

# **HEART & SOUL**

**December, & January,  
2020 2021**

## PASTOR'S PAGE

December 2020 is my birthday month! It is not even a big birthday – 39. However, it is really the downhill start to 40. I've never been one to be concerned with my age. (I am not now.) I am thrilled to be the age that I am and to have done the things in my life that I have. It kind of hit me in recent weeks, that I have the potential for something incredible when I turn 40.

When I was younger, I had a sort of bucket list – get my driver's license, see New York, visit Mardi Gras, graduate from college and seminary, get married and become ordained. Of course, I longed to do other things that help me fulfill the call to service that I have as a minister, but these were some special things that I felt were for me, my spirit, and my life. Once I did all these things, I felt energized for my life and at peace – life was good.

40 is a milestone that the world says we should dread. Even the programs that I am a part of, say, you're no longer a young adult once you hit 40. The world says you should think about all the things that you're going to miss – that you didn't get to do – that you can no longer do because you are a 'middle-aged' adult.

Well, maybe I am out to prove the world wrong – but I believe that 40 is something to embrace, celebrate and eagerly look forward to. I would like to spend this next year doing 40 big things! I want to do a new 'bucket' list – but call it the 'birthday' list. My 39th birthday starts my 40th year here!

I need your help!

(cont. on next page)

**SUMC Staying Connected**

What are some ideas to put on a list like this? I want to do things this year that inspire, challenge, and comfort. I want to do things that help me become more faithful to my calling, that help me grow professionally, and that help me be a better me! I want to have fun, support causes, and lead by example. (I'm sure a sermon or two is going to come out of this!)

Comment, email, reach out if you have any list ideas! (I guess 39 is a BIG birthday!) Follow the journey here on my personal website/blog:

<https://revcathychristman.wordpress.com/2020/12/01/a-birthday-list/>

Birthdays are found throughout the entire Bible. In the Old Testament we read of birthdays and celebrations that included lots of food and drink. In the New Testament, we read of special days marked with dancing and even a beheading (read Matthew 14). As we prepare for a new year together, we first celebrate the birth of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. This is a birthday that needs to be marked by goodness, grace, love, empathy, and kingdom living. It is a birthday that we can mark with good food and drink, but more importantly we need to celebrate it with gifts – gifts not for ourselves, but for Jesus.

I am reminded of the song – *The Little Drummer Boy*. One line in the song goes – “I have no gift to bring.” Friends, as we think about our faith, and going into a new year together, hear me when I say, you have a gift to bring. You have a gift to give in honor of our King Jesus. Maybe you don't have a big list like I want to make, but you have things to offer! I want to go into the new year celebrating you and the ways that you live out this wonderful calling in our faith lives!

Lastly, I want to encourage you to make an end of the year financial gift to the church. You can always give in honor of someone (If you're looking for a last-minute Christmas gift). Your leadership team has been working so hard this year to keep us moving forward, and your financial gifts would be a powerful way of saying thank you to them for this good work.

In ministry with you!

Pastor Cathy



For unto us a Child is born. To us a Son is given.



Thank you Church for your wonderful celebrations of me during Pastor Appreciation Month. Mike and I are blessed to serve with you and call Stoughton home. Thank you for the love gifts, dinner gift certificate and for this special puzzle!

I've really been doing puzzles pretty regularly now for about 4 years. I follow a process when I do them, and really have no set timeframe for them. Julie S. loaned me a puzzle board when this health crisis began so I have been able to do them at my leisure.

This puzzle was just over 1,000 pieces, and took me about 3 weeks to complete! I'd say that was a record! It was such a joy to pick up a piece and see all your faces! Thank you for this special gift!

Thank you for being the church, especially during this health crisis!  
Peace, Pastor Cathy



# Advent/Christmas 2020

Advent Worship Services Sundays,  
10am starting 11/29

Blue Christmas Service, 12/21, 6pm  
with COVID Care in SUMC Parking Lot  
(streamed online on our Facebook  
channel)

"Living Nativity" via video 12/22 and  
12/23, 6pm on You Tube

Christmas Eve Service, 12/24, 4pm and  
Christmas Eve Journey 5pm - 8pm

Christmas Sunday, 12/29, 10am



All Worship Services available at  
[www.youtube.com/StoughtonUMC](http://www.youtube.com/StoughtonUMC)  
and  
[www.stoughtonumc10.org/videos](http://www.stoughtonumc10.org/videos)

Find us on Facebook at  
[www.facebook.com/StoughtonUMC](http://www.facebook.com/StoughtonUMC)

Stoughton United Methodist Church  
525 Lincoln Ave., Stoughton WI 53589  
608-873-3273  
[office@stoughtonumc10.org](mailto:office@stoughtonumc10.org)  
[pastor@stoughtonumc10.org](mailto:pastor@stoughtonumc10.org)



## Christmas Eve Journey



12/24, 5pm - 8pm  
with COVID Care Requirements

Stop by the church Christmas Eve for a journey with Mary, Joseph and Jesus.  
You and your family are invited to take a brief journey through prayer  
stations outside when you visit SUMC tonight.

