



Chimes

December 2017

Bethel

United Methodist Church

402 West Plane Street, Bethel, OH 45106

Remember the Gift



Phone: (513) 734-7201 Fax: (513) 734-7229 E-mail: info@bumcinfo.org Internet: www.bumcinfo.org

Greetings in the Lord,

I am always amazed at how early retailers begin decorating for Christmas. Last year while walking through a mall, I was surprised in early October to come across a seasonal Christmas shop called, "Home for Christmas." The store's merchandise was made up mostly of high-quality crafts and woodworked items that each emphasized the importance of family and home during the holiday season.

While I have serious problems with the commercialization and mass marketing of Christmas, I really can't find fault with the thematic nature of the merchandise in this particular Christmas shop. Who among us doesn't begin thinking of home and family as December 25th draws closer? As Christmas nears, whole families are reunited for maybe the only time they get together all year. College students leave their studies to return home. Even hospitals are emptied of all non-emergency patients so that families can celebrate Christmas together.

Could it be that during this holy time of year, we are simply acting out some ancient desire to return to our home, to our roots? Just think of the biblical stories that focus on this. Is it merely coincidence that so much of the biblical narrative of the first Christmas is centered on families? Joseph and his pregnant wife, Mary, travel to Bethlehem, the town of their heritage. Relatives, Mary and Elizabeth, are reunited in joyful praise of God for their miraculous pregnancies. Elizabeth and her husband, Zechariah, look forward to the birth of their son, John. And, of course, Mary and Joseph are blessed to give birth to the star of the show, our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

Since families played such an important role in the first Christmas, we will be providing lots of opportunities for you and your family to celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ with your BUMC family this Christmas season:

Community Choir Christmas Cantata:

Dec. 2 at 7:00 p.m.

Dec. 3 at 6:00 p.m.

Weekly Advent Sermon Series -

"Three to Get Ready":

Dec. 3 — 8:00 & 10:30 a.m. services — Sermon: "Three Advents"

Dec. 10 — 8:00 & 10:30 a.m. services — Sermon: "Three Keys to Beating the Christmas Blues"

Dec. 17 — 8:00 & 10:30 a.m. services — Sermon: "Three Wise Men"

Dec. 24 — 8:00 & 10:30 a.m. services — Sermon: "Three Wise Women"

Our Christmas Eve Candlelight Services:

Dec. 24 — 6:00 & 11:00 p.m. services

My prayer for each of you this Christmas season is that you and yours will enjoy coming home for Christmas, not only to your individual families, but also to your church family as we celebrate together the birth of Jesus Christ.

Christmas Blessings,
Pastor Doug Stockton



Behind the Guitar Pastor Steve Fultz

Matthew 4: 12 – 17 *When Jesus heard that John had been put in prison, he withdrew to Galilee. Leaving Nazareth, he went and lived in Capernaum, which was by the lake in the area of Zebulun and Naphtali—to fulfill what was said through the prophet Isaiah: “Land of Zebulun and land of Naphtali, the Way of the Sea, beyond the Jordan, Galilee of the Gentiles—the people living in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the land of the shadow of death a light has dawned.” From that time on, Jesus began to preach, “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.” (NIV)*

When Dona was on the Women’s Retreat last month, I had some spare time to watch the movies she thought were too dumb for her to watch. (She likes English mysteries, so I save the dumb ones on Netflix for times such as these!) The one I chose for my night of solitude was deep. It was classic. It was Will Ferrell’s Talladega Nights: The Ballad of Ricky Bobby. Now, let me make a disclaimer up front. I am not, not, a Will Ferrell fan to any degree. He just isn’t my cup of tea (and that includes the movie Elf, which I’m sure many of you will watch once again this month). Don’t send me hate mail for it, because I won’t read it or respond.

I’m the type of guy that will try to finish whatever task I start. That included Talladega Nights. It was crude, rude, sacrilegious, and not all that funny...but, I watched it until the end. Even though it’s over ten years old, and I’m just now watching it, I won’t give away any spoilers except one. It was a scene where Ricky, his wife, Carley, their two sons, Walker and T. R. (Texas Ranger), their Grandpa, and Cal, Ricky’s best friend, are sitting down for a meal, and Ricky is trying to say Grace. He is focused on praying to “little baby Jesus” and won’t, or can’t, think of Jesus in any other way. The scene goes on way too long for me, but I’m not a movie critic. I just know what I like.

