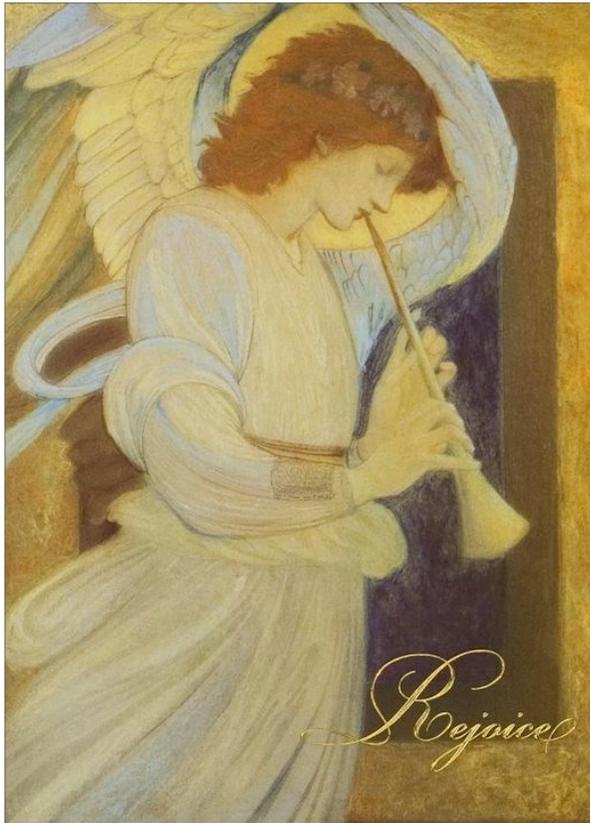




First United Methodist Church of Springboro

# The Messenger

December 2015



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

fumcofspringboro.org  
rebeccafumc@gmail.com

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

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Join us for worship each weekend:

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

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

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



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

Dear friends,

As the holidays approach we delight to see more and more Christmas decorations appear. Often among the decorations are angels. Perhaps they sit grandly on top of a Christmas tree or nativity scene. Perhaps they decorate shelves or walls.

Angels have become a popular way to decorate not only at Christmas but throughout the year. People purchase them as cute little cherubs or beautiful willowy figurines. They think of them as protectors and good deed doers.

As I was looking over the beginning of Luke in preparation for the holiday season, however, I was struck by the angels in the story. They show up in nearly every important scene and they don't really fit the beautiful and sweet images that we have for them.

In the scripture the angels, especially Gabriel, are messengers. They appear in order to share important information from God and to invite ordinary people like Zechariah, Mary, Joseph, and the shepherds into extraordinary acts of faith that reveal God's powerful hand at work in history. Their presence is confronting rather than comforting and requires a decision that will take great courage and personal sacrifice to live out.

But each of these individuals listen to the angels and say yes. The shepherds go and see the moment that we still respond in awe to and celebrate each year, the birth of Emmanuel, God with us. Joseph says yes to grace rather than judgment and becomes the human father of the Christ child. Mary risks her life and reputation as she says yes to bear the Savior of the nations.

All of this got me thinking about how God speaks to us today. Who are our angels? No, not those who protect us and do good deeds, but those who look us in the eye and confront us with a message from God. Who are those around us who speak a word of truth, of challenge, and of hope for the world to us? I believe there are angels still speaking to us today, calling us to step out in faith and to be radically different than the norm, calling us to risk everything, calling us to say yes to grace over judgement, to bring Jesus Christ to those who need him most.

During this Christmas season, I invite you to join me in "Listening to the Angels," that we might hear the word of truth, challenge, and hope that God is speaking to us. And as we hear these words may we respond with faith, courage and joy.