Please only visit with your household members, practice COVID care and  
wear your mask. Please visit the table under the carport when you arrive for  
sign in and instructions.

**May you never be too grown up to search the skies on Christmas Eve.**

**IN THIS  
SEASON...**

# Worship Team



SUMC CHOIR

## CAROL OF THE DAY

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Via Email -  
with Stoughton UMC  
now till 12/25/2020

**LET'S  
SING!**

Your SUMC choir wanted to share with you some of the joy that we are having as we sing and prepare music for our worship services. We may not be together singing in our sanctuary, but we are together in spirit offering our voices in celebration of our coming king!

We decided to offer a 'carol of the day.' And, we want YOU to sing with us!

You don't have to do anything at all special. Please make sure we have your email on file in the office. We will send out a new carol each day until Christmas!

Let your voices rise to the Heavens as you sing along. If you want to share a recording of you singing, drop us an email - [music@stoughtonumc10.org](mailto:music@stoughtonumc10.org). If you have a special request for a Carol of the Day, send an email now!

Enjoy! Blessings!  
Pastor Cathy, Deb Verdegan and SUMC Choir

*Kindness is like snow. It beautifies everything it covers.*



by Judi Atkinson

Stoughton UMC Church Conference was held on Sunday, November 15th via zoom video platform. Rev. Vicki Brantmeyer was our presiding elder.

During the conference, we celebrated our successful candle fundraiser which netted the General Fund around \$10,000. With 2020 nearly in the books, this was quite the celebration for us as we also named the completion of our Capital Campaign. SUMC members and friends stepped up in recent years to care for our building and our ministry. Thank you!

During the conference, we voted on our necessary documents for the IRS regarding our Pastor’s salary as well as our leadership roster for 2021. This is the first year since we implemented the Accountable Leadership Board Model that we are now in 3 year classes.

Please note that we have some openings for leadership. These are essential roles that we need to fill ASAP. Please consider how you can help us fill out this roster in the new year. Please contact Pastor Cathy ASAP to hear more about them!

2021	2022	2023
Pam Dunkel	Roni Christian	Tom Olson*
Deb Verdegan	Ricky Howland	Ruth Lawton
Jeanne Schwass-Long	_____	Judy Atkinson*
Ken Chritton	_____	_____

ALB 2021

Chair Person \_\_\_\_\_  
Secretary \_\_\_\_\_  
Finance: Ken Chritton  
\_\_\_\_\_

Facilities Team:  
Ricky Howland  
Tom Olson

SPRC:  
Judy Atkinson\*  
Roni Christian

Memorials: Ruth Lawton  
Food Pantry: Jeanne Schwass-Long

At Large:  
Deb Verdegan  
Pam Dunkel



# PRAYER TEAM REPORT

by Cindi Ritter

During the first couple of months this year, the prayer team leaders compiled the verbal prayer requests during Sunday worship and distributed them to approximately 35 individuals/households that are on the S-UMC prayer list email. We also emailed additional prayer requests throughout the week as they were needed/requested.

This procedure changed when our in-person worship services changed to virtual services; but do not fear--our prayer chain has been active all year and will continue to be active! Prayer requests are now emailed at any time to:

[prayer@stoughtonumc10.org](mailto:prayer@stoughtonumc10.org)

for distribution to those on the S-UMC prayer chain email list.

We are thankful and blessed to have so many faithful “pray-ers” at SUMC!



SUMC

FOOD PANTRY

**Food Pantry Report**  
by Jeanne Schwass-Long  
Pantry Coordinator

**December Food Pantry Happenings!**

The Food Pantry elves have been very busy in November! We put together 60 Thanksgiving boxes of food for our clients. Each family received a turkey or ham, (mostly large hams = 18 pounds, bone-in), stuffing, butter, gravy mix, cornbread mix, cranberry sauce, canned fruit, green beans and mushroom soup, and locally grown potatoes, acorn squash, sweet potatoes, carrots and onions. It was topped off with an apple or pumpkin pie.

We are fortunate to live in Dane County where funds were paid to local growers for their products and the food was donated to local pantries. The only items we paid for were the pies. Thank you County Executive, Joe Parisi!

We are getting hams for Christmas that will be handed out throughout the months of December and January. Also, Community Action Coalition, a resource for free food items, has been a great source of peanuts, honey roasted Almonds, honey roasted mixed nuts which will be another holiday bonus in our clients' food boxes. One of the elves said there are even gourmet white chocolate bars for holiday baking.

Our major food source, Second Harvest, will be closed between December 24th and New Years Day. The pantry will also be closed that week allowing its volunteers some time to regroup for the New Year.

