



Orems Beacon January/February 2021

Orems United Methodist Church
1020 Orems Road. Middle River. MD 21220

Gail Button, pastor

410-687-9483 www.oremsumc.org

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ASH WEDNESDAY is on February 17, 2021. There will be an online service and you may Pick up your ashes and communion cups to prepare for the online service the week before during office hours Tuesday, Wednesday, or Thursday 11 a.m. to 3 p. m. Or call to make arrangements for a Saturday pick up.



We will have in person worship for small groups on Ash Wednesday in room 100 where we can easily sanitize the area after each group. Masks must be worn at this service. We will have a service at 2 p.m., 4 p.m. and 6:30 p.m. Space is limited so please register your party in advance so that we will have space for you. Call the church office 410-687-9483. We will also have Faith Boost that day at 12 noon.

Re-Opening for In Person Services Coming for LENT

IF all goes well with the Covid numbers declining, we plan to open up for in person services on the First Sunday in Lent: Sunday February 21st. Masks will be required for entry and every other pew will be roped off. Please remember to stay 6 feet apart from those not in your household. We look forward to worshipping together in our sanctuary again. Updates will be posted on Facebook and in our One call announcements.



Not Ready to meet in person just yet: MEN OF OREMS, KEEN-AGERS, and UNITED METHODIST WOMEN will not be meeting in January and most likely not in February. But Stay tuned for updates.



2021 *Offering envelopes are available. If you would like offering envelopes and you are not on our list, please notify the church office at 410-687-9483 and we can have envelopes available for you.*

Church Offerings: To donate online follow the link

<https://www.shelbygiving.com/app/giving/orem1020156>

To text your donations: Text the word **Give** to **1-410-873-1957** then follow the prompts. You may use a credit or debit card or ACH (withdrawal) or an echeck. The system charges 2.7% of your donation as a convenience fee. You do not have to pay this fee. There is a box to check if you wish to include this. If you need help, call the church office.

If you prefer to mail your donation or drop off your offering, we now have a locked mailbox to keep your donations secure. It is located outside the center entrance to the connecting hallway. Or you can drop off donations on Tuesday and Thursday from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. **MONEY IS COUNTED EVERY OTHER WEEK** while church is closed.

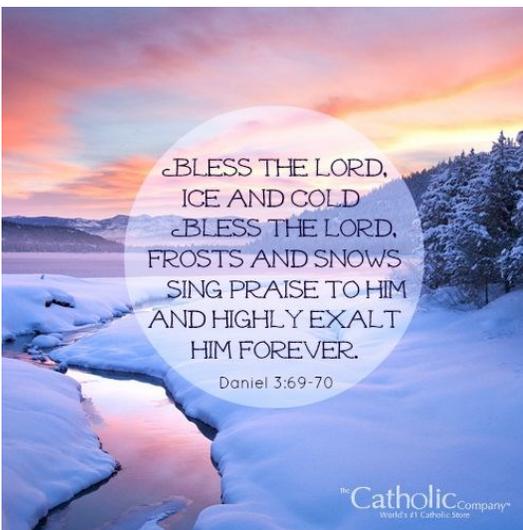
KITCHEN UPDATE

We are still collecting funds to replace the commercial refrigerator in the kitchen. We still have a ways to go to reach the goal of \$4000. Drop off your donation or mail a check to the church with a note: **Kitchen refrigerator!** Thank you.

Food Pantry News We were able to provide 12 families with Christmas baskets along with the Angel Tree gifts, thanks to the generous donations of this congregation. Our food pantry will be stocking up for winter. We will need vegetable soup, beef stew, pancake mix, syrup, spaghetti sauce and noodles, Canned Chicken and mixed fruits. Your donations of food and money help keep this mission reaching out to others. Thanks again.

Pixie Faulkner, Food Pantry Coordinator

March Newsletter Deadline is February 15th , if you have an article or information for our newsletter, please drop it off to the Church office or email at oremsumc@verizon.net



BEWARE OF SCAMS As the country begins to distribute COVID-19 vaccines, there's no doubt scammers are already scheming. [Medicare covers the COVID-19 vaccine](#), so there will be no cost to you. If anyone asks you to share your Medicare Number or pay for access to the vaccine, you can bet it's a scam. **Here's what to know:**

- You can't pay to put your name on a list to get the vaccine.
- You can't pay to get early access to a vaccine.

Don't share your personal or financial information if someone calls, texts, or emails you promising access to the vaccine for a fee. If you come across a COVID-19 vaccine scam, [report it to the Federal Trade Commission](#) or call **1-800-MEDICARE**. And check out [CDC.gov](#) for trustworthy information on the COVID-19 vaccine.

