

The Chime Newsletter

YORK UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

The Great Commandment + The Great Commission = Our Purposed Mis



JANUARY

Inside this issue

The Pastor's Message	
Birthdays	2
Christian Education	2
Worship	3
Music	3
UMW	3
Men of York	4
Stephen Ministry	4
Finance	4
Upcoming Meetings	5
York Book Club	5
Food Pantry	5
Missions	6
Calendar	7
Sermon Series: Back Cover	

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GREETER SCHEDULE:

January: Care & Nurture
February: Missions

**If you are a member of
one of these
committees, please
reach out to the
committee chairperson
with the date (s) you are
serving as a greeter.**

Thank you!

Resolve To Bring God Glory By Doing What You Were Created To Do!

Last year at this time, I challenged us all to resolve to know Jesus better and to better make him known. How did you do with that New Year's resolution? I had reminded us that resolutions are hard to keep if you don't have a plan or if you make them too complicated. That's why I like the apostle Paul's resolution found in 1 Corinthians 2:2. The apostle Paul simply resolved to "know Christ and him crucified." Paul was able to proclaim this fact because he himself experienced a dramatic, life-changing revelation of God. Well, this year in my studies with Healing Care Ministries, I came across an article entitled "Why You Should Not Make New Year's Resolutions This Year." In it, I read that "almost two-thirds of us feel pressured to make resolutions or set goals for some improvement in the New Year. Researchers suggest that only 9% of Americans that make resolutions complete them. In fact, research goes on to show that 23% of people quit their resolution by the end of the first week, and 43% quit by the end of January." The author stated that the main reason why we fail at the resolutions is that we believe we have to do it on our own power. Paul's transformation was not simply behavior modification. Rather, his entire lifestyle changed when he was filled with God's Holy Spirit. One of the most common new year's resolutions is to lose weight. Over the past year, people have noticed that I have lost weight. Many want to know what "special diet" I am following. However, the truth is that instead of trying the newest fad of diets, I really just made some lifestyle changes with God's help. Over the last few years, I have adjusted my eating habits to reduce salt and sugar intake. I have also attended to more physical activity. However, the crux of my well-being is found in a holistic approach to life that includes an intentional focus on my emotional and spiritual well-being as well as the physical. My current weight loss has actually been a culmination of the last three years of living differently with God's help. Instead of making a specific resolution every year, I now do something different. For the past few years, I have asked the Lord to give me a key word to focus on for the coming year. It is a word that I study and pray about through the year. I look to see how it shows up in my life, and I pay attention to my response to it. Last year, my word was "resilience" and the year before that it was "presence". This year in my prayer time, before I even asked, God gave me my new word as clear as day. The word is: Beauty. Later that day, I encountered my new word showing up in my everyday life when I saw a picture on-line of a well-worn, well-played guitar that looked aged, weathered and heavily relic'd. It was far from shiny, pretty, and new. It had lost its glossy finish. Instead, it was stained, dented, and worn. Below the picture someone had written the phrase: "The most beautiful guitar ever!" I thought to myself: How is that old, beat-up Telecaster beautiful? Immediately the Holy Spirit gave me the answer. I felt as if God told me that the guitar was simply an instrument to make music. It's an instrument to be used to create beauty. The guitar in the picture obviously had been used to do what it was created to do; and the most beautiful thing in the world is something that does what it was created to do. My friends, we are all created to be instruments of our own God-given creativity to bring beauty to the world around us. We are created to reflect the beauty of God. In my first "definition-study" of the word beauty, I was reminded that the word is often used in the Bible to speak of God's glory. Therefore, when we do what we were created to do for God's glory, it is indeed the most beautiful thing ever! So, instead of making another new year's resolution that will be left behind before the end of the first month, ask God to give you a special word just for you this year to help transform your life in resolution and revelation. You don't pick the word. You allow God to give it to you, and with God's help you can resolve to know Jesus better and to better make him known.

