



# The Messenger

November 2021

801-393-5662

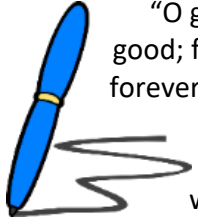
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Worship by Phone: 801-436-3829

## PASTOR'S PEN



"O give thanks to the Lord, for God is good; for God's steadfast love endures forever" (Psalm 107:1).

Four times in this Psalm, we are instructed to give thanks to God who has fed the hungry and thirsty and redeemed those who were in trouble. We are called to give thanks to God who has offered steadfast love and performed wonderful works for humankind.

I appreciate the month of November and its opportunity to focus our attention on gratitude. Social scientists and mental health professionals repeatedly tell us that an attitude of gratitude is beneficial to our well-being. When we focus our attention and thoughts on the positive blessings for which we can be thankful, our spirits brighten. We become happier, and we are more able to spread joy to others. Even our physical health improves when we have gratitude in our hearts.

I will always cherish the years that Joan Effiong lived in Ogden and blessed our First UMC with her Christian enthusiasm and holy wisdom. When asked how she was doing, Joan's most common response was "Grateful." Every time I heard Joan say that, I was reminded that gratitude should be more core to my being. Thankfulness shouldn't be an occasional, add-on to our normal way of being. Appreciation should be our most basic and foundational stance toward life, toward other people, and toward God.

November shouldn't be the only time we focus on gratitude. But this month is certainly a good time to be more intentional about improving our gratitude skills. I challenge you (and me!) to try the Joan Effiong response. Whenever someone asks you how you are, give them Joan's answer: "Grateful." Then reflect on how that response can affirm and increase your gratitude.

Happy Thanksgiving!  
Rev. Kim

## FRIDAY STUDY



Adult Learning Opportunities

The Friday Class is continuing its study on "Methodist Spirituality in a Postmodern World." Alan Livingston is leading the class by Zoom. Watch

for the link in the Thursday weekly email from the church office. The main text is *Beyond Resistance: The Institutional Church Meets the Postmodern World* by John Dorhauer.

## SUNDAY SCHEDULE

- 8:45 a.m. Adult Sunday School in-person & Zoom
- 10:00 a.m. In-person Worship and via Facebook Live
- 10:00 a.m. In-person Youth Sunday School
- 11:00 a.m. Fellowship Time
- 11:30 a.m. Zoom Fellowship (3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday Monthly)

## ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL



SUNDAY SCHOOL

The Adult Sunday School Class is reading and discussing *The Difficult Words of Jesus: A Beginner's Guide to His Most Perplexing Teachings*

by Amy-Jill Levine. The class meets 8:45 – 9:45 a.m. each Sunday. All are welcome!

## THANK YOU FOR 2022 PLEDGES

Thank you to everyone who has turned in a pledge card for 2022. If you haven't yet turned in yours, please do this as soon as possible.

The Finance Committee will meet on November 18 to compare pledges with budget requests turned in by the various committees. Your pledge will help!



## HANGING OF THE GREENS

Join us on **Saturday, November 27th** at 9 a.m. to decorate the church for the Advent/Christmas Season. All can help in putting up the trees, wreaths, nativity set, advent candles and other decorations. Your assistance will be greatly appreciated!



*Hanging of the Greens*

## 2021 ANNUAL CONFERENCE REPORT



Rev. Kim and Lay Member Chris Hicks attended the Mountain Sky Annual Conference online this year. It was held October 21-23 over Zoom. Some of you may have also watched parts of the event through the livestreaming portal on the Conference website. Because Annual Conference was originally intended to be held in person at the Ogden Eccles Conference Center, the main leadership did broadcast the event from our very own Peery Egyptian Theater.

