



Church chatter

JANUARY 2018

United Church of Christ, Congregational
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Rev. David Zerby, pastor
Jerry Boros, treasurer
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:

- January 4th— Grace's Kitchen
- January 7th— Guest speaker, Jim Ditzler, UCC Disaster Response
Good Luck Potluck after worship
Youth Ice Skating 1-3 pm
- January 14th—Unity Service and Potluck with Trinity Lutheran
and Grace United Methodist
- January 21st—Annual Meeting
Read to Feed sheets due for Sunday School
- January 28th—*Dawn Full's 100th Birthday!*
- January 30th—Outdoor Ministries discussion in Oberlin
- February 4th—Boy Scout Sunday
- February 8th—Grace's Kitchen
- February 11th—Dawn Full's 100th Birthday Party after worship
- February 18th—200th Anniversary Service
- March 4th— Women's Sunday
- March 8th— Grace's Kitchen
- March 17th— Stephen Ministries Workshop in Toledo

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Small Group Discussions



We have small group conversations now scheduled to occur over the next few months. Signup sheets for these conversations have been posted near the door in Fellowship Hall. Each small group will be looking at the same questions in order for our church to complete its search profile. These groups

are meeting in a variety of places at a variety of times to help ensure we have as much congregational participation as possible. Please join us as we prepare for the next big step in our journey together.

Discussions will be held:
Tues., 1/9, 3:00 p.m. in the UCC Lounge (host, Ruth Maurer).
Further discussions will be held in January at the homes of Pat Stein and Judy Williams.

January 2018

	1 New Year's Day 8 AA	2 DNS back in session	3 7 Diaconate	4 Grace's Kitchen 7 BoyScouts	5 8 AA	6
7 9 Missions 9 Confirmation	8 10 Lucy Idol 7 Property 8 AA	9 7 Venture	10 12:30 Marmaru	11 7 Boy Scouts 7 Personnel	12 8 AA	13
14 9 Finance 9:30 C&C 10:30 Unity Service	15 MLK Jr. Day 8 AA	16 Rachel Circle	17 1 Prayer Grp. 7 Council	18 7 Boy Scouts	19 8 AA	20
21 10:30 Worship and Annual meeting	22 10 Lucy Idol 8 AA	23	24	25 7 Boy Scouts 7 Membership	26 8 AA	27
28 Dawn Full's 100th Birthday	29 8 AA	30	31			

January Birthdays

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

January Anniversaries

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



Odds 'n' Ends:

Thank You

A special shout out to all who made our DNS Christmas family night so wonderful...Jen Bertoni for teaching the songs, Pastor David for his special role, our teachers...Krista Peters, Kim

McGuinn, Sally Spindler, and Becca Thompson for all of their hard work and our extra helping hands...Karen Howell, Anne Stock, Julie Wilson, Morgen Baker, Jenna Peters, Eric McGuinn, and Sarah Habermehl.

More Shout-Outs:

- To Ken Lewis for installing the news lights and electric plug in the cottage at SSRC.
- To Ken Lewis for installing the new faucet in the kitchenette
- To Shelly Innes, Julie Wilson, and Jen Bertoni and all the children (and assorted adults) for a delightful Christmas pageant!

A BIG thank you to member Mike Millis, who refinished the wooden dorrs in the front of the church. Mike donated his time and expertise as a gift in kind.

Long-time member Elsie DeLamatre has moved. Her new address is:

8400 S. Bedford St. #331
Macedonia, OH 44056

Condolences to Judy, Mary Ann, and Joe Brizzolara on the death of their much-loved cat, Phil. Mary Ann and Joe have Phil's sister still in their family.

Are we reaching all of our members or only those that attend church on Sundays? Please contact the membership committee (Linda Estle, Faye Stahl, Shirley Lehky, Jim Innes, or Rich Ozmun) to volunteer to call or visit our members. A list will be provided with a bit of information to help.

Grace's Kitchen News!



Thanks to all who contributed to our Christmas meal for our guests at Grace's Kitchen this month. Our in house chefs included Sally Fox and Janet Pry. Others contributing to the meal include Sally Fox, Judy Brizzolara, Shirley Lehky, Sana Orphan, Mary Ann Brizzo-

lara, Diane Langham, Karen Howell, Mary Hook, Linda Estle, Courtney Traut, Julie Strittmather, Melanie Haines, Pat Zimmerman, and Karen Reising. Our faithful servers and clean-up crew were Beth Eberhard, Joe and Mary Ann Brizzolara, Dan Kernell, Claudia Wilson, Judy Brizzolara, and Tom Orphan. Merry Christmas to all of you for your dedication.

Our next Grace's Kitchen opportunity is January 4th. You are invited to join us!

