

Bell Ringer

Howell FUMC

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

JANUARY 2021

ALMOST

ALMOST! With vaccines COVID-19 is almost...beat, but 300,000 have died and more are dying each day. Our life is almost back to normal. Normal is our dream but, we have not even reached almost. This is the time of the year when we are thinking about almost starting a diet. Or, almost changing a habit. We want our relationships to not just be okay. We want them to be great. I don't want to almost have a good marriage. I want a great marriage. I don't want to almost be a good dad. I want to be a great dad. I don't want to almost be a Christ-follower. I think a lot of people are almost a Christ-follower. Close enough to get the benefit but not to be fully invested to where it changes your life. I am hoping people will not settle for being almost involved in church, but dig in and find out what God has for you around His table. Almost.

2020 began with the idea of promise, vision an exciting future and even dare I say hope. Then, the pandemic came and everything changed. Most of us are exhausted from masks, social distancing and staying home. As we begin 2021 hope is indeed around the corner. It is almost.

And so, in January our message series will be called "ALMOST." Almost, not just yet but almost. Start the new year right by joining with us each week through Facebook Live, our Website, by phone and dare I say in person. (If our internet company fails us on Facebook Live you can watch our services through our website early Sunday afternoons.)

Almost

1/3	Almost Patient
1/10	Almost Faithful
1/17	Almost Rich
1/24	Almost the Hope of the World
1/31	No More Almost

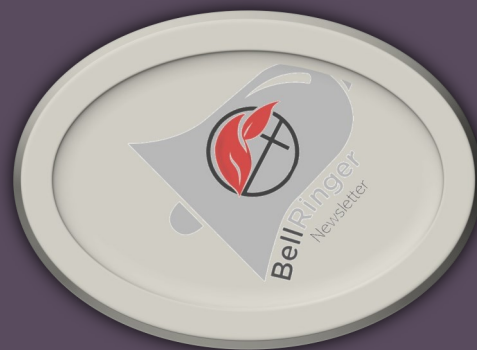
When it comes to 2020, I'm over it! My prayer is that in 2021 we will move from Almost to Done in the things that matter most.

Dear Jesus may it be!

Pastor Scott

P.S.

I am doing a new testament challenge for the first 90 days of 2021. The schedule can be found later in this newsletter. You can also use the YouVersion Bible App – the New Testament in 90 Days. Either way you can pick your own version of the Bible to read or listen to.



Church Events

- Jan 1st - New Testament Challenge Begins
- Jan 1st - Office Closed
- Jan 7th - MOPS Virtual Trustees
- Jan 14th - Finance
- Jan 18th - Stephen Ministry No Preschool
- Jan 19th - SPRC
- Jan 21st - Church Council
- Feb 1st - Red Cross Blood Drive

Stephen Ministry

Happy New Year, from the Stephen Ministry Team at Howell FUMC!

2021 is here and we cautiously wait to see what this year will bring. Each with different hopes, plans and dreams. After 2020, we realize drastic changes can occur at the blink of an eye and plans change due to unforeseen circumstances. There was loss of life, employment changes, and changes on how children schooled. Who would have dared dreamed any multitude of the scenarios that occurred last year?!

Alas, we face a new year, and as is every year, a mystery of what is ahead. The one assurance is that we know that Jesus will be there every step of the way. He will be protecting, encouraging and providing all of our needs. For those who are not feeling secure in faith, or your relationship with Christ is broken, or maybe the weight of the world feels overwhelming, reach out to a Stephen Minister. We can help restore the promises of God. We listen and with His guidance, can help restore your faith and relationship with Jesus Christ. As believers in miracles of God, we stand ready to help.

Contact Pastor Scott or any Stephen Ministry team member to help secure a Stephen Minister in your time of need.

May God Bless you and keep you and may His face shine upon you in this new year!

