

January 2021 Harbinger



Believe

⁹ If you declare with your mouth, “Jesus is Lord,” and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. ¹⁰ For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you profess your faith and are saved.” Romans 10:9-10 NIV

Today is January 6, 2021 and as I write this thousands of those who are concerned about the direction our country is going are congregating in Washington, DC. We need to be in prayer for our country and all of those who are in a possibly volatile situation. Our country is divided, and it breaks my heart!

I do have to say that I watched a video yesterday of the prayer that was said, by Rev. Emmanuel Cleaver II, of St James United Methodist church prayed before the Congress on January 3, 2021 and I AM concerned...here's why. It started out ok and then at the closing he said, “We ask it in the Monotheistic God and Brahma, and God known by many names by many different faiths. Aman and Awoman.” Really????

Monotheistic - of, relating to, or characterized by the doctrine or belief that there is only one God, a *monotheistic* religion

Brahma -Brahma 1: the creator god of the Hindu sacred triad— compare [SHIVA](#), [VISHNU](#)
2: the ultimate ground of all being in Hinduism

Aman and Awoman – in place of AMEN which is “uttered at the end of a prayer or hymn, meaning ‘so be it.’”. *noun* an utterance of “amen.”.

I don't have an issue with others believing what they want to believe. This is America and we have the freedom to choose. What concerns me is the question, “What do we believe as Christians, as Methodists?” Do we compromise our beliefs in order to become politically correct and not offend others? Jesus came for all people! Jesus died for all people! Jesus died for each one of us!! We are told in Scripture that the only way to God is through Jesus Christ Our Lord.

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If Rev. Clever was not a Christian, a Methodist pastor but was in fact Hindu I would have no problem with what was said. I hope you can understand where I am coming from.

If we as followers of Christ seek the favor of all people of this world and try to keep everyone happy with all that we say, then we are becoming part of the world.

We are told in Scripture 1 John 2:15-17 ¹⁵ Do not love the world or anything in the world. If anyone loves the world, love for the Father ¹⁶ is not in them. ¹⁶ For everything in the world—the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life—comes not from the Father but from the world. ¹⁷ The world and its desires pass away, but whoever does the will of God lives forever.

We have to know what we Believe and then we have to stand firm in what and who we Believe! No compromise! No matter the cost.

Now some of you might not agree with me. However, I felt the Lord move me to write this article at the beginning of this year. If we don't choose to stand strong and not be swayed by the world, then we must choose to believe in God's Word, in Jesus Christ His Son, our Lord and Savior, and not try to please the world. Our mission is to reach others in the name of Christ and to choose to please God over and above all things and people of this world.

I love you all and I am in prayer as it seems there is a force that is accelerating us and pushing us to accept anything and all things even at the cost of our belief!

We are in 2021!

Read God's Word

Be in prayer for the Holy Spirit's Discernment

Know that God is with you in all situations

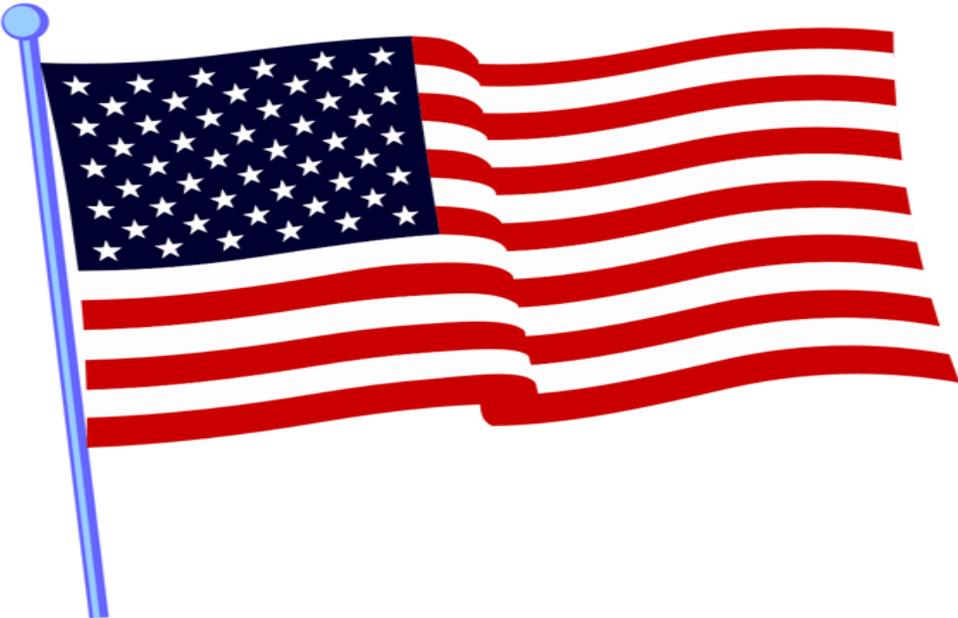
Believe that God is who He says He is and that He can do what He says He can do!

Make 2021 the year that you choose to live for God and God alone!

AMEN & AMEN!

Love to you all, *Pastor Gwen*

In-person worship services will be re-evaluated soon. Please keep your eye on your emails and church Face Book page for updates on when we will reopen.



The Piecemakers honored our veterans by making patriotic, hand quilted wall hangings. Those receiving our thanks for their service are George Hendrickson, Sonny Smith, Angel Perez, Jim Hardy, Marvin Pitcher, John Rowe and Bill Austerman.

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Gus Harmeyer thanked everyone who rang the bell for the Salvation Army this year. Over \$700 was collected in our area.

*Dear Church Family, Thank you so much for the generous Christmas Love Offering. I am so blessed to be serving as your pastor! Love,
Pastor Gwen*



Hello. I wanted to thank everyone for their donations for the giving tree. We were able to help 15 children this year. The ages ranged from 1 year old to 17 years old. We purchased a shirt, pants, shoes, socks, underwear, and 2 special gifts for each child. We also were able to provide some toiletries for each family. I know it was not like our typical years, but I want to thank everyone for their donations to help these children this year. I have attached a picture of the giving baskets so everyone can see how we have helped these children this year. Have a Merry Christmas and God bless!!

Amy



And a huge thank you to Amy King, Kirsten King and Karen Jack for all the work they did to collect and distribute all these gifts. Thank you so much!

Grand Avenue UMC,

Thank you all for the cards, prayers and thoughts sent in remembrance of my sister, Jeanne. It has been a really tough time, but I know with your support and Jesus in my heart, I will get through this difficult time.

*Also, thank you for John's veteran's plaque made by the quilters.
Love, Donna and John Rowe
Thank you from Bill Austerman to the Piecemakers for the Veteran's gift.
It was so thoughtful and nice of you to remember the veterans.*

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Duane Brandenburg would like to say "Thank you" for the warm and cozy IU blanket. "It was a wonderful surprise and so thoughtful of you. It meant a lot that you thought of me."

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Dear GAUMC, thank you so much for the Christmas Love Offering. It was very much appreciated. Linda Fennell



January Birthdays

- 2nd Sonny Smith*
- 7th Darcy Siggers*
- 11th Dave Reeve*
- 13th David Foerster*
- Will Austerman*
- 14th Lori Dickerson*
- 22nd Amy King*
- 23rd Rita King*