



**South Ashland United
Methodist Church**

South Winds

*Sharing the love, hope and
healing of Jesus Christ through
the power of the Holy Spirit!*

January 2021

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Eric Akers, Clancy Hatfield,
Mike Harbour, Peyton Levi,
Hunter Blankenship,
Jacob Shytte, Barb Mitchell

Welcome to 2021. I just went back and read my article from our newsletter a year ago and we were so hopeful about the ministries that were before us. We were looking forward to everything we were going to see accomplished for the Kingdom of God through the Holy Spirit. And then COVID 19 came along. There have been so many things that we have given up in order to stay safe during this pandemic.

Now we are looking into another New Year and I find myself asking what 2021 will hold for us. Many are hopeful that vaccines and herd immunity will mean that we can begin to resume more normal activities. But there are more questions right now than there are answers. Will our kids go to camp this summer? Will there be VBS? Will we finally get to send out evangelism teams to our neighbors on Hampton and Hackworth to share the Good News of the Gospel? I don't know right now, but I am hopeful.

What I do know is that God promised in Revelation 21:5 that He is making all things new. I know that when the Kingdom of God shows up, the old fades away and we get to behold the new. So this year I am asking you as the church to collectively pray that the Kingdom of God shows up. We pray every Sunday during the Lord's Prayer, *thy kingdom come, thy will be done...* But in 2021, let's together seek the Kingdom. Every morning when you roll out of bed, ask for God's Kingdom in your life, in our community and in our world. When a person comes to mind and you don't know what to pray for them, ask that God's kingdom be revealed in their life. When circumstances for loved ones seem hopeless, pray that God's kingdom comes in those circumstances.

We have way more questions about what the future holds than we have answers, but I know for sure that in God's kingdom, all things are being made new. So join me in this coming year, committing to pray that the Kingdom of God will come into our world. And we will wait in expectation, knowing that God is faithful.

Pastor Keith

Honors & Memorials

Budget

In Memory of Evelyn Crawford
Given by Ed & Cheryl Spears

In Memory of Mildred Elam
In Memory of JoAnn Beloit
Given by Pat & Pam Elam

In Love of Cheryl Spears
Given by Vicky & Paul Brenner

Puppet Ministry

In Honor of the Puppet Ministry
Given by Christ UMC

Cost Rica Farm

In Love of Ed Spears
Given by Vicky & Paul Brenner

Parsonage Windows

In Memory of Tom Wellman
Given by Rannie & Charlene Cooper

In Memory of Lou Moore's
Mother & Brothers
Given by Lois Baker

In Memory of Marlene Simmerman
Given by Steve & Tobi
Simmerman

MISSIONS

Under trying and difficult times SAUMC has again displayed God's Love by it's response to the Hillcrest Bruce Adopt-A program.

A total of 32 children and 19 senior adoptions were completed with the use of telephone, facetime, e-mail, texting and online shopping. In all 51 presents along with several monetary gifts were delivered to the mission in time for Christmas.

Yes Christmas was different this year, but gratifying to know we can make a difference by providing for those less fortunate.

Deuteronomy 15:11 " For the poor will never cease to be in the land; therefore I command you saying, You shall freely open your hand to your brother, to your needy and poor in your land."

Thanks
Darlene & Steve Meyers



****EMERGENCY NEEDS****
New Socks & Underwear
Men's Winter Clothes, and
Children's Shoes & Coats
Good Pots and Pans, Good Used Furniture

The processing plant needs:
Paper Towels, 8oz. & 16oz. Coffee Cups,
Toilet Tissue, Toilet Cleaner, Sanitizing
Wipes, Furniture Polish, Windex, Liquid
Hand Soap, Dust Mops, Aerosol Air
Fresheners



The truck will
pick up at
SAUMC on
January 19.

South Ashland UMC Treasurer's Report - November 2020

Current Month	Budget Items	Specials	Mortgage Fund	Totals
Beginning Balance	\$80,499.40	\$114,724.72	\$0.00	\$195,224.12
Receipts	\$43,053.00	\$4,241.01	\$0.00	\$47,294.01
Disbursements	(\$32,503.88)	(\$3,184.63)	\$0.00	(\$35,688.51)
Transfer	(\$175.00)	\$175.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Closing Balance	\$90,873.52	\$115,956.10	\$0.00	\$206,829.62
Year-to-Date				
Balance 12/31/2019	\$32,271.21	\$21,921.57	\$8,346.74	\$62,539.52
Receipts	\$418,994.12	\$167,585.97	\$0.00	\$586,580.09
Disbursements	(\$361,973.79)	(\$73,230.70)	(\$8,346.74)	(\$443,551.23)
Transfer	\$1,581.98	(\$320.74)	\$0.00	\$1,261.24
Closing Balance	\$90,873.52	\$115,956.10	\$0.00	\$206,829.62

Dear Friends of the Ashland Community Kitchen,

Noticing Jeremy holding his back at the end of the hallway, I asked him if he was alright. He smiled and said, "Yes, my back hurts from sleeping in my tent last night." I had met Jeremy over a year ago, as he was one of the many guests that entered our dining hall daily.

