



Christ United Methodist Church

January 2022 Newsletter

Upcoming Events

- Prayer Breakfast
Saturday January 8th
at 9AM in the church
parlor, all are wel-
come and food
provided
- Sweetheart Potluck
Sunday February 13th
in the church fellow-
ship hall

New Year Encouragement

In this coming year, I want to encourage us through the Written Word of God found in II Corinthians 4:7-18, it begins with these words:

“But we have this treasure in jars of clay, to show that the surpassing power belongs to God and not to us.”

The treasure is the light of God and His Spirit that has shone and is shining in our hearts. This light yearns to seep out of our lives to engage with those who need the love and light of Christ. This is our call; this is what God is inviting us to be about as His people—His Church. We are called to be those who relationally engage in the lives of those around us through the power of the Holy Spirit.

There is Good News for this 2022 year. Let these words of Paul

soak into your hearts and spirits:

“We know that He who raised the Lord Jesus will raise us also with Jesus and bring us and you into His presence.”

We are risen with Jesus from the powers and the sting of death. And what is the purpose of this rising anew?

“So that we may be brought into His presence.”

The hope of 2022 is the hope of every year: the presence of God living in us and engaging the people of this world through us.

Because of God’s Emmanuel presence, we can live into the encouragement of Paul: “Not to lose heart.”

We live, not losing heart nor hope, because we live in the resurrected life of Christ who is continually alive in us and with us through the

Holy Spirit’s abiding and guiding presence.

So may we be a people of authentic hope as we come into 2022. May we answer God’s invitation to relationally engage the people of our world through the power of the Spirit for the glory of God.

In the name of the Father, Son and Spirit.
AMEN! Happy New Year.

Rev. Braden Parks

“If this is to be a Happy New Year, a year of usefulness, a year in which we shall live to make this earth better, it is because God will direct our pathway. How important then, to feel our dependence upon Him!”

- Matthew Simpson

Source: internet

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A Prayer for a New Year



“Grant us, O Lord:
The hope to envision new dreams;
The strength to rise above our limitations, our fears and whatever holds us down;

The courage to stand on our own,
to stretch our imagination and to experience being fully human, fully alive;
The faith to live our lives in your image and likeness.

Guide us, O Lord, this new year,

every way, every day. Amen.”

Source: Internet by Fr. Brian Cavanaugh

Christ UMW Christmas Luncheon 2021



On December 8th, 2021 the United Methodist Women enjoyed a Christmas lunch together at Olive Garden. A good time of fellowship was had by all. Loraine Osborne gifted the lunch post-

humously to all of her dear friends in the UMW.

Mitten Tree and Fruit Plates



The United Methodist Women and other members of our congregation donated items to Northeast Community Fund for Christmas boxes being prepared for DOVE. The Mitten Tree in our parlor was used to display the gloves, hats, mittens,

and socks prior to delivering them to Northeast.

These were our contributions: hats: 7; pairs of gloves, 13; pairs of mittens, 5; pairs of socks, 12.

On the same day, the UMW met and prepared fruit plates for 8 of our members

who live alone or are in senior living residences. Women delivered these on December 14. Thank you to all involved.

Submitted By:
Karen Rivera

January Birthdays

Audree Denton	6
Sharon Parks	8
Joel Hawkinson	16
Brian Keller	18
Mary Ann Carr	24

January Anniversaries

Bill and Shirley Walker	11th
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In Memoriam

Joanne Loretta Austin, 88, of Decatur, IL, passed away on December 26, 2021. Joanne was a member of Decatur Christ UMC for many years.

Joanne was born on August 21, 1933 in Davenport, IA. Joanne graduated from Stephen Decatur High School, Decatur, IL. Joanne went on to have three children: Kathy Pfothauer, Mark Pfothauer and Gale Devantier. Joanne met her match in Charles J. Austin and married in Las Vegas, Nevada in 1983.

She retired from Cash Acme in 1986. However, what her family treasured most would be the elaborate handmade cards she would send to all. She had a sharp wit, wonderful sense of humor and loved fiercely.



“This, then, is how you should pray:

‘Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.’

Matthew 6:9-10

Prayer List

Donovan and Erma Lewis
 Matthews and Sisson Families
 Scott and Bonnie Matthews
 Pastor Miley Palmer
 Rev. Bill Pruetz
 Bob Patterson
 Joanne Austin Family
 Don Wall
 Barbara Boyd
 Malvia Sherwood
 Savannah (Jacquie’s daughter)
 Raymond King (Char’s dad)
 George and Mila
 Matt (friend of the Carr family)
 Virginia Humphrey

Seeking Peace

How often have you found yourself worrying about the present or future? Sometimes it feels that the weight of the world is on us. John 16:33 says, “I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world.” If

you find yourself struggling with finding peace, know that you can have peace with God. God yearns to give you His shalom: His healing, His power, His joy, His comfort especially as we start 2022. My prayer for all of us is that we yearn for and ask God for His peace.



January 2022

1503 North Summit Ave
Decatur, IL 62526

Phone: 217-423-4962

Cell: 217-720-7932

Pastor: Braden Parks

Email: braden.parks18@gmail.com

Website: <https://christchurchhome.com>

Instagram: [cumcdecatur](https://www.instagram.com/cumcdecatur)

Open Hearts. Open Minds. Open Doors.

Here at Decatur Christ we focus on loving God and loving others through the empowerment of the Holy Spirit.

GOD'S IMAGE

We believe that God created all people in His image. This means that we are intentional about continuing to create an environment where all are welcome into a loving and compassionate family. We are focused on meeting people where they are and loving them in the power of Christ. Discipleship involves everyone; God has given everyone strengths in which we are to use to love people more authentically.

LOVE

We, at Decatur Christ UMC, are participating with God as He loves and draws more people into His loving embrace. We want to invite you into this family as we, together, love God and love other people. As we gather and go, we want to be a family known by God's love living in us.

COME, JOIN and JOURNEY with us as we journey together with God and with one another.

Church Stewardship

As we begin a new year, it is a time to reflect on this past year. For many, the year 2021 has been a challenging time. Decatur Christ UMC has had the opportunity to minister to individuals throughout the Decatur community and also around the world through UMC apportionments. As a Methodist congregation, we believe strongly in caring for others and

bringing a message of hope to those we encounter. This past year has brought many unique challenges to Decatur Christ UMC personally. We have had a number of faithful believers part from this earth. As we mourn the loss of dear friends, I encourage us to honor the legacy they have left. Our church financially needs your support. Please prayerfully

consider what you can give to help continue the work of God at Decatur Christ UMC.

Submitted By:
Rev. Braden Parks

