



First United Methodist Church of Springboro

# The Messenger

February 2016



## LENT

Join us for worship each weekend:

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

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

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

60 East North Street  
Springboro, OH 45066  
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Office Hours:  
Monday—Friday  
8:00—1:00

### Inside this issue:

<i>From Pastor Suzanne</i>	2
<i>February Worship</i>	3
<i>Church News</i>	5
<i>Church Groups</i>	9
<i>February Events</i>	10
<i>Christian Educ.</i>	13
<i>Youth News</i>	16
<i>Volunteer Oppor.</i>	19



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

Dear friends,

Often the clear, brilliant sunlight of a bright midwinter's day allows us to see the dust that is all around us. We see it floating through the air and settling on ledges and knick-knacks in our homes and offices. We realize how much dust we usually don't see, how easy it is to ignore. The light then becomes a motivator for us to stir up that dust by getting out the dust rag and furniture polish and doing some deep cleaning.

The seasons of the Christian year function in a similar way. We celebrate Jesus as the light of the world during the season of Epiphany. And as we see this brilliant light of God's love and grace shining in the world and in our lives, we see more clearly that we need a savior. We see more clearly the dustiness of our lives. We see the dust of sin that has settled on our hearts and minds and is dulling our ability to reflect the light of Jesus. We realize how often we overlook that sin, how easy it is to ignore or justify.

And so we move into the season of Lent. During the season of Lent we remember that we are made from the dust of the earth. On our own, we are dust. Not only that, but we are dust with an expiration date. But something amazing happens as God breathes his Spirit of life and love into the dust of our lives. We become something much more—more beautiful and precious. We become vessels of his life, his grace and his love. And this life, grace, and love is what will outlast the dust of this earth and continue with God in eternity.

We are humbled during this season by the mystery of the incarnation, that God himself would become dust for us in the form of Jesus Christ the Son. And as Jesus comes and dwells with us, he shows us how to live in God's life and love and how to live into that which will last eternally. He shows us how to shake up and shake off the dust of sin, selfishness, and pride that so often settle on us and to take up our cross and to follow, serving others along the way.

We are called during this season of Lent to an attitude of self-examination, repentance, and change. It is a time when we lay the whole of our lives on the altar of God's grace and write a message in the dust to God that says, "Dust me." Or, as David put it so beautifully in Psalm 51, "Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me."

I hope that you will join us on February 10<sup>th</sup> as we begin the season of Lent together, remembering that we are dust, admitting the dustiness of our lives, and yet giving thanks for the fact that we are dust that has been loved, blessed, and filled with God's grace and love.

Blessings,  
Pastor Suzanne





### **Worship In February**

“Hands Free, Hearts Open, God First”

February 6<sup>th</sup>/7<sup>th</sup>: Holy Communion  
 Message: Under Pressure  
 Scripture: Luke 9:28-36, Luke 12:22-34

February 13<sup>th</sup>/14<sup>th</sup>:  
 Message: Seeing the Good  
 Scripture: Luke 6:37-42,  
 I Corinthians 13:1-13

February 20<sup>th</sup>/21<sup>st</sup>:  
 Message: What Really Matters Here?  
 Scripture: Luke 10:38-42, Philippians 4:6-8

February 27<sup>th</sup>/28<sup>th</sup>:  
 Message: The B Word  
 Scripture: Luke 4:1-13

Ash Wednesday Worship  
 Wednesday February 10<sup>th</sup>  
 6:00 p.m. Soup Supper  
 7:00 p.m. Worship

## **February Events**

- 1: *Joseph Women Bible Study*
- 2: 5th-8th Grade Hope House Service
- 2: *Paul for Everyone Bible Study*
- 2: Staff Parish Relations Committee
- 2: *Renegade Gospel Class*
- 3: Otterbein Avalon visit
- 3: Wonderful Wednesday
- 3: Choir and Hand Bells
- 4: Stephen Ministers Training
- 5: Movie Night
- 6: Women in Faith
- 6: God Squad
- 7: Sub Sale Pick Up
- 7: Youth Group Super Bowl Party
- 8: *Joseph Women Bible Study*
- 9: *Paul for Everyone Bible Study*
- 9: Stephen Ministers
- 9: *Renegade Gospel Class*
- 9: Women in Faith Bible Study
- 10: Ash Wed. Service & Soup Supper
- 13 & 14: Women in Faith Cookie Walk
- 14: Scout Sunday
- 14: Jr. High Church, Lunch, Fellowship
- 14: Senior High Youth Group
- 15: *Joseph Women Bible Study*
- 16: *Paul for Everyone Bible Study*
- 16: Bright Beginnings Staff Meeting
- 17: Parent Connection
- 17: 6th Grade Lunch with Kirby
- 17: Clearcreakers
- 17: Wonderful Wednesday
- 17: Choir and Hand Bells
- 18: Stephen Ministers Training
- 19 & 20 : Junior High Believe Trip
- 19: Senior High Winter Jam
- 21: Kids Who Care
- 21: Sr. High Youth Group
- 22: *Joseph Women Bible Study*
- 23: Stephen Ministers
- 24: 7th—8th Grade Lunch with Kirby
- 24: Wonderful Wednesday

