



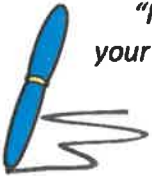
# The Messenger

January 2021

801-393-5662

First United Methodist Church  
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## PASTOR'S PEN



*"For if you forgive others their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you; but if you do not forgive others, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses"*  
(Matthew 6:14-15).

As we begin a new year, it's natural for us to think about starting fresh. We make New Year's resolutions to do better with our diet and exercise. We also might make a resolution to strengthen our spiritual practices of worship, Bible reading, and prayer. All that is great. I hope you will put yourself to those good goals! More than ever, in this time of COVID, we need to do anything and everything we can do to improve our physical, mental, and spiritual well-being.

With that in mind, I thought maybe it would be good to focus our attention at the beginning of 2021 on the challenge of forgiveness. Through the course of this pandemic, our relationships may have been strained by too much "quality" time with family members, as we've been locked in together. Or maybe our relationships have been put to the test by not being able to get together to share activities with friends and relatives due to COVID concerns. Maybe our relationships have frayed due to different political opinions or different standards about mask-wearing and social distancing. Or maybe our forgiveness issues have nothing to do with the pandemic and recent events. Maybe those long-held grudges and alienations go way back to previous times and problems.

Forgiveness isn't an easy topic. That's why we're going to talk about it from a variety of angles over a number of weeks, from Dec. 27 to Jan. 31. I hope you will join us for worship and work on this aspect of life and spiritual improvement with all of us at FUMC.

Happy, healthy, and blessed New Year!  
Rev. Kim

## DIGITAL SUNDAY SCHEDULE

8:45 a.m. Adult Sunday School via Zoom  
10:00 a.m. Worship via Facebook Live  
11:00 a.m. Fellowship Time via Zoom  
11:30 a.m. Youth Sunday School via Zoom

## NEW YEAR'S SERMON SERIES ON FORGIVENESS

As the New Year begins, Rev. Kim will preach a series of sermons on the topic of forgiveness. You won't want to miss these messages on such an important topic to all our lives. If you know someone who is struggling with forgiveness, please invite them to participate with us in Facebook Live worship at [www.facebook.com/ogdenfumc](http://www.facebook.com/ogdenfumc), to watch from the archived videos on Facebook, or to listen to our service by phone (801-436-3829).

Dec 27—"Forgiveness: A New Year's Resolution"  
Jan 3—"Forgiveness: Dealing with Danger"  
Jan 10—"Forgiveness: Wrestling with Shame"  
Jan 17—"Forgiveness: Controlling Our Rage"  
Jan 24—"Forgiveness: Making Fruit from Misfortune"  
Jan. 31—"Forgiveness: Relying on God"

## FAITH DAY AT THE CAPITOL

This year's Faith Day at the Utah state capitol will be held virtually. On Wednesday, January 13, at 10:30-11:30 a.m., the Coalition of Religious Communities (CORC) will hold its annual event via Facebook Live at <https://www.facebook.com/crossroadsurbancenter>. While you could watch this event afterwards in the archive, it's best to have as many persons of faith as possible watching while the event is live, so that we can each sign in with something like "Hello from John &/or Jane Doe of Ogden First United Methodist Church." That will help give support to the cause and indicate to our legislators the large numbers of people who care religiously about issues of child homelessness and poverty in our state. This year's Faith Day gathering will include remarks from our UM Bishop Karen Oliveto.

Happy New Year 2021

## ADULT EDUCATION

The Adult Sunday School class meets via Zoom every Sunday at 8:45 a.m. In January, the class will return to the book *In God's Time: The Bible & the Future* by Craig C. Hill. The class has been fascinated by Professor Hill's discussion of apocalyptic literature in the Bible. For January 3, read pages 130-149.

The Friday Study is continuing to read *The Warmth of Other Suns: The Epic Story of America's Great Migration* by Isabel Wilkerson. Read through page 284 for the January 8 class.