For some reason, I assumed he stayed at the Salvation Army or, by now, an apartment. I was taken back to find out that he still lived in a tent on the city's outskirts. For the past six months, Jeremy had been coming in once a week to sweep the floors, wash dishes, or put up boxes of inventory for us. I had known a little about his story but that day I was determined to learn more. He shared with me that by the age of fifteen, both his adoptive parents had passed away, and he found himself traveling from house to house before he entered the streets for the first time. A decade and a half later he would be dropped off in Ashland by a mental hospital where he had stayed for a time because of depression, anxiety, and lack of coping mechanisms. As he shared this part of his story, he became emotional, and I tried to cut off the conversation, feeling bad that I pressed into his pain. Still, he wanted to continue to share his story. In doing so, he expressed his thankfulness for the Ashland Community Kitchen as a lifeline in restoring his self-respect by enabling him to give back to the organization that gave to him daily. Sadly, Jeremy's story is not unique. While the name and circumstances change, the information is one of the same, a need, Ashland Community Kitchen answering, and donors supporting both. Since 1983, the Ashland Community Kitchen has served more than 500,000 meals and 27,000+ meals this year.

While Covid-19 has forced us to adapt to changing governmental regulations, we have never missed a day serving those living below the poverty line. In fact, in the midst of one of the darkest times in our communities history, we expanded serving others through our new pantry program, which houses our Senior and Community Box programs. The Senior Box Program is a USDA administered program targeted to seniors living in poverty. In contrast, the Community Box Program is open to any needy person or family that needs a helping hand. Through our three-pronged programmatic approach (Soup Kitchen, Senior Box, and Community Box), we are making sure that no one goes hungry in our community.

Thank you for supporting us so that we can keep helping so many in need.

Serve well!

Dr. Desmond Barrett; Ed.D.

Dear SAUMC Family & Friends,

Thank you for the Christmas gift bag and beautiful cards. Your generosity, love, and thoughtfulness are greatly appreciated. Thank you for sharing the true meaning of Christmas with us. May each of you experience God's gift at Christmas and throughout the New Year!!

Merry Christmas!! Happy New Year!!

Love & Blessings, Bill Turner & Donna Barber

Dear Church Family,

Thank you so much for the special delivery of a Christmas Treat Bag. Loved all of the goodies - mints, snacks, socks, and cards.

During this time of not being able to attend church in person, it reminded me of how caring and thoughtful the congregation is to its members.

I hope that 2021 will bring many blessings your way. Thanks again for the sweet remembrance.

Sincerely,
Pat Consiglio

Dear Friends,

Thank you for your gift of \$855 to the ministry of Samaritan's Purse.

The Christ child brought the promise of everlasting hope to a world that was yearning for the long-awaited Messiah. "And she will bring forth a Son, and you shall call His name Jesus, for He will save His people from their sins" (Matthew 1:21). Today, people around the world still need to hear His Gospel message: that eternal hope can only be found through repentance and faith in the Lord Jesus Christ.

That is the Good News our teams are bringing to people in more than 100 countries worldwide as Samaritan's Purse meets the needs of victims of war, poverty, disaster, disease, and famine. I am deeply grateful for your gift and prayers for our ministry. As you celebrate the birth of our Savior this Christmas season, may the peace of Jesus Christ reign in your heart and life. Thank you, and may God bless you.

Sincerely,
Franklin Graham

Dear Church Family,

Thank you for your continued prayers and beautiful cards for Ron's recovery from throat cancer. We hope to see you in a Covid-free 2021.

God Bless All,
Bobbi & Ron Wymer

Thank you

Youth & Children's

NEWS AND EVENTS

In December, our youth joined a 6-week get-moving competition against Ashland First UMC youth. Not only does the competition raise money for charities simply by totaling steps, it gets students up and moving. Watching an app track my steps is surprisingly motivating to get me to take extra ones throughout the day and to see how many miles I can accomplish. Recently, I've been walking as I pray for our youth and kids, and I've been reflecting on the many steps Jesus took during His lifetime. I wonder what it would have been like to be one of His disciples who walked with Him everywhere He went?

