

New Hopes and Dreams

A new year is upon us. Personally, 2020 will be a year to remember, but not just because of the coronavirus pandemic. There is a positive reason. It is the year I came to Lake Lotawana Community United Methodist Church to be your pastor.

2020 has clearly been a year full of challenges. Many of those challenges are self-evident (pandemic related, perhaps), while other challenges are personal and somewhat hidden from others. Whatever those challenges were, they have forced all of us to learn, to adapt, and to grow as Christians in a time of need. I also think 2020, as bad as it was, has also encouraged us to dream about the future.

That is certainly the case for me. I want to share some of my vision for 2021 and thus spiritually put 2020 in the rearview mirror. The pandemic will still be a part of our lives into the new year, but through faith we can hope that the inter-personal limitations it has caused will ease in time. Details and answers to questions will come in due time. For now, allow yourself to dream with me as I envision...

Continuing to use online ministry to connect each other in service to our Lord and Savior (which could include adult Sunday school and study groups as well as worship).

Scheduling six (6) listening groups in the homes of church members and facilitated by a member of the Pastor-Parish Relations Committee in which you and I can have a casual conversation (something we could not do upon my arrival).

Forming small groups that meet regularly in the homes of church members for study, discipleship, and fellowship (perhaps a follow-on to the six listening groups).

Having a church potluck, followed by a congregational seminar just after Easter (conditions allowing) to share a model of Christian discipleship I have developed—my vision of what growth as a child of God and a disciple of Jesus Christ looks like (glimpses of which I've shared in past sermons).

Weekly co-operative (fun) softball games with other United Methodist churches in eastern Jackson County on our ball field, ending with a devotion and prayer (and working with the associations to keep Sunday afternoon and evening free for our use).

Investing in a four-day mobile day camp for children ages 6-12 on our property run by the NextGen Ministries of our annual conference (including staffing, curriculum and recreational equipment) in lieu of a Vacation Bible School as an outreach to our community.

Investing in a modest mission endeavor for our youth and their friends, also run by the NextGen Ministries of our annual conference.

Having an off-site, possibly overnight, marriage enrichment retreat, targeting couples we know who have no church home as well as our own membership.

Forming a working group later this year (fall, perhaps) to look into the feasibility of building a modest church-owned recreation center in 2022-23 that could also be used by Scouts we charter, an existing or potential after school program (possibly connected to our child development center), a polling place, and community groups as well as church functions.

We're Celebrating All Month Long

*We would like to send a heartfelt
birthday wish to all of our January babies.*

Warren Hassler

Stu May

Judy Morlan

Kim Rohr

Ginger Scott

May you all have a fabulous birthday!



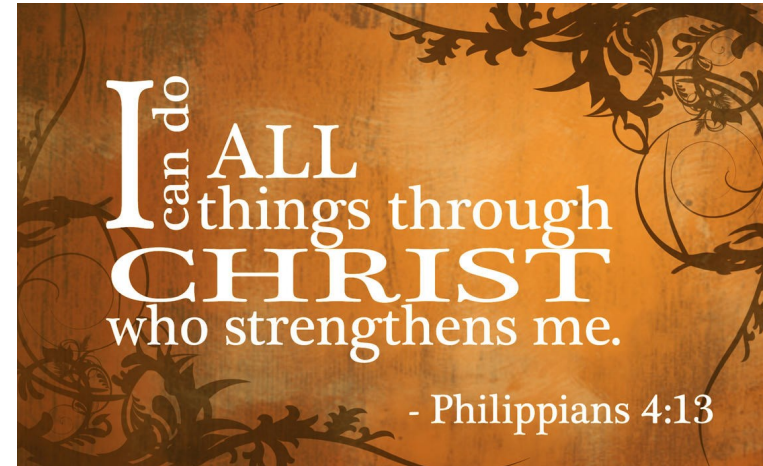
Come join us for in person worship services at 8:00 & 10:00. We are following all Covid guidelines to insure your health and well being. If you would rather stay home you can watch our service at 10:00 am on facebook/llcumc



This is not an exhaustive list, but I do hope these teasers get you excited about the year to come—and beyond. I would ask that you not throw cold water on these ideas at this point. Allow yourself to think of what is possible rather than on what we can't do, because “[We] **can do all things through [Christ] who strengthens [us]**” (Philippians 4:13, NRSV, adapted). If any of these do come to fruition, it will be because each of you give your time, unique talents, abilities, insights, and connections with the community in order to accomplish our one and only mission of making disciples for Jesus Christ.

