

Volume XXXV
No. 12
Irregular
Publication
December
2020



Heritage
Herald

Worship, Grow, Serve to see transformed lives
reflecting the love of Christ.



Advent at Heritage

***Sunday morning Worship services streaming live on YouTube**

Sundays, December 6, 13, 20 at 9:30am

***Live Nativity and Forest of Trees** Sunday, December 13 at 4:00 pm

***Christmas Eve Service livestreaming on YouTube** Wednesday, December 23

***Christmas Eve Service Under the Stars** Thursday, December 24 at 6:00 pm

***Sunday morning Worship streaming live on YouTube at 9:30am** Sunday, December 27



Christmas Blessings...

Dear Church Family,

It is hard to believe that soon we will be celebrating Christmas. Where has this year gone? If there ever was a year that we needed Christmas, this is it! Getting ready for Christmas certainly feels different than in previous years. My calendar (and probably yours too) isn't filled with dates for gathering with friends and family. I do not have to choose between parties that are planned for the same day and time. This year, I will be home most days (and nights). Celebrating will be quite unique.

I am blessed to have many Nativity sets that I have gathered through the years. Each one a promise of hope for the coming of the Christ Child. One that I have not unpacked for many years was the one that my parents bought on their first Christmas. It was imported from Italy. They always placed it beneath our Christmas tree. The story that Mama always told was that as a child I played with it...a lot! And, possibly not as carefully as the pieces needed to be handled. I remember laying on my stomach, head and arms reaching under the live tree to look at this magical world. It was the best 'doll house' I ever had. It is obvious that I loved the sheep. Many of them lost feet and legs, making it near impossible for them to stand. The Wise Men look tired and worn as if the trip was treacherous and they need to rest. I stopped setting this set up for fear more characters would break.

But this year after our decorations were arranged throughout the house, I went back down to the storage room. There I found the special box that held my childhood treasure. I needed to see baby Jesus, Mary and Joseph. Of course, they look like the trip was hard on them too. Life did not get easier for Mary and Joseph after that trip to Bethlehem. They did not get to go home after Jesus' birth because they had to protect him. They kept following God's plan and being faithful. But seeing these friends from years gone by, comforts my soul. I delight in memories of my childhood Christmases. Rooms filled with all of my relatives squeezed around the table, laughing and telling stories. This year I want to remember and cherish all the memories as we strive to create new ones in the year of a pandemic.

The challenge we face this season of Advent is recognizing that despite the restrictions, we can still experience great joy. As a church community we will celebrate the coming of the One who came to save us. As a church community we will gather apart together to praise God for the gift of our Savior. As a faith community we will experience the joy of singing "Silent Night" as we hold our candles on Christmas Eve. It will not be the same because some of us will watch a service online. Some of us will come to celebrate Christmas Under the Stars. But all of us will be blessed with the JOY of celebrating the life we share as followers of Jesus. I give thanks to God that I was sent to be your pastor and you were sent to be part of this wonderful church family. We are blessed to be able to share life together in God's wondrous world!

Grace upon grace+

Pastor Maria



HUMC FINANCE REPORT

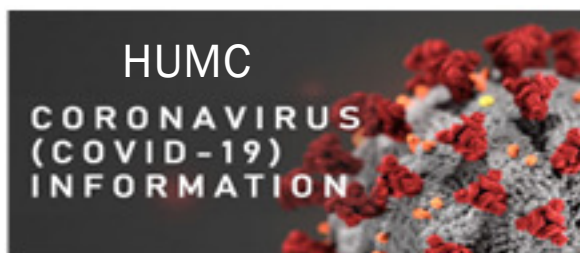
	<u>Nov 2020</u>	<u>2020 YTD</u>
INCOME: ALL SOURCES	\$ 44,583.80	\$ 493,253.79
EXPENSES:	\$ 49,644.06	\$ 448,181.88
Surplus (shortfall)	\$ - 5,060.26	\$ 45,071.91

Year to date we have paid \$36,825.10 in Mission Shares. Our Christmas Eve Offering this year will be for Mission Shared. If mailing a contribution for the Christmas Eve offering please make note in the memo line "Christmas Eve". Please note all contributions must be postmarked by 12/31 to be counted for 2020 giving.

