

The Messenger

January 2015



Join us for worship each weekend:

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

Sunday morning worship and Sunday school at 9:15 AM

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

First United
Methodist
Church of
Springboro

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Springboro, OH 45066

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

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A word from Pastor Suzanne...

Dear friends,

I hope that you have had a wonderful season of gathering together with family and friends, celebrating and basking in the wonderful gift of light and love of God in Jesus Christ. In January we will continue to celebrate this light and love and consider how it changes and forms us. We will mark the arrival of the wise men on the day of Epiphany. We will remember the Baptism of our Lord and remember our own baptism.

Remembering our baptism will launch our January worship series, ID. ID badges are a part of many jobs these days. We are required to take photo ID with us when we travel or make any sort of official transaction. We are urged to protect our ID so that thieves don't steal our identity.

Our identity in God through Jesus is different. No one can take it from us. It is not a tag we wear on the outside, but a deep truth that forms us from the inside out. It is not something that changes from job to job, or with various seasons in life, but endures throughout our lives and into eternity.

While many cling to and live in the identity that the world gives them, we as Christians cling to our baptism and live in the identity that God gives us. As we acknowledge our God given identity and grow into it, we find that it sets us apart from the world. We respond differently in situations at home, work, and in the world. The Spirit even leads us to respond in ways that are very different than what our first, not so Spirit-filled reaction would lead us to.

During this series, we will claim our identity in Christ and seek to grow into it as we are led by the Holy Spirit. I look forward to this series and to celebrating and living into this New Year with you!

Blessings for this New Year!

Pastor Suzanne

Worship



Worship In January

January 3rd-4th: Epiphany, Holy Communion

Scripture: Isaiah 60:1-6, Matthew 2:1-12

Message: Wisdom in Seeking

January 10th-11th: Baptism of the Lord

Scripture: Acts 19:1-7, Mark 1:4-11

Message: ID: Baptized

January 17th-18th:

Scripture: I Corinthians 6:12-15, 19-20,

John 1:43-51

Message: ID: Bought

January 24th-25th:

Scripture: Mark 1:14-20, Jonah 4:1-5

Message: ID: Called

JANUARY Events

- 7: Choir and Hand Bells
- 4: Mission 56 & Jr. High Youth Church, Lunch, Fellowship
- 11: Acolyte Training
- 11: Bowl-A-Thon
- 12: Finance Committee
- 12: Admin Council
- 12: Covenant Bible Study
- 13: *Making Sense of the Bible*
- 13: WIF Bible Study
- 13: Stephen Ministers
- 14: Wonderful Wednesday
- 14: Choir and Hand Bells
- 15: Parents Connection
- 15: *Making Sense of the Bible*
- 17: United Methodist Men
- 18: Youth Group
- 19: Covenant Bible Study
- 20: *Making Sense of the Bible*
- 20: Trustees
- 20: Bright Beg. Staff Meeting
- 21: Clearcreakers
- 21: Wonderful Wednesday
- 21: Choir and Hand Bells
- 22: *Making Sense of the Bible*
- 23: 7th & 8th Grade Lock-In
- 24: Chili Cook-off
- 25: Youth Group
- 26: UMM Bible Study
- 26: Covenant Bible Study
- 27: *Making Sense of the Bible*
- 27: Stephen Ministers
- 27: VBS Planning Meeting
- 28: Wonderful Wednesday
- 28: Choir and Hand Bells
- 29: *Making Sense of the Bible*

See details in this newsletter



Lay Leader Report

I suspect that I'm not the only one who has a sense that the years are flying by. Parents are so busy with the day-to-day events of work, children, and school that they may not have time to reflect. But to them I say, consider the accomplishments of your children – look how they are growing and learning. Amazing isn't it?

Here we are at the beginning of 2015. It has been a very fast 15 years since we were worried with Y2K and failing software. Babies born just a couple years before Y2K are now thinking about college. Time flies....

