

Hotline

December | 2023

December *Hungry World*

This December, the Missions Team has selected two organizations as recipients of the special Advent Hungry World offering: The Wesley Foundation at MSU and Bishop Judith Craig Children Village in Liberia.

Bishop Judith Craig Children's Village in Liberia was established in 2000 to provide care for children left orphaned by civil war in Liberia. This project provides for basic needs, education, counseling, and healthcare for Liberian children.

Wesley Foundation at MSU is serving the students who want to learn or to practice their faith in Christ.

You are welcome to give to the project(s) of your choice, just indicate which one on your check memo line or giving envelope; undesignated donations will be divided evenly among both programs.

Christmas at Holt UMC!

"And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn." ~Luke 2:7 (NRSV)

It's beginning to look a lot like Christmas! This Advent season we will be studying the book "Experiencing Christmas" by Matt Rawle. "God doesn't experience humanity and simply let it be. God enters our story so that our story might be redeemed." Pick up a book in the office or on Sunday morning and join a small group! Let Maynard Hamilton or David LaLone know when and where you would like a small group to meet.

We have many exciting things planned to celebrate the Advent season together! Of course we will have worship every Sunday throughout the Advent season with the 9:30 AM and 11 AM worship services and Kingdom Kids happens on Sundays at 9:45 AM— 10:45 AM for 4 year olds up through grade 5.

Here are some other exciting activities you can participate in:

- Dec. 2 @ 10 AM-12 PM Christmas Elf Workshop — Enjoy Cookie Decorating, Gift Making/Wrapping, and a short video!
- Dec. 3 @ 5 PM Church Social — Join us for a light meal, and help us decorate the church for Christmas!
- Dec. 9 @ 2 PM-4 PM Open House at the Parsonage — Cookies, Carols, and Games!
- Dec. 24 — 10 AM Songs of the Season
3 PM Contemporary Service
5 PM Traditional Service

May we each find that which we come seeking and be surprised by the unexpected HOPE. Join us as we find Christ in the sights and sounds of Advent!

Birthdays and Anniversaries



- 1 Mary Odiorne
- 2 Peyton Nuffer
- 3 Mike McMillan
- 5 Jesse Elliott
- 8 Michelle Martin
- 9 Melodie McDorman
- 12 Kathy Lessard
- 17 Harper Mundy
- 18 Sharon Smith
- 19 Pam Jacob
Pamela Ott
- 20 Peter Gatteri
Phyllis Ginther
Paul Marisch
Ruth Oleksyk
- 21 Holly Frakes
- 22 Justin William Sweet
Charlotte Wolf

- 24 Taryn Michelle Clapsaddle
- 25 Beverly Saunders
- 28 Lauren Elizabeth Harper
Timothy Vanoort
- 29 Kenn Grant



- 4 Timothy & Vickie Vanoort
- 8 Heather & Tim Slawinski
- 24 Pat & Paul Mick
- 30 Dale & Margaret Brown
Bob & Marie Guild

NOTE: If you do not see your birthday or anniversary listed, please contact the church office, 517-694-8168, or email holtumc@gmail.com with the information.



Lester Norton had surgery on October 31; Pete Gatteri—peace for Israel and the Ukraine; Prayers for the families of Gene Guile and Lloyd Stoner who passed away in October; Sue & Mike Witkus—for Andrew Witkus for anxiety and depression; Anonymous—for my father-in-law who was diagnosed with stage 4 cancer and all of his family who will be helping him through this; Anonymous—for safe travels and a successful job experience for my beloved husband; Pete Gatteri—for an aunt who fell and cracked 3 vertebrae and broke 1 finger; Betty Guile who has fluid on her lungs; For healing for a son who has Chronic Fatigue Syndrome; For someone's sister; Praise God that Gina Ewen's mother, Iris, and the other residents where she lives

are all healed from Covid! ; Pete Gatteri—For a neighbor Louise whose cancer has returned; For Art Kyler who ended up in the hospital and will have heart surgery; For a grandson who is experiencing some general life issues and is giving his family difficult decisions; For Brent Drake who was recently diagnosed with stage 4 liver cancer; Prayers for all our shut-ins, cancer patients, and surgery patients; for the lost and the lonely and all the special unspoken requests

From the CEC

Seasons greetings from all of us at the CEC! Christmas music is in the air all around the CEC! The children in all of the classrooms are learning new Christmas songs and finger plays. We will be working on parent gifts and making homemade ornaments for the CEC tree! After our ornaments are made, all of the classrooms will get together to have a tree trimming party with Christmas carols and cookies! Love from all of us at the CEC!



Christmas Elf Workshop

Christmas Elf Workshop is an event for children (4yrs +) in the community to come and be elves and make some gifts for their parents. This is also an event for parents to enjoy a couple hours to go Christmas shopping or have brunch. This event will take place on Dec 2nd from 10 am - noon in our gym. There will be more info coming soon on registration, volunteering and items to be donated.

Worship Together

Join us in-person at 9:30 AM & 11 AM on Sundays.

