

January 2022

Shepherd's Voice

**HAPPY
NEW YEAR**

Happy Birthday

Ken H	2 nd	Femi B	28 th
Jay S	8 th	Oluwaseun B	28 th
Anthony H	18 th	Tobi B	28 th
Tim P	23 rd	Susan H	29 th

Happy Anniversary

Ray and Willie Jo	9 th
Joan C	29 th



	November	January–November
Expense:	\$6,360.65	\$78,941.09
Income:	\$6,641.95	\$92,160.89
Total:	\$281.30	\$13,219.00



Happy New Year! We begin 2022 with renewed hope. A year ago, we were ready to put the Coronavirus behind us completely. That hasn't happened, but progress has been made in the areas of vaccination and testing that allow us to live life with only minor adjustments.

A tradition in the United Methodist Church is to begin the new year with a Wesleyan

Covenant Service. It is a way for us to renew our covenant with God. Our Covenant Service will take place on January 9th.

A focal point of this service is this prayer:

The Wesleyan Covenant Prayer

"I am no longer my own, but thine.

Put me to what thou wilt, rank me with whom thou wilt.

Put me to doing, put me to suffering.

Let me be employed by thee or laid aside for thee,
exalted for thee or brought low for thee.

Let me be full, let me be empty.

Let me have all things, let me have nothing.

I freely and heartily yield all things
to thy pleasure and disposal.

And now, O glorious and blessed God,

Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,

thou art mine, and I am thine. So be it.

And the covenant which I have made on earth,
let it be ratified in heaven. Amen."

John Wesley adapted it from the puritan tradition. It is a way for us to remember our baptismal covenant, and it is a picture of what life looks like for those who choose to follow Christ. I personally find it difficult to pray this prayer. When I said that to a small group of people one time, I detected a few funny looks and head-tilts indicating they weren't certain what I meant.

If we do more than just read the words, if we take each line to heart, we are asking for some things that we typically don't wish for: put me to suffering, let me be laid aside and brought low, let me be empty and have nothing. Then there's the real clincher: "I freely and heartily yield all things to thy pleasure."

Jesus said, "If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross daily and follow me" (Luke 9:23). As Christ's followers, we are asked to make sacrifices. Jesus never said it would be easy to follow him, however, we do know that the rewards are great.

In contrast to all the things we deny ourselves, we pray that we will be employed and exalted, full and have all things, and most important of all, that our glorious and blessed God will be ours, and we will be His.

I do believe this is a difficult prayer to pray, but I also believe it is at the core of our covenant relationship with God. As a New Testament people, this is the covenant that is written on our hearts. If we can allow God to rule our hearts, the good He can do through us will be beyond our wildest imaginations. I'm looking forward to exploring this prayer with you through preaching and study as we grow together in discipleship this year.

Grace & Peace,

Pastor Janet

From The Leadership Board:

With the current Covid 19 numbers, we must require masks. But your Board looks at the weekly data and discusses it every month. If Covid numbers move into the extreme range per the Covid Act Now site, then we will not meet in person, as announced in church. Keeping our members safe and healthy is our priority and we are very thankful for your patience.

But what if the spring 2022 numbers start to go down? Know we are watching the situation. After much discussion, we arrived at a plan. Our policy will be based on the Covid Act Now site statewide numbers. When Covid numbers are below 25 cases per 100,000, and they remain at or below this number for four consecutive weeks, then masks will be optional for those who are fully vaccinated. We will not require proof of vaccination, however we will rely on your integrity. We will do our best to keep you safe and informed.

Remember, this is letting you know our future planning into 2022! **Currently masks are still required in the sanctuary** and for groups over ten in other buildings until further notice.

UMOM Winter Coat Drive

Its not too early to plan for chilly winter temperatures!

UMOM will need *clean* gently used (no repairs needed) coats and jackets in all sizes, from toddler to adult XXL. New coats are always appreciated too! UMOM websites post links to Amazon, Target, and Walmart wish lists. Donations can be brought to church on Sundays, or dropped off during open office hours. Have a large amount of clothing and coats for donation? Please contact Suzanne Shaw for a pickup right at your home!



**01-Sep-2021 to
30-Nov-2021**

25

Households

\$ 56.52

Total Donations

Dear Shepherd of the Valley UMC (FR015),

The Kroger Co. Family of Stores is committed to bringing hope and help to the local neighborhoods we call home. Our stores are on a mission to not just part of, but to help create a stronger community. We recognize that every community has unique causes that need support. Thank you for being such an important organization in our community.

We encourage you to ask your supporters to link their rewards card to your organization. Community Rewards is easy to use, The more your supporters shop with us, the more money your organization will earn!

We are committed to carefully protecting our customer's personal information. In order to meet their expectation of privacy, we have adopted a simple policy to never share a customer's personal information. Our privacy policy applies to Community Rewards participation as well.