2015 – Looking ahead to upcoming training events for our church members:

- I very much endorse attendance at our district's training day on January 31, at Armstrong Chapel United Methodist Church. The training will run from 8:30 to around 4:00. Attend all or a part of the day, as schedules allow.
- On February 21, my Certified Lay Ministry Academy classmates and I will hold our February event at FUMC. My CLM classmates have been working since the fall of 2013 and we will complete in March. At each CLM Academy event, we worship and participate in study on a specific spiritual growth topic. If anyone is considering what is now the highest level of credentialing the UMC offers laity, audit part of our class on February 21.
- Another training opportunity in early 2015 consists of the Lay Servant Ministry classes that will be offered in early March. In March, we will offer the Introduction class as well as a unique class on prayer which will be led by our District's Lay Leader, Linda Young. Thus far, five members of FUMC have taken at least one of the LSM classes, while one of us has attained the rank of Lay Speaker – which requires seven specific 10-hour classes plus passing an interview with a district team. The stringent requirements to earn the official status of Lay Speaker were implemented by the General Conference of the United Methodist Church in 2012.

For any of these three opportunities, see me for more information.

I see 2015 as a year in which we celebrate the presence of Jesus in our lives, a year in which we serve in mission, and a year in which we worship our Resurrected Lord! Have a safe New Year's Eve. Happy New Year!

David Finney

Financial Update

Thank you for your continued faithful giving to God through First UMC. Without your tithes and offerings, we could not reach as far, touch as many, or offer as much. Your giving helps provide many life changing ministries here in Springboro and, through the connectional system of the United Methodist Church, supports ministries around the world. Simply put, giving is worship. Thank you for being a part of our worship of God.

Church Records and Keys

Any church members who have been serving in leadership roles requiring them to keep church records or have a church key, please remember to pass them on to members who may be taking over your role in the new year. If you are passing on a key, please let Rebecca in the church office know so that we have up-to-date records of members with keys.

Also, if you have a church key which is rarely used, please consider returning it to the church office. We have front door keys available to be loaned out when needed on an occasional basis. If you have a key that you regularly need, please notify Rebecca in the church office (748-2612 or rebeccafumc@gmail.com) so we have a complete record of key holders.

Giving Envelopes and End of Year Statements

2015 giving envelopes are available for pick up from Fellowship Hall. There is 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.

Fellowship Time

A new January and February sign-up sheet for providing cookies and hosting fellowship time between Sunday services is now available for scheduling. We all enjoy this time of fellowship so we encourage anyone who would like to provide cookies, donuts or other homemade or store bought treats to please sign-up for one of the upcoming Sundays. You may also sign up on line at <http://www.signupgenius.com/go/60b054aaaaf2ba46-fellowship>.

Building Committee Update: “Where Yesterday Meets Tomorrow”

FUMC’s Building Committee met with the District Board on Church Location and Building on December 13. The District Board provided valuable advice and counsel that comes from their many years of experience helping churches looking at opportunities similar to ours. We believe we have established a solid, longer term building expansion plan that takes advantage of our existing structure and location. The Building Committee will now work with the chosen design and build firm, High Five, to determine how much of this long term expansion plan, from a practical and fiscal perspective, should be pursued at this time. As always, please contact a committee member if you have any questions. Committee members include Alicia Buterbaugh, Nancy Clark, Bill Delbridge, David Finney, Jennifer Fry, Gary Haun, Mark Keyser, Eric Robinson, and Kelly Smith.

2015 Flower Calendar

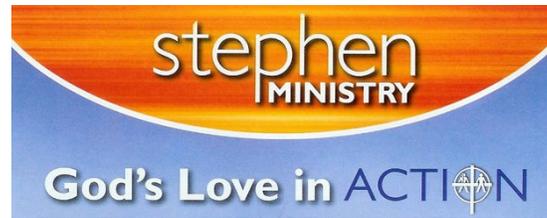
We thank everyone for their support in providing Sanctuary flowers each week. The flower calendar for 2015 is now available for sign-ups. It is located on the table just outside the Sanctuary in Fellowship Hall. You are welcome to sign up in honor or in memory of a loved one. Please make sure you print 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.

