

# *The Messenger*

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December 2014



Join us for worship each weekend:

Casual Saturday night worship with the *Springs* at 5:30 PM

Sunday morning worship & Sunday school at 9:15 AM

Sunday worship and children's church at 10:35 AM

First United  
Methodist  
Church of  
Springboro

60 East North Street  
Springboro, OH 45066

937-748-2612

rebeccafumc@gmail.com

Office hours:  
Monday-Friday  
8:00-1:00

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**A word from Pastor Suzanne...**

Dear friends,

We have been urged by some over the last few years to take back or save Christmas. But when retailers are putting up Christmas decorations on November 1<sup>st</sup> and radio stations start playing Christmas music before Thanksgiving, I'm not too worried about Christmas going anywhere.

I am more interested in taking back advent. Advent is the season in the church year just before Christmas. It lasts four weeks and it is not at all about shopping or decorating or baking or parties or gift giving. It is instead about being still, quieting our hearts, and waiting on God.

The word advent is from the Latin "to come." We are given four weeks to prepare our hearts for the coming of the Messiah, Jesus Christ. We remember the long wait of the people of Israel as we sing "Come, thou Long Expected Jesus."

As we wait with the Israelites long ago, we are reminded that we also are in a time of waiting today. We are waiting for the return of Christ and his final reign, for God's will to be done "on earth as it is in heaven."

David Mathis puts it this way, "Christianity is waiting....With all those centuries of waiting for the Messiah, you might think the waiting would be done once Jesus had come. But now in the church age, we wait as much as ever, called to live in the shadow of his return. We...are a people 'waiting for our blessed hope, the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ' (Titus 2:13)."

Waiting doesn't sound nearly as fun as Christmas shopping and eating and parties. We'd prefer not to wait, to have what we want right now. But waiting well is a practice which helps us grow spiritually. Waiting makes us more aware of what we are waiting for. As Christians, we are not waiting for another gift or cookie or beautiful tree. We are waiting for Jesus and his full reign in our hearts and our world.

And so I encourage you to observe advent this year by waiting well. As we wait, I pray that we will make room for Jesus in our lives by preparing our hearts with repentance, practicing patience, and putting our trust in God rather than ourselves and the things of this world.

Advent blessings!  
Pastor Suzanne



## Worship In December

"Waiting Room"



December 6th/7th: Communion

Scripture: Mark 1:1-8

Message: "Save the Date!"

December 13th/14th

Scripture: John 1:6-8,19-28

Message: "Be the Light"

December 20th/21st

Scripture: Luke 1:26-38

Message: "Call Waiting"

December 27th/28th

Scripture: Luke 2:22-40

Message: "God's Favor"



## Doings

- 1-6: Bright Beg. Book Fair
- 2: *Matthew for Everyone*
- 2: *Circle Maker Class*
- 3: Christmas Play practice
- 3: Choir and Hand Bells
- 6: Breakfast with Santa and Holiday House
- 7: Mission 56 & Jr. High Youth
- 7: Kids Who Care
- 7: God Squad
- 7: Youth Group
- 8: Br. Beg. Christmas Program
- 9: *Matthew for Everyone Class*
- 9: Br. Beg. Christmas Program
- 9: WIF Bible Study
- 10: Parent Connection
- 10: Christmas Play Practice
- 10: Choir and Hand Bells
- 12: Movie Night
- 13: United Methodist Men
- 13: Women in Faith Meeting
- 13: Parenting Class
- 14: Travelers Christmas Eve
- 14: Youth Group
- 16: Trustees
- 16: Bright Beg. Staff Meeting
- 16: Stephen Ministers
- 17: Clearcreakers
- 17: Christmas Play Practice
- 17: Choir and Hand Bells
- 19: 5th-8th Grade Movie Night
- 21—Jan 5: Interfaith Hospitality Network hosting
- 23: Christmas Play Dress Rehearsal
- 24: Christmas Eve Services
- 28-30 Sr. High Retreat

*See details in this newsletter*



## Church News

### Lay Leader Report

The past few weeks have been exciting in the life of FUMC. Our Stephen Ministers led several in an examination of Mark Batterson's *The Circle Maker*. Last June at Annual Conference in Lakeside, I went on a Prayer Walk, as taught by Batterson and learned to

Dream Big, Pray Hard. I am so pleased that our Stephen Ministers brought a study of this book and concept to our church.

Then others completed eight weeks of Covenant Bible Study. Rev. Doug Dean led this study which will resume in January. I was pleased to be a part of this study. WIF and UMM continue their Bible studies, which are important. Moms and dads are working through a course on parenting, led by Maria Dershem. The Tuesday morning study continues as well as our Sunday School classes. Small group participation is an excellent method to grow spiritually and in friendship with our folks.