Thank you for being such an important organization in our community,

Community Rewards Staff

Book Study with Pastor Janet

The Wesley Prayer Challenge: 21 Days to a Closer Walk with Christ

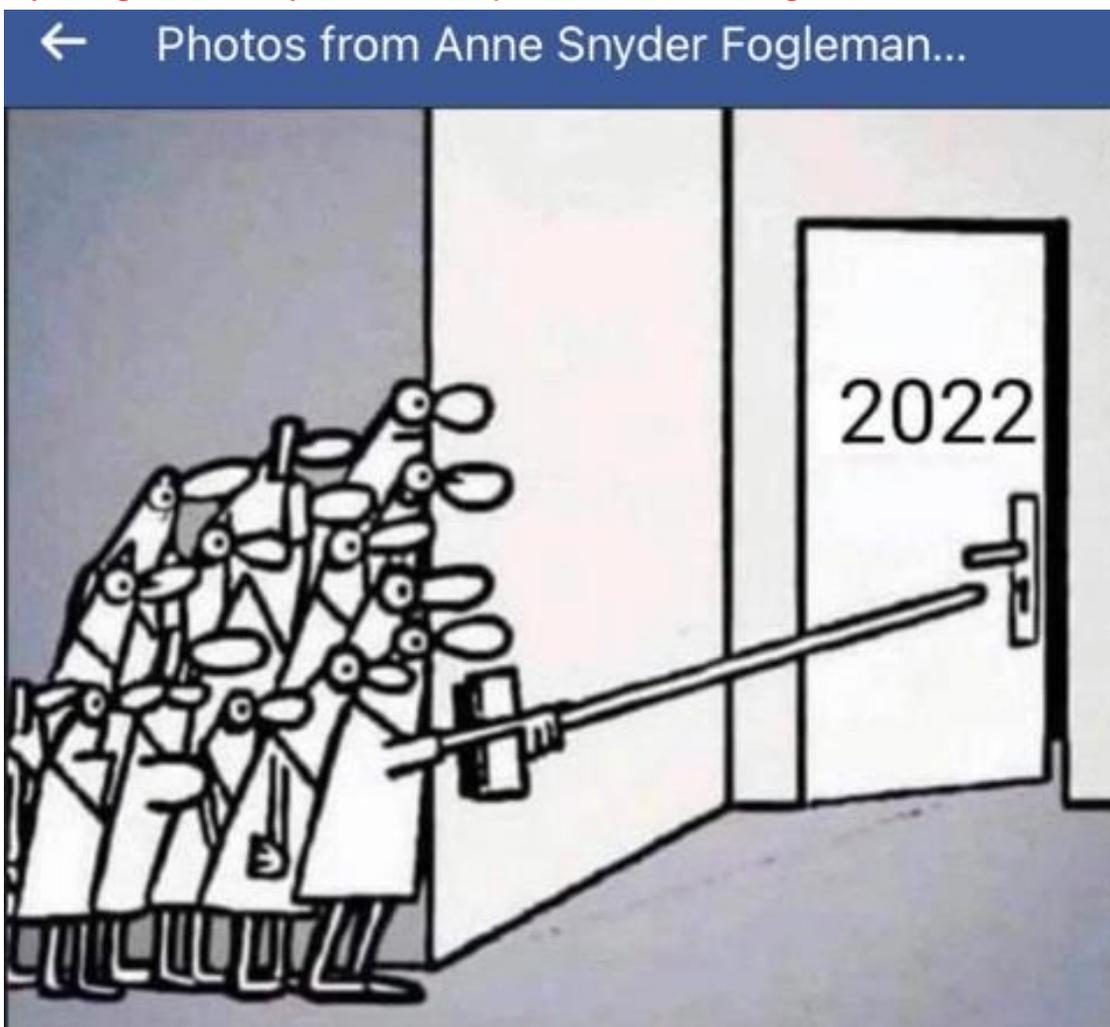
- By [Chris Folmsbee](#)

Books are \$14.00. Please contact the office if you would like to purchase a book or if you are unable to buy a book, but would like to participate in the classes.

Classes Wednesday Evenings 6:30 - 8:00. 4 weeks. Introductory class January 5th. Reading challenge begins January 6th.

Renew your passion for prayer in just 21 Days with the Wesley Prayer Challenge. The Wesley Covenant Prayer has been used in Methodist services around the world on the first Sunday of the year since John Wesley introduced it in 1755. Wesley expected that people would pray this prayer as a way of remembering, renewing, and surrendering themselves in complete trust to God. In *The Wesley Prayer Challenge*, author Chris Folmsbee invites readers to consider words from the Wesley Covenant Prayer each day for three weeks, while reflecting on their meaning in the context of the larger piece.

Fun Friday Bingo: January 6th at 6:00 pm. Zoom meeting available.



January 2022

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
26	27	28	29	30	31	1
Worship 10:30 am Worship On-Line Any Time			1:30 pm - Prayer Group, zoom	8:00 pm Men's AA, FH		Happy New Year
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Worship service 10:30 am Worship On-Line Any Time			1:30 pm - Prayer Group, zoom 6:30 - 8:00 pm Wesley Prayer Challenge	8:00 pm Men's AA, FH	Fun Friday Bingo 6pm	Jewelry making with Sandi noon- 4, rm 1
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
Worship service 10:30 am Worship On-Line Any Time SPRC meeting 12:30 pm		Block Watch 6:00 pm, FH	1:30 pm - Prayer Group, zoom 6:30 - 8:00 pm Wesley Prayer Challenge	8:00 pm Men's AA, FH		
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
Worship service 10:30 am Worship On-Line Any Time Board Meeting 12:30 pm			1:30 pm - Prayer Group, zoom 6:30 - 8:00 pm Wesley Prayer Challenge	8:00 pm Men's AA, FH		Jewelry making with Sandi noon- 4, rm 1
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
Worship service 10:30 am Worship On-Line Any Time			1:30 pm - Prayer Group, zoom 6:30 - 8:00 pm Wesley Prayer Challenge	8:00 pm Men's AA, FH		
30	31	NOTES	<p>Worship has now restarted in the Sanctuary Masking and Social Distancing are required. We hope to see YOU soon!</p>			
Worship service 10:30 am Worship On-Line Any Time Visioning Workshop/Lunch 11:30 am						

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Bishop Grant Haglya, Interim UMC Bishop
Reverend Javier Olivares, District Superintendent