



The Messenger

Eureka First United Methodist Church

January 2021



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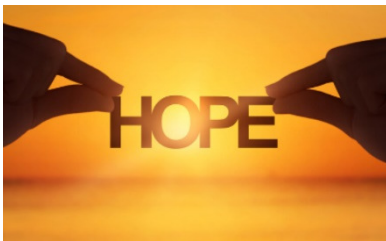
Web site: <https://firstumceureka.org/>

Rev. Dr. Rebecca Irelan, Pastor

Pastor's Cell (415) 505-6237

From Pastor Rebecca,

Here at the height of the pandemic, we all need a vaccination against gloom and doom. One of my favorite preachers, William Sloane Coffin, Jr., once wrote in one of his books about hope: "While I am not optimistic, I am hopeful. By this I mean that hope, as opposed to cynicism and despair, is the sole precondition for a new and better life; and hope arouses, as nothing else can arouse, a passion for the possible." [Coffin, A Passion for the Possible]



My friends, this is so true for 2021. Hope is the sole precondition for a new and better life. And that hope comes to us in the shape of Jesus. But

we have a remarkable ability to forget that in our day-to-day lives. And we are especially apt to lose hope when we lose our connections to other people.

We have several more months to get through before we get to our post-Covid reality, whatever that will be. And we are going to need to nurture those ties that bind us together or Christ won't have a Methodist Body to minister to the needs of our community. There is looming before us a huge task of rebuilding that community, and we need to start here, now.

We need a passion for what is possible in terms of gathering hearts and minds and, safely, bodies. I have been tossing around some ideas and would like to know which ones you



think have potential to be hope-building for our congregation. Take a look and send me some feedback in an email or text: rjirelan@gmail.com; 415-505-6237.

Ideas for Rebuilding Community

- Telling our stories through writing Lenten devotions, as we did in Advent
- In the spirit of Story Corps (on NPR), doing video interviews with the spiritual redwoods in our congregation and sharing their stories in a private Facebook group
- Doing a church-wide book study and sermon series that would engage everyone in the same topic for a season
- Bringing a prepared and packaged scone and tea bag (or other small goodie) to our friends in isolation once a month
- Forming walking, hiking or birdwatching groups that could meet outside and keep social distance, weather permitting
- Restarting the phone tree and making sure our callers are calling each person weekly.
- Holding sermon talk-back sessions on Zoom following Sunday morning worship, with the option of break-out sessions for smaller group discussions.

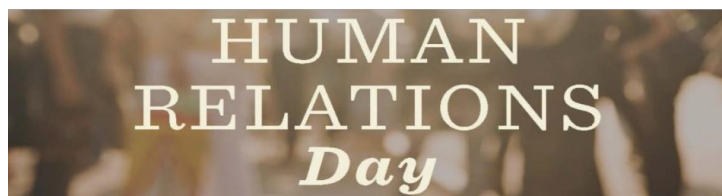
We are all anxious for 2021 to be different than 2020. The situation is not going to change quickly, but the ways we are responding to it can change. I'll close with another quote from an old seminary professor of mine at Duke, Stanley Hauerwas: "Hope does not necessarily take the form of excessive confidence; rather, it involves the simple willingness to take the next step." We can't do everything, but we can take the next step. What will it be, EFUMC?

Pastor Rebecca

Covid Memorial Service at 5:30 pm on January 19th



President-elect Joe Biden will be leading a national memorial service for those who lost their lives in the Covid-19 pandemic on the eve of his inauguration, January 19th. The Inauguration Committee is asking local communities to participate and local churches to ring their bells at 5:30 pm on that day. Eureka First UMC's bell will ring and, weather permitting, we will have a small gathering in the Memorial Garden for prayers. If it looks like it will rain, we will still ring the bells but send out a link and hold a brief memorial service on Zoom at 5:30. Please send in the names of anyone you know who has died from the virus. We will also say prayers for those who are still struggling to live. If you would like to ring the bells for that service, please contact the church office.