Substitute Nursery Attendant Needed

We are seeking someone to serve as a substitute nursery attendant. This paid position will watch over the youngest in our congregation from 9:00 to 12:00 on Sundays when our regular attendant is not available. If you are interested, please contact Lois Gollihugh at 748-4504 or crgollihugh@yahoo.com.

Church Office Closed

The church office will be closed on Thursday and Friday, December 25 and 26 and Thursday and Friday, January 1 and 2. Hours may also be limited on the days between Christmas and New Years. Please call ahead if you need to be in the church building during that time. In addition, the office will be closed on Monday, January 19 for Martin Luther King, Jr. Day.



Busting Myths about Stephen Ministry
"I'm Not Bad Enough for a Stephen Minister!"

Some people think that Stephen Ministers only help people who are in the midst of great tragedy, like the death of a child or a terminal diagnosis. While Stephen Ministers certainly do care for people facing tragedies, we also care for people facing common challenges of daily life. When we suggest Stephen Ministry to someone who's struggling with an "ordinary" difficulty, we often hear, "I'm not bad enough for a Stephen Minister."

Let's bust that myth right now! If you hurt, we will help. No hurt—whatever the cause—is ordinary for the person experiencing it. All hurting is eased by kind and skilled care. Consider the empty nest. Some parents cope easily with their children leaving home, but some struggle, wondering, "Who am I if I'm not a parent taking care of a child?" Consider the "ordinary" difficulties of parenting, retirement, relocation, loneliness, accidents, chronic illnesses, caring for loved ones who are sick or addicted or disabled.... The list of "ordinary" hurting goes on.

Stephen Ministers can help people through almost ANY situation causing them pain. Don't suffer alone, thinking "I'm not bad enough for a Stephen Minister." If you hurt, we will help. Speak with Pastor Suzanne, Karen DeRosa, Zandra Woody, or Susan Raihala for more information.

**"If you have the Shepherd,
you have grace for every sin,
direction for every turn,
a candle for every corner,
and an anchor for every storm."
~ Max Lucado**



Church Groups – Meetings/Schedules

Women in Faith

Women in Faith will not meet in January. The WIF Bible Study will meet on Tuesday, January 13 in the conference room. They are currently studying the book of Mark.

Clearcreakers Senior Group

The “Clearcreakers Senior Group” will meet January 21 at 11:30 (weather permitting). We will be having a potluck lunch. Please bring a casserole, salad, or dessert to share. Also remember to bring your own eating utensils. The program for this month will be a fun time of white elephant gift exchange. Please bring an old or new or re-gifted wrapped item and take part in the fun. Try to join us for some good food, fun, and fellowship! Questions, call: Liz Fielder, Vivian Beatty or Clara McLemore. Please note in case of inclement weather, we follow same weather closing rules as the Springboro Schools.

United Methodist Men

The men of our church will serve breakfast to our guests with Interfaith Hospitality Network on January 3. We encourage all to join us as we prepare and serve a hot breakfast to our guests.

We will then meet for our monthly breakfast on January 17 at 8:30 a.m. at Main Street Deli in Springboro. Consider joining us for this time of prayer, fellowship and breakfast.

We will also gather for Bible study on January 26 at 7:00 p.m. at church. We invite men and boys to join us for this study.

Other Group Meeting Dates

- January 12 – Finance – Fellowship Hall
- January 12 – Administrative Council – Fellowship Hall
- January 13 – Stephen Ministers – Fellowship Hall & Senior High Room
- January 20 – Trustees – Conference Room
- January 27 – Stephen Ministers – Fellowship Hall & Conference Room

JANUARY EVENTS

Interfaith Hospitality Network

The Interfaith Hospitality Network families will stay with us December 21 through the night of January 3. Thank you to everyone who has already signed up to help. As we go to print, there are still some slots that need to be filled. You can sign up in Fellowship Hall or online at <http://www.signupgenius.com/go/60b054aaaaf2ba46-interfaith2>.