WORDS OF LIFE:

Jesus and the Promise of the Ten Commandments Today

A video and discussion-based study by Adam Hamilton.

Sundays at 5:30 PM (via ZOOM)

If you would like a book, they are available in the church office for \$15.

“The First Table: The Call to Love God”

January 24: I: “At the Center of It All”

January 31: II. “The Idols We Keep”

February 7: III. “I Swear to God!”

February 14: VI: “Rediscovering the Joy of Sabbath”

The Second Table: the Call to Love One’s Neighbor”

February 21: V: “A Question of Honor”

February 28: VI: “The Tragedy of Violence, the Beauty of Mercy”

March 7: VII: “Faithfulness in and Age of Porn”

March 14: VIII: “We’re All Thieves, Yes, Even You”

March 21: IX: “Sticks, Stones, and the Power of Words”

March 28: X: “Keeping Up With The Joneses”

There will also be an in-person, 5-week version of this study, covering two commandments each week, offered during Lent, on Thursdays at 1 PM in Room 100, beginning Feb 25th thru March 25th. Sign up for in person study by Feb 6th.



The flowers on our altar for Christmas were visible in our ONLINE worship. They graced our altar in memory or in honor of those who have graced our lives with beauty.

Red Poinsettias

In memory of **Philomena Lambert** from Pat and Bob Collins.

In loving memory of my son **David Egner**, from Don Egner.

In loving memory of my wife **Leona Egner**, from Don Egner.

In honor of our **Thrift Shop workers** from Don Egner.

White Poinsettias

In memory of lives lost to Covid 19.

In thanks to those who have kept Orem's Ministry going in this pandemic.

Rock 2021 Attention ALL YOUTH!

ROCK, the Baltimore-Washington Conference retreat which brings thousands of United Methodist youth and their leaders to Ocean City each year, has been revised to allow for social distancing and address safety concerns brought about by the coronavirus pandemic. ROCK(ish) 2021 will be a free interactive online event for youth Feb 5-6. Friday night features an interactive time with Bishop Easterling, as well as music by Urban Street Level and the ROCK Mass Choir. Saturday will offer a range of virtual interactive breakout sessions. Topics will include addressing racism, human rights, mental health, life after high school, and regional breakouts. At 9 a.m. there will be a youth leader training. The event is free. However, for \$3, you will be able to purchase an iron-on decal with this year's theme and logo. For \$10, you will get the decal as well as a box of ROCK swag.

Register at: <https://arenaweb.bwcumc.org/default.aspx?page=3452&event=5909>

Streets of Hope

Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.' Matthew 25:40

Orems is once again serving dinner to the homeless men of the Streets of Hope on Jan 17th , Feb 21st , and Mar 21st. **Meals need to be dropped off at 5:30 p.m. at the Rosedale Senior Center.** Rather than people making food at home with COVID chances, it is better to have something delivered, so we are ordering meals each month for 16 men (including one vegetarian meal) and 4 meals for the staff. We need donations of water, crackers, cookies, chips/pretzels and sodas. You can drop these off to Orems on Tues, Wed or Thurs from 10 to 3 p.m. **If you have any questions, contact: Joyce Serio, Or call the church office 410-687-9483. It takes all of us to be the hands and feet of Jesus. Help us serve!**

Thrift Shop News We are unable to accept donations at this time. We have run out of storage space and since merchandise is not moving while we are closed there is no where for new items to go. Our Thrift Shop still can not open due to the order to maintain social distancing. Our rooms are too small to keep people 6 feet apart. But if you are interested in shopping, you can shop by appointment with one or two people. Call the church office to make an appointment.



Angel Tree Mission We were able to help 26 children from 12 families in the Middle River Area. These families were thrilled that we cared enough to help them enjoy a wonderful Christmas. There were joyful tears and lots of smiles as they picked up the gifts and our generous food baskets. Thanks to everyone who sponsored a child, to those who took more than one, and to those who gave generously to fund for our shopping for angels left on the tree. As you know this year was very different and many of you gave me money to shop for you. I enjoyed shopping for the angels and my wrapping elves Kathy, Judy Debbie and Michele enjoyed wrapping them. Love to all, Vicki Borreson, Angel Tree Coordinator

Robin Hoch is collecting old candles to use as fire starters. If you would drop them off to the church office for her, she would appreciate your help.

THANK YOU

Dear Orem's Church

On behalf of Orem's Elementary, we thank you for your food and gift donations. Because of your help many of our families will be having a wonderful Christmas this year. Your kindness and generosity reached the hearts of all of us. All of you are truly the spirit of Christmas. Thank you and Merry Christmas!

