

Henrietta United Methodist Church

Serving Christ Since 1872

**January 2021
Newsletter**



**“Our mission is to become
and make disciples;
to serve wherever Jesus calls us.”**

Worship Services:

Sundays at 9 & 11 AM

***Henrietta United Methodist Church
52148 Telegraph Rd.
Amherst, OH 44001
Pastor Matthew Phipps
henriettaumchurch@gmail.com***

Address correction requested.

IMPORTANT NOTICE

Keep checking your email for the latest updates
on small group gatherings & worship options



Due to the closures, Susan's office hours on
Tuesday are varied. If you need to contact her,
please leave a voicemail at 440-965-2400 or
send a message at

henriettaumchurch@gmail.com

Pastor Matthew Phipps can be reached at
216-906-9741 or henriettaumcpastor@gmail.com



JANUARY ANNIVERSARIES

20 – Bill & Donna Born
28 – Dick & Marge Statler

JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

3 – Callie Born	12 – Sharon McCreedy
3 – Ed Schlechter	12 – Hope Born
6 – Nola Calhoun	18 – Don LeBeau
7 – Rol Angersbach	19 – Kathy Claubaugh
9 – Cindy Hertrick	22 – Jeff Emerick
10 – Justin Baumann	29 – Ruth Ann Emerick
10 – Jacob Kovach	

*Worship Services are posted to our website,
Henriettaumc.org, and to our Facebook
page on Sundays at 10 AM.*

*A person's most useful asset is not a
head full of knowledge, but a heart full
of love, an ear ready to listen and a
hand willing to help others.*

Humor in the Pews

**What kind of car did Jesus' disciples drive?
Why it was a Honda, of course.
Acts 2:1 says that they were all "in one Accord"**

A little girl, dressed in her Sunday best, was running as fast as she could, trying not to be late for Bible class. As she ran she prayed, 'Dear Lord, please don't let me be late! Dear Lord, please don't let me be late!'

While she was running and praying, she tripped on a curb and fell. She got her clothes dirty and tore her dress. She got up, brushed herself off, and started running again!

As she ran she once again began to pray, 'Dear Lord, please don't let me be late...But please don't shove me either!'

A Sunday School teacher of preschoolers was concerned that his students might be a little confused about Jesus Christ because of the Christmas season emphasis on His birth. He wanted to make sure they understood that the birth of Jesus occurred for real. He asked his class, "Where is Jesus today?"

Steven raised his hand and said, "He's in heaven."

Mary was called on and answered, "He's in my heart."

Little Johnny, waving his hand furiously, blurted out, "I know, I know! He's in our bathroom!!!"

The whole class got very quiet, looked at the teacher, and waited for a response. The teacher was completely at a loss for a few very long seconds. Finally, he gathered his wits and asked Little Johnny how he knew this.

Little Johnny said, "Well...every morning, my father gets up, bangs on the bathroom door, and yells, "Good Lord, are you still in there?!"

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

Dear Church Family,

A New Year is upon us, perhaps the arrival of a new year offers a moment to pause and to breathe. Although a new year does not magically fix anything, in reality, there's something about crossing into one that feels hopeful for many. Indeed, New Year's Eve marks for us the arrival of new beginnings. The newness of the arriving year does not eradicate anything from the previous year. However, the newness of the year offers hope. We need hope!

"Hope means expectancy when things are otherwise hopeless."
~ G.K.Chesterton

Hope sustains. And, hope often shows up in unexpected ways and through unexpected people. These past few weeks we reflected once again on the birth narrative of Christ. A hopeful, and a surprising story, full of unexpected people invited to be part of the birth narrative of the King, the Savior. That story offers hope. Why? It's hopeful, because the story meant that those who felt unloved, devalued, discredited, and destitute, would soon meet with the Divine (Emmanuel). In meeting with Christ, those who felt unloved and uncertain, were welcomed. They were welcomed with love, with hope, and by Christ himself. We are welcomed.

We are welcomed into a new year that will (like 2020) hold struggles and uncertainties. However, we are welcomed each day, each breath, and each moment of life, by Christ. And, Christ is hope, peace, joy, and love found within community and creation.

Therefore, we should embrace this New Year with hope, because Christ is still welcoming us into the center of his presence and into belonging.

Happy New Year!

I look forward to walking this year with you, in community, and with hope.

Blessings!
Pastor Matthew



Henrietta United Methodist Church helping Firelands' families at Christmas.

We want to say a huge **THANK YOU** to everyone who donated money towards helping families in need in the Firelands School District this Christmas. Marge Statler was in contact with the school and with the \$2,300 donations collected, we were able to help 35 families at Firelands Elementary School and two families at South Amherst Middle School. Thank you for helping us be a blessing to our community members during these tough times for these families.

Bible Study

This winter we will be finishing our study of Isaiah. A one-year overview study of the book has turned into a three-year in-depth study.

