



# Reed City United Methodist Church

## December 2022 Newsletter

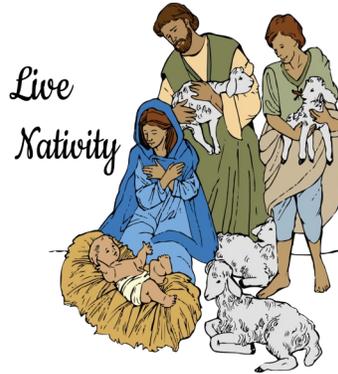
### Pastor Daniel Hofmann



Our Kidz Klub  
presents  
*The Fumbly  
Bumbly Angels*

**Sunday, December 11th**  
**During 9:30 Worship**

Come hear about four fumbly bumbly  
angels who are trying to get into the  
heavenly choir!



Live  
Nativity

**Sunday,**  
**December 18th**  
**7 pm**

Presented by Reed  
City and Hersey  
UMCs  
at Camp Albright

Volunteers are needed to play all parts, and for  
set-up, lighting etc. to make this event a  
success. Light refreshments will be served  
following the production. If you can help  
provide cookies, or assist in any way please call  
Linda Stieg 832-2880.



*Christmas Eve  
Worship*

*Join us on  
Christmas Eve at 5:30 pm  
As we celebrate  
the Light of Christ  
coming into the world  
Scripture/Sermon: Luke 2:1-7  
Salvation from  
the Margins*



*Worship with us on  
Christmas Day  
at 10 am  
This will be a simple service,  
combined with  
Brooks Corners UMC*



# WORSHIP

*With* **US**

**IN PERSON:**

**9:30 am SUNDAYS**

**Services are livestreamed  
on Facebook and YouTube**

**Find us on the Radio at 97.3 FM  
at 10 am on Sundays**

**December 4th**

***Second Sunday in Advent***

2 Peter 3:8-15

*"Active Patience"*

**Liturgist: Sandy Gingrich**

**December 11th**

***Third Sunday in Advent***

Matthew 11:2-11

*Children's Christmas*

*Program:*

*Fumbly Bumbly Angels*

**December 18th**

***Fourth Sunday in Advent***

Luke 1:26-38, 46-55

*"Awe-Struck Anticipation"*

**Liturgist: Susie Toogood**

**Christmas Eve**

**5:30 pm Service**

Luke 2:1-7

*"Salvation from the Margins"*

**December 25th**

**Simple Christmas  
Day Service**

Titus 3:4-7

*"Heirs of Salvation"*

**Liturgist: Timothy Locker**



**Contact Us**

**Church Phone:**

231-832-9441

**Pastor Daniel's Phone:**

231-734-2733

**Church Email:**

carolynsims@reedcityumc.com

**Pastor Daniel's Email:**

circuit.rydr21@protonmail.com

**Mailing Address:**

503 S. Chestnut Street,

Reed City MI 49677

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[www.reedcityumc.com](http://www.reedcityumc.com)

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with your desktop, phone  
or tablet**



## *From Bishop to Gift Giver*

Every December 6, in cities and towns and villages, people primarily in Europe celebrate Saint Nicholas Day. Images of St. Nicholas vary considerably, but none of them look much like the red-cheeked, white-bearded old man seen everywhere today.

How did this Nicholas turn into the North Pole-dwelling bringer of Christmas gifts? Nicholas was a Greek, born around 280 A.D. He became bishop of Myra, a small Roman town in modern Turkey. Nicholas was neither fat nor jolly but developed a reputation as a fiery, wiry, and defiant defender of church doctrine during the Great Persecution, when Bibles were burned, and priests were made to renounce Christianity or face execution. Nicholas defied these edicts and spent years in prison before the Roman emperor Constantine ended Christian persecution in the year 313.

Nicholas' fame lived long after his death (December 6, 343) because he was associated with many miracles, and reverence for him continues to this day, independent of his Christmas connection. He is the protector of many types of people, from orphans to sailors to prisoners.