On October 19, a few of us from FUMC attended our District's Abundant Fruit Celebration. This included a presentation from Kirby Cain which was viewed by folks from across our district. The event also included inspiring worship with a message from our Bishop, Gregory Palmer. That was an outstanding event.

November included the seasonal Bazaar and Christmas in Springboro. Then our annual Charge Conference occurred on the 23<sup>rd</sup>. My Certified Lay Ministry preparation trek added a couple checkmarks in November as two more tasks were completed. I remain on track to complete in April.

The past several weeks have been a blur with these events along with daily life, work and worship.

So here we are, at the beginning of the Christian year and Advent. I promise to slow down this Advent season, to prepare my heart. I encourage our church to do likewise. Try not to get caught up in holiday glitz, lights and gifts. Instead, use this time to ponder "what love is this" that Jesus came into the world, not as a conquering warrior, but as a baby. This baby would then change history and billions of lives. Allow Jesus to work in your heart. Anticipate, prepare, the Lord is coming!

Merry Christmas!  
David Finney

### **Christmas Offering**

As you think of the many gifts you will buy your loved ones this Christmas, don't forget to consider the gift you will give Jesus. Jesus urges us to care for others in Matthew 25, "Whatever you do to the least of these, you do to me."

As our Christmas gift to God in celebration of Jesus' birth, our church will split all of the undesignated Christmas Eve offering between the "One Great Hour of Sharing" and the special Advance Giving focused on Ebola. One Great Hour of Sharing provides the organizational costs for the United Methodist Committee On Relief (UMCOR) so that in the time of a disaster, 100% of all donations given can go to relief efforts. UMCOR is also working with partner organizations to respond to the ongoing Ebola crisis in West Africa. The International Disaster Response unit at UMCOR is collaborating with Global Health to provide weekly support to the health boards in Sierra Leon and Liberia, as they fine-tune their strategy for combating the disease.

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 in a "One Great Hour of Sharing" envelope.

### **Stewardship Giving for 2015**

Thank you to each of you who have thoughtfully considered your contribution to the church for 2015 and returned your pledge card. Returning your pledge 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 had an opportunity to return your pledge card, please prayerfully consider doing so and return it to the church office at your earliest convenience.

### **Giving Envelopes and End of Year Statements**

2015 giving envelopes will be available for pick up from Fellowship Hall in early December. There will be a sheet available for you to either sign-up for envelopes if you did not receive any OR to indicate that you no longer need to receive envelopes (i.e. you utilize the Electronic Giving option). End of year statements will be mailed in January. If you have any questions, please contact Tracy Stull at 748-8699 or [tstull42@hotmail.com](mailto:tstull42@hotmail.com).

### **Second Nursery Attendant Needed**

We are seeking someone to serve as a second nursery attendant. This paid position will watch over the youngest in our congregation two Sundays a month from 9:00 to 12:00. If you are interested, please contact Lois Gollihugh .

### **Christmas Cantata**

The Heavenly Host Choir will sing their annual Christmas Cantata at services on Saturday, December 20 and Sunday, December 21. This year's cantata is "Advent: A Coming." 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.

### **2015 Flower Calendar**

We thank everyone for their support in providing Sanctuary flowers each week. The flower calendar for 2015 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.

### **Ohio River Valley District Training Day**

The Ohio River Valley District will hold a training day on January 31 at Armstrong Chapel. The keynote speaker is Rev. Bob Farr. He will speak to clergy in the morning about peer learning while church laity will have over 20 workshops from which to choose. After lunch, one more workshop will be offered, so there will be two to three opportunities for learning. If you are interested in attending, please see Dave Finney.

### **Church Office Closed**

The church office will be closed on Thursday, December 25 and Thursday, January 1. 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.

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



### **Women in Faith**

Women in Faith will meet on Saturday, December 13 at 9:00 a.m. in Fellowship Hall. Ruth Crane will have a special presentation for the group. The WIF Bible Study will meet on December 9 in the conference room. They are currently studying the book of Mark. Please be aware that parking may be tight due to the Bright Beginnings Christmas Program that evening.

### **Clearcreakers Senior Group**

The Clearcreakers will meet December 17 in Fellowship Hall from 11:30 to 2:00 p.m. The program will be Christmas music presented by the Springboro High School Choir. Ham will be furnished for our Christmas luncheon. Please bring a side dish or dessert to share and remember to bring your own eating utensils. Plan on joining us and getting in the Christmas spirit. If you did not sign up at our November meeting, please RSVP with Liz Fielder, Vivian Beatty or Clara McLemore so we know how much ham to order. Please note: We follow the same inclement weather rule used for the schools. If Springboro schools are closed there will be no meeting.

### **United Methodist Men**

Men of our church met for breakfast and study in November. We will meet for breakfast in December on the 13<sup>th</sup>, at Main Street Deli in Springboro. Please join us for this time of fellowship. We will not meet for Bible study in late December, but we will serve breakfast to our IHN guests of both Saturday's of their stay with FUMC.

