



First United Methodist Church of Springboro

The Messenger

December 2016



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Springboro, OH 45066
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Office Hours:
Monday—Friday
8:00—1:00

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Join us for worship each weekend:

Casual Saturday night worship with *Springs* at 5:30 p.m.

Sunday morning worship and Sunday school at 9:15 a.m.

Sunday worship and children's church at 10:35 a.m.



A word from Pastor Amy....

I just experienced my first Christmas in Springboro! My family and I took advantage of the warm weather on Friday to taste the food, ride the train and wander through the vendor tents. We bundled up for the parade on Saturday (although I admit to riding *inside* the pickup trying to save my voice) and enjoyed the church's lunch, bazaar, and Carol Sing.

I spied the usual decorations and characters one would expect at a Christmas fest: reindeer antlers, jingle bells, Santa Claus—and the Grinch. In fact, in the parade there were multiple Grinchs and Whos from Whoville! They were all playful ways to interpret this year's theme, "Christmas, Perhaps, Means a Little Bit More" a phrase taken from the story of *How the Grinch Stole Christmas*. Bright Beginnings' float even had the Grinch praying at the manger of Jesus, alongside Joseph and Mary.



Everywhere we look in December, we will see different characters of Christmas—from Santa Claus and the elves, to singing Christmas trees and misfit toys. During worship we will also hear the stories of some of the biblical characters of Advent and Christmas, from John the Baptist and Zechariah to Joseph and Mary. May their stories remind us of our stories of faith and connect us to God's story of love, hope and new life.

I look forward to the many ways that we will celebrate in worship this month, and invite you to join me in worship for Hanging of the Greens to the Choir Cantata to one of our Christmas Eve services to a time of music and praise on Christmas Day! Details for the ways we can worship, serve and celebrate together are all listed later in this newsletter.

For us, may Christmas indeed mean a little bit more this year, as we celebrate Jesus as Emmanuel, God with Us! Merry Christmas!

Pastor Amy



Worship In December
Advent Series:
Characters of Christmas

December 3/4—Holy Communion
 Message: Zechariah
 Scripture: Luke 1:5-25, 57-66

December 10/11
 Message: Joseph
 Scripture: Matthew 1:18-25

December 17/18
 Message: Mary
 Choir Cantata

December 25
 Message: Names of Jesus
 Scripture: Isaiah 9:2-7

January 1
 Message: Wise Men
 Scripture: Matthew 2:12

Special Worship Services in December:
 December 18 at 5:00pm:
 Traveler's Christmas Eve Service

December 24th: Christmas Eve Worship
 4:30pm Family service led by our children
 7:30pm Choir and Candlelight Service
 10:30pm Candlelight and Communion



Doings

- 3: Breakfast with Santa/Holiday House
- 4: Giving Tree Gifts/Stocking Stuffers Due
- 4: Kids Who Care
- 4: 5th—8th Church, Lunch, Fellowship
- 4: 9th—12th Youth Group
- 5: Bright Beginnings Christmas Program
- 6: *Paul for Everyone* Bible Study
- 6: 5th—8th Hope House Mission
- 6: Bright Beginnings Christmas Program
- 7: Parent Connection
- 7: Choirs/Play Practice
- 9: Movie Night
- 10: Women in Faith
- 11: God Squad
- 11: 7th—12th Youth Group/Wrapping Party
- 13: *Paul for Everyone* Bible Study
- 13: Stephen Ministers
- 14: Clearcreakers
- 14: 6th Grade Lunch with Kirby
- 14: Otterbein Avalon Visit
- 14: Choirs/Play Practice
- 15: Jr. High Lunch with Kirby
- 17: Mission 56 Christmas Party
- 17/18: Christmas Cantata Services
- 18: Travelers Christmas Service (5:00)
- 18: Jr. & Sr. Youth Group Christmas Party
- 20—1: Interfaith Hospitality Hosting
- 21: Choirs/Play Practice
- 23: Christmas Play Dress Rehearsal
- 24: Christmas Eve Services
 - 4:30—Children's Service
 - 7:30—Candlelight with Choir
 - 10:30—Candlelight with Communion
- 25: Christmas Day Sunday Service 10:35
- 28: Otterbein Avalon Visit

Details found in this newsletter

Lay Leader Report

Advent is here. Advent, from the Latin for Coming, is a man-made period of four weeks leading up to Christmas. It is very good and appropriate to observe Advent, if only for this purpose: to prepare our hearts for the Christ child. For there is a fundamental question of Advent – are we like the Bethlehem inn-keeper who did not have room for Mary and Joseph and their almost-born son? There was no room in that inn. Is there room in our hearts? If so, wonderful. If not, what is taking up the space that could be devoted to Christ? Do we allocate too much of our time and energy on our job, or our home, or on holiday preparations? Or are we in balance, enjoying the holiday trappings while still placing Jesus first in our hearts? I ask all to consider this question – is there room for Christ in my heart?

The four Sundays of Advent represent Hope, Love, Joy, and Peace, typically in that sequence. If curious about Advent, there is a three minute video in the Chuck Knows Church series on Advent:
<http://www.umc.org/news-and-media/chuck-knows-church-advent-wreath>

Advent is a wonderful time of year to be in study. I will participate in an ORV-led study at our district office on *The Five Questions of Christmas*. I'd be delighted to share what I learn in this study.

