



IMPACT NEWSLETTER
REINBECK UNITED METHODIST
CHURCH

Volume 41, Number 11

November/December 2021

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 7

All Saint's Day

Join us for a time of remembrance during
service

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 21

Decorate the church for the Advent Season!
After worship

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 24

Christmas Eve candlelight service
7:00 pm

From My Heart to Yours

Reinbeck friends, I've decided to do something a little different for this newsletter. Based on a conversation that took place at our most recent Administrative Council meeting, I've decided to share the follow article from the Lewis Center for Church Leadership. It was published earlier this month (October 2021) and it is written by a prominent United Methodist Theologian. I will offer no commentary of my own except to say I think the article is completely accurate.

Know that you are loved and prayed for!

In Christian Love and Affection,
Pastor Steve

What Might the 2020 Census Mean for Churches?

By Lovett H. Weems Jr., October 12, 2021

The oft-quoted “demography is destiny” comes to mind as we explore the meaning of the 2020 U.S. Census Report. The church cares about demographics because it deals with “human populations,” the same people the church exists to serve. Anything we can learn about the people God has given us will shape our ministries for the better. We need not make plans for people who no longer exist, at least not in the numbers as before. Churches are fruitful when they understand who the people are around them and develop ministries and plans to reach them, especially those in their communities but not in their churches.

Here are some highlights of the latest census that noted demographer William H. Frey names and what they may mean for church leaders.

Population stagnation

Population growth in the last 10 years was the second lowest in the nation's history. While COVID-19 added to deaths, the primary reason is the aging of the population. As Frey puts it, “fewer births, more deaths, and uneven immigration.” Many congregations are actually in areas in which aging has led to more deaths than births, with the consequent impact on every community institution.

Decrease in geographic mobility

In the 1940s to 1960s, the U.S. population was highly mobile with about one in five persons changing their residence in a year. Today fewer than 10% change residences during a year, the lowest since records have been kept.

Greater racial diversity

The nation is diversifying “from the bottom up.” While the Builder Generation was almost 80% white and the baby boomers were just over 70% white, all younger generations are far more racially diverse. In 2011, for the first time in the history of the country, more people-of-color babies than white babies were born in a year. Soon, most children will be people of color. Another feature of the growing racial diversity is the dispersal of people of color within the country.

Population aging

In the past 10 years, those between ages 65 and 74 increased in number by 50%. Between 2010 and 2020 the number of people over 55 grew at a rate 20 times greater than the rate of growth for the population under 55. Virtually every part of the country is seeing an increase in the proportion of their population over 55. Where areas vary is in the presence of young people under 18. Thirty-one states showed losses in their youth populations over the past decade.

First-time decline in white population

For the first time since the original census in 1790, the white population declined. Although the numerical decline is minuscule, such a dramatic marker brings the changing demographics of the country to the forefront. White people are older on average than other groups in the U.S. The long-term scenario for whites, according to Frey, is one of “lower fertility and increased aging.” All population growth in the last decade came from people of color.

Implications for churches

In some ways, these census results upend the working assumptions of most congregations about the future of their churches. Here are examples of such assumptions.

- New members will come from new residents.
- New members will come from young couples returning to church when they have children.
- New members will be younger than current members.
- New members will look like us and share our values.

Looking for people who are not there

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The combination of population stagnation and lower population mobility means those “new people” that churches often counted on joining them will be few. There are growing numbers of people surrounding virtually all churches who do not attend church. They include those our churches never seriously engaged plus the growing ranks of inactive former church members signified by the worship attendance declines that began in 2002 and continue today. But engaging with these “new people” will require major adjustments in how churches relate to their communities and neighbors, in contrast to merely waiting for those who show up at our doors.

Coming to grips with an aging population

A Presbyterian church with a new pastor spent several hundred thousand dollars to reach young people. Despite a gifted pastor and creative planning, the church had little to show for its efforts after a few years. Since then, the pastor has led them in a different direction. They came to terms with who they were — an older church — and what they had to offer — an amazing church for the growing numbers of people 55 and older in their region. They also discovered ways within this orientation to expand their reach to younger people without trying to be what they are not.

Many churches are undermining their ministries with their own older members and potential younger members by taking the older constituency for granted and missing the potential they bring to connect with aging communities. Developing ministries for younger people as an adjunct to a less-than-vibrant ministry for others will not work. Infusing vibrancy for every age group generates energy for all.