This year, we will be looking at Chapters 51-66. I find this section to be the most interesting. I plan to begin study on Monday, January 11th. I will be contacting those already in the study to see what method of study they wish to follow. Online, conference call, email answers & contact me with questions. If you have never studied a book of the Bible, this might be a good place to begin. We go slow - a chapter a week, we like to define terms we aren't familiar with or don't understand, we look at history and geography. We're all learners - we learn from each other, from scholars and from comparing synonyms used in different versions of the Bible. If you're looking for a way to begin studying the Bible, to learn new study methods or just for a way to fellowship with church friends during Covid, why not check us out?

For more information, call or text Carol Schmitkons at 440-308-8945 or email me at ki8imx@gmail.com.



NOW IS THE TIME TO MAKE A RESOLUTION AND KEEP IT!

If anything should persuade us to make sure our final wishes are carried out COVID 19 may be the thing. As we enter 2021 the stark reality is that death is real. Perhaps this reality will persuade many who have not made, or updated, a will or created a trust to make a resolution and keep it.

What are the consequences of dying without having your house in order?

- 1) Your wishes as communicated to family members may not be carried out if you do not have a will or trust. The laws of the state of Ohio will prevail.
- 2) Guardianship of children will be determined by the court which may or may not reflect your desires.
- 3) Family members may become estranged as they hold different opinions about how an estate is divided.
- 4) Decisions about medical treatment may be made counter to your wishes.

Procrastination may be one of our biggest "sins." Some may remember the 70s when a little wooden disc about the size of a half dollar inscribed with TUIT was circulated. The message was "now is the time to get around to doing it." January is time to make a resolution and keep it.

Christian stewardship is about the decisions we make in this life and the decisions we make about what happens when we are gone.
~Rev. Bill McFadden



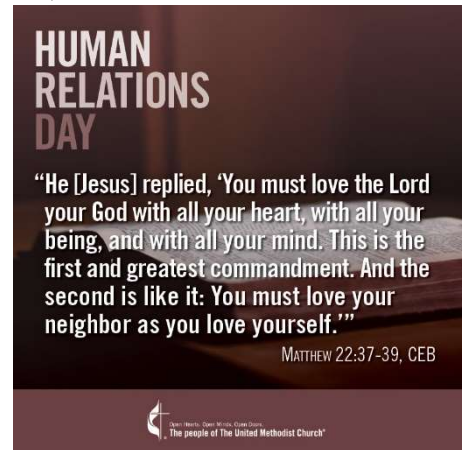
The staff members of Henrietta UMC would like to thank everyone for their generosity in Christmas gifts this year. We are very blessed to be part of such a loving and giving church family! Have a Happy and Healthy New Year!

Pastor Matthew Phipps, Susan Schlechter, Grace Boden, Nola Calhoun, Janet Campbell-Kuhl



Human Relations Day January 17, 2021

During the challenges of the past year, we saw how systemic inequality affects the most vulnerable people. When neighbors experience poverty and live in communities that have less access to community resources, we may find ourselves wondering, "Can anything good come out of Nazareth?"



Today we have 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. One of the wonderful aspects of The United Methodist Church is that we can do so much more together than we ever could do on our own. January 17th, we join with other congregations to receive the Human Relations Day Special Sunday offering.

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 affected.

Friends, now more than ever, the church is invited to connect with our neighbors, join our resources, and come and see how together we can be the hands and feet of Jesus. Please give generously, trusting that your gifts will be multiplied and "you will see greater things than these." (John 1:50) Thank you for your faithful gifts.

Donations can be made online through our church website Giving tab, or checks can be mailed to the church office, written out to Henrietta UMC and "HRD" noted in the memo line.

THE CLOTHING SHED AT HENRIETTA UMC HAS REOPENED!

The clothing donation shed at Henrietta United Methodist Church, which was temporarily closed due to global effects of the pandemic, has now been reopened to the public.

If you're not familiar with the clothing donation shed, it's designed to give community members a uniquely clean, convenient, and well-cared-for option to donate their used clothing to. St. Pauly Textile Inc., the company that has provided the shed, partners with businesses and various organizations to distribute donated items both here in the U.S. and worldwide, where they're ultimately re-worn by people who need them. Henrietta UMC receives funding for donated clothing, and additionally has the option to use donations to serve community needs.

With over 1,300 clothing drop-off sheds in place, St. Pauly Textile Inc. collects over 90,000 pounds of clothing every day and estimates that this clothing ends up in 44 different countries (including the U.S.) yearly. In 2019, the company was able to help keep over 20 million articles of clothing out of landfills, which clothed an estimated 2.5 million people worldwide. The company was founded in 1996 and is an A+ rated member of the Better Business Bureau.

Accepted items: clothing, shoes, belts, purses, blankets, sheets, curtains, pillowcases, and stuffed animals.

