

January 2021—NewsBites (Install #2)

(This is the second installment on the newsletter for January. Hopefully, by the end of the month, we will be in a position to offer just one monthly newsletter—like before; Continue to remember Pam, our administrator, in your thoughts and prayers. We are not sure, at this point, when she will return to us).

NOTE—Our correct website is <http://mainstumc.asuscomm.com>. The church's phone number is 336-349-3432. Joe's cell phone number is 336-613-3085. Joe's email address is jtarp1@netzero.com. Joe publishes a "day by day" each week and posts it in the Commons area and at the offices of the church. It is an account of his weekly "whereabouts."

COUNCIL RETREAT—Our Administrative Council will have a half day retreat on Saturday, January 16, from 10a to 1230p. Anyone interested in attending is welcome. Please contact the church's office as soon as possible (this week) to sign up. You can also call Joe Tarpley at 336-613-3085 (or text) to sign up.

SUNDAY SCHOOL FORUM—for the next several Sundays at 10a (in the dining/fellowship hall), we will have our Sunday School forum. Our topic for January is Mark's gospel. Join us for lively conversation on this "gospel of the year."

CENTERING/INTERCESSORY PRAYER RESUMES—Our Centering/Intercessory prayer time is now convening in the sanctuary of the church each Tuesday at 1030a.

COMPLINE—Each Thursday at 8p (or just prior to), you can join online for a brief time of "night prayer." Compline comes from the word "completion." It is traditionally a time of prayer said at the end of the day. You can access this prayer time by accessing our website (<http://mainstumc.asuscomm.com>). Click on "click here to watch our worship live." You may also access this time of prayer through your facebook account.

MEET JOE FOR COFFEE—Join Joe at Sip Coffee on Wednesday, January 20, at 3p. Sip Coffee is located on Scales St. (across from the Library). All are welcome; no RSVPs necessary!

STAFF PARISH TO MEET—The church's Staff Parish Relations Committee meets on Wednesday, January 20, at 7p. Members of the committee are Chuck Clark, John Crutchfield, Natalie Aswell, Kay Dunn, Karen Daniel, Connie Marrs, Angie Stallings, Patrick Brady, Sherri Kolessar, and Bradley Goodman. We will meet (safely) in the fellowship/dining hall.

ANNOUNCING WINTER SPRING LUNCH & LEARN OPPORTUNITIES

For most people, Martin Luther and the public Reformation of 1517 is a most pivotal time in the life of the Church. But, all momentous events have a background. This year's Lunch and Learn opportunities will find us considering several of these important "background" events that lead up to the Reformation. Here is our schedule (and we ask you to sign up if you plan to attend any of these...in the Commons area or by calling the church's office)

January 24 *John Wyclif (Morning Star of the Reformation)*

February 21 *Gerard the Great (and the New Mysticism)*

March 14 *John Huss (the Bohemian reformer)*

April 18 *Joan of Arc (Patriot & Martyr)*

May 2 *Savonarola (the Martyr of Florence)*

May 18 *Erasmus (the philosopher of Christ)*

(all are on Sundays following the 11a worship service)

BOOK & DISCUSSION—During the winter months, you have an opportunity to join together to read Finding Peace in an Anxious World. This book uses the book of Proverbs and "The Serenity Prayer" as a guide to help Christians find their way through anxiety, worry, and fear and move towards God's peace that surpasses all understanding. Using the Serenity Prayer as a kind of scaffold, the book and discussions had will help people discover peace through scriptural and spiritual disciplines that each has the potential to be rooted in God and energized to live fully as disciples of Jesus. Call the church (or contact Joe as soon as possible) to get your copy of the book. We will meet on MONDAYS, starting JANUARY 25 at 630p (continuing weekly through February 15). THIS DISCUSSION WILL BE ENTIRELY BY ZOOM. You will be sent a "zoom link" the day of the study. Anyone desiring a "zoom tutorial" should contact the church's office. We will work to get you started.

ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL TO MEET—The first Administrative Council meeting for 2021 will be on Sunday night, January 31, at 6p in the fellowship/dining hall of the church. All members of the Council (and any who are interested in the work of the Council) are encouraged to attend.

SUNDAY WEEKLY JOBS TO BE COVERED:

We need the following help each week at Church (at 9a and 11a)

2 temperature "checkers" at both services

2 ushers at both services

2 sanitizers after the 9a service

1 barista at 940 in the dining/fellowship hall

6 communion servers (3 at each service) for February 14

If you can help fulfill these services, please contact the church's office as soon as possible.

THERE WILL BE NO YOUTH OR CHILDREN'S ACTIVITIES DURING JANUARY. Stay well!