Dear Friends,

Although it is now spring, I hope I can still say Happy New Year to all especially to those I have not seen in person or virtually.

As always, let me begin by asking “how are you all doing?”

It is a year since our first lockdown and we are still in lockdown with the hope that things will get better soon with children and parents rejoicing that schools are open once more.

If we were asked to give a summary of the past year, what would we be saying? Yes, we will talk about the pandemic and how it has changed our lives. There would be a lot of laments, but hopefully amidst the laments, there will be room to give thanks.

So talking about giving thanks we are enjoined to give thanks always (1st Thessalonians 5:18) says “Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, in everything give thanks, for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you”. As we all know, giving thanks is not always easy especially when things are not going well. We feel sad and angry, not just with ourselves but with our family and friends and sometimes with God. We have not been called to give thanks at particular moments only for some things, but in everything good and bad.

Take a look around you now, what can you thank God for?   
In this pandemic and with lockdown, we have managed to reinvent ourselves. Participation in zoom meetings has increased and I want to say hoorah and a big thank you to our elderly members who have mastered the art of zoom meetings and are doing well. Of course we do realize that by zooming all the time, a few have been left behind as they have not been able to join. Thanks to branch leaders and members who have been able to distribute personally or send mail to ensure that nobody has been left out.

As disciples of Jesus, we are expected to spread the good news of Jesus. As well as doing this, may I ask, have we been spreading the good news of the vaccine? Over 20 million have been vaccinated so far, what an achievement! However, we have so many people who are refusing to be vaccinated. Please help people to know it is ok.

Finally, there is a lot happening on the MU central website. There are lots of useful resources for various things, please visit. As we seek to build hope and confidence, let our faith in God give us the security we need. Philippians 1:6 “I am certain that God who began a good work within you will continue his work until it is finally finished on the day when Christ Jesus returns”