

Church Chatter

JANUARY 2019

United Church of Christ Congregational
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Office Info:

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Hours: M-F, 9-2 p.m.

Staff:

Rev. Melinda Quellhorst,
Pastor

Jennifer Bertoni, Secretary

Jerry Boros, Treasurer

Jim Innes, Fin. Secretary

Shelly Innes, Christian Ed.

Cecily Musser, Director, DNS

Dr. Ted Williams, Music Dir.

Corey Knick, Organist

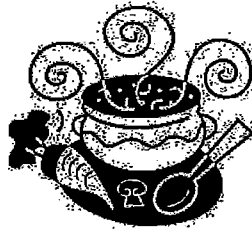
Mission Statement:

We, the members of the United Church of Christ Congregational, Vermilion, strive to love, serve, and grow as we live God's message in our families, our church, our community and our world, now and forever more.

Dates to remember:

- January 6th - Good Luck Pot Luck
- January 20th - Pulpit Exchange
- January 21st - Joint Youth Service Project
- January 27th - Annual Meeting
- February 10th - Boy Scout Sunday/Pancake Breakfast
- February 9th or 16th - Council Retreat

Good Luck Pot Luck!



Women's Coordinating Committee will be hosting the
**Fourth Annual
GOOD LUCK ~ POT LUCK**
on Sunday January 6, 2019 after worship.

PLEASE NOTE THESE CHANGES!

In order to prepare for enough food, please sign up by December 31st, during the Coffee Hours, to hold your reservation for *Roasted pork; Gravy; Mashed potatoes; Sauerkraut* and indicate your pot luck dish.

There will be NO charge. Free-will donations will be accepted.

We will also be taking reservations by phone:
Church Office 967-5212 or Diane 967-4493
before the deadline of December 31st,

Please bring a Pot Luck item according to your last name in the alphabet:

A-J: vegetables (no potatoes) **K-O:** salads **P-Z:** desserts

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January 2019

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|---|--|--------------------------|---------------------------------------|--|------------------------|-----|
| | | 1 | 2 7 pm Diaconate | 3 Grace's Kitchen 7 pm Boy Scouts | 4 7 pm AA | 5 |
| 6 9 Missions 9:30 H.S. Coffee 10:30 Worship 11:30 Potluck | 7 6 pm Property 8pm AA | 8 | 9 12:30 Marmaru | 10 7pm Boy Scouts | 11 7pm AA | 12 |
| 13 9am Finance 10:30 Worship | 14 10am Lucy Idol 12:30pm Bridge 8pm AA | 15 Rachel Circle | 16 1pm Prayer Grp. 7 pm Council | 17 7pm Boy Scouts | 18 Pantry 7pm AA | 19 |
| 20 10:30am Worship: Pulpit Exchange | 21 MLK Jr. Day Youth Service 8pm AA | 22 | 23 | 24 7 pm Boy Scouts 7 pm Membership | 25 7pm AA | 26 |
| 27 10:30 am Worship: Annual Meeting | 28 10am Lucy Idol 12:30pm Bridge 8pm AA | 29 11 am Full Funeral | 30 | 31 7 pm Boy Scouts | | |

January Birthdays

- | | | | |
|----|-------------------|----|--------------------|
| 6 | Joseph Harrold | 21 | Michael Peters |
| 7 | Bill Lehky | 24 | Julie Strittmather |
| 8 | Barbara Bedillion | | Joan Miller |
| | Kim Ickes | 27 | Fred Rossi |
| 10 | Julie Wilson | 28 | Dawn Full |
| 11 | Stephen Bertoni | 30 | Karen Howell |
| 14 | Courtney Traut | 31 | Georgianne Tarrant |
| 15 | Joe Smith | | |
| 16 | Faye Stahl | | |
| 19 | Cindy Weeks | | |
| | Gary West | | |
| | Alexander Latto | | |

January Anniversaries

- | | |
|----|-----------------------|
| 6 | Jim & Cathy Weber '68 |
| 12 | Jim & Kim Ickes '74 |
| 20 | Joe & Emily Weeks '14 |



Christian Unity

Grace United Methodist Church, Trinity Lutheran, and UCCC Vermillion will be sponsoring a pulpit exchange on January 20, as part of our joint celebration of Christian Unity Sunday.

