

# WELCOME

## CHRIST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH & WILDWOOD CHAPEL



**Pastor Laverne Larson 608-606-4648**

### CUMC Worship Services

Sunday at 10:30am

300 N. Mill Street, Merrill WI

715-536-4676 merrillchristumc@frontier.com

### Wildwood Worship Services

Sunday at 9:00am

W106 CTH C, Gleason, WI 54435



March 2021

Good News Gazette

## CUMC FINANCIAL NEWS FOR 2021

	<u>Current Month</u>
Income	\$5118.43
Month Expenses Paid	\$7088.87
Difference	<b>\$ -1970.87</b>

### **From a Financial Perspective**

Please take note of the information in the box above. Christ United Methodist Church is struggling to meet its budget needs. The January deficit was even worse (-\$5286.41). As you can imagine, winter months are especially difficult because of the increased costs of heating, snow plowing, sidewalk maintenance, etc. Even though the Trustees have reduced the heat in the building throughout the week, there are still heating and electric bills to pay, as well as other expenses.

The reserves from the Christ Endowment Fund that CUMC relied upon in past years to help cover expenses have been reduced to a dangerous level. The church cannot continue to draw this down.

The parsonage has been sold and the proceeds were applied to the mortgage, but it did not cover the entire amount of the loan. CUMC still has a loan of approximately \$153,000 with a monthly mortgage payment of approximately \$1,000.00.

The church office will be reducing its hours of operation, in part due to reduced essential activity, and in part to help save money. **Beginning in March, the church will be closed on Tuesdays.** When the activity increases to such a level as to require more hours, we may go back to being open 5 days per week.

As the person who writes out the bills every month, I can tell you that these measures alone will not correct the financial shortage. The church still needs your help. Even though we are not meeting in person for worship, the church still needs your financial support. For those of you who mail in or drop off your offerings—Thank you. We are very grateful for your support. For those of you who have not sent in an offering for awhile, please consider doing so. With all of us working together we can continue to serve our members, our friends and the community.

Sandy Huxtable



Please welcome Austin White, our newest computer operator for Sunday worship. Austin is a Junior at Merrill High School. He has been involved in recording events and programs for a year now through the MP3 (Media Production) group at school. This means he records and produces videos of school events, the ice-skating show, school board meetings, and City Council meetings so he is very familiar with cameras, microphones, and integrated video/sound systems. Austin attended St. Francis Xavier Catholic school and Church where his family are members. His parents are Erin & Evan White. He has 1 brother and 3 sisters. After school, Austin works at the Washington Elementary school library. His favorite classes are welding, media production, and cooking. Hopefully you will get to meet Austin in the near future.

# Wildwood Chapel News

## Mission Work for March / April 2021

Spring is right around the corner and it's time to start gathering vegetable seeds for the Jackson Area Ministries. The Jackson Area Ministries is celebrating its 49th year of the garden ministry. Wildwood Chapel has contributed to this ministry every spring for many years and plans to do so again this year.

If you would like to help with seeds, they collect beans (pole and bush), beets, broccoli, cabbage, carrots, lettuce, cauliflower, corn, cucumbers, pumpkins, radishes, spinach, squash, turnips, watermelon--just about anything that is hardy for zone 6.

You can drop off the seeds in the tote located inside the entryway of Wildwood Chapel. If you prefer to donate money to help them purchase seed potatoes or tomato plants, just mark "Seeds" on your check or envelope and send it to Sandy. **All donations must be turned in by Easter Sunday** in order to get them sent to Ohio in time for planting.



\*\*In March we will have a special collection for UMCOR Sunday (formerly One Great Hour of Sharing). If you wish to contribute to this, please make out your check to Wildwood Chapel and mark the memo line or envelope UMCOR.\*\*

Thank you for continuing to be a church in mission for those in need.

## Blankets +

During the months of January and February, Wildwood Chapel has collected money to send to the CWS (Church World Service) Blankets + program. Because of your generous donations, we will be sending \$165 to help those around the world in need. Thank you all for your support of this great program.



**CHURCH WORLD SERVICE  
BLANKETS+**



## HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

Cynthia Kotila	03/04
Sharon Remington	03/25
Lily Puhl	03/28

## NOTICE

Wildwood Chapel will be closed for the beginning of 2021. With the cases of COVID still on the rise in this area, we will not be opening the church to in-person worship until it is deemed safe to do so. You can watch the CUMC services on Face Book Live or see them on the website. Or you can attend the drive-in worship service from the parking lot of Christ Church.

If you wish to stay current with your offerings during this time, you can mail them to Sandy Huxtable at N2913 County Line Rd., Gleason WI, 54435. If you need anything, please call the church office at (715)536-4676.