I guess the point I’m making is that many of us do what Ricky Bobby did; we pray to baby Jesus. We look to this time of year and think about how precious and innocent that little baby lying in the manger is and all is right in the world. I just saw a church sign on Facebook that said, “Don’t make me come down there! – God.” The thing is...He did. Yes, He came as a baby, but He was also fully God. I was trying to wrap my mind around that yesterday. How could I paint that picture? What would that Nativity scene look like? And then I found the Scripture above and what stood out to me is what I had been thinking about. **“The people living in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the land of the shadow of death a light has dawned.”** That’s exactly what I wanted to see, a picture where

baby Jesus isn’t lying in the manger. I imagined a blinding light piercing the darkness, so bright that mere mortals would have to look away because of its purity. I wish I were an artist and could capture that image, even if it fell short of what I imagined.

No, we worship a Risen Savior, Jesus! We can pray to Him, God, or the Holy Spirit. But it is the One who went to the Cross that deserves our worship, prayers, confession, repentance, and thanksgiving. Yes, I said repentance. Didn’t you notice the last line of Scripture above? The message Jesus gave was, **“Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come.”**

Maybe that’s what bothered me most about Ricky Bobby’s prayer. There was no repentance. There was mocking, foul language, even lewd behavior, but no repentance. Maybe it was because he thought of Jesus as a baby, with no power. Jesus came into this world, not to be remembered as a baby, a mere mortal, but to save the world. That, my friends, is *real* power. But it starts with repentance on our part. Jesus did the hard part. He paid the penalty for all of our sins. Our part is coming to grips with the fact that we are not God; He is. We have to come to the Cross, the place where Jesus died for us, and ask for forgiveness. Humble yourself this Christmas and accept the Grace and Mercy Jesus holds out for us. He entered into this world completely vulnerable, the Light of God.

Let me leave you with this from the Gospel of John 1: 4-5: **“In him was life, and that life was the light of all mankind. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.”** And verses 9-10: **“The true light that gives light to everyone was coming into the world. He was in the world, and though the world was made through him, the world did not recognize him.”** Pray that the Light of the world would be made manifest in mankind this Christmas. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

God bless,

Pastor Steve



J.D. Young—Assistant Pastor of Family life Ministry

The Christmas story is full of remarkable moments. But did you know that the Christmas story really kicked off about 2,000 years before the birth of Jesus? This week, we'll take a look at what happened in those years—the promises, trials, and victories—that all pointed to one thing: The world needed Christmas. During the month of December, The 314 Life will discover that we all need Christmas to discover God's love and the freedom found in Jesus Christ.



This month we are excited to introduce: Jesus' Christmas Shop. In years past we have done things such as: The Giving Tree and Christmas Stockings for the Community. This year we are looking to combine the two. Beginning Sunday, November 19, we will begin accepting Christmas gifts for children in our community. On Wednesday, December 13, from 6:30 - 8:00 p.m., the children and youth of BUMC will stuff the stockings with the gifts you donate. This is a great way for us to work together as a church to bless our community.

Join us for the BUMC Youth (Jr. High and Sr. High) Christmas party, December 17, from 1:30 - 4:00 p.m. Bring a wrapped gift less than \$10 in value to participate in our White Elephant Gift Exchange. Also, be sure to bring an appetizer or snack to share.





Every good and perfect gift comes from God. In fact, generosity is at the very core of God's character—He even gave us His own son, Jesus! Jesus showed unwavering generosity as He traded His life for ours. And, because God gave us Jesus and Jesus gave His life, we can be generous towards others. Not only that, but when we are generous towards others, we prove that we love God by loving the people He loves. We pray that this Christmas, as kids celebrate God's amazing generosity, they'll see how they can be generous with their family, friends, and neighbors.

Our Memory Verse for December comes from I Timothy 6:18, which says: "Command the rich to do what is good. Tell them to be rich in doing good things. They must give freely. They must be willing to share." (NIRV)

From this verse, we will discover: Because God gave, I can give. Don't miss your chance to give; look for creative ways to give.



The BUMC Jr. High will be heading to Louisville, KY on February 2-3 to attend Jr. High **believe**. This Jr. High only conference is designed especially for them. It has been several years since BUMC has attended **believe**, but those who went still talk about its impact upon them. The cost for this trip is \$60. A \$30 deposit was due November 19; however, the sooner you register the better. For more information, visit: www.ciy.com.



The BUMC Youth Council is thrilled to introduce our Sr. High youth to BigStuf 2018. This is a national youth conference, held in Panama City Beach, Florida. The dates for our trip are June 10 - 16. The cost for the trip will be LESS than \$400. Sr. High youth can reserve their spot with a \$150 deposit. Space is limited to the first nine youth who sign up. The deadline for the deposit is January 7, 2018. For more on BigStuf, visit bigstuf.com.



Join us for a special Children's Bell Choir, which will be featured during this year's Christmas Cantata. Kindergarten through fifth grade students are invited to join us 30 minutes prior to each performance, December 2 and 3. We will meet in the multi-purpose room to practice our part. We hope you will join us!!



