



## January Birthdays

- 1 – Margaret Jo Hughes
- 3 – Sarah Trimble
- 4 – Vaa Brewer-Thomson
- 5 – Chile Obbo
- 9 – KB Makwana
- 11 – Stephanie Duthie
- 12 – Pam Manners
- 14 – Teconciah Gussin
- 15 – Sue Urbano
- 18 – Brian Decker, Carol Hughes
- 19 – Karleen Miller
- 20 – Sydney Jakimowicz, Jaime Urban
- 21 – Jennifer Ayling-Arruda
- 24 – David Burkhardt
- 25 – Thomas Wisnosky
- 29 – Brian Pabers, Paul Somers
- 31 – Khasem Paris

## January Wedding Anniversaries

- 11 – Walter & Janet Nagbe = 10 years

To my fellow Church family and friends,  
I am overwhelmed with emotion from all the well wishes, Christmas cards & delicious cookies I have received & would like to thank each & every one of you for your love & support. I so miss attending Sunday services & seeing all of you as we patiently wait for this terrible year to end. Please have a happy & healthier 2021. I hope to see you all again soon. Love, Helen Chokey



## *The January Maple*

*Through him, then, let us continually offer a sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of lips that confess his name. Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have, for such sacrifices are pleasing to God.* Hebrews 13:15-16

We are all ready to turn the final page of the 2020 calendar and enter a new year. We are all ready to leave the chapter titled “COVID” behind forever. We are finished with it! Unfortunately, COVID-19 is not finished with us yet, and so we enter a new year still in the midst of a pandemic that has shaken us to our very core. But we do so as people of the light. People with hope. People who live according to the promises of life, which we believe God is working in our midst, for our future. There is a song/Psalm that comes to mind for this season called “We bring the Sacrifice of Praise, into the house of the Lord.”

This song used to confuse me. How is offering praise to God a sacrifice? After this past year, I more fully understand! The praise we offer; the generosity we have shared with one another; the hope we have claimed for ourselves, our loved ones, our country, and the world, has often come at a great cost.

I am grateful to have lived through this past year with you, my church family, and I take great comfort in knowing that we are continuing into 2021 together. The Lord has done mighty things in and through us, sometimes despite the pandemic, but more often, because of it. Let’s continue to offer our praise in real and tangible ways even when it is a sacrifice!

*Peace and Joy,  
Wendy*



Toby Ellsworth  
Joe (Megan's Uncle)  
Susie (friend of Cindy and Brian Doron)  
Margaret Callihan  
Helen Chokey  
Betty Mershon  
BJ Lebegern  
David Noble  
Blanche Sherrill  
Janet and Lisa Curcio  
Bill Ringer  
Nancy J. (mother of John Jakimowicz)  
George L. (Helen Chokey's nephew)  
Julie J. (cousin of Kim & John Jakimowicz)  
Sean (friend of Becky Kent)  
Pearl (Friend of Pam Manners)  
MaryLou (Joe Colduvell's sister)  
Donna (Joe Colduvell's sister)  
Diana (friend of Pam Manners)  
Brenda (Phyllis Patterson's cousin)  
Jose Cadillo  
Patricia Logan's sister  
Mike (friend of Becky and Steve Kent)  
Karleen and Tom Miller  
Ralph (friend of Joyce Bigley)  
Family and friends suffering emotionally and spiritually through the pandemic.  
Family and friends who have lost their employment  
Restoration of light and hope for our country and our world.

**PRAYER**  
changes things

### Interfaith Food Alliance/Family Backpack Ctr Year End Update

I have begun to feel that the term “unprecedented” has become over-used, but it truly does describe what we have been through over the past year. We have all faced many new challenges which have run the gamut from parents becoming teachers overnight, teachers revamping their lessons to accommodate virtual learning, business professionals becoming IT experts as they transition to remote work, individuals grieving the loss of interaction with family & friends, people unable to visit their houses of worship, essential workers literally risking their own personal safety as they reported to work. The list is endless. While the list is long, it doesn't begin to address the pain experienced by those who have contracted the virus, nor those who have lost their employment due to the economic impact of the pandemic.

The Interfaith Food Alliance made a commitment in March 2020 to continue to remain open throughout the pandemic if possible. Adjustments were made to our sharing & distribution protocol & we began to add a \$100 Giant Gift card, for every family once each month, in addition to the groceries which are shared. We are thankful to Morrisville United Methodist Church for their tremendous support in deeming us as essential & allowing us to remain open despite closure of their building.

Holiday gifts were shared with 45 families (120 children each receiving 2 gifts) and 40 complete Thanksgiving dinners were given.

We continue to work with the Morrisville School District guidance counselors who referred additional families to our organization as the need has grown during the pandemic. We have an ever-growing list of supporters, volunteers, & donors; individual, business & faith based, for whom we are thankful.