Since the cameras were usually focused up-close on the speakers, you may not have noticed the head table and worship decorations. If you did, however, you might be interested to know that the silver cross was from our FUMC altar, the pumpkins and acorn squash decorations were from our FUMC church garden, and even the floral arrangement was from a memorial service connected to our church. For more information about what happened at the Mountain Sky Annual Conference, be sure to come to worship on November 7, when Rev. Kim and Chris will give their report.

**REMINDER – DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME ENDS  
Sunday, November 7th**



## NOVEMBER MISSION EMPHASIS IS JENAR

Dear FUMC Community,  
Happy November! We love this special month where we open our hearts and share the blessings we have received from God and everyone in our lives.



When COVID-19 hit our world last year, JENAR had to pivot. We were fortunate to find other ways to spread blessings. We partnered with other organizations to expand our awareness and build community within our foundation.

Below are a few highlights:

- We strengthened our partnership with Dress Addiction to sponsor 3 women in the Women Empowerment Sewing Class
- We provided financial support to a family of a young lady who died during childbirth leaving behind triplets, a two-year-old and her husband. The family had no funds to rent incubators for their premature babies in ICU.
- We donated to support a law student who was awaiting a kidney transplant. She passed away before she was able to receive the transplant, again reminding us of the urgency with which their needs.
- We are collaborating with the Neuro-Rehabilitation Center for Children, an organization that helps children with ADHD, Dyslexia, Autism, Visual/Intellectual impairment and Downs Syndrome to expand our influence and work in Calabar, Nigeria.

We know that you have many competing priorities and are so appreciative to be included each year.

In addition to your donations, you can continue to support us for free by selecting JENAR as your charity of choice when you shop at Amazon. To do so, please follow these easy steps:

- 1) Go to Amazon Smile  
<https://smile.amazon.com>
- 2) Login or set up your account
- 3) Scroll down to Amazon Smile and select JENAR
- 4) Make your regular Amazon purchases through Amazon Smile
- 5) Amazon will donate a portion of your regular purchases made through Amazon Smile to JENAR

Thank you for your continued support.  
Spreading blessings, Joan Effiong, President, JENAR

## 2022 MISSION EMPHASIS RECOMMENDATIONS



The Missions Committee is looking for recommendations for mission emphases for 2022. These can be local, national, or international organizations that have impacted you or that you'd like to teach our congregation about. If you have suggestions for the committee, please send them to [vareasoner@gmail.com](mailto:vareasoner@gmail.com). Include the name of the organization and a couple of months you would be available to present it to the congregation. You would be responsible for writing a newsletter article and a 3 minute presentation for worship. If you have any questions, please let Victoria Hair know via email at [vareasoner@gmail.com](mailto:vareasoner@gmail.com).

## THIRD SUNDAY ZOOM FELLOWSHIP



We've started having Zoom Fellowship again on the third Sundays of each month, beginning

at 11:30 a.m. This gives an opportunity for fellowship with those worshipping from home through Facebook Live. Watch the weekly email for the Zoom link.

3<sup>RD</sup> QUARTER SMITH'S DONATIONS

We would like to thank all the households that are currently participating in the "Smith's Inspiring Donations" project. During the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter of this year FUMC has earned **\$97.96** just for shopping at any of the local Smith's Food and Drug stores. This is money that can go directly back into our operating budget.

Smith's donates .5% of every eligible purchase made by participants to the organization their "rewards" card is linked to. It's easy to link your card to FUMC. If you haven't done so already, just go the Customer Service desk at Smith's and they can help you do that.

## UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

BAKE SALE AFTER CHURCH NOVEMBER 14, 2021  
11 AM – 12 NOON

**No prices attached. Donations only. Bring items for pick-up following the church service.**

We welcome other bakers in addition to those listed below. Bakers and items to be made:  
+Julie Coley – Pecan Pies (2), Karmel Korn  
+Jennie Sambamurthi—Pumpkin Bread  
+Nora Hughes – Russian Tea Cakes/cookies  
+Mary Morgan—Brownies  
+Gloria Merritt—Cranberry Walnut Quick Bread (3)  
+Jean Reed – Banana Bread  
+Karen Lee –one Lemon Meringue Pie  
+Margaret Weimer – Banana Bread  
+Linda Gates – Chicken/Beef Pot Pies  
+T. K. Farley – Pumpkin Loaf



**BUYERS: CONTACT YOUR CHOICE OF BAKER WITH YOUR REQUEST/S BY NOV. 8, 2021.**

Items can be picked up in the narthex after the worship service.