*Continued on page 4*

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

I regret that I was not present for Sunday worship for the last four Sundays of January. I had the honor of preaching out of town on the 10<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup>. Then Carol and I visited the southern Caribbean on a cruise over the final eight days of January.

So, I missed the beginning of Pastor Suzanne's new sermon series, the Chili Cook-Off, the January 30 District Training Day, and the final Saturday night on which Bill and Holly Olson participated with *Springs*. I look forward to returning to Sunday worship on February 7 and on an upcoming Saturday night.

Lent begins in just a few days as Ash Wednesday is on February 10. This season of reflection and preparation is important in the lives of Christians. Our Savior, Jesus, taught us much during the days before his betrayal. So many of the parables and miracles recorded in the Gospel accounts are from those final days. I encourage everyone to be intentional in study, prayer and reflection during Lent.

I am to lead a Lay Servant Ministries class on the ***United Methodist Way – Living Our Beliefs*** for our district on March 4 and 5. Laity from across our five-county district will be present for this class. I encourage FUMC laity to consider attending this Friday night and Saturday class, during which we discuss our shared beliefs and how we can live in those beliefs. I will provide transportation for anyone who chooses to attend.

Also, on February 3, we will for the second time visit the residents of Otterbein Avalon. We will worship, sing, and play games with the senior residents of Avalon on that Wednesday afternoon. This facility is located off of Bunnell Hill Road, just north of Lytle 5-Points road. Contact me for more information, or be at the church at 1:30 to carpool with us for the short drive. We will be with the residents for about 90 minutes, then return to the church.

Snow is on the ground as I look out my window. Every January and February I so much miss the weekly spring count-down that was announced every Sunday by our dear friend, Sidney Vinnell. So in memory of Sid, as of February 1, only 50 days until Spring.

We serve an amazing God!

-David Finney

## **February Events Continued**

- 25: Stephen Ministers Training
- 27: Mission 56 Church, Dinner, Fellowship
- 28: Confirmation
- 28: Youth Group
- 29: United Methodist Men Bible Study
- 29: *Joseph* Women Bible Study

*See details in this newsletter*



**FUMC Honored**

On January 13, churches from the West Ohio Conference were recognized by Bishop Gregory Palmer and the Cabinet for meeting at least one breakthrough goal. Our church was honored for meeting our 2015 goals in Passionate Worship, Radical Hospitality, Risk-Taking Mission and Service and Extravagant Generosity. Thank you to the many church members who helped us achieve these goals. It shows that God is leading us in many ways to make a difference in the world each and every day.



L to R: Bishop Palmer, Rev. Suzanne Allen, Mr. David Finner, Rev. Doug Dean, Rev. Brian Brown

**First Steps Campaign**

The First Steps committee would like to update everyone who has prayed faithfully about their role in helping our church and capital campaign be successful. We greatly appreciate the commitments of over \$81,000 toward our goal of \$250,000 by December 2016. We are off to a strong start and have great faith additional donations will come in throughout the year!

With your continued commitments, we will first retire our existing mortgage. Once the mortgage is retired, funds will be used to enhance and expand the existing worship space. Finally, we will prepare for the future by establishing a "Faith Fund" for a future expansion of the church building.

At the end of 2015, we raised an extra \$18,000 for the building campaign. Thanks to your help, we are on our way to completing the first step of this important campaign, paying off our existing mortgage.

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



**Music Ministries**

First United Methodist Church is blessed to have a very active music ministry. Our music groups include:

- Heavenly Host Choir which provides music most Sundays for 9:15 and 10:35 services,
- Joyful Noise Bell Choir which provides music on Sunday mornings six to nine times per year,
- Springs Praise Band which provides a mix of favorite hymns, Christian contemporary, and other special music at the Saturday 5:30 p.m. service each week.

In addition to these groups, instrumental and vocal soloists are occasionally used for services. If you are interested in getting involved with any or all of our musical ministries, please contact Rebecca in the church office for contact information and practice times.