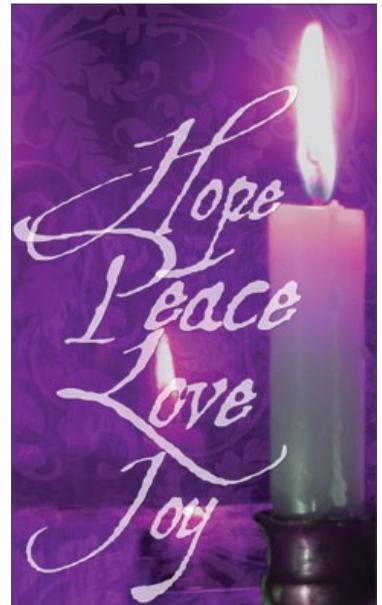
Last year, United Methodist Communications published this web-based quiz on Advent. I recall that I missed a couple questions last

year, but I did answer the first seven questions correctly this year. It is fun to see John Wesley pop up with a Woo Hoo after each correct response. Try the online quiz.:
<http://www.umc.org/what-we-believe/advent-quiz-2015>

The annual Ohio River Valley district day of training will be January 28, 2017. This training event is coordinated by our district staff and includes a variety of training topics. Please save this date and watch for more information as we move into 2017.

My Advent prayer is that each of us find Hope, Love, Joy and Peace this Advent season and that we have ample room in our hearts for Jesus.

Merry Christmas
 David Finney





Gregory V. Palmer
Resident Bishop | Ohio West Area



November 9, 2016

Beloved in Christ Jesus:

Here we are the morning after indisputably one of the most historic presidential elections in American history. By every and any measure, history has been made. Donald J. Trump is now the President-elect of the United States of America. I know you will join me in prayer for his leadership and for the nation.

One has to have completely tuned out to not know that there are deep, deep divisions in this nation. Everywhere we turn we are reminded of the profound fissures along the lines of gender, race and class, just to name a few. The truth is these fissures and divisions are not new and not directly attributable to the long campaign season that just ended. For many years there has been a growing trust deficit in public leadership and institutions. These are trying times, and the fabric of who we are and who we aspire to be has been stretched beyond anything we desire to look upon. But look upon it squarely we must.

All of that soberly said, I am still a prisoner of hope. *Say what?* My friends, the fissures and divisions that are staring us in the face, especially after this contentious election cycle, present a great opportunity for the church. We have the opportunity and the challenge to be the church for real, and in so doing,

embody what it looks like to be "repairers of the breach," to bind up wounds and to model beloved community. Whenever there is a crisis in the culture, my tendency is not to despair but to remember the core mission of the church and my personal mission. Before November 8, on November 8 and post November 8, our mission as church has not been altered one single iota. We are still called and sent to "make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world." I am persuaded that living that mission fully and deeply is the best hope for the church and the world. Electoral outcomes may be suggestive of where to place emphasis programmatically for a season, but the mission remains clear and compelling and worthy of our full engagement.

So, I invite you to catch your breath, take in the new realities, pray for President-elect Trump, this nation and all the leaders and nations of the world. I encourage you to re-up to be the church as never before, spreading personal and social holiness everywhere you are and everywhere you go. May it be engraved on all of our hearts that Jesus Christ himself has called us to be salt, light and yeast. May it be so. As always I am,

Your servant in Christ Jesus,

Gregory V. Palmer





Stewardship Giving and First Steps Campaign

Thank you to each of you who have thoughtfully considered your contribution to the church for 2017 and returned your commitment card. Returning your commitment cards to indicate how you plan to give faithfully to God's glory helps us set our budget and plan ministries for the next year.

The First Steps committee would also like to thank everyone who has prayed about their role in helping our church and capital campaign be successful. We greatly appreciate the commitments made by many of you to help First United Methodist Church solidify our financial foundation and improve the worship experience of current and future members. With your commitments, we will soon retire our existing mortgage and then move on to the next steps of:

- enhancing and expanding the existing worship space, and
- preparing for the future by establishing a "Faith Fund" for a future expansion of the church building.

If you have not yet had a chance to return your commitment card, they may be returned to the church office or put in the offering plate during services.

Wonderful Wednesdays

After a short break during the holidays, Wonderful Wednesdays will resume again on January 18. We hope you will join us for great food, worship, small groups and fellowship! Dinner will be at 6:00 with church providing the main dish (please bring a side dish, salad or dessert to share). After dinner, we will have a short time of tableside devotional then break out classes for different age groups beginning at 7:00.

The Book Fair is Coming!

We invite you to stop by the Book Fair at Bright Beginnings Christian Preschool on Monday December 5 through Friday, December 9 (8:30 –9:30, 11:30—1:30 and 3:30 –4:00) and Saturday, December 3 (9 a.m.-11 a.m.). Not only does this book fair help raise money to purchase classroom resources (i.e. end of the year Bibles, books, listening centers, etc.), it continues to excite the children about learning to read. Thank you in advance for all your support of our school.

Prayer Chain

We are finalizing changes to our telephone prayer chain. This group of dedicated volunteers receives urgent prayer requests and passes them on to others on their chain so that we can quickly have prayers lifted to God. If you would be interested in participating in the prayer chain or if you are currently on it but can no longer take part, please let Rebecca in the church office know. We are also considering starting an e-mail prayer chain. If you would be interested in this, please let us know.