A special challenge for predominantly white congregations

There are some areas where the white population is growing, but not many. Even there, it is a zero-sum game with some areas losing the people others are gaining. Over half the counties in the U.S. showed declines in their white population in the last decade. There is no future for predominantly white congregations that cannot reach the growing people-of-color population. This is especially true for reaching younger people where the very youngest in the population are majority people of color.

Predominantly white congregations also have a special challenge on behalf of the entire country in the coming years. I fear that the first decline in the white population since 1790, minimal as it is, will fan the flames of prejudice against people of color. Such feelings may have been present and better hidden for years, but the public expression of such un-Christian and un-American sentiments shows we are at a troubling juncture. It reminds me of the time when I was growing up and church people who were spiritually serious and personally virtuous supported

some of the most evil practices of racism in our history. I see today similar accommodation to the worst expressions of racist language, behavior, and policies from many regular churchgoers. This blatant disregard for Christlike values will make a mockery of our witness unless it is countered by churches that exemplify love of God and love of neighbor without reservation.

This article is reprinted by permission from *Leading Ideas*, a free e-newsletter from the Lewis Center for Church Leadership of Wesley Theological Seminary and available at churchleadership.com.



What could be easier than giving electronically???? Just go on-line to our church website and follow the link to GIVE and make your donation through pay pal.

You can also set up a monthly or weekly donation using your online banking or talk to a teller about automatic withdrawals. Of course you can still give each Sunday in the offering plate BUT should you forget the checkbook or not have the cash your electronic gift will still reach us no matter what!



Help us decorate the church for
Advent and Christmas!

We are looking for volunteers to stay after worship on Sunday, November 21 to help decorate for Christmas. Plan to join us!



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Experience Christ's LOVE

Building relationship with God and neighbor.
Mark 12:29-31



Help create an atmosphere where our love for each other can grow. Sign up for Sunday fellowship time



November Operation Christmas Child boxes are done and collection is November 15-22. We have SURPASSED this year's

fundraising goal! Thank you so much who contributed!



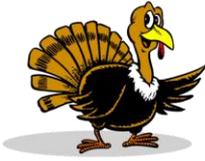
The Christmas Store will be open for families on Dec 9 & 10 from 5:30-7:00pm, and Saturday, Dec 11 from 8:30-10:00am. We will not be taking part this year, but if you would like to donate on your own please visit

www.christmasingrundy.org/participate for information.



If you would like to donate to a group within our church, Faith Circle, Sarah Circle, and UMW are always looking for volunteers and donations!

Happy



November



Birthday

TO THE FOLLOWING:

- 2 James Larsen
- 8 Peg Schick
- 9 Belen Ellenberger
- 10 Jacob Lundgren, Autum Carley, Brittany Yates, Brandi Yates
- 11 Pat Bowen
- 12 Marina Raney
- 13 Melissa Stull
- 14 Jillian Wetzel, Clare Wetzel
- 15 Robert Bown
- 16 Jim Buskohl, Vayda Monaghan
- 19 Tessa Dinsdale, Hunter Raney
- 22 Reed Dinsdale
- 23 Parker Bolt, David Burdick
- 26 Matt Martin
- 28 Marie Schildroth
- 30 Dylan Jans



Please let the church office know your birth date if you have not been included in our list.

Happy



Birthday

TO THE FOLLOWING:

- 1 Kenneth Burdick, Mandy Miller, Brenlynn Swanson
- 2 Phil Bowen, Russell Burdick, Marcia Ellenberger
- 5 Ashley Mohlis, Mark Oleson, Grant Boelman
- 7 Shirley Moye, Karen Lovell, Carol Mayberry
- 8 Julie Flege, Erik Bachman
- 9 Troy Alfson
- 11 David Jans, Luke Koenigsfeld
- 12 Jeremy Dugan
- 14 Abby Schildroth, Quentin Mayberry
- 15 Teresa Van Sickle
- 16 Rozella Stull
- 17 Ricky Klatt
- 18 Ellanor Koenigsfeld
- 19 Eloise Monk
- 20 Allen Baker
- 21 Megan Bearbower
- 22 Connie Thede, Angie Hunemuller, Zach McFarland
- 23 Don Koch, Wayne Evans
- 28 Lindsay Jans, Owen Koester
- 29 Carroll Freed, Avarie Bown
- 30 Izzy Viers



Please let the church office know your birth date if you have not been included in our list.