**2016 Flower Calendar**

Thank you to everyone in providing Sanctuary flowers each week. There are many dates still available on the 2016 flower calendar. This is a wonderful way to recognize birthdays, anniversaries, or other special events or to remember loved ones. The calendar is located on the table outside the Sanctuary in Fellowship Hall. Please 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.

**Online Giving**

It is not too late to sign up for online giving for First United Methodist through our partner *NCS Services*. You can make one-time or recurring offerings to the church through debit from a checking or savings account or by using a credit or debit card. To sign up, 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.

**Financial Update**

Thanks to all in our church for your faithful giving throughout 2015. Total giving was nearly \$320,000. We also were able to add \$4,000 to our bank account for future needs. For 2016, our general expense budget will remain the same at \$326,000.

In addition to the general budget giving, you also contributed just shy of \$48,500 to help pay down the debt in our building fund and to our First Steps Campaign. Our mortgage is now just under \$130,000.

Thank you again for your financial gifts to the church. Your giving continues to help us accomplish much in the church, in the community and in the world in Jesus' name.



**2016 Slate of Officers/Committee Positions**

Thank you to all who have served our church this past year. Without the countless hours of so many members sharing their spiritual gifts, we would not be able to accomplish all we do. Thank you also to those who have answered the call and will be serving in 2016.

There are still some open positions. We are especially in need of someone to lead the Fellowship and Family Life Committee. If you are interested in filling any of our open slots, please let Pastor Suzanne (pastorsuzanne@att.net) or Rebecca (rebeccafumc@gmail.com or 748-2612) know.

**Administrative Council**

Ad. Board Chair	David Mabee
Ad. Board Recording Sec.	Judy Cook
Lay Leader	David Finney
Treasurer	Kevin Houser
Financial Secretary	Tracy Stull
Education	Kim Crosen
Adult Education	Doug Dean
Connection	Mike Stull
Fellowship/Family Life	Open
Stephen Ministry	Zandra Woody
Staff Parish Relations	Jennifer Fry
Trustees	Mike Stull
Worship	David Finney
Missions	Linda Leese
Stewardship	Kara Hampton
WIF	Judy Cook
UMM	Dusty Dershem
Historian	Open
Lay Member	Garry Haun
Lay Leaders	David Finney
(staff) Christian Education	Kim Crosen
(staff) Youth Directors	Kirby Cain
	Brian Schlise

**Missions and Community Care**

Chair: Linda Leese  
 Julie Bernatz  
 Stephanie Bindemann  
 Lois Eley  
 Shelly Houser  
 Linda Leese  
 Vicki Robinson  
 Greta Talbot  
 Tina Yeamans

**Stewardship**

Chair: Kara Hampton

**Finance**

Treasurer: Kevin Houser,  
 Secretary: Tracy Stull  
 Bill Delbridge  
 Garry Haun  
 Susan Stalcup  
 Tracy Stull  
 Jackie Winzeler

**Worship**

Chair: David Finney  
 David Finney  
 Jane Gregg, flower and Christmas coordinator  
 Anna Wade, communion steward  
 Dick Coyle, Springs  
 Amber Stull, assistant communion steward

**Connection**

Mike Stull, New Member Class  
 Rebecca Delbridge, Greeter Coordinator

**Technology/Communications**

Jean Reazer

*Continued on next page*





**2015 Slate of Officers/  
Committee Positions Continued**

Fellowship / Family Life

- Kara Hampton
- Tina Stafford
- Amber Stull
- Linda Tennant
- Susan Tiffin
- Katie Veren
- Sandy Wray
- Mike Zimmerman

Nurture & Membership Care

- Loaves & Fishes Meal Ministry: Tina Yeamans
- Funeral Meals: Cindy Husaker
- Stephen Ministry: Zandra Woody, Susan Raihala
- Prayer Shawl Ministry: Sonia Dermis
- Transportation Ministry: Harold Masteller

Trustees

Chair: Mike Stull

<u>2017</u>	<u>2018</u>
Daniel Veren	Mike Stull
David Yeamans	Vicki Robinson
John Stalcup	Becky Pickett
John Golconda	Larry Woody
Cathy Swick	Jim Tiffin

Staff-Parish Relations Committee

- Chair: Jennifer Fry
- 2016: Alan Kerrick, Holly Olson
- 2017: Lisa Wray, Jennifer Fry, Carol Finney
- 2018: Jamie Lawhorn



**General Conference**

The General Conference is the top policy-making body of The United Methodist Church, and meets once every four years to determine the denomination's future direction, consider revisions to church law, adopt resolutions on current moral, social, public policy and economic issues and approve plans and budgets for church-wide programs. The 2016 meeting will take place May 10-20 at the Oregon Convention Center in Portland, Oregon.