In November, UMM participated in the international Movember movement, to raise awareness of men's health issues. This included making a gift to the Movember Foundation in the name of our winning Movember mustache. The winner is not known at this time so we will include this information in the January 2015 *Messenger*.

### **Other Group Meeting Dates**

December 16—Stephen Ministers—Off Site

December 16 - Trustees—Conference Room



## *Celebrate the True Spirit of Christmas*

### **Hanging of the Greens**

Our annual Hanging of the Greens will be November 29 after the Saturday service. Join us for dinner, a short worship service on the Christian meaning of many special Christmas decorations, and to help decorate the church for the Advent and Christmas seasons. We will have Christmas ornaments for the children to make. Please bring a side dish or dessert to share.

### **Special Ministry Moment**

On Sunday, November 30, Rev. James Freshour of the UMCH Family Services in Columbus will share a special ministry moment during both services. UMCH Family Services finds, provides and strengthens homes for children as a comprehensive provider of community-based adoption, foster care and family mental health services to children at risk for abuse, neglect and mental illness. This ministry of the West Ohio Conference of the United Methodist Church is committed to providing faith-based children's and family mental health treatment.

### **Poinsettia Sales**

Bring a festive glow to the sanctuary by placing your order for a poinsettia. Orders will be taken through December 3. Each poinsettia is \$10 with payment made when your order is placed. Poinsettias can be ordered in memory or in honor of a loved one and come in red and white. If you were not able to place an order between services in November, please contact Rebecca in the church office with your order by December 3 (rebeccafumc@gmail.com and 748-2612). Thanks!

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

On Saturday, December 6 we will have 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 may opt to leave the little ones for four hours of fun in our Holiday House. Parents have time to themselves while their little ones celebrate a day experiencing, exploring, and creating as they move through our "Treasures of Christmas" theme. Please call Kim or Ida at 748-2612 to make a reservation.

### 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 14, we will offer a Travelers Christmas Candlelight Service. All are welcome to join us as we celebrate Jesus' birth with a contemporary 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 UMC!  
4:30 p.m. on December 24th

Practice schedule:

- Every Sunday during second service, 10:30 – 11:45
- Wednesday, December 3, 6:30 – 7:30
- Wednesday, December 10, 6:30 – 7:30
- Wednesday, December 17, 6:30 – 7:30
- Tuesday, December 23, 10:00 – 12:00 – Dress rehearsal followed by pizza lunch

Contact Kim Crosen at 748-2612 for more information.

### Christmas Eve Services

We will offer three Christmas Eve services.

- 4:30 p.m. – Christmas service featuring the children's Christmas play
- 7:30 p.m. – Candlelight service
- 10:30 p.m. – Candlelight service with communion

We will have worship as regularly scheduled on Saturday, December 27 at 5:30 and Sunday, December 28 at 9:15 and 10:35.

## *Celebrate the True Spirit of Christmas Con't.*

### Interfaith Hospitality Network

The Interfaith Hospitality Network families will stay with us December 21 through January 4. Please consider giving the wonderful 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). This year we are also asking for three volunteers to do the kitchen laundry during the two weeks of the IHN stay. Please contact Jennifer Fry if you can help out.

### Movie Night

The next Movie Night will be on Friday, December 12. 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. \$10 per child. Everything is included in that 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:**

- Parent 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.



### Wonderful Wednesdays

After a short break during the holidays, Wonderful Wednesdays will resume again on January 14. 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 move into the Sanctuary for a short devotional then break out classes for different age groups beginning at 7:15.



We will have an Acolyte training class on Sunday, January 11 during second service (10:35). Children in third grade and above who are interested in serving in this way are encouraged to attend the training. They learn the history and meaning of the Acolyte and learn how they can be a part of this tradition. Please call or e-mail Kim with any questions (748-2612 or kimfumc@gmail.com).

### Chili Cook-off

Fellowship and Family Life's Annual Chili Cook-off will be held on Saturday, January 24. More details will be in the January *Messenger*.



The logo features the word "Upcoming" in a green, cursive font, positioned above the words "COMMUNITY" and "EVENTS" which are in a bold, purple, sans-serif font.

### Miami Valley Symphony Orchestra

Church member, Kelly Ronyak, invites you to the upcoming Miami Valley Symphony Orchestra concerts:

- **Holiday Celebration:** The next concert features favorites including Carol of the Bells, Nutcracker Suite, Winter Wonderland, and Sleigh Ride. The phenomenal young talent, Christina Nam, will be the featured violin soloist in Sarasate's lovely Zigeunerweisen. The concert will be on Sunday December 14, 2014 at 3:00 p.m. at the Centerville High School Performing Arts Center.
- **The Sleeping Beauty:** The MVSO and the Gem City Ballet join forces to present, *The Sleeping Beauty*, a charming fairy tale and one of the most beloved ballets of all time. Tchaikovsky's magnificent score, enchanting choreography and costumes, and a cast of fanciful characters all set the stage for a performance the entire family can enjoy together. Performances will be Saturday February 28, 2015 at 8:00 p.m. and Sunday March 1, 2015 at 2:00 p.m. at the Dayton Masonic Center.