While it is difficult to watch the need for the IFA grow, we are extremely grateful for our donors & supporters who continue to provide the essential resources which allow us to do what we do. We realize that we cannot fix all of the problems our guests face each day, but they tell us that we do make a difference in their lives & we thank you for your continued support.

*Wishing you a happy, healthy holiday season & all the best in the new year,  
Diane Casey, President Interfaith Food Alliance*

[www.interfaithfoodalliance.com](http://www.interfaithfoodalliance.com) “Like” us on Facebook  
choose IFA on Amazon Smile.



# *faith and finances*

## Finance Committee News

A big thank you to all who have helped to meet our church's financial needs with your consistent giving during 2020. Despite months of live-streaming our Sunday morning church services, we have managed to pay all our bills and expand our community outreach by helping our neighbors who are struggling to cover the basic necessities. Your generosity, faithfulness and love has been truly wonderful.

As we look to 2021, we pray for healing from the virus, a return to worshipping together in our sanctuary, economic recovery for all those who have lost their jobs and income and continued giving to our ministry from those who are able. Statements of giving for 2020 will be available early in January. *Jim Rea, Finance Chair*



### Bible Study

#### What Are We Fighting For? Coming Together Around What Matters Most A Bible study written by Bishop Thomas Bickerton

The legend of the Hatfields and the McCoys – two families who had a dispute that severed their relationship. From generation to generation the division grew deeper and the hatred more heated, until the reason for their fighting was gone – and only the fighting was left. Have we become like that in our country? Has the church become like that? In too many ways, yes, we have.

Bishop Bickerton, well aware of the controversies that have pecked away at the unity of the United Methodist Church, has dared to write a devotional book and a curriculum for people called United Methodists to study and talk about together. This study will lead us into discussion about the various directions our fundamental belief in Jesus as the Savior of the world, splits off and separates us. Would you be willing to participate in this discussion?

There is a devotional book I will be ordering for anyone who would like to read it at home. There is also a student book, with 6 chapters, which will lead us through a 6 week course through zoom. Please let me know as soon as possible if you would like one or both ordered for you. **Classes will begin on Tuesday morning, January 12<sup>th</sup> and Wednesday evening, January 13<sup>th</sup>.**



## **A Renewed Focus on Prayer**

In 2020 we extended the very practical love of Jesus in our food ministries and through a generous outpouring of financial support to many of our local, national, and global partners in ministry. Hundreds, if not thousands, of lives have been touched with your caring generosity. God is working in the lives of our new friends, opening hearts to be receptive to God's love. Our desire is to lead people into that love, where hope and life is found. We are building meaningful relationships with our neighbors, and we want to assure that our relationship is grounded in an even deeper relationship with Jesus Christ.

In most cases, we will not end food insecurity or break the cycle of poverty – but we can lead people into a relationship with Jesus that will sustain them in the darkest of times.

While your financial contributions are critical for our practical help to continue, prayer is what will take our relationship deeper. Prayer is what will sustain our hope and lead us into meaningful life-giving answers.

I invite you to join in intentional prayer for God's direction for MUMC as we weave our way through the pandemic & back to in-person ministry together while also serving our community & preparing for a pastoral change. There is much we do not know about our future – but we know who holds our future—and we know that our future holds hope!

We are forming a prayer team to guide us in these next few months. Would you consider being part of this team? Please let Pastor Wendy know of your interest or questions.



## **Hot meals in our Parking Lot**

The Trenton Area Food Kitchen will be rolling into our parking lot on Tuesday, Thursday and Friday – every week – January through March @ 12:45pm, to provide a hot meal to anyone in need. We are honored to be in partnership with this ministry, which will help provide food for the families in our community. TASK is working in conjunction with the Muslim Center of Greater Princeton.



## IFA MUMC Targeted Donations for January

Pancake mix, Cooking oil, white rice.

Please donate these items & drop off at the church during secretary's hours or call Rhonda Rea for pick up 215-493-9505 Thanks for continued support.

## Investment Stewardship Fund

The ISF, which is an investment fund to help us support mission work locally, nationally & globally, has given \$5,000 to our Conference Camping Program and \$10,000 to the Ivin Outreach Center.

Our 5 Church camps located around the Eastern Pennsylvania area provide year-round Christian camping experiences for children, teens, & adults. Because most camps were not able to take place this past summer & fall, the finances of our camps have become fragile. We want to do our part to help these camp & retreat centers survive the wrath of the pandemic so the ministries will continue for generations to come. Thanks to the ISF, we have been able to make this meaningful contribution.

