



# Church chatter

FEBRUARY 2018

**United Church of Christ, Congregational**  
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Jim Innes, Fin. Secretary  
Jennifer Bertoni,  
Office Mgr./Youth Dir.  
Shelly Innes, Christian Ed.  
Cecily Musser, Director, DNS  
Ted Williams, Music Director  
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:

February 4th—Boy Scout Sunday  
February 8th—Grace's Kitchen  
February 11th—Dawn Full's 100th Birthday Party after worship  
February 14th—Ash Wednesday  
February 18th—200th Anniversary Service  
February 21-March 21— Wednesday Lenten Supper Series  
February 25th—Missions Pasta Lunch  
March 4th—Women's Sunday  
March 8th—Grace's Kitchen  
March 17th— Stephen Ministries Workshop in Toledo  
March 18th—Council Retreat  
Corey Knick's Piano Recital  
March 29th—Maundy Thursday Service at Grace UMC  
March 30th—Good Friday Service at Trinity Lutheran  
April 1st—Easter Sunday!

## Update from the accessibility committee:

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The Accessibility Committee (led by Bud Ennis and including Sally Fox, Ken Lewis, Anne Stock, Georgia Tarrant, Jim Estle, Warren Mehnert, and Jon Reising) wants to keep everyone informed and updated on their progress. This committee, open to all volunteers, was formed a year ago after the leadership retreat at Sunset Shores. Our goal is and has been from the beginning to make the church accessible to all people in a safe and practical environment. To this end Bud has talked to several architects and planning commission people and

individuals from other churches about possible scenarios. We are now settled on specific plans for the project which will include a safe elevator, a restroom accessible to all on the sanctuary level and an entrance in the front for all people. The project will get an estimated soon and then will be put out for bid. If you have any questions, please talk with one of the committee members. Further information will be given as we obtain costs and bids. We want all to be informed.

# February 2018

				1 7 Boy Scouts	2 8 AA	3
4 9 Missions 9 Confirmation 3 Sunset Shores	5 7 Property 8 AA	6	7 6 DNS Circus 7 Diaconate	8 Grace's Kitchen 7 Boy Scouts	9 8 AA	10
11 9 Finance 9:30 C&C 11:30 Dawn Full's 100th Party	12 10 Lucy Idol 8 AA	13	14 <b>Valentine's Day</b> 12:30 Marmaru 7 Ash Wednesday- Service	15 7 Boy Scouts	16 8 AA	17
18 10:30 200th Anniversary Service	19 <b>Presidents' Day</b> 8 AA	20 Rachel Circle	21 1 Prayer Grp. 6 Lenten Supper Series	22 7 Boy Scouts 7 Membership	23 8 AA	24
25 11:30 Missions Pasta Lunch	26 10 Lucy Idol 8 AA	27	28 6 Lenten Supper Series			

## February Birthdays

2 Adam Beckwith  
Shari Beckwith  
8 Kathie Fitzgibbons  
Pete Wade  
12 Aaron Smith  
14 Becky Wade  
17 Valerie Hildum  
18 Gara Jones  
Sue Cieslak  
20 Julia Clark  
23 Leonard Sapienza  
Gene Hector  
Kenny Pierson  
Casey Pierson

24 Erin Strittmather  
25 Colleen Traut  
Dwayne Kocan  
26 Janice Williams

## February Anniversaries

14 Ken and JoAnn Lewis '59  
28 Bill & Judy Somers '98



## Odds 'n' Ends:

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DNS recently received a grant from the Ohio Conference through the Three Great Loves Initiative, which supports projects focusing on Love of Neighbor, Children, and Creation. The purpose of the grant is to allow our preschool students to be able to enjoy God's creation in a new outdoor, enclosed area. The grant will be used to fence the outdoor space. One of the purposes of The Three Great Loves Initiative of the United Church of Christ is to expand community outreach ministries. The grant committee supported our request to help enhance the preschool ministry of our church congregation.

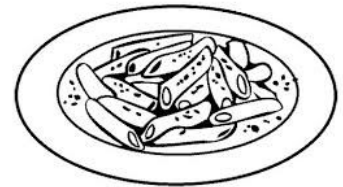
DNS is in need of some helping hands on Wednesday, February 7th from approximately 5:45pm-7:15pm. We will be having our annual family night/circus. We are in need of people to help run our game stations. We will not be able to have our family night without your help! Please let Cecily know if you are able to help by calling [440-967-5230](tel:440-967-5230). Thank you!

## Food and Fellowship!



Please Join the Boy Scouts for their annual Pancake Breakfast on Sunday, February 4th, from 10 am-2 pm. A basket for a free will offering will be available!

Missions Committee will be sponsoring a Pasta Lunch on Sunday, February 25th. after worship.



Please come and enjoy lunch while supporting this important ministry!

