



December 2024

 **MOHAWK**
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
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THE MESSENGER

[From Our Pastor: What Do You See When You Look At The Manger?]

As we enter this season of Advent, our hearts turn to the miracle of Jesus' birth. For centuries, people have come to the manger and gazed in awe at the baby lying there. But what do you see when you look at the baby in the manger?

The story of Jesus' birth is so familiar, yet it holds a mystery that still calls to us. In the humblest of circumstances—born in a stable to a young couple far from home—Jesus came into our world, not in power or glory but as a vulnerable child. This child, fully human and fully divine, is the Son of God, sent to us as a gift of pure love. “For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life” (John 3:16).

This gift was given out of God's grace, not from obligation, but from His holy desire to be close to us. Nothing compelled God to give us His Son; rather, it was His loving will to redeem, restore, and renew us. The apostle Paul reminds us, “For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God” (Ephesians 2:8). Jesus' birth is a work of grace, a visible sign of God's mercy and desire to rescue us from sin and separation.

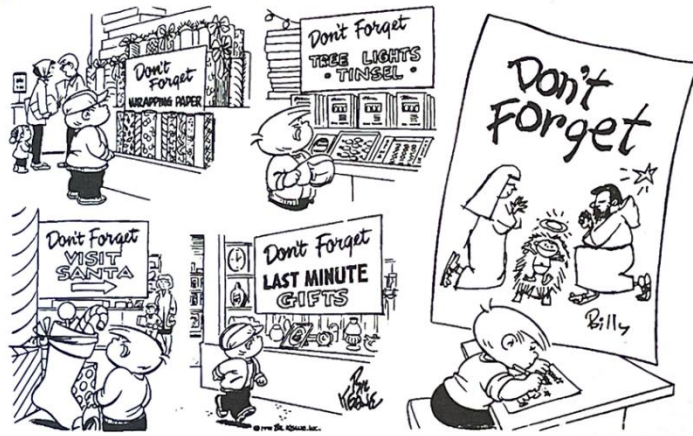
When we look at the baby in the manger, we see more than just a beautiful scene; we see God reaching out to us, coming close to us in a way we can understand. Jesus came to share with us God's presence, love, and grace. He came to set us free from the power of sin and to restore the image of God within us. In Jesus, God made Himself known, so that we may live in the light of His truth.

For those who may not yet know Jesus or may be longing for a place to feel welcome, the message of Christmas is one of hope and invitation. Jesus was born to bring us home to God, to make a way for each of us to belong in His family. If you are seeking peace, meaning, or a place to call home, know that there is a place for you here. Our church family invites you to join us as we celebrate this season and experience the warmth, love, and grace that come from knowing the Savior.

This Christmas, may we all come to the manger with fresh eyes and open hearts, and may we be filled with awe at God's perfect gift. Let us remember that the baby in the manger is not only the Son of God but also God's gift to each of us, a sign of His unending love.

In Christ,
Pastor Charles

THE FAMILY CIRCUS



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Helping Hands CarePortal Report

In November, our church assisted a single mother in Greenfield with two boys, who suffer from mental and emotional issues. We provided gas cards to enable them to get to doctor appointments, winter clothing for the boys, art supplies to help with therapy, and weighted blankets to help with her boys' sensory issues. Our church excelled in the grace of giving with an estimated support amount of \$600 to help stabilize this family in Hancock Co. Thank you to all who kindly provided used and new items for this family.



In Defense of Santa Clause



Jospeh P. Dooley once wrote: “It is not Santa Claus’ fault that people forget the Infant Jesus. Why does the world love Santa Clause? First of all, he’s a joyous individual. People are attracted to joyous individuals as filings are attracted to a magnet. Next, Santa Claus is interested in making others happy. He increases the happy moments in the life of everyone he meets. He loves his work; he gets fun out of his joy. He

is childlike, simple, humble, sincere, and forgiving. Finally, he is a giver. His philosophy is to give himself away in service. He is a friend to everyone. He smiles. Perhaps you and I could attain greater happiness if we emulated Santa Claus a little more, for his way is the way of the Infant Jesus also.”





Wednesdays, December 4, 11, and 18, at 6:30pm.

Why did Jesus choose to be born as a human baby? Was Jesus born fully God? Was Jesus born fully human? Pastor Charles will be discussing the importance of God taking on flesh and living among us. Lessons can be worked individually (worksheets will be provided the Sunday before each Wednesday meeting) or in a group setting.

YOUNG ADULT CHRISTMAS PARTY

Saturday, December 14, at 7:00pm



Young adults (18-30 years old) will be meeting at Betsy Bandy's home (1228 W. Valley Ct., Greenfield) for an evening of games, food, laughter, and a white elephant gift exchange.



POINSETTIAS FOR CHRISTMAS



The Outreach Committee is selling Poinsettias for Christmas. They are four and a half inch pots; \$5.00 each. The poinsettias are available in red or marble color.

