



First United Methodist Church of Springboro

# The Messenger

December 2018



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.

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60 East North Street  
Springboro, OH 45066  
937-748-2612

fumcofspringboro.org  
fumcspringboro@gmail.com

Office Hours:  
Monday—Friday  
8:00—1:00

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**A word from Pastor Amy....****Promises Fulfilled**

Which do you like better—history or math?

My husband would definitely say math. For me, it is history.

This served me well in college when certain history classes counted toward my religion minor. I was not so much into the memorization of dates as I was into the stories of history. I was fascinated with the Civil War and the Middle Ages. What I was not as fascinated with was the history of the Old Testament Scriptures. My eyes began to glaze over at the details of the Temple, or the constant litany of kings, or the doom and gloom of the prophets.

Not until I taught Disciple Bible Study Year 3, which covered the Old Testament Prophets as well as the letters of Paul, did I begin to come to realize and appreciate the overall themes of those Scriptures. Disciple Year 3 is aptly named: *“Remember Who You Are.”* The Old Testament is a constant reminder that we are God’s people, and that God still loves us even when we cycle constantly through sin-repentance-faithfulness-sin. The Old Testament is a rich history of being shaped and formed into God’s people, and the struggles of truly living as community.

These themes continue into the New Testament, when we are shaped and formed, forgiven and renewed as God’s people through the life, death and resurrection of God’s Son Jesus. Jesus was the fulfillment of the promises of God for the people of God!

This Advent/Christmas season, I invite you to ponder with me how components of the classic Christmas story are really the fulfillment of God’s promises in the Old Testament Scriptures. John the Baptist—Bethlehem—a child born to a virgin—the coming of the Magi; all are prophecies fulfilled!

May we celebrate God’s promises as we celebrate the birth of Jesus. And may we remember who and whose we are, God’s beloved who have been offered the gift of a Savior, through a baby born in Bethlehem. May we sing and rejoice this Christmas, sharing such good news!

Merry Christmas!





### **Worship In December**

December 1  
Hanging of the Greens

December 2  
"A Righteous Branch"  
Jeremiah 33:14-16

December 8/9  
"God's Messenger"  
Malachi 3:1-4, Luke 3:1-6

December 15/16  
Christmas Choir Cantata  
"Sing and Rejoice"  
Zephaniah 3:14-20

December 16  
5:00 p.m. Travelers Service

December 22/23  
"From the Little Ones"  
Micah 5:2-5, Luke 1:39-55

Christmas Eve Services  
4:30 p.m. Children's Program  
7:30 p.m. Candlelight Service with Choir  
10:30 p.m. Candlelight Service  
with Communion

December 30  
One Service at 10:00 a.m.  
"Simeon and Anna's Story"  
Luke 2:22-40  
Jack Hott preaching



### **Doings**

- 1: Breakfast with Santa/Holiday House
- 1: Hanging of the Greens
- 2: 5th—8th Church, Lunch, Fellowship
- 3: Prayer Team
- 3: Bright Beginnings Christmas Program
- 4: Bright Beginnings Christmas Program
- 5: Choirs/Christmas Play Practice
- 8: Women in Faith
- 9: Giving Tree Gifts Due
- 9: Kids Who Care
- 9: God Squad
- 10: Prayer Team
- 11: Tuesday Bible Study
- 11: Stephen Ministers
- 11: Women in Faith Bible Study
- 12: Clearcreakers Senior Group
- 12: Choirs/Christmas Play Practice
- 13: Newsletter Folding
- 14: Movie Night
- 15/16: Christmas Cantata Services
- 15: Mission 56 and JH Christmas Party
- 16: Travelers Christmas Service (5:00)
- 17: Prayer Team
- 18: Tuesday Bible Study Party
- 19: Choirs/Christmas Play Practice
- 23: Christmas Play Dress Rehearsal
- 24: Christmas Eve Services
  - 4:30 Children's Christmas Play
  - 7:30 Candlelight with Choir
  - 10:30 Candlelight with Communion
- 23—30: Interfaith Hospitality Hosting
- 30: One service at 10:00

### *Lay Leader Report*

A new church year will begin in December, on December 1 as we enter Advent. The church calendar begins with the announcement and preparation to receive the Christ Child. This is as life should be – we need to announce and prepare to receive Jesus.