The theme of the 2016 conference is "Therefore Go" which is based on the Great Commission set forth in Matthew 28:19-20: "Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age." (NIV)

We will continue to provide information on General Conference throughout the year.

**Church Office Closed**

The church office will be closed February 15 for Presidents' Day.



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

#### **Women In Faith**

At their December meeting, Women In Faith voted to provide \$500 to the Springboro Community Assistance Center (SCAC) to use as needed during and after their move. They also prepared fruit baskets for the members of our Friendship Circle.

WIF will hold a business meeting at 9:00 a.m. on Saturday, February 6. They will make plans for the Cookie Walk to be held on the 13th and 14th.

The Women in Faith Bible study will meet on February 9. They continue with their study of *Parables from the Back Side*.

All women in our church are considered members of Women in Faith and are welcome to join us. If you would like any information on our group, please contact Judy Cook or call the church office.

#### **United Methodist Men**

The men will leap into Bible Study on Monday, February 29. The material used on these Monday nights is not the same that is shared during Wonderful Wednesday. So we encourage all men and older boys to consider joining us for this study. Let this Leaping day be a springboard for study for our men in 2016.

#### **Clearcreakers Senior Group**

The Clearcreakers meeting will be February 17 at 11:30 in Fellowship Hall (weather permitting\*). The program will be a fun game of Bingo with prizes. Pizza will be served, please bring a salad or dessert to share and your own eating utensils. Try to join us for some fun, food, and fellowship. Questions, call: Linda Tennant 937-748-8486 or Martha Rutherford 937-723-6353.

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

#### **Other Group Meeting Dates**

Feb. 2—SPRC

Feb. 9 & 23—Stephen Ministers



#### **Stephen Ministry**

##### **Christ Caring for People through People The "After" People**

After the funeral. After the divorce. After the layoff. After the crisis. That's often when things get harder and the long process of healing truly begins. *After*. And that's when Stephen Ministers step up to help. They are the "After" People, the ones who keep showing up, keep listening, keep encouraging after everyone else has moved on.

If you're feeling overwhelmed, sad, or lonely, and in need of a Christian friend, please contact Stephen Leaders Zandra Woody or Susan Raihala to discuss whether a Stephen Minister might help you get through the "after."

# FEBRUARY

## EVENTS

### *Wonderful Wednesdays*

Wonderful Wednesdays continue each Wednesday evening. We hope you will join us for great food, worship, small groups and fellowship! The evening includes dinner at 6:00, a short time of casual worship in the Sanctuary from 6:50 to 7:10 and then break out study groups for all ages from 7:15 to 8:00.

Our current session, which runs until February 10, offers the following break out groups:

- Crocheting class led by Sonia Dermis
- "Why" - An Adam Hamilton study looks led by David Finney.
- Kids Club

On February 3, there will be a special Wonderful Wednesday breakout offering for anyone involved with girl scouts. Tracy Stull will lead a session on "My Promise, My Faith" which strengthens the connection between scouts' faith and Girl Scouts. Girls can earn the My Promise, My Faith pin by carefully examining the Girl Scout Law and tying it directly to tenets of their faith.

On February 17, we will offer a new slate of breakout topics, including:

- John: The Gospel of Light and Life—led by Pastor Doug ( please see page 13)
- Harry Potter, Book 2—Led by Kim Crosen and Jane Cook
- Kid's Club
- Senior High Youth will discuss and put together a community evangelism activity to

### **First United Methodist Church**

promote the Easter message in the community during the Lenten season.

### *Movie Night*

The next Movie Night will be on Friday, February 5. 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 9:00 p.m.

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



### **Sub Sale**

Our God Squad group will be pre-selling "subs" for the Super Bowl on January 31. Subs will be ready for pick-up on Sunday, February 7. They are 8" Italian subs (ham, provolone cheese, salami, and pepperoni) and veggie subs (peppers, tomatoes, lettuce and cheese). They will be for sale for \$4 or 4/\$15. Plan on including these subs in your Super Bowl festivities. It will help you out and you will be helping us out!



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

Ash Wednesday is on February 10. Join us as we mark the beginning of Lent with a service of repentance and the receiving of ashes. We will once again have a joint service with the United Church of Christ in our sanctuary at 7:00 p.m. You are invited to join us at 6:00 p.m. for a soup supper. Please bring a side dish or dessert to share.