Advent and Christmas Blessings!  
Pastor Suzanne





***Worship In December***  
**"Listening to the Angels"**

December 5th/6th:  
 Holy Communion  
 Scripture: Luke 1:11-25  
 Message: A Time of Silence

December 12th/13th:  
 Scripture: Luke 1:26-38  
 Message: Do Not Be Afraid

December 19th/20th:  
 Scripture: Matthew 1:18-25  
 Message in Song: Choir Cantata

December 26th/27th:  
 Message: The Greatest Gift

Special Worship Services in December:  
 December 13th at 5pm:  
 Traveler's Christmas Eve Service

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



## Doings

- 1: *Paul for Everyone* Bible Study
- 1: Mission 56/Jr. High Hope House
- 2: Choir and Hand Bells
- 3: Stephen Ministers Training
- 4: Breakfast with Santa set-up
- 5: Breakfast with Santa and Holiday House
- 6: 5-8th Grades Church, Lunch, Fellowship
- 6: Kids Who Care
- 6: Youth Wrapping Party
- 7: Bright Beg. Christmas Program
- 8: *Paul for Everyone* Bible Study
- 8: Stephen Ministers
- 8: Bright Beg. Christmas Program
- 8: Women in Faith Bible Study
- 9: Clearcreakers
- 9: 6th Grade Lunch with Kirby
- 11: Choir and Hand Bells
- 11: Movie Night
- 11: Progressive Dinner
- 11: Senior High Movie Night
- 12: Women in Faith Meeting
- 13: Travelers Christmas Service
- 13: God Squad
- 13: Youth Group Christmas Party
- 15: *Paul for Everyone* Bible Study
- 15: Stephen Ministers (offsite)
- 16: Junior High Lunch with Kirby
- 16: Choir and Hand Bells
- 17: Stephen Ministers Training
- 20: Junior High Youth Fun Day
- 20-31: Interfaith Hospitality Network
- 21-23: Senior High Winter Retreat
- 23: Christmas Play Dress Rehearsal
- 24: Christmas Eve Services

*See details in this newsletter*



**Lay Leader Report**

Advent is here, those four weeks of preparation for the birth of Jesus. By tradition, each of the four weeks represents part of the message of Jesus: Hope, Love, Joy and Peace. Therefore, the first candle represents Hope, the second is for Love, the third reminds us of Joy, and as expected with the coming of the Prince of Peace, the fourth candle represents Peace. So we are to focus on hope, love, joy and peace, not on finding the “perfect” gift for everyone. For the perfect gift is to live in Christ.

I thank Gene McCormick for accompanying me to Smith Island in early November. Gene was very much involved in many repair activities in tiny Tylerton, MD. I made two primary contributions: 1) arranging for Gene to be present since he was such a vibrant part of our work force and 2) and an amazing story from our first day in Tylerton.

My brother Jeff and his friend Darrel organized the mission work and were the overall leaders. When we arrived on Smith Island, Jeff gave me my first assignment. Jeff asked me to work with one other guy in painting the exterior of a building adjacent to the primary path which led from the ferry dock to the town’s General Store. This building was greatly in need of paint but I don’t like to paint in that I always get more paint on me than on the target. However, Jeff knew something that I did not know. As it turned out, my primary role was not one to spread the latex paint. Instead, my role was to serve as a Certified Lay Minister as I spoke for three hours with a troubled young man. My painting partner was recently released from Maryland’s Eastern Correction

Institution and had recently discovered the love of Christ. I spent those three hours spreading a little paint and answering many questions about scripture, faith and forgiveness. I was very much blessed to speak and pray with this young man.

Over the days of the mission work, there were about 15 folks who spent some time on Smith Island. These 15 came from two Maryland churches in addition to Gene and myself. It was quite nice to be with and work with these Christians.

The worship on the last night is something I will always remember. We gathered in Union United Methodist Church, the only church building in Tylerton. We sang hymns with wonderful enthusiasm, prayed and shared what the days in Tylerton meant to us. The residents generously spoke of how they were blessed to host us and by our work. But each of the out-of-town workers knew who was more greatly blessed: each of the mission workers. The blessing we received in Tylerton is profound and something we will carry with us for a long time.

We will return to Smith Island in 2016. For that trip, we will arrange the days of the week to be centered on a weekend, to allow those who have day-jobs to join us. No doubt Gene and I will joyfully return.

I look back on our days on Smith Island as ones filled with hope, love, joy and peace. Each of those themes were present, our precursor to Advent. May your Advent be filled with **Hope, Joy, Love and Peace.**

- David Finney



### ***Smith Island Mission Trip***

When Dave Finney first presented an opportunity for the FUMC to join a mission trip to Smith Island, MD it sounded exciting so I checked to see if I could fit it into my life. I moved some appointments around and cleared my calendar so I could join Dave and the others who were going to be there and help out in any way I could. All the hard efforts of setting up the work to be done on the island and getting the materials there had been done by a couple of other churches and all we had to do was provide the labor and bring some simple hand tools.