Happy New Year Blessings! --Pastor Dave

JANUARY



BIRTHDAYS

- 1/3 ~ Peggy Dunkel
- 1/6 ~ Aaron Cormany
- 1/12 ~ George Kegg
- 1/14 ~ Mary Jane Allen
- 1/15 ~ Anita Behner
- 1/17 ~ Nancy Nahodil
- 1/18 ~ Larry Sanicky
- 1/18 ~ Rebecca Taylor
- 1/18 ~ Jeff Thomas
- 1/20 ~ Gary Forgie
- 1/20 ~ Shawn Klubnik
- 1/22 ~ Tristan Stout
- 1/23 ~ Jean Cormany
- 1/25 ~ Rick Elias
- 1/25 ~ Judy Rogers
- 1/26 ~ Beverly Ashley
- 1/27 ~ Elsie Jenkins

Did we miss your birthday?
Please contact the church
office to make sure we have
your birthdate in our
Church Windows software!

Thank you!



Christian Education

Looking back... a special thanks to all who helped make our annual **Christmas Showcase** a success. Special thanks to the following: Ben and Emily Haury for our backdrop and coordinating the program... Pam Bauman and Jean Marvin for help with the family crafts for the evening... Clean-up members Pastor Dave, Jim Eisenbrown and Matt Behner... Technology Ian Andrews and Jarod Eisenbrown and of course... our wonderful host of performers that shared all of their special talent. I would especially like to focus on the kiddos who willingly signed up and shared their God-given gifts with our church. We are blessed to have talented and creative people in our midst. It is never too early to think about what **you** might want to share next year. Thank you to all for a special evening!

Looking forward... plans for new lessons as well as a theme for Vacation Bible School. The Education Committee will have a meeting soon to try to firm up dates and activities for 2024. Please sign up to help with teaching on the calendar/board in the Gathering Area.

Please keep our Education Committee in your prayers as well as our little ones who are the future of the church. Wishing you joy in the New Year!

Submitted by: Debbie Wentz (Questions, suggestions or volunteering always accepted) JDWentz5758@yahoo.com



*Thank you York Church for a great
working environment in 2023!*

Prayers for a blessed New Year!

From the staff

Worship Committee – January 2024

Happy New Year 2024! Wishing you many blessings and peace in the new year.

We enjoyed a beautiful and meaningful Advent season thanks to the efforts of many. Thanks to Pastor Dave and his messages of good news, those who read scripture to support Pastor Dave's messages, those who provided beautiful music, those who lit the Advent candles, those who put up trees and decorated the church and those who purchased poinsettias to honor or memorialize loved ones. All those efforts combined to enhance the Advent experience for our church family and community. It was indeed a special Christmas Eve on a Sunday, with lovely morning and evening services. Our hearts were full as we celebrated the birth of Jesus.

Please join us after church on January 8, if you are able, to put Christmas decorations away until next year!

Submitted by Pam Bauman



To York congregation,

Thank you for your kind and thoughtful gifts this holiday season. I am truly blessed to be able to share in your fellowship.

Our musicians are amazing; we thank them for their service and dedication throughout this past year. This month we rang bells, hosted caroling, prepared special music, and enjoyed the brass ensemble.

Looking forward to the new year!

Barb Jungbluth

UMW

Before the Covid epidemic stopped so many activities in our church we shared in a ministry for our church friends who had lost family members. Our church family came together and served a funeral meal for family and friends.

The UMW would like to begin this caring service in our church once again.

We have begun to compile a master list of those who are willing to furnish food or help serve a funeral meal or assist with clean up after. We have a list of about 20 volunteers so far, but we need someone to organize them. Our church has many talented and compassionate members. If you would like to participate in this type of ministry, please call the church office or Linda Stepanchak.

Thank you for being willing to serve York church and to minister to our members and friends in this way.

Submitted by Betty Kiley

Men of York

Coming Events:

Upcoming youth leadership retreat! **Jan 19th-20th** from 7pm-7pm. This is an event for you! Our theme is "Abide" based on John 15:5 and we are hoping this event will allow you to come and rest. The area youth leaders are a great bunch of gifted people - anybody interested in fueling the youth of York let me know so I can take care of the registration.