Nicholas rose to prominence among the saints because of his charitable giving. While still a young man, he inherited great wealth from his parents, and instead of spending it all on himself, Nicholas sought for ways to benefit others.

In one of the better-known stories from his life, Nicholas saved three young girls from a life of prostitution by secretly delivering three bags of gold on three separate occasions to their indebted father, which could then be used for their dowries. The father, curious of who might be the secret gift giver, stays awake on the night of his youngest daughter's coming-of-age celebration, and catches Nicholas in the act of throwing a bag of gold through the open window.

Nicholas does not want his acts of charity to be known, and the father promises to keep the secret. However, over time, the truth leaked out, and that is why Nicholas became the symbol of secret gift giving over time.

After the Protestant Reformation, saints like Nicholas fell out of favor across much of northern Europe. That was problematic: now who is going to bring gifts to the children?

In many cases, that job fell to baby Jesus, and the date was moved to Christmas rather than December 6. But the infant's carrying capacity is very limited, and he is not very scary either, so the Christ child was often given a scary helper to do the lugging of presents and the threatening of kids that doesn't seem appropriate coming from the baby Jesus.

Some of these scary Germanic figures again were based on Nicholas, no longer as a saint but as a threatening sidekick like Ru-klaus (Rough Nicholas), Aschenklas (Ashy Nicholas), and Pelznickel (Furry Nicholas). These figures expected good behavior or suffer the consequences, like a piece of coal in one's stocking instead of a chocolate bar. Dissimilar as they seem to the jolly man known hereabouts as Santa Claus, these colorful characters would figure in the development of the modern-day version of Santa himself.

So this December 6, on the feast day of Saint Nicholas, you might want to join millions of other people around the world by lighting a candle, and placing an orange or tangerine on each other's plates, and express your gratitude for the gift of each person near and dear to your heart.

*Pastor Daniel Hofmann*

**THIS INFORMATION  
IS NOT AVAILABLE  
ON THE WEBSITE**



After a long hiatus due to Covid 19,

**COFFEE HOUR IS BACK!**

Contact **Angelia Spencer (231-872-0839)**

to help, or to host a Sunday!

**If you would like to make cookies for coffee hour,  
they can be put in the freezer and we will use them as needed.**

**Community Thanksgiving Dinner Was a Great Success**

Our Community Thanksgiving Dinner served 40 people. A good time of fellowship was shared by all those present. Leftovers were plentiful, and were shared with those attending. Two of the people attending drove by the church and saw the dinner displayed on the digital sign, and decided to come in and join us!

Special thanks to Angelia Spencer, Paige BeVier, Susan Vermilyea and their crew for hosting the dinner. Thanks also to those who donated food and cash toward the event.

## THIS INFORMATION IS NOT AVAILABLE ON THE WEBSITE

### *Grief and the Holidays*

Holidays mark the passage of time in our lives. They are part of the milestones we share with each other, and they generally represent time spent with family.

But since holidays are for being with those we love the most, how on earth can anyone be expected to cope with them when a loved one has died? For many people, this is the hardest part of grieving, when we miss our loved ones even more than usual.

How can we celebrate togetherness when there is none?

We invite you to join us at the Reed City United Methodist Church on Thursday afternoons (December 1, 8, 15, 22), from 2-3:30 p.m. for an informal grief support group. This event is open to anyone in our community, regardless of whether your loss happened in the last few months or already some years ago.

Let us support each other and learn some helpful ways to journey with our grief through the holidays. For more information, call Pastor Daniel Hofmann at 231-734-2733.