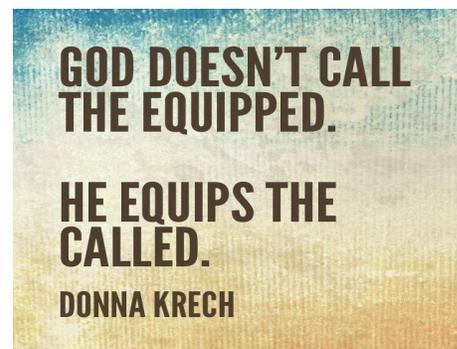
I've done other charitable mission work both locally and out of state but it had been years since my last overnight mission trip. As for the work, it once again proved that many hands make the load light. We repaired roofs, added new trim, re-nailed and hung gutters, painted weathered wood, raked, pulled weeds and trimmed trees. In the small community the work we did showed brightly everywhere.

On this trip we were also able to enjoy the company of the community as they prepared meals for us and we shared a Wednesday church service together. The evenings were spent in fellowship with other men we

worked with, sharing our life stories. It was very interesting to hear the different paths we all take in our life's journey.

I had forgotten how rewarding mission work is, but was reminded of that when we sat down with those we were helping and we saw first hand just how appreciative they were for any little work we did for them. But what made this trip different for me from local charitable work, is when I have come home from working locally I would lose the good feeling and return back to my "normal" life more quickly, Returning from this trip the good feelings have lingered with me for a much longer time frame and I feel glad for taking the time to have gone.

In conclusion I'd suggest to you, if ever you thought of doing mission work, but stopped because you thought it might be too hard, or take too much of your time, it might be worth a rethought. It doesn't have to be that hard and it doesn't have to take too much time for the benefit to be seen. Think of an opportunity here in the church, in the local community or far away, where you can make someone's life a little better, and you may also find it very rewarding in your own life.





### ***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 give all of the undesignated Christmas Eve offering to "One Great Hour of Sharing". 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.

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.

## **First United Methodist Church**

### ***Christmas Cantata***

The Heavenly Host Choir will sing their annual Christmas Cantata at services on Saturday, December 19 and Sunday, December 20. Both the Heavenly Host Choir and the Joyful Noise Bell Choir leading us in worship through music. 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 .

### ***2016 Flower Calendar***

We thank everyone for their support in providing Sanctuary flowers each week. The flower calendar for 2016 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.

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

The church office will be closed on Friday, December 25 and Friday, 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.



### ***Stewardship Giving and First Steps Campaign***

Thank you to each of you who have thoughtfully considered your contribution to the church for 2016 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.

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

- retire our existing mortgage,
- enhance and expand the existing worship space, and
- prepare for the future by establishing a "Faith Fund" for a future expansion of the church building.

If you have not yet had a chance to return your pledge card, they may be returned to the church office or put in the offering plate during services. Should you have any questions about the First Steps campaign, please

reach out to one of the campaign committee members.

- Pastor Suzanne Allen
- Stephanie Bindemann
- Bill Delbridge
- Garry Haun
- Bill Olson
- Eric Robinson
- Brian Schlise
- Kelly Smith

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

2016 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 Online Giving option). End of year statements will be mailed in January. If you have any questions, please contact Tracy Stull at 748-8699 or [stullhome2@gmail.com](mailto:stullhome2@gmail.com).

### ***Online Giving***

First United Methodist is partnering with *NCS Services* to offer online giving. *NCS Services* provides this secure service to many churches in our area. Now you can make one-time special or recurring offerings to the church through debit from checking or savings account or by using a credit or debit card.

Getting started is easy—just visit our website, [www.fumcofspringboro.org](http://www.fumcofspringboro.org), and click on our new Online Giving link, or go directly to our e-giving site at <https://e-giving.org/FirstUnitedMethodistChurchofSpringboroSpringboro> to register. Please contact Tracy Stull or e-mail [financeteamfumc@gmail.com](mailto:financeteamfumc@gmail.com) with any questions.





**Church Groups Meetings/Schedules**

**Women In Faith**

Women in Faith will meet Saturday, December 12 at 9:00 a.m. We will be making fruit baskets for our Fellowship Friends. At this meeting, we will also talk about our Christmas Bazaar.