The Ivin Outreach Center here in Morrisville provides educational & social programs for the children & families of Morrisville Schools. MUMC has partnered with the school over the years in these programs, most recently with a hot meal program, Teen Voices, & by generously offering our building space. Ivins also has a thriving ministry with Senior citizens of Lower Bucks County. This ministry has grown ten times during the pandemic, offering meals & emotional support to seniors living in poverty, or on their own. We have dedicated a night a month to preparing at least 150 hot meals for Ivins to deliver to seniors in the surrounding area. Our \$10,000 contribution will help these vital ministries continue. Thank you, ISF.

### Shared Meal

This year has been a challenge! As you know, we have consistently served meals for many years, but COVID-19 has given us a new challenge! But it was nothing that God couldn't handle!

Our takeout meal program has grown from one to two meals each month. Your generous donations of time, baking, goodie bags, desserts, packaging supplies, cutlery packs, and food (when I say food, I mean the entire meal) has made this possible. And we are not finished. We will continue in 2021.

When we say God is Good - we truly see it.  
ALL THE TIME GOD PROVIDES!

A BIG THANK YOU to all of our volunteers.  
This program could not happen without you! You are Christ in action!



### **THE PURPOSE**

United Methodist Women is a **community of women** whose purpose is:

**To know God** and to experience freedom as whole persons through Jesus Christ

**To develop a creative supportive fellowship** and

**To expand concepts of mission** through participation in the global ministries of the church.

We welcome all women who commit themselves to our Purpose, including you. You don't have to be a member of The United Methodist Church to join. Our membership is diverse: women of many races, cultures, languages, young and old. There is no minimum age requirement. We hope you will prayerfully consider joining this **multicultural, multilingual, and multiracial** organization of women.

All women are welcome to attend.

### January Schedule

#### **NO GENERAL MEETING**

#### JANUARY 18

MARCI-A-RUTH CIRCLE – 7:00 P.M. – ZOOM Meeting -  
Watch your email for the invitation.

#### JANUARY 20

ELIZABETH CIRCLE – **Tentative. Please check with your circle leader closer to the scheduled date.**



## An Update on our Latina Ministry

When I first was approached about this ministry, I was very scared because it was a new challenge in my life. But I am blessed to be able to serve. Since October 2020 we have been able to reach 12 families on a weekly basis with our food bank & gift cards. We gave 7 Thanksgiving boxes, 14 Christmas boxes & gifted all the kids for the Latino ministry. We have also assisted these families in the hot meal program. Thanks to your generosity in the Communion Fund we have assisted families with job loss & COVID-19 unemployment with utility bills & rental assistance. These neighbors & friends have shown their gratitude & appreciation for all the donations given. I am looking forward to the new year to do workshops & start a Bible study at least twice a month from January on. God Bless You Always, Beditza

## Vision Mission Trip - March 16-18, 2021



We were not able to go on a physical mission trip in 2020, and we do not know what we will be able to do in 2021. HOWEVER! We have been involved in mission in deeply meaningful ways in our partnerships with organizations like Advocates for the Homeless & Those in Need (AHTN), Ivin Outreach, Salvation Army, The Trenton Food Kitchen (TASK), Zoe Empowers, United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR), MyCalling, Interfaith Food Alliance (IFA) and at least a dozen others.

Our relationship with 80 orphans in Liberia has been one of our exciting partnerships, started in 2020 & continuing through 2022. You can go on the Zoe Empower website for weekly updates on how the people of God are saving children & moving them from poverty to self-sufficient living. We are honored to partner with Zoe!

Because we cannot go to Liberia to meet our group. Our group is coming to Morrisville to meet us! Through Zoom. For these three mornings, an empowerment group from three different countries will Zoom with us & talk with us directly about what Jesus is doing in their lives. One of those days we will talk directly with our own group & meet the kids we have been praying for. Put these dates in your calendar NOW.

Because of the time differences, these Zoom calls will take place in the morning only. They will be recorded so they can be replayed in the evening for anyone who would like to join us but cannot take time off work.



## NOTES OF THANKS

**Thank you ... Thank you ... Thank you!** Thank you for your Christmas cards, personal greetings, text messages and phone calls offering support and love through the difficulties of 2020. I count it a joy to be with you in ministry, especially during this time. Your outpouring of love has been a light in the surrounding darkness. I also thank you for your generous Christmas gift! You overwhelm me each year! May God bless each one of you in this Christmas Season and into 2021. *Pastor Wendy*

Dear Church Family,

It's not easy to shock me anymore, but when I opened the letter with your wonderful gift, I was truly stunned...speechless. In these COVID times we're all trying to do our part, and the video streaming was just a logical thing for me to do as a member of our church. To be recognized in such a way has touched me deeply. I'm glad that you find it valuable and meaningful. Again...thank you!