### "Behold the Lamb of God"

Miamisburg Christian Church will present "Behold the Lamb of God – The True Tall Tale of the Coming of Christ" on Wednesday, December 3 at 7:00 p.m. The church is located at 1146 E. Central Ave. in Miamisburg. Tickets are \$20 and \$30 in advance and \$30 at the door. Tickets can be ordered at 800-965-9324 or [www.itickets.com](http://www.itickets.com). A two-sided flyer with more information is located on the bulletin board in Fellowship Hall.

### Renaissance Feaste

Otterbein Lebanon will hold their 21st Annual Renaissance Feaste on January 8 and 9, 2015 at 6:00 p.m. The event includes Christmas and Renaissance music, a meal of roast pork, red potatoes, winter vegetables, salad and a flaming pudding. Tickets are \$17 per person and can be purchased by calling 513-696-8575 after December 8. The last day for orders is January 2, 2015. Please see flyer on the bulletin board in Fellowship Hall for more information.



**Adult Learning and Growing**  
**Upcoming Bible Studies**

**Making Sense of the Bible:** This course will be offered both in the morning and evening. The evening class begins Thursday, January 15 from 7:00-9:00 p.m. The class lasts for six weeks. The morning session will be held on Tuesdays at 10:00 from January 13 to February 17.

“I love the Bible... and I wrestle with it. There are parts, if I’m honest, that I have questions about. There are statements on its pages that I don’t believe capture the character and will of God. I’m guessing that if you’re honest, you have questions, too.”

So begins Adam Hamilton’s book *Making Sense of the Bible*. The Bible is an amazing, confusing, complicated, simple, difficult, easy book to read. It challenges, stresses, pushes, and shapes us as God reveals each new thought and idea to us. We find ourselves embracing new thoughts and abandoning old ones as we strive to grow deeper in our understanding of Holy Scripture and of God’s plan for us and our world.

With the help of videos featuring Adam Hamilton, we will discuss the Nature of Scripture and how we might make sense of both the Old and New Testaments. We will engage challenging passages about the Bible and science, violence and suffering, and we will wrestle with issues surrounding sexuality and relationships.

See Pastor Doug for details. Sign up at <https://www.signupgenius.com/index.cfm?go=w.ProcessCreate7&requesttimeout=360> or in the church office. Limited to ten.

**Holy Spirit:** Watch for this study to come.

**Prayer:** Watch for this study to come.

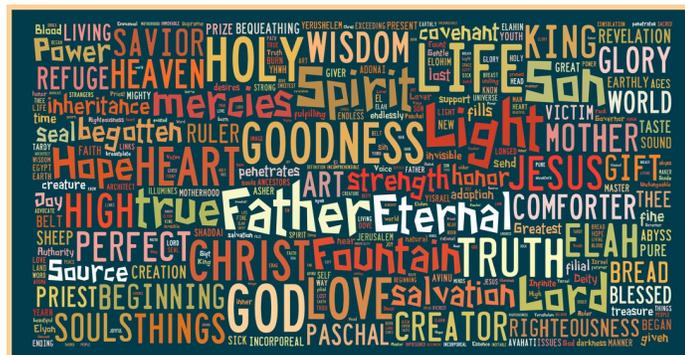
*Christian Education opportunities continued on next page.*

### Confirmation

Confirmation is a ten month class for our 8th graders who are interested in deepening their faith and joining the church. The class will begin in December and the students will be confirmed in September. We will have an overview meeting on November 30 at 6:00 p.m. for parents and students.

### Holy Java

Holy Java began a new study on November 23 based on the book *Not a Silent Night* by Adam Hamilton. Imagine Jesus from Mary's point of view—proud of her son, in awe of his gifts and mission, guided by love for him as a person and so much more. In this book, Adam Hamilton begins at the end, with Mary at the crucifixion and resurrection; travels back in time as she witnesses his life and ministry; and ends at the beginning, with the Christ child born in a stable, Mary's beautiful baby. Please note, the class will not meet on November 30 (Thanksgiving weekend). Join Holy Java this Advent season and experience Christmas with Mary. Books are \$12 and are recommended but not required. For more information contact Maria Dershem.