The WIF Bible study continues on the second Tuesday of each month at 7:00 p.m. in the conference room. In December the meeting will be on the 8th. They are studying *Parables from the Back Side*. If you would like any information on our group, please contact Judy Cook.

**United Methodist Men**

United Methodist Men will be active in this way in the coming weeks: we will meet for Bible study on November 30 and December 28 at 7:00 for an hour. Then we will serve the Interfaith Hospitality Network guests of our church by

...serving a hot breakfast on December 26 and January 2. We invite all men and older boys to join us for study on those Monday nights. Then, we invite anyone to join us on those Saturday mornings to serve our IHN guests.

**Clearcreakers Senior Group**

The Clearcreakers will meet on December 9 in Fellowship Hall from 11:30 to 2:00 p.m. The program planned is Christmas music presented by the Springboro High School choir. Ham will be furnished for our Christmas luncheon. Please bring a casserole, salad, 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 call by December 4 so we know how much ham to order. Call Liz Fielder, Vivian Beatty at or Clara McLemore. Note: We follow the same inclement weather rule used for the schools. If the schools are closed there will be no meeting.

First United Methodist Church



**Christ Caring for People through People**

Stephen Ministry will be handing out our annual "Blue Christmas" ornaments on the weekend of December 12-13. These ornaments serve as reminders that not everyone feels festive and cheerful during the holidays. Please take time this holiday season to give a little extra time to your friends and family who are mourning a loved one, who are going through a health crisis or divorce, who have lost their job, or who are burdened with cares.

For those who are struggling to find holiday spirit for whatever reason, please remember that Stephen Ministers are here to help you. Just call Zandra Woody or Susan Raihala, or speak with Pastor Suzanne or any Stephen Minister.

**Other Group Meeting Dates**

Dec. 8—Stephen Ministers

**Stephen Ministry**



### ***Poinsettia Sales***

Bring a festive glow to the Sanctuary by placing your order for a poinsettia. Orders will be taken between services by members of the Flower Committee on November 29 and at Saturday evening services on November 28. Each poinsettia is \$10 with payment made when your order is placed. Deadline for ordering is noon on December 3. Poinsettias can be ordered in memory or in honor of a loved one and come in red and white. Thanks!

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

Saturday, December 5 will be our annual Breakfast with Santa and Holiday House. Plan to join us for a fun morning of pancakes, sausage, activities and a visit from the jolly old elf himself! Afterwards, parents can leave the little ones for four hours of fun in our Holiday House where they will experience, explore, and create as they move through our "Christmas Around the World" theme. Please see Rebecca in the church office to get a registration form.

### ***Holiday Progressive Dinner***

Please plan to join Holy Java for a Holiday Progressive Dinner on Friday, December 11 from 6:00 to 9:00 p.m. We will start our evening at the church with a few Christmas carols. From there, the children and youth are invited to stay at the church for Movie Night (reservations required). Meanwhile, the adults will move to enjoy soup and salad at Mike and Kara Hampton's followed by dessert at Gregg and Nancy Clark's.

Please RSVP to Tina Yeamans by December 4. Please provide a salad or dessert to share. Please look for the sign up sheet on Signup Genius at <http://www.signupgenius.com/go/4090d4aa5af23a75-holiday> or see the Signup Sheet in the Fellowship Hall.

### ***Traveler's 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 13, we will offer a Traveler's Christmas Candlelight Service. All are welcome to join us as we celebrate Jesus' birth with a contemporary candlelight service at 5:00 p.m.

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

The Interfaith Hospitality Network families will be with us December 20 to January 3. Please consider giving the gift of your time and work in preparing meals or doing activities with the children or most importantly, being an overnight host or hostess (the easiest job). Please contact Jennifer Fry if you can help out.



**Movie Night**

The next Movie Night will be on Friday, December 11. 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:**

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

**Pick up details:**

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

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

**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 24

**Practice schedule:**

- Every Sunday during second service, 10:30—11:45
- Wednesday, December 2, 6:30—8:00
- Wednesday, December 9, 6:30—8:00
- Wednesday, December 16, 6:30—8:00
- Wednesday, 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 with choir
- 10:30 p.m.—Candlelight service with communion

We will have worship as regularly scheduled on Saturday, December 26 at 5:30 and Sunday, December 27 at 9:15 and 10:35.

