



The LUMinary

Laingsburg United Methodist Church • Rev. Tiffany Newsom • 210 N. Crum St • Laingsburg, MI 48848
517-651-5531 • Email: laingsburgumc@gmail.com • Website: www.laingsburgumc.org



A Message from the Pastor

January 2021

It is hard to believe that the year 2021 finally looms upon the horizon. In so many ways, 2020 has gone by in the blink of any eye, yet in others it has drug on and on. One thing cannot be denied, 2020 has been one for the record books! It has been a year of trials and tribulations for us all. As I reflect on this year and look forward to the year ahead, there is a psalm that speaks hope into my heart and reminds me that our help, strength, and refuge is in the Lord.

Psalm 46

*God is our refuge and strength,
an ever-present help in trouble.
Therefore we will not fear, though the earth give way
and the mountains fall into the heart of the sea,
though its waters roar and foam
and the mountains quake with their surging.
There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God,
the holy place where the Most High dwells.
God is within her, she will not fall;
God will help her at break of day.
Nations are in uproar, kingdoms fall;
he lifts his voice, the earth melts.
The LORD Almighty is with us;
the God of Jacob is our fortress.
Come and see what the LORD has done,
the desolations he has brought on the earth.
He makes wars cease
to the ends of the earth.
He breaks the bow and shatters the spear;
he burns the shields with fire.
He says, "Be still, and know that I am God;
I will be exalted among the nations,
I will be exalted in the earth."
The LORD Almighty is with us;
the God of Jacob is our fortress.*

The words “Be still, and know that I am God” have echoed in my heart since the pandemic began. In so many ways, this pandemic has forced the world to “be still.” In the stillness, I have rediscovered my reliance and trust in God for all things. It is my hope that we may all rediscover our trust in God for the year ahead. “God is our refuge and strength, an ever present help in times of need.”

As we move into a new year, having recommitted ourselves to God’s new covenant with humanity, let us remember the Christmas promise of God made flesh—God is with us in all things. God does not give to us as the world gives (John 14:27). With the confidence of Children of God, we must face the future unafraid, trusting in God and loving our neighbor with all that we have.

I look forward to a blessed year of continued and renewed ministry ahead with you all—trusting that God will guide us and provide all that we need to succeed. I look forward to days ahead when we will be able to gather in person once more.

May God bless you all,

Pastor Tiffany

Announcements:



1. All in-person activities remain suspended at this time. The Leadership team remains committed to re-evaluating this and our procedures as Health Department Regulations change.
2. Prayer group continues to meet via Zoom on Mondays and Thursdays at 10 am. Information on how to join these meetings can be found at laingsburgumc.org. There will be no prayer meetings on Thursday, December 31; Tuesday, January 5; or Thursday, January 7.
3. The Bible Study Group will not be meeting on December 30 or January 6. We will resume meeting Wednesdays at 10 am via Zoom on January 13, 2021. At that time, we will begin exploring some of the Bible’s most interesting Epiphanies! Information on how to join us can be found at laingsburgumc.org.
4. If you would like a visit from me, the pastor, please contact the church office. Arrangements will then be made for a visit at the church or in your home. I do request that masks be worn at all times for those visits. I make this request for your safety as well as my own and the safety of so many others I may come in contact with.
5. Tuesdays at Twilligers has been suspended for the time being. I look forward to seeing many of you there again, once it is safe.
6. I will be on vacation from December 31, 2020 through January 7, 2021.
7. Next Leadership Team meeting will be via Zoom at 7 pm on Monday, January 11, 2021.

UMCOR Hygiene Kit Collection Project:

We have reached our goal and completed 50 hygiene kits for UMCOR. What a wonderful way it has been for us to continue to love and support our neighbors in need during these unprecedented times!

Update Regarding Holy Communion:

Please look for updates regarding our next Zoom Communion service in our weekly worship emails and during our online worship services.

News of the Core Youth Group

Thanks to members of the Core Youth Group for assisting with the Christmas Eve service. It was a blessing to have them involved.

Remember, the Youth Group is collecting returnable bottles and cans. You can drop them off at the church during office hours. Call Karolyn when you arrive for assistance.

As you may recall, the Youth Group spearheaded the drive to make 50 Hygiene Kits for UMCOR (United Methodist Committee on Relief) to distribute to victims of disasters. That goal was accomplished! Here is a picture of a portion of those kits.



If you would still like to help, we are requesting monetary donations to help send out these kits.

Thank you for your assistance with this project.

Giving Envelopes

If you are using giving envelopes, it would be helpful if you could drive up to the church and pick up your 2021 envelopes. The church office is open from 9:30-2:30 Monday through Thursday. Please call first, and I will bring them to you at the ramp door. If you are not able to come to the church, please call and I will be happy to mail them to you.

Thank you,
Karolyn

Although we are not having in-person worship, your giving is still vital to making sure we, as a church, make it through this time in a financially healthy way. You can set up online giving by going to our website and clicking on the Donate button, or you can mail in your check. If you want to drop it off, just call Karolyn, and she will meet you at the door. We want you to know that your giving is very much appreciated.



Online Worship

We continue to offer online worship each Sunday morning at 10:00, on either Facebook or YouTube.

A bulletin is sent out each week with a link, or you can go to our website and click on the link there.