If you have questions regarding church finances, contact the Finance Team Chair, Doug Grossenbacher at dgrossenbacher@att.net or the Treasurer, Jeff Hallam at jhallam312@gmail.com

Important 2020 Tax Information for Donors

When communicating with donors consider including this bit of good news: As part of CARES Act passed earlier this year, taxpayers who don't itemize deductions may take a charitable deduction of up to \$300 for cash contributions made in 2020 to the church. Additional information on pandemic-related changes to taxes and charitable giving can be found at the IRS website: <https://www.irs.gov/newsroom/how-the-cares-act-changes-deducting-charitable-contributions>



Watch the weekly e-note and website for updates on church office hours, building use and when we will be regathering in person. We are constantly monitoring the numbers and as the gating criteria set by church council is met, we will be reaching out to you with changes as they are made.

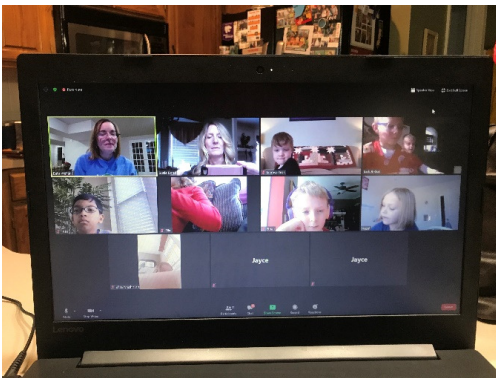
With the recent spike in Covid-19 numbers, we have to make the difficult decision to continue with online worship only. We will continue to allow small groups of ten and under to meet at the church (with reservations). Please come to the Live Nativity on December 13th at 4 PM. Plan to attend Christmas Eve under the stars at 6PM on the 24th. Let your light shine this Christmas season! The world needs Jesus and to experience his love. If you have any questions, please contact Melissa in the church office at 913.897.6446 or at melissab@heritageumc.org

Fellowship Fun on Zoom



Connectional Ministries invites you to join us once a month on Zoom for some games, trivia and fellowship. All are welcome!

This month we will gather on Tuesday, December 15 at 6:30 p.m. and we will celebrate the season - ugly Christmas sweaters encouraged! Contact Susie Bond at susieb@heritageumc.org in order to get the Zoom invite.



Sunday School is still happening in Children's Ministries and you have so many ways to learn God's word.

Join us on Zoom each Sunday: Preschool and 2nd/3rd grades at 11:00 a.m. and K/1st grades and 4th/5th grades at 11:30 a.m.

Watch Miss Susie on the pre-recorded lesson (available on church YouTube channel).

Do the lesson on your own at home.

Advent Devotions on Facebook

Miss Susie is reading the daily devotions from the Advent Devotion Book given to each family in the Advent Bag.

She is posting the readings each day on Facebook on the HUMC Children's Ministry group page (private group). Each posting is less than 5 minutes.

Contact her at susieb@heritageumc.org if you have any questions or would like an invite to the Facebook group.



Huge thank you to Evelyn Summers!

The Children's Ministries Team would like to thank Evelyn Summers for donating all of the Beanie Babies that were placed in the Advent Bags. The brought huge smiles to all of our Heritage children. Thank you for your kindness and generosity!

For more information about Children's Ministries, please contact Susie Bond at susieb@heritageumc.org



What have our Youth Students been up to?



**Christmas shopping
for Missions!**



**Helped pass out &
deliver Advent Bags!**



**Zoom Bible Study &
Confirmation Classes!**

Coming in January:

Epiphany Festival Party! Sunday, Jan 3 –

Mark your calendars now and invite a friend!
Alumni welcome! Details and time TBA

Wednesday Bible Studies resume Jan 6

5:00 pm middle school

8:00 pm high school *note new time!



**Decorating
trees for the
Forest of
Trees!**

Youth Group on Sundays in January - January youth group times will be sent out the first week in January.

Contact Dawn Beck, dawnb@heritageumc.org for more information about Youth Student Ministries and how you can get involved!

Like us on Facebook @heritageumcyouth

Follow us on Instagram @heritageumcyouth



Missions Curbside-

We will continue to offer Missions Curbside in 2021. Stop by Heritage House parking lot on Sundays between 9:30am-11am and drop off needed donations. We will accept non-perishable food donations for the local New Hope food pantry, diapers and diaperwipes for Growing Futures in Overland Park, hygiene items for Hope Totes, school supplies and more.

Watch for the weekly Monday Missions Call to Action posts to see what else we are collecting to help support our community partners.