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**Point of Grace**

**Female Contemporary Christian Music Group Concerts**

**Coming to Our Area:**

- Wednesday, December 7th, 7 pm  
Kensington Church, 6880 Secor Rd., Traverse City
- Thursday, December 8th, 7 pm  
Community Reformed Church, 10376 Felch Rd., Zeeland MI 49464
- Thursday, December 15th, 7 pm  
First Church of the Nazarene, 1865 S. Michigan (M-52), Owosso MI 48867

**PURCHASE TICKETS AT: [pointofgrace.net](http://pointofgrace.net)**

## Items Sought for Eagle Village Christmas Gifts

We are once again “adopting” the children of Eagle Village for Christmas this year. Suggested gifts include: **flip flops, journals (no spiral bound), decks of cards, colorful socks, fidget toys, body wash, chap stick, adult coloring books, puzzle books, canvas for art projects, 24-count boxes of crayons, 24-count boxes of colored pencils, hair ties and games for seven houses.** There are 45 children and youth this year (21 girls and 24 boys) ranging in age from 10 to 17 years old. Items may be dropped off in the church office **NO LATER THAN MONDAY, DECEMBER 12th. THANK YOU!** Monetary donations are also welcomed. Please mark your gift “Eagle Village Christmas.” Thank you!



Christmas Gift Mission Project

## Women’s Group News

In this last newsletter of 2022, the Women’s Group would like to thank everyone who has helped us in both big and small ways this year!

Personally, I would like to thank all of the women who helped with our Spring and Fall Rummage Sales, which enabled us to earn just over \$2,200.00; followed by our Holiday Bazaar, which also added just over \$2,000.00. So many said how great it was to be back working together! The money we earn each year is given back to our church and community through a variety of local outreach services.

My last responsibility as retiring Women’s Group President, is to secure new officers to lead the group beginning January 1, 2023.

Thankfully, Judy Knuttila has agreed to co-lead, so we will need someone to co-lead with her. We will also need a secretary and someone to take over as treasurer, since Nedra Ball will not be able to continue that position due to her recent injuries and needed rehab.

When I was asked to help lead our group, my head said “no,” but my heart said, “yes!” I call that my “God moment!”

I am hoping, and will be praying that God will be whispering to someone right now to call me (day or night!) 832-5632! ☺

*God bless!*

*Terri Weiss,*

*RCUMC Women’s Group President*



## United Methodist Student Day Offering is December 4th

United Methodists have been investing in our students for more than 100 years. United Methodist Student Day invites the church to support United Methodist students in achieving their educational goals. The funds received award United Methodist scholarships to undergraduate and graduate students. Your gifts help young people achieve their educational calling with more financial freedom.

RCUMC will observe United Methodist Student Day on December 4th this year. A donation can be made by noting "UM Student Day" on your church offering or by visiting [ResourceUMC.org/SSGive](http://ResourceUMC.org/SSGive) online. Thank you.



## Christmas Offering

Our special Christmas offering will be equally divided between three worthy ministries:

- ★ **Pastor's Discretionary Fund**, for people in our congregation and community needing assistance.
- ★ **Love INC**, which helps people in Osceola and Wexford counties with a variety of needs.
- ★ **UMCOR Disaster Relief**, which assists with any natural disasters.

## FOOD PANTRY ITEM FOR NOVEMBER

### **Canned vegetables (any variety or brand)**

You may place your donations in the hamper in the church narthex.

**PLEASE KEEP IN MIND**, monetary donations are always very welcome. Monies donated are used to purchase food in bulk quantities at a reduced cost. You may give through church offerings – please mark your gift "Food Pantry."

**Food Pantry Hours: Tuesdays • 10 am – 1 pm**

Reed City Area Ministerial Association

## **COAT PANTRY IS OPEN**

**EVERY WEDNESDAY 10:30 am – 1:30 pm** through the winter at RCUMC

**Donations of children/youth sizes of coats and boots are especially needed**

## Just a Reminder ... Snow Is in the Forecast

With a snowy winter coming, please remember that the church office is closed when the Reed City Public Schools are closed. Consider other daytime church events also to be cancelled unless communicated specifically by the organizer/chair of the event.