Merry Christmas...here's to a much better 2021! *Tom Wisnosky*

Thank you for your kindness and generosity this Christmas and always! Also, to the UMW for the yummy cookie tray. Warmest wishes to all for a healthy happy new year! *Becky DiBraccio*

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Thank you so much for your generous gift. It is such a surprise and a bit overwhelming when I receive it! Thank you for blessing me so generously! *Jenn*



The next meeting of the Saturday Morning Men's Group is on the 9<sup>th</sup> of Jan. at 8AM. For now, we are meeting by zoom on the second Saturday of each month. Join us for good fellowship & encouragement from God's Word. We will continue our study of John. Let me know if you are not getting the zoom invitations along with the discussion questions.

Any questions call Dave Miller at 215-943-2046 or 267-614-3836.

## **MUMC Lay Leadership for 2021**

**Church Council Chairperson** – Dave Sample

Council Secretary – Linda Mier

Lay Leaders Emmanuel Abalo and VK Macwana

Delegate to Annual Conference – Emmanuel Abalo

UMW President: (*Elected by UMW*) Linda Mier

Men's Fellowship: Dave Miller

Finance Chairperson: Jim Rea

Worship Chairperson: Margy Dickson

Outreach/Mission representative: Becky Kent

Trustee President: George Duthie

Trustee Representative: Carol Somers

Chairperson of Investment Stewardship Fund: David Sample

(ISF) Investment Stewardship Fund Treasurer: Sue Gotta

Staff Parish Relations Chairperson: Joyce Bigley

Treasurer: Lillian Mannon

Memorial Fund Treasurer: Lillian Mannon

\*Staff Members: Rev. Wendy Bellis, Jennifer Ayling Arruda, Beditza

Cordilla & At Large Members: Brian Doron and Dave Hoyer

### **Worship Team – Margy Dickson**

Carol Young                    Sue Urbano                    Jim Rea

Sue Gotta                    Rhonda Rea                    Tom Wisnosky

\*Staff members: George Gray, Abigail LaVecchia-Burke, Vaa  
Brewer-Thomson

Lay Leaders: VK Macwana and Manny Abalo

Communion Stewards: Margy Dickson, Dean Dickson, Sue Gotta

Christmas Poinsettias and Easter Flowers: Linda and Tim Heasley

Greening the Church: Carol Somers

Usher Coordinator: Carol Young

Christian Hospitality: Becky Kent – purchaser                    Coordinator:

Altar design: Rhonda Rea and Pam Manners

Audio Visual Booth: Tom Wisnosky and Andy Steppe

### **Outreach & Missions Team – Chairperson – Pastor Wendy Bellis**

Lois Avery – (Bloodmobile)                    Vera Straley (food pantry) Deb Price

Becky Kent – (mission trip)                    Nancy Sample                    Siatta Patershaw

Elaine Bramante                    Lynda Krause                    Ann Mount

“Come to the Table: Coordinator: Jennifer Ayling Arruda

Teen Meal Coordinator: Fran Rivera

**Trustees** - President: George Duthie                    V. Pres: Dave Burkhart

Secretary: Carol Somers

2021

Harold Long

George Duthie

2022

Tim Heasley

Carol Somers

2023

John Koba

Carolina Bustamante

Dave Burkhart

### **Staff Pastor Parish Relations Committee–**

**Chairperson–Joyce Bigley                    Lay Leader: Manny Abalo**

2021

Shirley Kamann

Deb Price

Wanda Long

2022

Joyce Bigley

Charlotte Duthie

Amy Surdy

2023

Chile Obbo

Dave Hoyer

### **Finance Committee – Chairperson – Jim Rea**

**Treasurer: Lillian Mannon                    Finance Secretary: Barbara Lombardo**

Secretary of Finance Committee: Linda Mier

Members: VK Macwana, Joe Urbano, Harold Long, Joyce Bigley

**SCRIP Coordinator : Dave Sample**

### **Investment Stewardship Fund, Chairperson: David Sample**

Church Council Chair: Dave Sample

ISF Secretary/treasurer: Sue Gotta

Pastor Wendy Bellis                    Church Treasurer, Lillian Mannon

Finance Chair, Jim Rea                    SPPR Chair, Joyce Bigley

Trustee Chair: George Duthie

Lifetime members: Pete Wisnosky, Don Swenson

Lay Leader: Manny Abalo or VK Macwana

Elected members:

### **Committee on Lay Leadership (Nominations) – Chairperson:**

**Pastor Manny Abalo (Lay Leader)                    VK Macwana (Lay Leader)**

2021

Barbara Lombardo

2022

Beth (Ellsworth) Marucci

2023

Cindy Doron

Patricia Logan  
Edith Massaquoi

Native American Representative: Harold Long