2017 Flower Calendar

We thank everyone for their support in providing Sanctuary flowers each week. The flower calendar for 2017 is now available for sign-ups. It is located on the table just outside the Sanctuary in Fellowship Hall. You are welcome to sign up in honor or in memory of a loved one. Please make sure you print all the information clearly to ensure we can put the correct information in the bulletin. Flowers are \$20 per request. Payment can be made by placing an envelope in the offering plate. Please be sure to mark the envelope "Flowers" and include your name and the date for which you are purchasing flowers so we can track payments. If you provide your own flowers, there is no fee but we do ask that you let the church office know by the Tuesday before the weekend services.

Giving Envelopes, Statements and End of Year Giving

The end of the year is quickly approaching and that brings up joyful thoughts of the Advent of Christ, family and snow. Along with that also comes less jolly thoughts of end of year matters.

- **Giving envelopes:** Giving envelopes for 2017 have been ordered and should be available in Fellowship Hall in mid December. We were able to decrease the amount of envelopes we ordered this year - in the process saving money and some trees. However, it is likely your 2017 envelope number will be different from your 2016 envelope number. Please do not use this year's envelopes next year. If you have envelopes left at the end of the year, they can be recycled.

- **Statements:** Statements will be mailed out in mid January. For those who give via the Online Giving program, you will receive a statement in the mail as usual. However, you can also print your statement at any time from the Online Giving site. If you did a combination of Online and Traditional giving, both will be included in the statement that is mailed in January.
- **Special Gifts:** In the course of year-end tax planning, you may find yourself considering special one-time donations. There is a growing trend among donors to make contributions to their favorite organizations via the Web during the final week of the year. As you contemplate year-end gifts, please keep FUMC in mind. We welcome your donations through the Online Giving page on the church website at www.fumcof-springboro.org/online-giving/.

If you have any questions, please contact Tracy Stull (Finance Secretary). She can be reached at: financeteamfumc@gmail.com or 748-8699.

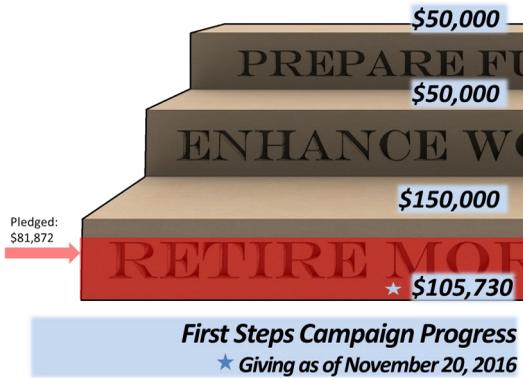
Church Choir

The choir welcomes new members throughout the year. They practice on Wednesday evenings at 7:00 p.m. If you'd like more information, please contact Carolyn Mabee at 287-2308 or cmabee@woh.rr.com.

Church Office Closed

The church office will be closed on Monday, December 26 and Monday, January 2. Hours may also be limited on the days between Christmas and New Years. Please call ahead if you need to be in the church building during that time.





2017 First Steps Campaign Progress

We are almost there! As of November 20, we have received \$105,730 towards paying off the mortgage of our church. Your generous contributions in conjunction with escrow funds and a planned early 2017 donation from Bright Beginnings Christian Preschool mean we only have \$19,270 left to pay. Watch for news soon of a much anticipated mortgage burning!



Stephen Ministry Wishes You a Holly Christmas

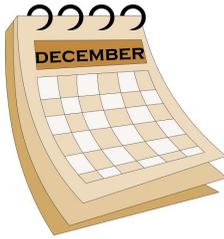
Did you know that in Scandinavia, holly is called Christ thorn? In fact, many Christians believe that the prickly leaves of holly represent the crown of thorns Jesus wore at his crucifixion, and the red berries symbolize the drops of blood shed from those thorns. We

deck our halls with boughs of holly for a jolly Christmas to celebrate Christ's birth. What an appropriate reminder that we owe our joy, hope, and salvation to a Savior who gave His very life for us.

During Advent, Stephen Ministers will once again hand out ornaments as a reminder that Christmas isn't holly jolly for everyone. For some, this holiday season is a time of worry or frustration, or a painful reminder of the loss of a loved one, a job, a marriage, health, or independence. If you know someone who is grieving or in crisis this Christmas, we encourage you to reach out to them, listen to them, encourage them. You might also tell them about Stephen Ministry and how a Stephen Minister can meet with them once a week to listen to and encourage them for as long as they need. Ask their permission to give their name and telephone number to a Stephen Leader.

Stephen Ministers connect hurting people to Christ's love and healing care. If you or someone you love needs help this season, please talk to Zandra Woody or Susan Raihala.

We wish you a very Holly Christmas!



Church Groups Meetings/Schedules

Women In Faith

Women in Faith will hold a business meeting to review the results of their annual Christmas Bazaar and Luncheon on Saturday, December 10 at 9:00 a.m. The group will also put together fruit baskets for Friendship Circle friends. The WIF Bible study will not meet in December. They will resume their meeting in January on the second Tuesday of each month at 7:00 p.m. in the conference room. They will begin a study of *Know What You Believe* by Paul E. Little in January. All women from the church are welcome to join the study. If you would like any information on the group, please contact Judy Cook .

