



# St. Paul United Methodist Church

## *The Goodnews Letter*

January 2021

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Happy New Year!

I shared with Robin Coward (St. Paul Office Manager) that my challenge in writing a New Year's letter to the congregation lies in this tension between feeling optimistic about a new year, and the reality of the challenges we still face. How do we balance optimism with reality? Many of us are eager to flip the calendar to 2021; at least to the 2021 we envision. Yet, we are warned of a challenging few months ahead. So the question that comes to mind is how can we find hope in 2021?

C.S. Lewis wrote, *"Hope is one of the Theological virtues. This means that a continual looking forward to the eternal world is not a form of escapism or wishful thinking, but one of the things a Christian is meant to do. It does not mean that we are to leave the present world as it is. If you read history you will find that the Christians who did most for the present world were just those who thought most of the next."*

Hope allows us to face the day with the promise of tomorrow; whether tomorrow here in this present life, or in our eternal life with Christ. Either way we [who live in relationship with the Lord] have the freedom to awaken each day with new hope. Hope of what God will do and what God is already at work doing, in our lives and the lives of people around us.

I have a good friend who said in 2021 we need to spend more time looking at the things we have in common, the things that hold us together, rather than the things that divide us. We need to live in hope for what God is doing now. Hope allows us to look past our present situation into the future God has in store. No matter the situations we face, we hope things will get better. We hope for healing. We hope for God's presence in the midst of turbulent times.

The advent season was a reminder that God is with us, Emmanuel. A reminder as we flip the calendar to 2021 that with God all things are possible. Nothing can separate us from the love of God. The message I hear as I write this New Year's letter is to remember from where our hope comes.

"Our hope comes from God. May He fill you with joy and peace because of your trust in Him. May your hope grow stronger by the power of the Holy Spirit" (Romans 15:13-15).

Go ahead and flip that calendar with optimism and hope for what God is doing! I pray for peace, faith, and trust. I pray for the mighty work of the Holy Spirit in your life and in mine.

Whatever it brings we can stand firm in hope  
— hope that comes from God. So happy 2021 to each of you!

Yours In Christ!

-Pastor Susan



## **January 2021 Volunteers**

### **Acolytes**

01/03 Nolan Akins  
01/10 Eve Morrow  
01/17 Lauren Akins  
01/24 Zoey Hall  
01/31 J. B. Morrow

### **Lay Servants**

01/03 Charlie Wyont  
01/10 Randy Stowe  
01/17 Jimmy Brinkley  
01/24 Mason Morrow  
01/31 Charles Goodman, Sr.

*Substitute: Jennifer Akins*

If you are unable to serve on the Sunday you are scheduled for, please find a replacement and contact the church office.



## **JANUARY ANNIVERSARIES & BIRTHDAYS**

2 Helen Bessinger  
5 Karen Mitchell  
7 Polly Alexander  
8 Ann Summer  
14 Curtis Lowe Summer  
15 Robert Pennock  
16 Eddy Parry  
21 Michael B Ramos  
22 Danny Moore  
25 Charles Goodman, Sr.  
Chet Pennock  
Susan & Chet Pennock (A)  
26 Billy Stephens



**ST. PAUL**

**United Methodist Church**

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Pastor Susan Pennock

Pastor's E-mail:

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Website: [umcne.org](http://umcne.org)



On Facebook at

[facebook.com/umcne](https://facebook.com/umcne)

# Church Directory

We are putting together our 2021 Church Directory.

If you have any recent changes, please let us know.

If you are a guest or if you join the congregation in online worship and are not included in the directory, and would like to be:

Please send your contact information:

(mailing address, email, cell phone, birthdate)

to be shared with our congregation.

Please contact the Church Office by email at:

[office@umcne.org](mailto:office@umcne.org)

or call the Office # 803-652-2547.

If no answer, please leave a voice message.