## FREE CHRISTMAS DINNER FOR SENIOR CITIZENS

Hosted by GFWC (General Federation of Women's Clubs)

**Saturday, December 3rd at 12 pm**

**Reed City United Methodist Church, Fellowship Hall**

Make your reservation by **SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 26th** by calling:

Sally Plummer 231-832-9662 or Angela Bittner 231-629-0169 or Denise Allen 231-250-5602



It's time to order poinsettias to grace our Christmas altar.

Cost is \$16 for each plant.

**Order deadline is**

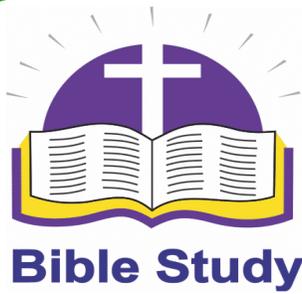
**Sunday, December 11th.** If you would like your poinsettia to be in honor or in memory of someone, please indicate so on your giving envelope, or call the church office (832-9441) with the information. You may take your poinsettia home following the Christmas Day service.



**Wednesdays**

**3:30-5:00**

**Kidz Klub last day before Christmas break is December 11th, when we will have our Christmas Party! We will resume meeting January 4th**



Mondays at 7 pm at  
Lola Callaghan's home

Thursdays at 10 am with  
Pastor Daniel in Fellowship Hall

NewsLetter  
**DEADLine**

**JANUARY NEWSLETTER DEADLINE  
IS NO LATER THAN  
MONDAY, DECEMBER 12TH**

**The early deadline is firm, to allow Carolyn to complete  
the newsletter before Christmas. Thank you for your understanding.**

**This will be a condensed version of the newsletter.**

Dear Church Family,

Thank you all so much for your prayers, cards, texts and phone calls during my recent illness. It is so wonderful to have a good support system and good friends. God is so good. May God be with all of you always.

*Pam Prichard*



Dear Church Family,

We thank you all so much for your prayers, cards and words of support and comfort during the illness and death of Gale's dad, Brent Sims. Thank you to all those who attended the visitation and memorial service, sent flowers and gave memorials. We thank Pastor Daniel for his care and support, and for making Brent's memorial service so meaningful. Thank you to the Women's Group for the delicious luncheon, and to all those who provided food and helped in any way. Words just can't fully describe our gratitude.

*Love in Christ,  
Gale and Carolyn Sims*

## Church Office Holiday Closing

**Carolyn will be on holiday and vacation leave  
Monday, December 26th through  
Tuesday, January 3rd.**

The church office will be closed during this time.

If you have an emergency need,  
please call Pastor Daniel at 231-734-2733.

We wish all of you a blessed and safe Christmas  
and a New Year filled with God's richest blessings!



### First Responders on Christmas Eve!

For a number of years, our church has provided special treat bags to our local first responders and hospital staff as they work on Christmas Eve.

We ask for your support in continuing that tradition again this year.

We are seeking donations for our Christmas Eve ministry to our community hospital staff, EMS/law enforcement/first responders and 911 dispatch.

We're seeking to provide food treats and warm thoughts from our congregation to those who are serving us while we're worshipping and enjoying time with our families.

***We are in need of homemade/individually wrapped or bagged cookies, snack mixes and the like. Cash donations are especially appreciated, to help with the cost of other treats, such as fruit and individually portioned snacks of nuts, instant cocoa and cider mixes.***

Your cash gifts can be mailed, brought to the church office, or shared with your offering during the next several weeks.

If you are able to provide homemade treats, please contact Sheri T. at 231-357-5551 or at [milkmaidT@yahoo.com](mailto:milkmaidT@yahoo.com). Many thanks for supporting this outreach ministry of our church!



## A Word from Leadership Team

The end of a year always provides reflective opportunities and a chance to glance in the rearview mirror while planning excursions to a new year ahead. On one hand, we're preparing in celebration of the hope brought by the arrival of Jesus. We are inspired to look back with new hope for what lies before us. Always, we are grateful for the grace and mercy of God, and the gifts of time, service and caring offered by those around us. We often have more questions than answers about what's next. This time of Advent and Christmas deepens our understanding of God's love, and the light brought to us in Jesus the baby, Christ the King. How will we serve Him personally? How will we serve him as a church in the coming year?

