



# The Edison Light

Edison Memorial United Methodist Church

*Building Disciples; Growing in Faith; Serving in Christ's Name*

*January Newsletter 2021*

Dear Friends,

Happy New Year! I daresay all of us are pleased to see the end of 2020—a year like NO other. The devastation of the pandemic, the hardships of unemployment and reduced income, the increased rates of food insecurity, hunger, and homelessness, the deepening reality of racial injustice, all have made it a year of sadness. Yet in the midst of it all, I thank God for our little church: for your commitment to mission and your passion for helping those in need, your resilience in inventing new ways to worship via drive-in church and our localized FM broadcast to those within range, your adoption of Zoom meetings and Bible Studies, which required a learning curve for us all!

As we look forward to what we dearly hope are better days in 2021, I invite us to make New Year's prayerful intentions for ourselves, our church, our country, and our world. To that end, I am sharing a prayer for the New Year, adapted from Rev. Otis Moss III ( Pastor of Trinity UCC in Chicago) as shared in Sojourners Dec. 17, 2020:

*In the place where anxiety attempts to dance, may we begin again. Let us begin to cook meals for strangers flavored by compassion. Stir the gumbo of grace given to us by the spirit of God. Be faithful enough to drink from the cup of courage and set our table guided by the spirit of love walking humbly with acts of justice.*

*Forgive us for words spoken that undermine creation and the creation of community. Forgive us for allowing the shadow of caste and class to cloud our imagination of what is possible. Forgive us for not speaking truth rooted in love to guide our decisions.*

*We seek to be a people where different does not mean deficient, and color does not mean caste. We seek to be a nation where children are able to laugh and will not hunger in the night and where elders are cared for and celebrated.*

*May the power of holy mischief urge us to step out of the darkness into the marvelous light. May the soul of this nation be held by the sacred love flowing from the amazing grace of God who whispers in our hearts that we are called to be better, do better and live better. May we make America—America as a quilt to warm the bodies of the homeless and the timid. May we make America, where those who kneel and those who stand find a seat at the table of democracy. May we make America, where liberty covers the Muslim and the Methodist, the Baptist and the Buddhist, the Jewish and the gentile, the Indigenous and the immigrant, the Latino and the Lutheran, the urban and the suburban, the rural and the Reformed, the wealthy and the impoverished.*

*This is our prayer, on this day, in this new year, in this century: May we make America. Amen.*

May it be so.

Yours, in Christ,

Pastor Barbara

# *Thank You!*

## *From Pastor Barbara*



Dear Friends,

**WHAT** a great surprise you gave me on Christmas Eve! As I was chasing around the sanctuary before our service, I noticed a great pile of presents by our “Giving Tree”. “What’s this?” I asked, wondering if somehow we missed relaying gifts to the Salvation Army’s community effort, as I looked further, I realized one gift, then another, then another, had my name on it. Judy Stanforth was standing nearby, grinning like the Cheshire Cat. “Are these all for me?” I asked her. “Surprise!” she answered. “Merry Christmas from all of us!”

Your thoughtfulness and generosity are truly overwhelming. I am deeply touched by your wonderful expression of love. Thank you so very, very much!

With love and gratitude,

Pastor Barbara

(Most of you labeled your gifts, so I will be able to thank you individually, but a few of you did not, so for you, please let this note convey my thanks and love.)

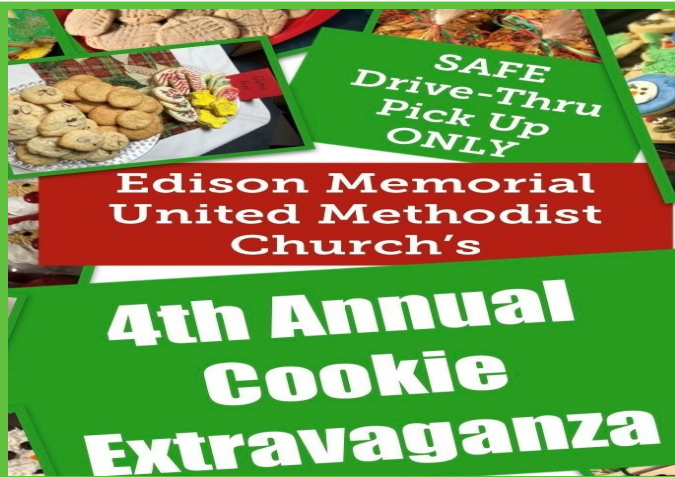
### **And Thank You Again....**

**Thank you** to all who so generously contributed to our Giving Tree, partnered with the Salvation Army. Thanks to your thoughtfulness, ALL of our 50 gift tags were cared for. What a difference you have made for children and youth in our community.

