

Circuit Rider

Saybrook United Methodist Church

“People trying to live like Jesus”

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And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.” Matthew 28:20b

Below you will see a picture of a page of a calendar that I made for my family and extended family..... It is something that I have done since my boys have been very little, and has been an easy way of letting everyone know what's been going on with the Stoll's. Each page includes the calendar for that month including all of the special days like Birthdays and anniversaries, plus the normal dates like Christmas, Easter, and Thanksgiving. Above the calendar there are family pictures of various family events throughout the year; vacations, birthdays, first days of school, graduations.... You get the idea. It's a picturesque way of filling folks in on our important events and greeting them in the new year. On the last page it identifies who is who, like Pat is Katie's Mom (or my sister's husband— yes there are two of them), or Deb, which is my sister, and the boys aunt. It also keeps up with the family, and sometimes it gets sad, like when we removed Katie's Aunt Barb because of her passing. I have made this calendar for I don't know how many years... except, well, the picture below is the last calendar page for the 2019 calendar. Because of page spacing, there is always room for one extra month... January of the next year (which also is always the first page of the new calendar)... except last year. Last year was different.

*..... And
a Happy
& Blessed
2020*



Last year, the next to last week in December we moved. Last year for Christmas we had no tree. We sent out no Christmas cards (I sent them out extra early this year and explained). And there was no calendar... but on the 2019 calendar there was January 2020, and so all year long, posted behind my desk was a picture of my two boys, wearing their “Happy New Year” hats, posed with Daisy, in front of our Christmas Tree... with the caption reading “.....And a Happy & Blessed 2020”. Who knew when I sent that out in late 2018 (or early 2019) what 2020 was going to be like.....

And so now, here it is, the end of 2020, and the beginning of 2021 and my feelings are just the same. My prayer is that you will be able to find a blessing here and there in the rubble of 2020.... I can.... And that in the midst of 2021 you will discover that you surely are truly blessed. In this past year I have lost some loved ones, a few in just the past few weeks.... But I am Blessed. In this year there are a number of things that did not go as planned... But I am Blessed. In this year there are things I that I wished never happened, in the world, the country, the church, my home But I am Blessed.

And in the coming year.... I am anticipating a bit of the same... with the same result, being able to proclaim... I am Blessed. Who knows what lies ahead..... In our United Methodist Healing services we pray for Physical, Emotional, Mental, Relational, and Spiritual healing. Who knows, in the coming year, I may need a little bit...of each.. Or a whole lot of each, but I am trusting, that no matter whatever the year brings, in someway, I will be Blessed, because God has promised..... *That He will be with me (& you) always, even to the very end of the age.*

Have a Happy and Blessed 2021!

Peace & Love!
Jeff

The Stoll Family would like to thank all of you who blessed us with cards and candy and cookies and cash during this holiday season.

They— YOU— truly are a blessing to our family!

Jeff, Katie, Joshua, Josiah & Daisy

JANUARY

Birthdays & Anniversaries

4	Paul Gynn	22	Jacob McKee
6	Mark Coach	24	Eva DeCamillo
6	Kathryn Ford	25	Randy Serpico
6	Rebecca Reynolds	26	Charles Davis
6	Sean Butler	30	Cheri Wayand
6	Kathy Heino	31	Barb Laughlin
7	Eland Rebecca		
8	Jason Roy		
8	Jim Shank		
10	Jim & Bobbi Brindley		
11	Dennis Wolff		
15	Mary Ann Cone		
19	Jeffery Farman		
19	Barb Kelley		
20	Devan Craft		



DeeAnn D Rich ▶ Rich Revue in Honduras

1m •

December 15, 2020. 5:00a.m. As I sit in my chair in my living room in Tegucigalpa, Honduras, sipping on my morning coffee ☕ and watching the sunrise 🌅 and listening to the city waking up, I realized I am home. 🏠🇧🇩❤️ God has been faithful and I look forward to getting back to the ministry here. A big thank you to each of you who are reading this! You helped make this happen by being a part of my team! 🙌🙏❤️

As a local United Methodist Congregation we promise to honor God with:

