

November 2021

ORCHARD HARVESTER

Newsletter of Orchard United Methodist Church

Transforming the world by growing in faith, serving others, and sharing Jesus.



[Rev. Paul Hahm](#)
Lead Pastor

Hello friends!

Living into Our Purpose

We are currently in the middle of our Generosity Worship Series "Our Purpose." It's my hope that we reinvigorate our sense of calling to live into the mission of our church to "transform the world by growing in faith, serving others, and sharing Jesus." We began the series by listening to the stories of our members as they've experienced meaning and purpose through our ministries. If you missed any of them in service, they are available to watch online in our Orchard Community Group Facebook page, website, and YouTube page. As we continue our series, I ask you to prayerfully consider how you will partner with and participate in living into our purpose as the Body of Christ.

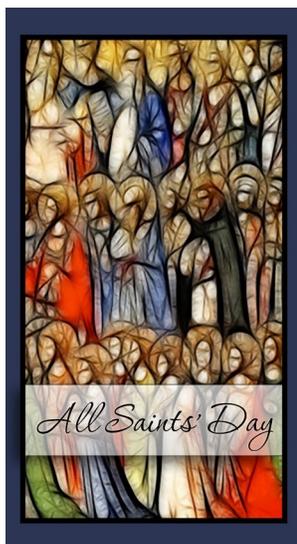


Advent Worship Series

Starting November 28 we will begin our Advent Worship Series "Are We There Yet?" The title has two intersecting meanings. Advent is traditionally a time of waiting and preparing for the coming Christ. But as we continue to navigate in and out and through the global coronavirus pandemic, many of us have continually asked the same question. Although we await the coming of Christ and a return to a sense of (a new) normalcy, there are some lessons that we can only learn through the process of waiting.

Grace and peace!

Pastor Paul



ALL SAINTS' DAY—JANUARY 2, 2022

We will be celebrating All Saints' Day on the first Sunday of the new year—January 2, 2022. A celebration on the first Sunday of January enables us to celebrate the lives of all who have passed in the year before and to begin our new year remembering their legacy.

It feels fitting to begin the new year giving thanks for those who've paved the way for us and planted seeds of faith that continue to bloom because of their love. In December, families of our members who've passed in 2021 will receive a letter with a reminder about the worship services, which will include live stream broadcast. This will give all of us an opportunity to remember and give thanks for those we've lost this past year. If you've lost a family member, you can send their digital photo—along with their relationship to you and date of death—to [Linda Hall](#) or bring the photo to the church office on a Tuesday, Wednesday, or Thursday from 10 am to 3 pm. These items are due by Tuesday, December 21, 2021.

MISSIONS

We need
YOUR HELP!

PUMPKIN PAINTING WITH CASS COMMUNITY

Monday, November 1 at 10 am

Guests from Cass Community Social Services will be returning for a fun morning of fall pumpkin painting. On Monday, November 1, our guests will be arriving around 10 am and will have a great time painting pumpkins from Orchard's own pumpkin patch. After painting, guests will enjoy their sack lunches provided by the community center as well as some donuts and cider. **Volunteers are needed to help set up, assist guests, and clean up.** This event is sponsored and made possible by OUMC mission's SEEDS grant. Contact [Jeannine Hales](#) to volunteer.



MISSION BOX COLLECTIONS

Thank you to all who donated items for the college care packages that will be mailed out the second week of November. This is always a very welcome treat for our college students as they enter a very stressful time of final exams. It also serves as a powerful reminder that we, their Orchard family, have them in our thoughts and prayers.

Thank you also for your October donations of personal hygiene items for SOS/Lighthouse. They will be delivered the first week of November, which was typically our week to host this ministry.

November Donations for December Gifting

Kari Hume has agreed to coordinate our Christmas Adopt-a-Family. She is currently working with the agency to get a list of families and items wanted by them for Christmas. We are hoping to have delivery of items to families in early December, so stayed tuned for details on how we can donate during November.