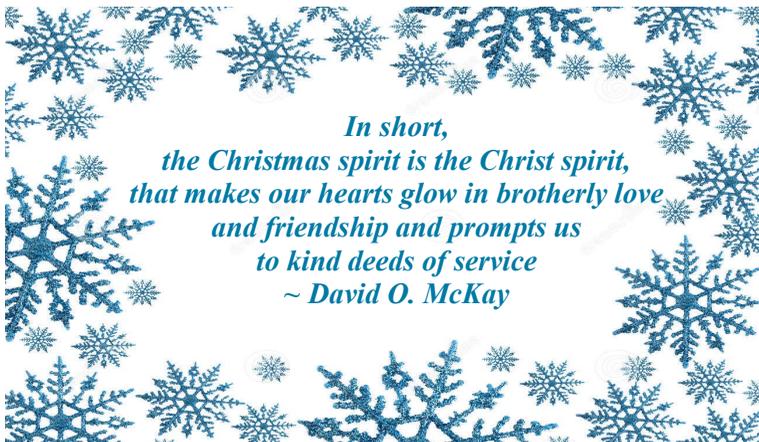
United Methodist Men

As we indicated in November we are in preparation for a men's event which will be held in January. We will have a catered breakfast, a short sports-based program, then some discussion regarding what each of us want out of our United Methodist Men brotherhood. Our men will determine how we want to be in service together, and how we want to enjoy fellowship together. Look for more details as the breakfast comes together.

Clearcreakers Senior Group

The Clearcreakers meeting will be December 14 at 11:30 in Fellowship Hall. A musical program will be presented by the Springboro High School Jazz Choir. Ham will be provided for the main dish. Please bring a side dish, salad or desert to share. Please remember to bring your own eating utensils. Try to join us for some fun, food, and fellowship.

Questions call: Linda Tennant or Martha Rutherford.



Celebrate the Spirit of Christmas



Celebrate through worship...

Hanging of the Greens

The Annual Hanging of the Greens will be on **November 26 at 5:30 p.m.** with a worship service that focuses on the Christian meaning of several of the symbols of the season. Following worship we will share a meal; please bring a side dish or dessert to share. We will conclude the evening by decorating the church for the Christmas season. All ages are welcome to this evening of celebration.

Christmas Cantata

The Heavenly Host Choir will sing their annual Christmas Cantata at services on **Saturday, December 17 and Sunday, December 18**. Please join us for these special services that celebrate the great gift of Jesus through music.

Travelers Christmas Service

If you are like many people and don't get to celebrate Christmas at First United Methodist due to traveling to spend the holiday with family, now is your chance. On **Sunday evening, December 18**, we will offer a Traveler's Christmas Candlelight Service. All are welcome to join us as we celebrate Jesus' birth with a candlelight service at **5:00 p.m.**

Children's Christmas Service

You are invited to join us for a Christmas Eve service led by the children of First United Methodist at **4:30 p.m.** on December 24.

Candlelight Services

We will offer two candlelight Christmas Eve services.

- 7:30 p.m.**—Candlelight service with choir
- 10:30 p.m.**—Candlelight service with communion

Christmas Day and New Years Day Services

We will have one Sunday worship service on December 25 and January 1 at **10:35 a.m.** each day. There will not be any Sunday School classes offered those days.

Celebrate through service...

Interfaith Hospitality Network

The Interfaith Hospitality Network families will be with us December 20 to January 1. Please consider giving the gift of your time and work in preparing meals or doing activities with the children or most importantly, being an overnight host or hostess. Please contact Jennifer Fry if you can help out (Jennifer.fry@road-runner.com) or sign up online at <http://www.signupgenius.com/go/60b054aaaaf2ba46-interfaith6>.

Otterbein Avalon

The December dates for visits with the senior residents of the Otterbein Avalon community will be Wednesday, December 14 and 28. The carpool will leave from church at 1:15 and return by 3:30. If you have questions, please let David Finney know (513-727-4395).

Celebrate through giving...

Christmas Offering

As our Christmas gift to God in celebration of Jesus' birth, our church will give all of the undesignated Christmas Eve offering to the United Methodist Committee On Relief (UMCOR). In times of disaster, 100% of all donations to UMCOR go to relief efforts. As you decide how much to give to this Christmas offering, I encourage you to consider how much you will spend on Christmas this year. Some have felt led to tithe on that amount. Others have felt compelled to match that amount. Please bring your special offering in honor of Christ's birth on Christmas Eve or put it in the offering anytime during December.

Veterans Socks and Underwear Collection

The Cornerstone Sunday School class is collecting men's white sports socks and underwear sizes L and XL for the Veterans Hospital. In addition, there are needs for undergarments for women veterans—please see Bev Haun for details. There is a collection box marked "Veterans" in Fellowship Hall. Financial donations are also welcome—please give them to Garry or Bev Haun or to Rebecca in the church office. Donations will be collected until Wednesday, December 21. Thank you!

The Giving Tree/Stocking Stuffers

The Giving Tree is now available in the Narthex! The Franklin food pantry has supplied us with children who need help this season. Each child has five tags (for socks and underwear, for hats and mittens, for clothes, for shoes, and for something they really want!) You are more than welcome to take all of the

tags for the child you choose or just one. Please place unwrapped items in a bag with the tags attached.