On January 21st—Martin Luther King Jr. Day—the youth of all three churches will have the opportunity to participate in a service project at Second Harvest in Lorain—and then go bowling to celebrate a job well done! Details will be coming soon—so watch the e-news for further information!



Was, eternal

While preparing for a neighborhood progressive Christmas party, I kept coming back to Pastor Mindy's sermon in the second Sunday of Advent: "Who are we preparing for?"

The weeks before the gathering were exhausting for several friends and me, as we sorted the decorations, hung lights, bought greenery to hang, and - yes! - tried to find places to hide or disguise the clutter.

The guests came and went in one hour, but it was days later before my energy returned.

As I write this a week before Christmas, I think about the night Jesus was born. No decorations, no artificial lights, no panic, other than what naturally comes with the birth of a baby. Indeed, a silent night.

May our priorities be placed on Jesus and His ways in the New Year.

- Judy S. Williams

Serving Our Seniors January Events!

January 3, 2019, 10:30 am-12:00 noon. "Being an Assertive Healthcare Advocate in Later Life." Erie County Office Building, 247 Columbus Ave., (downtown) Sandusky.

January 15, 2019, 1:00 pm - 2:30 pm. "Aging and Brain Health: A Research Update on Progress Treating Alzheimer's Disease." Location TBA.

January 16-Feb. 20, 2019. 1 pm - 3 pm. "Diabetes Empowerment Education Program." Huron Public Library

January 16-Feb. 20, 2019. 5 pm-7 pm. "Diabetes Empowerment Education Program." Milan Public Library.

January 17, 2019 1 pm-2:30 pm "You Can Go Back To Traditional Medicare, But..." Location TBA.

Jan. 24, 2019 1:30 pm "Consumer Be Aware: Who Will Pay for Your Nursing Home Care?" Erie County Office Building, 247

January 31, 2019, 2 pm-4 pm "Ready or Not: How to Communicate Effectively with Your Doctor." Serving Our Seniors, 310 E. Boalt St., Sandusky.

Contact Serving Our Seniors at 1-800-564-1856 to sign up to attend.

From the Pastor...

Advent has come and gone, we talked and sang about getting ready, preparing ourselves, our homes, our places of worship, but most especially our hearts for the coming of our Savior, who came as a tiny baby, born in a dirty, dark, cold, smelly stable. For 4 weeks, we lit the Advent candles to help us prepare. HOPE, PEACE, JOY, LOVE. On Christmas Eve we lit the Christ candle to share the light of Christ with the world. The light that can overcome the darkness.

We are now in the Christmas season, the time when we gather after Christmas to share the joy, the love, to teach one another, to know that "nothing is impossible with God". Luke 1:37 Mary's faith is so strong, that she places herself in God's hands...

"Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word." Luke 1:38

Is our faith that strong, do we place ourselves in God's hands?

I want to share some stories of the light, that I have experienced, some stories of servant-hood and faith, some stories of the light of Christ....

One young person, a teen was standing line with his number, 22 to buy the newest Xbox. His friend had 23. Of course, they stood in line all night. When the Xboxes came in, there were only 22 of them. The first teen had #22, and his friend #23. The first teen gave his friend his number so that he could buy the newest Xbox and he went home without one. Sounds to me, like he knew servant hood, he knew what it means to love.

A small child, was looking and looking all over for Pastor Mindy. She couldn't find me because I didn't have my robe on yet; I blended in with everyone else. She looks all over, finally as the service is to start... she sees me from her mother's lap, and smiles and waves. She lights up. She had found me. She was so excited. Her pastor was smiling at her. God was smiling at her. Sounds to me like this little one knew about family and God's love.