### **Late November Reminders**

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

The annual Hanging of the Greens will be Saturday, November 28 after the Saturday evening 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. Please bring a side dish or dessert to share.

#### ***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 on November 29 at 6:00 and the students will be confirmed in September.



#### ***Wonderful Wednesdays***

After a short break during the holidays, Wonderful Wednesdays will resume again on January 13. 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.

#### ***Chili Cook-off***

Fellowship and Family Life's Annual Chili Cook-off will be held on Saturday, January 23. More details will be in the January *Messenger*.

## *Upcoming* **COMMUNITY EVENTS**

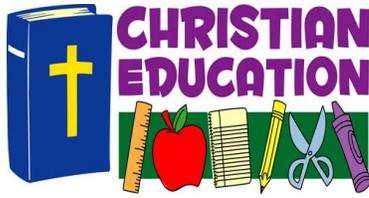
#### ***Miami Valley Symphony Orchestra***

Church member, Kelly Ronyak, invites you to enjoy the MVSO Holiday Traditions concert on Sunday, December 13 at 2:00 (Please note the time change for the concert.) Tickets are \$12 adults, \$10 seniors/students and can be purchased early at our website or at the door. All concerts will be held at Kettering Seventh Day Adventist Church (3939 Stonebridge Rd, Dayton, OH 45419). Please visit [www.mvso.org](http://www.mvso.org) for program details.

#### ***Renaissance Feaste***

Otterbein Lebanon will hold their 22nd Annual Renaissance Feaste on January 7 and 8, 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 \$18 per person and can be purchased by calling 513-696-8575 after December 7. The last day for orders is December 30, 2015. Please see flyer on the bulletin board in Fellowship Hall for more information.





### **Advent Study**

Beverly Haun will lead a special Advent study called *Sent—Delivering the Gift of Hope at Christmas*. The course begins on November 29 during the 9:15 service on Sunday mornings in the music room. God sent Christ at Christmas. In turn, Christ sends us into the world to be his hands and feet, head and heart. This 5-week study will lead us on an Advent journey to discover how, where, and why we are sent.

### **Holy Java**

The Holy Java class began a new study on November 22. It is not too late to join! Kyle Idleman examines the Christmas story in detail, emphasizing how God chose each individual in the Christmas story for a specific purpose. *The Christmas Experience* is designed to tell the Christmas story in a way that reminds people of God's plan to restore mankind to Himself. The class meets on Sundays at 9:15 in the conference room. For more information, please contact Maria Dershem.

### **Tuesday Bible Study**

Pastor Suzanne's Tuesday morning Bible study continues their study of *Paul for Everyone*. In December the class will meet on the 1st, 8th and 15th at 10:00 in the music room.

### **Crochet Class**

As part of our winter Wonderful Wednesday classes (please see page 11), Sonia Dermis will teach a crocheting class. Men, women and children are all welcome to join the class. Please let Sonia Dermis know if you are interested so she will have enough patterns available. Her number is 937-550-9412. Also, please bring the following supplies to the first class:

1. 2 skeins (4 ounces each) Lion Brand yarn made by Hometown USA, any color (available at Joann Fabric).
2. Crochet hook size P-16 (Susan Bates plastic crochet hook recommended).

These supplies will be used to make a 6" x 56" winter scarf. Please contact Sonia with any questions.

## **First United Methodist Church**

### **New Year/New Classes**

#### ***Renegade Gospel: The Rebel Jesus***

We have dumbed down what it means to be a disciple of Jesus Christ. Instead of being disciples who demonstrate an undiluted devotion to Jesus as Lord, we have domesticated and watered down Jesus' true identity. We have turned faith into easy "believe-ism." Who was Jesus, really? Wasn't the central figure to the Christian faith a man who denied all pre-conceived notions about what God should look like? Wouldn't associating with him have meant joining a rebel movement? Doesn't it still?

*Renegade Gospel: The Rebel Jesus* challenges today's believers to come to terms with the real Jesus—the rebel Jesus. Led by Pastor Doug, this six session study runs Tuesday nights January 5 to February 9, the night before Ash Wednesday (the beginning of the season of Lent). It's a perfect transition from the comforting season of Jesus' birth to the penitential season anticipating Jesus' death and resurrection. Embrace the real message of God in Christ Jesus. Be a renegade. Join the rebellion.