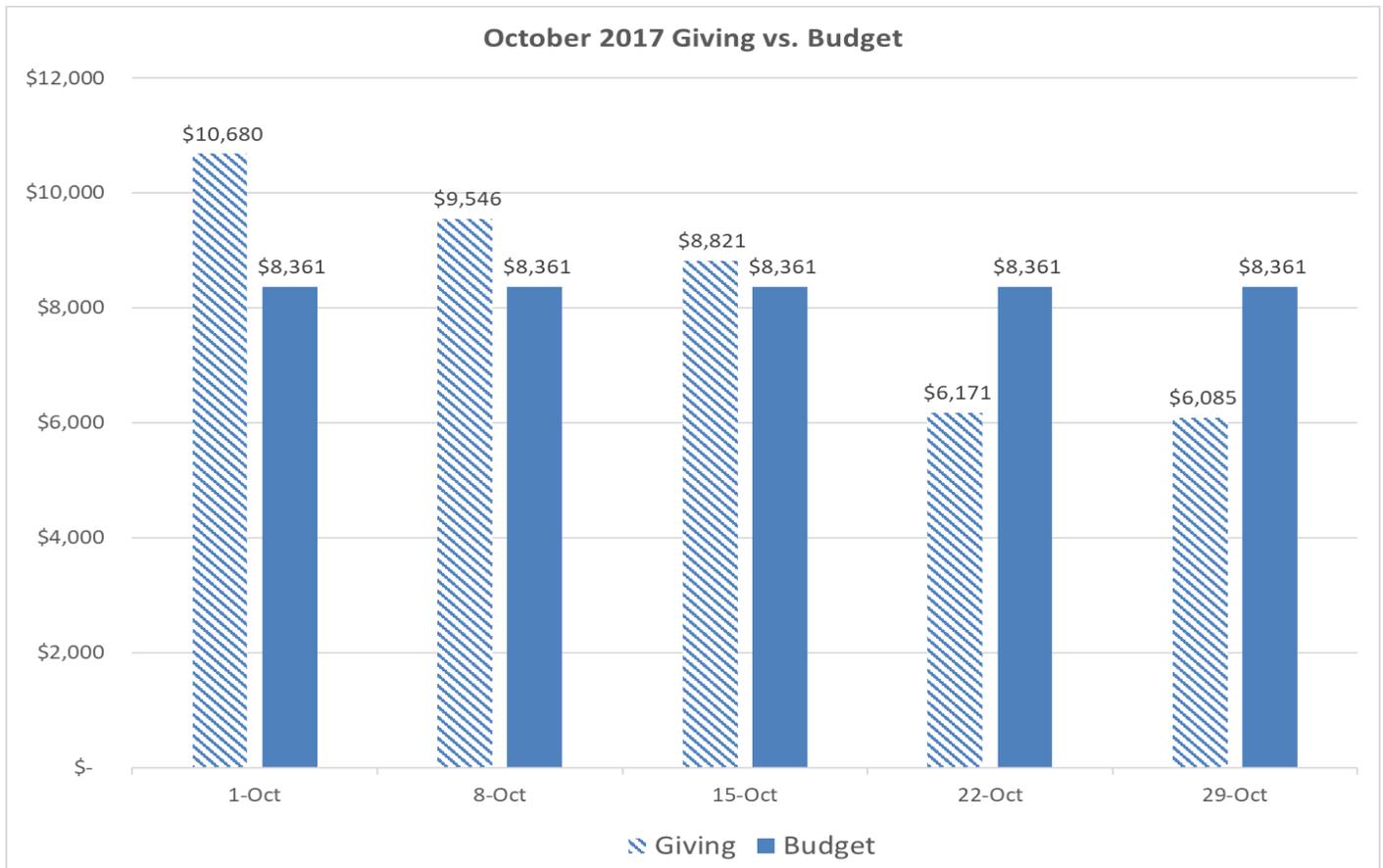
Merry Christmas! God is so good! As we get close to the end of another year of serving Christ, we are so encouraged by the generous giving spirit of our Church Family. Your Finance Committee feels so blessed by the monetary support each of you are contributing to BUMC. We know that God will richly bless each of you.

The Current Fund at the beginning of November was nearly \$50,000. This balance allows for a comfortable transition from one calendar year to another. BUMC is blessed to have multiple buildings and properties to maintain and as any of you who own a house or property know, the winter months can bring unexpected surprises in Ohio.

If any of you are planning to make a year-end special contribution, please keep in mind that it would need to be received in the office by Friday, December 29, to be credited to tax reports for 2017. Since January 1, 2018, is a Monday, the office will be closed on December 30, 31 and January 1.

We truly appreciate your prayers, your gifts and your tithes. God Bless!