We can't thank everyone ENOUGH who has helped to keep our pantry operating during the COVID pandemic. Volunteers step up to do the work that is needed and best suits their skills. THANK YOU. Thank you to Pam Mickelson who makes multiple phone calls to keep our clients signed up, developing and copying forms! Also, thanks to Pastor Cathy who leads us in prayer each Tuesday morning! Some days it is needed more than others. Pantry is open Tuesdays from 9:00 – Noon and again 4:00 – 6:00 p.m.

We look forward to the New Year 2021 with anticipation of transitioning back to client based shopping. This won't happen until the case numbers are down in the county and state. Let's pray it is sooner rather than later.

# **BOUNCE BACK TEAM**

## **CONGREGATION UPDATE**

Dear SUMC Family and Friends,

Our Advent/Christmas sermon series is called – “I Believe Even When... Fill the Night with Music and Light.” This is a series that is meant to inspire and care for our weary spirits as this health crisis continues. We know this is not an ordinary Christmas season.

However, it is extraordinary.

It is extraordinary how we find ways to continue to do the work of ministry despite the rules, recommendations and changes we have had to make due to COVID. It is extraordinary that we continue to reach new people for the Kingdom of God each time we publish a new video, wear our masks in public, or return a phone call to someone seeking hope from a higher power.

It is by God’s grace that we are able to do this good, life-changing work. We believe even when we can’t be together, sing our favorite carols or even light the candles on Christmas Eve. We believe because we believe in a God that can overcome – injustice, viruses, hate and prejudice. We believe because the songs of our faith, the words we sing and the words we read in the Bible, ring true as the prophets proclaimed they would that first Christmas.

Here are our recommendations for the rest of 2020 and January of 2021:

### **1. Worship:**

- A. All Sunday services be pre-recorded. Gatherings for vocal recordings must be limited to no more than 3 people at a time with physical distancing and masked throughout the Sanctuary. Bells are allowed to meet with physical distancing and masked depending on current county health orders.**
- B. Blue Christmas service will be outside only. Persons in attendance are expected to remain 10 ft. or more apart and masked. (If weather needs us to cancel, service will be recorded.)**
- C. Christmas Eve worship will be live-streamed in the Sanctuary with participants limited to 10 people or less all practicing physical distancing and masked. Majority of the service needs to be pre-recorded – hymns, readings, etc.**
- D. Christmas Eve Journey will not be indoors. The Luminary Walk needs to take place outside. It is recommended that we offer a virtual indoor journey.**

***Live for the moments you can't put into words.***

## 2. Office Work:

- A. Masks must be worn at all times when away from the desk. We recommend masks worn all times while at desks.
- B. Office/building remains closed. Appointments are needed to visit, drop off, etc.
- C. Phones are answered Monday, Tuesday and checked on Wednesdays during office hours. The church is often the front line for people on their last threads of hope.

## 3. Food Pantry/Building Use:

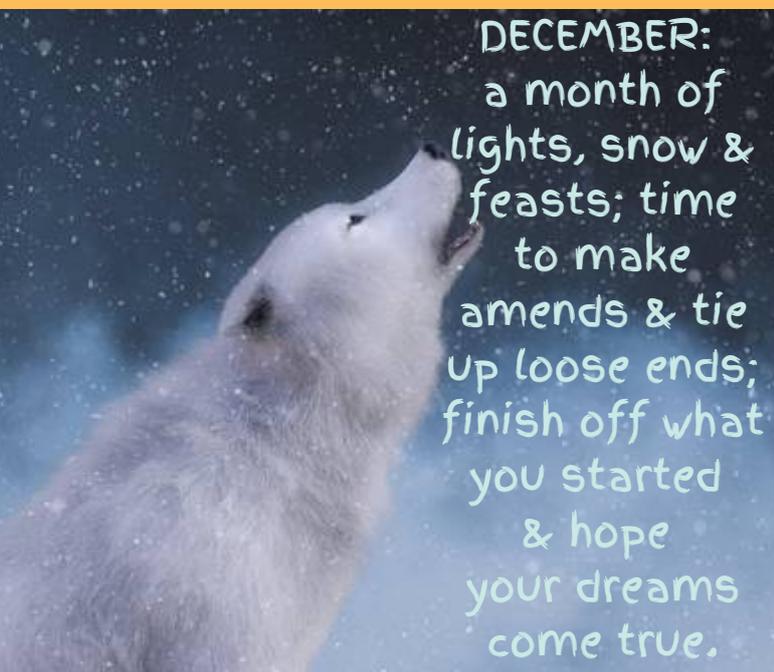
- A. Masks required at all times. Practice good overall COVID care: hand sanitizing, table washing, etc.
- B. ALL are to continue to sign in and out for potential contact tracing.
- C. All groups meet via zoom.
- D. No Food Pantry neighbors in the building. Outside vendors need to sign in and out and practice COVID care also.

We know these are not the rules/recommendations that you wanted to hear. We believe these and other COVID care practices are the best courses of action to keep all safe and healthy. Let's start this new year off strong.

Join us anytime for our meetings. We meet the 1st and 3rd Sundays of the month at 7pm via ZOOM. Links are sent out on Sunday morning as a part of our Sunday morning email.