Watch the live-stream
at www.facebook.com/holtumc/



December 3

1st Sunday of Advent—
“Do You See What I See?”
Mark 13:24-37

Do you see what I see? As we step into our five senses this advent season, the first sense that we will encounter is seeing. What do you see? What is it that you first recognize as a sign that Christmas is coming? Is it the advertisements on TV, the displays at the store or the Christmas lights going up in your neighborhood? As we read Mark 13:24-37, we will talk about both the signs that we see that December 25th is quickly approaching and the signs that remind us of the HOPE that Jesus Christ is with us and will come again to call us home! Alert and ready! We watch for Jesus.



December 10

2nd Sunday of Advent—
“Do You Hear What I Hear?”
Isaiah 40:1-11

There are lots of sounds in the season. From the carols playing in the stores to the noise of the news that haunts us from our media, let's take a moment to lean in, and to listen. Do you hear what I hear? There are joy-filled sounds and sounds of weeping and mourning.

There is space that gently holds our silence—and in this space we are allowed to exhale. Take a moment and read Isaiah 40:1-11. What do you hear? How will you respond?



**“The child to be born
will be holy;
he will be called
Son of God.”**
Luke 1:35

December 17

3rd Sunday of Advent—
“Do You Taste What I Taste?”
Luke 1:26-38

Do you taste what I taste? Do you smell what I smell? Depending on the inflection of your voice—it can be something delicious or something awful! That first Christmas morning, what's for breakfast and what are those smells? Psalm 34:8 reminds us to, “Taste and see that the Lord is good!” Mary's song from Luke 1, reminds us just how good God's love is! She also reminds us what is important and to humble ourselves as we gather together in the presence of God.



*The Reason
for the
Season*

December 24

**4th Sunday of Advent/
Christmas Eve—**

“Do You Feel What I Feel?”
Matthew 1:18-25

Do you feel what I feel? The word “feel” can mean many things, but we know that human touch is vital to our healthy existence. We also know that we come with many feelings—joyous, overwhelmed, expectant, as we near the birthday of our Savior. Join the Chancel Choir, Handbells and Praise Team as we gather together to worship, remember and know that Christ the Lord is alive, in our hearts and in our songs.



December 31

**1st Sunday after Christmas
Day—**
“Living Christmas Out Loud”
Luke 2:22-40

It's the last day of 2023. How will you celebrate and live out your faith in 2024? How has engaging the New Born King impacted your today? How are you going to allow Jesus to impact your witness in 2024? We'll hear the story of Simeon and Anna (Luke 2) and know that, as Revelations 21 reminds us, “God is making all things new!” Come and celebrate the love of Jesus and the call on our lives to love!

Experiencing Christmas *Small Groups*

These small groups are all studying the book "Experiencing Christmas" by Matt Rawle.

- **9:30 AM Tuesday small group** is lead by Pastor Anita on Zoom
- **1:30 PM Tuesday small group** is led by Gordon Galloway, (517) 906-9060
- **4 PM Tuesday small group** at Great Lakes Christian Homes is led by Pastor Anita
- **7 PM Wednesday evening small group** is led by David Lalone and meets on Zoom.

Other *Small Groups*

- **Adult Sunday School is at 9:30-10:30 AM and** is studying Numbers on Sunday mornings in the library. If you need a book, contact David Lalone.
- **7 AM Wednesday small group** that meets at Bob Evans will be studying Acts and is led by Maynard Hamilton (517) 243-3409.



Intentionality

David LaLone, Director of Christian Education

There is one word that I keep hearing from my own lips and others– Intentional. What do we mean when we say we are being intentional? When I use the word intentional I am trying to do something with **purpose**, **deliberation** and **mindfully**.

Our church purpose is written in both our **Mission**: *Making Disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world*; and **Vision**: *Committed to knowing and sharing the love of God*.

Our **purpose** is the answer to the important why question. Why do we do this thing we call church? Our purpose is the driving force that keeps us moving. Making disciples, transforming the world, and sharing the love of God are all actions of evangelism. That can be a scary word for Christians but if we are to be a church we must all be intentional in our evangelism.

May I remind us all of our membership vows to faithfully participate in the life of the church through our **prayers, presence, gifts, service, and witness**. May we be intentional in each of these elements.

- Are you praying for the church?
- Are you fully present in the body of Christ?
- Are you giving joyfully to the work of the church?
- Are you serving where you can?
- Are you sharing the love of God to others?

We all have areas to grow. May you know that the church needs you. We are all growing together. We each have different gifts and graces.

As we enter into the Advent season we begin a new church calendar. As a church we are asking big questions. We are seeking a fresh vision. May we deliberate together and put our minds together to be filled with the mind of Christ. The Holy Spirit will give us clarity in vision and equip us for mission when we are intentional in prayer and spiritual discernment.

What is God calling you to be intentional in?

I'm excited for what comes next in the life of Holt United Methodist Church.

COMMIT to the LORD
whatever you do,
and your plans
will succeed.