Dawn Boudier, School Counselor

Dear Orem's Family,

Many thanks to all of you for your prayers and cards during my recovery from back surgery. It is very comforting to know that I was being lifted in prayer and that you were thinking of me. I consider my Orem's Family as one of my most cherished blessings, and I appreciate all of your kindness and thoughtfulness.

With Love and Thanks, Joyce Scarcella

Our Christmas Card Delivery system was like tracking Santa as I got emails and phone calls when folks got their delivery, many folks called with appreciation for the special treatment and I have shared some of their comments here. We are very thankful for the dedicated Christmas Elves: Judy Tolbert and Pat and Bob Collins. Job well done folks.



Dear Pastor Gail, Vicki, and all of Santa's Elves,

We just had the most wonderful delivery of cards and other items from our beloved church. I'm sorry I didn't get a chance to say hello to the elf who made our delivery, but I want to thank all of you for making this joyful time for all of us. It was like a visit from our church family. So very special! Thanks and Merry Christmas with our love, Winston and Merle Vickers

Dear Vicki, Thank the little elf who delivered the Christmas cards and communion elements to my house. Merry Christmas! Madelyn Kikola

Just wanted to thank the elves that delivered my Christmas cards and envelopes yesterday. Merry Christmas, Joyce Serio

DAILY PRAYER time! In these troubled times, it is time to do what generations of God's people have felt called to do—drop to our knees and look to the heavens for comfort, courage, support and help. Pray for the health of our community. Pray for Hope and peace for our neighborhood, State and Country. Pray a Hymn or favorite Prayer. Here is a Hymn you can sing or Pray:

God of Love, We've Known Division

Carolyn Winfrey Gillette, 2020

Beach Spring, attr. B. F. White;
harm. Christopher Gage

1. God of love, we've known di - vi - sion and we've seen its aw-ful cost.
2. Turn us, Lord, from what di - vides us— fear that drives us far a - part,
3. May we all, in con-ver - sa - tion, speak the truth and lis-ten well.
4. You have chal-lenged us to good-ness; you have shown a kind-er way.

We have strug-gled as a na - tion, and there's much that we have lost.
greed that leads to great in - jus - tice, ra - cist ways that break your heart.
May we hear, a - cross this na - tion, sto - ries oth - ers have to tell.
It's your love that now in - spires us as we seek a bet - ter day.

We have been a house di - vi - ded— and, di - vi - ded, we can't stand.
May we seek what brings to - ge - ther— hearts that bear each oth - er's pain,
May we learn from oth - er cul - tures and be blessed by their world - view;
May we end our harsh di - vi - sion; may we stop the hate and fear.

May our na - tion be u - ni - ted; give us peace through-out this land.
care and mer - cy toward our neigh-bors, love that wel - comes stran-gers in.
May we serve with one a - noth - er— lov - ing oth - ers, lov - ing you.
Make us one, Lord, as a na - tion; may we be u - ni - ted here.

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New Hymns: www.carolynshymns.com | Email: carolynshymns@gmail.com



We offer prayers and sympathy to the following families:

Martha Van Den Heuvel passed away on December 30, 2020. Please keep her sons Barry and Mark and his family in prayer as they continue to mourn her loss.

Amazon Smile Orem's Church is now part of Amazon Smile. IF you shop on Amazon, use this link to give back to Orem's as you shop. This link will take you directly to smile.amazon.com in support of Orem's Church. <https://smile.amazon.com/ch/52-0663101> **Go to the link then shop away!**

Comfort Cases for LENT Mission— Help Orem's help others for LENT.

As a special mission for Lent we have chosen Comfort Cases. Comfort cases are backpacks filled with comfort and personal care items for kids entering the foster care system. Typically, children are given a trash bag to pack up their belongings when they are removed from their homes. Comfort Cases believes every child deserves to pack their belongings in a special bag that they can call their very own, to have a cozy new pair of pajamas, a brand new warm blanket, and a new stuffed animal to hug during the traumatic transition into foster care. Go to their website at <https://www.comfortcases.org/> and donate to this mission or shop on Amazon from their list on the Comfort Cases website. You can shop by age or just general items, but all goes to help foster children feel more comfortable in an otherwise uncomfortable time in their lives.

THIS SHOULD NEVER BE A CHILD'S SUITCASE.



AMPLIFY MEDIA Is a site that offers Bible studies, devotions and especially wonderful programs for children and families to enjoy. The Church pays for the subscription but you will need to register an account so that you have your own password to access the programs.

Go to <https://my.amplifymedia.com/amplify> in the upper right corner click on the person logo then click on Access Code. **Orem's Congregational code is RTJLVP**

We hope you will enjoy this site. **Suggestions for Children:** Danny Go! is similar to Blues Clues. Pete and Penelope is an adventure series. Deep Blue Kids has great animated bible stories. And there is so much more available to you.