Prayers,

Pastor Cathy & the SUMC Bounce Back Team



**Sundays**  
**8:30-**  
**9:30am**  
**Under the**  
**car port**  
**Stoughton**  
**UMC**  
**525**  
**Lincoln**  
**Ave**

Beginning August 9

**DRIVE**  
**THRU**



**Prayer**

**JANUARY IS THE BEGINNING OF 365 NEW PAGES FOR YOUR LIFE.**



American  
Red Cross

**BLOOD DRIVES**

**Stoughton Community Stoughton Fire Department  
401 E Main St**

**Tuesday, December 22, 2020**

**10:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.**

**Come to give Dec. 18 - Jan. 4 for a long-sleeved  
Red Cross T-shirt, while supplies last!**

**Give Something that Means Something!**

**For an appointment call:**

**1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767)**

**or visit:**

**[redcrossblood.org](http://redcrossblood.org)**

**Sponsor Code: Covenant**

**You can save up to 15 minutes when you donate blood  
by using RapidPass!**

**VISIT: [redcrossblood.org/RapidPass](http://redcrossblood.org/RapidPass)**

**for more information.**

**NEW! All blood donations are now tested for COVID-19  
antibodies: [redcrossblood.org/antibodytesting](http://redcrossblood.org/antibodytesting).**

**BE THE LIFELINE PATIENTS NEED: GIVE BLOOD!**

**There's nothing cozier than a Christmas tree all lit up.**

## CHALLENGES FOR 2021

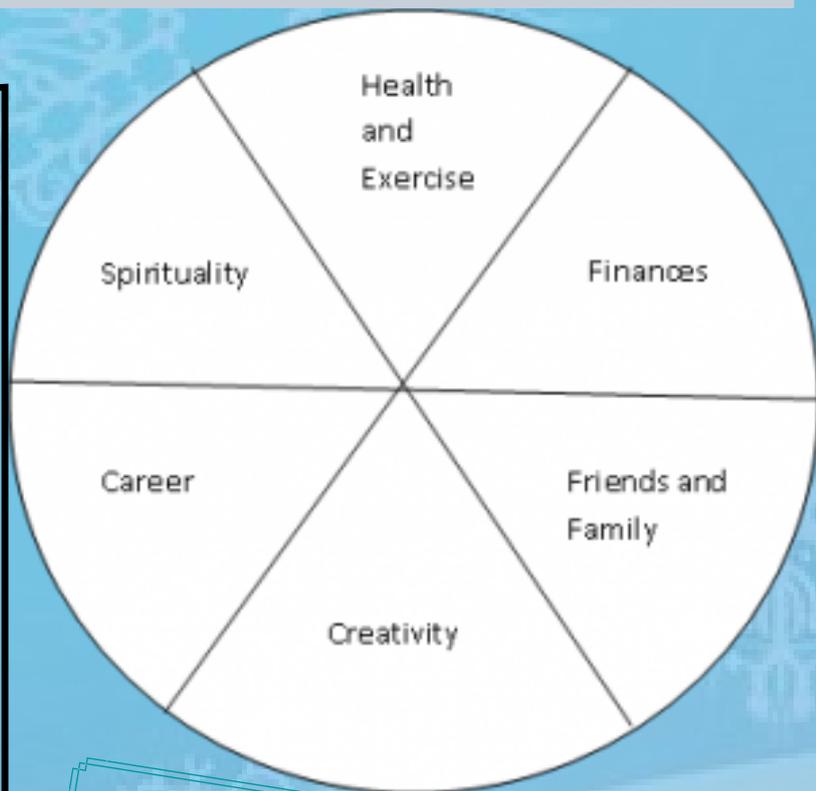
**Draw a circle like below and make the sections proportionately to how you want to challenge yourself next year. Fill in how many minutes/hours per day/week/month you will faithfully do each one. Make sure it's realistic for your lifestyle and then make a log for each day or write in a journal as to whether you have done these goals each day/week/month.**

For example, maybe you need a new vehicle, calculate what you want to put down, and then put so much away each week to meet that amount by 2022.

How about a dancing class, art class, yoga? Search out classes in your area and sign up.

Set a goal to contact a friend/family member each week for maybe 15 min. &/or read a book/Bible each day.

Try and keep your log going for the entire year, not just January!