### **Women in Faith Cookie Walk**

The Women in Faith will sponsor a Cookie/Cupcake Walk on February 13 and 14. 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 12, 13 and 14. Please be sure to label them "WIF Cookie Walk". Thank you!

### **February 14 is Scout Sunday**

All scouts are invited to wear their uniforms and attend worship on Sunday, February 14. 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.



### **Late January Reminders**

#### **Chili Cook-Off and Game Night**

Our annual Chili Cook-Off and Game Night will be Saturday, January 23. 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.

#### **District Annual Leadership Training Day**

On January 30, 2016, the Ohio River Valley District will have a training day for church leaders. Workshops will focus on administrative processes of the church and developing and implementing a modified leadership structure. The training will take place at Armstrong Chapel, 5125 Drake Road, Cincinnati, OH 45253. It runs from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. The \$15 price includes materials, continental breakfast and lunch. Registration must be received by January 22. For more information, please contact Nancy Newton at [nnewton@wocumc.org](mailto:nnewton@wocumc.org).



**Relay for Life—New Month for Event**

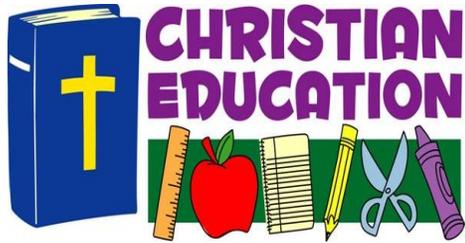
Mark Your Calendar for Relay for Life of Springboro. The event will be held on June 4, 2016. Please note, this is a different month this year.

The American Cancer Society Relay For Life movement is the world's largest and most impactful fundraising event to end cancer. It unites communities across the globe to celebrate people who have battled cancer, remember loved ones lost and take action to finish the fight once and for all. With the support of thousands of volunteers like you, the American Cancer Society is helping save more than 500 lives a day. Please join us and take action against a disease that has taken too much. Once again our church will be represented under the team name Boro Methodist (FUMC). More information will be forthcoming in future newsletters or contact Zandra Woody or see the event website at [www.relayforlife.org](http://www.relayforlife.org).

**Miami Valley Symphony Orchestra**

Church member, Kelly Ronyak, invites you to a Pops Concert that is a must see this season! Please join us for Movie Magic: Music of John Williams on Sunday March 6 at 3:00 at Kettering Seventh Day Adventist Church (3939 Stonebridge Rd, Dayton, OH 45419). Please visit [www.mvso.org](http://www.mvso.org) for more info. Program includes: *Raiders March* from *Raiders of the Lost Ark*, *The Cowboys Overture*, *Schindler's List*, *Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone*, *Olympic Fanfare and Theme*, and the *Star Wars Suite!*





### ***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 began January 25. It is not too late to join. The class meets each Monday evenings at 7:00 p.m. Please use online sign up at [www.signupgenius.com/go/60b054aaaaf2ba46-womens](http://www.signupgenius.com/go/60b054aaaaf2ba46-womens) or contact Rebecca in the church office.

### ***John: the Gospel of Light and Life***

In Adam Hamilton's six-week, DVD-series, *John: The Gospel of Light and Life*, you'll follow the life, ministry, death, and resurrection of Jesus. This study will be offered at Wonderful Wednesdays during Lent, beginning February 17. The study will be led by Pastor Doug.

The Gospel of John is the most deeply spiritual of the four gospels. It is filled with rich images and profound truths, but John notes that his aim in writing the gospel is that readers will not only believe in Jesus Christ, but that they "may have life in his name."

The Gospel of John begins with these three words: 'In the beginning.' You'll recall that another book of the Bible starts with these same words. Genesis 1:1 starts, 'In the beginning...'. John's use of these words is no accident. He is pointing back to the creation story. The premise of the entire Gospel is that Jesus embodies God's Word. The Greek term used by John for Word...*Logos*... conveyed knowledge, wisdom, reason, and revelation. It spoke of *Logos* as the mind and purpose of God that permeated all of creation. John speaks of a Word that was in the beginning. His was the mind and heart of God. The Word was 'with God' and 'was God.' John goes on to say: 'Everything came into being through the Word, and without the Word nothing came into being' (John 1:3a).



### **Holy Java**

The Holy Java class will conclude their study based on *Soul Detox*, by Craig Groeschel on February 7. Then on February 14, the class will begin a five session study based on the book *Who Is This Man?* by John Ortberg.

Jesus' impact on our world is highly unlikely, widely inescapable, largely unknown, and decidedly double-edged. It is unlikely in light of the severe limitations of his earthly life; it is inescapable because of the range of impact; it is unknown because history doesn't connect dots; and it is doubled-edged because his followers have wreaked so much havoc, often in his name.