There is so much excitement in December as we approach Christmas Day. Yet, my heart is open to those who will no doubt struggle as mourners face a first or second Christmas without that special someone who passed away earlier. Let us all be warm, gracious and loving to those who mourn.

December always has that one special signal for me – I cannot resist Salvation Army Bell Ringers. Many years ago, we were recruited by the Salvation Army to provide bell ringers for area Salvation Army donation pots. I remember many hours out in the cold, ringing the bell, along with my friend Keith McAfee. We shivered and rang, rang and shivered. It was so good to have those times with Keith. To this day, I will not walk past any of these pots unless I first make a donation. It is always good to be generous, but especially so as we announce and prepare to receive Jesus.

Of course if I mention a special day and someone in December, I must include, Friday, December 7, our 44<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary. I look so much older today than I did in 1974. Incredibly, Carol looks the same. I know that I am a very blessed man, thank you, sweetheart.

As we move through the beginning of the Christian new year, may we make this a year of being intentional in our service, in our giving and most of all, in our witness. Shout it from the mountain tops – Jesus Christ is born and is alive in the hearts of the good people of FUMC.

Merry Christmas to all!

David Finney

### **United Methodist Men**

The men of the church have begun meeting once per month, on the first Sunday of the month at 8:00 for study, prayer, fellowship and coffee. This includes **December 2** and **January 6, 2019**. It will be during these times together that we will discuss our next service project. Please join us!

Our November service project was outstanding, both in terms of satisfaction for our guys, but most especially for those whom we served. On November 4, we prepared and served lunch to worshippers and church neighbors at The Gathering, in downtown Middletown. We served over 40 people that day. Gregg Clark smoked pork tenderloin and we collectively cooked the other items on our lunch menu. Mike Zimmerman, Kelly Smith, Bill Hammett, Jack Hott, Doug Dean and David Finney participated. The Middletown people were lavish in their praise for our cooking. This was an outstanding event, one that we will repeat as we move into 2019.



### ***Stewardship Giving***

Thank you to each of you who have thoughtfully considered your contribution to the church for 2019 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.

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.

### ***The Book Fair is Coming!***

We invite you to stop by the Book Fair at Bright Beginnings Christian Preschool on **Monday December 3 through Friday, December 7** (8:30 –9:30, 11:30—1:30 and 3:30 –4:00) and **Saturday, December 1** (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 Kerri in the church office know.



### ***2019 Flower Calendar***

We thank everyone for their support in providing Sanctuary flowers each week. **The flower calendar for 2019 is now available for sign-ups.** It is located 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.



### *New Church Pictorial Directory*

It's that time again! Can you believe it's been almost five years since we finished the last church directory? We will be working with LifeTouch again and have identified times and dates at the beginning and end of January. We specifically chose the beginning of January so those families with college students can take advantage of the family portrait opportunity before they head back to school.

#### **Picture days will be:**

- **January 3 and 4 from 2 p.m. - 9 p.m.**
- **January 5 from 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.**
- **January 23 and 24 from 2 p.m. - 9 p.m.**

We would love to have all church members and active constituents be a part of our directory. What a great way to add faces to names of those you worship and serve beside! If you attend regularly we would love to have you participate and be in our directory.

Also -- please invite your friends and family to have professional family portraits taken. Everyone receives a free 8x10 - and there is no obligation to purchase additional photos. Senior Citizens, Military, and First Responders (active and veteran) receive a 20% discount on all purchases, everyone receives a \$10.00 off coupon, and if you bring a canned food item for the food pantry on the day of your appointment, you receive an additional \$5.00 off coupon -- and they are stackable!

Strong participation is key to a successful and helpful directory. You can schedule your appointment at <https://booknow-lifetouch.appointment-plus.com/yitirrqe/> or, if you don't have access to internet or have an e-mail address, please contact Stephanie Bindemann (937-307-4587) for assistance with scheduling. There is also a link to the scheduling site on our website under Events. We will also be available to assist with sign up in between services



If you have had a change to your address, phone number or email, please contact Kerri in the church office, so we can update your information. This is always important, but especially so as we work toward creating a new directory!

### ***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 2019 have been ordered and will be available in Fellowship Hall in mid-December.
- **Statements:** Statements will be mailed or emailed 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 <https://giving.ncsservices.org/fumcofspringboro>. If you have any questions, please contact Tracy Stull (Finance Secretary).