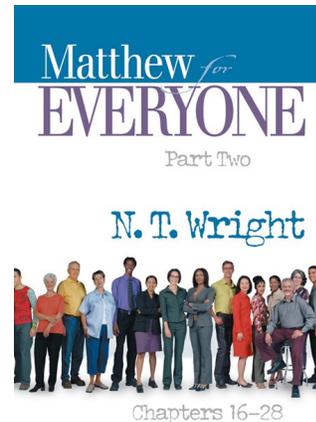
### Cornerstone

In December, the Cornerstone Adult Sunday School class will continue their study based on the book *The Names of God and What They Mean to Us* by Ann Spangler. The class meets each Sunday at 9:15 in the music room. We have lots of discussion and great fellowship. Everyone welcome. For more information, please contact Rosemary Culbreath.

### Adult Class

### **Matthew for Everyone**

The Tuesday morning bible study, *Matthew for Everyone*, will be held on December 2 and 9 from 10:00 to 11:30. The class on December 2 will be held at the Springboro Library Community Room (125 Park Lane). After December 9, the class will take a break through the holidays. From January 13 through February 17, *Making Sense of Bible* will be held during the class meeting time (see page 13). *Matthew for Everyone* will resume on Tuesday, March 3. If you are interested in joining the class, this would be a good starting time. To order materials, please contact Rebeca in the church office (748-2612 or rebeccafumc@gmail.com).



### **Parenting Class**

Our book study group called *Parenting by "The Book"* ("The Book" meaning the Bible ... of course) began in September. This study explores parenting topics and refers to God's word to look for answers to our questions. We share breakfast and coffee. But most importantly, we share our concerns about parenting as we support each other and pray for God's direction together. We are using the book *Effective Parenting in a Defective World* by Chip Ingram. The group meets on various Saturdays in the conference room across from the church office. If you are interested in joining, please contact Maria Dershem for meeting dates and times.

### **Covenant Bible Study**

The current class of Covenant Bible Study will begin its second, eight week session on January 12. The class will be held in the Conference Room at 7:00 p.m. Pastor Doug Dean will begin the series again later in 2015 for anyone who was not able to make the first offering.

### **Children's Adventure Bibles**

On Sunday, November 16 Kim Crosen presented Adventure Bibles to eleven children in third grade. That evening, they met with Pastor Suzanne to learn how to use their Bibles. The children receiving the Bibles were: Caitlynn Archer, Sean Foley, Amelia Lawhorn, Tyson Long, Logan Miller, Katie Moster, Noah Robinson, Giovanna Roeder, Gracieann Ruskaup, Samantha Savin, and Noah Townsend. The Bibles were purchased by United Methodist Men and were prayed over by members of Stephen Ministers.



### **Bright Beginnings Buzz**

In November the children learned about food, the first Thanksgiving, and giving Thanks to God for all of his blessings. "O give thanks to the Lord," Psalm 105:1, was our Bible verse. The children had a great month of playing with food! Feed corn was separated, counted, and

weighed, turkeys were made, pancakes were tried, recipes were created and stories were told. Our four year olds went on a field trip to Domino's Pizza and made their own pizza and our Stepping Stones classes went on a field trip to Dorothy Lane Market.

As the children played, created, experienced and explored, they learned that we should always give thanks for our food and all of our blessings that God has given us. Pastor Suzanne led us in Children's Church again this month, emphasizing God's love and blessings and how we are thankful to God for EVERYTHING!

In December, the children will be focusing on the first Christmas, the legend of St. Nicholas, and the Christian symbols of Christmas. We will be having musical performances on Monday, December 8 at 6:00 and 7:00 and Tuesday, December 9 at 6:00 and 7:00. Plan on joining us!

The preschool follows the Springboro school schedule and will enjoy their last day before the Holidays on December 19 with classes resuming on January 5.

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

Our A.C.E. kids spent November exploring Africa. In December they will begin exploring Europe. Our A.C.E. kids have been learning their Bible verses and fruits of the spirit and have gone into action working on gathering food for the food pantries (please see page 23) and helping with Operation Christmas Child. If you would like to know more about our A.C.E. program please contact Kim at 748-2612.



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

We invite you to stop by the Book Fair at Bright Beginnings Christian Pre-school on Monday through Friday, December 1-5 (8:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m.) and Saturday, December 6 (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.

Also, we welcome any volunteers to assist with cashiering, book selections, etc. If you are available to help, please email or phone Heather Beachy at (937) 743-9878 or [heather3@cinci.rr.com](mailto:heather3@cinci.rr.com). Thank you in advance for all your support of our school.

### **The Parent Connection**

Each month, Bright Beginnings holds special education sessions for the parents of the students. These are held at 9:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m. and childcare is provided. If you would be interested in attending any of these sessions, just let Rebecca or Kim know (748-2612).

