

# THE SPOTLIGHT

*Loving God...Reaching and Serving our Neighbors in Christ*

## A Letter From Pastor

Marilyn



Greetings Beloved!

One of my favorite theologians is the late Dr. Howard Thurman, known throughout the world as a great pastor, preacher and prolific writer. As we say goodbye to 2020 and embrace 2021, I'd like to share with you some of his words which I pray will bless you as they bless me.

In his book, *For the Inward Journey*, he writes "...another Christmas has moved within our ken and our minds linger over many moments that stand stark against the background of the year." Today, his words seem even more profound as we reflect upon 2020.

(Continued on page 2)

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Tuesday-Friday  
10am-3pm

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## Thank You Nancy!

A legend in her own right, Nancy Ferguson concludes her music ministry at Faith United Methodist Church on December 31st, 2020. How do you define a career that began in September of 1957 and spanned seven decades? As a teenager she became the pianist at the old church at the corner of Washington and Hall Streets and continued at the present church.

Nancy is an accomplished writer. She wrote the narration for one of our favorite cantatas and also wrote many stories and articles for the newsletter, the Spotlight. She is gifted with prose as well as music.

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# Pastors Letter

## (Cont.)

In another of Dr. Thurman's books, *Meditations of the Heart*, he writes the following prayer approach to a new year, titled "Though the Coming Year"

*Grant that I may pass through the coming year with a faithful heart. There will be much to test me and make weak my strength before the year ends.*

*In my confusion I shall often say the word that is not true and do the thing of which I am ashamed.*

*There will be errors in the mind and great inaccuracies of judgment...*

*In seeking the light, I shall again and again find myself walking in the darkness.*

*I shall mistake my light for Your light and I shall drink from the responsibility of the choice I make. Nevertheless, grant that I may pass through the coming year with a faithful heart.*

*May I never give the approval of my heart to error, to falseness, to vanity, to sin.*

*Though my days be marked with failures, stumblings, fallings, let my spirit be free so that You may take it and redeem my moments in all the ways my needs reveal.*

*Give me the quiet assurance of Your Love and Presence.*

*Grant that I may pass through the coming year with a faithful heart.*



Last, I share with you a blessing given by Dr. Thurman. Though I could not find its original source, it's easy to imagine he shared it with one of the faith communities he pastored.

"In whatever sense this year is a new year for you, may the moment find you eager and unafraid, ready to take it by the hand with joy and gratitude."

May it be so for each of us!

*Pastor Marilyn*



# Thank You Nancy! (Cont.)

Nancy added the duties of Choir Director in 1983 and would serve in that capacity for the rest of her career. She worked with 12 pastors. She has played the organ and piano for many soloists, weddings, funeral services, the Tiffin Columbian High School Choir, and other community events too numerous to mention. She has played in many venues throughout the city, county, and state. By her own account she has played in most, if not all, of the churches here in Tiffin. She has also passed her gift on to others by teaching piano to up to 50 students per week for thirty years.

One of Nancy's passions is, of course, the choir. The many members of the choir over all the many of years have been blessed to have her as a director and friend. Her dedication and commitment to the music made it enjoyable for the choir to perform the anthems on Sundays, as well as other occasions where they were invited to perform.



Nancy spent at least 2 hours per week practicing with the choir, but this was only a portion of the time she spent on organizing the songs, and practicing the music herself for Sunday worship.

Nancy thinks of our church as her second home. She spent many hours here, and in earlier days, she remembers her husband George, son Kevin, and daughter Jo Lynn, coming with her to support her endeavors. As you can see, Nancy Ferguson has been a long-time, valuable, pillar of our church.

Nancy would like to thank everyone for 60 years of memories and the constant and endless support from the congregation. Also, a very special thank you to the choir for their many hours and years of dedication to the worship experience.

Nancy and her gifts will truly be missed on a regular basis, however, she will be available for substitute, weddings, and funerals, ect. We sincerely offer her our best wishes and prayers for the future.

Faithfully Yours,  
Kris Klopfenstein



# Book Club

*The Giver of Stars* by Jojo Moyes is the book club selection for the meeting Tuesday, January 12th at 5pm. Based on a true story rooted in America's past the book follows the stories of five women in the mountains of Kentucky. We will be discussing this noted author's book over a zoom call. All are welcome! Contact the pastor if you have any trouble finding the book.

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## January Mission

Jan Missions will be collecting clothing items for the grade school children of Washington Elementary School. Sometimes in coming to school they get wet & cold or will have an accident. Clothing to change into is so much appreciated. We will be collecting underwear for boys & girls sizes 4 – 8 and unisex sweatpants sizes 4 – 8. Neutral colors like black, navy & gray work the best for the sweat pants. This is the grade school that JoLynn Rhodes works in. Thank you so very much for your donations.