An adult, not so long ago, was down in the dumps. It had been a tough day, heck it had been a tough week. And she wasn't feeling like she was loved, or even that she should be doing what she was doing. But then a hug, a kind word, and acknowledgement that God was working through others, respect was given, love was shared, and the Spirit of Christmas was shining through.

"The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness shall not overcome it." John 1:5

God's light shines in us, in how we treat one another, in what we say and how we live. The light of Christ shines in how we love and live together within our family and within our world. When we say mean things, when we set out to hurt someone especially anonymously, we aren't sharing the light of Christ. I invite you to share the light of Christ with others. We live differently because of this light of Christ. We live our mission. We share with our hearts. We open our hands and give. We love and care. We belong to God. How great is that?

*Christ's light is shining... Thanks be to God!
Blessings, Pastor Mindy*



Christian Ed. Report

December was a very busy month for the Christian Education Committee! We started off on the first Sunday of Advent with the Advent Workshop. Many people enjoyed the fellowship of family and friends at the Advent luncheon. The children and youth had fun decorating the gingerbread houses and eating sugar cookies with lots of frosting and sprinkles. The Advent Box outreach activity reinforced our Sunday School theme of Connected in Christ. Those who took a box were to fill them during Advent by adding one item from the provided list to the box each day during Advent. These boxes were collected at the December 23rd worship service and taken to area shelters to help those less fortunate than ourselves.

The children and youth did a great job on the Christmas Pageant "An International Christmas!" This pageant was a celebration of the 200th anniversary of the first public performance of the beloved Christmas hymn Silent Night. The children learned about various Christmas traditions in Germany, France, Norway, Mexico, and Italy and decorated a Christmas tree with traditional ornaments from each country. They also learned how to sing the first verse of Silent Night in German, French, and Spanish.

The Family Christmas Eve Service was an interactive service that showed the importance of the star on the night of Jesus' birth. It was the star that led the shepherds in the fields and the three Wise Men to the baby Jesus. We should all be like the star by shining the light of Jesus and telling others about Him.

Thank you to Kellie Innes for the creative inspiration for the Children's Christmas Pageant and the Family Christmas Eve Service this year. Thank you also to Jen Bertoni for teaching the children Silent Night in the different languages and for playing piano for the Children's Christmas Pageant worship service. And last, but not least, thank you to Molly Wade and Sophia Flemister for taking part in the worship service and to our ushers: Mike and Jenna Peters, James Wade, and Matt Greiner.

Thank You!

The Sunset Shores Committee would like to give a "shout out" to all of the bakers, buyers and volunteers who made the Cookie Walk such a successful event. Together we raised \$842.50 for SSRC! Thanks to everyone for your support!

Larry Howell fixed the water leak in the Coffee Bar coffeemaker! Thank you Larry! And thanks as well for keeping us supplied with coffee!

And a special Shout-Out to the Reising Family for putting up the beautiful manger scene in front of the church!



ONA Report



Rev. Lenore Kure, First Congregational UCC of Sandusky, met with the core group on Nov. 26. There were six additional members of the congregation present.

Rev. Lenore shared the process and challenges her church experienced in the journey to becoming a designated open and affirming church. She explained it takes time to study, learn, discuss, both as a group and one on one. She said we'd never convince everyone but it will open our eyes and mind as we are open to God's spirit.

She did suggest waiting for Pastor Mindy but that the process needs to come from us, with pastoral guidance and support.

A number of resources were suggested such as videos, a movie books, and scripture.

The next meeting was not set but will be in January.

DNS News

Shout - out to our DNS Santa Jim Estle for doing an amazing job at our family night!
Everyone loved Santa!



DNS has had so much fun preparing for the holiday season. In November, we collected food for the pantry and had our own Thanksgiving feast! In December we have been learning Christmas songs and participating in many fun Christmas related activities. Thanks to Jen Bertoni for teaching us our songs for our program! The kids sang so well at the program.

Our month of thankfulness fundraiser was a huge success! This will help us to purchase items for our outdoor play area etc. Thank you to everyone who donated items and purchased tickets.

Thank you also to property and many other helping hands who helped our year to be a success thus far!