We are called to serve others as part of our mission statement and in so doing we transform the world AND share Jesus!



GIFT CARD SALES SUPPORT YOUTH MISSION TRIP

Thinking About Holiday Shopping Yet?

Did you know you can support the summer youth mission trip by shopping in November (or December or any time of the year)? If you're already thinking about your holiday shopping, consider shopping for gift cards from Scrip. Every gift card you buy automatically pays a percentage to the youth group without you having to pay a dime extra. Shop and dine as you always do and the youth group retains 2-15% of the value of every card you purchase.

This gift card program can be accessed from the app RaiseRight, available through download in the App Store or through Google Play. It's not difficult to set up at all - just takes a few minutes - and is associated with the ShopwithScrip program we've been using for years.

- Download the app called "RaiseRight" and enter enrollment code **D18B366D1936L** to link purchases to Orchard.
- Once you set up your account (with password, etc.), you can order cards to be put in your "Wallet" as well as order physical cards (small shipping fee).* You can even order and have the physical cards sent to an address other than yours.

*ShopwithScrip requires that larger orders (over \$100) might need to be approved by the church office. If you have a large order, let [Maddy Jenkins](#) know you've placed it and she'll help get those cards to you! Great for holiday shopping, great for all year round!

OPPORTUNITIES

Check out these calendar-friendly missions and programming opportunities

KNIT & CROCHET MINISTRY

First Thursdays @ 1:30 pm in the Parlor

Calling all knitters and crocheters! Mark your calendars for Thursday, November 4 at 1:30 in the parlor. We will be working on hats, scarves, and mittens for the Mitten Tree. The deadline for these items is December 13 with delivery of these items scheduled the next day to Neighborhood House. This is being coordinated with the Mission emphasis for December. Feel free to call or text Ellen at 248.935.8018 with any questions.

The Knit and Crochet Ministry will continue to meet on the first Thursdays of the month at 1:30 in the parlor. All skill levels are welcome!



MITTEN TREE

Watch for the Mitten Tree to go up at the beginning of Advent when we will once again be gathering hats, scarves, and mittens to benefit the clients of Neighborhood House. Items may be purchased or handmade, so this is a heads up to all of our crafty knitters and crocheters. Deadline for placing items under the tree is December 13. If anyone needs yarn or patterns call or text Ellen at 248.935.8018.

LIVING & THRIVING

3rd Fridays @ 1 pm via Zoom

Living & Thriving is a support group ministry of Orchard United Methodist Church that meets on the third Friday of each month from 1-2 pm. People with chronic health problems don't like to complain to the people around them about their struggles, yet they deal with their health issues and the effects—physical, emotional, spiritual, mental—every day. Living & Thriving is a place where we can share these problems and issues with each other openly and with a support system.

This month on November 19, Pastor Paul will be speaking to the Living and Thriving group. If you're interested in joining via Zoom—whether a member of OUMC or not—please contact [Teresa Bowers](#) or [Mary Clark](#). You will be emailed the Zoom link just before the date of the meeting.



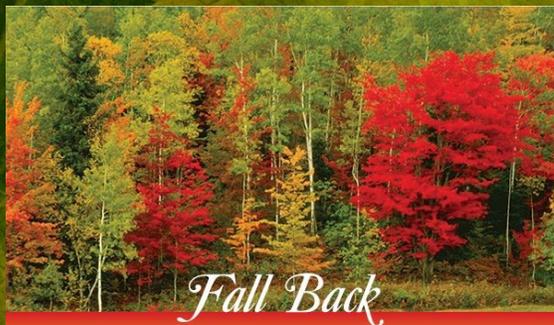
Sunday, November 21 starting at Noon

Join your church family on Sunday, November 21 at Noon, for a day of blessing others. The event begins with a Pancake Bar brunch prepared by our high school youth group. This meal will be for the cost of a donation which will go to support their mission trip next summer.