He is history's most familiar figure, yet he is the man no one knows. He did not loudly and demonstrably defend his movement in the spirit of a rising political or military leader. He did not lay out a case that history would judge his brand of belief superior in all future books. His life and teaching simply drew people to follow him. He made history by starting in a humble place, in a spirit of love and acceptance, and allowing each person space to respond.

His vision of life continues to haunt and challenge humanity. His influence has swept over history bringing inspiration to what has happened in art, science, government, medicine, and education; he has taught humans about dignity, compassion, forgiveness, and hope. Come learn more with Holy Java. The class meets on Sundays at 9:15 in the conference room. For more information, please contact Maria Dershem.

### **Cornerstone Class**

The Cornerstone Class meets in the music room on Sunday mornings at 9:15. In February Barb Geiger will lead the class in a Bible based study on "Growing Older." It will focus on looking back with gratitude and looking ahead by passing on to others what we have learned. The class will cover topics such as faith journeys, never being too old to use your gifts, setting examples for the younger and passing on the faith. Everyone is welcome. For more information, please contact Barb Geiger.

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

*Renegade Gospel: The Rebel Jesus* class continues until February 9. The class meets each Tuesday evening at 7:00 p.m.

### **Tuesday Bible Study**

Pastor Suzanne's Tuesday morning Bible study continues their study of *Paul for Everyone*. In February the class will meet on the 2nd, 9th, and 16th (no class on the 23rd) at 10:00 a.m. in the music room.

***"The rewards of spiritual maturity are discernment, Godly wisdom and the ability to communicate God's truth to others. Spiritual growth occurs when faith is cultivated."***

***- Jennifer Benson Schult***

### *Weekday Education Ministries*



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

In January our preschoolers learned about winter and weather. "There will always be cold and heat, summer and winter, day and night" (Genesis 8:22) was our Bible verse. In late January, "Remy & Friends", a Christian entertainer, came to visit and entertained them with puppets, plate spinning and more while giving them Christian messages.

In February the children will be learning about God's love. The Bible verse for the month is "Love never ends" (1 Corinthians 13:8) To reinforce the theme, they will talk about friends, family, and love and experience "Someone Special" day, Valentines parties and more.



#### ***A.C.E.—Active Christian Exploration***

In January, our A.C.E. students studied Oceania with a "trip" to Australia. February will see them "traveling" to and learning about Papua, New Guinea. In late January/early February, A.C.E. will partner with the Cornerstone Sunday school class to make valentines for veterans. If you would like to know more about our A.C.E. program, please contact Kim Crosen.

#### ***2016-2017 Registration***

Bright Beginnings registration for the 2016-2017 school year is underway 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 748-2612 or [kimfumc@gmail.com](mailto:kimfumc@gmail.com).



#### ***The Parent Connection***

Several times a year, Bright Beginnings holds special education sessions for the parents of the students and our church members. These are held at 9:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m. and childcare is provided. The next Parent Connection will be February 17 and will be "Enabling vs. Empowering". Future dates include March 9, April 13 and May 11. Topics will be announced closer to the presentation dates. If you would be interested in attending any of these session, just let Rebecca or Kim know (748-2612).





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

**Mission 56:**  
**5th & 6th grades**  
**Jammers:**  
**7th & 8th grades**  
**Senior High:**  
**9th—12th grades**  
**Contact: Kirby Cain**  
**Cain.kirby@gmail.com**  
**937-684-1097**

In January, all our youth participated together in a Bowl-A-Thon. We had a great time bowling to raise money for activities and missions!

***Kids Who Care (K-2nd grade)***

Plan on meeting on Sunday, February 21 for an afternoon of cooking. We will be making homemade doggie treats and discussing ways to help our furry friends! 2:00-4:00 p.m.

***God Squad***  
***(3rd and 4th grade)***

We will be doing a little bit of fundraising and a little bit of fun! We will be taking orders for subs Sunday, January 24 and 31. On Saturday, February 6 we will get together from 7:00-9:00 p.m. to put together subs and fill orders. We will have snacks for the kids and probably a game or two! We will pass out subs on Super Bowl Sunday (February 7).

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

It is my hope that 2016 has started out as a year full of blessings and that your days are filled with joy and happiness. I believe a life of joy and fulfillment starts with a close relationship with Christ. So, my New Year's resolution is to trust God, put Him first and seek His guidance in helping others become closer to Christ.