We have a milk jug available to collect cash for incidentals like milk and other supplies, but would also like to ask for help in collecting things like breakfast bars, oatmeal cups, mac and cheese cups, ravioli, juice boxes, snack bags of chips, etc. for lunches. We need to provide a full dinner, as well as the supplies and food to pack both breakfast and lunch. The next time you're at the grocery, please consider grabbing one or two things for IHN. There is a box in the Fellowship Hall for donations! Thank you!! If you have any questions, please contact Jennifer Fry.

Wonderful Wednesdays

Wonderful Wednesdays will resume again after the holiday on January 14. We hope you will join us for dinner at 6:00 p.m., for a short informal worship service at 6:50 p.m., and for small group studies for all ages at 7:15 p.m.



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).

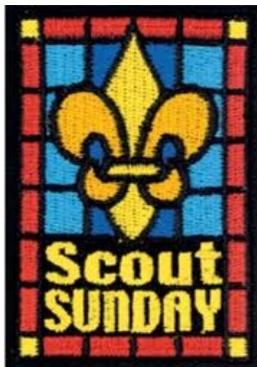
Chili Cook-Off and Game Night

Get your aprons out, your best chili recipe ready, grab your favorite game and join us on Saturday, January 24 for our annual chili cook-off and game night. We will have prizes for the best tasting, the most creative presentation, etc. Each entrant will need to provide their own 4x4 card table (decorated of course!) and chili cooked up and brought in warm (there aren't enough outlets for everyone's crockpots). Family Life Committee will provide hot dogs and drinks. If you're not a chili cook, just bring a side or dessert to share. We could also use donations of prizes. If you have a gift card or a small prize gift, please drop it by the church office. Come early for worship at 5:30. The dinner will begin at 6:30. If you can help with this event, please contact Tina Stafford. Thanks!



Women in Faith Cookie Walk

The Women in Faith will sponsor a Cookie/Cupcake Walk on February 7 and 8. A variety of cookies and cupcakes will be displayed after the Saturday service and after both services on Sunday. WIF is also asking for donations of baked goods so we hope you will get out your aprons and bake some delicious cookies or cupcakes! Donations can be brought into the kitchen on February 6, 7 and 8. Please be sure to label them "WIF Cookie Walk". Thank you!!



February 8 is Scout Sunday

All scouts are invited to wear their uniforms and attend worship on Sunday, February 8. The Boy Scouts will help lead and be emphasized in the 9:15 service. The Girl Scouts and Cub Scouts will help lead and be emphasized in the 10:35 service. Please contact Tracy Stull if you have a scout who would like to help as a greeter, liturgist, or usher.

Upcoming COMMUNITY EVENTS

Miami Valley Symphony Orchestra

Church member, Kelly Ronyak, invites you to the upcoming Miami Valley Symphony Orchestra concert of *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 at 8:00 p.m. and Sunday March 1 at 2:00 p.m. at the Dayton Masonic Center.

Renaissance Feaste

Otterbein Lebanon will hold their 21st Annual Renaissance Feaste on January 8 and 9 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. 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 Continued

Matthew for Everyone

The Tuesday morning bible study, *Matthew for Everyone*, will be on hiatus while *Making Sense of the Bible* is offered in its time slot from January 13 through February 17. *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) explores parenting topics and refers to God's word to look for answers to our questions. The class shares breakfast and coffee. But most importantly, they share concerns about parenting and support each other and pray for God's direction together. The class is currently 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.

Children's Curriculum

The Education Department is looking for a few creative people to help put together a curriculum for our Summer Sunday School program. Please see or call Kim (748-2612 or kimfumc@gmail.com) if you are interested in being a part of the team.

V.B.S. Planning

V.B.S. in January? No, not yet. We are still a few months away, but when we have over 80 volunteers and 250 children participate, we like to start planning early! This year's theme is so wonderful it's going to take a lot of work! We are already anticipating the excitement. Start thinking of how you would like to participate this year in this fun and exciting ministry!

At this time, we need a craft coordinator, a snack coordinator and a decorating team. An overview and planning session for these positions will be Tuesday, January 27 at 7:00 p.m. Please let Kim know if you are interested (kimfumc@gmail.com or 748-2612).