**Thanks too**, to Rex Stanforth, who created a new plywood “Giving Tree” appropriate for “such a time as this”, namely a pandemic! The new Giving Tree was able to easily be carried outside, from car to car, so folks worshipping outside could select a tag while maintaining social distance, without venturing beyond their cars. Then the tree returned inside, for those worshipping in our sanctuary to select a tag. It worked wonderfully.

**Thank you** to all who give the poinsettias in honor or in memory of loved ones that graced our altar for Christmas Sunday and for Christmas Eve. They looked beautiful and added so much to our worship service on both occasions. Thanks too to Worship Chairperson Judy Stanforth, an artist with potted plants, who arranged them all.





### Our Cookie Extravaganza is a Success!

Who knew that cookies could do so well in the midst of a pandemic? For the previous 3 years, our church's cookie extravaganza dovetailed with the Community Breakfast With Santa, which brought many community folks into our building, resulting in a built-in clientele. Could we do a cookie sale without the built in tie-in with the larger community? Pam Grames and Jenni Seel fearlessly wanted to try! Thanks to their fine leadership, we learned the answer was a resounding YES! Thanks to their work and coordination with on-line advance orders, and thanks to ALL of the efforts of our church's incredible cookie bakers, we sold over 1800 cookies, which resulted in proceeds of \$750 for our church. In addition, Pam and Jenni created an extra 10 plates of cookies which Pastor Barbara was able to deliver to shut-ins and church members who needed an extra sign of our love in this season. Thank you to all who baked cookies, to all who ordered cookies, and to Pam and Jenni for leading the entire effort. Well done!



### Prayer Chain Update:

Beginning January 1, Sue Ann Mills will be our contact person for our Prayer Chain. If you have a prayer concern to be shared on our prayer chain, please call Sue on her land line: **567-401-6047**

(if she doesn't answer, you can leave a message for her) or on her cell phone: **419-469-0503**. You can also call Pastor Barbara **(419-239-4173)**.

**Thanks to all our prayer warriors for their commitment to prayer, and for making note of this change.**



*Our deepest sympathy  
goes to Martha Shafer and her family  
on the death of Ron Shafer  
on December 21, 2020.*

*A celebration of Ron's life  
will be held at a later time.*

*Our hearts and love go out to Martha  
and her family in the midst of their loss.  
Ron was a cherished part of our church family  
and he will be deeply missed.*



**New Bible Study on Galatians Begins Jan. 5.**

It's been said that when we read St. Paul's letters in the Bible,  
we are reading somebody else's mail.

So who were the Galatians?

Why was St. Paul writing to them?

And why should we care about a letter  
he wrote to them over 1900 years ago?

WE will try to answer these and other questions  
about this book of the Bible  
during our 6-week study of Galatians.

Led by pastor Barbara.

Our study will be Tuesday nights at 7 p.m. via Zoom.

No previous experience with Bible study is necessary.

Please let Pastor Barbara know of your interest  
so she can send you the Zoom link.



## A New Year—A New Leadership Directory

Following in this newsletter you will find our Church Leadership Directory for 2021. While some members continue in their same leadership responsibilities from 2020, we do have a number of changes that I want to note, with great thanks for their service. The following folks have completed their term of service on their respective committees: Jenni Seel as Chairperson of the Staff Parish Relations Committee, along with Carrie Schlechter and Sarah McCoy as members of that committee; Frank Schwab as a Trustee; Martha Ruiz as a member of the Lay Leadership Committee; Sharon Black and Mike Smith as members of the Worship Committee; and Mike Smith as a member of the Outreach Committee. Thank you to each for all their faithfulness to our church and its work!