**After 6 months, review your goals. Do not change anything and then again at the end of 2021. Write down how these goals have changed your life.**

***What's a snowman's temper tantrum called? Meltdown!***



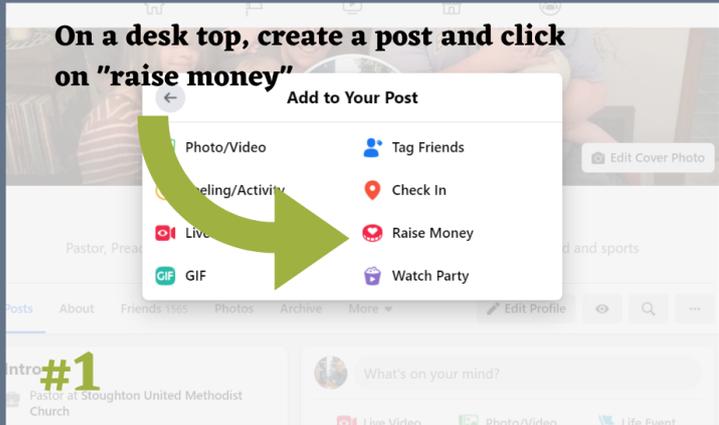
Like us on Facebook  
Follow us on Pinterest

**Office:** 873-3273  
**E-mail:** [office@stoughtonumc10.org](mailto:office@stoughtonumc10.org)  
[pastor@stoughtonumc10.org](mailto:pastor@stoughtonumc10.org)

**Website:**  
[www.stoughtonumc10.org](http://www.stoughtonumc10.org)

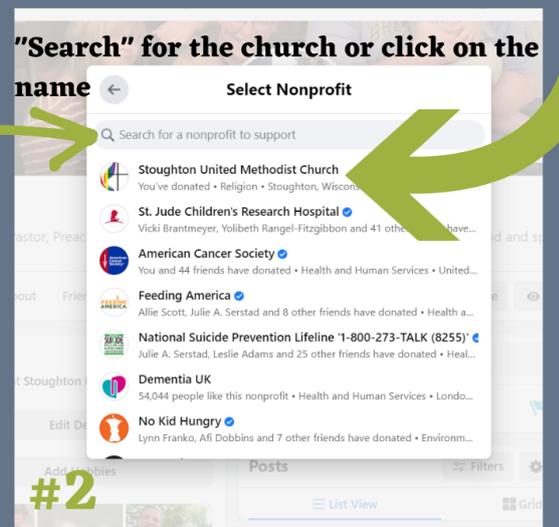
All services can be viewed on **YouTube:**  
[www.youtube.com/StoughtonUMC](http://www.youtube.com/StoughtonUMC)  
**OR**  
A week later on **WSTO.tv (Charter/Spectrum)**

**On a desk top, create a post and click on "raise money"**



Photo/Video Tag Friends  
Counseling/Activity Check In  
Live Raise Money  
GIF Watch Party

**"Search" for the church or click on the name**



Select Nonprofit

Search for a nonprofit to support

- Stoughton United Methodist Church  
You've donated • Religion • Stoughton, Wisconsin
- St. Jude Children's Research Hospital  
Vicki Brantmeyer, Yolibeth Rangel-Fitzgibbon and 41 others have...
- American Cancer Society  
You and 44 friends have donated • Health and Human Services • United...
- Feeding America  
Allie Scott, Julie A. Serstad and 8 other friends have donated • Health a...
- National Suicide Prevention Lifeline '1-800-273-TALK (8255)'  
Julie A. Serstad, Leslie Adams and 25 other friends have donated • Heal...
- Dementia UK  
54,044 people like this nonprofit • Health and Human Services • Londo...
- No Kid Hungry  
Lynn Franko, Afi Dobbins and 7 other friends have donated • Environm...

**"How To" set up a Facebook Fundraiser for the church**

**JANUARY: A TIME OF QUIET & NEW BEGINNINGS.**

A PERFECT TIME TO REFLECT ON YOUR LIFE

A TIME TO REFOCUS PRIORITIES

A TIME TO SET NEW GOALS




**You Tube**

**STOUGHTON UMC IS ON YOU TUBE**

[WWW.YOUTUBE.COM/STOUGHTONUMC](http://WWW.YOUTUBE.COM/STOUGHTONUMC)



# SUMC COVID SIGN IN

PLEASE FOLLOW THESE INSTRUCTIONS WHEN ENTERING OUR BUILDING:

- If you find yourself in the building for ANYTHING, please use hand sanitizer and wipes on all surfaces you touch. **And wear your mask.**
- Sign in on the clipboard laying right inside our doors, whether upstairs or downstairs.

**DO OUR PART & KEEP EVERYONE SAFE & HEALTHY!**



Thank you.  
Bounce Back Team

## **MASK REQUIRED**

**Effective on Monday, July 13, 2020 at 8:00 am, Public Health Madison & Dane County is issuing Emergency Order #8, which requires that everyone age 5 and older wear a face covering or mask when in any enclosed building where other people, except for members of the person's own household or living unit, could be present. This requirement applies to all of Dane County.**

**PUBLIC HEALTH MADISON & DANE COUNTY**

**Make sure you wear a mask at all times while in our SUMC building, to help prevent the spread of COVID-19.**

**Thank you for your cooperation.**

Find SUMC Worship on Spectrum channel 981 at 10am!

The service broadcast will be the previous week's service.