In addition to the Giving Tree, we will collect "stocking stuffers". Please place new, small gifts in the marked container next to the Giving Tree. We're collecting for boys and girls age infant-18 years old. They will be distributed by the UMCH Family Services, Franklin Food Pantry and Springboro Community Assistance Center. Please help a child who is less-fortunate this Christmas season. **Please bring the gifts and stocking stuffers to church by Sunday, December 4.**

Giving Tuesday

On November 29, United Methodists will once again come together to support the work of Advance projects and missionaries on UMC #GivingTuesday. Through The Advance, United Methodist annual conferences, districts, local churches, and organizations, as well as individuals and families, may choose to support mission programs or mission personnel with their financial gifts. Each Advance project has been vetted and approved by Global Ministries and Advance staff. For a complete list of projects, visit <https://www.umcmmission.org/Give-to-Mission/About-the-Advance/About-The-Advance>.

Box Tops/Campbell Labels

Our Mission Team will continue to collect box tops and Campbell food labels for Red Bird Mission throughout this school year. There are bins in which to place the labels and box tops located in the black stand across from the music room. Thank you.

Celebrations continued on next page



Celebrate through fun...



Breakfast With Santa and Holiday House

Saturday, December 3 will be our annual Breakfast with Santa and Holiday House. Plan to join us for a fun morning of pancakes, sausage, activities and a visit from the jolly old elf himself! Afterwards, parents can leave the little ones for four hours of fun in our Holiday House where they will experience, explore, and create as they move through our "Journey to Bethlehem" theme. Registration required—please call Kim or Ida at 748-2612.

Movie Night

The next Movie Night will be on **Friday, December 9**. You enjoy a night out, while the kids enjoy a night in at the church! Space is limited to 50 children, so call or email (748-2612 or kimfumc@gmail.com) to secure a spot for your children. Everything is included in the \$10 per child price: pizza, drinks, popcorn.

Drop off details:

- We open the doors for drop off at 5:45 p.m. Please enter through the front doors of the church.
- Have your children stay with you until we have collected your registration forms and payment, and have given them a name tag. If you have your forms al-

ready filled out, this should go quickly.

What happens after you leave:

- Adult and teen volunteers help supervise the evening. We should have a 1-8 ratio.
- Pizza and drinks are served as soon as you leave, and popcorn will follow during the full length movie.
- The kids will enjoy a newly released on DVD movie.

Pick up details:

- Children **MUST** be picked up by someone on the registration form who has ID.
- We try to do this in an orderly fashion, so we ask that you wait in the lobby as we match you up and have you sign them out.
- Please pick up promptly at 9 p.m.

If you have any further questions, please don't hesitate to contact Kim Crosen.

Celebrate through flowers...

Poinsettia Sales

Bring a festive glow to the Sanctuary by placing your order for a poinsettia. Orders will be taken between services by members of the Flower Committee on November 27 and December 4 and at Saturday evening services on November 26 and December 3. Each poinsettia is \$10 with payment made when your order is placed. Deadline for ordering is noon on December 5. Poinsettias can be ordered in memory or in honor of a loved one and come in red and white. Thanks!

Late November Reminder Church Conference

On Tuesday, November 29, all members of FUMC are invited to attend our annual Church Conference, at 7:00 p.m. in the sanctuary. Rev. Carrie Jena will be our presiding elder to assist us in working through our yearly business of electing officers, setting pastoral compensation, recommending candidates for ministry, and updating the membership roll. We will celebrate what has gone well this year, and set goals for next year. The Church Conference is the official decision-making body for the local congregation in relation to the broader connection of the UMC.



All Youth Bowl A Thon

Our annual All Youth Bowl A Thon will be held on Sunday afternoon, January 8. Please watch for more information in bulletin inserts in late December and the January newsletter.

Chili Cook-off

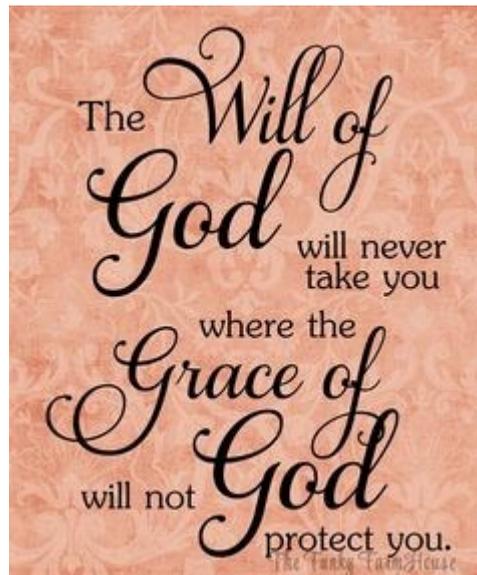
Fellowship and Family Life's Annual Chili Cook-off will be held on Saturday, January 28. More details will be in the January *Messenger*.