## MLK Day

Join us virtually on January 18, 2021, 7:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. for the Tiffin-Seneca Martin Luther King, Jr. Day, Virtual Community Celebration, including remarks by NAACP representative, Joni Pinski, Tiffin Mayor Aaron Montz and Fostoria Mayor Eric Keckler.

The keynote speaker is Dr. Trevor Bates, newly appointed President of Wilmington College.

Children will read their award winning essays following Martin Luther King, Jr.'s example, "what can you do to make life fair?"

The Peacemaker Award will be presented to Anne DeVine, Jill Gosche, and Andrea Forbes Traunero for Helping Hands in Seneca County.

Choral selections by Tiffin University and Heidelberg University performers.

Virtual streaming free access information to be announced.

# Book Club

Each year, Trilogy Health Services, which includes the Willows at Tiffin, hosts a one-of-a-kind challenge of creativity. In the spirit of celebrating the cozy onset of winter, residents are encouraged to pick up a brush and create artwork that truly encapsulates what the holiday season means to them. Once submitted, their leadership team then evaluates each piece based on color, theme, representation, and composition.

This year fellow Faith member, Marilyn Kisabeth, won the contest with her piece *Baby Jesus*. Congratulations Marilyn! We have included her winning submission below.



# Card Shower!

After over 60 years of serving her church, Nancy will be stepping down as Music Director. How do you celebrate someone whose life has been committed to sharing her love of music in a year of the pandemic?

With a Card Shower!

All of us would love nothing more than to give Nancy a big hug, share stories, reminisce, and personally thank her for all she has done for her church and for all of us.

Unfortunately, that's not possible in the 2020 year of COVID-19.

Her music has welcomed us to church and to weddings, and brought comfort to those of us dealing with loses at funerals. So, we will do the next best thing: Shower her with our love by filling her mailbox everyday with cards and notes. You can send them to: Nancy Ferguson, 843 N. Water St., #115, Tiffin, OH 44883.

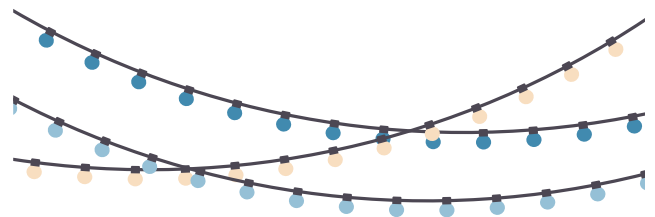
THANK YOU

## Thank You!

The staff would like to thank everyone for the Love Offerings given throughout the month of December. Thank you for your generosity and kindness.

# Birthdays

- 1- Thomas Clifton, Dan Hilborn
- 2- Jim Albert, Nicole Clagg, Elaine Reedy
- 3- Hollie Borer, Bonnie Scherger
- 5- Jesse Bianchi, Judy Oder
- 7- Paul Eborg
- 8- Scott Blue
- 9- Justin Reinbolt, Kenneth Robinson, Mary Solomon
- 10- Maximus Fortney
- 11- Donna Boyd, Michelle Perin
- 12- Michael Albert
- 13- Ryan Edelman, Nicole Stahl
- 14- Joan Hossler, Kristen Swihart
- 15- Barbara Trapp
- 16- Henry Albert, Amanda Smith
- 17- Bill Dawson, Tisha Fugitt, Joyce Weaver
- 18- Cheryl Burkhardt, Tony George
- 19- Carol Perin, Michelle Seigley
- 20- Ann Tusing
- 21- Fred Ritter, Phyllis Wisebaker
- 22- Michael Miller
- 23- Beth Burdine
- 27- Marilyn Davis
- 28- Sue Klopfenstein, Sandra Laibe
- 30- Lois Berger, Jane Reinbolt



## Anniversaries

- 6- Joanne and James Kimmel
- 31- John and Anna Grover



# January 2021

| SUN                                                                | MON | TUE                    | WED | THU | FRI                  | SAT |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------|-----|------------------------|-----|-----|----------------------|-----|
|                                                                    |     |                        |     |     | 1<br>Happy New Year! | 2   |
| 3<br>Call-In Worship<br>9:20am<br>(339) 207-6119                   | 4   | 5                      | 6   | 7   | 8                    | 9   |
| 10<br>Call-In Worship<br>9:20am<br>(339) 207-6119                  | 11  | 12<br>Book Club<br>5pm | 13  | 14  | 15                   | 16  |
| 17<br>Call-In Worship<br>9:20am<br>(339) 207-6119<br>MLK Day 7-8pm | 18  | 19                     | 20  | 21  | 22                   | 23  |
| 24<br>Call-In Worship<br>9:20am<br>(339) 207-6119                  | 25  | 26                     | 27  | 28  | 29                   | 30  |
| 31<br>Call-In Worship<br>9:20am<br>(339) 207-6119                  |     |                        |     |     |                      |     |