### **Joseph: The Journey to Forgiveness**

All of us know what it's like to be hurt or betrayed. God knows the pain we cause each other and longs to help us learn to practice forgiveness.

Nowhere do we see forgiveness played out more fully in Scripture than in the biblical story of Joseph. This study explores what God has to say to us about grace and forgiveness through Joseph's story of trial and triumph found in Genesis 37-50. As we study his dreams, his betrayers, his dysfunctional family, his struggle to forgive, and his journey toward reconciliation, we'll find truths that echo into our own personal situations. Join us as we learn how to apply the biblical principals of forgiveness found in Genesis in today's word.

Facilitated by Jennifer Fry and Beth Wenzel, this six week women's Bible study begins January 25 and will meet Monday evenings at 7:00 p.m. Preview books are available in the church office. Please use online sign up at [www.signupgenius.com/go/60b054aaaaf2ba46-womens](http://www.signupgenius.com/go/60b054aaaaf2ba46-womens).

### **Weekday Education Ministries**

#### **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. 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, emphasizing God's love and blessings and how we are thankful to God for everything!

In December, the children will focus on the first Christmas, the legend of St. Nicholas, and the Christian symbols of Christmas. We will have musical performances on Monday, December 7 at 6:00 and 7:00 and Tuesday, December 8 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 18 with classes resuming on January 4.

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

In November, our A.C.E students played a big part in Operation Christmas Child by folding all the boxes. The A.C.E. kids will explore Scandinavian Christmas traditions in December. They will also make Christmas ornaments to decorate the Christmas tree in Fellowship Hall. The A.C.E. kids will collect hats, mittens, gloves and scarves in December (see page 17). The donations will go to the children at the same north Dayton school we supplied with shoes this fall. 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 Preschool on Monday November 30 through Friday, December 4 (8:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m.) and Saturday, December 5 (9 a.m.-11 a.m.). Not only does this book fair help raise money to purchase classroom resources (i.e. end of the year Bibles, books, listening centers, etc.), it continues to excite the children about learning to read. Thank you in advance for all your support of our school.



**Kids Who Care:****K—2nd grades****God Squad:****3 & 4th grades**

**Contact: Kim Crosen**  
**kimfumc@gmail.com**  
**937-748-2612**

**Kids Who Care**

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!"

We hope you can join us for our upcoming Christmas event on Sunday, December 6. 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. Please let Kim know if you have any questions or would like to help with any of the activities.

**God Squad**

Our God Squad group is made up of third and fourth grade students who do service projects, fundraising, and just have fun fellowship together while focusing on God and His direction for our lives.

Join us for our upcoming Christmas event on Sunday, December 13. We will gather together to attend the Travelers' Christmas Service. After the service we will have pizza then go caroling and make a joyful noise for all to hear! Please meet at the church at 5:00 for the service. Afterwards, we will head out for some Christmas caroling followed up with a hot chocolate bar! We should be done about 7:30. If you have any questions or need additional information please contact Kim.



### ***The Legend of the Candy Cane***

*Look at the  
candy cane  
What do you see?*

*Stripes that are red  
like the blood  
shed for me*

*White is for  
my Savior who's  
sinless and pure!*

*"J" is for Jesus  
My Lord,  
that's for sure!*

*Turn it around and a  
staff you will see  
Jesus my shepherd  
was born for me!*



**Mission 56:**  
**5th & 6th grades**  
**Jammers:**  
**7th & 8th grades**  
**Senior High:**  
**9th—12th grades**

#### **Mission 56 and Jammers**

When Thanksgiving came, my first thought was how grateful I am that God has given me the opportunity to work with the youth at First United Methodist Church. It is truly a blessing that He has chosen me to share my love for Him and see our youth grow in their faith. This time of year, we are active in several charitable projects, which allows us to share our blessings with those in need around our community and around the world. I hope you will take the time to thank God for all he has given you and to share the love of Christ through your words and actions. This month, I am looking forward to celebrating the birth of Christ and remembering all he has done for me and I hope you are as well.