### ***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.



### ***Church Office Closed***

The church office will be closed December 25 thru Tuesday, January 1. Please let us know by mid-December if you need to be in the church building during that time so we can make arrangements.





### Stephen Ministry's Annual Blue Christmas

Fear not.

The angel announces this common advice to the shepherds in the night. This announcement is just one of many times the Bible tells us to fear not. God's got our backs...and fronts, sides, above, and below. Hark! God loves us so much He became one of us, lived among us, died as one of us, and then opened heaven for us with the promise of eternal life with Him.

Yet this message of hope and salvation and safety gets lost in the difficulties of life, and we forget. Loved ones pass or fall victim to disease, we lose our job...or our marriage...or our health...or our faith.

Christmas has a way of making the fear worse by contrast. Everyone else is happily buying presents, decking the halls, baking, partying, and being of good cheer. But sometimes we just can't muster the energy, the enthusiasm, the faith to believe that a dark night two thousand years ago brought us a Savior who is always with us, always loving us no matter how dark our own night gets.

Christ appears to each of us differently.

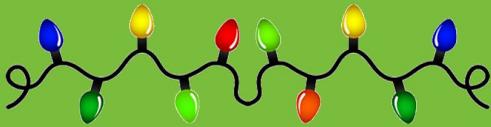
Perhaps He's a neighbor who brings you cookies unexpectedly. Perhaps He's a check-out clerk who smiles and lifts your heart. Perhaps He's a friend who invites you to coffee and really listens to whatever fear and suffering you are going through...even when the cheerful holiday carols are playing in the background of the coffee shop.

Perhaps He's a Stephen Minister who will walk with you through the dark night, no matter how long it lasts.

Let's all be that face of Christ to those who need to hear the angel's message this season. Fear not. Emmanuel. God is with us.

Stephen Ministers will be handing out special beaded bookmark/ornaments this Advent. We want to thank Kim Perry for designing them and helping us make them. May the angels on these gifts remind you of the Christmas message and inspire you to reach out to those who need to feel Christ's love and support this holiday season. And if you are having a hard time fearing not, please speak with a Stephen Minister or Pastor Amy. We would love to help.

## DECEMBER EVENTS



### ***Church Groups Meetings/Schedules***

#### ***Women In Faith***

Women in Faith will be meeting on the **second Saturday, December 8 at 9 am in Fellowship Hall**. Please note the date change: the reason for the change is the pre-school is having their Breakfast with Santa on December 1<sup>st</sup>.

We have a busy and fun morning planned for you.

- A short business meeting discussing the results of the Bazaar
- A slide program by Joyce Pence. We asked Joyce Pence, who has taken two very diverse trips in the past couple of months, one four-wheeling in Wyoming and the other a tour of Israel where she walked the same paths our Savior Jesus traveled, to share her experiences with us. She has agreed to do this and after some of us talking with her and hearing about her travels we know you will enjoy what she has to share.
- Assemble fruit baskets for delivery to our "Friendship Circle" to wish them a Merry Christmas. We need many hands to do this so don't forget the date!
- And as always great fellowship, refreshments and Barb Mills has planned one of her famous Christmas trivia for us.

Welcome to our new members: we hope you have enjoyed our meetings; we have enjoyed getting to know you. You all have really pitched in with the peanut brittle, buckeyes and all things bazaar. We look forward to seeing you on December 8.

One last note: WIF wants to thank our church community for all the support you have given us in making our Christmas in Springboro a success. It takes a whole church community for this to happen and as always you all came to our aide.

If you would like any information on the group, please contact Judy Cook .

#### ***Clearcreakers Senior Group***

The "Clearcreakers" will be meeting one week early -**December 12th**- for our "Christmas" meeting.

Honey Baked Ham will be furnished for our meal - please bring a Hot Casserole, Salad, or Dessert.

The SHS Jazz Choir will be performing for us with a wonderful Program as usual. Please sign-up for this meeting so we know how much Ham to order. If you haven't signed up call Vivian or Mary Jane to get your name on the list. Also remember to bring you own Eating and Serving Utensils.

NOTE: We follow the same closings for inclement weather as the schools.