If you have questions or suggestions for the Finance Committee, please contact Debby Redden 513-257-7709 (10:30 Service).



MISSION



Operation Christmas Child boxes are now on the way to children worldwide. Our congregation donated 87 boxes in support of this wonderful ministry.

Thank you to Sharee and Curt Manning for delivering the boxes to the Batavia drop-off center. Thank you to everyone who made a box for a special child and those who donated money to help with the shipping costs.



There have been several donations to the mission to support the local school in its effort to recycle plastic bottle caps into outside benches. The collection area for these caps is the kitchen. If you have LEGOS® that are not being used, either full sets or mismatched pieces, the donation container for the school children in Haiti is near the elevator.

Santa Needs Your Help



The Mission Committee will be hosting a Christmas party for Foster Children on December 14 beginning at 4:30 p.m. If anyone would like to volunteer to help with food, crafts or photography on that night, we would welcome your help. Please let Carol Childers or Bonnie Meeks know that you will be joining us on that Thursday evening.

W O W God!

Last November 2016, my mom was dying. She said she did not want to die since she wanted to see the rapture take place. While in the hospital a few days before she died, she had a vision of heaven. She said she saw Jesus and He smiled at her and He told her to come. She told those in the room that she saw people rising like in the rapture. She said heaven was beautiful and be sure to not miss it. A few nights later, we knew she was near the end. We all said our goodbyes. My siblings and myself all sang, "There is Coming a Day." On the last word of the song, her heart stopped and she went home to be with Jesus."

Barb Richter

Once when I was returning from Haiti, about six boys from the orphanage that I was affiliated with, came to the airport with me to wait with me. They waited several hours and then got ready to leave. They said they were hungry. All I had was \$20 to get myself some food in Miami. But, I knew God would help me to not be hungry or supply my need. I gave them the \$20. Walking down the hall in Miami to get to my gate, I looked down and there was \$20 lying on the floor with no one around. God supplied my need.

Barb Richter

Dan has been a resident of Sunrise Manor in Amelia. While the staff have been very good, there has been a chronic problem of insufficient staff. Dan was placed on the waiting list for Otterbein and the new Trilogy, which is in the process of being built. The waiting list for both places was at least six months. There was nothing I could do but put Dan in God's care. Mid-October Otterbein asked if he was still on the list

and reaffirmed the wait was still at least six months. Thanks to God I received a call Nov. 2 saying they had an opening. With the help of Nancy VanderWoude, we moved Dan on the 9th. Otterbein is more expensive than Sunrise, but again, thanks to God that hasn't been a worry.

I don't play the lottery (well, I did once) or buy raffle tickets. I did one time stop in for a Jeff Wyler promotion and received a little fake gold bar which turned out to be a match. I expected to get maybe a watch I could give as a Christmas gift. On October 31 as I was driving by, I thought I'd go ahead and check my "winnings." Little did I know that God would bless me with \$25,000! This Thanksgiving I have so much to be thankful for. An awesome God has placed Dan in a wonderful facility and provided the financial means!

Margaret Miller



The Community Free Store is desperately in need of winter clothes and coats!

Men	All Sizes
Women	All Sizes
Boys	Sizes 5—18
Girls	Sizes 5—18

Please drop off donations at the Free Store, located at 234 West Plane Street, on Monday, Tuesday, or Wednesday between the hours of 1:00 p.m. and 4:00 p.m. You may also leave them at the church, but please clearly label your donation "Free Store."

You're Invited

You are invited to a party at the home of Guy and Linda Marquette, 2485 Bethel Hygiene Road, on December 9 from 5:00-8:00 p.m. Please bring your favorite Christmas appetizers or desserts. We will have fun games and then the exciting Yankee gift exchange. Please pick a wrapped gift that you would be proud of and excited to receive. Come on out for FUN-n-FELLOWSHIP to spark your Christmas spirit of Christ!



PRAY! PRAY! PRAY!

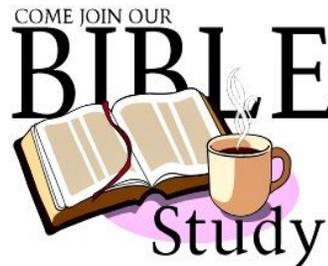
Please keep the Bethel United Methodist Church and the United Methodist Churches everywhere in your prayers. You are invited to join the Tuesday morning 8:00 a.m. prayer cell here at the church, led by Nola Camery. We begin promptly with Scripture and end promptly at 9:00 a.m. All are welcome!



