

Pastor's Greeting

Greetings in the Name of Christ!

January 2021

I deeply appreciate this congregation. Your love and support for one another warms my heart, and your support for me is sometimes overwhelming. I thank you for the gifts and cards for Pastor Appreciation Month, my birthday, and Christmas.

As we begin a New Year, I'm sure we pray together for the end of COVID-19. This tiny virus has impacted everything we have done and planned through most of 2020. I thank the Administrative Council for their work in openly discussing the best plans for our church family. We have members who quarantined long before the church closed in March, and we have members who want the church open at all cost, urging each person to make the decision that is right for them.

We missed the chicken BBQ, several concerts, joint services, and many other events. Through all of this, the church's mission does not change. We are to feed the hungry, clothe the naked, and care for the widows and orphans. The church is also commanded by Christ himself to make disciples, who make disciples, to the end that we may change the world. This is a huge responsibility, even in the best of times. 2020 was far from the best of times!

How Christians respond in times of crisis tells the world volumes about how real our faith is. AUMC was forced to suspend our food pantry because of the restrictions the Southern Tier Food Bank put on volunteers. However, the Lighthouse Christmas provided food and more for 77 families! What a great outreach and mission.

The Ramp Guys have built over 30 ramps this year, even with COVID and injuries that sidelined several volunteers. The freedom and safety that these ramps provide really can't be measured. The notes of appreciation are very touching!

If you do not feel comfortable attending Sunday worship, just ask for a DVD (a generous donor allowed us to purchase a new duplicator), watch the edited version on YouTube, or check out the Wednesday evening worship/study.

May your New Year be more than happy and healthy, may it be blessed.

Pastor Barre