Interested in volunteering at Missions Curbside, we would love your help, contact Cindy Svec, cindys@heritageumc.org for the sign-up genius link and to sign up for a shift or two.



January 2021 Missions Project- Soup Sundays!

During the month of January we will be collecting canned soup for the local New Hope food pantry. We will be asking for donations to be dropped off on Sundays at Missions Curbside. Please plan to donate at least one can of soup for each member of your household so we can donate over 500 cans of soup in January.

What a "Souper" way to show the community we care!

SCRIP Fundraiser for Missions

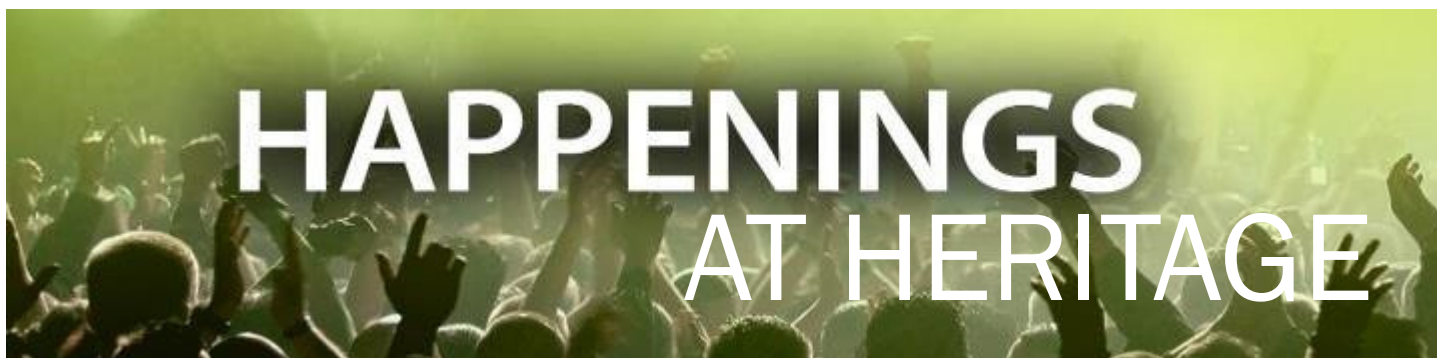
Help support the Missions team by placing a monthly SCRIP order for gift cards to use for everyday purchases, gift giving and more at local retailers. Each gift card purchased earns the Missions team a small percentage which is used to support our ongoing projects. It is easy and no extra charge to you.

Orders are due on the second Sunday of every month in 2021. Place your order today and help support the Missions team and our community partners. Drop off your order and check at Missions Curbside on Sundays 9:30-11am or in the church office on Mondays 9-11am.

January SCRIP orders due Sunday 1/10/2021

Contact Cindy Svec, cindys@heritageumc.org, if you need an order form.





Drive-Thru Live Nativity & Forest of Trees

Sunday, December 13th

4:00-5:00 pm outside at Heritage UMC

Safely enjoy this event outside in your car, while listening to live music coming from inside the church on our radio frequency 90.5. Enter from the north (street by apartments) or from the south (129th street) and look for directions from our parking lot attendants. (The middle drive between the main church building and Heritage House will be the EXIT for this event. Please DO NOT enter from the middle driveway.) We will direct you as you drive thru to see the sparkling splendor of the Forest of Trees and the wonder of the Live Nativity. Journey back in time and drive through the fields outside of Bethlehem and see the King himself, lying in a manger! There will be shepherds in the field, wisepeople traveling from afar and of course Mary, Joseph and baby Jesus! You may catch a glimpse of a multitude of angels! Just imagine them singing "Glory to the New Born King"!