Remember the Gift

We hope you, your family, and your friends will begin your Christmas season by worshipping with the Bethel Community Choir as they present *Remember the Gift* on December 2 and 3 at the Bethel United Methodist Church. The Community Choir, consisting of 45 members representing at least eight area churches, will join together under the title song written by Greg and Sandy Bauer for an evening of music, testimonies, skits, Children's Bell Choir, and "pint-sized Little Drummer Boys."

Bethel American Legion Post 406 Color Guard will assist in honoring our veterans on Saturday evening, and the Clermont County Marine Veterans Honor Guard will offer their services on Sunday evening, so bring your favorite veteran. Saturday's presentation will begin at 7:00 p.m. after the Down Home Christmas parade, and Sunday's performance will be at 6:00 p.m. with refreshments to be served after the final Sunday service. What a wonderful way to "remember the gift" of our precious Savior and honor those who protect us as we worship Him!



The Thursday morning Ladies' Bible Study meets at 10:00 a.m. and is studying The Acts of the Apostles. Looking closely at the early church, we find

similarities to the church today. This is an excellent way to lift one another in prayer, fellowship, and grow in the Word. All ladies are welcome!! Contact Lois Luyster, 734-7322 or luyster@yahoo.com for more information.

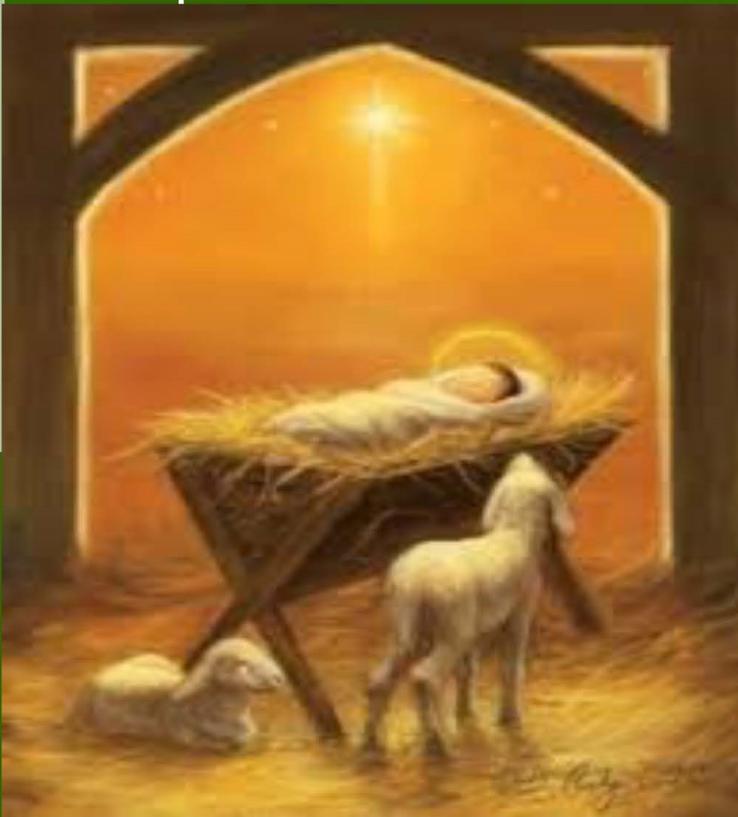
I know this is early but I wanted to let you know that there will be another Praise Unchained on Palm Sunday this year at the Community Christian Church. Watch for details.

Pastor Steve



Bethel Community
Choir Presents

Remember the GIFT



Experience
⌘ **GOD'S GIFT** ⌘
God's Peace
God's Hope

*Include in your
Christmas plans this year
a special drama & musical
presentation by the
Bethel Community Choir
as part of the
2017 Bethel Down Home
Christmas Celebration.*

Help Us Celebrate & Honor

**both our former and current Military Veterans with the
Bethel American Legion Color Guard on Saturday evening &
the US Marine Honor Guard on Sunday evening.**

Show Location : Bethel United Methodist Church
402 W. Plane Street
Bethel, OH 45106

Cost: FREE—OUR GIFT TO YOU!

TWO PERFORMANCES

SATURDAY,
DECEMBER 2
@ 7 PM
(FOLLOWING PARADE)

SUNDAY,
DECEMBER 3
@ 6 PM
(REFRESHMENTS)





On behalf of the Troop Box Ministry, I want thank Bethel UMC for your donations and to let you know just how much your generosity is appreciated.

Diana Lawrence

I appreciate all of the ladies who organized the Harvest Tea and made the wide assortment of sweet and savory treats for all of us to enjoy along with our tea. Thank you, too, for the gift of a BUMC Heritage Cookbook, and for making it even more special by signing your recipes.

Linda Stockton

The family of Pauline (Rooks) Harmon wish to THANK YOU for all of your prayers, cards and hugs. Even though this did not turn out the way we wanted, we know that God is in control and that Pauline is now in a better place and is not suffering or dealing with earthly things. The meal following the funeral was so appreciated and not only feed our bodies, but feed each one present spiritually. We cannot imagine going through this without our BUMC family—you are the BEST!

