



First United Methodist Church of Springboro

# The Messenger

March 2017



# LENT

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

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***A word from Pastor Amy....***

The late Bishop Reuben Job summarized John Wesley's General Rules for the people called Methodists with these words:

- 1) Do No Harm
- 2) Do Good
- 3) Stay in Love with God

The season of Lent, the 40 days [plus Sundays] that lead up to the celebration of Easter, has traditionally been a time of spiritual preparation whereby people give something up as a way to remember Jesus' suffering, or take on something new as a renewed commitment to the journey of faith.

This Lenten season, I want to invite you to focus on Wesley's third rule: **Stay in Love with God**, as a way of renewing your commitment to Christ. Consider what spiritual disciplines you already practice to nurture your faith life. Might there be another discipline that God is calling you to try for a season?

For Wesley, the primary spiritual disciplines that all Christians should participate in to some degree are public worship, family and private prayer, the ministry of the Word, searching the Scriptures, fasting and the Lord's Supper. What are other spiritual practices that nurture your faith life? They may include a nature walk, Bible study, music, serving in mission or ministry, holy conversations, reading books on the Christian life, or writing in a journal. This list is as diverse as we are unique individuals.

This Lent, what holy practice is God calling you to do? If you enjoy listening to music, consider finding a new CD or new station of hymns or spiritual songs. If you are unable to attend worship as often due to scheduling conflicts, consider setting aside an intentional prayer time during the week. If you realize that you consistently forget your offering, consider online weekly giving as a way to give as a priority, intentionally and consistently. If you spend more time on Facebook than in God's Word, consider not logging on until you have spent time in God's Word.

I write this as many get ready to celebrate Valentine's Day as a way to nurture the romantic relationships in our lives. In what ways are we all called in Lent to nurture our relationship with Jesus? May we each find one holy habit this Lent to help us stay in love with God!

Pastor Amy



### ***Worship In March***

Sermon Series for Lent:

Dare You to Love

March 4/5—Holy Communion

Message: Love Deeper Than Desire

Scripture: Matthew 4:1-11

March 11/12

Message: Love That Flows Through Us

Scripture: John 3:1-17

March 18/19

Message: Love Beyond Boundaries

Scripture: John 4:5-26, 39-42

March 25/26

Message: Love That Lights the Way

Scripture: John 9:1-41

## **March Events**

- 1: Ash Wednesday Supper and Service
- 4: Women in Faith
- 5: God Squad
- 5: 9th—12th Youth Group
- 5: Junior High Movie Event
- 5: *When Helping Hurts* Study
- 6: Prayer Team
- 6: Covenant Bible Study
- 7: 5th—8th Hope House Mission
- 7: Staff Parish Relations Committee
- 8: Otterbein Avalon Visit
- 8: Wonderful Wednesday
- 8: Choir and Bells Practices
- 12: Mission 56 Church, Lunch, Fellowship
- 12: Kids Who Care
- 12: Spaghetti Dinner
- 12: *When Helping Hurts* Study
- 13: Prayer Team
- 13: Covenant Bible Study
- 13: Administrative Council
- 14: Tuesday Bible Study
- 14: Finance Team
- 14: First Steps Committee
- 14: Women in Faith Bible Study
- 14: Stephen Ministers
- 15: Clearcreakers
- 15: Wonderful Wednesday
- 15: Choir and Bells Practices
- 16: Newsletter Folding
- 18: CedarMania Youth Event (7th—12th)
- 19: 9th—12th Youth Group
- 19: *When Helping Hurts* Study
- 20: Prayer Team
- 20: Missions Committee
- 20: Covenant Bible Study
- 21: Tuesday Bible Study
- 21: Trustees
- 22: Parent Connection

*Continued on page 4*

### ***Lay Leader Report***

To begin, I am sorry that I have been absent so much from Sunday morning worship. Carol and I have been able to attend a few times on Saturday night, and she has worshipped on Sunday a few times without me. Through the end of February, I've been out preaching in five different churches, and we were on vacation to the Panama Canal on two other Sundays. So, I have worshipped on Sunday mornings at FUMC only two times in all of 2017.