- December 10: Mission Meeting—Stocking Stuffing (service project)
- January: Kindergarten Readiness with Jen Johnson, Principal at Clearcreek Elem. (date to be determined)
- February 11: Love Language, led by Kim Crosen
- March 11: Empowerment vs. Entitlement: Teaching Our Children to Know the Difference
- April 8: Children and Finances
- May 7: Safe as Necessary, Not as Possible



Youth Ministry

### **Kids Who Care (K-2<sup>nd</sup> Grade)**

Our Kids Who Care is made up of kindergarten through second grade students who get together outside of Sunday School monthly to "live their faith out loud!" Sometimes we do service projects, sometimes fundraising, sometimes we just have fun fellowship together, but all the time we are focusing on God and His direction for our lives.

We hope you can join us for our upcoming Christmas event on Sunday, December 7. We will have a "Happy Birthday Jesus Party" to celebrate Jesus' birth! Kids Who Care should plan on meeting at the church at 2:00. We will have an old fashion birthday party for Jesus! More details to come as we get closer. I will send out reminders as we get closer to the events, but mark your calendars now! Please let Kim know if you have any questions or would like to help with any of the activities ([kimfumc@gmail.com](mailto:kimfumc@gmail.com), 937-748-2612). Thanks!

### **God Squad (3<sup>rd</sup>-4<sup>th</sup> Grade)**

Our God Squad is made up of third and fourth grade students who get together outside of Sunday School monthly to "live their faith out loud!" Sometimes we do service projects, sometimes fundraising, sometimes we just have fun fellowship together, but all the time we are focusing on God and His direction for our lives.

We hope you can join us for our upcoming Christmas event on Sunday, December 7. We will go caroling and make a joyful noise for all to hear! Plan on meeting at the church at 5:00. We will go to the Sunday evening worship service and then have pizza! After warming our vocal cords, we will head out for some Christmas caroling followed up with a hot chocolate bar! We should be wrapping things up about 7:30.

*God Squad continued on next page*

### **God Squad Continued**

In addition, our God Squaders plan to make preparations for our upcoming mission of “Warm Hearts, Warm Hands, Warm Bodies” and hang up our “Caring Clothesline” to collect contributions of mittens, gloves, hats, warm pajamas, scarves and coats from the congregation. The items will be donated to the local food pantries in January to be disbursed to local children who need some warmth! If you have any questions or need additional information please feel free to contact Kim at (937) 748-2612.

### **Mission 56 and Junior High**

Mission 56 and Junior High Youth and Parents:

I am always proud of how our youth at FUMC dedicate a great deal of time volunteering for the many activities that happen at our church this time of year. Their willingness to serve the church is greatly appreciated and many of the events could not happen without their service. As we enter into the Christmas season, may we continue to have a servant’s heart and remember those who need our help and prayers. Through Christ comes great joy and serving Him is a reflection of the joy we share.

Carefully look over the upcoming events and put them in your calendar. I know this is a busy time of year and I hope you will fit our activities into your busy lives.

Your Youth Director,  
Kirby

### **Weekly Activities**

- Sunday Night Youth Group: The Junior High (Grades 7 and 8) Youth will be meeting every Sunday (except for the 1st Sunday of the month) from 7:00 - 8:30 p.m. There will be a time of snacks, fun and fellowship (discussion).
- Every Friday - LIFT (Grades 6 - 8): LIFT (Living in Faith Together) meets after school until 3:30 p.m. at Springboro Junior High and is led by Mr. Randy Youst, dedicated parents and students of Springboro Junior High and Springboro Intermediate. This is a wonderful opportunity of our youth to worship with other students from their school.

*Youth Ministry continued on next page*

### **Mission 56 & Junior High Youth Continued**

- Every Wednesday Morning - PAW (Prayer and Worship) - Springboro Intermediate and 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. The Junior High kids meet with Mr. Youst from 6:50 - 7:15 a.m. in his classroom and the sixth graders meet with Kirby from 6:50 - 7:20 a.m. in the Multi-purpose Room (Band Room). Juice and donuts will be provided.

### **December Special Events**

- Tuesday, December 2 - Hope House Mission: Center for Women and Children: Please RSVP if planning on joining us. We will provide dinner, games or crafts for the women and children of Hope House in Middletown from 5:00 - 7:00 p.m. We need a maximum of six youth and two parents to assist in this opportunity to serve. The parents and youth will meet at the church at 4:15 p.m., load the cars and leave by 4:30. We should be back to the church no later than 7:30 p.m.
- Sunday, December 7 - "Church, Lunch and Fellowship" (Grades 5 - 8): Please join Kirby for the 10:35 a.m. Sunday morning service. Following the service, the youth will go out to lunch together, then we will either go back to the church or a designated location for a time of fun, fellowship and a short devotional. We should be done around 3:00 p.m.
- Tuesday, December 16 - Lunch with 6th graders at Springboro Intermediate (FUMC Youth Only): Kirby will provide drinks and dessert. Please pack your lunch and join us for this time of fellowship.
- Wednesday, December 17 - Lunch with Kirby at Springboro Junior High (FUMC Youth Only): Kirby will provide drinks and dessert. Please pack your lunch and join us for this time of fellowship.
- Friday, December 19 - Movie Night: Join Kirby for a pizza party, games and a movie. The movie will be the critically-acclaimed "God's Not Dead" - a very entertaining movie with a great message. Youth are encouraged to invite a friend. Each participant is asked to bring \$3 to help with the cost of dinner. Please consider bringing an extra \$1 for our sponsored child from Haiti. Also, you may want to bring something comfortable to sit or lay on.
- Saturday, December 20 - "The Three" at the YMCA: Springboro Youth in Grades 6, 7 and 8 are invited to come to the Coffman YMCA from 6:30 - 9:30 p.m. for three hours of fellowship and fun. Cost is \$3 for pizza and pop. Youth can swim, play basketball, play games in Teen Center or just hang-out. This monthly event is hosted by Tony Carmody, Youth Pastor at Southwest Church.