Leadership Team's goals will move forward, filling 'empty spaces' in our collective ministry and governance to best fulfill our mission of disciple-making, serving our congregation and greater community.

Active participation of our ministry teams is essential for moving beyond a single board governance to one that enables us to be active participants in the greater good. It takes each of us to make that happen, and we encourage your questions, your involvement, and your partnership in our "next steps." Thank you, and as we were accustomed to saying during the deep of Covid 19—we are (still) all in this together!

There are many important considerations to come before us in the coming months. Decisions are not always simple, as there are many components and potential outcomes. Sometimes, it's not easy to know which way to go. We look to one another for input, for discernment, for prayer.

We will evolve into what God has planned for the Reed City United Methodist Church, provided we are watchful and listening and actively planning for "what's next." We look forward to that partnership, with our congregation, with Pastor Daniel, and perhaps with some newfound collaboration with neighboring UMCs and others. Your prayer support is essential. Your financial support is also important, and your caring is a blessing for all among us who are ill, or who are aching for companionship and other acts of kindness and love. We look to 2023 walking together, to "be the church." Let us be in step with God, and with one another!



# Blue Christmas Service

Evart United Methodist Church  
619 N. Cherry Street, Evart

Sunday, December 11  
3:00 pm

Hosted by the Southern HUB  
churches of  
the Northern Waters District



## A Tale of the Candy Cane

The account of the candy cane's origins circulates every Christmas season, and is more likely a fun story than historical fact. No matter: tales often contain truth. This tasty treat can convey important elements of our Christian faith.



The stripes remind us of the heart of Christmas, our Savior, Jesus: white for his purity; red for His blood shed on the cross. The candy cane resembles the curved staffs of the shepherds — the first people to visit the Christ-child and worship at the manger. And when the cane is turned upside down, it becomes a letter J, for “Jesus.”

Indeed, Jesus turns our lives upside down and inverts our presumptions: A poor baby born in a stable becomes King of kings and Lord of lords; enemies are not for hating but loving; blessings are not for hoarding but sharing; the world works for war, but Jesus calls us to live in peace; receiving is better than giving; sinners are made saints; and death is conquered as God grants us eternal life.



**Thursday, December 1st**

Leadership Team 6 pm, FH

**Saturday, December 3rd**

GFWC Senior Citizen Dinner 12 pm, RCUMC FH

**Sunday, December 4th**

Building in use afternoon and evening by FSU

**Sunday, December 11th**

Children's Christmas Program • The Fumbly Bumbly Angels, 9:30 am

Blue Christmas Service 3 pm, Ewart UMC

**Tuesday, December 12th**

JANUARY NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

**NO AARP THIS MONTH**

**Thursday, December 15th**

Commodity Food Distribution 2 – 3 pm, church parking lot

**Sunday, December 18th**

Live Nativity 7 pm, Albright Camp and Retreat Center



**Saturday, December 24th**

Christmas Eve Service 5:30 pm, RCUMC Sanctuary

**Sunday, December 25th**

Simple Christmas Day Service 10 am, RCUMC Sanctuary

This is a combined service with Brooks Corners UMC



**The Church Office is Closed December 26 through January 3rd**

**WEEKLY EVENTS:**

BIBLE STUDY Monday 7 pm, Lola Callaghan's home

IN STITCHES GROUP Tuesdays 10 am – 12 pm, Narthex

WEDNESDAY KIDZ KLUB on Christmas break Dec. 21st and 28th

COAT PANTRY Wednesdays 10:30 am – 1:30 pm

GALATIANS BIBLE STUDY with Pastor Daniel Thursdays 10 am, FH (ending December 8th)

Grief Support Group Thursdays Dec. 1, 8, 15 and 22 2-3:30 pm, FH