We really enjoyed cruising through the Gatun Locks in the Panama Canal. The construction of the canal was an engineering and medical feat of accomplishment by the Americans just over 100 years ago. I've read a bit on the French effort to build the canal and their failure contains a profound lesson for us. The French leadership were wrong in so many assumptions and ideas regarding the canal it is little wonder that they squandered hundreds of millions of francs and caused the death of over 20,000 construction workers. Yet, they thought their original plans were valid so they never changed their ways from their original course. The French effort ended in disaster and bankruptcy. Do we do that? Do we blindly stick with a flawed plan without ever considering that there might be a new way?

Jesus offers us a new way. We can turn from our desire to follow our own, inflexible pathway to ruin. Jesus offers us a rich and rewarding life of growth, love and service. Just say yes and be open to God's love and God's plan.

Looking into March, our district will offer training for our laity on March 17-18. On those dates, the district will conduct three distinct classes: the Basic (introduction) class on Lay Servant Ministry, Polity – a class on church structure and human governance, and new class on developing ministries and programs for those of us who are a bit older. This third class on programs for the aging is very promising, we have lined up two local experts on serving the aging. Please consider taking any of the three classes. There are no prerequisites, there is no need to pursue becoming a Lay Servant. Just take a class and learn. Cost for each class is \$30 which includes text book, Friday dinner and Saturday lunch. I will be present at the event, which will be held at nearby Mason UMC. Please see Pastor Amy or myself for more information or registration assistance.

David Finney, Certified Lay Minister

### **March Events Continued from Page 3**

- 22: Otterbein Avalon Visit
- 22: Wonderful Wednesday
- 22: Choir and Bells Practices
- 23: 6th Grade Lunch with Kirby
- 25: Jr. High Church, Dinner, Fellowship
- 26: Mission 56 Movie Event
- 26: *When Helping Hurts* Class
- 27: Prayer Team
- 27: Covenant Bible Study
- 27: United Methodist Men
- 28: Tuesday Bible Study
- 28: Stephen Ministers
- 29: Wonderful Wednesday
- 29: Choir and Bells Practices
- 30: Jr. High Lunch with Kirby

*Details found in this newsletter*



### ***First Steps Campaign Step 1 Achieved!***

Through your faithful giving our church family has paid off the church mortgage in full! The First Steps committee is planning a special mortgage burning service and celebration on April 23 (see page 9).

We encourage continued giving to support Step 2 of the First Steps Campaign which will raise \$50,000 for worship enhancements. We are already on our way, having \$3,278 already donated towards Step 2 (as of February 12). Thank you for your support of our church and its future!

### ***Easter Flowers***

The Flower Committee will take orders for Easter flowers before Saturday evening services on March 11, 18 and 25 and after both services on Sunday, March 12, 19 and 26. The deadline for ordering is April 3. Flowers will be \$10 each (paid when ordered) and can be purchased in memory or honor of someone. Varieties available are hyacinths, lilies, tulips, and daffodils. The hyacinths and tulips will come in assorted colors. The flowers will be used to decorate the altar on Easter morning. They will be provided by Flowers by Roger, Inc. After Easter services, you are welcome to take home and enjoy your flowers.



### **Listening Circles Update From Pastor Amy**

Last fall, I had the opportunity to listen to sixty-three of our church family as they shared their joys and concerns for our congregation. I appreciate their honesty and feedback, and recognize that not everyone who wanted to come was able to do so. While every comment was captured, and that list has been shared with the program staff, below is a summary of the main concepts heard over the seven gatherings. We will continue to refer to your input as the church moves forward with our vision and planning for the future.

*Summary of Listening Circle input found on next page*





*Listening Circles Continued*

**What Does FUMC do well?**

- Share our facility with many different groups, which results in our church being an outreach center (examples include: Scouts, Oak Tree Corner, Al-Anon)
- Children's and youth programs, including VBS
- Bright Beginnings Christian Preschool
- Offer many opportunities for education and involvement for all age groups
- Offer and take part in many mission, volunteer and community service opportunities
- Take care of each other
- Offer a warm welcome
- Music program
- Wonderful staff
- Have a congregation that is involved with church committees and projects

**What is our biggest challenge or opportunity in the next 12-24 months?**

- Space issues
  - Limits class offerings
  - Causes storage problems
  - Balance with preschool
  - Limits church growth
- Understanding the concept of stewardship vs. every project is a fundraiser
- Discussions around endowment fund and end of life giving
- Children/youth attendance at worship services
- Lack of offerings for young adults
- Getting more men active in the church
- Better intentionality in our hospitality, welcome, connection with new people and follow-up care
- Reaching the unchurched in our community