**Senior High Youth Group (9th—12th grade)**

The Senior High thanks you for your generous support! In the last 90 days the Senior High has been active working to earn funds to support their summer mission trip and mission works in the community. The kids have sold Elder Beerman coupon books, raked leaves, shoveled some early snow, changed smoke detector batteries, supported Christmas in Springboro, and held a pancake dinner/breakfast. Busy group, huh? With the money earned the group has been able to support the Operation Christmas Child Shoe Box Project by filling 20 boxes, purchased and donated more forks to our church kitchen, purchased gifts for two teenagers on the Giving Tree, and have saved money toward their summer mission trip. All of these good works would not be possible without your support. THANK YOU!

Senior High Winter Retreat is fast approaching, December 28- 30. This year the group will go to Pike Lake State Park for a three day spiritual retreat with the theme of "The Purpose, Process, and Power of Prayer". If your senior high student would like to participate please be sure to RVSP to Brian Schlise no later than December 1. Final trip details will be discussed as a group prior to leaving. Also, if any congregation members would like to consider attending and participating with the group please speak with Brian as well. Your insight and mentorship is a valuable gift to this group of future Christian leaders.

*Glory to God in the Highest,  
and on Earth,  
Peace, Good Will Toward Men*





### **Veterans Socks & Underwear Collection**

The Cornerstone Sunday School class will be 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 December 19. Thank you!

### **United Methodist Church Giving Tuesday**

On December 2, as part of "UMC #Giving Tuesday", you can express the spiritual discipline of giving by donating online through The Advance to any project or missionary of your choice. On this day, up to \$1 million in total gifts (\$2,500 per individual) will be matched. More information and an online giving form can be found at [www.umcmmission.org/give](http://www.umcmmission.org/give).

### **The Giving Tree**

Look for the giving tree in the Narthex soon! The Franklin food pantry will supply us with 50 children who need help this season. Each child will have five tags together, one for socks and underwear, one for hats and mittens, one for clothes, one for shoes, and one for something they really want! You are more than welcome to take all of the tags for the child you choose or you may take just one. Bring the unwrapped items in a bag (attach the tags) by Sunday, December 7. All help is greatly needed and appreciated!

In addition to the Christmas gifts for the children of 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 United Methodist Children's Home, Franklin Food Pantry and Springboro Community Assistance Center. Please help a child who is less-fortunate this Christmas season.

### **Hope House Donations**

In December, Women in Faith will collect toys, hats, mittens and socks for the women and children at Hope House Center in Middletown. Please place items in the collection barrel in the Narthex.

**Nicaragua Missions—Additional Opportunity**

The organization that Jack Eley works with for his annual Nicaragua mission trip is in need of sponsors for the children to attend the Christian school. For the amount of \$360-400, a child will be provided with their Christian education, uniforms, and books for an entire year. If anyone would be interested in becoming a sponsor for a child in Nicaragua, please let Jack or Lois Eley know.

**A.C.E. Food Pantry Collection**

Our before and after school A.C.E. students are collecting cookie mixes, icing, sprinkles and cookie cutters for S.C.A.C. On December 5, they will deliver the items to the food pantry so children can have the joy of baking Christmas cookies! If you would like to donate, please bring items by December 5. Thank you!

**Be an Agent of Hope**

“For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the Lord, “plans to prosper you and not to harm you, to give you hope and a future.” *Jeremiah 29:11*

During the first Sunday in Advent, we celebrate hope. For some people, however, that celebration is hard. Perhaps they are going through their first Christmas without a loved one. Perhaps they are having yet another Christmas without a job. Perhaps the ex gets the children this Christmas. Hope might feel pretty far away.

God has plans, though, and perhaps you are a part of them. Reach out to someone you know who’s going through a tough time. Buy them a cup of coffee and listen. Tell them you care, and if you feel they need a little extra Christian care, tell them about Stephen Ministry. Ask if you can give their name and phone number to one of the leaders, who can talk to them and determine if Stephen Ministry can help.