## Grace's Kitchen News!

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On a very cold and blustery night an excellent crew served 144 meals at Grace's Kitchen. Our chefs included Sally Fox, Mary Ann Brizzolara, Judy Brizzolara, Shirley Lehky, Diane Langham, Pat Zimmerman, Ellen Johnson, Karen Reising, Karen Howell, Sue Moehle, Linda Estle, Judy Wil-

liams, and Ginny Wilkes. Our serving crew included Ken Lewis, Bud and Leslie Ennis, Judy Brizzolara, Dan Kernell, Mary Ann Brizzolara, and Diane Langham. What a delight it is to work with these faithful servants. If you are interested in being a part of Grace's Kitchen when the snowbirds are South, please call Anne Stock--[419-565-7256](tel:419-565-7256).

Our next Grace's Kitchen service opportunity is February 8th. A sign-up sheet is available on the board in the back hallway of church, near the lounge, and another is in the Fellowship Hall. You are invited to join in this important ministry!

## Ohio Conference News!



The Conference and Associations are in the middle of a restructuring process, and they want our input about what kind of conference we would like to see in the future! The visionary goal of this effort is to create “one nimble and responsive judicatory that is faithful in mission and responsible in stewardship.” The hope is that these “imagining” sessions will help create a new day of effective and efficient ministry.

The closest discussion to Vermilion UCC will be held **Tuesday, January 30** at First Church in Oberlin, starting at 6:30 pm.

If you can't go in person, this event will be streamed at <https://www.facebook.com/OhioConference/>. We hope you will participate in the creation of this new streamlined structure for the wider church!

### In other conference news...

At the last Ohio Conference board meeting John Gantt set September 30 as the end date for his interim ministry with the Ohio Conference. A search committee has been formed and will seek a Transitional Conference Minister.

You can read the letter from Cathy Green, the Conference Moderator, about the search process at the following link:

<http://files.constantcontact.com/aa35375c201/ea573f7d-66ec-462d-a71c-10a750785468.pdf>

## Youth Report:

The Youth are selling reuseable shopping bags to help fund the Mission Trip this summer. Bags are \$5.00, and will be available for sale in the Fellowship Hall on Sundays, or in the church office during office hours. We invite you to help the planet and the church's youth at the same time!

## Come Jump with us!

Our Youth will be traveling to Altitude, the new trampoline park in Elyria, on February 4th. We'll be there from 2:30 –4:30 p.m. Please let Jen know by Feb. 1st if you're planning to go, and make sure to sign the online waiver at



<https://altitudeelyria.pfestore.com/waiver/>.

Please join us for this high-flying event!



## Finance Report Nov. 2017

Balance 12-1-17		(27,424.08)
Dec. Income		40,685.35
Member Giving	29,224.58	
Other Income	11,460.77	
Dec. Expenses		27,675.47
Balance 12-31-17		(14,414.20)

## News from Serving Our Seniors

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Serving our Seniors is hosting two series of public forums—one about the health care system, and another about managing your finances. Here are some of the upcoming talks:

**February 2, 2018 , 1 pm-2:30 pm, “Medicare Wellness Visit: What’s In It For Me?”** Erie Co. Office Building, 247 Columbus Ave.—downtown Sandusky. David Painter, OSHIP Ohio Dept. of Insurance, will explain Medicare coverage for this service and a local physician will explain how the visit can help senior citizens maintain their independence as they age.

**February 28, 2018, 1 pm-2:30 pm—“What are the Powers of a Power of Attorney and How is it Used?”** Erie Co. Service Center, 2900 Columbus Ave.—Perkins Twp. A panel of attorneys will answer your questions about what is a POA, how the power is to be used; what is an illegal use of power; how to get a POA and how to revoke a POA.

**March 7, 1 pm-2:30 pm, “The Pros and Cons of Purchasing Annuities in Later Life.”** Erie Co. Service Center, 2900 Columbus Ave.—Perkins Twp. A basic discussion on what is an annuity, how the use of annuities can be harmful when purchased in later life; and examples of circumstances when annuities are not risky/harmful to purchase in later life.

**March 8, 2018, 9 am-10:30 am, “When You Need Hospital Care: Will Your Doctor Come to See You?”** Erie Co. Office Building, 3rd Floor, 247 Columbus Ave.—downtown Sandusky.. A panel of health care professionals will answer your questions. The dialogue between audience and panel will be facilitated by Sue Daugherty and Tina Elmlinger.

**RSVP no later than two business days before the forum. Those who RSVP will be contacted if the forum is cancelled due to lack of participation. To register call 419-524-1856 or email ([mail@servingourseniors.org](mailto:mail@servingourseniors.org)) Serving Our Seniors and tell them your name, phone number, and the name of the event that you want to attend.**



### Valentine's Day Concert!

If you are wondering what you could do to celebrate Valentine's Day, think no more. A trip is being planned to the Sandusky State Theater on Saturday, February 10. The Cleveland Jazz Orchestra will be performing. Tickets are \$27. We are hoping to have dinner someplace before the concert. Don't delay. There is not much time between now and Feb. 10. If you are interested, call Clark Fitzgibbons (440-915- 3636) or Linda Estle (967-6856) or see them at church. We are hoping to have young adults as well as older adults.

