

# Messenger

February 2020

## “God is Love”

February is often known as the month of love. This month, consider God’s great love for you! God’s love is different than our love for one another, different than romantic love, different than our love for teams and things.

God’s love is *agape* love, an unselfish love for another. God loves us whether or not we deserve love. God loves us no matter our background or our present. God’s *agape* love is sacrificial love as shown through Jesus’ death on the cross, love that forgives and redeems us.

How great is God’s love for us!

John 3:16-17 reminds us: “God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him won’t perish but will have eternal life. God didn’t send his Son into the world to judge the world, but that the world might be saved through him.” (CEB)

1 John 4:9-11 encourages us to love as God loves: “This is how the love of God is revealed to us: God has sent his only Son into the world so that we can live through him. This is love: it is not that we loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son as the sacrifice that deals with our sins.

Dear friends, if God loved us this way, we also ought to love each other.” (CEB)

As we see signs of love all around us this month, let us consider the ways God calls us to love, in response to God’s *agape* love for us. Let us reach out in a new way to those around us, neighbors and newcomers, children and seniors and in-between.

We love because God first loved us!



# Worship/Events



## ***Worship In February***

February 1/2  
1 Corinthians 1:18-31  
"Consider Your Call"  
Holy Communion

February 8/9  
Matthew 5:13-16  
"Salt and Light"  
Scout Sunday

February 15/16  
Micah 6:1-8  
"What God is Looking For"

February 22/23  
Matthew 17:1-9  
"The Power of Sonlight"  
Transfiguration

Feb 26  
Ash Wednesday Service

## **February Events**

- 1: Women in Faith
- 1: God Squad
- 2: United Methodist Men
- 2: Sub Pickup
- 3: Prayer Team
- 3: Staff Parish Relations Committee
- 5: Choir and Bells Practices
- 7: Movie Night
- 8/9: WIF Cookie Walk
- 9: Scout Sunday
- 9: Kids Who Care
- 9: 5th-8th Grade—Freedom Center
- 9: Confirmation Class
- 9: Senior High Youth
- 9: Mission Trip Meeting
- 10: Prayer Team
- 10: Finance Committee
- 11: Tuesday Bible Study
- 11: Trustees
- 11: Stephen Ministers
- 12: Choir and Bells Practices
- 17: Office Closed
- 17: Missions Committee
- 18: Tuesday Bible Study
- 19: Clearcreakers Senior Group
- 19: Choir and Bells Practices
- 20: Newsletter Folding
- 21/22: Believe Conference
- 23: Senior High Lunch
- 24: Prayer Team
- 25: Tuesday Bible Study
- 26: Ash Wednesday Meal & Service
- 28: Women In Faith Bible Study

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# Church News/Events

## ***Sub Sale***

Don't forget to pick up your Super Bowl subs ordered from God Squad group on Sunday, February 2.

## ***Community Service***

Need help with hard-to-reach light bulbs, smoke detector batteries, or other small household chores? Any church member or neighbor please give us a shout and allow us to help. Led by our Trustees and United Methodist Men will be out and about in February assisting our people in this way.

In December and January we helped with Christmas decorations and smoke detector batteries. Please see Harry Ingalls or David Finney to schedule work. Those who wish to serve by lending a hand, please let us know of your availability and we will invite you to help us serve our people.

## ***Church Office Closed***

The church office will be closed on Monday, February 17 for Presidents Day.

## ***February 9 is Scout Sunday***

- 9:15 am—Boy Scouts/Cub Scouts
- 10:35 am—Girl Scouts
- All scouts are invited to wear their uniforms and assist in the service as acolyte, liturgist or usher.
- Contact: Ken Haines

## ***Ash Wednesday Meal and Service***

- When: Wednesday, February 26
- Meal: 6 pm—Main dish and drinks provided. Bring a side dish or dessert to share.
- Service: 7 pm—Join together with our brothers and sisters from the United Church of Christ for a service of repentance and receiving of ashes



## ***Women in Faith Cookie & Candy Walk***

- When: February 8 and 9
- A variety of cookies and candy will be available after services on Saturday and Sunday for purchase.
- Love to bake? Donations are needed to support this fundraiser. Bring to church by February 7.