Five on the 5th—Donations for UMCH Family Services

In early December, our church had the pleasure of having the Rev. James Freshour deliver a ministry moment about UMCH Family Services in Columbus. This outreach program of the West Ohio Conference of the United Methodist Church finds, provides and strengthens homes for children. The organization is a comprehensive provider of community-based adoption, foster care and family mental health services to children at risk for abuse, neglect and mental illness. In 2015, our Holy Java Class is asking our church to participate in UMCH Family Services' "Five on the 5th" program. On the four months with five Sundays, they ask people to make a \$5 donation to the organization. The funds collected will be used to help the organization provide faith-based children's and family mental health treatment in Ohio. For 2015, the four Sundays will be March 29, May 31, August 30 and November 29. If you would like to contribute, simply place the \$5 donation in one of the pew envelopes and mark it UMCH Family Services. Thank you also to everyone who made a donation in early December. We collected approximately \$200. Your generosity is making a difference in the lives of children in need!

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.



Bright Beginnings Buzz

In December, the children focused on the first Christmas, the start of St. Nicholas, and the Christian symbols of Christmas. We wanted them to know that God loves us so much that he gave us the greatest gift of all...Jesus!! The children celebrated Jesus' birth with parties, various activities and performed a Christmas program called "The Christmas Journey".

In January the children will be learning about winter and weather. Ice painting, snowflakes, opposites, winter wear and more will be discussed as the children learn about their environment and the world around them. The Bible verse for the month is "There will always be cold and heat, summer and winter, day and night." (Genesis 8:22)

Bright Beginnings registration for the 2015-2016 school year will be held in late January for current students. Church families and people on the wait list will be able to register in early to mid February. If you are interested, please contact Kim Crosen as soon as possible to get information on the pre-school and to arrange a tour. Kim can be reached at kimfumc@gmail.com or 748-2612.

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

Our A.C.E. kids have had a busy December. They learned about Christmas traditions throughout Europe and the nativity. They made yule logs and decorations for the Christmas tree in the corner of Fellowship Hall. They also made cards for veterans and stuffed stockings. If you would like to know more about our A.C.E. program, please contact Kim at 748-2612.

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).

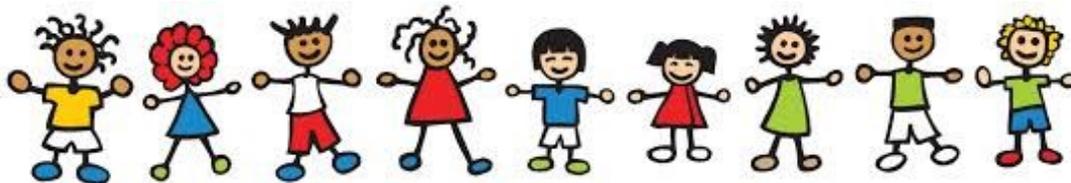
- January 15: Kindergarten Readiness with Jen Johnson, Principal at Clearcreek Elementary
- February 11: Love Language, led by Kim Croser
- March 11: Empowerment vs. Entitlement: Teaching Our Children to Know the Difference
- April 8: Children and Finances
- May 7: Safe as Necessary, Not as Possible

Breakfast With Santa & Holiday House

On Saturday, December 6 we held our annual Breakfast with Santa and Holiday House. Everyone enjoyed a fun morning of pancakes, sausage, activities and a visit from the jolly old elf himself! Afterwards, 65 little ones stayed for four hours of fun in our Holiday House. Parents were able to shop, sleep, relax, or do whatever they needed while their little ones celebrated a day exploring and creating as they moved through our "Treasures of Christmas" theme. All had a wonderful time! A HUGE THANK YOU goes out to all involved for helping to ensure a successful and exciting time!

**“With God new beginnings are possible in our hearts.
God gives fresh starts from the inside out.”**

~Marvin Williams





Youth Ministry

Kids Who Care (K-2nd grade)

We had a fun Happy Birthday Jesus party in December where we learned what God wanted for Christmas. On January 11, we will join with all the youth of the church in a Bowl-A-Thon to raise money for missions. The event will be held at Strike Zone in Franklin. Watch for an e-mail with the specific time of the event.