The Rooks, Redden & Harmon Families

I would like to thank everyone for the calls, cards, help getting to the doctor and tests, and most of all for all the prayers during my recent health issues with my back. I am blessed to be a part of such a loving church family. I would also like to thank those people who helped out with caring for baby Liam during my back issues. Thanks again.

Betty Jodrey

Thank you to the Bethel Floral Boutique for their kindness over the years to our shut-ins, babies, and those who have been hospitalized. (If you were missed, I apologize.) Teresa Baudendistel started this several years ago, and Lisa Emery has continued the ministry. I visit with Lisa when I go in to pick these items up, and she feels blessed to be a part of this ministry. If you happen to see either of these two ladies, please tell them 'thank you.' God bless.

Pastor Steve

I wanted to thank everyone for the prayers, cards, foods, and the visits. I am feeling much better and looking forward to being able to come back to church now that I can drive. I have been praying for the good Lord to lead me where I am supposed to be and I can't imagine being anywhere else for worship than our church.

I have my third MRI and hopefully there's no new cancer growth. My disability starts December 13. We've had quite the struggle financially with me not being allowed to work my job. However, I did sign to sell Pampered Chef products again; so if anyone is interested in hosting a catalog or internet party, please let me know. Thanks for everything!

LaRea Grause

Thanks to American Heritage Girls for donating craft items to Foster Care and seasonal decorations to Friends and Fellowship. It was a generous gesture and much appreciated.

Denise Strimple

I want to thank everyone for the prayers, cards, and visits before, during and after my surgery. Special thanks to Pastor Doug and Pastor Steve for their prayers and visits and for showing God's love. Thank you church family!

Sue Lanigan

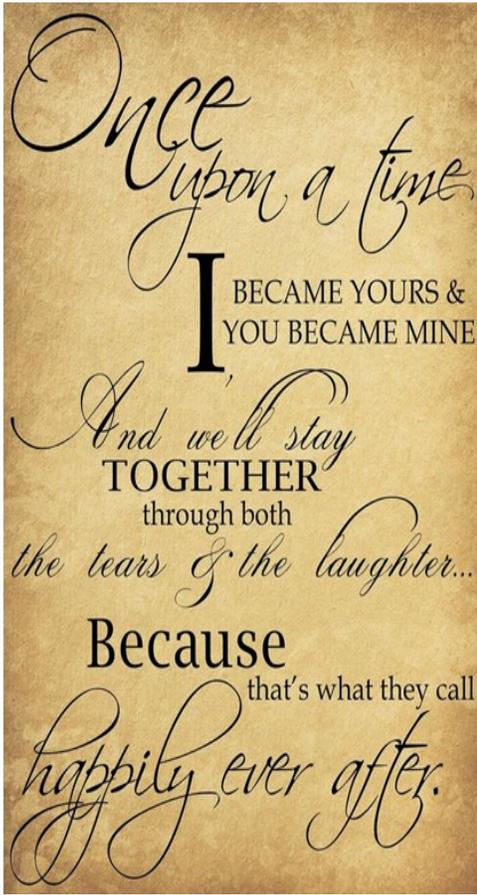
Thank you so much for allowing the Tiger PAWWS PTO to use your church for cooking and serving our football team! The boys and coaches enjoyed and appreciated the dinner greatly. We also want to thank you for your support of our newly-formed organization. It means the world to us!