- Increasing our "brand" awareness of our church in the community
- Responding to changes in society

**If you had a magic wand, what would be your mid-size miracle for FUMC?**

- Affording and building more space for worship and classes (many ideas presented as to where to build)
- Better accessibility for handicapped
- Pay off debt (accomplished!)
- Enhance Fellowship Hall for worship overflow
- Offer more Sunday School classes
- Intentional spiritual mentoring/shepherding from older to younger
- Make every new person feel welcome and connected
- Increase involvement in the community/outreach
- Increase "brand" awareness of our church in the community

**How has this church helped you to grow spiritually?**

- Christian education – Sunday School, small groups, Wednesday night
- Children engaged in Sunday School and spiritually led by youth leaders
- Stephen Ministry
- Small groups
- Personal relationships
- Opportunities to serve
- Sermons

MARCH 2017						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

## Church Groups Meetings/Schedules

### Women In Faith

The next meeting of Women in Faith will

be Saturday, March 4 at 9:00 in Fellowship Hall. We will make plans for helping our youth group with the Spaghetti Dinner on Sunday, March 12. Ticket sales for the dinner will be held before and after services on the week-ends of February 18/19, February 25/26 and March 4/5. WIF has been asked to take care of ticket sales and to provide cakes for 150 desserts. As usual, there will be brunch, coffee and tea at the meeting. For information, please call Judy Cook, (Barb Mills or Jean Reazer .

The Women in Faith Bible Study meets the second Tuesday of each month at 7:00 p.m. in the conference room. They continue their study of *Know What You Believe* by Paul E. Little in January. This month's meeting is on March 14. For information on the study, please contact Lorraine Sower..

### Clearcreakers Senior Group

Clearcreakers will meet on March 15 at 11:30 in Fellowship Hall. The program will be Irish Banjo Entertainment by Glenn Parks and lunch is barbeque. Please bring a side dish, salad or dessert to share and remember to bring your own eating utensils. Try to join us for some fun, food, and fellowship. Questions, call: Linda or Martha .

\*We follow same weather closing rules as the Springboro Schools

**Note:** The Clearcreakers meeting on April

19 will be a Hawaiian Luau with music and a hula contest. Feel free to dress accordingly.

### Other Group Meeting Dates

March 7—Staff Parish Relations Comm.

March 13—Administrative Council

March 14—Finance Team

March 14—First Steps Committee

March 14 & 28—Stephen Ministers

March 20—Missions Team

March 21—Trustees



### A Great Way You Can Help a Hurting Friend

Do you have a friend, neighbor, coworker, or relative who has suffered a loss or is going through a difficult time? Here's a great way you can help them—tell them about our Stephen Ministry! Stephen Ministers have received special training to provide high-quality, confidential, one-to-one, Christian care to hurting people. Stephen Ministers meet weekly with their care receivers to listen, care, encourage, and provide emotional and spiritual support. (Males are matched with males, and females are matched with females.) The caring relationship lasts for as long as the person needs care. It's free, and it's a powerful way you can help a hurting friend.

To learn how to connect someone you know with a Stephen Minister, talk with one of our Stephen Ministry Leaders: Zandra Woody or Susan Raihala. *Our Stephen Ministers are there to care!*

## March Events



### **Ash Wednesday Service and Supper**

Ash Wednesday is on March 1. Join us as we mark the beginning of Lent with a service of repentance and the receiving of ashes. We will once again have a joint service with the United Church of Christ in our sanctuary at 7:00 p.m. You are invited to join us at 6:00 p.m. for a supper of beef or chicken and noodles. Please bring a side dish or dessert to share.

### **Wonderful Wednesdays**

Wonderful Wednesdays continue each Wednesday evening with dinner at 6:00, a short time of tableside devotional from 6:45 to 6:55 and then break out study groups for all ages from 7:00 to 8:00. If you are not able to make the dinner, please feel free to come for just the breakout sessions. The third session begin March 8 (Wonderful Wednesday will be replaced with Ash Wednesday service on March 1). Breakout group topics include:

- *The Shack* led by Pastor Doug. See page 10 for a detailed description.
- *Sensing the Passion* led by Pastor Amy. See page 10 for detailed description.
- Kids Club for ages 4 through 4th grade

- Mission 56 (5th—8th grade) and Junior High
- High School (9th –12th grade)
- Choir and Bells Practices
- Nursery for the youngest attendees

We hope you will join us for great food, worship, small groups and fellowship!