Celebrate the True



Spirit of  
Christmas

birth with a  
candlelight

### Celebrate through worship...

#### ***Hanging of the Greens***

The Annual Hanging of the Greens will be on **December 1 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; soup will be provided. 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 15 and Sunday, December 16.** 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 16,** we will offer a Traveler's Christmas Candlelight Service. All are welcome to join us as we celebrate Jesus'

#### ***Christmas Eve Services***

- 4:30 p.m. Children's Christmas Play—  
"Angel In A Baseball Cap"
- 7:30 p.m. Candlelight with Choir
- 10:00 p.m. Candlelight with Communion

#### ***Christmas Week Service***

We will have one Sunday worship service on **December 30 at 10:00 a.m.** There will not be any Sunday School classes offered that day.

### 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 25 and at Saturday evening services on November 24. Each poinsettia is \$10 with payment made when your order is placed. **Deadline for ordering is noon on December 3.** Poinsettias can be ordered in memory or in honor of a loved one and come in red and white.

## Celebrate through service ...

### *Interfaith Hospitality Network*

The Interfaith Hospitality Network families will be with us **December 23-30**. Please consider giving the gift of your time in preparing meals or doing activities with the children or being an overnight host or hostess. To sign up, please go to <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/60B054AAAAF2BA46-interfaith12> Please reach out to Jennifer Fry if you have any questions!

## 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, please consider how much you will spend on Christmas this year. Some have felt 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.

### *The Giving Tree*

The Giving Tree will be in the Narthex beginning November 18! 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.

**Please bring the gifts to church by Sunday, December 9.**



### Celebrate through giving...

#### ***Giving Tuesday***

On November 27, 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.umcmision.org/Give-to-Mission/About-the-Advance/About-The-Advance>.

#### ***Five on the Fifth***

December 30 is the fifth Sunday of the month. Please consider including a \$5.00 donation to United Methodist Family Services. Your donations support children in need through adoption services, treatment foster care, and mental health services.



### Celebrate through fun...

#### ***Breakfast With Santa and Holiday House***

Saturday, December 1 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 "Winter Wonderland" theme. For reservations please call Kim or Ida at 748-2612.



### **Movie Night**

The next Movie Night will be on **Friday, December 14**. 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 already 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.



### **All Youth Bowl A Thon**

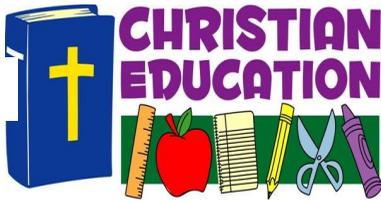
Our annual All Youth Bowl A Thon will be held on Sunday afternoon, January 13. Please watch for more information in bulletin inserts in late December and the January newsletter.



### **Miami Valley Symphony Orchestra**

**Holiday Concert** on Sunday, December 16 at 3 p.m. and 7 p.m. at the Dayton Masonic Center. The MVSO returns to the Dayton Masonic Center with two FREE holiday performances. This family-friendly show will include many holiday favorites. Dancers from Gem City Ballet return this year with the fairy tale portion on Sleeping Beauty Ballet. Our vocalist this year is an outstanding talent—Christopher Diaz. Don't miss this special, free holiday event!





### ***Tuesday Bible Study***

The Tuesday morning Bible study will continue their study of *Jude* in December. They will meet on December 11 and December 18 at 10:00 a.m. at the Springboro Library.

### ***Cornerstone Class***

The Cornerstone Class meets in the music room on Sunday mornings at 9:15. During the month of December, Bev Haun will lead the class. For more information on the class, please contact Barb Geiger.

### ***Holy Java***

Holy Java started an Advent Study Faithful by Adam Hamilton, examining Christmas through the eyes of Joseph. Absent from much of the biblical narrative, Joseph never spoke a word, but his courageous actions were crucial to the birth of Christ and God's salvation plan for humanity.

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.

### ***WIF Bible Study***

The Women in Faith Bible Study continue their study of *Parables from the Backside, Volume 2* by J. Ellsworth Kalas. They meet on the second Tuesday of each month in the Conference room at 7:00 p.m. All women in the church are invited to join the study.

### ***Sunday School Schedule***

There will be no Sunday School classes on December 30.