Patti Van Loo - for the Stephen Ministry Team

**Please lift in prayer our beloved leader, Carolyn Henderson. May God provide his love and care for her in her time of illness.*



SINGLE BOARD GOVERNANCE

The Vital Church Initiative (VCI) produced a ministry plan that was approved by Church Conference. The Ministry Plans (1 D) included a change to a streamlined Church Council structure. This involved the formation of a task force on how to best move forward. The task force has met several times prior to the pandemic but the effort was placed on hold until now.

Focusing on the organizational structure of a church seems on the surface unspiritual. However, looking at a church's structure is spiritual for several reasons. The most important is it either allows for or prohibits the growth of a church, thus making fewer disciples of Christ. A bureaucracy that is too complex does not allow a church to move efficiently through the process of making decisions. Ministry isn't about governance; it's about making disciples of Jesus Christ.

The idea of Single Governance is to flatten the structure so we can get closer to the ministries of the church. The ministries being what our congregation thinks is best for our community.

Further information about this initiative will follow. In the meantime, if you have questions or comments please contact Rick Staley, Doug Paige, Lance Schuhmacher, Theresa Bennett or Pastor Scott.

FINANCE MINISTRY

335

Howell FUMC Financial Summary

01-01-2020 thru 11-30-2020

Income

	2020 Actual	2020 Target	Amt Over/ (Under)	Actual / Target	Y-T-D expected	Actual to Expected Percentage Over/(Under)
General - pledged	301,857.48	350,616.00	(48,758.52)	86.09	91.53	(5.44)
General - non-pledged	100,753.27	199,835.18	(99,081.91)	50.42	91.53	(41.11)
Loose Plate	2,515.21	8,000.00	(5,484.79)	31.44	91.53	(60.09)
Other	77,085.94	9,327.00	67,758.94	826.48	91.53	734.95
Payroll Protection Loan	71,408.42					
Total	482,211.90	567,778.18	(85,566.28)	84.93	91.53	(6.60)

Expenses

Budget split	Actual	Budget	Amt Over/ (Under)	Actual / Budget	Y-T-D expected	Actual to Expected Percentage Over/(Under)
18.26 1.0 Operating expenses	74,013.29	103,700.00	-29,686.71	71.37	91.53	(20.16)
9.22 2.0 Program expenses	29,114.91	52,325.00	-23,210.09	55.64	91.53	(35.89)
12.34 3.0 Ministry Shares	27,331.70	70,050.94	-42,719.24	39.02	91.53	(52.51)
60.09 4.0 Staff Salaries	314,809.59	341,202.24	-26,392.65	92.26	91.53	0.73
0.09 Payroll expenses	579.25	500.00	79.25	115.85	91.53	24.32
100.00 Total	445,848.74	567,778.18	-121,929.44	78.53	91.53	(13.00)

Income Overage/(Shortfal \$ 36,363.16

The General Fund giving for 2020 was below what was needed to maintain a balanced budget. As you can see from above, the Pledged giving was running about 5 percent below where it needed to be and unpledged giving was about 40 percent below what it needed to be. The Payroll Protection Loan we received from the Small Business Administration helped us get by for this year but 2021 is the start of a new year.

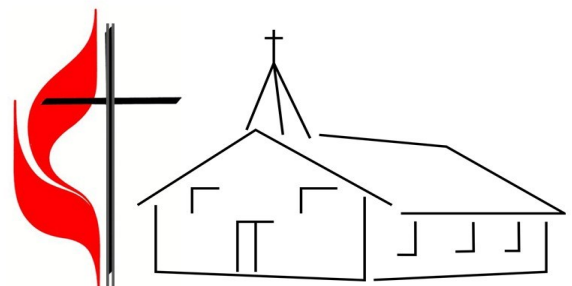
The special giving event for the Mortgage principle has concluded. As of 11-30-2020 we have reduced the Mortgage principle by \$46,488 with additional giving expected before year-end

Thank you for your participation in this year's Stewardship campaign - "Excel in the Grace of Giving!". We have yet to hear from some of you and our Stewardship amount for both the General Fund and Church Building Mortgage Fund are below what we will need for 2021. If you have not turned in a pledge form or can pledge a higher amount, please do so. Your pledge can be submitted from the FUMC website.