Our Prayers



On Going Prayer Concerns

Our Churches, Our Shut Ins, Our Military, Our College Students,
Our Pastor & Family, Missionaries, Dee Ann Rich, Ethan & Ashley Batschelet,
Ed & Linda Gray, Richard Clugh, Don & Mary Clugh Family, MaryLee Verdi, River,
Betty Hansen, Carol Loudermilk, Richard & Grace Arnold, Jim & Phyllis Wright,
Mary Simmons, Dean Moore, Howard Hewitt, Erik Pimentel, Jim & Bobbi Brindley,
Kurt Brindley, Eva DeCamillo, Rev. Scott Walsh, Roy Stiltner II, Donna Juras,
Larry & Dixie Liggett, Bruce & Sue DeRidder, Art & Debbie Scott, Chuck & Janette
Davis, Caroline, Lori Leibbrandt, Betty Harting, Eddie & Linda Dana, Heather Long,
Sherry & Ken Livingston, Marilyn Lundquist, Rona, Rev. Doug Lewis, Sandy Connley,
Sarraah Brown, Ben, Mary Hamilton, Mark & Family, Juli, Rita, Mary Lewis, Stoneman
Family, Jim Wright, Judy, John & Laura Morgan, Edie Warren, Harold & Lou Buck,
Janet Renard, Korey Stoneman, Cathy Morgan, Mat Sobolewski, Sandy Mead, Rick
Arnold, Erik & Heather Peterson, Keith Davidson, Linda, Diane, Betty, Jackie McKee,
Mark DiBell, Vikie, Edgar Bradley, Alex Gonzalez, Joel, Nellie, Brent, Aiden, Alex &
Family, Glen, Heather, Noah, Shelly, Chuck, Ralph, Brett Bunnell, Mary Ann Gage,
Jud Palmer, Dave, Mel & Family, The Fifer Family, Jerri Shultz, Patrick Zoblefin,
Jim McKee, Shawn & Gerry, Jill & Family, David & Family, Maryilyn,
Keith Youngberg, Landon, Scott & Colleen, Howard, Alex, Denny Densmore, Louise
Ebetino, Michelle, Sue, Sheila, Ron & Joyce Shelestak & Family, Ruth Falcione, Jim
Shinault & Family, The Kalinowski Family, Larry & Laura, Becky Reese,
Roy & Earline Stiltner, John, John Dean, Bob & Cheryl Josson,
The Family of Charles Wenner

Our Gifts

Stewardship Update

Year to Date as of 11/30, 2020

General Funds	\$163,320.68
Expenses	\$153,541.83
Balance	\$9,778.85

Our Service

Online Services every Sunday

9:30am Church Service Inside and online.

Every Wed. Taize from 9:00-5:00pm &
Communion on the rail is open daily.

With the virus in mind of course there is
social Distancing & wearing Masks

On New Years Eve beginning at noon
service will be every 15 min. & communion
on the rail. Online starting at 5:00pm

If things change, we will be calling you to
let you know. *Be Safe & Blessings*

and Our Witness

Kathy Feiler

CHRISTMAS BLESSINGS

The Christmas Family Program has been filled with blessings and miraculous answers to prayers. Your response to emails and phone calls has been outstanding. All gift tags were taken from the tree and gifts were returned to the church two days before the distribution day. **THANK YOU.**

Monetary donations allowed us to give gift cards to each family so they would be able to purchase things we were not aware of. Steve Kiraly from Kiraly's Orchard, brought boxes of beautiful crisp apples for each family. We have been blessed by Steve's generosity for many years. There was some concern regarding the food and hygiene items since the Ashtabula Schools were not in session and we have always had their support in donating these. However, for the first time since this program began, St. John School partnered with us and gave such an abundance of food that our prayers of concern were gone and replaced with praises of thanksgiving.

Distribution day was unique this year. We missed all of you who would come and join in meeting and greeting the families, but we do thank you for accepting the guidelines in place this year of limiting groups of more than 10 people. Each family was greeted by Pastor Jeff as he gave them bibles and handed them their family number. As they pulled up to the back porch of the church, they gave Lloyd Richards the numbered card and he would announce it to the food room and the gift room. The firemen helpers loaded the food boxes on the cart and into the trunks and then the gifts.

MANY THANKS TO OUR FIREMEN. Dean Moore presented each family with an upper room, a Christmas card and the gift card. He had a message for each family from our church family.