While walking was the primary mode of transportation for commoners in Jesus' day, and my primary mode of transportation to work my first two years in California, it sometimes feels too slow for me. One of my college summers at Aldersgate, I remember running across camp and someone calling out: "Is everything okay?" "Yes!" I shouted back, continuing toward my destination, "Running's just quicker than walking!" I don't like being slowed down, and sometimes walking to get to a destination just feels too slow. It takes time. Yet sometimes that's all God asks of us—our time. As I've been praying and walking in the sanctuary recently, I feel a new spiritual discipline emerging for me. I feel God is calling me to ready my walking feet for an adventure with Him.

As we enter this January with new intentions and resolutions, I ask if you will consider adding 'Pray for our children and youth daily' to your list. Some of you already do this, and your prayers are appreciated more than I can express. I ask you to join me in the challenge of lifting our young people to the Lord every day this year, perhaps even walking while you do so. Our youth are fearfully and wonderfully made. His works are wonderful; I know that full well. Our kiddos and teens have a myriad of prayer needs that God already knows but that we can faithfully bring to Him again and again. If you would like a list of children and youth in our church to pray for, please contact me.

Additionally, if you would be interested in walking for a cause, you can download the free app Charity Miles onto your phone. It tracks your steps daily, and for every mile you walk, sponsors of Charity Miles give to the organization of your choice. The only thing you do is step, and others benefit. This new year, may we make time—whether that's getting up from our seats or slowing down from our fast-paced lifestyles—to walk with the Lord and join Him in adventure.



Some of the upcoming adventures for our children and youth:

- **Wednesday, Jan. 6**—Outdoor Interactive Epiphany Experience for children and their families. Upon arrival at church, children will journey with their families on a socially-distanced, interactive experience of "following the star" to find Jesus the King and worship Him. Come anytime between 6-7 pm and park in the far lot past the prayer garden.
- **Saturday, Jan. 9**—Virtual Family Game Night. Come prepared to engage in friendly competition against other families, whether that's a family with children and teens or whether they're seniors—all are welcome to play! 6:30 pm.
- **Saturday, Jan. 16**—Youth (grades 6-12) Drive-in Movie at church in observance of Martin Luther King, Jr. Day. 6:00 pm.

I'm grateful for the opportunity to be in community with you. Let's get walking!

-Genée

Dear Church Family,

My prayer is that each one of you has a very blessed 2021 full of God's blessings and riches. The planning for the 2021 mission trip has been difficult due to Covid 19 and whether we could even go. I know that I have spent many hours praying about the trip. I also know each time I pray; a peace comes over me that can only come from God. I know without a doubt that HE wants us to go.

These verses came to me as I was praying and reading the Bible. Isaiah is one of my favorite books, so much wisdom in it. I think the 1st verse spoke to me about the trip and the 2nd one about the New Year.

Isaiah 40:28-31

²⁸Do you not know? Have you not heard?
The LORD is the everlasting God,
the Creator of the ends of the earth.
He will not grow tired or weary,
and his understanding no one can fathom.
²⁹He gives strength to the weary
and increases the power of the weak.
³⁰Even youths grow tired and weary,
and young men stumble and fall;
³¹but those who hope in the LORD

will renew their strength.
They will soar on wings like eagles;
they will run and not grow weary,
they will walk and not be faint.

Isaiah 43: 18-19

¹⁸Forget the former things;
do not dwell on the past.
¹⁹See, I am doing a new thing!
Now it springs up; do you not perceive it?
I am making a way in the wilderness
and streams in the wasteland.

Shown below are portions of some emails that Mary has sent about the money we have sent down to help fund the mission work and other details of the work there.

Hallelujah!!! Ed, God knows how it is all the time!!!

Keep on praying! I do plan to go North in December. You may recall that my passport expired on August 24th and the Embassy was closed until October or later. BUT I found out that the Embassy opened.

Really my Deanna wrote a letter to them, told them her aged mother needed a

passport, etc! She sent a copy to me and I called and now have an appointment on December 3rd to apply for my passport. It should be ready, they said, about December 15th so I am getting things in order here. God knows how to get it done!!!

You know I have the extra monetary responsibilities in December with the 13th month of pay and all the vehicles expire their plates and inspection. So things stay busy. I am thankful I have been able to keep the boys working full time. They need the income for their families, you know. God has been good.