Our annual Spaghetti Dinner will be on Sunday, March 12. This joint effort between Women in Faith and the Youth Group will have two seatings, at 5:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m. The three course dinner includes salad, spaghetti and meatballs, bread and dessert. Tickets are \$8 for adults if purchased in advance or \$10 at the door and \$5 for children (whether purchased in advance or at the door). Tickets will be sold on Saturday, February 18 and 25 and March 4 and Sunday, February 19 and 26 and March 5. We encourage advance purchase of tickets to help with planning purposes and to ensure you are able to partake in what is certain to be a great meal! While there will not be a talent show associated with the dinner, there will be entertainment during the meal.



## Upcoming COMMUNITY EVENTS

### ***Interfaith Hospitality Network***

The Interfaith Hospitality Network families will be with us April 9 through April 15. 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 (the easiest job). Please contact Jennifer Fry if you can help out (Jennifer.fry@roadrunner.com). Or you may sign up online at <http://www.signupgenius.com/go/60b054aaaaf2ba46-interfaith7>



### ***Mortgage Burning Celebration***

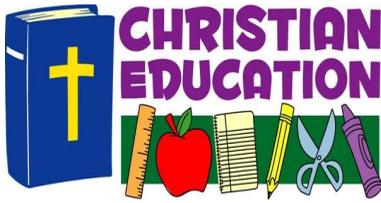
We will hold a special service and mortgage burning celebration on Sunday, April 23. There will only be one service that day at 10:00 a.m. More details will be available in next month's newsletter.

**Miami Valley Symphony Orchestra**  
Kelly Ronyak invites you to upcoming concerts at Kettering Seventh Day Adventist Church:

- **Sunday February 26, 2017 at 3:00 pm**  
Don't miss this concert with masterworks and international soloist, Eric Street. Pieces include Mozart—*Così fan tutti Overture*, Mozart—*Symphony No. 40*, Beethoven—*Emperor Piano Concerto No. 5 featuring Eric Street*
- **Sunday April 30, 2017 at 3:00 pm**  
Our "*Invitation to the Dance*" concert features many great orchestral works that were written for dance or inspired by dance, including: Weber—*Invitation to the Dance*, Saint-Saëns—*Danse Macabre*, Dvorak—selected *Slavonic Dances*, and Ponchielli—*Dance of the Hours*, Liszt—*Hungarian Rhapsody No. 2*

*God loves us not because we are lovable  
but because He is love,  
not because He needs to receive  
but because He delights to give.  
-C.S. Lewis*





### **When Helping Hurts, New Lenten Study**

Vicki Robinson will lead a six week Lenten study, *When Helping Hurts*. **The class will be held on Sunday evenings from 7:00 to 8:30 starting February 26.** This study helps us re-think how we apply the gospel in a broken world. The book and study lays out the biblical principles and community based practices for transforming our good intentions into lasting change. We hope you will join us on this exciting new journey that will have lasting change in our community. Please contact the church office (Rebeccafumc@gmail.com) to sign up for the course and to order the required participant guide (\$7) and optional book (\$9).

### **Wonderful Wednesday Studies**

We will offer two special Lenten studies on Wednesday evenings from March 8 through April 5. We hope you will take advantage of one of these opportunities for learning during the Lenten season.

- **The Shack led by Pastor Doug:** MacKenzie Allen Philip's youngest daughter, Missy, has been abducted during a family vacation and evidence that she may have been brutally murdered is found in an abandoned shack deep in the Oregon wilderness. Four years later, in the midst of his Great Sadness, Mack receives a suspicious note, apparently

from God, inviting him back to that shack for a weekend. Against his better judgment he arrives at the shack on a wintry afternoon and walks back into his darkest nightmare. What he finds there will change Mack's world forever. The movie version of the book opens on March 3rd. Please read the book before you see the movie.