Visit: [wsto.tv](http://wsto.tv) for the schedule

# WSTO

**Pam is in the office from 9:00 - 1:00, Mon. & Tues., if you need to enter the building & don't have a key/code.**

**God gave us memories so we could have roses in December!**

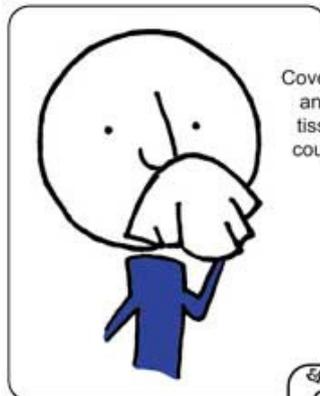
STOUGHTON UMC COVID RELATED POLICIES FOR ALL INVOLVED WITH THE LIFE OF SUMC-2020

PERSONAL HYGIENE POLICY & PROCEDURES

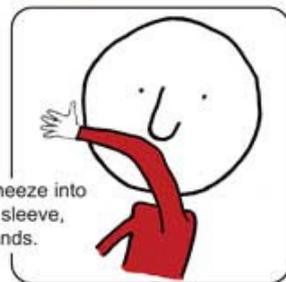
- Persons who have a fever, 100 degrees or higher, and/or other symptoms such as cough, loss of taste/smell, etc. will not be allowed to work at the church indoors or outdoors. Please check for the latest on symptoms and other COVID care: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/faq.html>
- Wash hands for 20 seconds or more with soap and dry with paper towel (or air dry frequently).
- Cough or sneeze into a tissue or elbow as to limit the aerosol spread.
- It's a must to clean, wipe down and disinfect frequently touched surfaces multiple times a day, such as computers, work spaces, copy machine, kitchen items, carts, table tops, pens, door knobs, etc.
- Remain at least 6 feet from others at all times.
- Wear face coverings at all times when indoors. Masks outdoors are recommended.
- Single Use masks must be discarded properly. Fabric masks must be taken home & laundered at home.
- Weather permitting - all groups must meet outside with COVID protocols in place or virtually. Pastor Cathy will assist with arranging virtual meetings.
- Office hours remain by appointment only.
- ALL PERSONS must sign in and out and keep record of date/time/location of the building used. Forms are available at the front & back doors.
- Worship will remain virtual at this time.

Stop the spread of germs that make you and others sick!

# Cover your Cough



Cover your mouth and nose with a tissue when you cough or sneeze or cough or sneeze into your upper sleeve, not your hands.



Put your used tissue in the waste basket.



You may be asked to put on a surgical mask to protect others.

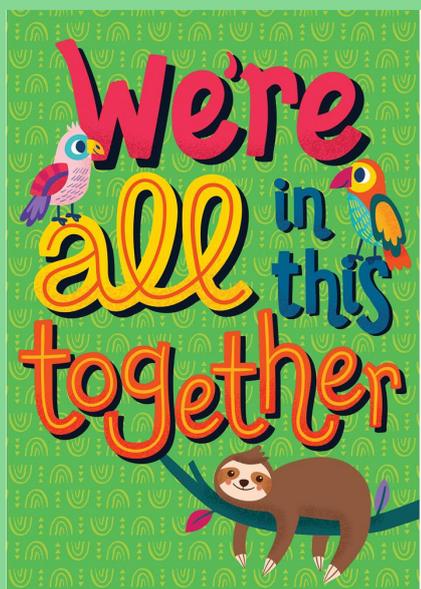
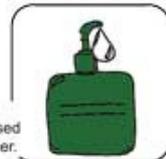
## Clean your Hands

after coughing or sneezing.



Wash hands with soap and warm water for 20 seconds or

clean with alcohol-based hand cleaner.



*stay strong,  
stay safe,  
stay in,  
just breathe,  
pray*

PRAYER REQUESTS

Please email your prayer requests to: [prayer@stoughtonumc10.org](mailto:prayer@stoughtonumc10.org) so it can be shared with our prayer chain. If you want your request to remain confidential between our prayer leaders and Pastor Cathy, please mark your request as such. Thank you.

**FOR PRAYER AND PASTORAL CARE:**  
[pastor@stoughtonumc10.org](mailto:pastor@stoughtonumc10.org)  
 text: 231-342-3728 (24/7)  
 call: 608-205-2214 (8am-8pm or emergency)  
 video appointments can be scheduled

Prayer Requests:  
[prayer@stoughtonumc10.org](mailto:prayer@stoughtonumc10.org)

REACH OUT. YOU ARE LOVED!

**DEADLINE FOR ARTICLES FOR FEBRUARY'S NEWSLETTER:**

**1/15/21.**

**Please send to:**

**[newsletter@stoughtonumc10.org](mailto:newsletter@stoughtonumc10.org)**



We have a number of individuals who have offered to deliver food, pharmacy items, food pantry items, etc. Please call the church office (873-3273), or Pastor Cathy (231-342-3728-cell or 205-2214- home) for information. Please REACH OUT! If you cannot reach anyone, then call 211 - which is a service of the United Way and they will be able to connect you with resources.