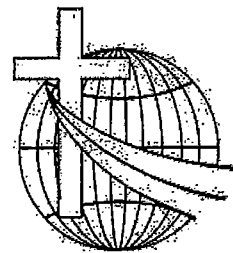
Mission Update!

We love our earth! We want to protect our environment and also demonstrate ecologically sound practices as a model for the community. A great big thank you to Pat Stein who has purchased re-usable, plastic drinking cups for Fellowship Hall. We are still figuring out how to best run them through the dishwasher but hope everyone will get on board so that we can cut down on disposables!

We are proud to announce that our church will support the Vermilion Schools' new safety initiative by providing funds for families in crisis. The schools' new mental health resource officer will know they have the backing of the community for the important work they will be taking on. The Missions Committee has voted to provide funds annually to be used to help students and families who are struggling through times of turmoil.

Mission Committee Monthly Disbursements for December:

| | |
|---------------------------------------|-------|
| Operation Christmas Joy | \$350 |
| Vermilion Schools' families in crisis | \$300 |
| Mary Lee Tucker | \$300 |
| Grace's Kitchen | \$50 |



Camp Registration!



Camp Registration is now open for the summer at Temples Hills!

The full schedule is on our Facebook page, on the table at the back of church, and at the link below:

<http://www.ohioucc.org/all-project-list/give-camp-for-christmas/>

"Once upon a Time." — John 4

A summary if the Annual meeting of the Eastern Ohio and Western Reserve Associations; November 3, 2018 - from the desk of Judy Williams:

Member-at-Large Ron Koran, Jennifer Bertoni, and I (Judy Williams, Moderator,) attended this meeting. Both former Vermilion Pastors Bob Richardson and David Zerby were there. The prime focus of the day was to vote on the constitutional change of our name, from Eastern Ohio and Western Reserve Associations to LIVING WATER ASSOCIATION. The vote was unanimous to accept the change.

Two workshops were held after the official business meeting. One was "Church safety 101", led by Chief Mark A. Spaetzel, long-time member of the Avon Lake United Church of Christ and currently the Chief of Police in Avon Lake. Most of what Chief Spaetzel shared was similar to what the Safety Team of our church has recommended (pew cards with instructions of what to do in case of an active shooter, designated people to distract, yelling, and running away). He also said, "NO GUNS IN THE CHURCH".

The second session was led by Megan Anderson, "Can we Talk?", a review of how to talk with one another when we disagree.

After lunch, Gary Halstead was thanked for his service as Interim Associate Association Minister. David Brown was thanked for his service as Moderator of the Associations.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:30 with an admonition to "Go tell the story, change the narrative of death to life!"

Dates for your calendar:

Faith Formation Forum

Wednesday, February 27-Thursday, February 28, 2019.

Speaker: Dr. Lillian Daniel, the Sr. Pastor at First Congregational, UCC Dubuque, Iowa. Additional details are available at <<http://www.ohioucc.org>>

Worship Festival with Marcia McFee

Saturday, April 6, 2019.

Dr. McFee is an author, worship designer and Meade Professor, preacher and artist. Marcia combines her background and experience in professional companies of music, theater and dance with a variety of worship and preaching styles in order to bring a fresh experience if the Gospel to each worship meeting.

Additional information can be found at <www.livingwaterone.org>

General Synod: UCC BIENNIAL GATHERING

Friday, June 21 - Tuesday, June 25, 2019, in Milwaukee, WI

Additional information can be found at <<http://synod2019.org>>

Anti. Racism Forum OH Conference UCC

Tuesday, August 27, 2019

Speaker: Leonard Pitts, Columnist, Miami Herald

Details soon.

Check out the website for more information: <www.livingwaterone.org>

January Servants of the Church:
 Usher Coordinators: Missions Committee
 Greeter Coordinator: Sue Moehle
 Coffee Hour Hosts: Rachel Circle
 Altar Committee: Jane Dean

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No matter who you are
 Or where we are on life's journey
 You are always welcome here.
 As we journey together we discover...
 Love is the key!
 Love of neighbor, children, and creation.

