

2021



January

February

OAKWOOD / HEBRON UNITED METHODIST CHURCHES

# The Messenger

Well, Church, we made it! By the time you're reading this, we've made it through most of the Christmas season and Epiphany is upon us. I love Epiphany. I've always been completely fascinated by the journey of the Magi to visit Jesus. People from somewhere else, able to communicate with the Divine through signs and dreams, bringing somewhat mysterious and very symbolic gifts, led by a star... As a kid, it was the perfect story to wrap up the rest of the Holy mystery that we hear of on Christmas Eve.

As an adult - and more specifically as a seminary student and pastor - I've done a bit deeper thinking and studying about Epiphany. The word Epiphany comes from the Greek *epiphaneia*, which means "manifestation." And this is precisely what Epiphany is - the first manifestation of Jesus Christ to people from somewhere else, to non-Jews, to Gentiles. We learn through the Gospels that later in Jesus' life, it wasn't totally clear that his ministry was for anyone besides the nation of Israel. After all, the prophecies that we read and heed suggest that it is the Jewish people who will be redeemed through the Messiah. Then, through various encounters with Gentiles, we see an acknowledgement that Jesus' ministry is in fact expansive enough to include all. And it all started with Epiphany.

As we begin the new calendar year, many around us will think and talk about and make resolutions. We're all familiar with the statistics surrounding New Year's resolutions - they often do not go quite the way we planned. So I wondered if, this year, maybe we take a cue from Epiphany and think about how God has manifested in our lives. Thinking about all that we are grateful for can help us do this - through gratitude, we can see where God has revealed things to us. One easy way to do this is through gratitude journaling. Journaling is a great spiritual discipline, and is often considered a form of written prayer.

A gratitude journal is pretty much what it sounds like, and if you recall the prayer of Examen that we did together in the fall, this will be somewhat familiar. At the end of each day, recall the moments for which you are most grateful and the moments for which you are least grateful. Write about those moments. Then think about where you saw God and where you felt God's absence that day, and write about those moments too. After a while, you will start to notice things about your gratitude and how you notice the presence of God, and you might make some connections between them that are important for your own spiritual walk. Through your gratitude, you will see how God manifests in your daily life.

I'm terrible at resolutions, but this is one that I will be challenging myself to do. I hope you'll join me this year as we look ahead to the new year, where hope and peace may be a little more prevalent, and where we find love and joy through the presence of God every day. May it be so and amen.

Peace,  
Pastor Jess



# Did You Know?

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The story of the Magi is our story. God has used his supernatural means to draw us unto himself. ... On one glorious day, when we were exhausted and wearied in our sin, God led us to gaze upon Jesus just as the Magi did.

We see the glory of God manifested through Jesus Christ in the internal work of the Holy Spirit.

We see our utter sinfulness and God's abounding grace offered in the Messiah.

We are filled with joy as this grace sinks into our hearts.

We fall down on our knees and confess our need of this Messiah.

We worship him and offer up our lives as our greatest offering to him.

Then we continue on in our lives, carrying the truth about the Messiah.

—Travis Cunningham, [tvcresources.net](http://tvcresources.net)



## Pastor Jessica LeCrone's Office Hours

**VIRTUAL (for now)**

**Monday —Sabbath**

**Tuesday —2:00 pm to 5:00pm**

**Friday—1:00pm to 4:00 pm**

**Oakwood Phone: 217-354-4950  
P.O. Box 218, Oakwood, Ill 61858**

**Cell Phone: 217-637-2557**

**Email: [jessicamlecrone@gmail.com](mailto:jessicamlecrone@gmail.com)**

**Facebook: [Oakwood United Methodist Church](https://www.facebook.com/OakwoodUnitedMethodistChurch)**


**Website: [ohumc.weebly.com](http://ohumc.weebly.com)**

# Special news



From the NOW Committee at Oakwood and the Missions Committee at Hebron, we wish to thank you for your continued support for our mission work. With the Covid-19 pandemic, the Oakwood Food Pantry has become even more important for those in our community.

As you can see from the information below, we continue to reach out to those in need and your continued support makes this possible. THANK YOU



## OAKWOOD AREA FOOD PANTRY

Your Food Pantry continues to serve the people in our community each week with food and other necessities. It serves around 40 families and over 70 individuals.