- **Sensing the Passion led by Pastor Amy:** Journeying from the Upper Room to the Cross, experience the wonder, agony and mystery of Jesus' Passion [suffering] through the specific lenses of our five senses. Each sense reminds us that Jesus was completely human, even while He is the Word made flesh come to save us. This class is based on the book by Kevin Scully. The weekly topics are:
  - Week 1: Seeing Is Believing
  - Week 2: Blessed Are Those Who Hear
  - Week 3: An Odor Pleasing to the Lord
  - Week 4: Who Touched Me?
  - Week 5: Taste and See

### **Holy Java**

The Holy Java Sunday School class will continue their study of *Son of God: The Life of Jesus in You*. What would happen if you applied the lessons from events in Jesus' life—temptation, suffering, death, resurrection—to your own? Join us for this study to begin to answer these questions for yourself. For more information on the Holy Java class, please contact Maria Dershem (mdershem@mac.com). The class meets at 9:15 on Sunday mornings in the conference Room.

### ***Cornerstone Class***

The Cornerstone Class meets in the music room on Sunday mornings at 9:15. From March 5 through April 9, Doug Dean will lead the class in *Revival: Faith as Wesley Lived It*. There is a movement afoot. People are yearning for faith that is alive and healthy. We seek fresh, powerful, Spirit-filled faith. The same thing happened to the Methodist Church years ago. It began with the Wesley brothers, John and Charles. And it seems to be happening again-- in a new form, but the same enlivening of hope and Spirit. Want to know what happened? Want to get a taste of faith new-born? Join Pastor Doug on Sunday mornings beginning March 5. Six weeks of gathering. A lifetime of believing. For more information on the class, please contact Barb Geiger.

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

The Tuesday morning Bible study continues their study of the Book of James. The class meets on the second through last Tuesdays of each month at 10:00 a.m. in the music room.

### ***Covenant Bible Study***

Pastor Doug Dean's Covenant Bible Study class continues on Monday evenings at 7:00 in the conference room. 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.



### ***West Ohio Conference Summer Camps***

Each summer, the West Ohio Conference offers a variety of summer camps at their three facilities—Camp Otterbein, Camp Wesley and Camp Widewater. If you are interested in learning more about the exciting summer adventures they offer, the church office has a copy of their 2017 Summer Camp Guide. Please stop by to learn more or go to [www.westohiocamps.com](http://www.westohiocamps.com).



### ***FUMC and Bright Beginnings Creation Camps***

Online registration will begin soon for summer Creation Camps, a joint venture between First United Methodist and Bright Beginnings Christian Preschool. Half day, full day and extended day options will be available for eight weeks this summer, beginning the week of June 5. Please watch the bulletin insert for information on when camp registration will open.





### ***Bright Beginnings Buzz***

In February our preschoolers lived out our Bible verse "Love never ends" (I Corinthians 13:8) through Valentines Day parties and "Someone Special Days".

In March, we will have visits from people working in a variety of professions as part of our Community Helpers week. The Bible verse will be "Love your neighbor as you love yourself" and the fruit of the spirit will be Faithfulness.

Our preschool ministry is thriving thanks to the wonderful teachers and individuals God has sent us. Over the years we have been affirmed in many ways that this ministry is what God intended. We continue to thank Him for the opportunity to help 300 children learn, not only their ABC's and 123's, but also who Jesus is and how He works in their lives. This church ministry is helping to change and shape lives.

### ***2017-2018 Registration***

Bright Beginnings registration for the 2017-2018 school year is underway. Classes are very full for next year already. If you are interested, please contact Kim Crosen as soon as possible. Kim can be reached at 748-2612 or [kimfumc@gmail.com](mailto:kimfumc@gmail.com).



### ***A.C.E.***

At A.C.E., our before and after school program, we had a fun-filled February. We had multiple parties including a Fun Friday Football day before the Super Bowl, a beach party and a Valentines Day party. We packed in a lot fun for a short month! In March, ACE students will continued learning about the continents. If you would like to know more about our A.C.E. program, please contact Kim Crosen.



Several times a year, Bright Beginnings holds special education sessions for parents (including our church family). These are at 9:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m. and childcare is provided. On Wednesday, March 22, we will have a special Table Talk/Make and Take event. Our topic will be Kids and Technology with special guest speakers, occupational therapist Amy Smith. We will discuss when technology can be helpful and how it can be harmful and how it affects our children. The Make and Take is \$5.00 and is optional. Please let us know if you plan on participating. If you need childcare, please contact Becky Frost at [bbcpfumc@gmail.com](mailto:bbcpfumc@gmail.com).

