

FOR HIS GLORY

Monthly Newsletter

Troy United Methodist Church

January 2022

On our recent anniversary trip to New York, Mandi and I went to the Metropolitan Museum of Art. To say that visiting the Met was the highlight of our trip for me would be a gross understatement. I was constantly left in awe at the breadth and scope of their collection. I appreciated the intricacy of Greek pottery, the religious themes of Medieval art, let the glee of my inner 10 year out when we walked through the hall of armor, looked into the eyes of a portrait of George Washington and pondered at the tired weight they bore.

At times, there are moments of serendipity that I experience as a preacher where I encounter something, read a passage, hear a story, or experience an event that brings new depth and understanding to a story from the bible that I am preparing a sermon on. And though it did not make it into my sermon on the 2nd of this year, I had one such moment at the Met. As we were walking through the galleries of American art I stopped to spend more time looking at a painting that had caught my eye. To be honest, we did not get to fully appreciate much of what was on display because we were trying to see it all, so it was a precious few works that made us stop and spend time looking. I don't know if it was the colors, the light, or the biblical subject that made me pause, but I did and leaned over to Mandi and said, "I'm preaching on this story on Sunday." The work in question is Henry Ossawa Tanner's "Flight into Egypt".

I love seeing artistic depictions of the biblical events because it helps frame in my mind what's happening in the story. There is also significant theology that is done in artwork. I've always imagined the flight to Egypt shrouded in the darkness of Herod's impending massacre. I've seen this story in my mind's eye as dark and foreboding. Yet when I looked at Tanner's depiction, he included something that I had crucially been leaving out of my understanding of the story. Light. While the painting is set in darkness, there is a figure that holds a lantern for the Holy Family as they flee Herod's wrath. The painting reframes the story for me and makes me aware of something significant that I had been neglecting, that in the darkest moments of our lives, when all hope can seem lost, when the evil that is present in our world seems to be close to overwhelming us; God's presence of love never fails. It was into this world that Jesus was born to bring light to us all. That promise is one that God has never broken and will never break. My prayer this month for all of us is that we remember, no matter what is happening in our lives or in our world that the light of Christ never fails us and that the love of Christ is a constant we can all cling to in the darkest of times.



Methodism 101

Starting on January 16th, Pastor David will be leading a Methodist 101 class during the Sunday School hour in the sanctuary. This class will last for six weeks and is open to anyone, whether you are new to Methodism or have been a United Methodist for your whole life. There is something for everyone to learn about how the Methodist movement started with John Wesley and what it means to be a United Methodist in 2022.

Topics covered during the class will include the history of Methodism, what theology makes us unique from other denominations, and how the United Methodist Church is structured. We hope that you'll join us on Sunday mornings at 10:00am as we explore our denomination and how we can live as Jesus' disciples as people called Methodist.

After the last couple of really different and often what felt like difficult years, we find ourselves at the beginning of 2022, and I will admit that I was not looking forward to another year starting with all of the unknowns that a new year brings.

While I don't know what 2022 holds for any of us as individuals or as a church, I do know that I am thankful for the support that this congregation has continuously shown to Stephen Ministry. Stephen Ministry began at Troy United Methodist Church in 2017 when you entrusted me to lead this ministry by sending me to Stephen Leader Training. For that trust and encouragement, I am eternally grateful and humbled.

Since 2017 we have trained 7 Stephen Ministers and offered support to eight care receivers. The Stephen Ministers continued caring for their assigned care receivers during the pandemic showing flexibility to continue the relationships that they had built. Stephen Ministry offered a grief share group, prayed with people during communion, and led a Blue Christmas Service in 2016 and 2021 to help those hurting during the holiday season.

In 2022 Stephen Ministry hopes to add an additional Stephen Leader, offer another Stephen Minister Training class, offer the Grief Share support group again, take communion to shut-ins while continuing to support any care receivers that God sends our way.

How can you support this ministry in 2022? First, pray for Stephen Ministry that the right people will agree to become Stephen Ministers and that those who need help will reach out to receive the support they desperately need. Second, tell your friends, family members, or anyone you meet about Stephen Ministry if they are struggling. Third, seek help for yourself when life gets hard; getting help is not a weakness, and Stephen Ministry is entirely confidential.