If you have a child in kindergarten through 2nd grade and would like to be added to the e-mail list to receive information about God Squad activities, please send an e-mail with your child's name and information to kimfumc@gmail.com. If you have any questions or need additional information, please feel free to contact Kim Crosen @ 748-2612 or 760-0541 (cell).

God Squad (3rd and 4th grade)

In December our 3rd and 4th graders met at the church and had a great time spreading Christmas cheer as we ran through Springboro and went house to house belting out Christmas carols and handing out candy canes! People seemed excited to see us and our kiddos were saying how much fun they were having "spreading Christmas cheer"!

On January 11, we will have a Bowl-A-Thon to raise money to contribute to missions and activities. This will be a joint activity for all the youth of the church (kindergarten through 12th grade). We'll be at Strike Zone in Franklin. Watch for an e-mail with the specific time. We will need some parent volunteers to attend this event.

If you have a child in 3rd or 4th grade and would like to be added to the e-mail list to receive information about God Squad activities, please send an e-mail with your child's name and information to kimfumc@gmail.com. If you have any questions or need additional information, please feel free to contact Kim Crosen @ 748-2612 or 760-0541 (cell).



Mission 56 and Junior High

Mission 56 and Junior High Youth and Parents,

I hope you had a wonderful Christmas season filled with love, family and the joy that comes with the celebrating Christ's birth. Much is happening with the Youth Program at First United Methodist Church and it is my hope that 2015 will be a year of life-changing transformation for our youth as they experience a closer relationship with Christ. I look forward to another year as the Youth Director for our middle school children and the time we will spend worshipping together and learning more about our Christian faith.

Yours in Christ,
Kirby

Here are the activities planned for the month of January:

Weekly Activities

- **Sunday Night Youth Group:** The Junior High (grades 7 and 8) youth will be meeting every Sunday (except for the first 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/Jr. High Weekly Activities 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 meet with Mr. Youst from 6:50 - 7:15 a.m. in his classroom and the Sixth Grade meet with Kirby from 6:50 - 7:20 a.m. in the Multi-purpose Room (Band Room). Juice and donuts will be provided.
- **Wonderful Wednesdays start January 14:** All families are invited to join members of the congregation for Wonderful Wednesdays, which includes a carry-in dinner, worship and small group discussions. There is something for all ages and we encourage our youth to join us each week for this worthwhile family experience. Here is the schedule for Wonderful Wednesdays is 6:00 p.m. - carry-in dinner, 6:45 p.m. – service, and 7:15 - 8:00 p.m. - Bible Study/Discussion with Kirby (Grades 5 - 8).

January Special Events

- **Sunday, January 4 - "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 either return to the church or go to a special location for a time of fun and fellowship. We should be done around 3:00 pm. **Parents** - I could use at least one volunteer to assist me for the lunch and activity time. You may need to drive youth to lunch if there are too many for the bus. **Please RSVP if you are willing and able to help.**
- **Tuesday, January 6 - Hope House Mission: Center for Women and Children:** Provide dinner and games or crafts for the women and children of Hope House in Middletown from 5:00 - 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 p.m. Should be back to the church no later than 7:30 p.m. **Please RSVP if planning on joining us.**
- **Sunday, January 11 - Children and Youth Bowling Party:** The Mission 56, Junior High and Senior High Youth are invited to join Kim Crosen and the elementary children for some bowling fun at Strike Zone in Franklin. Please watch for an e-mail with the specific time. The youth are asked to assist with the little ones as they attempt to bowl a game or two. After the little ones have left the bowling alley, the youth will order pizza and pop and bowl another game or two. We should be done by 6:30 p.m. (There will be no Youth Group later that evening.)