While only a few people got to physically interact with our Christmas families we were told of their thanks and gratefulness. Tears flowed and smiles were shared. The warmth of the Holy Spirit was evident. May we all continue to pray for our families that physical gifts and food will let them be aware of the love and spiritual power of our Savior Jesus.

Hoping that this somewhat lengthy article will help you visualize what most of us weren't able to see in person. Much love and thanks to all of you and praying for a **Blessed and Healthy New Year.**





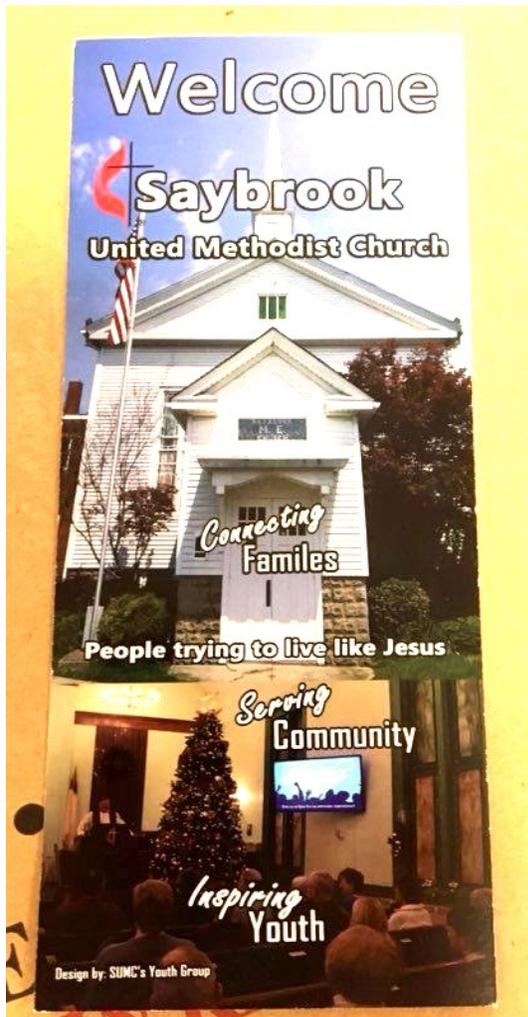


May all the special joys
of the season
fill your home with happiness.

wishing you all a very
Merry Christmas and a
Happy + Safe New Year
Thank you for the love + care
you give your residents.
Praying we may return
soon to share God's love +
word to you all.
Saybrook UMC

To show our gratitude to the Staff of Carington Park and Saybrook Landing the Congregation of the Saybrook UMC took up a collection and bought them lunch! The Staff are a dedicated group of professional care workers who have gone above and beyond for their patients and each other during the tragic and unforeseen pandemic of 2021.

Thank you all and May God Bless.



Special Thank You to our friends at Saybrook United Methodist Church. The Food that was sent today for all of our staff was absolutely amazing and greatly appreciated by all!

Carington Park

*Merry Christmas
and Happy New Year!*



PASTOR'S BENEDICTION

...in your hearts revere Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have.

But do this with gentleness and respect, 1 Peter 3:15 (NIV)

Who have you shared your Hope with this past week

Who will you invite to Jesus in the week to come?

Go now in peace and serve God.

Stewardship moments...

Lord, make us trustworthy Stewards of your abundant blessings. Show us ways that will enable us to fully embrace your teachings of charity, we pray to the Lord...

Always remember that you may be the only "Church" that someone ever meets or knows... make your first impression one that can happily be shared with each new generation of people on Earth.

You matter my friends... we all have been given the blessed ability to have an impact on someone somewhere... here's the thing... we never know when that is or how it will happen. It could be only one sentence that we share or one look we send out. So you decide... would you be honored to tell God that you did "that" (we all know he already knows, but just imagine for one moment that he doesn't) would you be okay with sharing your actions with God? YOU matter... TODAY matters!

According to scripture, God created Earth for mankind and we are now stewards of His creation. This means it is our responsibility to look after and take care of this world. We should accept this responsibility and appreciate God's gift of creation for being our home. Our stewardship of creation involves the caretaking of the environment and animals as well as our families and communities.