Let's Worship Him Together,  
 Kirby

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

**Weekly Activities**

- **Sunday Night Youth Group:** The Junior High Youth will gather from 7:00 – 8:30 p.m. on Sunday, February 28. All other weekends have special events.



- **Wonderful Wednesdays:** Wonderful Wednesdays are in full swing. We hope you will join us for dinner (6:00 p.m.), Worship (6:50 p.m.) and Small Groups (7:15 – 8:00 p.m.).
- **Every Thursday – 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.
- **Every Wednesday Morning - PAW (Prayer & Worship) - Springboro Intermediate & Junior High:** 6th, 7th and 8th graders have the opportunity to gather with Christian Youth at their school for a time of prayer 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). Milk and donuts will be provided.

#### February Special Events

- **Tuesday, February 2 – Hope House 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 one additional parent to assist in this opportunity to serve. The parent and youth will meet at the church at 4:15 p.m. and return to church no later than 7:30 p.m. Please RSVP if you plan on joining us.
- **Friday, February 5 – “Kim’s Movie Night”, 5:15 – 9:30 p.m.:** Kim Crosen will have her first Movie Night of 2016 for children in grades K-4. She needs 16 youth to help volunteer for this event and help with crafts, dinner, popcorn and games. Look for an e-mail explaining how to sign up for this event.
- **Sunday, February 7 – Junior High and Senior High Super Bowl Party:** Our gathering will begin at 6:00 p.m. and will include food, beverages and games (for those not watching the game). Look for more details in upcoming e-mails.
- **Wednesday, February 10 – Ash Wednesday Service, 7:00 p.m.:** Everyone is encouraged to join us, along with members of the Springboro United Church of Christ, for the Ash Wednesday Service to be held at FUMC. We will also be having dinner together starting at 6:00 p.m. Invite your whole family to be a part of this time of fellowship and worship.
- **Sunday, February 14 – "Church, Lunch & Fellowship" (Junior High Youth):** 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 no later than 3:00 p.m. Parents - Kirby could use at least one female volunteer to assist him 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 able to help.
- **Wednesday, February 17 – Lunch with Kirby at Springboro Intermediate:** 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.

*Continued on next page*



**Mission 56 & Junior High  
Continued**

- **Friday, February 19 and Saturday, February 20 – Christ in Youth “Believe” Conference –** Junior High Youth are invited to join Kirby for the annual Believe Conference held at the BB&T Arena on the campus of Northern Kentucky University. The cost will be \$85 per youth along with money for food. We will leave shortly after school on that Friday and return late afternoon on Saturday. Look for future e-mails with more details. **Let Kirby know if you are planning on attending this worthwhile event.**
- **Wednesday, February 24 – 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.
- **Saturday, February 27 – “Church, Dinner, & Fellowship” (Mission 56 Only):** Please join Kirby for the 5:30 p.m. Saturday evening service. Following the service, the youth will have dinner in the Fellowship Hall, followed by our fellowship time together of games and a short presentation and discussion. Pick-up will be around 8:30 p.m.



Sen-

ior

**High Youth  
9th—12 Grades  
Contact: Brian Schlise  
Brianschlise@habeggercorp.com  
937-748-9711**

The Senior High Youth will meet February 7 at 6:00 p.m. for a Super Bowl party and on February 14, 21 and 28 from 7:00 to 8:30 p.m. for regular meetings. They are planning to attend Winter Jam in Cincinnati on Friday, February 19. Tentative plans are to meet at church around 5:00 p.m., have dinner, attend concert and return to Springboro by 11:30 p.m. Please watch for information in Sunday bulletins and texts. If you need more information on our Senior High Youth Group or any of the planned activities, please contact Brian Schlise.



**West Ohio Conference Summer Camps**

Each summer, the West Ohio Conference offers a variety of summer camps at their three facilities—Camp Otterbein, Camp Wesley and Camp Widewater. If you are interested in learning more about the exciting summer adventures they offer, the church office has a copy of their 2016 Summer Camp Guide. Please stop by to learn more.



### ***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 as 513-855-4243.
- **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 .
- **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. Please be sure to register again for 2016. 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 Yeaman at [trperr@gmail.com](mailto:trperr@gmail.com) or at 937-550-9568.
- **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.



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

- **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 Rebecca in the church office.
- **Cookies:** If you are interested in providing treats for fellowship time between the services, there is a sign-up sheet on the fellowship table or 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.