Mission 56/Jr. High Special Events Continued

- **Saturday, January 17 - "The Three" at the YMCA, 6:30-9:30 p.m.:** Springboro youth in Grades 6, 7 and 8 are invited to come to the Coffman YMCA from 6:30 - 9:30 p.m. on Saturday, January 17 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 on the 3rd Saturday of the month is hosted by Tony Carmody, Youth Pastor at Southwest Church.
- **Wednesday, January 21 - 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.
- **Friday, January 23 - Junior High (Grades 7 and 8) Lock-in:** The Junior High Youth will have their annual lock-in filled with fun, food and fellowship (and very little sleep). Arrival time is 8:00 p.m. with pick-up being 8:00 a.m. on Saturday, January 24. You are welcome to invite a friend to join us for this fun-filled evening. **Please RSVP if you are planning on attending.** More detailed information will be provided a few weeks before the lock-in.
- **Wednesday, January 28 - 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.

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

Senior High will be attending the Winter Jam concert series at US Bank Arena on Friday, February 20. There are ten bands playing and admission is only \$10! The entire church is invited to join the Senior High for a night out including dinner. We will meet at the church at 5:30 p.m., leave, get a quick dinner, enjoy the concert, and get dessert on the way back. Watch for the posters around church advertising this event and sign up if you plan to join. Any questions, please call Brian Schlise at 937-272-6167.

The Senior High will also participate in Cedarmania on Saturday, March 21 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Cedarville University. The event is a day long program centered around praise, music, games, workshops, and a special keynote speaker. The cost for this event will be \$20 per attendee (Senior High fundraising will cover the remaining cost) which includes entry, lunch, and a t-shirt. The registration deadline for this event is January 23. Please be sure to let Brian Schlise know if you are planning to attend.



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) 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 take off in 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.
 - * 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.
- **Greeters:** We are in need of people interested in greeting prior to services on the 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.
- **Dorothy Lane Market Good Neighbor Program:** Our church is part of the Dorothy Lane Market Good Neighbor program. This program allows us to earn money based on your spending at DLM. All you have to do is complete a Good Neighbor Form and designate our church. You must re-register each year for the donation to be made. Forms for 2015 should be available in late December. 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/clubdlm/goodneighbor.pl>

- **Loaves and Fishes Ministry:** Our church is blessed to have a Loaves and Fishes Ministry which provides meals for church members after birth of children, in times of serious illness or at other critical family times. The group is in need of some additional volunteers to make and/or deliver meals. If you are interested in helping or would like more information, please contact Tina Yeamans at trperr@gmail.com or at 937-550-9568.
- **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.). Please contact Cindy Hunsaker at Cindy.Hunsaker@teradata.com or call 937-903-0848 if you are interested in helping.
- **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. 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 crotchetier or knitter? If so, would you like to make a prayer shawl for a special friend or member of our church experiencing a difficult time in their life? It is a most rewarding ministry to let members know how much you care and share in their unhappy or happy moments. Pastor Suzanne will bless the finished shawl. If interested, contact Sonia Dermis at 937-550-9412.
- **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.



Veterans Socks & Underwear Collection

The Cornerstone Sunday School class would like to thank everyone who supported the collection of sports socks and underwear for the Veterans Hospital.

The Giving Tree/Stocking Stuffers

Thank you to everyone who contributed to the Giving Tree and Stocking Stuffers. Through the Giving Tree program we sponsored 50 children. Each child receives at least 10 gifts so that amounts to approximately 500 presents the church and Bright Beginnings families provided! Also, thank you to all who helped with all the wrapping. In addition, we were able to put together approximately 30 stockings through the Holy Java class and Bright Beginnings collection to support the United Methodist Children's Home. You have shown the true joy and meaning of the season through your gifts and time!

Children's Christmas Program

Thank you to all who participate in the Children's Christmas Program to be presented at the 4:30 service Christmas Eve. Whether your role is on "stage" or behind the scenes, you all play a part in spreading the good news of Jesus' birth!

Personal Thank You's

Thank you for your continued prayers for Jim and I. Jim has three more chemo treatments on December 10, December 31 and January 21. We wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Patty and Jim Sands

To all members and friends—

For everything you've done, for being the special people that you are, thank you so very much. Your prayers were so helpful. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Ellinor Romano (Barbara & Don Files' sister)

Thank You's continued on next page.