Wilber was having Sunday morning services in the dining hall. I told the DS Douglas. He told the Bishop and they have stopped the services here. The reason they say is the Ministry of Public Health has to give the Churches permission. Of course, since Wilber is not in the Methodist Church now – they had cut him off totally, salary, no pension, they had to move from the house at the Meth. School to their own house, fortunately they had bought a lot in Sta Rosa de La Palmera and had a place to go, living more or less in a tent with a bathroom which we had helped to build earlier, thank God... So no one is using the Camp. I told Douglas to get the documents in order before the teams come in 2021. SO...

Yes, this offering will surely help me pay the men here! They are doing wonderfully well and repairing so much as well as working on the gym building, little by little. They had to make scaffolding and that is done so they are welding the braces on the big metal pillars now. God has blessed us with these fellows, Dennis, Alexis, Geovanny, Pablo! No doubt about it! and you all are helping me to pay them. Last payday I had to use my own Social Security debit card but that was ok and possible. I spend that on fuel for my car and whatever food I get at the Super so God takes care of all!

Thank you for your message here! You all are amazing, and I am so thankful! Thank You! Geovanny is preparing a list of the materials needed for his mother's house. He is going to be on vacation the last two weeks of December but he will work on the house during that time. I asked him about some pictures and to prepare the material list.

I am to be on my way in the morning to the Embassy to apply for my passport, so this will be brief tonight, as I have to get ready for an early start. It has been so rainy and foggy, and I am sure it will be tomorrow again. My appointment is at 1:15 so I plan to leave here shortly after 8 a.m. There are so many large trucks on the roads and just takes time.

The Bishop has called a board meeting for Tuesday in Alajuela so I will return home tomorrow and prepare my reports for that, also.

There are not enough ways to say thank you for your offerings. Without your all's gift I can't imagine how I would keep these men at work! You all have blessed us all and we say thank you. The men have been busily maintaining the buildings, painting, routing out termites again this week in the back walls of the guest house. Today Geovanny was repairing and painting the benches for the Kioskos.

Thank you again for this generous gift for all here. I will write more about the VBS and Crafts upon my return tomorrow. I have your team's dates as Feb 6-14. That is just about the time school should start here. Love and prayers for everything! Mary and all

I pray this information from Mary gives you a little insight as to what goes on at the camp when we are not there. Mary always asks that I convey her love and thanks for our prayers and support. I know she prays for us as much as we do for her. Please keep the team in your prayers as we prepare for the 2021 mission trip. Thanks for all that you do for the Costa Rica mission effort.

In HIS love and Service
Eduardo

Happy Birthday

- | | |
|-----------------------|------------------|
| 1 Jim Hunt | 22 Tish Crawford |
| 2 Martha Rice | 24 Greg White |
| Bill Johnson | Neil Highley |
| 3 Bill Crank | 25 Lynn Cohen |
| 5 Zane Johns-Morrison | 30 Lois Baker |
| 8 Bonnie Thom | |
| Nedra Fennell | |
| 9 Jack Nuckols | |
| 10 Madison Duncan | |
| 14 Steven Shytle | |
| Damola Asafa | |
| Donita Cox | |
| 18 Goldie Bentine | |
| 20 Rebecca Easterling | |
| Chris Kitchen | |
| 21 Matthew Ryan | |



stationerytree.com

Happy Anniversary

20 Al & Becky Gehringer



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
January						1 OFFICE CLOSED
3 9:30 Drive-In Worship & Facebook Live 6:30 Youth - Zoom	4 National Spaghetti Day	5	6 6:00 Outdoor Interactive Epiphany Experience 6:30 Adult Study Zoom 6:30 Children's Online	7 10:00 Intercessory Prayer	8	9 6:30 Virtual Family Games
10 9:30 Drive-In Worship & Facebook Live 6:30 Youth - Zoom	11	12 9:30 Staff Meeting 6:30 Trustees Meeting	13 6:30 Adult Study Zoom 6:30 Children's Online	14 10:00 Intercessory Prayer	15 NATIONAL BAGEL DAY	16 6:00 Youth Movie Night
17 9:30 Drive-In Worship & Facebook Live 6:30 Youth - Zoom	18 	19 6:30 Finance Meeting 7:00 Admin Council Mountain Mission Pickup	20 6:30 Adult Study Zoom 6:30 Children's Online	21 10:00 Intercessory Prayer	22	23
24 9:30 Drive-In Worship & Facebook Live 6:30 Youth - Zoom	25	26	27 6:30 Adult Study Zoom 6:30 Children's Online	28 10:00 Intercessory Prayer	29 	30
31 9:30 Drive-In Worship & Facebook Live 6:30 Youth - Zoom						