Human Relations Day is one of the Six Special Sundays with Special Offerings in the United Methodist Church, and is generally near Martin Luther King Day. This year we will participate in Human Relations Day on Sunday, January 17. Your gifts to Human Relations Day provide avenues to restored relationships through ministries that strengthen community outreach and empower at-risk youth.



Re-opening Volunteers Needed

As we enter the New Year, the possibility of gathering for in-person Worship is hopefully near. Your re-launch committee (Rev. Dr. Rebecca Ireland, Mr. Dan Dionne, Mr. Wayne Palmrose, Mr. Ralph Davis, and Mr. Gary Quintrell) has been working on a plan to provide a safe and comfortable way to worship together. While we wait until we can safely resume in-person worship, we want to go ahead and train the volunteers we will need to assist with ushering and to see that we follow the needed protocols and guidelines while we are at the Church. We have the resources to provide hygiene & safety training to the Staff & Volunteers prior to re-opening our doors. If you are interested in being a volunteer, please contact the office or Pastor Rebecca to let us know you are willing to help. You will be notified of upcoming training dates.

Virtual Advent Tea Success



Thank you to Brian Hansen and Brad Mettam and the Cameron family for helping us put on the Advent Tea this year. Thanks to Clover Churchill for lighting the candles; Catherine Moore for getting the poinsettias, Margie O'Keefe and Charlotte for setting the Advent Tea altar table, and for all the virtual hosts who sent out donation forms to support Clover's blanket project and Food for the Poor.

Thank you Thanksgiving Volunteers



A big thank you to Sally Hansen and her helpers who prepared and delivered 29 Thanksgiving dinners of turkey and all the fixings and then baked and delivered 32 cookie plates to our special

church friends this season. We call that love in the time of Covid!

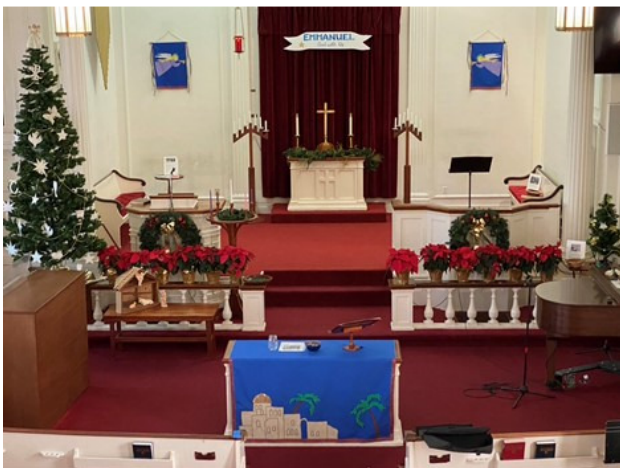
Angel Tree Gifts

We would like to give a big shout out to Louise Fredrickson who was so helpful in getting the Angel Tree gifts bought and organized and delivered this year to 19 children whose parents are incarcerated. Galeladi couldn't have done it without you, Louise. Thank you!

Christmas Eve Service

Another thank you to everyone who made our Christmas Eve service possible. We are grateful for: those who provided music—the Praise Band, the Youngs and the Bensons, Dan and Linda Dionne and the bell choir; the Bensons for reading and Israel for bringing us the Christmas story in board book form; for Brad Mettam on sound and Brian Hansen on video and editing. It was a lovely service!

Thanks to Isaac Cameron, we heard the bells on Christmas Eve during our carol singing in the Memorial Garden!



Our sanctuary during the Christmas Season

Are you glad that 2020 is over? Do you want to see better days ahead in 2021? Would you like to see your community return to health and your church return to in-person worship? Then put some of your money where you want your heart to be so that we can keep our staff and ministry going over the next several months. You have been so supportive this year. We hope and pray that we can count on you next year.