KNOW God's word

Know Jesus, "The Word became flesh."
John 1:14

PRAYER

REQUEST PRAYER AT ANY TIME

- CONTACT THE PASTOR: (voice or text)
- IN ANY WORSHIP SERVICE
- 505 PRAYER GROUP: Tuesdays at 5:05 pm at church
- VIA THE WEB SITE: <http://reinbeckumc.org>
- REQUEST PRAYER VIA FACEBOOK:

<https://www.facebook.com/reinbeckumc>



GROW In Christian Discipleship

"Grow up in every way into Christ."
Ephesians 4:15



- The November UMW meeting will be on November 18th at 1:30 pm. The program will be provided by Carol Graveman and hostesses will be Pat Bowen and Kay Koch.
- The December UMW meeting will be on December 16th at 9:30 am with brunch. We will be packing love boxes.
- Faith Circle will meet on November 4th at 9:30 am with hostess Dorothy Weltha, and on December 2nd at 11 am (hostess TBA.)
- Sarah Circle will meet on November 3rd at 7:00 pm. Hostess will be Jan Ehrig and program will be by Eloise Monk.

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GO Share your faith.

“Go into all the world.”

Matthew 28:19



Bring Aid and Assistance donations 1st Sunday of every month! The Food Pantry is in need of:

Canned pasta (spaghetti o's-type)
Crackers/chips
Canned hearty soup
Instant oatmeal
Pancake mix/syrup
Jam/jelly
Canned fruit
Juice
Paper Towels
Laundry Detergent
Dryer Sheets
Kitchen/Household Cleaners



When the weather is bad, you can check:

- KWWL cancellations
- Enews

Pastor will have notice on each of these services to let you know if we are having service or not.

Check out our Butterfly Christmas Tree at the bank for Miracle on Main! Miracle on Main is taking place Friday, November 12 and Saturday, November 13. We will also be having a Mitten Tree in the Fellowship Hall where you can bring warm winter clothing to donate. Hats, scarves, mittens, and other warm inside + outside wear can be put on or around the tree and will be donated to the preschool and to Operation Threshold.



LEADING THE WAY

Leadership Team, Committees and more

Committees and Church Council Meetings

November

- ❖ Leadership Team 6:30 pm Wednesday, November 17th
- ❖ Leadership Team 6:30 pm Wednesday, December 15th



Leadership Team
October 20, 2021
6:30 p.m.

Members present: Pastor Steve, Tom Boheman, Ali Jo Baker, Dian Junker, Clint Anderson, Dixie Schildroth, Melinda Smoldt, Kress Boheman, Jan Ehrig, Wade Van Hauen, Edie Blakeslee and Deb Oleson. Tom Boheman chaired the meeting. Pastor shared devotions from Matthew 18, beginning with verse 50, followed by prayer. Clint Anderson moved, and Kress Boheman seconded, that last month's minutes be approved as printed. Motion carried.

Communication: Ali Baker provided the list of Food Pantry items currently needed. The items include: canned pasta (spaghetti O's-type), canned hearty soup, crackers/chips, instant oatmeal, pancake mix/syrup, jam/jelly, canned fruit, juice, paper towels, laundry detergent, dryer sheets, kitchen/household cleaners. Ali will check and see if there is a need for any more baby items.

AGENDA

Treasurer's report & Finance Committee – Dixie Schildroth. The treasurer's report was presented in printed form and indicates a balance in the General Fund of \$43,239.22.

Report was submitted and approved. The leadership team told Dian it wasn't necessary for Alex to provide the detailed financial report monthly. A report can be requested when needed.

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Budgets will be sent out to team members and they should be brought back to the November meeting.

A finance campaign will be finalized during November. Dixie will work on a letter for this.

Program Ministry Reports:

Education – Ali Jo Baker reported that: Bibles have been ordered for elementary students. Children’s church may begin in the future as children are available during the Sunday church service. Helpers are needed as two adults are needed for each session. Safe Sanctuary trainings need to be updated for those able to help. The status of previously certified safe sanctuary members and background check services will be checked by the office.

Worship – Clint Anderson reported that he is working on finalizing a new YouTube channel to broadcast the videos of the Sunday services. The church is currently on a residential internet plan and he suggested that the plan be upgraded to a higher internet speed for an extra \$10.00 per month. Motion by Wade, second by Edie to upgrade the internet speed. Motion carried.

Clint would like to have the link posted on the church website, put in the newsletter and on the church Facebook page each Sunday.

He has decided to resign as Worship chair for 2022 and encouraged anyone interested to consider being nominated for that position.

Outreach/Missions – Kress/Melinda. Approximately \$200 of the \$500 needed for postage for the Operation Christmas Child boxes has been donated. Donations may be directed to Susan Tessau.

Kress reported they had received information on Christmas in Grundy County and asked if there was interest in participating again this year. It was suggested that there may be a need for local families. It was the consensus to find ways to help local families this year. Individuals are welcome to also personally support Christmas in Grundy County if they wish.