Yours in Christ,  
 Kirby

#### **Weekly Activities**

- **Sunday Night Youth Group:** The evenings of December 6, 13 and 20 will offer special opportunities to celebrate the Christmas Season (see details below).
- **Wonderful Wednesdays:** There are no Wonderful Wednesdays in the month of December. We hope you will join us when they begin again in January.
- **Thursdays—LIFT (Grades 6 - 8):** Living in Faith Together meets every Thursday after school until 3:30 p.m. at Springboro Junior High.
- **Every Wednesday Morning - PAW (Prayer and Worship) - Springboro Intermediate and Junior High:** 6th, 7th and 8th graders gather at their school for a time of prayer and worship. The Junior High meet from 6:50 - 7:15 a.m. in Mr. Youst's classroom and the Sixth Grade meet with Kirby from 6:50 - 7:20 a.m. in the Multi-purpose Room.

#### **December Special Events**

- **Tuesday, December 1 – Hope House Mission: Center for Women and Children:** Provide dinner and activities 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. Meet at the church at 4:15 p.m., load the cars and leave by 4:30 p.m. Return should be no later than 7:30 p.m. Please RSVP if joining us.
- **Sunday, December 6 – "Church, Lunch & 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, and then we will go shopping for a special child selected from the Giving Tree. Pick-up will be around 3:00 p.m. Parents - Kirby needs at least one parent volunteer to assist him for the lunch and shopping. 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.

**Continued on next page**





**Mission 56 & Junior High Continued**

- **Sunday, December 6 – Youth Wrapping Party:** Each year the youth are asked to help wrap the gifts being presented to the children on the Giving Tree. The party will run from 6:00 – 8:00 p.m.
- **Wednesday, December 9 – Lunch with Kirby at Springboro Intermediate:** Kirby will provide drinks and dessert. Each youth is asked to pack their lunch and they are encouraged to bring \$1 to support Faisha, our Compassion International sponsored child from Haiti.
- **Friday, December 11 – “Kim’s Movie Night”, 5:30 – 9:30 pm:** Kim Crosen will have her next Movie Night of the year for children in grades K-4. We need 16 youth to help volunteer for this event and help with crafts, dinner, popcorn and games. Let Kirby know if you are able to help.

- **Sunday, December 13 – Traveler’s Christmas Eve Service & Youth Group:** The Junior High Youth are invited to join me for the Traveler’s Christmas Eve Service led by Pastor Doug Dean followed by our annual Youth Christmas Party. We will have our white elephant gift exchange that evening. More details TBA.
- **Wednesday, December 16 – Lunch with Kirby at Springboro Junior High:** Kirby will provide drinks and dessert. Each youth is asked to pack their lunch and encouraged to bring \$1 to support Faisha, our Compassion International sponsored child from Haiti.
- **Sunday, December 20 – Junior High Youth Group:** Let’s do something fun to kick-off the Christmas Break and celebrate Christ’s Birthday. E-mail me any suggestions you would have for that day.

Be sure to look at the church calendar for all of the special services on Christmas Eve and consider attending one of those services with your family. Let’s be sure to remember why we celebrate Christmas!!

**Senior High Youth**

The Senior High Youth will meet from 7:00 to 8:30 on December 6 to wrap all the gifts from the Giving Tree. On December 13, the youth will hold their Christmas party beginning at 6:00. Dinner will be included.

On December 21 to 23, the youth will go on a winter retreat. Please RSVP by December 1. A \$20 deposit is due by the 1st and the remaining charge of \$20 is due on the day of departure. The cost is \$40 per student, with \$20.

Pease contact Brian Schlise at 937-748-9711 for more information.





### ***Veterans Socks and 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 20. Thank you!

***"You have two hands.  
One to help yourself,  
the second to help  
others."***

### ***The Giving Tree***

The Giving Tree is now available in the Narthex! The Franklin food pantry has supplied us with 60 children who need help this season. Each child has 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 6. All help is greatly 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.

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

On December 1, 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. There are over 800 different projects around the world that can be supported. 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).



### ***Hat/Mitten/Scarf Collection***

Our A.C.E. students are spearheading a collection of hats, mitten, gloves and scarves for students at a school in north Dayton. A collection box is in the Narthex. Please consider helping keep these needy students warm during the winter months.





### ***Volunteer Opportunities***

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

- **Kroger Community Rewards Program:** Please register our church as your Kroger Plus Community Rewards recipient at [Kroger.com](http://Kroger.com). If you registered in the past, annual renewal is needed each May.

