

# Orchard Park United Methodist Church

## WEEKLY NEWSFLASH

It is the second week of January, the second week of a new year. Time seems to move so fast! The church calendar also speeds along. Little time has passed since our adoration of Jesus in a manger surrounded by Mary and Joseph and shepherds.

Now, suddenly, Jesus is an adult stepping into the waters of the river Jordan to be baptized, the beginning of his public ministry. He has received a sign ["... the Spirit descending like a dove..."] and a word ["... a voice came from heaven, 'You are my son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased'"] (Mark 1:10b-11, NRSV).

It is the beginning of a new year for us, the time to start anew in our own lives and worship arts ministry. What shall be our sign, our word to jumpstart our worship arts ministry this year?

Beloved. Beloved is the word we need as we embark on our daily tasks of ministry. We too are God's beloved. We are baptized by the Holy Spirit. Remember: you are named and claimed as God's own beloved child. You are not alone as you step into this new year. *Loving God, thank you for claiming me as your beloved child. Amen.*

by Nancy Hastings Hornsby

<https://www.umfellowship.org/resources/fellowship-reflections/beloved>



On **January 10th at 10 AM**, we will be joining Kenmore UMC for Sunday worship service. They live-stream their service on their YouTube channel starting at 9:50 AM.

### Introducing FLiTs:

#### Future Leaders in Training!

This is the OPUMC middle school youth group open to 5th-7th graders. Please email Pastor Jen if you would like to be put on the email list for FLiTs events, or if you are interested in helping out. Students do not need to attend OPUMC to participate, so you may invite others that you know may be interested.



## Prayer Requests

- Pray for *Alison (Pajak)* and *Corey Pepero*. Sarah Luke (Pajak), Alison's sister, passed away on Christmas Eve due to complications of cancer. 716 Fresh is Corey's business based in our kitchen.
- Pray for *Tom Janusz*, the father of Shannon's friend Anna, who has been hospitalized with COVID-19 and pneumonia.
- Pray for *Lurly Hunsberger*, who is having memory troubles.
- Pray for continued healing for Beth Stuart's friend *Tony*.
- Pray for the families that we bless through our AOK program.
- Pray for people people in our community, as the COVID-19 pandemic affects all of us in different ways.

Have a prayer request you'd like to share? Has God answered your prayer? Email [opumc@verizon.net](mailto:opumc@verizon.net) or call Pastor Jen at 603-4470. We will include your prayer request or praise report in next week's NewsFlash.

*Therefore confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective.*

James 5:16

*The Lord gives strength to his people,  
the Lord blesses his people with PEACE.*

 Psalm 29:11

## Upcoming Events

January 10: **Epiphany Sunday**

January 10 @ 10 AM: **virtual Sunday service with KUMC** (YouTube)

January 13 @ 7 PM: **Church Council meeting**

January 16 @ 10 AM: **NF UMW Book Discussion** (Zoom)

January 17: **Human Relations Day**

January 24 @ 1 PM: introductory **FLITs meeting** (Zoom)



## January Birthdays

Diane Smith (1/7)

Art Cooper (1/13)

Peter Slotman (1/18)

Dan Liggett (1/22)

## Thank you to this month's St. Pauly's Clothing Shed volunteers!

Dan Liggett (1/3)

Mike Waters (1/10)

George Slocum (1/17)

Linda Carroll (1/24)

Rich Spinelli (1/31)



RECONCILING MINISTRIES NETWORK

**"THOUGH THERE ARE MANY OF US,  
WE ARE ONE BODY IN CHRIST,  
AND INDIVIDUALLY WE BELONG  
TO EACH OTHER."**

ROMANS 12:5

HUMAN RELATIONS DAY



**January 17 is Human Relations Day**, one of six churchwide Special Sundays with offerings of The United Methodist Church. This day gives us an opportunity to make an impact in communities where people struggle because they don't have the tools or resources to reach their God-given potential. During the challenges of the past year, we have seen how systemic inequality affects the most vulnerable people. When neighbors experience poverty and live in communities that have less access to community resources, as a denomination, we can do so much more together than we could ever do on our own.

Our gifts are part of building beloved community through faith-based volunteer programs, community developers and programs that work with at-risk teens. As society begins to recover from this health and financial crisis, these programs are vital in strengthening communities that are most impacted.

You can send your donation for Human Relations Day to OPUMC using the included envelope. Thank you.

## Service Opportunities

### Currently seeking volunteers for...

- **Children's Ministry Team** members. Please let Pastor Jen know if you are interested.
- We have decided to keep our **church food pantry** open!
- **Treasurer**. Please contact Pastor Jen or Carolyn if you are interested.

*Orchard Park United Methodist Church is a Reconciling Congregation.*

We affirm the sacred worth of all people and strive to practice Christ's example of unconditional love without exclusion. All are welcome to participate fully in the life and ministries of this congregation. Whatever your race, ethnicity, economic situation, background or belief, age or condition of ableness, whether single or partnered, you are God's beloved and are welcome here. God calls us to acts of love, grace, and advocacy to promote healing and reconciliation. We welcome and affirm our LGBTQIA+ brothers, sisters and siblings, sons, daughters and children, people of all sexual orientations and gender identities.

We desire to follow God's vision to be a place without barriers, a sanctuary for all.

### Orchard Park United Methodist Church

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