### ***Children's Christmas Eve Program***

Our annual Children's Christmas 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 after Children's Moment. On December 2 there will not be practice. Instead the children will "showcase" a number during both church services.
- Wednesday, December 5, 6:30—8:00
- Wednesday, December 12, 6:30—8:00
- Wednesday, December 19, 6:30—8:00
- Sunday December 23, 12:00—2:30—  
Dress rehearsal followed by lunch
- Monday, December 24, be at church by 4:00

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 3 at 6:00 and 7:00 and Tuesday, December 4 at 6:00 and 7:00. Plan on joining us! The children will also enjoy classroom parties before breaking for Christmas. The preschool follows the Springboro school schedule and will enjoy their last day before the holidays on December 21 with classes resuming on January 3.

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

Our A.C.E. students are really enjoying our 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. Finally they fill the Sanctuary with fun songs! 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 Christmas traditions around the world. If you would like to know more about our A.C.E. program please contact Kim at 937-748-2612.



### ***Congratulations Bright Beginnings Christian Preschool!***

For the third year, Bright Beginnings was recognized as one of the three best preschools in Dayton by *The Dayton Magazine*. They participated in a November 1 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**



**Mission 56: 5th & 6th grades**  
**Jammers: 7th & 8th 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 9**. We will have an old fashioned “Happy Birthday Jesus Party” to celebrate Jesus' birth! Kids Who Care should plan on meeting at church at 12:00 for lunch and party. Bring lunch items to share, a gift of diapers, baby food, etc. and a baby picture of yourself (but don't show anyone!). 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 9**. We will have pizza then go caroling and make a joyful noise for all to hear! Please meet at the church at 5:30 p.m. 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 & Junior High Youth & Parents,** Looking forward to celebrating the birth of Christ with you and our FUMC family this month.

**Here are the activities planned for the month of December:**

### **Weekly Activities**

- **Every Friday – 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 & worship from 6:45 - 7:20 a.m.



**Senior High Youth: 9th—12 Grades**

**Contact: Brian Schlise**

**[Brianschlise@habeggercorp.com](mailto:Brianschlise@habeggercorp.com)**

**937-748-9711**

### December Special Events

- **Saturday, December 1—"Hanging of the Greens" 5:30 p.m.:** Confirmants will assist with worship. All are welcome for worship, a meal, and decorating the church for Christmas.
- **Sunday, December 2 – "Church, Lunch & Fellowship" (Grades 5 – 8):** 10:35 a.m. Sunday morning service, lunch and Fellowship. Pick-up will be around 3:00 p.m. One parent volunteer needed to assist with lunch and fellowship time.
- **Friday, December 14 – "Children's Movie Night", 5:30 – 9:30 pm:** 16 youth needed to help with this event. **Look for a future email explaining how to sign-up.**
- **Saturday, December 15 – Mission 56/ Junior High Christmas Party and white elephant gift exchange:** Join together for the 5:30 p.m. Saturday evening service. Pizza, white elephant gift exchange and Christmas party after service. Pick up at 9:00 p.m.

Senior high youth group will be going to a winter retreat to Pike Lake State Park December 28-30. Enjoy friends, nature and explore your faith in a deeper manner on a retreat. Sign up with Brian no later than December 22.





### ***Volunteer Opportunities***

Please contact Kerri in the church office (748-2612 or [fumcspringboro@gmail.com](mailto:fumcspringboro@gmail.com)), unless otherwise noted, if you are interested in any of these volunteer opportunities.

- **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.

- **Loaves and Fishes Ministry:** Our church is blessed to have this ministry which provides meals for church members after birth of children, in times of serious illness or at other critical family times. *We are in need of a new coordinator. Please contact Pastor Amy if interested.*

- **Kroger Community Rewards Program:**

Through the program, we earn a quarterly check based on your purchases at no cost to you. Please register our church as your Kroger recipient. Questions, please contact Mariel Pesavento.

- **Dorothy Lane Market Good Neighbor Program:** This program allows the church to earn money based on your spending at DLM. Just 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](http://www.dorothyLane.com/clubdml/goodneighbor.pl).

- **Cookies:** There is a sign-up sheet on the fellowship table or through the Church Needs link in Pastor Amy's weekly e-mail.

For treats for fellowship time between services. Treats do not need to be homemade or be cookies— any treat is welcome. We also appreciate the weekly donations being made to help off-set our expenses.