February 11th

Sunday Subs will return - Whatever occasion you happen to have this day plan to enjoy a classic sub sandwich - We should have three or four youth to assemble and maybe a couple elementary age to pitch in! Funds for Wanake work weekend and Summer Youth Mission Journey!

Wanake Work weekend is starting to come together **April 26th-27th**. Great way to launch into the better weather and help the camp prepare for a summer of ministry to many young hearts!

Summer Youth Mission Journey is coming **June 24th** - This is a great time to head out and be the hands and serve the flock! Brochures will be around the church soon!

VBS /Summer Quest 2024 will be similar to last summer - working on a Puppet theme - Keep an eye out for any organized puppet troop that may be able to kick the event off on a Sunday evening!

Daniel Bartter

Stephen Ministry

We are pleased to welcome St Mathews to our Stephen Ministry team. Pastor Steve Mahaffey and Barbara Woodard did a fantastic job with their Stephen Ministry Sunday. Lafayette UMC will be receiving a new minister in January; we will attempt to reconnect with them, since we have Lafayette Stephen Ministers on our team.

The team decided to have a small intimate Christmas party of just the Stephen Ministers and their spouses, as well as our main pastor, Dave McGrath, this year because of surgeries and health issues. One of our Stephen Ministers, Sally Collins, hosted at her home. She provided the main meal and the others provided appetizers, salads, desserts, and drinks.

Linda Lee provided a summary of Mary, Jesus' mother, from Shannon Bream's book *Mothers and Daughters of the Bible Speak*. We also discussed a sermon by Dr. David Jeremiah, "From the Worst to the Best." We all learned that no matter what your circumstances are, in those difficult Christmases (or times), you must look for the blessings that God provides; it is your attitude that gets you through difficult times at Christmas, not the circumstances. Most importantly, **J**oy stands for **J**esus first, **O**thers second, and **Y**ou last.

Kit & Linda Lee Marty – Stephen Leaders

Finance Committee

November 2023
GENERAL FUND

Monthly Income: \$11,590 **YTD:** \$131,663

Monthly Expense: \$15,245 **YTD:** \$153,808

Upcoming Important Meetings!

Thursday, Jan. 4 Finance Meeting at 6:30pm Sunrise Room

Thursday, Feb. 1 SAS Zoom Training 6:00 - 9:00pm YCH

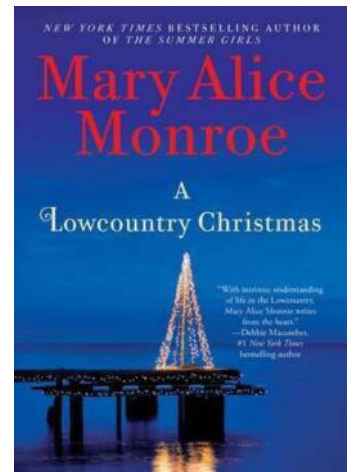
In this three hour "Simplified Accountable Structure" Zoom workshop training, we will cover the basics to a simplified governance of the church. Previously referred to as One Board, this model has a lot of appeal for many and in this workshop, you will be able to discern if this might be a good path for your church.

YORK BOOK CLUB

During the month of December the York Book Club has been reading *A Lowcountry Christmas* by Mary Alice Monroe. We will meet for our book discussion and fellowship at 10:00 am in the gathering area on:

- January 8th - *A Lowcountry Christmas* by Mary Alice Monroe
- February 5th - *Lessons in Chemistry* by Bonnie Garmus

All readers are welcome! If you are interested, talk to any book club member, call the church office, or email bookclub@yorkumc.org for more information.



York Food Pantry Ministry

This past week we had a very successful pass out and hot luncheon. We were able to serve a total of 28 households and 93 total people. We were also able to help some of the families with toys for their little ones. They were very excited that we were able to assist them.