***See Nikki Ward with any questions.**



DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

2nd Emily Lovins

12th Jeff Bricker

21st Ramona Bennett

6th Brody Steeno

13th Carrie Pelc

25th Brooks Schenck

30th Walker Addison

9th Donna Cain

14th David Brown

30th Janet Bearhope

DECEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

4th Tim & Donna Cain

7th Robert & Laura Phares

12th Rick & Susan Edwards

21st Bill & Lorraine Ewing

27th Bob & Debi Lane

31st Sam & Amanda Williams



Happy December
Anniversaries

NOTE: *If you notice any birthday or anniversary dates missing, please contact us in the office. mohawkumc@gmail.com*

MOHAWK UMC ALL SAINTS' BREAKFAST



The 3-D Sunday school class provided a delicious breakfast for the congregation and friends on All Saints' Sunday



MOHAWK UMC YOUTH BOWLING

The first annual Mohawk UMC Youth Bowling event was held on November 17, 2024. Everyone had a wonderful time, and look forward to next year to bowl again!



CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES

The Children's Christmas Program practices will follow our Sunday services during Sunday School each week leading up to December 22nd.

The **Christmas Program** will be on December 22nd.



CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES:

Family Christmas Eve Worship Service: 6 pm

Carols & Candlelight Christmas Eve Service 11pm

LIVE NATIVITY



A Live Nativity will be at the Hancock County Fairgrounds on 12/14/24 from 1pm to 6pm. The Ag. Association is looking for people for the Live Nativity. They have the animals and the outfits for you to wear. They need an angel, Shepherd, wisemen, Mary and Joseph. If we have enough people, it is possible to have two shifts. If you are interested in participating in the live Nativity, please let Tammy Bearhope know.

Mohawk UMC Church Thanksgiving Dinner



YOUTH ACTIVITY NIGHT



CALLING ALL YOUTH:

Please come and join in on the fun! We will have different stations of activities and dinner will be served. Parents, drop your youth off at the church and enjoy last minute Christmas shopping or just dinner for adults. All ages are welcome. The nursery will be available for the ones with shorter attention spans.

FINANCE COMMITTEE NEWS

**GOD FIRST SEEKS THE
GIVER OF THE GIFTS BEFORE
HE SEEKS THE GIFTS.**

“On coming to the house, they saw the Child with His mother Mary, and they bowed down and worshiped Him. Then they opened their treasures and presented Him with gifts of gold and of incense and of myrrh” (Matthew 2:11).



2025 Proposed Church Budget

Our Finance Team, in conversation with our ministry teams, is proposing a budget of **\$201,685** for next year. In order to achieve this goal, we will need **\$16,807 per month**. We are confident that, through God's grace and your generosity, we can meet our financial goals and continue to nourish and support everyone who walks through our doors.

Thank you for your faithfulness and commitment to our church.

Committee	Budget	
	2024	2025
Congregational Offering	197,820	201,685
Finance	(1,500)	(1,500)
Membership Care	(1,500)	(1,500)
Outreach	(2,000)	(2,000)
Pastor Parish	(136,626)	(135,491)
Trustee	(53,694)	(58,694)
Worship	(1,500)	(1,500)
Youth & Children' Ministry	(1,000)	(1,000)
Total Committee Budgets	(197,820)	(201,685)
Offering Budget Less Committee Budgets	0	0

Thank you to all who submitted a pledge for 2025. Total pledges were \$57,600. The 2025 budget is \$201,685 or \$3,880 per week.

Mohawk United Methodist Church Finances												2023
2024											Year to Date	Year to Date
Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct			
Income:												
General Offering	9,833	12,525	17,254	10,116	10,259	18,998	11,209	8,880	16,307	9,913	125,294	125,271
Other	183	7,254	1,963	272	1,806	324	661	350	12,174	1,132	26,119	16,514
Total Income	10,016	19,779	19,216	10,388	12,065	19,322	11,870	9,230	28,481	11,046	151,413	141,784
Expenses:												
Tithe	-	-	4,555	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4,555	7,032
Utilities	2,331	951	859	1,208	233	786	1,477	1,104	1,121	817	10,886	10,836
Other	1,081	2,729	2,923	3,319	10,602	4,764	6,386	732	3,869	3,677	40,081	33,745
Wages	9,336	9,357	9,383	14,315	9,357	8,218	8,024	8,125	12,209	8,099	96,423	101,483
Total Expenses	12,747	13,037	17,720	18,842	20,192	13,769	15,886	9,961	17,199	12,593	151,945	153,097
Net Income (Loss)	(2,730)	6,741	1,497	(8,454)	(8,127)	5,554	(4,017)	(731)	11,282	(1,548)	(532)	(11,313)

Budget Comparison											
General Offering Budget	16,485	16,485	16,485	16,485	16,485	16,485	16,485	16,485	16,485	164,850	160,016
Over (Short)	(6,652)	(3,960)	769	(6,369)	(6,226)	2,513	(5,276)	(7,605)	(178)	(39,556)	(34,746)

Non General Fund Restricted Donations											
								1,800	200	2,000	6,505