It also provides weekend meals for 26 children through the backpack (Packages of Hope) program.

Your continued support for these programs is appreciated. They could not be continued without your help.

If you would like to contribute: make your check to the Oakwood United Methodist Church and put Food Pantry or Backpack on the memo line.

We will be sure to see they get the donations.



Food Pantry Needs

*Clip and Save*

## FOOD PANTRY NEEDS FOR 2021

January	Boyardee Cups (ravioli, lasagna, spaghetti and meat balls, etc.) *
February	Soup Cups *
March	Fruit Cups (single serving) *
April	Pudding Cups (single serving) *
May	Toilet paper (3 or more rolls wrapped)
June	Cereal
July	Canned meat
August	Vegetable Cups (corn or green beans) *
September	Jiffy Peanut Butter "to go" *
October	Soup Cups (single serving)
November	Cereal Bowls (single serving) *
December	Tuna or Chicken Salad Kits (single serving) *

\*\*\*\* Those marked with the \* are for the Backpack Program and need to be single serving. Presently we serve 12 families with 26 children each weekend with meals for both Saturday and Sunday.

# Upcoming events



PARABLES & PASSION:  
Jesus Stories for the Days of Lent  
By  
John Indermark

Information on dates and times will be posted on our web page, Facebook and in the bulletin.

February 17th

Services will be announced in our upcoming bulletin, on our web site and on our Facebook pages.

Hopefully we will be able to meet in person, but we will also offer a drive-through option.

Details TBA

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## COACH MAC'S ANNUAL SPAGHETTI DINNER



Spaghetti  
Dinner

**DATE AND TIME TO BE DETERMINED**  
Stay tuned for more information  
as the Covid 19 pandemic allows us to meet again.

**All proceeds will go to support our youth  
on their ASP mission trip this summer.**

# Youth News

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## ASP 2021

### COMETLAND YOUTH NEWS

Grades 7-12

Sunday 6:00 –7:15 pm

At: to be announced

**Stay in touch with Josh Hunsberger to learn about upcoming activities.**

**Cell: 814-969-1766**

Youth ASP 2021 is registered for June 12 - 19, 2021. We will be a junior high/high school group. At this time, three teams have been registered - 15 youth and 6 adults.

A meeting will be scheduled in late January. We will be discussing fund raising opportunities, educational hours, and planning details for the trip.

If you know of an interested youth (grades 7-12) who is not in contact with me, contact me with cell phone number and mailing address.

I am really missing the ASP experience and am looking forward to this trip. ASP has been working very diligently to make sure that the experience will be as safe as possible with masking and social distancing guidelines in place. Deb 217-799-0594.



# Calendar

January 2021						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						



<u>JANUARY</u>		
1st	Friday	New Years Day
3rd	Sunday	Communion
6th	Wednesday	Epiphany
9th	Saturday	Administrative Council Hebron—9 am
10th	Sunday	Administrative Council 7:30 am (OUMC)
18th	Monday	Martin Luther King , Jr Day
20th	Wednesday	Inauguration

February 2021						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28						

<u>FEBRUARY</u>		
7th	Sunday	Communion
14th	Sunday	Administrative Council 7:30 am (OUMC)
14th	Sunday	Valentine's Day
15th	Monday	Presidents' Day
17th	Wednesday	Ash Wednesday
26th	Friday	Marilyn's Birthday



Let Nancy Tyler know if you need an annual giving statement for tax purposes. (354-4787)

# Birthdays & Anniversaries



## OAKWOOD January

### Birthdays:

- 3 Mike Wise  
4 Audra Tyler  
5 Carsen Dudley  
8 Joyce Okeli  
17 Paul Wasser  
23 Carol Leverenz

## February

### Birthdays:

- 1 Mike Cannon  
8 Beth Sudlow  
16 Amy Ludwig Rouse  
20 Judy Steffen  
24 Miriah Plawer Volmerding  
Nancy Bott  
26 Marilyn Elrod  
27 John Dudley

### Anniversaries:

- 19 Larry & Nancy Bott

## HEBRON January

### Birthdays:

- 1 Adam Grove  
12 Daryl Grove  
25 Erin Pouilliard

## February

### Birthdays:

- 15 Lori Parker  
19 Trent Parker  
25 Dede Doney  
29 Crystal Davis

### Anniversaries:

- 11 Darrin & Shelia Fletcher

## Remember our Church Family Living Away from their Homes

**Laura Lomax**  
Pleasant Meadows Christian  
Village  
400 W. Washington Ave.  
Chrisman, IL 61924  
(217)269-2369

**Joyce Okeli**  
2000 W. John Street. #309  
Champaign, IL 61821  
(217) 403-0235

## **Remember those in the Military**

Capt. Toby Neil  
Stationed—  
somewhere in Germany

If you have any additions or corrections to the Birthday/Anniversary list, please let me know.