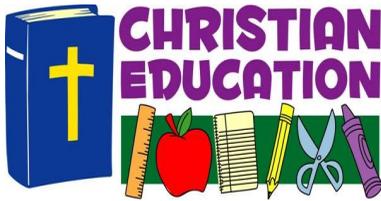
Upcoming COMMUNITY EVENTS

Miami Valley Symphony Orchestra

Church member Kelly Ronyak invites you to the free MVSO Holiday Concert at Dayton Masonic Center on Saturday, December 10 at 2:00 and 7:00 p.m. The holiday concert will feature dancers from the Gem City Ballet Company and local vocal soloists. Upcoming MVSO concerts in 2017:

- Sunday February 26, 2017 at 3:00 p.m. — Beethoven Emperor Piano Concerto, Mozart Cosi fan tutti Overture and Mozart Symphony No. 40
- Sunday April 30, 2017 at 3:00 p.m. — *Invitation to the Dance* concert featuring orchestral works written for or inspired by dance from Weber, Saint-Saens, Dvorak, Ponchielli, and Liszt.





Covenant Bible Study

Pastor Doug Dean's Covenant Bible Study class will take a break during December. They will resume their Monday evening classes (at 7:00 in the conference room) on January 9. Covenant is an in-depth group bible study in which participants read and discuss the Bible together, learning how to love God, and each other, better.

Tuesday Bible Study

The Tuesday morning Bible study continues their study of *Paul for Everyone*. In December, the class will meet only on the 6th at the Springboro Library Community Room. On December 13, they will have a pot luck meal at Jacque Pickett's home.

Cornerstone Class

The Cornerstone Class meets in the music room on Sunday mornings at 9:15. During the month of December, Barbara Geiger will lead the class in a three week Advent study based on Max Lucado's book, *Because of Bethlehem* with the theme "Love is Born! Hope is Here!" The class will not meet Sunday, December 25 and January 1. For more information on the class, please contact Barb Geiger.

Holy Java

The Holy Java Sunday School began a five week study of *Sent* by Jorge Acevelo on November 13. This Advent study will challenge us to discover what it means to be Christ's

hands, feet, head and heart. The class will not meet on November 27, December 25 and January 1. For more information on the Holy Java class, please contact Maria Dershem.

The class meets at 9:15 on Sunday mornings in the Conference Room.

Children's Sunday School Schedule

The Children's Ministry will have Sunday School classes on November 27. However, there will not be classes on December 25 and January 1.



Children's Christmas Eve Program "Dude, You Hear What I Hear"

Our annual Christmas Eve program is in the works... please let us know if you are willing and able to help in any way with the set, scripts, practices, songs, etc. We need a special team for this special service!

December practice schedule:

- Every Sunday during second service, 10:30—11:45
- Wednesday, December 7, 6:30—8:00
- Wednesday, December 14, 6:30—8:00
- Wednesday, December 21, 6:30—8:00
- Friday, December 23, 10:00—12:00—

Dress rehearsal followed by pizza lunch
Contact Kim Crosen at 748-2612 for more information.



Bright Beginnings Christian Preschool

In December, the children will focus on the first Christmas, the legend of St. Nicholas, and the Christian symbols of Christmas. We will have musical performances on Monday, December 5 at 6:00 and 7:00 and Tuesday, December 6 at 6:00 and 7:00. Plan on joining us! The children will also enjoy class room parties before breaking for Christmas. The preschool follows the Springboro school schedule and will enjoy their last day before the holidays on December 20 with classes resuming on January 4.

A.C.E.—After-school Christian Enrichment

Our A.C.E. students are really enjoying our new morning worship program called GPS (for Grow Pray Serve). During this time, the children talk about the Fruit of the Spirit,

their monthly Bible verse and watch short videos on character development. They also talk about their mission projects and fun facts about the country they are visiting. Finally they fill the Sanctuary with fun songs most mornings! In December, the students are participating in the Christmas stocking collection for UMCH Family Services and local food pantries. In addition, they will learn about Switzerland and Christmas traditions around the world. If you would like to know more about our A.C.E. program please contact Kim at 748-2612.

2016 **BEST of**
Dayton

Congratulations Bright Beginnings Christian Preschool!

Bright Beginnings was just recognized as one of the three best preschools in Dayton by The Dayton Magazine. They participated in a November 17 event at Dayton Convention Center that spotlighted the best of Dayton for a variety of businesses. Attendees had an opportunity to vote between the top three organizations in each category to pick The Best of Dayton. The magazine will publish the list of winners in their February issue which will be on newsstands in mid-January. Please join us in wishing Kim Crosen and all the Bright Beginnings staff a well earned congratulations!





Kids Who Care: K—2nd grades
God Squad: 3 & 4th grades
Contact: Kim Crosen
kimfumc@gmail.com, 937-748-2612

Kids Who Care

We hope you can join us for our upcoming Christmas event on Sunday, December 4. We will have a “Happy Birthday Jesus Party” to celebrate Jesus' birth! Kids Who Care should plan on meeting at church at 2:00. We will have an old fashion birthday party for Jesus! Please let Kim know if you have any questions or would like to help with any of the activities.

God Squad

Join us for our upcoming Christmas event on Sunday, December 11. We will have pizza then go caroling and make a joyful noise for all to hear! Please meet at the church at 5:30 for pizza and voice prep. Afterwards, we will head out for some Christmas caroling followed up with a hot chocolate bar! We should be done about 7:30. If you have any questions or need additional information please contact Kim.



Mission 56: 5th & 6th grades
Jammers: 7th & 8th grades-
Cain.kirby@gmail.com, 937-684-1097

Mission 56 & Junior High Youth & Parents,

This busy school year has moved quickly and looking back I'm wondering, “Have we given God the time he deserves in this busy life of ours?” I know that I struggle with that and must set aside time to refocus my life. December should be a time of reflection as to what is really important. So, as we celebrate the birth of Christ this month, may we be reminded of what our number one priority should be and make Jesus #1 in our lives.