ShaShawna Bush
Stephen Leader



JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

- 7 June Payne
- 8 Susan Creech
- 9 Theresa DeLeon
- 10 Josh Pausewang
- 12 Kaiden Rodahl
- 13 Wes Hart
- 14 Tooter Creech, Billy Hobbs
- 16 Christina Porter, Hannah Maedgen
- 17 Bill Ledger, Breanna Medrano, Tony Medrano
- 18 Terry Cavanaugh
- 19 Matt Lynch
- 21 Kelly Gerath
- 23 Richard Hester, Brandon Lindberg, Kacie Tedrow
- 25 Tammy Cavanaugh, Megan Havens,
Kylee Allred, Everly Gresham
- 27 Billy Joe Ledger, Linda Knight
- 28 Larry Stewart
- 30 Sandy Vargas, Bill Maedgen, David Willis

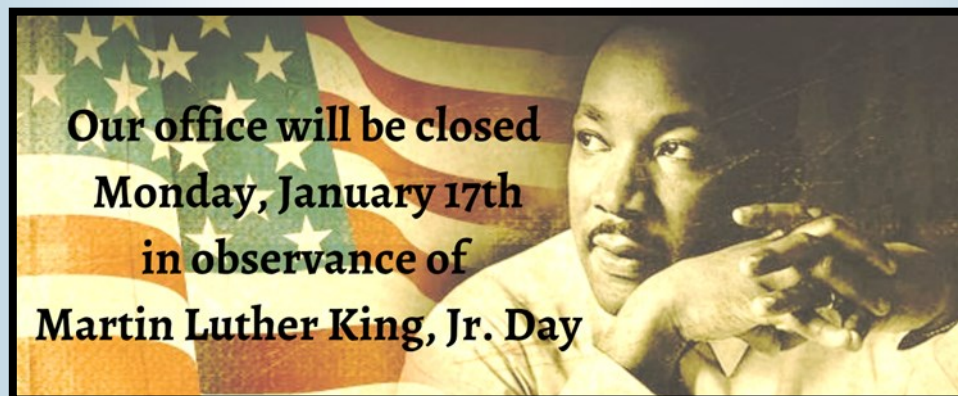
JANUARY ANNIVERSARIES

- 7 Michael & Karen Lindberg



MEMORIALS

- ~ *In memory of Harriet Prinz* by Troy UMC Quilters, Hal & Patsy Thacker, Bret & Brigitte Allen,
Sam & Amy Wagliardo, Marshall & Clay Claiborne
- ~ *In memory of Jack Collier* by Tooter & Susan Creech, Charlie & Janice Porter
- ~ *In memory of Matthew Hart* by Tooter & Susan Creech, Richard & Betty Hester, Charlie & Janice Porter
- ~ *In memory of Lynn Tomlin* by Charlie & Janice Porter
- ~ *In memory of Larry Hester* by Mike & Nancy Mercer, Tooter & Susan Creech, Joe & Diana Massey,
Matt & Kacy Jarma, Barbara Thompson, Charlie & Janice Porter, Katherine Maedgen
- ~ *In memory of Darlene Graves* by David & Nancy Holmes
- ~ *In memory of Eric Ellis* by Charlie & Janice Porter
- ~ *In memory of Susie Garrett* by Charlie & Janice Porter





Dear Friends,

We are so thankful to be a part of your church family. We were surprised the other day with a beautiful poinsettia and a sack of sweet yummys! Being remembered and loved is such an honor for us.

God bless you all.

Jack & Becky Hobday

Dear Church Family,

There are no words to express how blessed I am to work in a church who supports their staff in all ways. It makes coming to work a joy!! Thank you all so much for the generous monetary Christmas gift. It will be put to good use helping the less fortunate. Praying you all have a very happy and healthy 2022—and hope to see you in worship often!

With much love to each of you!

Betty Hester

Thank you so much for the generous Christmas gift for staff. It was a welcome surprise. I am so grateful to be part of such an amazing congregation and church family and look forward to seeing how the coming year continues to grow each of us.

Thank you again!

Christin Ivey

I've been blessed to have worked here for two years now. I've made many new friends and I'm proud to be a part of such a wonderful church family. Thank you so much for the generous Christmas staff gift. It was truly appreciated.

Love,
Jill

