

The Messenger



ROGERSVILLE U.M.C.
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January, 2021

Happy New Year!

One of the things that I love most about new beginnings is that feeling of possibility. Everything is fresh and new, waiting for something awesome to happen. From the time I was little, every time I start something new – school, a new job, a project, etc. – one of the first things I would do is buy new office supplies. Pretty notebooks, pens, sticky notes, the works... all these things made me excited to tackle something new.

Of course, the king of all my planning supplies is my planner. I got my 2021 planner just last week and, not to be too nerdy, lol, I love looking at all the clean, fresh, empty pages. I have my color coordinated pens: one for each part of life, of course. I have stickers and tape and scissors and, along with all that, the determination to use the planner to stay on top of things this year. Prayers up that I stick with it!

My shiny new planner just waiting for me to fill it with all sorts of things reminds me of God's wonderful promise to us that He is making all things new in His time. One of the things I love about my planner is the reminder that I am called to plan MY part of the world and surrender the rest to God. Unfortunately, I need that reminder many times!

In Isaiah 43: 19, God says: "I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it? I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert."

I love the emphasis here that God is already working on something new even as we are still focused on the old. This is a glorious invitation by God to move us into a new day full of hope and possibilities. Just like my empty planner is waiting for me to use it to create a life full of meaning and purpose, God is inviting us to look at 2021 as a chance to fill our days with purpose, love, and God's call on our lives. We have a whole year to make what we will – let us make it filled only with God.

Let's color the days with courage, grace, conviction, and confidence. Let's make this a year of love and transformation. Let's make this a year when, each and every single day, we offer ourselves to the world as the hands, the feet, and the living, beating heart of God. Amen.



YOUTH GROUP NEWS

The youth ended the year by reaching out and spreading some love and joy to some of our congregation that has not been able to be with us as much as they would like. We teamed up with the children and Pastor Holly and put together some special items in what we called “Blessing Bags”. The youth set out in two different groups to make our special deliveries. Below are just some of the special thank you notes that we have received via Facebook and mail. Your words mean the world to us and we are blessed that we could spread a little joy to each of you! Look out, because I am thinking the month of February will bring “Bags of Love”. Peace, blessing and love to each and everyone of you, thank you all for supporting our youth!



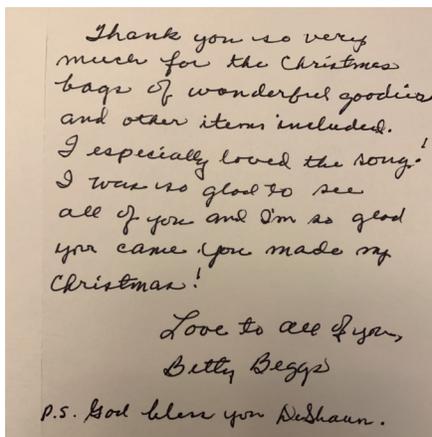
Jane Eady

We also enjoyed our blessing Bags! We also miss being in Church so much. Will be so glad when our world is back to some what normal. Christmas Blessings to all!



Gayle Littrell

We were truly surprised Sunday when we received not one but two goodie bags. Thank you Children and Youth groups for all the “Goodies” and most of all for remembering us during these uncertain times. We miss seeing everyone and worshipping together. Merry Christmas to all.



Joan Ezell

I was also blessed Sunday with two goodie bags! Thanks to the Youth and Children and also the Church I look forward to lighting the candle and having the service for Christmas Eve included in the bag. Miss everyone!

YOUTH GROUP NEWS

Thank you RUMC Youth & Children for the Christmas gift bags, the snacks were delicious, and the cards quite inspiring. The cards, program, and ornament reminded me of God's love and the meaning of Christmas. Thank you again for sharing with me.



Nancy Jane Bedsole ▶ Rogersville United Methodist Church

Dec 21, 2020 · 🌐

J. O. and I are so grateful for the Youth. We are without most of our family for Christmas, due to Covid-19. I mean we don't want to spread it.

On Sunday, we received 2 bags of goodies from the Youth. Fun, fun, fun. (And excuse me while I wipe away a few tears.) And we have two great pictures decorating the refrigerator.

RUMC Youth are special and creative. Thank you, thank you.