## WORSHIP BY PHONE

For a couple months now, FUMC friends have been able to access the audio recording of our worship service by simply dialing **801-436-3829**. Put your phone on speaker, turn up the volume, and listen like you would listen to the radio or a podcast. The audio recordings will be available by 2:00 p.m. each Sunday for the latest Sunday worship service.



## HUMAN RELATIONS SPECIAL OFFERING

By the United Methodist calendar, January 17 is designated as Human Relations Sunday. But, because we aren't meeting in person, please use the enclosed Special Sundays envelope to send in your donation to FUMC any time during January. Along with United Methodists around the globe, we give to the Human Relations Offering so we can make an impact in communities where our brothers and sisters in Christ lack the resources or tools to reach their God-given

### HUMAN RELATIONS DAY



potentials. Our gifts are part of building beloved community through faith-based volunteer programs, community developers, and programs that work with at-risk teens. For more than half a century, United Methodists have observed this church-wide special Sunday in recognition of the message Jesus demonstrated during this life: Each of God's children is equally important. Together our reach is beyond measure!

## JANUARY MISSION EMPHASIS



CATHOLIC  
COMMUNITY  
SERVICES

January's  
Monthly Mission  
Emphasis is Pantry  
Packs for Catholic

Community Services. These bags of food are given to students in local schools on Friday afternoons. These students do not have consistent access to food on the weekends. Usually in January we participate in a competition with Community UMC and Aldersgate UMC for the "Souper Bowl of Caring" event. Due to our social distancing needs this year, we will be modifying the competition. Instead of gathering non-perishable foods of any variety, we will be putting together these Pantry Packs and competing with Community UMC over the number of Packs created. There are 2 options if you would like to participate in this ministry.

- If you contact Victoria Hair at [vareasoner@gmail.com](mailto:vareasoner@gmail.com), she will provide you a list of foods that need to be included in the Pantry Packs. You will be responsible for buying, building, and delivering your own Pantry Packs.
- The other option is a monetary donation. Each pack costs approximately \$3.50. The donations will be used to buy food in bulk to put together a large delivery. Please do not bring any food to the church!

## UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

On Tuesday,  
January 26 at 1:00  
p.m. via  
ZOOM, United  
Methodist Women  
plan to meet with  
Karen Lee and others sharing about "Our Money,  
Where Does It Go?" We are invited to tie in to the  
meeting via ZOOM. Watch for the link, sent from the  
church office.



United  
Methodist  
Women

FAITH • HOPE • LOVE IN ACTION

All interested in efforts to bring attention to child homelessness and poverty's impact in Utah are invited to a VIRTUAL "FAITH DAY" gathering. For several years, United Methodists and others have joined in "Faith Day" events at the Capitol, either in late January or in February. Bill Tibbits, legislative advocate at the Capitol, will share plans for this event as they are available. See additional information in this newsletter.

## BOOK TALK

The Book Talk book of the month is *Elizabeth Is Missing* by Emma Healey. Join us on Monday, January 11, 2021, at 6:30 p.m. via Zoom. The book selections for 2021 are below. Check them out and join us this year! Contact Cheryl at [801-389-9864](tel:801-389-9864) for further information.



- January - *Elizabeth Is Missing* by Emma Healey
- February - *In the Woods* by Tana French
- March - *The Perfume Collector* by Kathleen Tessaro
- April - *The Circle* by Dave Eggers
- May - *The Book of Lost Friends* by Lisa Wingate
- June - *Camino Winds* by John Grisham
- July - *The Stationery Shop* by Marjan Kamali
- August - *Code Girls* by Liza Mundy
- September – No book
- October - *The Pillars of the Earth* by Ken Follett
- November - *American Dirt* by Jeanine Cummins
- December - *Killers of the Flower Moon* by David Grann