[melrodmae@gmail.com](mailto:melrodmae@gmail.com)  
Cell: (217) 474-3260

## NEWSLETTER UPDATE

If you would like to receive your newsletter by email, thereby getting it immediately and in color. Please let me know.

Contact — Marilyn at (217) 474-3260 or  
email at [melrodmae@gmail.com](mailto:melrodmae@gmail.com)



OAKWOOD/HEBRON U.M.C.

P.O. Box 218

Oakwood, IL 61858



Join us for Sunday worship on the web.

Every Sunday from 7:30 am.

Start the service when it is convenient for you and your family.

[ohumc.weebly.com](http://ohumc.weebly.com)

Click..”sermon” at top of page

The first Sunday of each month.

3:00 pm to 3:30 pm

Drive way of the Hebron UMC

*We are all waiting for the day when we will be able to worship together in person.*



*We dedicate these ornaments in honor and memory of angels in our lives who are close to our hearts here and now and those dearly loved angels who have gone ahead of us to be with our Lord.*



*Christmas 2020*

<u><i>In Memory of</i></u>	<u><i>Given By</i></u>	<u><i>In Honor Of</i></u>	<u><i>Given By</i></u>
Earl & Johnsie Berger	Deb Clow	Chris & Ben Byers	Deb Clow
Wanda Bosler	Brenda Ludwig	Charlotte Clow	Deb Clow
Clarence & Dolores Cham- pion	Ron & Janice Lee	Eva Clow	Deb Clow
Violet Cole	Marty & Jan McFarland	Madison Clow	Deb Clow
Bill Clow	Deb Clow	Easton Clow	Deb Clow
Ken & Pat Cunningham	Tim & Linda Cunningham	Jackson & Carsen Dudley	Bob & Nancy Linn
Burrlene Elrod	Marilyn Elrod	Mauri, Kyla & Helen Durand	Bob & Nancy Linn
French Elrod	Marilyn Elrod	Mark, Jessica, & Eli Ellis	Brett & Laura Wittig
Donald Lashmet	Marty & Jan McFarland	Jessica Lecrone & Family	Brett & Laura Wittig
Mauri & Helen Linn	Bob & Nancy Linn	Kyle McFarland	Grandma & Grandpa McFarland
Emerson Lee	Ron & Janice Lee	Madison McFarland	Grandma & Grandpa McFarland
Tammy Jo Lee	Ron & Janice Lee	Adam & Lauren Plawer	Wanda Plawer
Loved Ones Past	Brett & Laura Wittig	Patrick, Amy, George & Tommy Rouse	Brenda Ludwig
Gary Ludwig	Brenda Ludwig	Emily Seggebruch	Tim & Linda Cunningham
Russ & Mary Peterson	Bob & Nancy Linn	Luca Shareef	Tim & Linda Cunningham
Brian Plawer	Wanda Plawer	Cora Shareef	Tim & Linda Cunningham
Anna Puhr	Marty & Jan McFarland	Greg, Amanda, Reed & Quinn Sperry	Wanda Plawer
Ervin & Eleanor Schinske	Marty & Jan McFarland	Bennett & Jameson Sprague	Brenda Ludwig
Lee Ludwig Sprague	Brenda Ludwig	Audra Tyler	Nancy Tyler
Betty Stivers	Marty & Jan McFarland	Matt, Miriah, Ben & Nate Volmerding	Wanda Plawer
Douglas, Donna & Judson Strong	Brett & Laura Wittig	BJ, Becca, Benjamin, & Baylor Wittig	Brett & Laura Wittig
Jim Tyler	Nancy Tyler	Brett Wittig	Laura Wittig
Jake & Betty Wolfe	Ron & Janice Lee		
Les & Jean Wolfe	Tim & Linda Cunningham		
Betty & Bernard Wittig	Brett & Laura Wittig		