Prayers, Presents, Gifts, Service and Witness are the components of Stewardship to God. With the beginning of each new day we have the opportunity to exercise any or all of these to be a Steward of God.

It's important that stewardship not just be about financial giving, but how we can give ourselves to God's work, commit our lives to God's service, and use God's gifts to bless those around us. "Christian giving is a responsive act. It represents gratitude to God. It is a symbol of self-giving."

Normally I would begin with Prayers, but I am saving that for last as I like to end in prayer...

So let us start with ...

Presents...

For all who are prayerfully considering how they are being called to share their gifts of time and talent with our parish community, that God will give them wisdom, clear discernment and peace

In thanksgiving for all who have committed to live as disciples in the coming year by sharing a portion of their time and abilities with SUMC

Gifts...

Lord, you are the giver of every gift, including the most precious and holy gift of your son, Jesus Christ. Help us to remember how important it is for us to also be generous givers of gifts, so we can carry out Christ's mission for His Church on earth.

That the sharing of a percentage of our income with SUMC will help us live simpler lives trusting that God will provide for our needs and that we will continue to be a sign of our faith as well as our commitment to help those in need

Service...

For all the parishioners of our parish who volunteer in our church and community sharing their gifts of Time, Talent and Treasure, that they might discover a deeper faith relationship with God

Lord, help us to wisely use the gifts you've entrusted us to Steward
That God will inspire us to live the life of a committed disciple through the sharing of our time and our abilities with SUMC

Witness...

As witnesses, we're called to share and proclaim God's story. But we're also called to join in this life of "doing good and healing," doing God's work of justice and peace for all of creation. We're called into this life not just as witnesses, but as Children of God claimed in the baptismal waters and with the Word, that Christ himself was washed in by John and alighted with the Holy Spirit.

Share your Godly sightings with those around you with a grateful heart that you were the chosen one to witness.

Prayers... Please bow your head for prayer...

Lord, grant us the ability to honestly evaluate our lifestyle that it might reflect a desire to walk closer with you

That we may have the courage to be good Stewards of God's many blessings
In thanksgiving to God for providing for all of our material needs

That we, as a parish community, may understand and accept that living as Stewards will bring each of us a conversion and a change of heart, as we generously share our Time, Talent and Treasure with you

That as Christian disciples, we accept our Stewardship responsibilities and give generously of our treasure, giving thanks to God for all the blessings we have received

In Jesus name we pray.... *Amen*

Thank you & God Bless, Jill Serpico



February

VALENTINE BOXES

On Saturday Feb. 6th.

We will be packing our Valentine boxes to send to our College Students, Military and others. If you would like to contribute by bringing in candy, cookies or other goodies or help with postage, it would be appreciated. If you have a child, grandchild or others that you know would like to receive a box please contact the church office at 440-969-1562 with the address.

Thank you for your Support

Cheryl McLaren



Happy
New Year!



WHITE AS SNOW

Jesus, our Savior, came to earth to purify sinners.

Directions: Figure out which path through the puzzle is correct. Choose one to try, starting at the first picture under the "Path" box. Follow each picture's directional cues to see if the words make sense when placed in order in the blanks below. If not, try a different path until you figure out the Bible verse.



PATH 1	PATH 2	PATH 3	PATH 4	PATH 5	PATH 6
for	give	come	together	around	after
self	into	settle	eternal	thanks	forgive
God	LORD	says	without	Christ	warmth
love	sins	scarlet	other	light	praise
red	star	white	snow	winter	peace



“ _____ now, let us _____ the matter,” _____ the
 _____ . “Though your _____ are like _____ ,
 they shall be as _____ as _____”

ISAIAH 1:18, NIV

Answer: Path 3; come, settle, says, LORD, sins, scarlet, white, snow

January 2021

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 Happy New Year!	2 8:3am Men's Group
3 9:30am Worship	4 10:00am Mission	5 6:30pm Trustees	6 Taize Service	7	8	9
10 9:30am Worship	11	12 7:30 Membership	13 Taize Service	14	15	16 8:3am Men's Group 10:15am Worship & Music
17 9:30am Worship	18	19 6:00pm Finance 7:15pm Ad Council	20 Taize Service	21	22	23
24 9:30am Worship	25	26	27 Taize Service	28	29	30
31 9:30am Worship						

