

“In the Year of our Lord . . .”

Happy 2021 to all of our church family and friends! I believe it is safe to say that we are ready to ring in a new and different kind of year. We have endured many challenges and difficulties together in 2020. The fact that we stood together as a community of faith and ministered as well as we could is worth noting and building upon. Not only did we make monumental changes in how we worship, study the Bible and celebrate Holy Communion but we had to refrain from many of the times of fellowship and community that define all Christians and especially United Methodists. We endured the destructive power of two hurricanes and reached out to support each other and our neighbors. We said a tearful goodbye to many of the faithful and remarkable saints who helped to make this church strong through their ministries and left us their legacy.

Now it is time to move ahead to “The Year of Our Lord 2021”. To many, that is a common way to designate the time since the birth of Jesus Christ. For believers, we believe that Jesus is Lord of every year, even 2020 with all its problems and changes. Some of you remember living through the years of World War II. The world was on the brink of a dictator’s rule yet in defeating this threat, many new ways of doing things resulted and new products were developed that later benefitted the average person. I hope we can carry the lessons learned and positive developments forward into the new year as we overcome this challenge of infection. I also hope that we will not ever take for granted, the freedom to assemble, the joy of sharing a meal, the warmth of a hug or handshake and the strength that we get when we gather with our sisters and brothers in Christ or as a family.

The near future for us as a church body will mirror this past year. For the months ahead, as our nation begins to heal, we will need to keep our present protocols in place. This means that events such as the Renewal of Our Baptism (Wesleyan Covenant Service), Ash Wednesday and perhaps some of our Confirmation Class activities may be impacted by these precautions. Hopefully as the vaccine rolls out and the year becomes safer for contact, we can resume the kind of schedule and worship that is normal.

My prayer is that we will keep the light of Christ burning brightly through worship, ministry, service and mission as well as we can and look with hope to a better year ahead. Have a happy and blessed 2021!

Grace and peace,

Pastor Steve