Christian Ed. News

The Sunday School children are currently doing a service project called **Read to Feed**. This program is from Heifer International and encourages reading while heightening children's awareness that they can make a difference in the lives of others. The children will be getting sponsors (family, friends, members of the congregation) for books that they read over the next few months. At the end of the program, we will pool all of the money donated by sponsors and we in turn will then donate it to Heifer International. The children will be able to choose from a variety of animals to help families around the world feed their families and reach self-reliance. We hope that the congregation will help us with this service project by sponsoring the children to read.

*****Due to all of the activities taking place at school, church and with families during this holiday time, the deadline to turn in the Read to Feed Sponsor sheets and funds collected has been extended to Sunday, January 21 during Sunday School time. Take time during your Christmas vacation to read a book or two!**

*** If your child did not get a Read to Feed sponsorship form but would like one, please contact Shelly Innes (967-4894 or ekinnes@centurytel.net). Forms will also available on the bulletin board outside of the church office.

The **Coffee and Conversations** high school discussion class meets on the second Sunday of the month at 9:30 in the lounge. We will meet on Sunday, January 14. We continue to talk about God's creation and their faith response to God the Creator.

The Advent Workshop was well attended this year! Many people enjoyed fellowship with each other during the luncheon provided by the Christian Education Committee and the children enjoyed the variety of crafts offered.

The children did a great job in their Christmas Pageant on December 17! The children told the Nativity Story through scripture readings. The telling of the story was interspersed with brief skits by adults that represented the stresses of the holiday season that we tend to get side-tracked by. We need to remember that Jesus is indeed the reason for the season!

Thank you to Jennifer Bertoni for working with the children on the music selections in the pageant. Thank you also to both Julie Wilson and Morgen Baker for their creative input on the pageant script!

Youth Report:

Starting in January, the Youth will be selling reusable 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!



Our Youth day at Elyria's Ice Rink is **Sunday, January 7th**, during the Open Skate hours, **1-3 pm**. All are invited to strap on some skates, have some hot chocolate or a pretzel, or just come be dazzled by the Zamboni. Call Jen at the church office (967-5212) for directions or more information!



Finance Report Nov. 2017

Balance 11-1-17		(32,379.35)
Nov. Income		29,333.88
Member Giving	14,434.27	
Other Income	14,899.61	
Nov. Expenses		24,378.61
Balance 11-30-17		(27,424.08)

From the Moderator's Desk

Dear Members and Friends,

What an interesting year it has been, as we all agree. Soon after we welcomed David Zerby as our designated interim pastor, he led us through a leadership retreat for Council members at Sunset Shores. During that time, we learned a lot about our church and each other. We agreed that the core values of our group were "Spirituality, Love, and Children".

We began celebrating our 200th anniversary as a church in Vermilion. The actual date of the first service, February 18, will be recognized by a special Sunday worship service, planned by the Diaconate.

The DOORS project took the attention and work of many in our congregation and community. At the end of the 2017 year, over \$3400.00 will have been deposited to the Accessibility fund.

The Women's Coordinating Committee arranged a celebratory dinner at German's in October. Over one hundred people attended and enjoyed seeing Beth Eberhard present a proclamation from Mayor Eileen Bulan to our church. Several former pastors were in attendance as well as members we haven't seen in quite a while. Jim Estle served as Master of Ceremonies.

Bud Ennis headed a committee to renew the plans to make our church accessible to all. Sally Fox,, Warren Mehnert, Ken Lewis, Georgie Tarrant, Anne Stock and Jim Estle offered to help with this challenge. Plans have been received from the architects and it is hoped that work will begin before long and be completed in time for the preschool to open in the fall.

All members and friends of the church have been invited to participate in small group meetings to discuss plans for the future, as far as who we are and who we want to be.

The new year will bring many more opportunities for growth and faith formation, as we search for, and hire, a new minister. Judy Klucas is forming a group to serve as the search committee and will begin work soon after the Annual Meeting, January 21. Mark your calendars now to attend this meeting after church service, and learn more about where we have been, what we have done, and where we want to go in 2018 and the next one hundred years.

Sincerely,

Judy Shaw Williams, Moderator



The sign in the front of church was purchased through a financial campaign several years ago. Karen Rossi and Pat Zimmerman were instrumental in organizing the effort. Many members will remember volunteering at the Cleveland Indians home games to raise money for this project, as well.

Anyone who has a message to be put up on the sign should contact coordinators Karen Howell, Jon and Karen Reising, or Judy Williams.

A book with space for written weekly requests is in the youth room, on the top shelf by the box of plastic letters.

January 7th—our speaker series continues!

Our speaker for the January 7th service will be Jim Ditzler, who works with UCC Disaster response. Jim will also be joining us for the Potluck.

