



The Messenger

United Methodist Church – 2210 Sixth Avenue East, Alexandria, MN 56308

Gary Taylor – email: pastorgary@alexumc.org

December 2020

Ginger Mayer

Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

“This is what the Lord says: “Stand at the crossroads and look; remember the ancient paths! Inquire about the good way and where it is. When it is revealed, walk in it and you will find rest for your souls.”

(Jeremiah 6:16, my paraphrase)

When you read this message Thanksgiving, a different, unusual, memorable (?) Thanksgiving, will have come and gone. We have started the Christian season of Advent. Advent is typically seen as a time of anticipation and preparation. What are we anticipating and for what are we preparing?

This has been a strange year, to say the least. I won't recite all the bad news we have experienced this year. It is too easy for me, for us, to focus on all the things that have brought upheaval to our lives this year. We can wallow in our grief and anger for a short time, and the amount of time will be different for each person, but we must move on to our future with hope; expecting that God is there waiting for our arrival. Hope and faith that God has something for us.

We can also get trapped in a fixation on a past that we remember as a better time. In the Jeremiah quote above, it certainly looks like that is what we are to do. “Remember the ancient paths”, he says. What were the paths that our forebears took that brought about a vital, healthy church we remember? What were the hardships they endured to get to that point? I doubt that everything went smoothly for them or that there were no barriers or obstacles to overcome.

The Jeremiah quote has two other points: we are at a crossroad and we need to discover the new, good path and take it. We remember everything that got us here, the ancient path. Now, as we stand at the crossroad the look for the new path with hope and anticipation. This new path may have some hardships, barriers, and obstacles, but it will lead to new life and rest for our souls.

Which brings me back to Advent. Unfortunately, popular culture has usurped Advent and turned it into Christmas. When we think of Advent as simply a prelude to Christmas it seems to me that we are looking to something that happened in the past: the birth of God's Son. That's a good celebration to have – so let's wait for that celebration at Christmas.

It is Advent now. What do we look forward to? What are we preparing for? The next coming of Christ! The rebirth of the Church. The rebirth of Alexandria UMC. The renewal of life post-coronavirus. The healing of our wounded democracy. The Peace of Christ which surpasses all our understandings. A time when all the weapons of war will be dismantled and the world learns to love their neighbors. A time when the damage we've done to God's Creation will begin to mend.

We stand at the crossroad. Examine the ancient and recent path. Choose the future path which God lays before us. We will find rest for our souls.

Pastor Gary



Nursery is no longer staffed. So parents MUST watch their own child(ren). There is a speaker in the room to listen to the sermon.

Toys are available in Cart Two.

Reminder that we are following our Building Use Policy—the church entrance doors will remain locked unless there are two people present in the building. Please call ahead before you come to church, as there are times when we are not in the building, even though we are working. Also, most days someone is in the office earlier than 9:00 a.m. and

**Published by Alexandria
United Methodist Church
Telephone (320) 763-4624**

www.alexumc.org

Pastor: Gary Taylor

email: pastorgary@alexumc.org

**Director of Children, Youth and
Family Ministries:** Megan Lenz

Email: childrens@alexumc.org

Administrative Assistant: Ginger
Mayer

email: office@alexumc.org

Custodian: Michael Klumper

Office Hours

Pastor Gary—Tue-Friday

Admin. Assist. Ginger Mayer

Office is open (9:00-1:00)

Mon-Tue-Wed-Thurs-Fri

Megan Lenz— Director CYFM

Mon, Thurs, Fri (9-11:30)

Publication Date for the next *Messenger*:

Articles for the January issue need to be in the office by NOON on Monday Jan 25th

Worship Attendance

Service	2020		2019	
	1st		1st	2nd
Nov 1	94		53	84
Nov 8	71		51	70
Nov 15	81		49	71
Nov 22	92		49	72
Nov 29	78		21	47



In your prayers, please remember all in positions of leadership, people serving in dangerous and difficult settings, returned and returning service people and their families, all who seek and await peace.



December 2020



Dear Youth and Family,

We have come up on December so fast! I can't believe it is already time to celebrate Christ's birthday! I have sent advent devotions for your family to do together during advent. I have also included a special advent table talk for you to use. There are multiple topics that you can choose during this season. You draw one out from the three categories and then your family can use it as a conversation starter. I also am excited to announce that we are still having youth group! Even though we can't meet in person, I am glad we have the opportunity of technology to still get together. We are meeting every week at 6:30 P.M. Wednesday nights on Zoom. Each week I will send out the link. I have also posted the links on our youth Facebook account. Feel free to join for some fun! I am aiming for about a half hour so it doesn't take too much of your homework time but we can still connect. Watch for the emails with the zoom link. I am also making a goal to post a video of it afterwards so if you missed it, you can still watch the lesson. Sincerely, Megan Lenz

UPCOMING EVENTS

- *WED. DECEMBER 2ND=VIRTUAL YOUTH GROUP 6:30 PM*
- *WED. DECEMBER 9TH.= VIRTUAL YOUTH GROUP 6:30 PM*
- *WED. DEC. 16TH=VIRTUAL YOUTH GROUP*
- *DEC 23-JAN 3= NO YOUTH GROUP*

HEADS UP CORNER

- Watch for an email about what we will be doing in January!



Children's Ministry Newsletter

December 2020



We are looking for some amazing people to join our CYF team! Things you would get to be part of include, lesson planning, event planning, craft planning. If this interest you at all, please email me for more information! Thank you for helping us build a team of gifted teachers for your children.