2021 Numbered Giving Envelopes

Available in "blue" drawers under awning at door #7.

*If you would like envelopes assigned to you, please let Janice Nordman know.
Email
statements@howellfumc.com
or call church office
(517) 546-2730





Hi Everyone!

I pray everyone had a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year even though everything has been different. I pray we can get back to some assemblage of normal by spring. We have a full slate of officers for 2021. Thank you all for taking on these duties for 2021. I look forward to working with everyone. There has been a computer glitch so the 2021 booklets will be late.

Blessings, Janet Adams President

Reading Program

The 2021 books have been ordered and should shortly be in the UMW Library. Please check out these new books as some of them are quite interesting. You can get into the library during the week when the office is open. Also the 2021 reading program sheets for you to keep track of the books you have read will also be in the library. Please pick one up and complete when you doing you're reading. When completed you may turn them in to Sue Rice in December 2021.

New Year's Tea

The New Year's Tea planned for January 10 has been postponed due to continuing restrictions of Covid-19. The Spring General Meeting program will be the New Year's Tea. The date will be Monday, April 12 at 7:00 pm in Lawson Hall barring any restrictions. Stay tuned.

Executive Committee Meeting

Executive Committee will meet Monday, January 11 at 7:00 pm on Zoom. All officers will get an invite to this meeting prior to the meeting date. Until further notice all meetings will be on Zoom.

E-mail address

The UMW now has an e-mail address. If have any questions or comments please use this address: umw@howellfumc.com



Numbered contribution envelopes for 2021 are available and ready for pickup at the church. Thank you for using numbered envelopes, it makes my job easier. If you would like numbered envelopes please contact me.

Pledges and online giving: If you have changed the amount or distribution of your pledge and you have online giving or automatic payment with your bank, you will need to these changes online, with your bank or contact me for authorization form to make the change.

Please be aware all contributions will go to the general fund, unless otherwise designated. If you have your bank send checks directly to us, please have a note on the check designating the fund and the amount.

Emailed statements: If you would like contribution statements emailed, please contact me. I can send out frequent statements for your review that your gifts have been properly credited. Your statements will come from statements@howellfumc.com I hope to have *year end statements* out the first week of January. As always please review these carefully and report errors to me so corrections can be made promptly.

Janice Nordman,
Financial Secretary.
517-548-4044 email janordman1914@comcast.net

Well-being Resources for Michiganders



This year has been a challenge, but finding support does not have to be.

Emotional Support – Talk to People Who Care

- **Have Covid-19 related stress and anxiety?** Call Stay Well Counseling via the Covid-19 Hotline: 888-535-6136 and press “8”. Counselors are available 24/7 - confidential and free.
- **Living with or have family members with mental illness or substance use challenges?** Call the Michigan Peer Warmline: 888-733-7753. Available daily from 10 a.m. to 2 a.m.
- **Feeling overwhelmed, stressed and anxious?** Text the 24/7 Michigan Crisis Text Line. Text the keyword “RESTORE” to 741741.
- **Have suicidal feelings or thoughts?** Call the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline: 800-273-8255. Available 24/7. Text the keyword “TALK” to 741741. Deaf or hard of hearing hotline: 800-273-8255 (TTY 800-799-4889).

Local Agencies for Seniors

Services for seniors may include meals on wheels, food pantries, in-home care, caregiver support, health and wellness classes, housing options, transportation resources, or just make friends and chat with other seniors:

- **Area Agency on Aging:** Eldercare Locator: 800-677-1116.
- **Catholic Social Services:** 734-971-9781.
- **Catholic Charities:** 517-545-5944 press 122.
- **Learn how to set up Facebook, ZOOM and other technology.** Call 888-559-1614 or visit www.getsetup.io/michigan. Over 150 small group classes are available as a free service to seniors, ages 60 and up.