Thank you to everyone that was able to help us out with food and serving. We received a lot of positive feedback back from our clients that were very appreciative of what we do for them. THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT

God Bless, Brian

MISSIONS JANUARY 2024

Happy New Year to All ~ HOPE and JOY have been our prayer and our focus for a couple years now. You have helped to spread both HOPE and JOY to so many others throughout 2023 that we will be praying for spirits full of grace and generosity to lead us into 2024 here at York Church through Missions. Yes, in spite of all of the challenges that are following us into 2024, we do have many reasons to celebrate and be happy for all the gifts given, shared, and promised to us and to others. Because of your spirits of faith in action to serve Him, we have been able to spread HOPE, so important in times of uncertainty.

The Missions Mailbox has been full of Joyful notes of thanks for the gifts we were able to send out into the community in December with your faithful offerings to Missions. Here are just a few:

From the Salvation Army, for bell ringing: *“Thank you for bringing joy and hope to neighbors in need through your support of The Salvation Army. You are a blessing.”*

From Ohio Guidestone in Berea: *“Your charitable support allows us to help the thousands of individuals we serve rise above the challenges and stigmas of mental illness, addiction and financial hardship, setting them on the path to recovery and lifelong success.”*

From Medina Light Ministries: *“Thank you for the financial help & thank you for the chips and crackers. You are all awesome.”*

From Haven of Rest Ministries: *“I am so very grateful for your recent gift to help Haven of Rest Ministries feed and shelter those who come to us in their great hour of need this Christmas season. Because of loving people like you, we are able to care for those who are hurting and have no home to go to for the holidays.”*


Some of you may have a list of New Year’s Resolutions filled with HOPE of changes or challenges or dreams. Many of us do not make official resolutions, but still look ahead with HOPE for JOY in a new year. Perhaps you will join me in resolving to ponder three JOYS that you experience each week and pause to pray a thank you prayer to God for those JOYS. Pick a day of the week as a target day to pause and be thankful for JOY! .

Yes, 2024 is waiting for us to fill it with sharing our time, talents, gifts, and love with others. Blanket Sunday, coming in February, will be an opportunity to “Blanket the World with Love” by honoring someone you love with a gift to Church World Service’s Blanket program for Valentine’s Day!

4 Brothers and sisters, you are loved by God, and we know that he has chosen you. 5 We know this because our good news didn’t come to you just in speech but also with power and the Holy Spirit and with deep conviction. You know as well as we do what kind of people we were when we were with you, which was for your sake. 6 You became imitators of us and of the Lord when you accepted the message that came from the Holy Spirit with joy in spite of great suffering.” 1 Thessalonians 1

Let us celebrate together all he has given to us. What a great way to start a new year, with hearts full of HOPE and JOY for blessings shared near and far, and with YOU. ~ Jean Marvin & Your Mission Team



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 New Year's Day Office Closed	2	3	4 Finance Mtg. 6:30pm (Sunrise) Scouts (FH) 7pm	5	6
7 Worship 9:30am Communion	8 Book Club (GA) 10am Zoom Book Club 7pm Stephen Ministry (YCH) 6:30pm	9	10 Choir Practice 7pm	11 Scouts (FH) 7pm	12	13
14 Worship 9:30am	15  MLK Jr Day Office Closed	16	17 Choir Practice 7pm Scouts Parent Mtg (FH) 7pm	18 Scouts (FH) 7pm	19	20
21 Worship 9:30am	22 Stephen Ministry (YCH) 6:30pm	23	24 Choir Practice 7pm	25 Scouts (FH) 7pm	26 Food Pantry 4-5pm	27 Private Event (YCH) Food Pantry 9-11am Pastor Dave @ West Plains District Mtg - Ashland UMC
28 Worship 9:30am	29	30 Chime Articles Due	31			



Sermon Series : *“The Beauty Of Amazement”*

January 7 ~ *Simeon and The Christ Child*
Luke 2:25-35 /Communion

January 14 ~ *The Boy Jesus Teaching In The Temple*
Luke 2:41-52

January 21 ~ *Jesus’ Miracles In Capernaum*
Luke 4:31-37

January 28 ~ *Jesus Healing The Paralytic*
Luke 5:17-26

*but 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 40:31

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