## VBS 2021 TEAM NEEDS YOU

In February, we will start planning for VBS 2021 and we invite anyone with a love for children and Jesus to join the planning team. Hands-on training provided, no experience necessary! We are looking forward to holding Rocky Railway VBS this summer, whether virtually or in person. Our first meeting will be on Tuesday, February 2 at 7 p.m. via Zoom. We will continue to meet the first Tuesday of each month. For questions or more information, contact Brenda at 801-866-9698 or [b.boren34@gmail.com](mailto:b.boren34@gmail.com)



## BRENDA BOREN TO CHANGE ROLES

As the New Year begins, Brenda Boren will change roles. Effective January 1, Brenda is giving up the staff position of Children's Ministry Director and taking on the new paid staff position of Worship Technician. For months, the ReLaunch Team has discussed the need for more help with worship technology. Whenever we deem it COVID-safe enough for some people to return to worshipping in the sanctuary, there will be other church members for whom the Facebook Live worship experience is still necessary and meaningful. That need to have a dual-ministry focus will create a greater level of complexity for worship audio and video that Rev. Kim can't manage on her own.



Therefore, the ReLaunch Team and Staff Parish Relations Committee decided that we need to have a paid staff person who is dedicated to learning and implementing this higher-level technology. The Worship Technician will also be recruiting and training worship tech volunteers to help operate microphones, a digital camera, the laptop computer, and the digital stream that is sent out to the members at home. (Please let Brenda know if you're interested.) The Worship Tech Team will begin practicing in January, so you might begin to notice some changes in the Facebook livestream before too long.

Due to the lack of children's participation in digital Sunday School, there is no plan to hire a new Children's Ministry Director in the near term, and children's Sunday School classes will not be offered until new interest arises. Brenda will continue to chair the Children's Ministry Team, however, and she hopes to use her newly-developing tech skills to organize a virtual Vacation Bible School for 2021.

## THANK YOU!

Thanks to Youth Ministry Director Austin Barron, other adult leaders and parents, and our FUMC Youth for a great Youth Worship Service on



December 13! Everyone appreciated seeing our youth present their annual Christmas play, even in this strange year. We enjoyed your performance of "The Nazareth News." We are grateful for Austin's ability to make the technology work so the play could be performed in a COVID-safe manner.



**UNITED METHODIST MEN**

There will be NO UMM meeting in January. The next meeting is **Monday, February 8th 6:30pm.**

Zoom connection

information will be in the weekly church email.

**THANK YOU FOR FINANCIAL GIVING**

Thanks to your faithful giving and the 2020 Paycheck Protection Program loan (and its forgiveness), we are ending 2020 and starting 2021 on a strong financial base. We appreciate everyone who made a pledge for 2021, so we could set a hopeful and realistic budget. Some of our members have passed away or moved away, so our 2021 budget is necessarily smaller than before.

But, with faithful stewardship from all of us, we'll be able to carry on God's work.

Before long, the Finance Secretaries (Richard Carr & Lucki Latimer) will print and mail out the annual 2020 contributions reports for your tax preparation. Be sure and let them know if you see any errors that need to be corrected. Please know that your donations make miracles of good happen in our congregation, community, and around the world. Your giving is appreciated!

**2021 LAY SERVANT MINISTRIES COURSES**

The Western Jurisdiction is offering a number of Lay Servant Ministries courses in the first quarter of 2021.

Due to everyone using digital technologies these days, it is much easier to collaborate and share learning

opportunities. If you've never taken a Lay Servant Ministries course before, you should start with the Intro/Basic course. If you've done that already, then you might like to take advantage of one or more of the other interesting classes. See details at <https://www.layservanttraining.org/#BASICAK>.

**MANY EXPRESSED A "THANK YOU" FOR THE ADVENT WREATH KITS DELIVERED TO THE CONGREGATION**

(for example)

We miss you all. We've been participating in the Advent Wreath this year. That's helped us a lot.

We pray that everyone is well. Rob said he misses the singing!

