

# JANUARY

## Pastoral News

Happy New Year my friends...

As we have come to the end of our Christmas Tide (Christmastide is a noun that refers to the festival season that begins on Christmas Eve and continues through New Year's Day), it is my prayer that thru hope, peace, joy and love you have found some lasting meaning in the birth of Jesus.

It is no accident that it all begins with Hope... last month in the Flash I talked about hope as well...

**Hope is unforeseen type of faith that gives us strength, so that we do not give up, give in but rather push on.**

So this month, as we are moving into a new year, as we are deciding on some new year's resolutions (don't laugh, because we all do) it is one way for us to push on thru HOPE...

In other words... a fresh start, a clean slate, a renewal, rebirth, resurrection, reawakening, or even a clear conscience, you get the point.

One of the things I love the most about

## WHAT'S IN THIS MONTH'S ISSUE

- Caritas Challenge
- Prayers Needed
- Birthdays
- United Women of Faith

## January Calendar

**5th, 12th, 19th, & 26th**  
Worship @ 10:30

**7th, 14th, 21st, & 28th**  
Tops @ 9  
Prayer Group @ 10:30  
Bible Study @ 11:00

**9th, 16th, 23rd, & 30th**  
Crafting Group 9 till noon

**6h, 13th, 20th, & 27th**  
Parks & Rec

Jesus is the idea of new beginnings, tomorrow is a new day. Regardless of who you were yesterday or what you have done, there is always hope of change...

New Year's resolutions can help us to make those changes:

**Goal Setting:** Resolutions encourage individuals to set specific, measurable goals for self-improvement. This process can help clarify priorities and aspirations.

**Motivation and Renewal:** The start of a new year often brings a sense of renewal and motivation. People may feel inspired to make positive changes in their lives, which can lead to increased energy and commitment.

**Reflection:** The practice of making resolutions often prompts individuals to reflect on the past year, assessing what worked well and what didn't. This reflection can foster personal growth and self-awareness.

**Accountability:** Sharing resolutions with others can create a sense of accountability. When people communicate their goals, they may feel more compelled to follow through.

**Positive Habits:** Many resolutions focus on building positive habits, such as exercising regularly, eating healthier, or saving money. These habits can lead to long-term benefits for physical and mental well-being.

**Community and Support:** New Year's resolutions can foster a sense of community, as many people engage in similar goals. This shared experience can provide support and encouragement.

**Cultural Tradition:** In many cultures, making resolutions is a long-standing tradition. Participating in this practice can create a sense of belonging and connection to cultural values.

While not everyone sticks to their resolutions, the act of setting them can still hold value in promoting self-improvement and encouraging positive change.

So what are you hoping for this year? What would you like to change about yourself? How would you like people to see you differently? What are some bad habits you would not mind to leave behind? Who would you like to be?

So many opportunities...so much **Hope**...

It is my hope and my prayer that thru the changes we are hoping for...that it is thru these changes you may find genuine **Peace**, enduring **Joy** and everlasting **Love**...Happy New Year

See you Sunday...pastor René

# January Birthdays

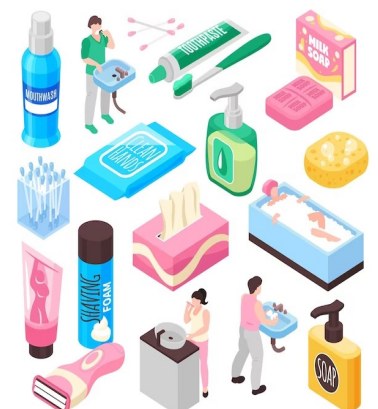
2nd - Phyllis Dunlap



## *Caritas Challenge*

Hygiene Products and Cleaning Products!

Tooth Brush, Tooth Paste, Soap, Razor, Shampoo, Feminine pads, Mouth Wash, Q tips, Tissue, Windex, Clorox, etc. . .





# P R A Y E R

## **Hand of God to Touch**

Peace on Earth  
Our Church  
All Caregivers  
Peace for the Middle East and Israel  
Syria  
Our country  
Tensions  
Traveling Mercies

## **Health and Healing**

Jennifer  
Pam surgery

## **Continued Prayers**

Zariah  
John & Jennine Murphy  
Roxy  
Hawk  
Jean  
Granddaughter Brandy  
Sindie Price  
All those suffering from cancer

## **Prayers of Gratitude**

For René and David  
For Jesus, the reason for this  
season

“For unto you is born this day on the city of David a Savior, which is Christ the Lord.”

Luke 2:11



# CHURCH & SOCIETY

The United Methodist Church

Living **FAITH** Seeking **JUSTICE** Pursuing **PEACE**

The pursuit of civil and human rights is a journey filled with challenges and opportunities. In 2024, Church and Society has remained steadfast in advocating for peace, fostering collaboration, and equipping United Methodists to be bold witnesses for justice.

Together, we worked hard to create change in 2024.

- **Empowering Civic Engagement:** Through our partnerships with the Baltimore-Washington Conference and Strengthening Black Churches for the 21st Century, we helped create the Sacred Voters Toolkit. By equipping local churches with preaching materials, Bible studies, and activities to encourage voting and civic participation, at least 20 United Methodists became Election Ambassadors and Poll Chaplains to support the democratic process.

- **Strengthening Congressional Relationships:** Church and Society staff spent time deepening relationships with congressional offices this year, paving the way for future advocacy.

**Raising Awareness Through Programming:** Learning opportunities like the Seminar Program and our Justice Talks webinar series have helped equip and mobilize United Methodists to engage decision makers on pressing issues, from white Christian nationalism to protecting democracy.

We are determined to drive legislative progress on critical issues like immigration and criminal justice reform, while empowering United Methodists to be bold witnesses for justice.



United  
Women  
in Faith

United Women in Faith is at our heart and soul, a faith-driven organization. When we work together, we can make a lasting difference in the world. Our actions have always spoken as loud as our words. For more than 150 years, we have been showing up and getting things done. Together, we're making the world a better place: locally, globally, fearlessly.

We come together with a shared Purpose – to be a community of women, to know God, to develop a creative and supportive fellowship, and to expand concepts of mission.

This vital work continues as United Women in Faith expresses God's love through initiatives in the United States and around the world. These include economic development grants benefiting children, youth, and women in Asia and Africa, taking thousands of legislative actions for climate justice, giving access to immigration services through our Nation Mission Institutions and campaigning to end the school-to-prison pipeline through education and legislative actions, to name just a few of our priorities.

As we start a new year, join us at Audubon Park UMC on January 27 at 1 pm for fellowship, dessert and devotions.



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# COME AND CRAFT WITH US!



The 2nd and fourth Thursday  
at 9am