## ***Interested in Membership?***

Willing to commit to this congregation through your prayers, presence, gifts, service and witness? Please contact Pastor Amy or Sara Erwin as they plan a class for early February.

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# Missions Update—

## A look back at 2019 and look forward in to 2020

Greetings from your Mission Team! 2019 was a successful year in terms of Mission for our church. We impacted many lives in 2019 by:

- Easter Meals- provided \$3300 in \$20 gift cards to the food pantries to help families purchase the food they wanted
- Dayton Tornadoes- provided over \$4,000 in donations, building material, and hours of labor to help those affected in the Northridge area. Donations went to New City Church. 5<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> grade youth did a Mission Blitz, helping with Blessing Bags and landscaping a home.
- Pentecost party- 45 cake mixes and 32 cans of icing were delivered to the food pantries after our collection at Pentecost, in partnership with Christian Education
- Jackson Area Ministries- sent 385 seed packets and \$139
- Interfaith Hospitality Network- We hosted four weeks of families, helping numerous families and children on their journey to safe housing. We provided donations for Christmas in July and Time for Change. IHN also applied to the Ohio River Valley District of the UMC for a grant and received \$2k to help with Christmas in July.
- Declare Springboro- supported this ecumenical worship event with a \$250 donation
- Volunteers in Mission- sent \$2235 with Jack Eley to Costa Rica where they built a house for a refugee family.
- Christmas Gifts: Giving Tree gifts were given to 60 children through the food pantries. 61 Stocking Stuffers were sent to the United Methodist Children's Home Family Services. These were donations given in partnership with Bright Beginnings
- Food Pantry donations- a grocery cart was procured as a visible reminder and collection basket for the food pantries
- Missionaries- Dr. Les and Mrs. Debbie Dornon spoke in November about their medical mission in Nepal.
- Otterbein Springboro- Jacque Pickett and David Finney go to Otterbein of Springboro to worship, play bingo, and fellowship with the residents
- Christmas Eve offering- \$1732 were sent to UMCOR for Disaster Relief

As we look forward into 2020, we have three IHN hosting weeks, Jackson Area Ministries seed collection on the horizon, along with Easter meals, and a diaper drive for WCCS. Stay tuned for more information!

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It is only through YOUR extravagant generosity that we are able to do these things!! Thank you for supporting the Missions that take us out into the world to the show love of Christ to those hurting and in need.

### **Diaper Drive for Warren County Community Services' Head Start Program**

- When: February 1-9
- What: Donations of diapers of all sizes, wipes, lotion, etc
- Contact: Beth Wenzel

For many parents in the Head Start program in Warren County, buying diapers, wipes, and other baby necessities comes down to a difficult decision: diapers or food. Food always wins out. WCCS is looking to stock a "baby pantry" of sorts with diapers, wipes, lotion, etc.

### **Valentine's Day Cards for Veterans**

The Cornerstone Sunday School class and Bright Beginnings Preschool are working together to create Valentine's Day cards for veterans. There will be a display area in the narthex with supplies for making homemade cards. Everyone is invited to make a card and leave it in the collection box. The display will be available February 3 through noon on the 9th.

### **Ongoing Programs**

- **Medical Driver Ministry**  
Someone to drive you to/from a medical appointment. Contact Harold Masteller at 937-885-7481.
- **Loaves & Fishes**  
Provide meals for church members at critical times.  
Contact: Lisa Ott 210-315-2370.
- **Otterbein Avalon**  
Worship is on Sunday at 1:30 pm  
Bingo is on Wednesday at 1:30 pm  
Both are in house #35  
Contact: Jacque Pickett 301-919-5191
- **Karen's Card Shop**  
Find a card for any occasion



### **Ways to Serve**

- Interested? Contact Pastor Amy
- Greeters
  - IHN Co-Coordinator
  - Sunday School Teachers
  - Handbell Choir
  - Flower Committee
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# Church Groups

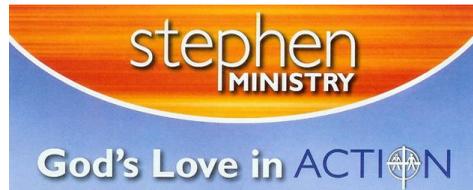
## **United Methodist Men**

The men of our church are in service in the short term, have a longer term vision for service, and continue to meet for devotions and fellowship on a monthly basis.