Tiger PAWWS PTO Board



Prayer Calendar

- 1: Joyce Cochran, Alex Brock, Levi Schuler
 - 2: Wendell Ward, Mitchell Wilson-McElfresh, Sadie Ast
 - 3: Becky Canter, Ralph Harmon, Noah Richter, Evelyn Dunham, D.J. Sepeck
 - 5: Johnny Swarthout, Logan Cumby
 - 6: Bradley Lung, Sadie Fischesser, Guy Marquette, Jeremy Zahlen, Jennifer Dick
 - 7: John Camery, Carissa Cumby, Maya Dunham
 - 8: Jane Kretzer, Glen Calhoun, Brenda Hughes
 - 9: Makayla Beckley
 - 10: Gary Canter, Sharee Manning
 - 11: John Swarthout, Ashton Dick
 - 12: Bill Moorman
 - 13: William Gregory, Joshua Barth
 - 14: Glenn Beyer
 - 16: Xyon Gray, Noah Courts
 - 17: Kathy Freudenberger, Georgianna Fultz, Maggy Schuster, Mark Stricker
 - 18: Michael Schaeffer, Taylor Colwell
 - 19: Marian Canter, Michelle Lewardowske, Tucker Gillian
 - 20: Jayne Butler
 - 21: Katie McKee, John Steger
 - 22: David Brannock, Trenton Weeks,
 - 23: Margaret Miller, Lisa Partin, Logan Holland, Karlee Cox
 - 24: Tosha Rose, Carl White, Carolyn Holland, Brittany Braden, Tony Martin
 - 26: Garrett Lang, Xander Carlson
 - 27: Mackenzie Benjamin, Ethan Schuler
 - 28: John Hamilton, Connor DeVore, Dixie Ast, Jordan Foster, Sofia Butler
 - 29: Jason Little, Barry Baker, Beverly Gangwer
 - 30: Linda Bentley, Adam Dauber, Caleb Dahlheimer, Keira Richter, Mallory Napier, Nathan Combs, Alyssa Young
 - 31: Kim Dahlheimer, John Freudenberger, Charlene Nickell, Michael Leshner, Danielle Reeves
1. James, Jennifer, Jonathan, Jillian & Julia Dick
 2. Gordon Dickerson
 3. Dottie Diehl
 4. Ben Dotson
 5. Matt & Aubrey Dotson
 6. Roger & Marsha Dotson
 7. Glen & June Dreher
 8. Steve Drew
 9. Evelyn Dunham
 10. Rusty, Kelly, Andi & Maya Dunham
 11. Denny & Elaine Ellis
 12. Hermon Fagley
 13. Kim Fannin
 14. Mildred Fannin
 15. Brad, Michelle & Mattox Felix
 16. Scott, Sonya, Seth & Sadie Fischesser
 17. John, Julie, Trenton & Brooklyn Fletcher
 18. Charles, Heather, Dylan, Brayden, Peyton, Haylee, Alyssa & Kamryn Foster
 19. Bob & Kathy Freudenberger
 20. Cathy Frey
 21. Beth Fulton
 22. John, Michelle Fultz & Chelsea Conner
 23. Steve & Dona Fultz
 24. Robert & Joy Gabbard
 25. Jack & Pauline Gardner
 26. Tom & Ann Gaskins
 27. Chris, Kenna, Cole & Hannah Goodman
 28. Jeff & Larea Grause
 29. Bubba, Sandy, Noah & Zyon Gray
 30. William Gregory
 31. Brenton, Jennifer, Caleb, Bekah & Sarah Guy



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NEW BEGINNINGS COOK BOOK

BUMC hasn't had a cookbook released since 2010. We have lots of new folks and we would love to see 'what's cookin' in their kitchens. But we hope **all the BUMC cooks** (male and female) will participate. Please start submitting your favorite recipes. There will be a box in the kitchen to collect them for the next two months.

- 1: Ben & Megan Martin
- 5: Jon & Carole Davidson
- 5: Roger & Cassie Anderson
- 6: Glen & June Dreher
- 12: Jim & Pam Allen
- 17: Dustin & Jamie Nimmo
- 18: Jacob & Chrissy Herzog
- 19: James & Sandy Cumby
- 22: Guy & Linda Marquette
- 28: Kevin & Barbara McKee
- 31: Joey & Megan Swarhout
- 31: Thomas & Jody Moore



The Safety Committee conducted a planned fire evacuation drill on Sunday, November 19, during the worship service. This was done to prepare congregants and staff to recognize the warning alarm, as well as know where the five fire exits are in the sanctuary and what to do in the event of a fire.

As we were exiting, assigned observers tried to identify any weaknesses in the current evacuation strategy, such as difficulties experienced by people with disabilities, and people wasting time collecting personal items. Upon review, conclusions and remedial actions will be recorded and implemented.



Please see "The Spirit of Giving Post" found in the youth article.



Relationships By God's Design

Holidays can sometimes be difficult for those who have recently (or not so recently) lost a loved one, or gone through the painful experience of getting divorced or becoming estranged. One suggested coping strategy is to keep some of your meaningful and familiar holiday traditions to honor your shared history and fond memories. But it can also help to experiment with trying different experiences that create new memories and have the potential to become traditions, too, once they've been repeated over time.

You've heard Doug and I share that tensions ran high when we blended our families, so we were intentional to try to heed the advice. I knew just what to do when I observed Doug, in full bachelor style, pull a pathetic scrawny fully-decorated Christmas tree out of one side of his closet. No way were we going to have 'theirs' and 'ours' trees.

So, we decided to buy a new bigger tree and start a tradition of getting each person an ornament that represented something they experienced that year. I use the term "ornament" loosely, as anything you can hang on the tree is fair game.