- **Box Tops for Education/Tyson Labels:**

Our Missions Team continues to collect Box Tops for Red Bird Mission in Kentucky to benefit their schools. They also collect Tyson food labels. There are bins in which to place the box tops and labels located in the black stand across from the music room. If you need more information on the program, please contact Arlene Brown.

- **Otterbein Avalon:**

David Finney leads a group to engage with senior residents of the Otterbein Avalon community every Wednesday. The carpool leaves from church at 1:15 and returns by 3:30. They interact with the Otterbein residents through worship, singing and game time. If you are interested in attending, please let David Finney know (513-727-4395).



## BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA®

### Boy Scout Troop 7 Update

Boy Scout Troop 7 has awarded 2 Boy Scouts with the highest award of Eagle Scout in the past couple of months.

Andrew Wilson's Eagle Scout Court of Honor was held on 9/30. Along with his Eagle Scout Rank, he also was awarded the Bronze and Gold Palms. Andrew's Eagle Project was creating the Springboro Community Garden.

Joseph Bowman's Eagle Scout Court of Honor was held on 11/4. Along with his Eagle Scout Rank, he also was awarded the Bronze Palm. He also received the Giving Servant which is a MCCS Religious Emblem Award. Joseph's Eagle Project was building shelving units in the FUMC garage.

Boy Scout Troop 7 had their Fall Court of Honor on 11/8. Over the past 6 months, there were 146 merit badges earned by various scouts. The following scouts completed their requirements for Rank Advancement.

- David Blumberg — Scout & Tenderfoot
- Adrian Goins -- Scout
- Billy Jamison – Scout
- Sheyas Kode – Scout & Tenderfoot
- Kris Kordenat -- Scout

- Ronnie Mazuk — Scout
- Declan Murphy—Scout
- Owen Robinson -- Scout
- Oliver Buten — Tenderfoot
- Nathan Haines -- Tenderfoot
- Zachary Marsden – Tenderfoot
- Nathan Neumann – Tenderfoot & Second Class
- Nicholas Neumann – Tenderfoot & Second Class
- Lukas Janz – Second Class & First Class
- Ethan Bally – First Class
- William Sander—Star
- Jacob Hams—Life
- Naveen Kamath -- Life
- Kevin Schriml—Life

Along with the scouts achieving these awards, they have been busy camping and exploring. Here are the campouts/trips the scouts have participated in.

- Summit Experience -High Adventure (West Virginia)
- Washington DC trip
- Camp Friedlander Summer Camp (Loveland, OH)
- Via Ferrata Rock Climbing (Red River Gorge –Stanton,KY)
- Woodland Trails -Wilderness Survival (Camden, OH)
- Auxier Ridge Loop - Backpacking (Red River Gorge –Stanton,KY)
- Germantown Metro Park -Conservation service project (Germantown,OH)

Please congratulate any of these scouts you may know on their achievements.





### ***Personal Thank You's***

Thank you for all the prayers, thoughts, cards and visits during my surgery and recovery. Thank you for also for continued prayers during my treatment.

Don Chapman

Dearest friend at Springboro UMC,

Boy did your guys ever raise the lunch bar on Sunday here at the Gathering. That was the best pork I have ever eaten in many years, and I heard many similar comments of deep appreciation.

So thank you so much for such a fresh and healthy post-communion "Communion".

Thanksgiving to all,

Pastor Patty and your friends at The Gathering

### ***Pancake Dinner and Breakfast***

Thank you to everyone who supported our Youth Group's pancake dinner and breakfast. The youth raised the most they have ever raised to be used for their mission trip. And thank you to the youth of our church for providing us with an excellent meal!

### ***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.



### *Celebrating a December Birthday*

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

### *Celebrating a December Anniversary*

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

*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. 2	Open Open	Open Open	Cornerstone Class	Bill and Beth Wenzel
Dec. 9	Belinda Mallett Open	Easton Townsend Timothy Haines	Open	Marjorie Poff
Dec. 16	Choir Choir	Noah Townsend Open	Open	Christmas Poinsettias
Dec. 23	Open Jane Gregg	Easton Townsend Open	Open	Christmas Poinsettias
Dec. 30 (10:00 only)	Belinda Mallett	Noah Townsend	Open	Open



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

**NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION**  
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*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*