Church Family News

- For God's blessings on all of us as we head into 2021 and may better days be ahead of us
- For family members and friends across the country who are sick or recovering from the virus. Special prayers for Dorothy Johnson's nephew's wife, Rosell Weber, who has turned a corner and is improving; for her great nephew Jim Cole, Jr and his wife Theresa who are not improving; and for Morgan Dionne, who is continuing to struggle with lingering effects of Covid.
- For Lynn Intersimone, who lost her sister recently
- For Diane Mettam's friend, Rita, whose husband died on Christmas Day and then two days later, she tested positive for Covid
- For all who are fighting cancer: John Lundstrom; David Donnelly; Juanita Monistat; Heidi Quintrell's sisters, Tamara and Bonnie; Marie Granshaw and for the husband of Dorothy Johnson's niece
- For Steve Fiores (husband of Dorothy's friend) hospitalized with heart problems and Jim Cole, Sr, who is recovering from surgery
- For Tim Lindow and Sadiki Koo's and their continued recovery
- For Mark McKinney in his struggle with chronic health issues
- For Mary Scott, Sally Hansen, Hollie Klingel, and Louis Amato recovering from surgery
- For Hollie Klingel's daughter Stephanie, for Jeremiah Forman and Marty and Jonathan O'Keefe, for God's blessings in the new year

January Birthdays

2 Seren Davies-Hughes	19 Fabiola Drumm
3 Michael Bresnahan	20 Lyn Howell
3 Jasmine Hogue-Freemon	20 Catherine Moore
4 Todd Flanders	21 Jill Kimura
5 Jesse Grammer	22 Nikolas Drumm
10 Camellia Span	24 Brad Johnson
11 Linda Palmrose	25 Irene Hedgecock
12 Jean Ogimachi	27 Shirley Peterson
14 Heidi Kerr	30 Rachael Green
15 April Barnhart	31 Pat Patterson
18 Carrol Newquist	31 Charlotte O'Keefe

and anniversaries.....

17 Dan & Linda Dionne
19 Don & Nancy Quintrell

Congratulations! -- If we missed your special day or have the incorrect date please call the church office so we can get it right next year.

Finance News

November 2020

General Fund Revenue: \$18,229.00

General Fund Expense: \$20,604.49

YTD 2020(Nov 30, 2020)

2020 General Fund Revenue: *\$197,892.56

2020 General Fund Expense: \$184,831.96

Total *\$13,060.60

(*)This amount reflects a transfer from the Endowment Fund into the General Fund Cash Reserves of \$10,000 and a PPP loan of \$26,900.

Thank you for your generous giving to God through the church.

Worship Attendance – December

Attendance is live stream plus views

December	16	TOTAL – 76
December	13	TOTAL – 70
December	20	TOTAL – 105
Christmas Eve	24	TOTAL - 111
December	27	TOTAL – 100

MISSIONS

Virtual Advent Tea raises real money



Through the mailed invitations and virtual online program, we raised \$2810 for blankets and food for our neighbors in Humboldt County. Half the funds went to Food for People. Another \$500 went to provide blankets to the homeless. The Missions Committee will be

redirecting the remaining funds to people in need in our community.

One final #BASK update from Cheryl Churchill



With all your generous contributions, we were able to provide 160 bundles of new blankets and Squishmallows for homeless and housing insecure children in Humboldt. Clover's goal was exceeded by 60%! That is huge...but there's more. Lifehouse Humboldt and Eureka First United Methodist Church were both helping to raise funds to support this outreach. When we could no longer take donations because we just couldn't distribute any more bundles, EFUMC redirected the money raised for BASK and purchased over 70 blankets for Saint Vincent de Paul to hand out on Christmas. With the pandemic this year, blankets have been in short supply. I'm so thrilled they had help with their blanket drive. (continues on next page)

Individually, this all would have been an expensive and arduous endeavor. But this illustrates to me so clearly that if we all just do a little, together, we can do really big things. Thank you again for all who supported BASK and helping make Clover's dream a reality. While we won't get to see the excitement on all those faces Christmas Day, rest assured you have given many people something to smile about.



Remember to go the church website at <https://firstumceureka.org/> for news and links to the worship service videos!