Yours in Christ,

Pastor Tom



On Going: Les Case, Wade Davis, Roger Grable, Richard Fuerst, Winnie Fuerst, Harvey Geary, Michael Hatfield, Linda Koleiny, Shane Miley, Kirk Morehead, Nancy Rowe, all the families who have lost loved ones or are sick from the Covid Virus

Depression and Mental Health: Robby Sherrod

Strength and Healing: Gene Crist, Graves family, Kaleb Lamb, Mike McMillin, DJ Petty, Dennis Rogers, Helena VonRosenberg, Andrew White,

Missions: Kenyan G-Marc Project, Chics for Chicks, Hillcrest Transitional Housing, Harvester's Food Bank, Lazarus Ministries, Tarsney Lake Families, Congregation de Mellier, Heart and Soul Children's Learning Center

Please contact the office to update or add prayer requests

2020 Missions Summary

The LLCUMC Mission/Outreach Committee strives to connect the congregation to mission opportunities in the local community and throughout the world in order to serve, share, and love. COVID-19 limited our physical interaction this year, but thru the generosity and dedication of our congregation, we were still able to make these positive impacts.

Hillcrest Transitional Housing (Lee's Summit)

LLCUMC has sponsored an apartment on the Lee's Summit campus for 2 years. This year we supported two separate families living in the apartment. LLCUMC held collection drives to donate diapers and food items to the Hillcrest pantry and also monetary support for residents affected by an apartment building fire.

Lazarus Ministries (Kansas City)

Lazarus Ministries is an organization that supports people with food insecurity. To assist them, LLCUMC has handcrafted numerous sleeping mats for Lazarus Ministries and also donated gently used/new clothing and shoes to their Boutique.

Harvesters Community Food Network

Twice this year volunteers sorted and packaged food at the KC Warehouse.

G-MARC Safe House for children in Kenya

Our Christmas Eve offering will assist with completion of the building of this very needed shelter for sexually abused girls and boys. This shelter will provide counseling, legal support, and temporary housing for these children.

Hens for Haiti

We continue to pray for our friends in Mellier, Haiti as they endure tremendous hardships due to the ongoing social and political unrest, in addition to the worldwide pandemic.

Our Neighbors

- LLCUMC collected bottled water for a local elementary as safety precautions prohibited use of water fountains.
- LLCUMC provided gifts of new clothing this Christmas for several children at a local elementary school.
- LLCUMC provided gift cards for school supplies, Thanksgiving meal baskets, and Christmas baskets to local families.
- We held our annual Recycling Event to assist local residents support our environment.

Festival of Sharing

LLCUMC provided 52 new blankets to the annual state-wide multi-denominational assistance

Dear LLCUMC,

Thank you for your continued support of our Blue Jean Christmas program. We are so thankful for your generosity and kindness. The families of the children who receive these warm, winter outfits are so appreciative. It is truly a joy and a privilege to be able to help a local family whose student(s) pass through our halls each day. Thank you & please have a safe and happy holiday season!

Reeth Petty Principal

Kristi Mann
Counselor

Thanks to all that donated to our Lazurus Ministries Mission.

I am glad to tell you that we collected all of the following:

80 pairs of underwear, 74 pairs of socks, 9 coats, 3 pairs of gloves, 29 hats, 6 t-shirts, 13 scarves that were handmade by the women of Kenya and donated by Lisa Reynolds, 4 bags of clothing, 9 pairs of shoes and 8 of our fabulous waterproof mats made by the loving hands of our Be An Angel Mission.

Your dedication to this mission will be appreciated by so many of the homeless in our communities.



January 2021

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
27	28	29	30	31	1 Happy New Year!	2
3 Services 8:00 & 10:00 am	4	5	6	7	8	9
10 Services 8:00 & 10:00 am	11	12	13	14	15	16
17 Services 8:00 & 10:00 am	18	19	20	21	22	23
24 Services 8:00 & 10:00 am	25	26 Church Council Meeting 7:00	27	28	29	30
31 Services 8:00 & 10:00 am						