Short term, we are active in the new Community Service program. Through this, we make ourselves available to help with household chores for our members and neighbors. In December and January, we helped with Christmas and Advent decorations, both fetching decorations then returning them to the attic. We will be out and about in February and are glad to help with projects at home. So please invite us to help.

Looking to the summer, we have the opportunity to take a mission trip to North Carolina to help with hurricane recovery. This is made available through United Methodist Volunteers in Mission. Please see David Finney if interested serving in this way.

We will meet for coffee, devotions and fellowship at 8:00 am on Sunday February 2 and March 1. Please join us.



## **How to Be a Really Useful Person**

Too often, we find ourselves sitting with someone who is suffering through a divorce, or a death, or a diagnosis, or a job loss, or any other crisis. We don't know what to say or do to help. We feel useless.

Don't feel useless anymore! Remember that we have Stephen Ministers who are called to care, and YOU have the ability to connect hurting people to just the help they need! Tell them about Stephen Ministry's skilled, confidential care program, and ask permission to share their name, phone number, and circumstances with our Stephen Leaders Zandra Woody and Susan Raihala. We take it from there.

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### **Clearcreakers Senior Group**

The Clearcreakers meeting will be February 19th at 11:30 am in Fellowship Hall. The program will be "Bingo for Chocolate Prizes". Pizza and salad and Pop will be furnished - PLEASE BRING YOUR OWN EATING UTENSILS!

Please Note: "Clearcreakers" follow the same inclement weather closing as Springboro Schools.

### **Women In Faith**

Women in Faith's first meeting of the new year will be on February 1. They will plan their annual Cookie Walk, to be held February 8 and 9. Beginning in February, WIF invites all women of the church to join us the first Saturday of each month at 9:00 in Fellowship Hall.

If you would like any information on the group, please contact Beth Wenzel.

### **Lay Leader Report by David Finney**

God has richly blessed me with bountiful ministry opportunities, and I invite you to join me!

I am privileged to lead two different study teams in Middletown every week. One of these classes takes place in Hope House and in that class, we focus on God's love, forgiveness and making decisions.

It is quite an experience to lead a class on decision making for a group of men who find themselves living in a Homeless shelter.

We also conduct a weekly Bible study for The Gathering, in the community room of one of the housing units near that church. We have added to the number at The Gathering by inviting residents and neighbors of that facility into that study. We are now in the final weeks of studying the Gospel of Matthew.

One of our Hope House residents, Will Hammons, died in his shelter room in early January. I attended Will's memorial service in the chapel of Hope House a week later. In attendance that day were his sister, the administrators of Hope House, Rev. Dr. Patty Anderson Cook, pastor of The Gathering, myself, and about 35 homeless residents of Hope House. I was so very impressed by the residents that day. They were so respectful and sad. Some spoke during the service and I was touched by their meaningful words. Friends, we must remember that even homeless people have feelings, hopes and dreams. Our Lord Jesus told us in simple to understand words that we are to be in service to these people.

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# Kids & Youth

## Kids Who Care

- Who: K-2nd graders
- What: TBD
- When: Sunday, February 9 from 12-2 pm

## God Squad

- Who: 3rd and 4th graders
- What: Service and Sub Making
- When: Saturday, February 1 from 5:30-8:30 pm

## 5th-8th Grade Youth

### **Believe Tour**

- Theme: "Contact"
- Who: 7<sup>th</sup>- 8<sup>th</sup> graders
- When: Friday, Feb. 21 and Saturday, Feb. 22
- Where: BB&T Arena near Northern Kentucky University
- Contact: Katie Steele or Pastor Amy