Submissions to the Messenger Send submissions

directly to your friendly editor, Dan Dionne, at editor@firstumceureka.org.

Next Food Donations to Be Weighed Sunday, February 6th. January Total was 123 lbs



Thank you for those who have left food donations at the church office. We will weigh them during our live stream worship on Sunday, February 6th. If you have donations of non-perishable food items for our food closet and Little Free Pantry, please

arrange to deliver them to the church office.

**From your friendly editor:
What do we take forward from 2020?**

As we move into a new year, I think we'd all like to take 2020 and almost everything associated with it and leave it in the dumpster. But of course we can't do that. 2020 has tested us all sorely, some much more than others. We will all carry the marks of that testing throughout our lives. So the question for each of us is, what have we learned? What has all this sorrow and stress brought us?

Each of us has to come up with their own answer. For me, 2020 has brought me the understanding that **we cannot continue to treat each other this way.** All the oppositions in our personal, political, and religious lives highlight to me a simple truth—we cannot secede from each other. If we are to bring any answers to our problem, we must do so together, not as warring factions. With God's grace, I pray that we may understand each other better and work with each other in God's love.

--Dan

January Word Find

H O Z U I K Y Y G A H O O R U T F F P J
 Q N Q X K F J F B X U T G F O X W J J S
 X B W Q A I M U H W Y O J C S Y C J P P
 K Q J R I W C O N Z S P H E R D P L K Q
 N A G R Q F P G F S R A E Y W E N F Z H
 F V Y Z J E T I U I U O C Q R Q U X W H
 O V R O Z G R S Z V L J U O E P U T G S
 W J D B X H M A N E Q J F H B W J V P E
 B G C T Q B H G U U C G T B V W B E V X
 X U O H O V M K L S S G N V L F K D Y P
 A I Q C B U P Q O E A N L F J R S J F H
 Q K V P J M V Z P X G N I C J I Z F A M
 G J Z Q U W G P U M S O F S X Q E L E S
 R Y X I R U F A A N R V G D L C Z W Q I
 A Q E F U M C V R P D V J T Q Y I Y V E
 M G Z V S J H G R C O C G D D M X Y Y S
 P Z X Z O C R M Z K K T Z Z Y I Y J G K
 Z S Z B T S L M I M Q Q T S U B G Y O J
 E U X D L J H E W U Y X F L F U V Z R M
 A D O F S O P B R U G N S N W I K K N P
 L L F P I I S C A Z C G V W O Q S H K A
 A O L A P R D Z Z O I C O C H A U V Z S
 F V I H E X E B M H Y G E X K D Y K R G
 H E A C V C V T J H W I T T T D H I T N
 E N A H R F P S N G Y A W W B F B F R I
 Y E S P W I G A P I A P V T D T Z W H K
 P B B U S H A N T T W Y E W O D X W X D
 X B J L Q N I E C P Z C A X B E E L M W
 G B I L K D O B T H G K W Q H G M N S X
 C K A J V D N W H E F J S E N V L W A U

EFUMC
 HOPE
 KINGS
 NEWYEAR
 SNOW

EPIPHANY
 JOY
 LOVE
 PEACE
 WINTER

January 2021 *Online Meetings

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
					1 New Year's Day	2
3 Weigh Food	4	5 *7:00pm Bible Study w/Rebecca & Hank	6 Epiphany of the Lord	7 *4:15 pm Come to Wellness	8	9
10	11	12 *7:00pm Bible Study w/Rebecca & Hank	13	14 *4:15 pm Come to Wellness	15	16
17	18	19 *7:00pm Bible Study w/Rebecca & Hank	20	21 *4:15 pm Come to Wellness 6:30 p.m. Board of Trustees Mtg	22	23
24 Birthdays & Anniversaries ----- 31	25 Newsletter Deadline	26 *7:00pm Bible Study w/Rebecca & Hank	27	28 *4:15 pm Come to Wellness *6:45pm Church Council Meeting	29	30



Happy Birthday to Lyn Howell who turns 100 on January 20, 2021.