Dec 23, 2020
 Dear Joe & Shaun & Reg & family,
 What a joy to receive the Christmas gift. Thank you so much. I nailed Deedee's and she also says thanks. She lives in Meridian, MS. We hope the Christmas holidays and New Year are great. We are all well. Thank you for all the love and grace.
 May the peace and joy of the holiday season be with you throughout the coming year.
 Love in Christ
 Mary Wallace

What a nice surprise. Joe and I are so grateful to be remembered in such a nice way. We are so thankful for the Youth of our church. The future of our church is in good hands. The goodies and art work were awesome.
 For all you've done... for all you do... thank you.
 May God continue to bless you!
 Love,
 Joe + Andrea Ferguson

Youth Group,
 Your treat bag was awesome and so uplifting. I had to mess you but we were out of Your kindness is appreciated very much.
 Your kindhearted spirit of Christian love display what the youth of today can mean. Thinking of others at the time of year. Thank you again for thinking of me and my family during 2020.
 Susan Burt

From The Administrative Board

As we put 2020 in the rear view mirror, I found myself thinking about how much this pandemic changed our life, and how it changed the church. As Administrative Council Chairman, it presented many challenges and some apprehension. Looking back, here are just a few of things I learned.

I learned that whatever we face, we are not alone! God is always with us!

I feared we wouldn't be able to have church- but we did, He showed us our connection was deeper than 1 or 2 hours a week. We still gathered, albeit virtually in some cases, to study and worship and meet.

I worried that our ministries would not survive- but they did, and some of our members volunteered in new ways, which gave hope to our community.

I worried that Little Lambs Daycare would not survive- but they now have a long waiting list and need for more space!

I worried that because of cancelling in-person worship our finances would not allow us to keep staff and pay other bills- but financial giving's kept up with our needs.

And many of my other worries have now been shown to be moot.

And I prayed a lot more than I used to!

I say this to reinforce that He WAS with us, and IS with us, and WILL be with us as we go forward!

I look forward, as we all do, to getting back in the sanctuary this spring, and having a choir (although Troy has done a great job providing music for worship) and sitting in a pew again!

The Administrative Council is determined to get back as soon as it is safe for us to be together, and we will be meeting often to stay on top of the current situation. Please help us by not letting your guard down, wearing your mask and distancing when around other people you don't live with.

The vaccine will also allow us to relax some if enough people choose to get it.

I want to thank everyone who is on a committee or volunteers for a ministry that found new ways of doing things, and those that supported those endeavors.

My prayer is that we get back to something resembling normal before Easter, so that our celebration of the resurrection will also be a symbol of the church's strength rising up after this challenge.

And remember to thank HIM for those many blessings that HE has given us during this challenge.

His Blessings to all!
Sam Moody

Below are our figures through **December 31st**

General Fund Income	\$ 235,998.13
General Fund Expense	\$ 222,132.05
Capital Improvement Fund	\$ 53,125.00



January, 2021

	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Sat
3	9:00 Sunday School 10:00 Worship-DC	4	5 10:00 New Morning Ladies	6 Check with leaders on all Bible Studies	7 10:00 UMW 6:30 Trustees	8 6:30 Celebrate Recovery-The Place	9 Fish & Loaves
10	9:00 Sunday School 10:00 Worship	11	12 4:30 GED	13 Check with leaders on all Bible studies.	14	15 Fish & Loaves 6:30 Celebrate Recovery-The Place	16
17	9:00 Sunday School 10:00 Worship	18	19 4:30 GED	20 Check with leaders on all Bible studies	21	22 6:30 Celebrate Recovery-The Place	23
24	9:00 Sunday School 10:00 Worship	25	26 4:30 GED	27 Check with leaders on all Bible studies	28	29 6:30 Celebrate Recovery-The Place	30
31	9:00 Sunday School 10:00 Worship						

In the new year, we welcome these new babies:

Clara Jane, great-granddaughter of Arlene and Nelson Richardson

Barrett Truman Beggs, granddaughter of Randy and Renee Beggs

Mateo Lynn Cordero, grandson of Sam and Kerry Moody

The New Morning Ladies thank you for supporting the pecan and nut fundraiser. We were unsure how it would go in the pandemic situation. But our uncertainty was diminished by a great demand and we are thankful! If anyone is interested in the empty boxes, they are in room 102.

Return Service Requested
May God Bless:

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