In-gathering items are being finalized and will be delivered soon. Several other projects including the mitten tree, cookies and gift cards to families will continue to be done also. Faith Circle is also working on a tree for the Miracle on Main display of trees at Lincoln Savings Bank.

UMW – No report. Their next meeting will October 28th. They will also be seeking someone to serve as UMW president beginning in 2022.

Administrative Reports:

Finance/Treasurer –John/Dixie - No report

Lay Leader Report – Edie - No report

Trustees – Wade/Mark. Wade reported that the windows had been installed. There are a couple of windows that should have been frosted and those are being fixed.

Motion by Jan, second by Ali to approve the invoice from Community Builders for new windows in the amount of \$11,847.00. Motion carried. Cedar Valley Electric has completed the rewiring of the steeple and started the sanctuary ceiling fan project. An invoice was received for the work completed to date.

Motion by Wade, second by Kress to approve the invoice to Cedar Valley Electric in the amount of \$3,028.42. Motion carried.

Wade reported on radon levels in different areas of the church. The office area was of concern but after rerouting the mitigation tube to help clear the basement that was able to resolve that concern. He plans to test the parsonage in the future.

Plans are being made to trim and remove down or damaged trees on the south side of the parking lot on Saturday morning, October 23rd.

Motion by Clint, second by Edie that all reports presented by approved. Motion carried.

Pastor's Report –

Pastor Steve reported that Clint Anderson would like to continue to be a Certified Lay Servant. Motion by Pastor Steve, second by Tom to certify Clint Anderson as a Lay Servant. Motion carried.

Charge Conference will be October 21, 2021, at 6:30 p.m. at Grundy Center UMC. The Leadership Team was asked to develop our missional and congregational goals as part of the Mission/Ministry Plan for the coming year.

Discussion on goals included: to have a more understanding attitude of the challenges we currently face with our churches, have faith and compassion for all our fellow parishioners. Encourage parishioners to listen to God's word and be a good listener and have an open mind.

Suggestions for more opportunities for children, attendance and opportunities available to all parishioners were also discussed.

Pastor suggested that we need to change the essence of who we are as Christians. If we can overcome the trend of divisiveness in churches and we show that everyone is welcome and we love everyone, people will want to be part of that also.

Motion by Wade, second by Clint that the meeting adjourns. Motion carried.

Upcoming Meeting Schedule – The next Leadership Team meeting will be November 17, 2021, at 6:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Debra Oleson, Acting Secretary

Reinbeck United Methodist Church



The ministry of the Reinbeck United Methodist Church is to help each other experience Christ's

- **LOVE**
 - **KNOW** God's Word,
 - **GROW** in Christian discipleship, and
 - **GO** share our faith, bringing others to Christ
-ALL BECAUSE OF JESUS

Calendar, enews, giving, and more

Worship Broadcast

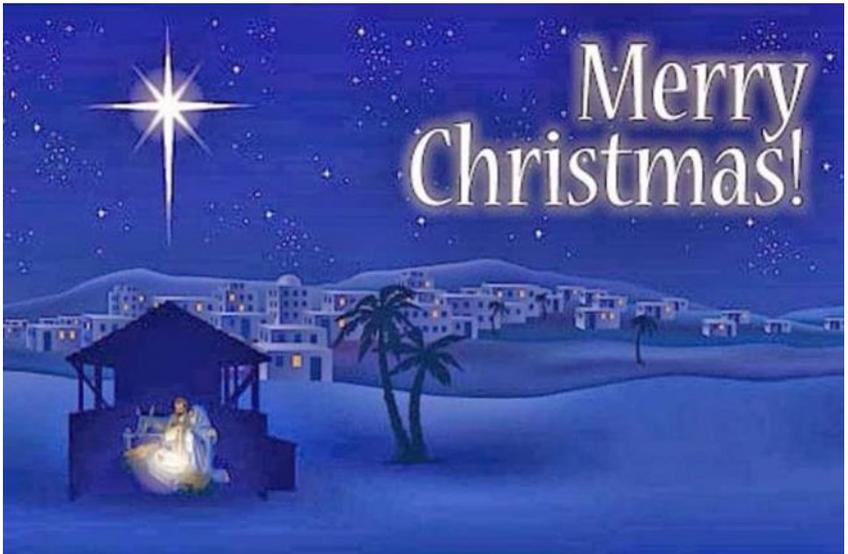
10 am and 7 pm Saturday on RTU Channel 15



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