#### ***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.

#### ***Condolences for Sands Family***

Rev. James Sands, who served at First United Methodist from 1991 to 1998, passed away on January 11. If you would like to send condolences to the family, they may be sent to:

Mrs. Patty Sands  
4946 Buckhorn Drive,  
West Chester, Ohio 45069



***Otterbein Avalon***

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

***Cookies for Veterans***

The Cornerstone Sunday School class will collect cookie and cupcake donations for the Dayton Veterans Hospital for Valentines Day. Due to dietary constraints, all donations must be in commercial packaging (sorry, no homemade items can be accepted). Donations need to be delivered to church by Thursday, February 11. Please see Beverly Haun if you have any questions.

***Cards Needed***

The Mission Team is collecting card fronts for a fund raiser they will be conducting. Cards can be dropped off in the church office.



***From Gwen Curtner's Daughter***

Dear Friends at First U.M.C

I would like to thank all of you for helping to make my mother's passing easier. From Pastor Suzanne's counseling and preaching, the ladies serving the meal and her many friends in her Sunday School class who were always willing to help with any of her needs, I can't thank you enough. Oh, I don't want to forget Vicki Kuhn's beautiful music. But the most grateful that I am is the fact all of you were part of her family. As much that I lover her, I always knew having her in Chattanooga for long periods wouldn't be what was best for her. She just wouldn't be completely happy without all of you.

-Rosemary and Bob Whitaker

***Musicians***

We would like to extend a special thanks to all the musicians in our church who blessed our congregation with such lovely music for the Advent and Christmas seasons. We recognize a lot of time and effort goes into selecting, preparing and performing the music. It truly added to our worship experience!



**Thank You's Continued**

***Springs***

Bill and Holly Olson have decided to "retire" from our *Springs* praise band. We want to thank them for the critical role they have played with Saturday evening service *Springs*. They have been instrumental (pun intended!) to the group and providing the music that is such a great enhancement to the worship service.

***Personal Thank You's***

Thank you to the church for the Christmas gift I received. It is always a joy to be involved in the music ministry here. Remember to keep a song in your heart.

- Vicki Kuhn

Thank you to all of you for the generous love offering you gave to me this Christmas. It is so very appreciated. It is a blessing to be your pastor. I look forward to being in ministry with you in this new year and to see how and where God will lead us!

- Pastor Suzanne

Dear Congregational Friends,

I want to thank you for your get well prayers, phone calls, cards, and notes. It is so heart warming to know that the people of my church are so caring. I want to thank you for the warm welcoming I received when I returned to church after being absent for several months.

Also, I want to thank Pastor Suzanne for her phone calls to check upon me to see how I was doing and placing me on the prayer list. Thanks to Dave Finney for calling me in Pastor Suzanne's absence to see how I was doing and Rebecca for inquiring about my health each week.

God bless all of you! With thankfulness,

- Joy Mindling

***A.C.E. Missions***

Thanks to all who participated in the ACE hat and glove mission drive for our north Dayton neighbor-in-need school. We collected over 150 hats and gloves and already 100 have been distributed to grateful children! I was told that a single mom with four children came to their school and was in desperate need. She worked at Wendy's and did not have the means to provide much needed things for her children. The school was able to fit the children with new shoes, socks, hats, gloves and a coat for the little girl. What a blessing!

- Shelly Houser, A.C.E. Mission Coordinator



***Celebrating a February Birthday***

3: Matthew Fry	15: Heather Bauman
4: Derek Hott, Elizabeth Eng	17: Douglas Wilhelm
5: Jessica Miller, Emily Newton, Charlie Newton, Kyle Smith, Christopher Thelen	18: Kelsey Smith, Adam Kline, Lynda Smith
7: Taylor Perreira	20: Stephanie Karasek
8: Ethan Hansman	21: Chris Wylie
9: Peggy Smith, William Click, Roy Cook	24: Jeremy Chapman, Beverly Haun
11: Andrew Click	26: Dudley Fry, Jessie Golconda
13: Garry Haun	28: David Pierce Jr., Tony DeRosa, Paige Veren
14: Jacob Hansman	29: Keith Wylie

***Celebrating a February Anniversary***

14: Ron & Diana Best, Jim & Kelly Ronyak  
23: Don & Barbara Files

***February Volunteers***

	<u>Liturgists</u>	<u>Acolytes</u>	<u>Cookies</u>	<u>Altar Flowers</u>
Feb. 7	Susan Raihala Vicki Robinson	Open Open	Open	Open
Feb. 14	Scouts Scouts	Open Open	Open	Fern Morgan
Feb. 21	Open Mike Hampton	Open Faith Hampton	Open	Open
Feb. 28	Open Jane Gregg	Open Open	Open	Marjorie Poff

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



**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*

