught in regret Or
dwell on the sorrow of dreams unmet;
Don't stare forward anchored by fear
No, live in this moment, for I am here."

"I am all you need. Everything. I Am.
You are held secure by My strong hand
Give me this one thing – your all in all;
Into my grace, let yourself fall."

So at last, I'm ready, I see the way.
It's to daily follow, trust and obey.,
I enter the New Year armed with a plan,
To give Him my everything – all that I
am.



**Jackson Center
United Methodist Church
Community Blood Drive**

WILL BE HELD AT

American Legion Scherer Post #493
627 E. College St., Jackson Center

**Tuesday February 2, 2021
12:30 – 6:30 PM**

Schedule appointment at www.DonorTime.com use Sponsor Code
Appointment & Face Mask Required

**Covid-19 Antibody test will be performed
on all blood donations
as part of our standard testing.**



Community
Blood Center

**GivingBlood.org
937-461-3220**

**Sponsored by
Jackson Center United Methodist Church**

January

Birthdays & Anniversaries

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 Larry Wahrer	2
3	4 Raymond & Julia Zwiebel	5 Barry Elliott Morgan Shaffer	6	7	8 Rosemary Christler Hank Zimpfer Peggy Helman	9 Brad & Bev Wren Jeff Reese
10 Misty Reese	11 Denise Wahrer	12	13 Ike Ricker	14	15 Dailyn Shaffer	16
17	18 Ashleigh & Ben Gross	19	20	21	22	23 Tabatha Myers
24 Keith & Karla Haas	25 Ann Doseck	26	27 Kira Klinger	28 Larry & Lola Clevenger Brittney Wallace	29	30 Darrell Stewart



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Newsletter of the
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PO Box 577
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