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Faith Messenger

DECEMBER

*Faith United Methodist Church
"Engage, Equip, and Empower!"*

**Volume 2017.
Issue 12**

Give Thanks

100th Psalm

Make a joyful noise to the LORD, all the earth! Serve the LORD with gladness! Come into his presence with singing! Know that the LORD, he is God! It is he who made us, and we are his; we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture. Enter his gates with thanksgiving, and his courts with praise! Give thanks to him; bless his name! For the LORD is good; his steadfast love endures forever, and his faithfulness to all generations.

Many who dearly love the Lord find it hard to be emotional about their relationship with God where others have no problem showing their love for God in a public way.

The Psalmist is being a cheerleader for God. He is urging the people of God to let the world know of the greatness of their God.

The reason for this joy, this celebration, is when you know God you become so overwhelmed with awe they can't help but speak of His greatness and wonder.

All that we have and all that we are we owe to God from our very breath to our daily existence. He in all of life is our protector and provider. This all encompassing care for each of us results in an overwhelming, overflowing heart of gratitude, a voice of praise for His great works.

Another reason for thanksgiving is God's goodness, steadfast love, and faithfulness in our lives.

It is my honor to be your pastor and serve you in Jesus name. I am thankful for all your encouraging words to me and my family and your partnership in this journey to know Jesus better and deeper.

Pastor Victor

Special Points of Interest:

- December Monthly Meetings, Back Page
- December Birthdays and Anniversaries included with Calendar

Administrative Assistant

Office Hours

Mon. through Thurs.

8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Fri. 8:30 a.m. to Noon

Prayer Requests

Remember our church members & friends who are less mobile and are unable to join us as often as they would like, including:

Colony Court Memory & Care Suites: Ann Swenson, Dick Westrum

Colony Court: Ardella Draheim, Nina Youngberg, Leona Quast, Muriel Jenkins, Fern Papke, Peter Fog

Lakeshore Inn: Florence Gutknecht, Liz Corchran

Latham Place: George and Lucille Kubista, Elaine Westrum

Oaklawn Health Care Center: Jim Keller

Koda Living Community: Chuck Youngberg

Prayer Requests from Sunday Worship: Leona Quast, Bruce Born, Don Paulson, Becky Tristan and her family, Fern Papke, Robert and Lori Ferry, Neal Schauer, Arth Family, Les and Marie Wells.



Administrative Assistant Hours

Stacy True, Administrative Assistant, will have the following schedule changes in December and early January:

December 4 - 7: Out of the office

December 13: Out of the office

December 26 - 28: 9:00 a.m. to Noon

December 29: Out of the office

January 2: Out of the office

Note from the Janitor's Closet

Please let me know if there is anything coming up in the months of January, February and March that I need to be aware of and that pertain to custodial duties. I will be out those months having knee replacement. Jon Schultz will be filling in for me.

Leave any notes in my mailbox so I may put them on my calendar.

Bob

Special Ask Update

Through Nov. 19 receipts and pledges have totaled \$9,550 toward our expected budget shortfall of \$12,000. We appreciate those who have responded so far. We really do not want to have to borrow money to pay our recurring bills at the end of the year. If you haven't already responded to our request, please do so as soon as possible using the enclosed response form. Thank you.

Christmas Eve Worship

Join us for candlelight service on December 24 at 4:30 p.m. **There will be no Sunday morning service on December 24.**



Christmas Giving for Emma Norton Services

...If he is contributing to the needs of others, let him give generously. Romans 12:8

Emma Norton Services is a nonprofit organization actively combating poverty and positively impacting more than 250 people annually. They partner with women, children and families who are homeless and experiencing the challenges of mental and/or chemical disabilities. Without having to worry about the basic need of a safe, secure place to live, women and children can utilize and focus on supportive programs, life skills, services and opportunities available to accomplish their goals.

The UMW wishes to send the women at the **Emma Norton Residence** gifts to brighten their lives at Christmas time. We would like to send them toiletries in a small bag (make-up size bag if you have one — otherwise, enough will be purchased to hold what we have received). Some of the items you may want to include are: small soaps, hand sanitizer, small shampoo/cream rinse, lotion, small tube of toothpaste, toothbrush, an inspirational note and whatever other small things you can think of. All women of the church, not just UMW members, are welcome to contribute to this give. Please drop off your gifts by **December 10** in the large marked box in the Narthex. Thank you in advance for supporting this project.

UMW Officers for 2018

UMW Officers for 2018 are pictured left to right:

Sandy Voshell, treasurer

Shirley Hansen, president

Lorraine Wick, nominations

Linda Griffin, secretary

Janet Welch, communications

Roberta Walker, vice president



UMW Unit Meeting

Nov. 20, 2017

Welcoming – Opening Prayer

Hostesses – Executive Board served wonderful soup, homemade bread, pie, coffee and water.

Devotion by Linda Lohse What Hope means to you?

World Mission Thank Offering by Sandy Voshell Read Hope For each Day by Billy Graham and gave the Prayer Calendar mission focus.

Program “Cultivating Hope “ by Sherry Scholljegerdes, Parish Nurse.
How you think about the future directs the present. What is hope?

Business Meeting

Secretary's report May 15, 2017 report read and approved.
Treasurer's report Ending balance of \$ 6711.18.
Correspondence none.

Bazaar

There was a motion made from the Executive Board That at all public events hair nets or hair pulled back and covered must be worn for all food preparation and serving. It was seconded and voted on. Make sure to mark all foods with nuts or peanut butter. Bazaar results around \$3,000 dollars as of 11-20-2017.