When you lead someone who’s hurting to someone who can help, you become an agent of hope. Be an Agent of Hope this Christmas. Be a Part of God’s Plan.

*Talk to Zandra Woody, Susan Raihala, Karen DeRosa, or Pastor Suzanne for more information.*



### Opportunities to Take Off in Faith!

Building off our Rally Day theme “Flight School—Take Off, Aim High and Soar with God”, we encourage everyone in our church family to “Take Off in Faith” through the various volunteer opportunities available. Please contact Rebecca in the church office (748-2612 or [rebecca-fumc@gmail.com](mailto:rebecca-fumc@gmail.com)) unless otherwise noted if you are interested in any of these opportunities.

- **Children’s Ministries:** Our children’s ministries are in need of leaders to help with various programs we offer. This is a great way to get to know the children and help them and you become an agent of change through faith! If you are interested in helping a little or a lot, please let Kim Crosen know.
- **Kroger Community Rewards Program:** If you haven’t already, please remember to register our church as your Kroger Plus Community Rewards recipient at [Kroger.com](http://Kroger.com).
  - \* Sign in (if already a member) or create an account (select “Register” in the upper right corner)
  - \* 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 this program, the church will earn a quarterly check based on purchases by Kroger Rewards customers. There is no cost to you to participate in the program. Questions, please contact Mariel Pesavento as 513-855-4243.
- **DLM 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: <http://www.dorothylane.com/clubdml/goodneighbor.pl>
- **Greeters:** We are in need of people interested in greeting prior to services on the three to four 5th Sundays each year. We also want to build a list of substitute greeters who could help out occasionally when regular greeters are not available.

- **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 and Members:** The Fellowship Committee is looking for volunteers to help host on Sundays between the services. Hosting involves making coffee and punch and putting out cookies to share between services. We are also seeking individuals who may want to help us with just one or two events per year (e.g. Chili Cook-off, Rally Day, etc.).
- **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/60B054AAAAF2BA46fellowship/7328927](http://www.SignUpGenius.com/go/60B054AAAAF2BA46fellowship/7328927). 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.
- **Church Historian:** Do you like scrapbooking? Then, this volunteer opportunity is for you! The church needs a Church Historian to keep an organized collection of materials and photos documenting the life of our church.
- **Prayer Shawl Ministry:** Are you a crocheter 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. Pastor Suzanne will bless the finished shawl. If interested, contact Sonia Dermis.
- **Liturgist Volunteers:** We need to expand our supply of Liturgists, especially during the 9:15 worship hour. Please see Rebecca to be added to our Liturgist volunteer pool and to select some Sundays on which to serve.

#### **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.



### Thank You for Your Faithful Giving in 2014!

Because of your faithful giving this year we have been able to continue our existing ministries, pay our apportionments in full, and expand our ministry impact in our church and community. Your giving to God through our church has made this possible. Thank you!

### Operation Christmas Child

A huge thank you to all who contributed to Operation Christmas Child. You provided over 200 boxes of gifts for less fortunate children throughout the world! Your generosity will help spread the message of God's love. A special thank you also to Jennifer Fry for leading this ministry.

### Pancake Dinner and Breakfast

Thank you to everyone who supported our Youth Group's pancake dinner and breakfast in November. 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.

### Remembering Others

Have you noticed someone who typically is at church services or events that you haven't seen in awhile? The winter months can be a difficult time for some people who have a hard time getting out in bad weather. Please consider reaching out with calls or cards to those church members who may not be quite as mobile during the winter.

In addition, please remember the following church members who are currently in nursing homes: Mary Allen, Marilyn Ballinger, Janet Jackson, Franklin Mallett, Bill Potts, Edith Wilson. If you would like contact information, the church office can provide it (937-748-2612 or [rebeccafumc@gmail.com](mailto:rebeccafumc@gmail.com)).

Birthdays in December

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



December Volunteers

Altar Flowers

- Dec. 6/7—Liz Fielder
- Dec. 13/14—Mariel Pesavento
- Dec. 20/21—Christmas Poinsettias
- Dec. 27/28—Lisa Adkins

Hostess & Cookies

- Dec. 7— Open
- Dec. 14—Cornerstone Class
- Dec. 21— Open
- Dec. 28— Open

Please consider making our church just a little sweeter by providing goodies for fellowship time. You can sign up in Fellowship Hall or on line at : <http://www.signupgenius.com/go/60b054aaaaf2ba46-fellowship>

Celebrating an Anniversary in December

- 4-Dick & Marjorie Coyle
- 5- Steve & Leslie Haines
- 7- David & Carol Finney,
- 18- Ed & Vicki Kuhn
- 19-Todd & Lynda Smith
- 22- Lynn & Janet Jackson
- 28-Mark & Jennifer Smith
- 31- Amanda and Jeremy Hansman



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

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

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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*