United Methodist Women designate all proceeds to five local charities.



**World Thank Offering Program Tuesday Nov. 16, 2021** at 1:00 pm in the Wesley Room. **(Please note date change for the meeting.)**

You are invited to bring an offering for this program, facilitated by Jennie Sambamurthi. "Embracing Change, Sharing Grace" is the theme. We listen to Jesus' message about embracing change even in the midst of inevitable loss, and practice new ways of doing things within ourselves and within our communities. This Message helps us experience more healing and more joy when things change. The goal is to accept and implement what is learned. Our faithful community can help us weather the losses and to share God's grace in the world through our gifts.

**Christmas Fellowship Potluck Saturday Dec. 11, 2021** at 11:30 am. The Men's Chorus will share music. Please bring a dish to share. All women of the church are invited. Bring a friend, too.







### BOOK TALK

The Book Talk book of the month is The Pillars of the Earth by Ken Follett. Join us on Monday, November 8 at 6:30 p.m. via Zoom for our book discussion. We will be making our book selections for 2022 so be ready with your book choice. The Zoom link will be shared through email or contact Cheryl at 801-389-9864 for more information.

### ADVENT WREATH VOLUNTEERS NEEDED



Very soon, Rev. Kim will be scheduling volunteers to lead the Advent Rituals for the November 28 – December 24 worship services. If you would like to do this, please contact her.

### UNITED METHODIST MEN

The next UMM meeting is **Monday, November 8<sup>th</sup> at 7:30pm (Notice time change)**. Look for more information in the weekly church email.



### LET'S BRIGHTEN A CHILD'S CHRISTMAS

The UMM are buying Christmas gifts for foster kids again this year through the Utah Foster Care Foundation's Giving Tree program. Kids get to make a wish list for gifts and we buy them for \$25 or less. If you'd like to join us in brightening up a foster child's Christmas morning, please contact Paul Kriekard or David Barron.



### UMM SPONSORED HOCKEY NIGHT



It's hockey season and the United Methodist Men is sponsoring a hockey night at the Ogden Mustangs for

**Friday, December 10<sup>th</sup>, 2021.** Tickets are \$7 each provided we can get at least 20 people. Please contact Tim Stenner @801-791-7138 or [timothy\\_stenner@hotmail.com](mailto:timothy_stenner@hotmail.com); or Paul Kriekard for reservations. We will have a sign-up sheet at church as well for those interested.



Church Family,

I sincerely appreciate the love and concern you showed me during the passing of my brother. Your sympathy cards, calls and social media outpouring made the world to me and helped me to navigate the difficulty of losing a love one during the pandemic. Wishing you all God's amazing grace and peace.

Joan Effiong

Dear FUMC,

Thank you for your donation of **99 pounds** of diapers that will help Catholic Community Services of Utah service hundreds of needy people in the Ogden area. Your generosity is greatly appreciated.

Dear FUMC,

Thank you ALL for the lovely card and all your prayers. I feel your prayers within me and it makes me feel so much better. Thank you.

Your friend, Shirley Valencia

Dear First United Methodist Church,

Thank you so much for including us in the church's prayers and for the special prayer of protection for the baby's delivery. It was wonderful to have so many people thinking of us and the baby. We can't thank everyone enough.

We are grateful that baby Julius is healthy and I am now cancer free so we can all move forward and enjoy our new little family.

Sending much love to the congregation. Thank you all!

XOXOXO, Jamie, Kim & Julius  
(Trenholm's daughter and her family)