**ALSO CDC:**

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/downloads/2019-ncov-factsheet.pdf>

**& UW HEALTH:**

<https://www.uwhealth.org/covid-19/covid-19/53246>

COVID-19 and Stoughton UMC Response

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**BUILDING CLOSED**

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Stoughton UMC is now closed to all non-essential activities, small groups, choirs, etc. Please call 873-3273 to schedule an appointment with the office/pastor.

# THINGS TO DO IN DECEMBER & IN WINTER

VIRTUALLY ATTEND CHURCH &  
CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE

ORGANIZE A SECRET SANTA  
GIFT EXCHANGE

HAVE A COOKIE EXCHANGE

DONATE TOYS/WINTER CLOTHES

VOLUNTEER AT A SOUP KITCHEN,  
FOOD PANTRY, SHELTER, ETC.

DONATE TO ANIMAL SHELTERS

TAKE A DRIVE AROUND LOOKING AT  
NEIGHBORHOOD LIGHTS

START A NEW FAMILY TRADITION

BAKE GOODIES/MAKE CANDY

ATTEND A TREE LIGHTING CEREMONY

MAKE A HOMEMADE GIFT

GO CAROLING

READ "T'WAS THE NIGHT BEFORE  
CHRISTMAS"

WEAR AN UGLY CHRISTMAS SWEATER

VISIT THE ZOO OR  
JANESVILLE'S ROTARY GARDEN  
AND SEE THE LIGHTS

WATCH HOLIDAY MOVIES

DO VIRTUAL BAKING OR  
DINNERS WITH FRIENDS/FAMILY

TAKE A WALK, GO SLEDDING,  
SKIING, ICE SKATING

MAIL A LETTER TO SANTA

CHOP DOWN YOUR OWN  
CHRISTMAS TREE

MAKE ORNAMENTS  
OR GARLAND

CREATE YOUR OWN  
CHRISTMAS CARDS

SIP ON HOT CHOCOLATE

MAKE PAPER SNOWFLAKES

BUILD SNOWMEN OR  
SNOW ANGELS

BUILD A GINGERBREAD HOUSE

DO A RANDOM ACT  
OF KINDNESS

WEAR A SANTA HAT



OUR

FUNNY PAGE!



Dec. 21st: It's the 1st day of winter, if you can call 4 1/2 hrs. of sunlight a "day"!



4 calling birds, 3 french hens, 2 turtle doves and would it be possible to get the partridge without the pear tree?

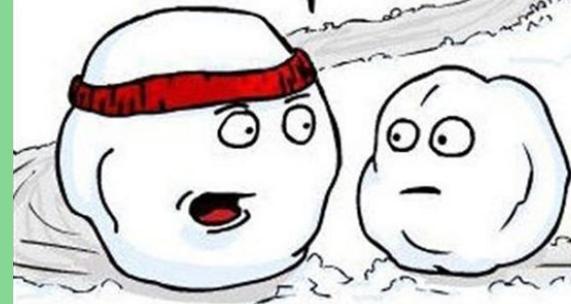


You just had to have a hot chocolate!



What do you call a shark that delivers toys at Christmas?  
SANTA JAWS

I DON'T KNOW WHAT TO DO, THE MORE I RUN THE MORE WEIGHT I SEEM TO PUT ON



What do you get when you cross a dog and a snowman?  
FROST BITE



ground too cold!  
Levitation powers activate!



It's ok, they will just think Santa ate them.



WHAT DO FISH SING IN DECEMBER?  
CHRISTMAS CORALS



Dear Santa Paws,

For Christmas please bring me squeaky toys and treats,  
NO CLOTHES! I repeat, NO CLOTHES.  
- Gizmo



Who is Santa's favorite singer? Elf-is Presley

Peace

HOPE

JOY

And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger." Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying,<sup>14</sup> "Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests."<sup>15</sup> When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let's go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about." So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby, who was lying in the manger.

Love

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Then Herod secretly called for the wise men\* and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, 'Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage. When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising,\* until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw that the star had stopped,\* they were overwhelmed with joy. On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

## DID YOU KNOW?

December is the twelfth and final month of the year in the Julian and Gregorian Calendars. It is also the last of seven months to have a length of 31 days. December got its name from the Latin word *decem* (meaning ten) because it was originally the tenth month of the year in the calendar of Romulus c. 750 bc which began in March. The winter days following December were not included as part of any year. Later, the months of January and February were created out of the monthless period and added to the beginning of the calendar, but December retained its name.

December contains the winter solstice in the Northern Hemisphere, the day with the fewest daylight hours, and the summer solstice in the Southern Hemisphere, the day with the most daylight hours (excluding polar regions in both cases). December in the Northern Hemisphere is the seasonal equivalent to June in the Southern Hemisphere and vice versa. In the Northern hemisphere, the beginning of the astronomical winter is traditionally December 21 or the date of the solstice.