## Lent is Coming!

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### Please join us for our Lent and Holy Week Celebrations!

Our **Ash Wednesday Service** here at Vermilion UCC,C will be **February 14th at 7 p.m.**

#### Lenten Supper Series!

For the remaining Wednesdays in Lent, please join us for our traditional supper series. Our gathering begins at 6:15 pm, with soup served by the youth group, who are raising funds for Mission Camp this summer. A lesson about the UCC will follow at 7 pm. We will close with a short worship service at 8 pm.

#### Our lesson topics are:

- Wednesday, February 21 Our UCC History
- Wednesday, February 28 Our UCC Beliefs
- Wednesday, March 7 UCC Forms of Worship
- Wednesday, March 14 The Wider Church of the UCC
- Wednesday, March 21 Our Local Congregation



We hope you are able to join us for this informative series!

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### We join with our brothers and sisters in Christ's Ministry for a Holy Week of Christian Unity!

During Holy Week, **Grace United Methodist** welcomes all to Maundy Thursday service on March 29th at 7:00 pm.

The faith community at **Trinity Lutheran** then extends the invitation to join together for an evening Good Friday service on March 30th at 7:00 pm.

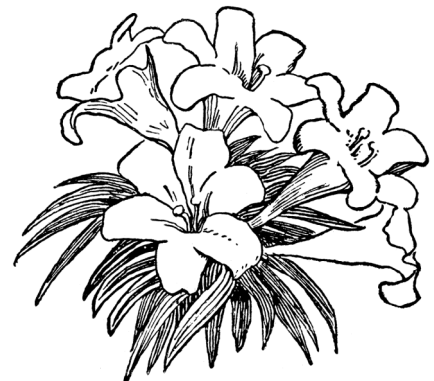
Let us all find ways to live into Christ's desire that we may all be one.

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### Vermilion UCC,C's Easter Services, Sunday, April 1st:

Easter Sunrise Service: 7:00 am, at Sunset Shores Retreat Center,  
12415 West Lake Road

Easter Morning Service: 10:30 am, at Vermilion UCC



## Pastor's Post

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**"Love is patient; love is kind; love is not envious or boastful or arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice in wrongdoing, but rejoices in the truth".**

**We find the above words contained within thirteenth chapter of the sacred text of 1 Corinthians. Paul penned that letter to one of the early churches as a reminder of how one should live as a Christian community. I will often use those words in wedding ceremonies as two people unite in a committed relationship to one another.**

**They are also words that should continue to be hallmarks of how the church should interact not only within its own membership but with the wider community that surrounds it.**

**The United Church of Christ has a vision of a just world for all. In this world all are welcomed, everyone is loved, and justice is inherent. To that end our denomination has undertaken a mission entitled 3 Great Loves. It's both an opportunity and an invitation for its member congregations to express how our Love of Neighbor, Love of Children, and Love of Creation work together to address the inequities of our current world.**

**At our January church council meeting we accepted the invitation from our wider church to become involved in this campaign. We will be asking how the various current ministries of our congregation might already be expressing these 3 Great Loves. We will prayerfully discern how our current ministries might find new ways of doing so. And we will be open to God's still-speaking voice on possible new ways to relate to one another and with our neighbors as we lift up these 3 Great Loves.**

**I invite each and every one of you to help us foster an environment where Love of Neighbor, Love of Children, and Love of Creation will flourish here in Vermilion. I also invite you to learn more about the church wide initiative by visiting our denomination's website [www.ucc.org/3greatloves](http://www.ucc.org/3greatloves).**

**The thirteenth verse of 1 Corinthians 13 ends with this expression; "And now faith, hope, and love abide, these three; and the greatest of these is love." May we be a place where love truly abides for all.**



**STEPHEN  
MINISTRY**

We are exploring beginning a Stephen Ministries program for lay leadership development in the area of congregational care. This is a well-established program that has a tremendous reputation for equipping and empowering lay leadership. There is a basic introductory workshop scheduled for Saturday, March 17 from 9:00 am – 1:00 pm at Epworth UMC in Toledo (\$15 a person, or \$50 for group). If this is something that may hold interest for you, please let Rev. Zerby know soon.

If you are unable to attend the Workshop, but are interested in participating in congregational care, please also contact Rev. Zerby.



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.

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990 State Street  
Vermilion, OH 44089

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**February Servants of the Church:**

Ushers: Property  
Greeters: Annalee Hector  
Coffee Hour: Rachel Circle  
Altar Committee: Jane Dean