## News from ...



## #TeachingTuesdays

We heard you! In response to the surveys participants at the January 28 Leadership Training Day completed, we have identified and scheduled some "go deeper" workshops. We're calling them #TeachingTuesdays. They will be held at the district office and will be two to three hours each beginning March 7. The first one will be a follow up to *Digital & Social Communications for the Church* and will be led once again by Rev. Meghan Howard, accompanied by ORV's Nick Federinko. Having attended the Leadership Training Day workshop is not a requirement for participating.

The format for *Digital & Social Communications for the Church* is a 12p.m.-2p.m. "lunch and learn." The district will provide a light meal. To register, go to [www.signupgenius.com/go/4090c4aaca822a57-digital](http://www.signupgenius.com/go/4090c4aaca822a57-digital)

Other workshops that have been scheduled so far include:

**Tuesday, March 21:** Bloom Where You Are Planted!

**Tuesday, April 25:** The "One" Thing Every Person Has

**Tuesday, May 16:** Staff Parish Relations

**Tuesday, June 20:** Unspoken Prayer Requests

- Ministering to those with emotional and mental illness.

Mark your calendar! More information and registration is coming soon!



Registration is now open for **Super Charge 2017**, a conference for men building faith on Saturday,

March 11 at Armstrong Chapel.

Leading you on the adventure will be Brad Stine, the most media covered Christian comedian in the country. He will engage you with slight-of-hand comedy, optical illusions and apologetics/philosophy to show how God reveals Himself through clues that we all can learn to see.

Your keynote speaker in the afternoon will be Todd Henry who teaches leaders and organizations across the country how to establish practices that lead to everyday brilliance. He is the author of three books (*The Accidental Creative*, *Die Empty*, and *Louder Than Words*) which have been translated into more than a dozen languages, and he speaks and consults across dozens of industries on creativity, leadership, and passion for work. Todd will show you how to wear the many hats of your life creatively, positively and productively as a Christian.

Enjoy breakout sessions, lunch by Montgomery Inn, a panel discussion and more! To register or to learn more, please go to <http://superchargeconf.org/>





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

### ***Kids Who Care***

This month our Kids Who Care will be traveling to North Park for a picnic, park pick-up and play! Each child should bring a picnic item to share with friends. Please RSVP. A follow-up email will go out with more details. Plan on meeting at church after the second service on March 12. (This event is weather permitting).

### ***God Squad***

In February, we did a little bit of fundraising and a little bit of service! We did our annual "Sub" Sale which was very successful. We hope all who ordered enjoyed their subs! We thank you all for your support!

God Squad will meet on Sunday, March 5 from 12:00 to 2:00 to work on Random Acts of Kindness (RAK). More information will follow soon via e-mail and in the church bulletin. If your child is in 3rd or 4th grade and you would like to receive information on God Squad, please let Kim know.



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

### **Mission 56 & Junior High Youth & Parents,**

March 1 marks the beginning of the Lenten Season, the season of reflection and preparation before the celebration of Easter. I hope you will use this time to reflect on your relationship with Christ and the importance of that relationship in your everyday life.

Yours in Christ,  
 Kirby

### **Here are the activities planned for the month of March:**

#### **Weekly Activities**

- **Sunday Night Youth Group:** There will be no Junior High Youth Group in March due to all the weekends having special events.
- **Wonderful Wednesdays:** Wonderful Wednesdays continue through the month of March.
- **Every Friday – LIFT (Grades 6 - 8):** LIFT (Living in Faith Together) meets after school until 3:30 p.m. at Springboro Junior High.

*Continued on next page*

- **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. Milk and donuts provided.

### March Special Events

- **Wednesday, March 1 – Ash Wednesday Service:** We hope you and your family will join us for a special meal and service this evening. The meal is at 6:00 p.m. and the service begins at 7:00 p.m.
- **Sunday, March 5 – Junior High Movie Event:** Junior High Youth will come together to watch “Gods Not Dead 2” from 3:00 – 5:00 p.m. Popcorn and drinks will be provided.
- **Tuesday, March 7 – 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.**
- **Sunday, March 12 – "Church, Lunch & Fellowship" (Mission 56 Youth):** 10:35 a.m. Sunday morning service, lunch and a time of fun and fellowship. Pick-up will be around 3:00 p.m. One parent volunteer needed to assist with lunch and fellowship time.
- **Saturday, March 18 – CedarMania (Junior & Senior High):** CedarMania is a powerful gathering of high school and middle school students from all over the area that desire to be part of energetic worship while being challenged and refreshed by the Word of God. **Look for future e-mails with more details.**
- **Thursday, March 23 – Lunch with Kirby at Springboro Intermediate:** Kirby will pro-

vide drinks and dessert. Youth are asked to pack their lunch.