Yours in Christ,
 Kirby

December Weekly Activities

- **Sunday Night Youth Group:** Wrapping and Christmas Parties, see details on next page.
- **Every Thursday – LIFT (Grades 6 - 8):** LIFT (Living in Faith Together) meets after school until 3:30 p.m. at Springboro Junior High.
- **Every Wednesday Morning - PAW (Prayer & Worship) - Springboro Intermediate & Junior High:** 6th, 7th and 8th graders have the opportunity to gather with Christian Youth at their school for a time of prayer and worship from 6:45 - 7:20 a.m. Milk and donuts provided.

December Special Events

- **Sunday, December 4 – "Church, Lunch & Fellowship" (Grades 5 – 8):** 10:35 a.m. Sunday morning service, lunch and giving tree shopping. Pick-up will be around 3:00 p.m. One parent volunteer needed to assist with lunch and fellowship time.
- **Tuesday, December 6 – Hope House Mission: Center for Women and Children:** Provide dinner and games or crafts for the women and children of Hope House in Middletown from 5:00 - 6:45 p.m. **Please RSVP if you plan on joining us.**
- **Friday, December 9 – "Kim's Movie Night", 5:30 – 9:30 p.m.:** 16 youth needed to help with this event. **Look for a future e-mail explaining how to sign-up.**
- **Sunday, December 11 – Youth Wrapping Party (JH & SH Youth):** Youth are asked to help wrap gifts being presented to the children on the Giving Tree. 6:00 – 8:00 p.m.
- **Wednesday, December 14 – Lunch with Kirby at Springboro Intermediate:** Kirby will provide pizza, chips, drinks, and dessert. Bring \$1 for Faisha.
- **Thursday, December 15 – Lunch with Kirby at Springboro Junior High:** Kirby will provide pizza, chips, drinks, and dessert. Bring \$1 for Faisha.
- **Saturday, December 17 – Mission 56 Christmas Party:** Join Kirby for the 5:30 p.m. Saturday service. Pizza, fun, games and fellowship after service. Pick up will be at 9:00 p.m.
- **Sunday, December 18 – Traveler's Christmas Eve Service & Youth Group:** Join Kirby for the Traveler's Christmas Eve Service followed by our annual Youth Christmas Party. **Look for a future e-mail with more details.**



Senior High Youth: 9th—12 Grades

Contact: Brian Schlise

Brianschlise@habeggercorp.com

937-748-9711

Our senior high youth will have regular Sunday evening meetings on December 4, 11 and 18. On the 11th, we will help wrap the gifts donated for the Giving Tree. And on the 18th, we will hold our Christmas party. Please bring an appetizer or dessert to share and a wrapped white elephant gift for a fun exchange.





Volunteer Opportunities

Please contact Rebecca in the church office (748-2612 or rebeccafumc@gmail.com), unless otherwise noted, if you are interested in any of these volunteer opportunities.

- **Kroger Community Rewards Program:** Please register our church as your Kroger Plus Community Rewards recipient
 - * Sign in (if already a member) or create an account (select “Register” in the upper right corner) at Kroger.com
 - * Once logged in, go to “Community” then “Community Rewards”.
 - * Our group number is 83759 or type in Springboro First United Methodist Church
 - * Select bubble next to our church
 - * Hit enroll (will automatically update if you are already enrolled)
 - * Follow prompts.

Through the program, the church earns a quarterly check based on purchases by Kroger Rewards customers. There is no cost to you to participate in the program. **Money earned through the program goes to our First Steps Campaign.** Questions, please contact Mariel Pesavento as 513-855-4243.
- **Prayer Shawl Ministry:** Are you a crotchetier or knitter? If so, would you like to make a prayer shawl for a special friend or member of our church experiencing a difficult time in their life? It is a most rewarding ministry to let members know how much you care and share in their unhappy or happy moments. The finished shawls will be blessed. If interested, contact Sonia Dermis at 937-550-9412.
- **Dorothy Lane Market Good Neighbor Program:** Our church is part of the Dorothy Lane Market Good Neighbor program. This program allows us to earn money based on your spending at DLM. All you have to do is complete a Good Neighbor Form and designate our church. We are listed as First United Methodist Church – Springboro and our program ID is 815. You can find the forms in any DLM stores or online at: www.dorothylane.com/clubdml/goodneighbor.pl.
- **Loaves and Fishes Ministry:** Our church is blessed to have a Loaves and Fishes Ministry which provides meals for church members after birth of children, in times of serious illness or at other critical family times. The group is in need of some additional volunteers to make and/or deliver meals. If you are interested in helping or would like more information, please contact Tina Yeamans .
- **Fellowship Hosting:** The Fellowship Committee is looking for volunteers who want to help us with just one or two events per year (e.g. Chili Cook-off, Rally Day, etc.). If interested, please contact Rebecca in the church office.