Proverbs 16:3, NIV



United Women in Faith (A.K.A. United Methodist Women)

UMW/ UWFaith General Meeting! We had a great turnout at the November 9th meeting! The 2024 budget was approved. The slate of officer nominations for 2024 was presented and voted upon. The 2024 officers are President-Sharon Smith, Vice President-Marge VanDyke, Secretary-Julia Skinner, Treasurer-Kathy Reincke. Also serving as Mission Coordinators: Spiritual Growth- Ruth Oleksyk, Membership, Nurture and Outreach- Mary McPherran, Education & Interpretation and Communication Coordinator- Karol Fry.

The officer installation took place during the 11:00 service on November 26th. Eileen Hamilton and Linda Kaschyk will continue to head up funeral luncheons. Kathy Lessard will continue to make calls for salads and desserts.

Additional leadership positions outside Holt UMW: Sharon Smith has been elected as 2024 Vice President of the Michigan Conference UMW/UWFaith and Karol Fry has been elected to serve as Heritage District Program Resources Chair as well as Chair of Education, Nurture and Outreach for Heritage District for 2024.

The small group Circles do not meet in December. See the January Hotline for future dates and upcoming events.

Valentines for Vets will be held on Monday, January 15, 2024 1:30pm. Please join us for this annual event in the East Room where we put together 200 hand crafted valentines which will be delivered to the Ingham County VA office and the VA hospital in Ann Arbor to send a little love to our veterans. Karen Syroka prepares all the elements needed to construct the cards. All you need are the skills to stamp and glue. Join us this year, enjoy some fellowship and we always finish with a dessert. Maudy Priscilla Circle hosts this event. If you have questions contact Karol Fry 517.525.6561 fry@msu.edu.



The HUMC/MSU Concession Team has wrapped up the MSU football season and is now selling concessions at the Breslin Center for the 2023-24 Women's Basketball season. Below is the home game MSU Spartan's Women's Basketball Schedule. Please consider all of the dates listed and let us know your availability to work any of these events.

MSU Women's Basketball Schedule (Home Games)

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| 1. Dec. 3 (Sun) 2 PM vs. Miami (OH) | 7. Jan. 27 (Sat) 12 PM vs. Michigan |
| 2. Dec. 9 (Sat) 2 PM vs. Nebraska | 8. Feb. 5 (Mon) 6 PM vs. Minnesota |
| 3. Dec. 17 (Sun) 2 PM vs. Central Michigan | 9. Feb. 11 (Sun) 4 PM vs. Ohio State |
| 4. Jan. 9 (Tue) 6 PM vs. Maryland | 10. Feb. 24 (Sat) 2 PM vs. Rutgers |
| 5. Jan. 17 (Wed) 6:30 PM vs. Nebraska | 11. Feb. 29 (Thu) TBA vs. Illinois |
| 6. Jan. 24 (Wed) 6:30 PM vs. Purdue | |



To volunteer contact Joe Lessard, John Busley or Bruce Rochowiak.

New and renewed MSU volunteer background checks may be initiated with MSU at <https://concessions.rhs.msu.edu/volunteer-application-and-background-check-authorization-form>

Library News

RUNNING by Natalia Sylvester

When fifteen-year-old Cuban American Mariana Ruiz's father runs for president, Mari starts to see him with new eyes. A novel about waking up and standing up, and what happens when you stop seeing your dad as your hero—while the whole country is watching.

In this authentic, humorous, and gorgeously written debut novel about privacy, waking up, and speaking up, Senator Anthony Ruiz is running for president. Throughout his successful political career he has always had his daughter's vote, but a presidential campaign brings a whole new level of scrutiny to sheltered fifteen-year-old Mariana and the rest of her Cuban American family, from a *60 Minutes*-style tour of their house to tabloids doctoring photos and inventing scandals.

As tensions rise within the Ruiz family, Mari begins to learn about the details of her father's political positions, and she realizes that her father is not the man she thought he was.

But how do you find your voice when everyone's watching? When it means disagreeing with your father—publicly? What do you do when your dad stops being your hero? Will Mari get a chance to confront her father? If she does, will she have the courage to seize it?

December Church Social

Join us on December 3rd for our December Church Social! Come at 5 PM for a lite dinner and join the youth group in watching an episode of the television show, The Chosen. Then at 6 PM we will begin to decorate the church for Christmas! All are welcome and there will be a small craft for kids as well. We hope to see you there!



Christmas Eve Worship

Join us on Christmas Eve (Sunday, December 24) for one or more of the worship opportunities we're offering!

- 10 AM—We will enjoy songs of the season at a joint Christmas Eve worship service
- 3 PM—This will be a family friendly worship service to celebrate Christmas
- 5 PM—Join us for a traditional Christmas Eve service with our Chancel Choir



Claire Bellamy, our Choir Director, is stepping down at the end of December. Claire is a blessing to us, and her music talents have greatly enhanced our worship services. In appreciation for her music ministry to our church, we will have a coffee reception in between services on Sunday, December 17th. In addition, we are taking a love offering for Claire. If you wish to contribute towards this gift, please make your check payable to Holt United Methodist Church and mark "love offering" on the check or envelope. Please join us On December 17 at 10:30 AM to celebrate Claire's gift of music to our church.

Connect with Us

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