

THE VOICE

,   **Happy Advent, Church Family!**  

I am so looking forward to spending the Advent season together this year! The Series that we will be following is going to bring meaning to the whole season from the first Sunday of Advent all the way through Epiphany. The best part is that the theme



CLOSE to
HOME

will follow through from Worship on Sundays, to the special services, to your at-home devotional and Advent Calendar. We will be hearing and reading the same things but I am sure that each of our unique perspectives and life experiences will give us plenty to share whenever we can be together.

You'll see the logo above a bunch during this series. As we follow the theme: Close to Home. When something hits close to home, it affects us deeply. The Close to Home theme acknowledges the "already but not yet" tension of our faith: Emmanuel is with us, and yet, God's promised day—our everlasting home—is not fully realized. It names our deep longing for God to come close to us. Ultimately, God is our home and resting place. God draws near and makes a home on earth; sacred ground is all around us.

This Advent, may we be comforted by the One who dwells intimately with us. May we expand safety and sanctuary for everyone wandering far from home. May we come home—wherever home is found—to live fully with joy, hope, and courage."

As we head into this busy holiday season, we will have many ways for everyone of all ages to get

plugged into the festivities and with the church family.

See the calendar later in the Newsletter for the full schedule of events for the coming months. On the back of that is a copy of our family advent calendar that starts Dec. 1.

You will be receiving a booklet with daily devotionals for the entire season that includes music, poetry, journal prompts, biblical commentary, and reflections to read.

Be sure you have "liked" the church Facebook page if you are on Facebook. We will share tidbits of the daily devotional there, inviting conversation about that day's content. You can also find all the art and images in full color in those posts.

We will be sharing in a few special services throughout the season. Keep reading in the newsletter for more details on our Blue Christmas service, Christmas Pageant, Family Christmas Party, Christmas Eve festivities, and Sunday after Christmas worship.

Though it's likely the holidays still look a bit different than we wish they could be, Christ is still coming! God will be moving among us and through us and I look forward to hearing and seeing what God gets up to with us this season.

Blessings on your Advent, *Pastor Kelsey*

Call/Text: (248) 613-0366



New Children's Ministry!

Starting in the new year, join us for Worship Wednesdays! Every 4th Wednesday, at 5:30pm we will share in a short lesson, an activity or game or two, and close with a simple meal together. We hope parents will stick around and take part with their children.

Later in December we will share a sign-up sheet for leaders and helpers (you pick which session or theme you would like to help make happen). Read more about the theme on the calendar page.

Being Brave Ministries

Being Brave continues to work on making these projects happen: inclusive teen space, school supplies for Foster kids/families, personal hygiene packs (with UMW), "How to Be an Antiracist" book club, etc.

Let us know if you are interested in being part of this work and keep an ear out for how you can contribute to these projects!

Re-Entry Kits

We collected around \$350 in donations, and just received a \$500 Emerging Ministries of the UMC. Thank you thank you, thank you to all who have contributed. We are working on collecting the items and purchasing what else we need and will get those to the Allegan County Jail to be passed out to those being released.

Little Caesars Pizza Kits

The UMW will be doing a new fundraiser of Little Caesars Pizza Kits after Christmas. It will all be online, but we will have a computer set up at coffee fellowship to help get orders in. \$6 per kit comes to the church. Get your freezers cleared out and ready!

Obituaries

Lori Knuth

Lori passed away on Friday afternoon, October 15, 2021. A fine home-maker, she also was very active in a wide range of volunteer activities, for which she received the "Governor George Romney



Lifetime Achievement Award" in 2015. She had great compassion for those suffering from health issues. Patients at Bronson Hospital and Allegan Hospital welcomed her visits for over 30 years. A faithful member of the Lutheran church, she sang hymns and played keyboards around the house well into her 90's. She volunteered for projects at the Hopkins United Methodist church well into her 90's, and enjoyed the fellowship with its members. She was known for decades of sending cards and notes to friends and people on her prayer list, and would be pleased and honored to have you do the same to someone that you know needs it.

Mary Lou Brennan

Mary Lou Brennan, 89, of Wayland, MI (formerly of Allegan, MI) passed away Friday, November 12, 2021 at the home of her daughter, Marla. She was born in what is now the City of Wyoming, MI, to Alvin Belden and Olive Sharpless Belden. She



enjoyed bowling, helping with Dollars for Scholars, and was a long-time member of South Monterey United Methodist Church, where she directed the choir for many decades. A 1950 Allegan High School graduate, she worked at various jobs including The Flashes and in later years "calling BINGO" at ACMCC. She was the wife of the late Raymond G. Brennan, whom she married, November 18, 1950, in Hopkins, MI. Ray preceded her in death in 2009.