Resources and COVID-19 Information

Need help connecting to local resources such as clothing and financial assistance? Talk to a live person:

- **Saint Joseph Mercy Health System Community Resource Hub and COVID Hotline:** 833-247-1258 and press 3.
- **Dial 2-1-1:** to reach the **United Way** referral and information helpline.
- **State of MI COVID-19 Hotline:** 888-535-6136.



Faith Community Nursing

When you go through deep waters,
I will be with you. ~ Isaiah 43:2

BeRemarkable.
stjoeshealth.org

Thank you

The year 2020 was a difficult year for Judy and me, but you made it bearable with your love and support. Thank you for well-wishes, prayers, cards, Memorials and other expressions of love and caring. Judy and I appreciated the help of Pastor Scott and Stephen Ministers. One lay person sent a card almost every week for the whole year until Judy died in November. I am looking forward to seeing you in person in church in the new year. And I am looking forward to seeing Judy in heaven someday. God is good!

Alan DeGraw

ALMOST

New Message series coming in January

- 1/3 Almost Patient
- 1/10 Almost Faithful
- 1/17 Almost Rich
- 1/24 Almost the Hope of the World
- 1/31 No More Almost



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED WITH LAUNDRY GAP MINISTRY

COMMITMENT IS 1-2 TIMES PER MONTH
FOR APPROX. 30 MINUTES
CONTACT MARSHA GRAY OR CHURCH OFFICE FOR DETAILS!

LAUNDRY MINISTRY

Thank you for your faithful giving to the church budget. You've helped provide clean clothes and a bit of comfort to provide to the needs of 50 families with 98 family members during 2020. The families have received a total of \$1,960 in vouchers which we have purchased from Wash Tubs laundromat. Thank to all those who have assisted with the ministry over the years. We are in need of help to continue the ministry. We are in need of a few individuals who would be willing to meet clients to give them vouchers and pray with them. This will only require one to four hours per month. During this time, clients are met in the parking lot to decrease the contact possibilities.

Please contact Marsha Gray to volunteer.
(517) 242-1630 or mjgray1@charter.net

Gleaners

Thank you to all for the donations for Gleaners Food Bank at the Drive thru collection event on December 12. It was exciting to see so many of you drive in that day. The truck was packed full to the top of the topper, with an additional large box in the cab! Our delivery totaled 1,302 pounds, bringing out 2020 total to 2,103.5 pounds. The need is so great with all the suffering during the Covid-19 pandemic. A text from the Gleaners manager says it all: "Your church ROCKS!" Thank you to you all.

In 2019 we delivered 23 trips. In 2020 we delivered 8 trips with just under a 100 pounds less than in 2019!

- Basil Bloss



Missions Report

In this very strange year of a world-wide pandemic, First United Methodist Church of Howell has adapted in so many ways. It's almost impossible to imagine it, had we not actually lived through it.

The Missions Committee saw many of the projects that we typically support be curtailed; no adult mission trip, no CROP walk, limited opportunities to collect food and donations for Gleaners. But, in spite of the challenges, the HEART of this church beats strong and together, we were able to accomplish much.