Furthermore, we are grateful for the following folk's willingness to take on new responsibilities on behalf of our church. We welcome: Pam Grames as our new Staff Parish Relations Committee Chairperson, along with Ginna Fall, Sue Mills and Martha Ruiz as new members of that committee; Marsha Scott as our new Finance Chairperson, along with Carrie Schlechter as a new member of that committee; Rudy Ruiz as our new Administrative Council Chairperson; Mike Smith as our new Lay Leader; Sarah McCoy and Sara Schwab as new members of the Lay Leadership Committee; Mark Crumrine and Pam Grames as new members of the Worship Committee; and Victoria Metz, Shirlean Smith, and Kay Wensink as new members of the Outreach Committee. We are grateful to each of you and, thanks to your leadership, we look forward to a good year ahead for our church

# EDISON MEMORIAL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

## CHURCH OFFICERS FOR 2021

**COMMITTEE ON LAY LEADERSHIP:** Barbara Stephens-Rich, Pastor

Mike Smith- Lay Leader

<u>Class of 2021</u>	<u>Class of 2022</u>	<u>Class of 2023</u>
Rudy Ruiz	Nancy Gfell	Sarah McCoy
June Thomas	Diane Miller	Sara Schwab

**STAFF PARISH RELATIONS COMMITTEE:** Pam Grames, Chair

<u>Class of 2021</u>	<u>Class of 2022</u>	<u>Class of 2023</u>
Pam Grames	Lou Mischler	Ginna Fall
Mark Miller	Rudy Ruiz	Sue Mills
Marsha Scott	June Thomas	Martha Ruiz

**BOARD OF TRUSTEES:** Mike Fisher, Chair

<u>Class of 2021</u>	<u>Class of 2022</u>	<u>Class of 2023</u>
Mike Fisher	Shirlean Smith	Sarah McCoy
Matt Miller	Tom Crecelius	Mike Seel

**FINANCE COMMITTEE:** Marsha Scott, Chair

Mike Smith ( Lay Leader)	Matthew Miller (Church Treasurer)
Nancy Gfell (Financial Secretary)	Rudy Ruiz (Administrative Council Chair )
Sara Schwab (Counter of Offerings)	Mike Fisher (Board of Trustees Chair)
Jenni Seel (SPRC Chair)	June Thomas (Member at Large, Class of 2021)
	Sue Mills (Member at Large, Class of 2022)
	Carrie Schlechter (Member at Large, Class of 2023)

**WORSHIP COMMITTEE:** Judy Stanforth, Chair

Sarah McCoy, Ex Officio with Vote

Rex Stanforth, Ex Officio with Vote

<u>Class of 2021</u>	<u>Class of 2022</u>	<u>Class of 2023</u>
Karen Klinger	Sally Mischler	Mark Crumrine
Diane Miller	Judy Stanforth	Pam Grames

**OUTREACH TASK GROUP:** Rex Stanforth, Chair

<u>Class of 2021</u>	<u>Class of 2022</u>	<u>Class of 2023</u>
Sharon Black	Mary Crumrine	Victoria Metz
Mike Seel	Judy Stanforth	Shirlean Smith

**MEMBERSHIP CARE COMMITTEE:** Sara Schwab, Chair

<u>Class of 2021</u>	<u>Class of 2022</u>	<u>Class of 2023</u>
Pam Grames	Kriss Fisher	Karen Klinger
Amanda Smith	Sara Schwab	Pam Elmlinger
Mary Crecelius		

**WELCOMING COMMITTEE:** Mary Crecelius, Joan Wikel

# **EDISON MEMORIAL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**

## **ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL MEMBERS**

<b>Chairperson</b>	<b>Rudy Ruiz</b>
<b>Lay Leader</b>	<b>Mike Smith</b>
<b>Lay Member to the Annual Conference</b>	<b>Jenni Seel</b>
<b>Chairperson, Lay Leadership Committee</b>	<b>Rev. Barbara</b>
<b>Chairperson, Staff Parish Relation Committee</b>	<b>Pam Grames</b>
<b>Chairperson, Finance Committee</b>	<b>Marsha Scott</b>
<b>Church Treasurer</b>	<b>Matthew Miller</b>
<b>Financial Secretary</b>	<b>Nancy Gfell</b>
<b>Chairperson, Board of Trustees</b>	<b>Mike Fisher</b>
<b>Chairperson, Worship Committee</b>	<b>Judy Stanforth</b>
<b>Chairperson, Outreach Task Group</b>	<b>Rex Stanforth</b>
<b>Chairperson, Membership Care Committee</b>	<b>Sara Schwab</b>
<b>Members-At-Large</b>	<b>SPRC members</b>

### **Board of Trustee Members**

**Sue Mills (Class of 2021)**

**Jeff Grames ( Class of 2022)**

**Tom Crecelius (Class of 2023)**



*Dear Heavenly Father,*

*In this new year!*

*May we See Thee More Clearly*

*Love Thee More Dearly*

*Follow Thee More Nearly*

*Sweet Jesus keep our hearts close to you so we can be  
effective vessels flowing forth with your love, truth and healing  
- for a world that so desperately needs you. Amen.*