**Stay well and God Bless!**

## 2021 Missions

Jan/Feb	Blankets and Tools \$165
March	UMCOR Sunday
March/April	Seeds / money for Jackson Area Ministry
May/June	Flood Buckets
July/August	TBD
Sept/Oct	TBD
Nov/Dec	TBD

## Food Pantry Schedule

Jan/Feb	Antigo
Mar/Apr	Merrill
May/Jun	Antigo
July/Aug	Merrill
Sep/Oct	Antigo
Nov/Dec	Merrill



# --Christ Church Birthdays--

Keli Sarver	03/02
Wayne Pugh	03/10
Cheryl Schulz	03/11
Lindsay Swope	03/11
Steve Storm, Sr.	03/12



McKenzie Monroe	03/17
Rylee Jaeger	03/17
Ginny O'brien	03/22
Jim Korducki	03/23
David Donner	03/26

## MISSION NEWS

### Special Mission Opportunity!

It's not too often that an opportunity comes around to make a **HUGE** impact with an affordable gift, but the Ghana Mission Team of St. Paul's/ Plover UMCs has one. The team, which has been working in Ghana, West Africa, since 2006, has the opportunity to send almost \$800,000 of medical supplies to the village of Aworowa for the cost of shipping. Shipping is very expensive! **All they need from us is a commitment of \$250** by March 15. What a deal!! I'm sure our churches can raise this! Your gift can provide medical care for THOUSANDS of patients! Thank you for being the Good Samaritan who helps the poor!!



In March Christ Church and Wildwood Chapel will collect funds for UMCOR Sunday (formerly One Great Hour of Sharing). If you are interested in contributing to this special offering, please mark your check or envelope UMCOR and it will be dedicated to that mission project. Thank you.



### Chicks for Easter

In lieu of the Red Bucket, the CUMC Mission Committee is collecting money to purchase chicks through the Heifer International program. This program assists in poor countries to help families raise animals to support themselves and their communities. Funds will be collected in February and March. If you are interested in supporting this mission project, mark your check or envelope with "Chicks" and send it to the church. Thank you for your support of the Mission work of the church.



### INGATHERING 2021

Every year for Annual Conference, United Methodists have collected supplies to help people who have been through a disaster or are struggling with deep poverty. Our list for this year is shown below. Donations can be dropped off at the church and we will make sure they get to Annual Conference and the Midwest Distribution Center, who will then get them in the hands of hurting people. **All items must be at the church by June 13th.** THANK YOU for your support! You can also check out the Video at [www.midwestmission.org](http://www.midwestmission.org).

#### Personal Dignity Kit

- 1 Bath Hand Towel - No kitchen towels
  - 1 Bath Washcloth - No kitchen towels
  - 1 Adult Toothbrush - No multipacks
  - 1 Bar Soap – 3 - 4 oz.
  - 1 Shampoo – 15 - 18 oz.
  - 1 Deodorant – 2 - 3 oz. - stick, roll on, or pump
  - \$2 for toothpaste and razor
- Place items in a 1-gallon resealable plastic bag and deliver to church.

#### Homecare Kit

- 2 Liquid Household Cleaners 16 - 40 oz (no spray bottles)
- 2 Dish Soaps 16 - 34 oz
- 2 Liquid Laundry Detergents 32 - 64 oz
- 1 scrub brush with or without handle

Place items into a 5-gallon resealable bucket with a resealable cover and deliver to church.



## HOLY WEEK

**PALM SUNDAY** we hope (weather and technology permitting) to have a palm parade outside to begin worship, so come prepared to walk around the church parking lot.

**MAUNDY THURSDAY** will be very different as I focus on the Stations of the Cross. Stations will be set up outdoors for people to visit throughout the day. Even when we can't be inside the building, we can still remember what Jesus did for us and celebrate his love and sacrifice. I will share more during a 7pm online worship.



**GOOD FRIDAY** 7pm online, we will hold a Tenebrae service using light and dark, candles and music to remember Jesus' death.

**EASTER** 7am Sunrise service in the church parking lot where we will gather around a Resurrection tree to celebrate Christ's resurrection! (Be sure to be prepared for the weather.)



10:30am Service will focus on Living Crosses.

**Readers Wanted!!** If you would be interested in reading the Nicene Creed for an upcoming worship service, please contact the church office and Sandy will make arrangements to video you at your convenience. Then we can insert it into the worship service on an upcoming Sunday morning. Thank you.

### \*\*\*Christ UMC Small Group\*\*\*

The Christ UMC (formerly Wesley) Small Group continues to meet via Zoom on the first Monday of every month at 6:30 p.m. Anyone and everyone is welcome and encouraged to participate, so please join us. The group is having discussions about the vision and hopes for the future of Christ Church. Your input is very important. **Please plan to attend via Zoom on Monday, March 1 at 6:30pm.**

The meeting ID is **4301611974** and the password is **5YadZc**

If you do not have access to a computer but have questions or suggestions, please contact Debbie Tidwell or a member of the SPPRC. If you have questions about connecting online, contact the church office or Debbie! We look forward to seeing you!

#### Opening for Custodian:

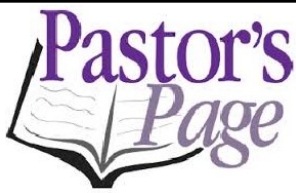
Custodian wanted for Christ United Methodist Church. Must be a self-starter, reliable, able to work without direct supervision. Must be able to accommodate routine weekly custodial tasks and periodic extensive cleaning. This position is anticipated to work 4 hours/week.



### SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS

We will be continuing Sunday School throughout the winter and into the spring, so if you know of any children who would like to participate in a safe, online environment, please contact me! It has been an amazing experience connecting with the children during this difficult situation. What a blessing it has been to have the appropriate technology available to us, as we continue with our Sunday School Ministry!

God Bless!  
Debbie



March 17 will signal the one-year anniversary of COVID-19 and the closing of our churches. It has been a very difficult year to say the least! Last year, Holy Week and Easter were quite somber as we adjusted to life “Safer at Home.” But this year we come with more hope as vaccines are getting into arms and the rate of positives cases continues to decrease across the nation. We have hope that it won’t be much longer before we can once again reopen our church buildings for worship.

COVID-19 has forever changed our world. People have been seriously sick, many have died. Anxiety and fear have been constant companions, as has tensions over the political responses to it. Throw in a contentious election and we have a world ready for some relief. A person can only hold their breath for so long before they need to gulp air or die, the same is true of emergency responses to a pandemic. The question now becomes, how will we move forward.

The same can be said for our local churches. Christ UMC and Wildwood Chapel have been through a terrible crisis because of COVID and we must now decide how we will move forward. Finances have dwindled over the last year. Attendance, well, we do our best to record who watches online or listens in the parking lot, but church participation has come to a standstill. Thankfully, some of our mission projects were able to continue, but without bodies willing to be in contact with neighbors, mission is mostly collecting money and supplies. Add to this the still looming split of our denomination and we have a lot on our plate.

This rather reminds me how down and depressed Jesus’ disciples felt after his crucifixion. Everything seemed hopeless. Little did they know the miracle that awaited them on Resurrection morning!!

That’s the thing about Jesus, just when you think you can’t handle “it” another minute, Jesus comes along and provides a miracle. Of course, we must first come to Jesus and ask his help. True, not all miracles have a known link to prayer, but that doesn’t mean prayer wasn’t involved. The point is, now is the time for us to pray for the future of our congregations. How do we want to tell our neighbors about Jesus? How do we want to worship Jesus? How do we want to celebrate Jesus’ presence in our lives?

Soon, you will hear about some listening sessions at Christ church to hear your answers to these questions as well as any other thoughts and suggestions you may have about the future of Christ UMC. Wildwood Chapel will have its own meeting.

In the meantime, call a fellow member you haven’t talked to in a while, see how they are doing. Renew the bonds of fellowship that hold the Church together.

The dark days of Holy Week are coming, but the anticipation of Resurrection Day gives us hope! In Christ, there is always hope! No matter how dark the circumstances, there is always new life in Christ! If Jesus can come back from the grave, he can renew our lives as well!

God bless you,  
*Pastor Laverne*

**CONNECTING WITH CHRIST UMC WORSHIP IS EASY & CONVENIENT**

**DRIVE-IN** to the Christ Church parking lot on Sunday mornings by 10:30 and tune your radio to FM 91.1

Watch on **FACEBOOK LIVE** at 10:30 AM at Merrill Christ United Methodist Church

Watch on **FACEBOOK** any time after 12 PM

Watch it from the **CHURCH’S WEBPAGE** at [www.MERRILLCHRISTUMC.ORG](http://www.MERRILLCHRISTUMC.ORG)

Receive the bulletin and sermon as an attachment via **EMAIL**

Receive the bulletin and sermon on paper via the **U.S. POSTAL SERVICE**

If you aren’t receiving the bulletin and sermon and would like to, call Sandy in the church office at 715-536-4676.



**DRIVE-IN CHURCH**

**Christ Church invites you to join us in our church parking lot for Drive-in Worship service on Sunday mornings!** Worship starts at 10:30am, but come early for a good parking spot.

Then you can listen to Mary Waid or Bea Lebal before the service begins. Once again you can see your church family members from the safety of your own vehicle. Pick up your bulletin and drop off your offering at the cart by the door, then **turn to FM 91.1 on your car radio** and join us for worship. There will even be packets for the kids to pick up and work on in the car.



Here is a smile from Rosemary:


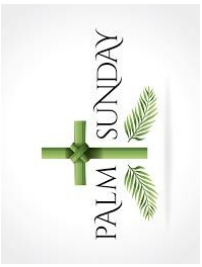
What kind of car did the disciples drive?

It must have been a Honda as they were all in one accord!



# ~ MARCH 2021 ~



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 Christ UMC Small Group 6:30pm	2 Office Closed	3	4 Bible Study 4pm	5	6
7 Communion	8 SPPRC 4:00pm	9 Office Closed Trustee mtg 5:30pm Church Board 6:30pm	10	11 Bible Study 4pm	12	13
14	15	16 Office Closed	17 	18 Bible Study 4pm	19	20
21	22	23 Office Closed	24	25 Bible Study 4pm	26	27
28 	29	30 Office Closed	31		C = Christ Church W = Wildwood	Sunday Worship: W = 9:00am C = 10:30am