- Giving Garden - The faithful gardeners produced and donated more than 1,800 pounds of fresh produce to Gleaners - feeding our neighbors. They also collected nearly \$2,000 in donations for Gleaners.
- Lenten Offering - \$1,560 to Gleaners, \$1,560 to The Salvation Army and \$1,730 to Haitian Artisans for Peace International
- Advent Offering - Your giving in 2020 will support LACASA (Livingston Area Council Against Spousal Abuse), United Methodist Retirement Communities and Carolina Honduras Health Foundations.
- Laundry Gap - We continue to partner with Love In the Name of Christ and serve neighbors in need of laundry services. In 2020, 50 families with 98 family members were served with \$1,960 in vouchers for use at Wash Tubs laundromat.
- Gleaners - We supported Gleaners with collected food (including the December 12 drive through food collection) and donated a total of 2,103 pounds of food and financial support of \$2,451 in adding to the funds provided from the Lenten offering and Giving Garden donations.
- Salvation Army Angel Tree Program - So many of you stepped up to take a tag or purchase a gift from the Amazon Wishlist. All together, we donated more than 75 gifts for needy children in Livingston County.
- Salvation Army Bell Ringing - Friday, December 18, sixteen volunteers participated in ringing all day at Kroger for the Salvation Army Kettle Drive

We hope that the reality of a vaccine for COVID-19 will allow us to be together again at some point in 2021. Until then, remember you can continue to support the work of the church through your giving and participation!

Marsha Gray
Missions Chair

Between January 1 and December 8, 2020 a total of ten prayer shawls were given out. What a year this has been!

If you gave a prayer shawl out, and have not recorded it in the journal, please do so when we are able to get back into the church building.

Blessings, DuAnn & Linda



KNIT. CROCHET. PRAY.

HOWELL FUMC YOUTH | 2020

www.howellfumcyouth.com | danielle@howellfumc.com

SPARK Grades 6-8 | Wednesdays @ 6-7:30pm

IGNITE Grades 9-12 | Sundays @ 6-8pm

*Youth Bible Study Grades 6-12 | Sundays @ 10:30am

*same Sunday's as Ignite

Church Events

Youth Birthdays

DECEMBER

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31	1	2

Dec 13 | Confirmation Sunday 10:30am

Dec 16 | Spark Christmas Party

Dec 20 | Ignite Christmas Party

Dec 23 – Jan 3 | Winter Break, No Youth

Dec 27 | Howell FUMC Christmas Service

Grace's B'day | Dec 17

A series about Christmas



JANUARY

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

Dec 23 – Jan 3 | Winter Break, No Youth

Daniel's B'day | Jan 12

Mia's B'day | Jan 29

A series about Spiritual Habits



FEBRUARY

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28						

Feb 7 | Ignite Sledding

Feb 17 | Ash Wednesday Service, No Spark

Bryta's B'day | Feb 3

A series about Authority



New Testament Challenge January 2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
27	28	29	30	31	01 Matthew 1 Matthew 2 Matthew 3	02 Matthew 4 Matthew 5 Matthew 6
03 Matthew 7 Matthew 8 Matthew 9	04 Matthew 10 Matthew 11 Matthew 12	05 Matthew 13 Matthew 14 Matthew 15	06 Matthew 16 Matthew 17 Matthew 18	07 Matthew 19 Matthew 20 Matthew 21	08 Matthew 22 Matthew 23 Matthew 24	09 Matthew 25 Matthew 26 Matthew 27 Matthew 28
10 Mark 1 Mark 2 Mark 3	11 Mark 4 Mark 5 Mark 6	12 Mark 7 Mark 8 Mark 9	13 Mark 10 Mark 11 Mark 12	14 Mark 13 Mark 14 Mark 15 Mark 16	15 Luke 1 Luke 2 Luke 3	16 Luke 4 Luke 5 Luke 6
17 Luke 7 Luke 8 Luke 9	18 Luke 10 Luke 11 Luke 12	19 Luke 13 Luke 14 Luke 15	20 Luke 16 Luke 17 Luke 18	21 Luke 19 Luke 20 Luke 21	22 Luke 22 Luke 23 Luke 24	23 John 1 John 2 John 3
24 John 4 John 5 John 6	25 John 7 John 8 John 9	26 John 10 John 11 John 12	27 John 13 John 14 John 15	28 John 16 John 17	29 John 18 John 19	30 John 20 John 21
31 Acts 1 Acts 2 Acts 3	01	02	03	04	05	06

90-day New Testament Challenge