Center of Hope

We would like to thank you for the wonderful support you have shown the Center of Hope for Women and Children, as evidence by your donation of the pillows, bedding, and clothes for the residents, and because of your generosity we are able to further our mission in bettering the lives of our women and children here at COH. Thank you so much for being a friend to our residents.

Sincerely,
Melissa Schwarber, Women's Director
Center of Hope for Women & Children

UMCOR

Thank you for your support of the United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR). Through your gift, you are helping to provide assistance for survivors of human trafficking, funding for health and development projects that alleviate hunger and poverty, holistic community-based health programs, and access to clean water and sanitation. This is just a sampling of the good works that gifts like yours make possible. Thank you for giving so generously.

Through The Advance, the designated giving channel of The United Methodist Church, 100 percent of your contribution will go to World Hunger and Poverty, Advance #982920. Your gift is supporting programs addressing the root causes of hunger and poverty. Giving through The Advance enables United Methodists to partner with one another in mission and ministry around the world. Thank you for joining with us to "Be Hope" to those who desperately need it.

This gift will bring hope to those who need it most.

Grace and Peace, Roland Fernandes General Treasurer United Methodist Committee on Relief General Board of Global Ministries	Shawn Bakker Deputy General Secretary Communications and Development
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Thank You's Continued

Volunteers In Mission—Nicaragua

The November 2014 Volunteers In Mission team to Nicaragua has now completed its work and returned home.

Our work this November included a lot of painting inside and outside the new rooms for the Escuela Cristiana Carolina de Sirker (Carolyn Sirker Christian School) in Nejapa, a barrio of Managua, Nicaragua, that will see first use at the start of the next school year in February 2015. The team also cleared a field at the school to be used as a soccer field, dedicated the field and saw the school teams play the first couple of matches.

Among other ministries the team performed was a visitation to a Nicaraguan Methodist Church where the team provided money for the church to obtain food and cook a hot meal for about 150 children which team members served to the children.

Jack and Lois Eley presented a check to the team for \$800 which was a gathering of donations from your church that was used mainly to help buy materials for the painting and for the donation to buy food for the children's hot meal.

Our hosts in Nicaragua were extremely pleased with the work of the team. Much was accomplished. The Christian school really looks nice, and the students were excited about the new rooms that they will get to use next year. The Methodist Church where we fed the children was very grateful for our attention to their children.

Thank you very much for your willingness to provide some funds that our team could use in our ministry works. Your donation is very much appreciate by me and the various folks in Nicaragua who will benefit from our work there.

God bless all of you!!

Jack Reif

Volunteers In Mission Team Leader

Birthdays in January

- 4: Brian Schlise,
Carol Dean
- 7: Ken Mori
- 10: Joe Kylin,
Connor Rivman
- 11: Sharon Sinclair
- 14: Marc Richard, Jim Bachus
- 17: Ron Fogle, Katy Shetterly
- 18: Theo DeRosa
- 19: Charlie Smith, Bob Marvin
- 20: Elena Mallett
- 26: Mary Ann McIntosh,
Paul Siudzinski
- 28: Dave Cecil
- 29: Lawrence Tennant, Jude Hoy
- 30: Abby Shetterly Miracle,
Sean Foley
- 31: Anna Wade, Shannon Clark
Rachel Mosch Waldbillig



January Volunteers

Altar Flowers

- Jan. 3/4—Open
- Jan. 10/11—Open
- Jan. 17/18—Lois Cox
- Jan. 24/25 —Open

Hostess & Cookies

- Jan. 4— Open
- Jan. 11— Open
- Jan. 18— Open
- Jan. 25— 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://ww.signupgenius.com/go/60b054aaaaf2ba46-fellowship>

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

Celebrating an Anniversary in January



Our records do not show any members with January anniversaries. If we are mistaken and have missed yours, please let Rebecca in the church office know (rebeccafumc@gmail.com or 748-2612).

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

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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