- **Sunday, March 26 – “Church, Lunch, & Fellowship” (Junior High Youth):** 10:35 a.m. Sunday morning service, lunch and a time of fun and fellowship. Pick-up will be around 3:00 p.m. One parent volunteer needed to assist with lunch and fellowship time.
  - **Sunday, March 26 – Mission 56 Movie Event:** Mission 56 Youth will come together to watch “Gods Not Dead 2” from 3:00 – 5:00 p.m. Popcorn and drinks will be provided.
- Thursday, March 30 – Lunch with Kirby at Springboro Junior High:** Kirby will provide drinks, & dessert. Youth are asked to pack their lunch.



**Senior High Youth: 9th—12 Grades**

**Contact: Brian Schlise**

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

**937-748-9711 and 937-272-6167**

The Senior High Youth will have regular Sunday evening Youth Group on March 5 and 19 from 7:00 to 8:30. On March 12, they will hold a Spaghetti Supper as a fund raiser. Please watch for texts with details on the help needed. If you want more information on our Senior High Youth Group or any of the planned activities, please contact Brian Schlise.



## Love. Grow. Serve.

- **Wonderful Wednesday Meals:** We need people to provide the main dish and clean the kitchen for the next session of Wonderful Wednesday, which runs March 8 to 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.
- **Kroger Community Rewards Program:** Please register our church as your Kroger Plus Community Rewards recipient. Through the program, we earn a quarterly check based on your purchases. There is no cost to you to participate in the program. Money earned goes to our First Steps Campaign. Questions, please contact Mariel Pesavento as 513-855-4243.
- **Prayer Shawl Ministry:** Crocheters and knitters are needed to make prayer shawls for those in our church experiencing a difficult time in their life. The finished shawls will be blessed. If interested, contact Sonia Dermis at 937-550-9412.
- **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. If you are interested in providing meals on an occasional basis or would like more information, please contact Tina Yeamans at [trperr@gmail.com](mailto:trperr@gmail.com) or at 937-550-9568.
- **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/clubdlm/goodneighbor.pl](http://www.dorothylane.com/clubdlm/goodneighbor.pl). **Re-registration is needed each year.**
- **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.
- **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 through the Church Needs link in Pastor Amy's weekly e-mail. 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.

### ***Volunteer, Mission & Outreach***

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

### ***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.

## ***Volunteer, Mission and Outreach Opportunities Continued***

### ***Bags for Foster Children***

First United Methodist and Bright Beginnings Christian Preschool are working together with Molly Webb, a Bright Beginnings teacher, to collect book and duffel bags for foster children of all ages. The bags will be donated to the Bair Foundation, a local Christian organization that places foster children. When children are removed from their homes, often everything the children own is placed in garbage bags. After parenting a number of foster children through Bair, Molly has made it her mission to help make sure every child has a nice bag in which to carry their things. The heroin epidemic going on has drastically increased the number of children in need. We are asking for donations of NEW book bags and duffel bags. There will be a collection bin in the narthex from March 3 through the 13th. Thank you in advance for supporting this worthwhile mission.

**THIS SHOULD  
NEVER BE  
A CHILD'S  
SUITCASE.**



### ***Seed Collection***

It's time to get ready for spring! The Green Thumb Garden Project of the Jackson Area Ministries is beginning their seed collection. This will help persons who have lost their jobs, senior citizens, families on low or fixed incomes. The seeds needed for this year are beets, broccoli, cabbage, carrots, cauliflower, corn, cucumbers, green bush style beans, lettuce, radishes, spinach, greens,

squash, pumpkins, and turnips. They will also take cash donations to purchase bulk corn and bush bean seeds and seed potatoes and tomato plants. The deadline for the seed collection will be Palm Sunday, April 9, 2017. Thank you for your generosity in prior years!

### ***Easter Meals for Local Families***

Our Mission Team is once again asking our church to provide Easter meals for local families through the Springboro and Franklin Food Pantries. Last year we provided 150 meals. We hope to feed as many or more this year as a very tangible way of sharing our Resurrection faith. Please sign up to donate items on the sheets by the mission table. If you have questions, please contact Stephanie Binde-mann .