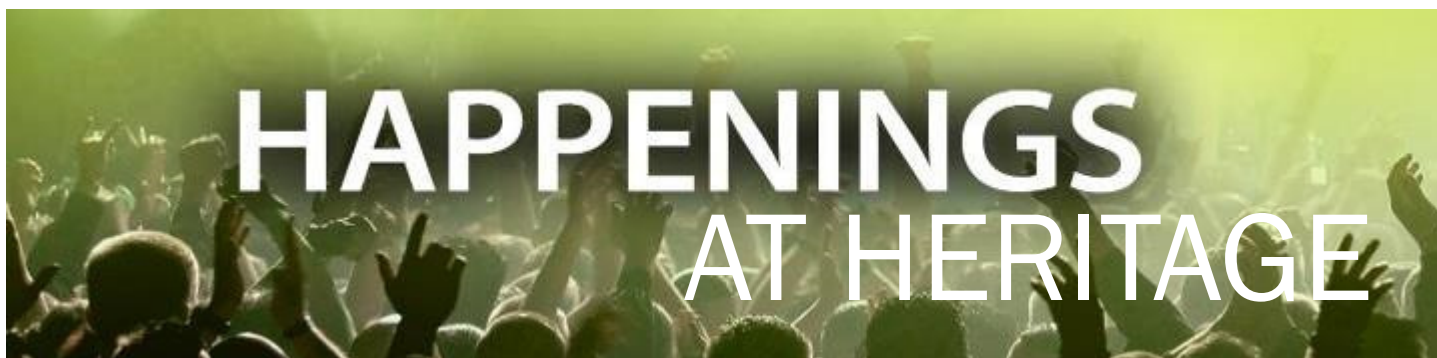
Live Nativity Word Scramble

There will be a word scramble activity as you drive through the Live Nativity. Yard signs will include key Bible verses from the Christmas story. You will look for and find the **red letters** on each of the scripture yard signs. Then, take all the red letters, unscramble them and figure out the special word they spell.

Social Media Challenge

Take pictures of your carload enjoying the lights and the scenes and post on social media. Be sure to mention or tag Heritage UMC in your post and stories @heritageumc!





2021 BIBLE 365

One Year Bible Reading Plan of the New Testament, Psalms & Proverbs

Join us in 2021 as we read the New Testament, Psalms and Proverbs in one year. This is a self-directed Bible Study beginning on the first day of January continuing through December 31, 2021.

An optional weekly zoom discussion class will take place on Tuesday afternoons at 1pm to review the weekly verses.

Contact Cindy Svec, cindys@heritageumc.org for a 2021 Bible 365 booklet, zoom link instructions or with any questions.

Worship, Grow, Serve to see transformed lives reflecting the love of Christ!



2021 Adult Christian Formation Small Groups

2021 Bible 365, Men's breakfast group, Women's Bible Study, Women's Book Club, Journaling, Sunday School class, Lenten Study and more small groups are available in 2021. You don't want to miss out on the chance to enjoy some

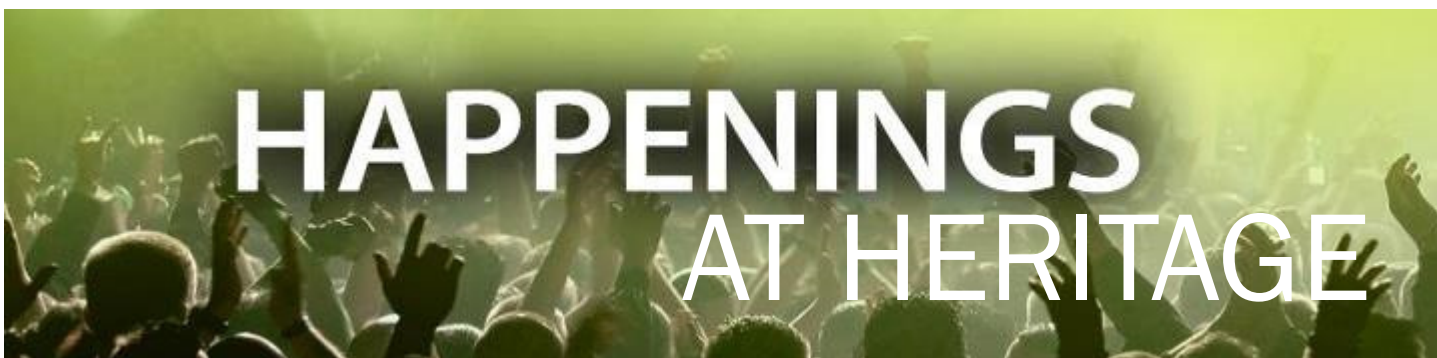
fellowship and continue on your faith journey in 2021 so contact Cindy Svec, cindys@heritageumc.org, for more information.

Women's Coffee Chat

Beginning January 4th at 9:30am. Join this NEW Adult Fellowship small group weekly on Monday mornings at 9:30am for some fun and fellowship as we gather via zoom with our morning coffee to connect, catch up and celebrate life together.