Worship Volunteers

DECEMBER

Dec. Greeters: Juanita Curtis & Mary Howard

December 5

Children's Message - Pastor Kelsey

Liturgist - Alys Edgell

Coffee Fellowship - Deb Lemmer & The Krafts

Communion server- Judy Beck

December 12

Children's Message - Alys Edgell

Liturgist - Mandi Edgell

Coffee Fellowship - Amanda DeVries & Melanie V.

December 19

Children's Message - Mitzi Crowe

Liturgist - Melanie Velderman

Coffee Fellowship - Potluck (Mitzi Crowe)

December 26

Children's Message - Linda Burton-Collier

Liturgist - Linda Burton-Collier

Coffee Fellowship - Bring your extra treats!!

JANUARY

January Greeters: Deb Lemmer, Holly & Lilly

January 2

Children's Message - Pastor Kelsey

Liturgist - Vern Kraft

Coffee Fellowship-Jim & Sandy Ringler

Communion Server- Sandy Ringler

January 9

Children's Message - Mary Howard

Liturgist - Mitzi Crowe

Coffee Fellowship - The Edgell Family

January 16

Children's Message - Alys Edgell

Liturgist - Judy Beck

Coffee Fellowship-Brinkhuis family & Mary Howard

January 23

Children's Message - Mary Howard

Liturgist - Mitzi Crowe

Coffee Fellowship - Mitzi Crowe & Jane Kaule

January 30

Children's Message - Linda Burton-Collier

Liturgist - Linda Burton-Collier

Coffee Fellowship -Potluck (Krafts & Deb Lemmer)

FEBRUARY

February Greeters: Jim & Sandy Ringler

February 6

Children's Message - **Pastor Kelsey**

Liturgist - Melanie Velderman

Coffee Fellowship - Becks and Juanita Curtis

Communion Server- Mary Howard



December Birthdays

13 - Jennifer Tew-Salisbury

26 - Holly DeVries

19 - Kinian Mack

27 - Sandy Ringler

20 - Mary Herrema

January Birthdays

4 - Phyllis Thomas

12 - Julie Saganski

6 - Deanna Haas

23 - Alys Edgell

9 - Bill Howard

29 - Darcie Mack



December Anniversaries

2 - Dick & Judy Weick

14 - Don & Judy Collier

5 - Jim & Bert Tew

30 - Bill & Mary Howard

12 - Todd & Karen Collier

January Anniversaries

10 - Nancy & Kenny Vogt

Online Giving

Tithe.ly is a secure way to give online from your computer or phone that gives you the ability to give to the offering via credit/debit card from anywhere. You can give once or set up a giving schedule. It is easy to navigate and gives you one less thing to have to remember when trying to get out the door Sunday morning.

Go to: <http://hopkinsumchurch.org/give/> to learn about and give through tithe.ly!

LOOSE CHANGE

Loose change collected on Sundays, through the month of December, will go to the **Methodist Children's Home Society**. You can read about their mission and work at <https://mchsmi.org>. January's loose change will go towards our Ministry Shares. BTW - Thanks to your financial support, we were able to pay 100% of our shares for 2021.



FOOD PANTRY

Christmas Basket List

Instant Scalloped Potatoes
Canned Whole Corn
Canned Carrots
Macaroni and Cheese
Applesauce
Pancake Mix
Syrup
Cake mix and frosting

Perishable Items

Ham
Eggs
Frozen Orange Juice
Refrigerator Rolls
Butter
Milk

Monetary donation area also accepted to purchase items not donated.

All donations are due to HUM Hall by Sunday, Dec. 12th at 5:00pm.

Baskets will be handed out on Tuesday Dec. 21st 4:00-6:00pm.

THANK YOU!

A big thank you to Rex Prather for taking care of the church lawn. The Hopkins UMC appreciates your gift of time. You made the lawn look so nice. Thank you!

Dear congregations of Hopkins UMC & South Monterey UMC, Thank you so much for so generously allowing us to use Common Ground for our wedding. The space was absolutely gorgeous and our day was perfect in every way! Pastor Kelsey French did an incredible job with our wedding service. You have a real gem of a leader in her. Please accept this donation as a token of our gratitude. Thank you again and best wishes to you all, Alex & Chris Wilson Greenwald P.S. The flowers were so beautiful and appreciated!