### **Cincinnati Freedom Center**

- Who: Grades 5th-8th
- When: Sunday, February 9<sup>th</sup>
- Details: Leave FUMC: 11:30 am  
Return: 4:00 pm
- Cost: \$7 for youth, \$12 for adults
- Bring a sack lunch
- Sign up with Pastor Katie no later than Wednesday Feb 5th

### **Confirmation Class**

Sunday, February 9 from 6:00 to 8:00 pm in the Music Room

## Senior High Youth

- What: Super Bowl Party
- When: Sunday, February 2 from 6-8:30 pm
- What: Youth Group
- When: Sunday, February 9 from 7-8 pm
- What: Lunch and Fellowship
- When: Sunday, February 23 from 12-2 pm

### **Mission Trip Meeting**

- Who: 8th-12th graders and parents.
- When: Sunday, February 9 from 8-8:30 pm
- Gather and find out details for the summer senior high mission trip



### **Drama Club**

- Who: All ages interested in leading others to Christ through song and story
- What: Informational meeting
- When: Sunday, February 9 between services Room 125



### **Movie Night**

Friday, February 7. Reservations are needed. Price of \$10 per child includes pizza, drinks, popcorn.

#### **Drop off details:**

- Parents register their children starting at 5:45 pm
- Children should stay with parents until registration forms and payment are collected and a name tag provided. Please complete forms before arriving to speed up the line.

#### **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 followed by popcorn during the full length movie.

#### **Pick up details:**

- Children **MUST** be picked up promptly at 9 pm by someone on the registration form who has ID.
- Please wait in the lobby as we match you with your children and sign them out.

**Contact:** Kim Crosen, kim-fumc@gmail.com

### **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—for children, teens and even families!. If you are interested in learning more about the exciting summer adventures they offer go to [www.westohiocamps.com](http://www.westohiocamps.com).

### **Prayer Pals**

This Lenten season we would like to try something new. In an effort to help bridge generations and strengthen our prayer habits we are introducing "**Prayer Pals.**" What is it? Interested people that will be paired together to explore various means of prayer. Adults will be partnered with youth or children to work through fun activities once a month and get to know one another. Then, throughout the month, each participant can send cards, emails, etc. of support and be actively praying for each other. Please consider joining us for this fun, cross-generational prayer and support ministry! If interested, please call Kim at 748-2612 or email at [kimfumc@gmail.com](mailto:kimfumc@gmail.com).

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# Adult Studies

## ***Tuesday Bible Study***

Study The Letters of John and soon the Book of Acts. Tuesdays 10:00 a.m. (no meeting on the first Tuesday of each month) at the Springboro Library. Contact: Pastor Amy

## ***Cornerstone Class***

9:15 am in the Music Room. Bev Haun is teaching the class on Solomon.

## ***Holy Java***

9:15 am in the Conference Room with Kara Hampton. Holy Java will be taking a break until March 1st.

## ***Women in Faith Bible Study***

Discuss "Why" by Adam Hamilton. Study is moving to the fourth Friday of the month from 10:00—11:30 am in the Conference Room. Contact: Lorraine Sowers

## ***10:35 AM Class***

10:35 am in the Music Room. Pastor Doug is teaching "Invitation to Genesis" for 11 weeks. Please order participant's guide from Amazon, Cokesbury or Barnes and Noble.

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## **Ways to Give**

- **Online Giving**  
fumcofspringboro.org/online-giving
- **Kroger Rewards Program**  
Register our church as your Kroger recipient. NPO: RX797
- **Dorothy Lane Market**  
Complete a Good Neighbors Form and designate our church. ID# 815
- **Sunday Fellowship Treats**  
Provide treats for fellowship time between services. Sign-up sheet on the fellowship table or through the Sunday Servants link in Pastor Amy's weekly e-mail.
- **Box Top for Education**  
Support Red Bird Mission by downloading the Box Top app, scan your receipt and tag Red Bird Mission. Contact: Jennifer Fry

## **End of Year Financials**

Thank you for your faithful commitment to Christ and this congregation through your financial giving! Total giving for the General Fund for 2019 was \$356,168.32, and total expenses were \$325,779.41. You also gave much over and above the General Fund for missions and youth and building. The 2020 General Fund budget is \$345,832.