Continued on next page

Volunteer Opportunities Continued

Volunteer Opportunities Continued

- **Cookies:** If you are interested in providing treats for fellowship time between the services, there is a sign-up sheet on the fellowship table or you can go online at www.signupgenius.com/go/60b054aaaaf2ba46-fellowship. The treat does not need to be homemade nor does it have to be cookies—donuts, muffins, cupcakes, etc. are also welcome. We also appreciate the weekly donations being made to help off-set our expenses.
- **Wonderful Wednesday Meals:** We are in need of people to provide the main dish and clean up the kitchen for the next session of Wonderful Wednesday, which runs from January 18 through April 5. Funds are available for reimbursement of expenses. Please contact the church office with any questions. To sign up, please see the “Church Needs” link in Pastor Amy’s weekly e-mail update.



Medical Driver Ministry

If you find you need someone to drive you to and/or from a medical appointment, our church offers a Medical Driver Ministry. This ministry is a free gift of love to members and friends with no charge or fee. We look forward to providing medical transportation whenever and wherever needed. To schedule a medical driver, please contact Harold Masteller ..

Senior Volunteers Needed

Warren County Community Services has multiple opportunities for volunteers age 55 and older through their RSVP Volunteer Program. These include working with:

- Warren County Genealogical Society,
- AARP Tax-Aide Program,
- Hospice of Butler and Warren Counties,
- Warren County Head Start,
- Warren County Adult New Readers program,
- Lifespan Guardian Friendly Visitor program,
- and at several local schools.

If you are interested in any of these opportunities, please contact the RSVP Volunteer Program at 513-695-2252.





Personal Thank You's

From Bev Thomas

Thank you to Harold and Pat Masteller and all volunteer medical drivers. Thank you all for taking me safely to and from so many doctors' visits over the past three years. You provide such a great service! May God bless you all!

Thank you for all of the cards, prayers, visits and food since I fell and broke my arm and shoulder. Please keep praying for healing so I won't have to have shoulder replacement! I miss my church family.

Dear WIF! Thank you for the delicious loaf of pumpkin bread you baked. Retta, your beautiful autumn bow and decorations on the top were lovely.

Love, Bev Thomas

Pancake Dinner and Breakfast

Thank you to everyone who supported our Youth Group's pancake dinner and breakfast. And thank you to the youth of our church for providing us with an excellent meal!

Listening Circles

Thank you to all who hosted and attended a Listening Circle. I found them very informative.

- Pastor Amy

Church Bazaar and Luncheon

Many thanks to everyone who helped with our Christmas Bazaar this year. It was a great opportunity to show our community the spirit of giving that lives in our church and to raise funds for Women In Faith's missions for the coming year.

Franklin Food Pantry

Dear Friends,

Your generous donations to the Franklin Area Community Services (FACS) on October 3, 2016 of food and on October 27, 2016 of pumpkins are greatly appreciated. It will help us to continue providing assistance to our clients with their basic human needs.

We serve needy families and individuals who live in the Franklin, Carlisle and Springboro areas. Our work can continue only with the support of generous people and groups who respond to the needs of others by providing the FACS food, funds, time and goods. As well as providing interim assistance we guide the needy to agencies, which can provide longer-term solutions.

We are an organization of volunteers attempting to ease some of the constant worry of our neighbors. For more information please visit our website at www.facswarren.org.

Thank you for your continued support.

Sincerely
Anne S. Langsdale

Celebrating a December Birthday

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1: Ashley Bernatz | 18: Emmy Shetterly Sibert, Chris Kozak |
| 4: Gary Kline, Bill Wenzel | 19: Adam Thomas |
| 6: John Stalcup, Timothy Haines | 20: Marjorie Coyle |
| 8: Mark Bernatz | 22: Lucille Delaney |
| 9: Cindy Kline | 23: Edwin Jones |
| 10: Rachel Haines | 26: George Walling, Jim Scott
Christopher Bernatz |
| 11: Ryan Pesavento | 28: Vicki Kuhn, Steven Stalcup |
| 13: Nathan Haines | 29: Joyce Pence |
| 14: Suzanne Allen, Lillian Preston,
Bob Arndt, Martha Rutherford | 30: Nancy Siudzinski |
| 16: Adam Stafford, Bill Wimmer | 31: Michael Todd |

Celebrating a December Anniversary

- | | |
|--------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 4: Dick & Marjorie Coyle | 19: Todd & Lynda Smith |
| 5: Steve & Leslie Haines | 28: Mark & Jennifer Smith |
| 7: David & Carol Finney | 31: Amanda & Jeremy Hansman |
| 18: Ed & Vicki Kuhn | |

*If we have missed your birthday or anniversary,
please let the church office know so we can add you to our list.*

December Volunteers

	Liturgists	Acolytes	Cookies	Altar Flowers
Dec. 4	Belinda Mallett Jane Gregg	Wade Shellhause Timothy Haines	Open	Liz Fielder
Dec. 11	Amber Stull Mike Hampton	Leah Shellhause Faith Hampton	Cornerstone Class	Marjorie Poff
Dec. 18	Susan Raihala Joy Mindling	Gracieann Ruskaup Open	Open	Christmas Poinsettias
Dec. 25 (10:35 only)	Belinda Mallett	Timothy Haines	Open	Christmas Poinsettias



FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
60 EAST NORTH STREET
SPRINGBORO, OH 45066

NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION
POSTAGE PAID
SPRINGBORO, OH 45066
PERMIT NO. 13

Address service requested

Time Dated Material

First United Methodist Church of Springboro

"Keeping First Things First!"

"But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness and all these things will be given to you as well."

Matthew 6:33