New Business

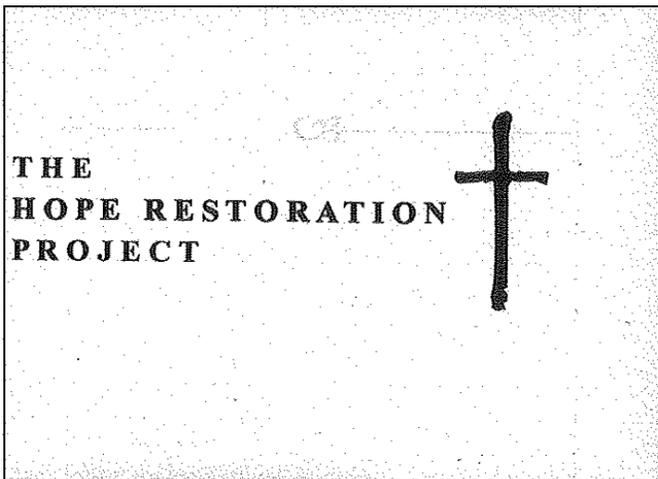
Election of 2018 officers
Shirley Hansen- President
Roberta Walker – Vice President
Secretary – Linda Griffin
Treasurer – Sandy Voshell
Publicity – Janet Welch

Recommendations from Executive Board to pay our pledges in total in 2018. Approved.
School Support Janet Welch Karen Ferch made a Motion to give the Hartley Elementary School \$200 for the Healthy Snack Cart Program. Janet Welch seconded it. Was voted on and approved.
Barb Friedl made a motion to give \$300 for the transportation for the after school study program and it was seconded and voted on and approved for the intermediate school.

Sherry S. talked about the Legacy Fund and Assembly 2018.
For an Emma Norton project, use small cosmetic bags and place small bottles of shampoo, toothpaste, a toothbrush, comb, soap, etc. Due by Dec. 10

The next meeting will be February 19, 2018.
Linda Griffin substitute UMW Secretary

Nurse's Notes: Cultivating Hope



Cultivating Hope
 Simple Activities to Become a
 More Hopeful You!

Amy S. Hedman



“Through perseverance and the encouragement of the Scriptures, we might have HOPE.” ~Roman 15:4

Shift Your Thinking from Earthly Thinking to Heavenly Thinking

- ☞ As Christians, our greatest source of hope is salvation through Jesus Christ
- ☞ Set your sights on your heavenly home
- ☞ When daily hassles and life's problems seem overwhelming, know they are not eternal

Maintain an Attitude of Gratitude

- ☞ Keep a gratitude journal to record your daily blessings
- ☞ In times of suffering, remind yourself of what is right in life
- ☞ Express gratitude to others, say “thank you for...” at least once/day to someone
- ☞ Complain less; make it a daily goal to not focus on what you find unsatisfactory
- ☞ Give thanks to God in all situations; be grateful during happy times as well as the difficult times

Cultivate Hope Handout: Questions 2 p. 4

Meditate on God's Love for You

- ☞ Reflect on God's unconditional love for you and His desire for a closer relationship with you
- ☞ Study the Bible and what is written about God's love for you
- ☞ Journal about the ways God has demonstrated His faithfulness to you
- ☞ Spend time listening to favorite hymns or songs that remind you of His great love
- ☞ Focus on His presence with a short affirmation and breathing (“You are my Hope,” “You are with me.”)

Questions

Continued from page 6

CULTIVATING HOPE

To cultivate is to “nurture and help grow.” Our hope can be cultivated; simple activities like the ones listed below can help you to increase your level of hope as you nurture your mind, soul, and relationships with Christ and with others.

- In what ways has God demonstrated His faithfulness to you?
- List five blessings you are grateful for.
- Write a Bible verse that nourishes your hope.
- Identify three people who you will express gratitude to this upcoming week:
 - Thank you _____, for _____
 - Thank you _____, for _____
 - Thank you _____, for _____
- Think about a difficult time you overcame, what lessons did God reveal to you through that experience?
- Is there someone in your life who is going through a difficult time? What can (and will) you do to offer that person hope?

For I know the plans I have for you, declares the LORD, plans for welfare and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope. Jeremiah 29:11

Holiday Tunes

- Away in a Manger
- Choir of the Bells
- Dominick the Donkey
- Frosty the Snowman
- Holly Jolly Christmas
- Jingle Bell Rock
- Jingle Bells
- Let it Snow
- Little Drummer Boy
- Little St Nick
- O Holy Night
- Rudolph
- Santa Baby
- Silent Nigh
- Silver Bells
- The Christmas Song
- The First Noel
- Winter Wonderland



S	G	R	D	A	M	A	F	C	I	F	Z	Z	X	F	K	U	H	J	X
W	A	W	A	Y	O	B	R	E	M	M	U	R	D	E	L	T	T	I	L
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F	O	L	N	I	A	I	O	Z	T	K	L	I	N	X	C	S	J	O	U
B	W	V	E	S	Y	N	W	K	M	G	F	O	O	A	K	T	E	C	N
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I	I	Y	E	K	N	O	D	E	H	T	K	C	I	N	I	M	O	D	S
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Change Service Requested

Come Worship with Us
We have room.

MONTHLY MEET-UPS:

Elizabeth Circle

UMW Elizabeth Circle will meet **Wednesday, December 13 at 12:30 p.m.** for lunch at the **Boathouse**. Please bring paper products for Emma Norton Services. Guests and visitors are welcome. We will meet at the church at 12:15 to drop off our Emma Norton donations and carpool to the Boathouse.

Ruth Circle

UMW Ruth Circle will meet **Tuesday, December 12** from **10:30 a.m. to Noon** at the home of Margaret Hasslen. All are welcome to attend.

Faith Crafters & Stitchers

Faith Crafters & Stitchers will not meet in December. We will start up again on **Thursday, January 11, 2018.**

Sandy Voshell