### ***Otterbein Avalon***

David Finney will lead a group to engage with senior residents of the Otterbein Avalon community (located off north Bunnel Hill Road) on Wednesday March 8 and 22. The carpool will leave from church at 1:15 and return by 3:30. We will interact with the Otterbein residents through worship, singing and game time. If you are interested, please let David Finney know (513-727-4395).

### ***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.





### **UMCOR**

Dear Friends in Mission:

Thank you for partnering with the United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR). Through your gift, you are helping to provide humanitarian relief when war, conflict, or natural disaster disrupts life to such an extent that communities are unable to recover on their own.

Through the compassion and solidarity of faithful friends like you, UMCOR is able to provide comfort to those impacted by disasters like earthquakes and storms, food for the hungry, and healthcare to those who otherwise would have none. These are just a sampling of the good works that gifts like yours make possible. One hundred percent of your gift through The Advance, the designated giving channel of the United Methodist church, will go directly to the people who need it most. Thank you for giving so generously.

Roland Fernandes, General Treasurer  
Mary Andreolli, Executive Director of Communications, Advance & Fundraising  
General Board of Global Ministries

(Note: Our church family gave \$7,505.50 to UMCOR through the Christmas offering).

### **From Elena Mallett**

First United Methodist,  
Hey! More greetings from Parris Island! Got some really sad news: I'm not coming home a Marine. I broke twice, and so I'm coming home. The stress fractures came right back to bite me, so I'm in the process of getting healed up a little bit before being discharged and sent home.

That's not what any of you probably wanted to hear. It is what it is, and I haven't given up yet. I love the cards and letters you send my way, and I encourage you to keep sending them. I'll let you know when my official date is on coming home.

It's not what I had planned for, but I guess God had another plan for me. Whatever that plan is, it must be important. I've learned and experienced a lot on this island, and it won't just disappear from my memory. I have changed a lot since being here. I appreciate the change it's done to me. They're not joking when they say the Marine Corps is a lifestyle!

I'll have many stories to tell you all once I get back! See you soon!

Recruit Mallett

### **Cookie Walk**

Women in Faith would like to thank everyone who donated goodies for our annual cookie walk. We would also like to thank everyone who purchased treats. We raised approximately \$350. Now that is sweet!

### ***Celebrating a March Birthday***

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| 1: Maria Dershem   | 17: Marjorie Poff  |
| 3: Kaylee Smith, Kylie Rivman                                | 18: Stephanie Bindemann  |
| 4: David Finney, Jack Eley,<br>Belinda Mallett, Logan Miller | 20: Charlotte Harris, Don Stiens Jr.                           |
| 6: Clay Driscoll, Grace Combs                                | 21: Mark Mosch, Christopher Delbridge,<br>Daryl Hams, Zoe Hams |
| 7: Joseph Harris   | 22: Joy Lightcap   |
| 8: Sharon Joseph   | 23: Yolanda Mosch, Curt Winzeler,<br>Pat Foley                 |
| 9: Todd Smith  | 24: Kyle Lalich  |
| 10: Matthew Keyser   | 26: Noelle Boley   |
| 11: Zandra Woody, Claire Veren                               | 27: Brenda Landefeld, Kyle Richard                             |
| 12: Lynn Jackson   | 29: Jennifer Dunn  |
| 13: Trisha Engle   | 30: Edward Pesavento, Chase Thelen                             |
| 14: A.J. DeRosa, Belle DeRosa                                |  |
| 15: Bob Crosen   |  |
- 

### ***Celebrating a March Anniversary***

- |                        |                                |
|------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 18: Doug & Carol Dean  | 26: Larry & Zandra Woody       |
| 21: Jim & Joanne Young | 31: Christopher & Karen Thelen |

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

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### ***March Volunteers***

	Liturgists	Acolytes	Cookies	Altar Flowers
March 5	Kelly Smith Open	Noah Townsend Open	Sarah Wrazen	Lorraine Sower
March 12	Patti Hammett Open	Gracieann Ruskaup Open	Open	Open
March 19	Belinda Mallett Joy MIndling	Noah Townsend Open	Patti Hammett	Open
March 26	Alan Kerrick Jane Gregg	Sarah Schlise Nathan Haines	Cornerstone Class	Kerry & Arlene Brown



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

**NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION**  
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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*