Trudy & Rob Garcia



Dear Rev. James,

The Ogden-Weber Community Action Partnership, Inc. (OWCAP), would like to extend a very sincere thank you for the generous \$2,500 donation your church made to support OWCAP's coronavirus relief programs, specifically those needing rental assistance during these very trying times.

We are confident that your donated funds changed lives in a very meaningful way, and we are very pleased and proud that you've chosen to partner with OWCAP to make an impact in Weber County.

Sincerely,

Christine Ipsen, Executive Director

Dear 1<sup>st</sup> United Methodist Church,

Thank you so much [for the financial assistance.] I was able to get each of my kids 2 pairs of pants and a long sleeve shirt or two just in time for the snow. You don't know how much it means and how much we needed it. I'm very glad my kids don't have to go to school in the snow in shorts. Just wanted to let you know that it was a very big help. They still need clothes and things, but now I don't have to panic about it. Now I just have to do lots of laundry to keep their couple things clean. Now they have enough to get them by for a bit so I can gradually figure it out. Thanks to you and the church so much.

A person who received help from the FUMC "Pastor's Discretionary Fund"

# More Thank You Notes

Dear First United Methodist Church,

Thanks for your support of Pura Vida Ministries in 2020. We really appreciate it. The funds you sent were used for our milk program.

Here's a brief year-end report:

- Built homes for 3 families in need
- Distributed milk to 465 families
- Delivered emergency food to 369 families
- Provided scholarships for:
  1. 90 primary students
  2. 224 secondary students
  3. 36 university students

Thank you again,  
Mark Ely

Dear Rev. Kim & all my friends at church,

Thank you all so much for all the birthday wishes. It was wonderful. I just may be 80 again next year!!

Merry Christmas & Happy New Year to all,  
Peggy Davis

Dear 1<sup>st</sup> United Methodist Church,

Thank you so much for the many wishes to us on occasion of our 60<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary from the members.

Thanks also to the church for the use of the lawn ornaments and the balloon.

Bud & Dixie Trewet

Thank you for your generous support of our ministry. Many Blackfeet families will feel the love and prayers you blessed us with.

B.U.M.P.

Blackfeet United Methodist Parrish

Dear SPR Committee and Congregation,

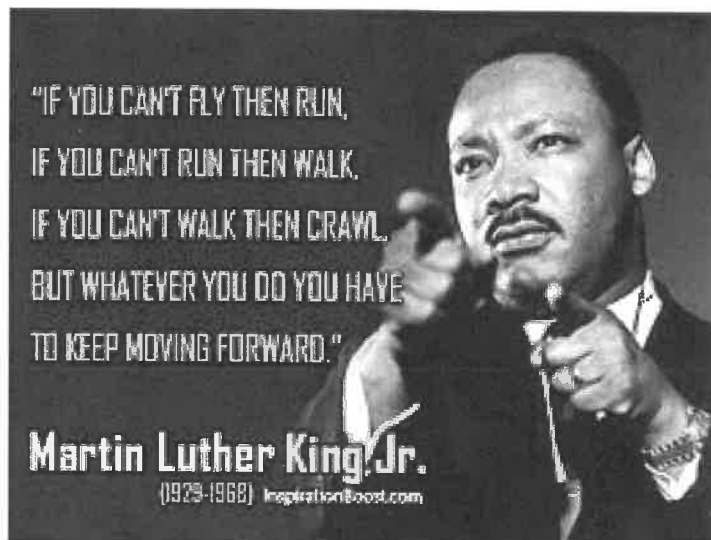
Thank you for the Christmas honorarium. Your support for my ministry means a lot.

Happy New Year,  
Rev. Kim

Dear SPR Committee and Congregation,

Your generous gift is such a reminder of how much your friendship and acceptance means to me. Thank you for the opportunity you've given me to work in such wonderful company. This has been a difficult year for me and my family but I've definitely felt your love and prayers on our behalf.

Happy New Year,  
Love, Gail Jensen



**Martin Luther King, Jr.'s  
Birthday Observance  
January 18, 2021**