As Luke 8 reminds us, may we continue to be good soil who hear and commit to God's Word in our lives, in order to bear much fruit for God's kingdom ways in this world!

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# Bright Beginnings

## ***Bright Beginnings Buzz***

In February our preschoolers will be learning about God's love. Our theme of the month is Love, God, Family and Friends. Our Bible verse is "Love never ends" (1 Corinthians 13:8) and the Fruit of the Spirit is Love. Our preschoolers will be enjoying Valentine's Parties and our annual Someone Special days.

In March they will be learning about the community and we will enjoy special visits from various community helpers, including the Fire Department, Police, Doctor, Dentist and Veterinarian.

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

In February, our A.C.E students will be "traveling" to North America. They will be learning the meaning of "Pura Vida" and how the Costa Ricans live out this motto in their lives. The kiddos will be writing a gratitude journal to help discover how to live out this philosophy. They will also learn about the red eyed tree frog and have fun diving into suction cup science. The annual Fun Football Friday will take place before the Superbowl, and Valentines day celebrations will make February a fun filled month.

## ***Parent Connection***

**Bright & Fit with Fitness Blender**  
Monday's and Wednesday's at 9:15 am

**Table Talk continued- "I said this, you said that"**

Tuesdays at 10 a.m. (6 week study)  
February 4, 11, 18, & 25

## ***2020-2021 Registration***

Bright Beginnings registration for the 2020-2021 school year began in late January for current students. Church families and people on the wait list will be able to register in mid-February. If you are interested, please contact Kim Crosen as soon as possible to get information on the preschool and to arrange a tour. Kim can be reached at 748-2612 or kimfumc@gmail.com.

## ***Kindergarten Readiness***

Wednesday, February 26th at 9:30 am and 1:30 pm. Carrie Corder, Clearcreek Elementary Principal will be joining us.

We will have childcare available at both meeting times. Please let us know if you plan on attending (9:30 am or 1:30 pm) and if you will need childcare by clicking on this sign up genius link:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/20F0D4EA5AF29A2FB6-kindergarten>

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# Thank You

Thank you for the generous Christmas love offering this year. It was a lovely surprise and warmed my heart and reminded me how lucky I am to be in ministry with all of you here at FUMC. Happy New Year to all and here's to an excellent new year in ministry together!

Pastor Katie

Thank you, brothers and sisters in Christ, for your ongoing support for me and my family, especially at Christmas! Thank you for your generous love offering, as well as your cards and gifts and prayers. The money will be put into our vacation fund so we can enjoy time together as a family.

Pastor Amy and Ken

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# Community Events

## **Miami Valley Symphony Orchestra**

Kelly Ronyak invites you to our next concert titled "Appalachian Spring" on Sunday March 1, 2020 at 3:00 pm at Kettering Seventh Day Adventist Church.

We'll be showcasing outstanding works from Copland, Rimsky-Korsakov, Enesco, and Smetana. I hope to see you there!



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# Birthdays/Anniversaries



3: Matthew Fry  
4: Derek Hott, Elizabeth Eng,  
Ruth Melton  
5: Kyle Smith, Christopher  
Thelen  
7: Taylor Adams  
9: Peg Smith, Roy Cook  
11: Amy Ingalls  
13: Garry Haun, Ken Haines  
17: Douglas Wilhelm  
18: Kelsey Smith, Adam Kline,  
Lynda Smith  
21: Chris Wylie  
24: Jeremy Chapman, Beverly  
Haun  
26: Dudley Fry, Jessie Golconda  
28: Paige Veren

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

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

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

NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION  
POSTAGE PAID  
SPRINGBORO, OH 45066  
PERMIT NO. 13

Address service requested

Time Dated Material



937-748-2612  
fumcofspringboro.org  
fumcspringboro@gmail.com

Saturday Worship 5:30 pm  
Sunday Worship 9:15 & 10:35 am  
Children's Worship 10:35 am  
Sunday School 9:15 am & 10:35 am  
Office Hours 8 am -1 pm M-F

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