After brunch, there will be various opportunities to bless others. You could decorate a stocking to be given to a child living at the Methodist Children's Home. You can help tie blankets for Fleece & Thank You. You might help put together cookie trays to be distributed to local service agencies, or maybe you'll assemble an Agape Bag to be given out to those in need as you encounter them. You can do any or all of these projects as time and your interest allows. The impact of our projects will bless so many people in our own area and beyond!

There is something for all ages, and all of us together can bless others. Watch for a sign up to come out soon for the brunch portion of this Day of Blessings to give us an idea of how many to expect.

NOTE: The next edition of the *Harvester* will include information for December 2021 AND January 2022. Please plan ahead. Email articles to [Linda Hall](#), Director of Communications, by November 16, 2021.



Remember to set your clocks back one hour on November 7, 2021

The church office will be closed for Thanksgiving on Thursday, November 25 and Friday, November 26.

LOOKING AHEAD TO EARLY DECEMBER OPPORTUNITIES...

Many of our Orchard opportunities in December happen at the beginning of the month.

Here are some details so you can start your holiday planning now!

Friday, December 3

Cookie & Ornament Exchange Come enjoy yuletide fellowship and a light brunch on December 3 at 10 am in the church parlor. Cookie exchangers are to bring a "batch" of favorite cookies and an additional container for the exchanging fun. This year we're asking that you do individually package your cookies as we still adhere to safe COVID practices. Ornaments for exchanging should be brought wrapped. Childcare will be provided upon request. For more information, contact [Michelle Bianco](#).

Saturday, December 4

Ho! Ho! Ho! Breakfast with Santa What could be better than an all-you-can-eat pancake breakfast, followed by a personal visit with Santa? Have your picture taken with Santa*, and take home a special keepsake! *Pictures will be emailed for each family to print at home.

Santa's Workshop During Breakfast with Santa, Santa's Workshop will be open for kids to do their own Christmas shopping. This is such a fun time for the kids, as they put a lot of thought into their purchases for family and friends. Please consider helping by donating new or gently used items—like toys, purses, items for men, games, books, etc. There will also be a wrapping station available with elves helping. If you don't have items to donate, please consider donating a roll of gift wrap, gift bags, or gift tags. Items will be collected in the office right next to the Nursery in the Children's Education hallway.

Tuesday, December 7

Advent by Candlelight Advent by Candlelight is a night of worship and fellowship for women and their guests. The evening begins in the narthex with wassail and fellowship, and then moves into the sanctuary for a special time of worship. Immediately following the brief service, women will move down to the MAC for tea and dessert, where they will find the room beautifully transformed with soft candlelight and festively adorned host tables. This is a great opportunity to invite your friends from outside the church! Watch for details coming soon on how to sign up to be a hostess or attend as a guest.

Saturday, December 18

Rockin' the Manger This new, fun event will be the perfect way to fuel up on holiday cheer! There will be a concert and a time for singing favorite holiday songs and Christmas carols led by the Praise Band, crafts for the kiddies, hot cocoa for everyone, and more! Watch for more details on how to invite friends, neighbors, loved ones - everyone you know who wants to join in on the holiday fun!

November & December at a Glance



11/1	Pumpkin Painting with Cass	12/3	Cookie & Ornament Exchange/Brunch
11/2	General Election in the MAC	12/4	Breakfast with Santa/Santa's Workshop
11/4	Knit & Crochet Ministry (1 pm)	12/7	Advent by Candlelight
	Pub Theology (8 pm)	12/12	Christmas Cantata
11/7	Daylight Saving Time Ends	12/18	Rockin' the Manger (3-5 pm)
11/21	Day of Blessings w/fundraising breakfast	12/24	Christmas Eve Services @ 5, 8, & 10 pm
11/25	Thanksgiving—Office Closed	12/25	Church office closed (through 1/1/22)
11/26	Office Closed	12/26	PJs, Presents, & Pancakes
11/28	First Sunday in Advent		

The full up-to-the minute Orchard online calendar is available [here](#).