With Heartfelt Appreciation

During such a difficult time, your kindness meant so much.

Thank you for all your thoughtfulness and caring.
Thank you from the family of Mary Lou Brennan

Thank you to Tadd Heft for creating and placing the new little library. Feel free to take books from the library and to place more books in the library.

Thank you to all who have volunteered to be part of our worship volunteers team.

It has been really nice to have coffee fellowship together. Thank you to those who have volunteered to prepare and bring in snacks for all of us to enjoy.

Thank you so much to those who organized and came to the wedding celebration party for Brennen and I. It was so sweet to be surrounded by you all with so much love and support at the party and with cards and gifts. Thank you to the South Monterey folks as a whole for pitching in together for the generous gift to us. ♡ Pastor Kelsey

Calendar

of Upcoming Events



Nov. 28 - Week 1 of Advent Begins
Worship theme: Homesick
Advent Kick-Off Party (12pm HUM Hall)

Dec. 5 - Week 2 of Advent Begins
Worship theme: Laying the Foundation

Dec. 6 - Blue Christmas Service
6:30pm, HUM Hall & Zoom

Dec. 12 - Week 3 of Advent Begins
Worship theme: A Home for All

Dec. 19 - **Combined worship**, HUMC at 10am
First Christmas Story during worship
Week 4 of Advent Begins
Worship theme: Seeking Sanctuary
Family Christmas Party & Potluck
(12pm HUM Hall)
Passing out Birthday Cakes for Jesus

Dec. 24 - Christmas Eve

Dec. 26 - **Combined worship**, SMUMC at 10am
Lessons and Carols Worship
Worship theme: Chosen Home

Jan. 2 - Epiphany Sunday
Worship theme: Home by Another Way

Jan. 26 - Worship Wednesday
5:30pm in HUM Hall

Jan. 30 - Fifth Sunday Potluck
After HUMC worship in HUM Hall

Worship Schedule

Sundays

9:30am at South Monterey UMC

11am at Hopkins UMC

Nursery Care available

4th Wednesdays of the month

Worship Wednesdays for kids & families

5pm, dinner together at 6pm.

Fifth Sunday Potlucks

We all miss having regular potlucks, so we have decided on a way to make sure we have them a few times a year. Every time there is a fifth Sunday in a month, that will be a Potluck day! That means we should have one potluck per quarter, starting January 30.

Worship Wednesdays

Worship Wednesdays will be following a Superhero theme to take us through the year. Sometimes super heroes do great things. Other times it's the little things that make them super. Big and small things add up to a life that honors God and allows us to do some super things for others. Courage, commitment, loyalty, and honor. These are some of the virtues that the heroes of old possessed. By following their example, and putting our trust in God, we can live heroic lives ourselves.

Have questions about Pastor's sermon?
Has this season been extra hard on you?
Are you struggling with doubts or questions about God, our faith or the church?
Could you just use a listening ear or a friendly chat?

Pastor Kelsey would love to meet with you.
Office Hours: Tues-Thurs 11am-6pm
Come to the office or invite her for a home visit.
By Appointment when possible or for other times.
Phone (Calls or Texts): 248-613-0366

close to
Home



ADVENT calendar

We encourage you to place this poster on your refrigerator. Each day, move a magnet to the next place on the calendar and complete the daily prompt together as a family.

2

Set up a stable for your nativity scene.

7

Describe a hope you have for the future.

3

Call or write to someone you love who lives far away.

10

Pray for people experiencing homelessness.

20

Build a fort. How many people can you fit?

14

Make placemats for your family.

9

Add animals to your nativity scene.

17

Gather canned goods to take to the food pantry.

13

Look for a chance to share today.

15

Sort through your belongings for things to donate.

18

Help your family clean or decorate for Christmas.

8

Draw a map of your home.

22

Hug someone who makes you feel safe.

16

Add shepherds to your nativity scene.

11

Help your family cook dinner or set the table.

23

Add Mary and Joseph to your nativity scene.

6

Build a home for your favorite toy.

12

Go stargazing tonight. What do you wish for?

24

Christmas Eve! Invite a friend to come to church with you.

25

Christmas Day! Celebrate Christmas! Add baby Jesus to your nativity scene.

21

Take a walk to look at the Christmas lights.

5

Make a Christmas to-do list—include fun things!

1

Name five things you miss about home when you're away.

19

Visit an animal shelter and ask how you can help.