  - \* 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..
- **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.
- **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. We are listed as First United Methodist Church – Springboro and our program ID is 815. You can find the forms in any DLM stores or online at: [www.dorothylane.com/clubdml/goodneighbor.pl](http://www.dorothylane.com/clubdml/goodneighbor.pl).
- **Loaves and Fishes Ministry:** Our church is blessed to have a Loaves and Fishes Ministry which provides meals for church members after birth of children, in times of serious illness or at other critical family times. The group is in need of some additional volunteers to make and/or deliver meals. If you are interested in helping or would like more information, please contact Tina Yeamans.
- **Fellowship Hosting:** The Fellowship Committee is looking for volunteers 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.). If interested, please contact Cindy Hunsaker .
- **Dorothy Lane Market Good Neighbor**

### ***Volunteer Opportunities Continued***

- **Cookies:** If you are interested in providing treats for fellowship time between the services, there is a sign-up sheet on the fellowship table or you can go online at [www.signupgenius.com/go/60b054aaaaf2ba46-fellowship](http://www.signupgenius.com/go/60b054aaaaf2ba46-fellowship). The treat does not need to be homemade nor does it have to be cookies—donuts, muffins, cupcakes, etc. are also welcome. We also appreciate the weekly donations being made to help off-set our expenses.
- **Church Historian:** The church needs a Church Historian to keep an organized collection of materials and photos documenting the life of our church.
- **Greeters:** We are in need of substitute greeters who could help out occasionally before Sunday morning services when regular greeters are not available.
- **Wonderful Wednesday Kid's Club Volunteers:** In addition to our Wednesday night dinner and discussions, we will offer a family worship service and Kid's Club on Wonderful Wednesdays. The children's program is divided by age groups and will focus on Bible verses, life application and fun! Service and mission will play a part as well as equipping our children to be faithful disciples of Christ. Anyone interested in this exciting ministry, please contact Kim Crosen at 748-2612 or [kimfumc@gmail.com](mailto:kimfumc@gmail.com).

***"Each of us is an innkeeper  
who decides if there is enough  
room for Jesus."  
- Neal A. Maxwell***



#### ***Medical Driver Ministry***

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

#### ***Senior Volunteers Needed***

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

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

If you are interested in any of these opportunities, please contact the RSVP Volunteer Program at 513-695-2252. For more information see flyer on Mission bulletin board.



*Personal Thank You*



***Thank You for Your Faithful Giving in 2015!***

Because of your faithful giving this year we have been able to continue our existing ministries, pay our apportionments in full, retire our debt on the parsonage 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! A special thank you also to Jennifer Fry and Stephanie Bindemann for leading this ministry.

***Pancake Dinner and Breakfast***

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

***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.

**UMCOR—General Board of Global Ministries**

Dear Friend in Mission:

Thank you for your gift received on 10/07/15 of \$720.00 to the Imagine No Malaria campaign through The Advance, the designated mission giving channel of The United Methodist church. We are pleased to share that 100 percent of your contribution will go towards eliminating one of the world's most deadly diseases. Giving through The Advance enables United Methodists to support one another in mission and ministry around the world. Thank you for partnering with us in God's mission.

Through gifts like yours, Imagine No Malaria has already distributed 1.2 million insecticide-treated bed nets throughout Africa. We have also trained more than 5,400 community health workers to personally deliver mosquito nets and measure usage rates. Today, because of the dedicated and generous support of people like you, malaria's impact has been cut in half.

May God grant you a sense of hope and joy as you continue your support for mission as we advance towards a day with no malaria.



***Celebrating a December Birthday***

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

***Celebrating a December Anniversary***

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

***December Volunteers***

	<u>Liturgists</u>	<u>Acolytes</u>	<u>Cookies</u>	<u>Altar Flowers</u>
Dec. 6	Open Open	Open Open	Open	Liz Fielder
Dec. 13	Susan Raihala Mike Hampton	Open Faith Hampton	Cathy Swick	Mariel Pesavento
Dec. 20	Open Joy Mindling	Gracieann Ruskaup Open	Cornerstone Class	Christmas Poin- settias
Dec. 27	Open Jane Gregg	Open Open	Open	Lisa Adkins Becky Pickett



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

**NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION**  
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*First United Methodist Church of Springboro*

*"Keeping First Things First!"*

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

*Matthew 6:33*