Contact Cindy Svec, cindys@heritageumc.org, for zoom link, instructions and more info.





Coffee with the Pastor is back on zoom!

Would you like to know more about Pastor Maria? Do you want to learn more about Heritage and its ministries? Then grab a cup of coffee and join us on Sunday, Jan. 10 at 11 a.m. on zoom. Please contact Susie Bond at susieb@heritageumc.org for more information and a zoom invite.



Heritage UMC Community Garden was blessed with a good year for growing produce. A total 1146 lbs. of produce was donated to the New Hope Presbyterian Food Pantry in Olathe, KS and Resurrection Overland Park Food Pantry in Overland Park, KS this year. The top 3 crop yields this year were yellow squash (309 lbs.), tomatoes (305 lbs.), and cucumbers at 251 lbs. Other crops that were grown included beets, green beans, radishes, zucchini, jalapenos, green peppers, cantaloupe, and chard. About 50% of our garden grows vegetables exclusively for

the food pantries and the other portion are individual family plots. We had 12 families participate, both church members and non-members, and everyone enjoyed meeting and visiting with other gardeners. These families assisted in maintaining the food pantry plot and also donated produce from their individual plots. It was a joy to see a number of families with young children participate and to watch the children dig, plant, water, and weed their plots.



Exciting things happening at Heritage in 2021!

Our Heritage UMC family will be joining the Good Neighbor Experiment. Through sermons, small group studies, actions in our neighborhoods - we will learn to develop long-term relationships in our neighborhoods that can change the world.

Watch for more information on how you can be a part of the experiment in 2021.





January 02 Elizabeth Stoneman
 January 02 Steve Seifert
 January 05 Elsa Moneymaker
 January 06 Richard Lind
 January 09 Cheryl Thomas
 January 11 Janice Bollenbach
 January 13 Don Stoneman
 January 15 Michaela Davis
 January 18 Jamison Baiza

January 18 Steve Mitts
 January 18 Rob Preacher
 January 19 Kelsey Heavin
 January 26 James (Ross) Chambliss
 January 27 Gary Hazeltine
 January 28 Jonie Welland
 January 28 Joyce Collier
 January 30 Diana Dalen

CHILDREN AND YOUTH CELEBRATING BIRTHDAYS

Nathaniel Berkey, Ava Cook, Alex DeVries, Kevin Godwin, Mazie Mashburn, Cole Ponnuru

SYMPATHY

To the family of Julie Lind, whose father passed away on Friday December 4th.

If we missed your birthday or a sympathy, please notify the church office so that we can update our records.

**** All articles are due by 5pm on the published due date. All articles submitted are prioritized by date and relevance and are subject to editorial review of content and inclusion at the discretion of the editor. ****

January 2021 HUMC Prayer Calendar

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1. New beginnings & New Years' resolutions	2. Blood Donors
3. Those who feel weak	4. Persons that are difficult to love	5. Firefighters	6. Athletes	7. Heritage members	8. Mentors	9. Law Enforcement Personnel
10. Those who feel abandoned	11. Victims of human trafficking	12. Children & Youth	13. Homebound / Shut-ins	14. Military / Armed Services	15. Diversity	16. Religious freedom
17. Tolerance	18. Equality	19. Victory in difficult situations and circumstances	20. Our government and political leaders	21. Missionaries	22. Seniors	23. Those who live in fear and in abusive relationships
24. Family	25. Those suffering from mental illness	26. Spouse / Significant Other	27. Prosperity & Success	28. Reconciliation	29. Travelers	30. Those suffering from skin disorder and diseases
31. Those who doubt their salvation						

Heritage United Methodist Church Staff

Senior Pastor	Maria Campbell	Ext. 1	Pastormaria@heritageumc.org
Director of Finance & Administration	Melissa Barker	Ext. 2	melissab@heritageumc.org
Director of Children's & Connectional Ministries	Susie Bond	Ext. 3	susieb@heritageumc.org
Director of Youth Ministries	Dawn Beck	Ext. 4	dawnb@heritageumc.org
Director of Adult Discipleship & Missions & Congregational Care Coordinator	Cindy Svec	Ext. 6	cindys@heritageumc.org
Childcare Coordinator	Katie Loper	913-829-0510	katiel@heritageumc.org

Want on or off the mailing lists? Call 913-897-6446 or email melissab@heritageumc.org

Next Newsletter Deadline

Sunday, January 10, 2021