Jim grew up in eastern Pennsylvania and has degrees from Penn State and Rutgers. Following 15 years of employment in the plastics industry he decided to change careers into something more fulfilling and was hired, along with his wife Linda, as Camp Managers at Pilgrim Hills.

They enjoyed and were challenged there for 18 years. In the course of that work he developed experience with volunteer work groups which opened the door to disaster response ministry.

In the early 90's the UCC established a national position and Florence Coppola developed a national posture in disaster response. Each conference recruited a coordinator and since that beginning Jim has served in that

position for Ohio Conference which includes Ohio, a strip of Kentucky, and the state of West Virginia.

Coordinators were sometimes allocated in other places as needs arose. Outside of Ohio Jim has served in New Orleans, Mississippi, and Florida. Jim has also enjoyed mission work in Mexico and Ghana.

Welcome! Welcome!

Our church would like to welcome 5 new people to our Vermilion UCCC staff. Though new staff members, they are certainly not strangers to the church. Please give them a congrats and wish them well in their new positions.

First, on Sunday morning Morgen Baker and Natalie Wilson will be taking over the church nursery from Cathy Tucker. Both Morgen and Natalie have subbed for Kathy over the years so they know the responsibilities. More importantly they will be loving and caring to our toddlers and babies while their parents worship.

Second, we welcome Mike and Melanie Haynes as our new custodial team when Kurt Kuhnle retires December 31st. They have also had experience in the custodial work of our church through the years so we are glad they are returning.

And last but certainly not least, we are pleased that Jen Bertoni will be filling the role of secretary on a permanent basis. Many of you may not realize that Jen was hired on a temporary basis in July to help us out in our need. She has worked extremely hard during this transition period. Both her people skills and her ability to handle all that passes through the office, made her our choice for the permanent position.

Thanks to all of you for being willing and eager to join our Vermilion UCCC staff.



Thanks! Thanks! Thanks!

A huge thanks to all our outgoing staff. Kurt and Paulette Kuhnle have kept our building in tip top shape for over 15 years. Their kind and flexible personalities have meshed with all those they have worked with.

Cathy Tucker has loved and cared for our babies and toddlers for 12 years. As was mentioned during the Christmas Pageant, children don't want to "graduate" to Sunday School because they don't want to leave Miss Cathy.

THANKS FOR YOUR DEDICATION AND LOVING CARE THROUGH THE YEARS. OUR CHURCH IS A BETTER PLACE BECAUSE OF YOUR DEDICATION.

Pastor's Post



As we ring in a new year we also avail ourselves to new possibilities and opportunities. Yes, we are preparing for the arrival of your new minister, one who is out there and will be journeying with you in exciting and creative ways come next Advent. And yet, in the midst of this preparation let us be open to what our Still Speaking God is calling us to as we begin 2018. Here are but a few of the ways to engage with our congregation and with the wider church and community:

Combined Unity Service

On Sunday, January 14th we will host a worship service that will bring together the faith communities of United Church of Christ Congregational, Grace United Methodist and Trinity Lutheran. We anticipate a sanctuary not only full in attendance but with voice, prayer, laughter and love as well! And following the 10:30 am worship service we will join together in our fellowship hall to enjoy a potluck feast. Over that meal I envision conversations about how our three churches can be a visible sign of Christ's loving presence in the Vermilion area. We will dream and vision together ways in which we can serve others while seeking a just world for all.

-Sally Fox is serving as the potluck coordinator for our church if you would like to let her know what you are able to bring as we join together with our friends and neighbors.

Stephen Ministries

I am suggesting we explore 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 9:00am – 1:00pm at Epworth UMC in Toledo (\$15 a person, or \$50 for group). If this is something that may hold interest for you, please let me know soon.

Outdoor Ministries Listening Sessions

Joyce Oyler, the newly hired Transitional Coordinator for our conference's Outdoor Ministries programs (camps, retreats, and more) will be at First United Church of Christ in Oberlin on Tuesday, January 30 at 6:30pm. Joyce is holding get together sessions throughout the Ohio Conference in order to not only answer questions others may have but also to welcome thoughts, ideas and visions of others. I would love to see a contingent from Vermilion join her that night.

Join Women's Coordinating in bringing in the New Year 2018 with their Third Annual

GOOD LUCK POTLUCK

Sunday January 7 after worship

Pork-Sauerkraut-Mashed potatoes-Gravy

Cost is \$5 per person **by December 31st** so we can plan accordingly.

Children 5 and under FREE

Please bring a salad OR vegetable (no potatoes)

OR dessert to share.

Sign up sheets at Coffee Hour.

Call 967-4493 for more details.





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.

United Church of Christ, Congregational

990 State Street
Vermilion, OH 44089

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Permit No. 18

January Servants of the Church:

Ushers: Missions
Greeters: Karen Howell
Coffee Hour: Membership
Altar Committee: Jane Dean