The zodiac signs for the month of December are Sagittarius (until December 21) and Capricorn (December 22 onwards). December's birth flower is the Narcissus. December's birthstones are the turquoise, zircon, and tanzanite. (<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/December>)

## DECEMBER DAILY EVENTS

- 12/1: Eat an Apple Day
- 12/2: National Fritters Day
- 12/4: National Cookie Day
- 12/5: Repeal Day
- 12/7: National Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day
- 12/8: National Brownie Day
- 12/9: National Pastry Day
- 12/11: Indiana Day; National Have a Bagel Day; National Noodle Ring Day
- 12/14: International Monkey Day
- 12/15: Bill of Rights Day; Cat Herders Day; 2nd Amendment Day for NC; International Tea Day; National Cupcake Day
- 12/17: National Maple Syrup Day; Pan American Aviation Day; Wright Brothers Day
- 12/20: National Sangria Day
- 12/21: National Hamburger Day; Forefathers Day (Plymouth, MA)
- 12/22: National Date Nut Bread Day
- 12/24: Christmas Eve; National Eggnog Day
- 12/25: Christmas Day; National Pumpkin Pie Day
- 12/27: National Fruitcake Day
- 12/29: Tick Tock Day
- 12/30: National Bicarbonate of Soda Day
- 12/31: National Champagne Day; New Year's Eve

**MERRY CHRISTMAS & HAPPY 2021**  
*Monthly Calendar*

Sunday Worship: 10am, Available On:

**YouTube:**

[www.youtube.com/StoughtonUMC](http://www.youtube.com/StoughtonUMC)

**Website:** [www.stoughtonumc10.org/videos](http://www.stoughtonumc10.org/videos)

**Facebook:**

[www.facebook.com/StoughtonUMC](http://www.facebook.com/StoughtonUMC)

**Previous Services:** WSTO.tv

WOW Service

Wednesdays, 5pm

You can join in on **YouTube:**

[www.youtube.com/StoughtonUMC](http://www.youtube.com/StoughtonUMC)

Book Study

**9am**

<https://umcom.zoom.us/j/96671049517>

& **6:30pm** via zoom or in person

Rev. Cathy Christman

Stoughton United Methodist Church

525 Lincoln Ave

Stoughton WI 53589

608-873-3273

Facebook; Pinterest

Email: [office@stoughtonumc10.org](mailto:office@stoughtonumc10.org)

[pastor@stoughtonumc10.org](mailto:pastor@stoughtonumc10.org)

Website: [www.stoughtonumc10.org](http://www.stoughtonumc10.org)

YouTube:

[www.youtube.com/StoughtonUMC](http://www.youtube.com/StoughtonUMC)



The trouble with going out in the cold at my age, by the time I get bundled up, I forgot where I was going.

## DID YOU KNOW?

January is the first month of the year in the Julian and Gregorian calendars and the first of seven months to have a length of 31 days. The first day of the month is known as New Year's Day. It is, on average, the coldest month of the year within most of the Northern Hemisphere (where it is the second month of winter) and the warmest month of the year within most of the Southern Hemisphere (where it is the second month of summer).

January starts on the same day of the week as October in common years and April and July in leap years. It ends on the same day of the week as October in common years and July in leap years.

January's birthstone is the garnet, which represents constancy.

Birth flower is the Cottage Pink Dianthus (caryophyllus or galanthus).

The zodiac signs for the month of January were Capricorn (until January 19, 2020) and Aquarius (January 20, 2020 onwards). For 2021 the dates will shift to 18-19, due to the leap day in 2020.

The name of the full moon occurring in January is the wolf moon.

## JANUARY DAILY EVENTS

- 1/1: Happy New Year; Polar Bear Swim Day; Bloody Mary Day
- 1/2: Happy Mew Year for Cats Day; National Cream Puff Day; National Science Fiction Day
- 1/3: National Chocolate Covered Cherry Day
- 1/5: National Bird Day; National Whipped Cream Day
- 1/6: Epiphany; Three Wise Men Day
- 1/9: National Cassoulet Day
- 1/11: National Human Trafficking Awareness Day
- 1/13: Stephen Foster Memorial Day
- 1/14: Ratification Day
- 1/16: National Religious Freedom Day
- 1/18: Week of Prayer for Christian Unity
- 1/19: Confederate Heroes Day (TX); Robert E. Lee Day; (AL, AR, FL GA & MS)
- 1/20: National Cheese Day
- 1/21: National Hug Day
- 1/22: National Hot Sauce Day; Answer Your Cat's Question Day
- 1/23: National Pie Day
- 1/24: National Peanut Butter Day
- 1/25: Feast of the Conversion of Saint Paul (ends the week of Prayer for Christian Unity); A Room of One's Own Day
- 1/26: International Customs Day
- 1/27: International Holocaust Remembrance Day; National Chocolate Cake Day
- 1/29: Kansas Day
- 1/30: National Inane Answering Message Day; Fred Korematsu Day (CA)

**HAPPY BLESSED 2021!**

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