Sunday School Lessons



This month we are going to be looking at the Christmas story through Christmas carols. I have also included advent activities for your family to do. As kids are out of school because of the holiday, please take the time to enjoy some family time this month!

My birthday is...

Hunter Zins-December 6



Ministry Team

Looking Forward

For the month of December we are Holding virtual Sunday school. Please watch your email for what's happening in January! December 20th will be a Children's Sunday Service! More to come!

Amy Rieke

Audra Bartell

Cheryl Taylor

Kim Tryggeseth



December



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>Please watch the online calendar as times and dates may change due to Covid-19.</p>		<p>1 9:30 AM Brush & Palette 3:00 PM Bible Study</p>	<p>2</p>	<p>3</p>	<p>4</p>	<p>5</p>
<p>6 9AM Worship On Youtube Channel</p>	<p>7</p>	<p>8 9:30 AM Brush & Palette 3:00 PM Bible Study</p>	<p>9 5:30 Trustees</p>	<p>10 6:30 Church Council</p>	<p>11</p>	<p>12</p>
<p>13 9AM Worship On Youtube Channel</p>	<p>14</p>	<p>15 9:30 AM Brush & Palette 3:00 PM Bible Study</p>	<p>16</p>	<p>17</p>	<p>18</p>	<p>19</p>
<p>20 9AM Worship On Youtube Channel Christmas/ Children's Program</p>	<p>21</p>	<p>22 9:30 AM Brush & Palette 3:00 PM Bible Study</p>	<p>23</p>	<p>24 Office Closed Christmas Eve</p>	<p>25 Office Closed Merry Christmas</p> 	<p>26</p>
<p>27 9AM Worship On Youtube Channel</p>	<p>28</p>	<p>29 9:30 AM Brush & Palette 3:00 PM Bible Study</p>	<p>30</p>	<p>31</p>		

Alexandria United Methodist Community News

Thank You: From Dr. Lowell Gess

My dear friends,

The cards I received during my time with a left hip fracture were so wonderful! Their messages lifted my spirits. What a blessing!

I wish I could thank each one of you individually, but the above e-mail addresses are only a part of those who encouraged me.

I look forward to the time when together we can worship and praise God. God's goodness is unfathomable.

Like Paul in Philippians 1:3 "I thank my God upon every remembrance of you."

With blessings, Lowell

Announcements

Community Outreach: The Douglas and Pope County United Way has an on going need of coats and cold weather accessories. Either new, or clean gently used coats of all sizes are needed; but they are really in need of coats, scarves, mittens, gloves, and boots for elementary age school children. Monetary donations are NOT being accepted this special outreach program. If you wish to donate an item of apparel, please bring it to the church. A tote for donations will be located in the entryway of the church. Missions/Social Concerns

Merry Christmas

The Church office will be closed on Christmas Eve December 24th and Christmas Day December 25th. We hope everyone has a wonderful Christmas during this unrepresented time. We hope you all stay safe and can share some love this holiday season.



Angel Tree: Through the Alexandria High School Reach Program the Angel Tree benefits students in need; by providing them with Christmas gifts for themselves and members of their families. The Angel tree will be a little different this year because of COVID-19. We will **NOT** be purchasing and giving a specific gift item; instead only “**Gift Cards**” will be given. The tags on the tree will be for a gift card to be used by the student to purchase a specified gift. For each tag that you select, purchase the gift card, wrap it and attach the tag on the outside. Also, this year we would like to send notes of encouragement to the students; and there will be some **RED** tags on the tree. For each of the **RED** tags that you select, write a short note of encouragement, and place in an envelope with the tag on the outside. If you wish to make a monetary donation, make your check out to Alexandria UMC and note “Angel Tree” in the memo section of your check. When returning the purchased gift cards and notes of encouragement, please bring them to the church office so they can be kept in a secured area. The gift cards and notes of encouragement must be returned by Saturday December 11th. The church will be open from 8:30AM to 8PM to be able to pick up tags and drop off gift cards/notes of encouragement. If office doors are shut there is a mailbox on the wall in the work room to put the cards in until the next morning when office is open.
Missions/ Social Concerns Committee .

Store Cards : We have lots of Eldens, Cub, and Fleet Farm cards in the office to purchase if you need a quick gift for someone or use for the Angel Tree Gift Cards.

Worship services at Alexandria UMC will be conducted via [livestream to YouTube only](#)

December Birthdays

- 2) Dave Campbell
Gerald Fearing
- 3) Brad Brunkow
Grace Evink
John Phillips
- 4) Bette Olson
- 5) Linda DeWitt
- 6) Darren Evink
Michelle Greengo
Hunter Zins
- 9) Amanda Miller
Elaine Schoening
- 10) Zach Thompson
- 11) Becki Pender

- 14) Judy Rose
- 15) Caster Erlandson
Joyce Hamelau
Richard Keepers
- 16) Jaxson Kor
- 17) Helen Dischler
Lollie Greengo
Steve Luchau
- 18) Dotty Tabor
- 21) Ted Zabrosky
- 23) Matt Bray
- 26) Merry Luchau
- 27) Cora Bumgarner
- 28) Jackie Vogt

- 29) Darianea Meyer
- 30) Nathan Bunkow
Pauline Hoiseth
- 31) Justin Meyer
Curt Sax





The Messenger

United Methodist Church

2210 Sixth Ave E

Alexandria, MN 56308

Return Service Requested