The idea didn't catch on right away, maybe because Ben couldn't figure out why he got a gold moth ornament. (Hey, it was as close to a butterfly as I could find at the time, and we were memorializing his participation in a Chrysalis Flight.) Other ornaments were happily received, like the mini license the year David started to drive, or the barbells the year Jordan buffed up at the gym. We've given a tiara, a movie clapboard, vacation mementos, and key chains with their alma mater's name on them.

We've recorded a lot of milestones: babies' first Christmases, first Christmas together as a married couple, first jobs, first communion, and first time to ride the school bus. Instead of traditional ornate orbs, we have unique things that celebrate their achievements, like sky-diving, graduating, buying a house, or earning licenses, certifications, and professional awards. One indicator we were starting to function cohesively in our modified family formation was when the kids excitedly guessed what ornament we got them.

We also prayed together for our children (almost) daily and established house rules based on God's instructions. During difficult times, we found that if we would pray together prior to discussing a problem involving the kids' conflicts, which was the main thing over which we found ourselves at odds, the outcome was less anger and more effective problem-solving.

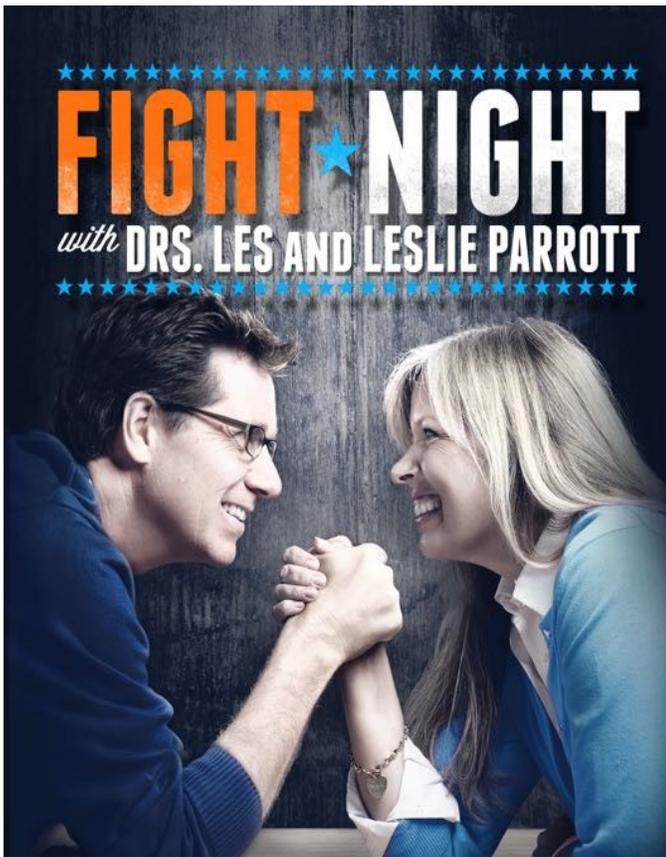
We kept the traditions of donating toys to the needy, reading aloud the story of Christ's birth, and attending Christmas Eve services as a family. By keeping Christ at the center, and by consistently loving each other, things got better. Now at the holidays, we enjoy sitting back watching the kids interact as friends, and watching our circle of love increase as they marry and have children.

1 John 4:12—No one has ever seen God; but if we love one another, God lives in us and his love is made complete in us.

Proverbs 22:6 NIV—Start children off on the way they should go, and even when they are old they will not turn from it.

Matthew 7:9-11 NIV—9 "Which of you, if your son asks for bread, will give him a stone? 10 Or if he asks for a fish, will give him a snake? 11 If you, then, though you are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give good gifts to those who ask him!

Linda Stockton LPCC



Lets' face it, all couples fight. Learn how to fight a **Good Fight**.

Join us for a fun event filled with humor, fresh insight, and new strategies for your relationship. Fight Night; How to Fight Fair is for everyone – newlyweds, “oldyweds,” seriously dating, engaged couples – anyone wanting to make a good relationship great.

Christian marriage expert, Dr. Les Parrott, will be presenting **Fight Night**, a Marriage Conference here at BUMC on February 11, 2018 at 2:00 p.m.

With early-bird individual registration as inexpensive as \$15, you can register at: <https://www.lesandlesie.com/event/fight-night-bethel-oh/>.

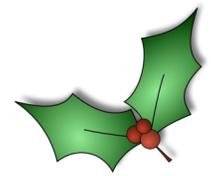
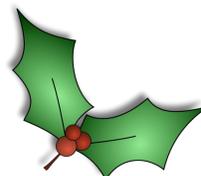
Les is a professor of psychology at Northwest University. He and his wife, Leslie, a clinical psychologist, are founders of the Center for Healthy Relationships on the campus of Olivet University. They are New York Times best-selling authors, have been featured in *USA Today* and *New York Times*, and have made numerous television appearances.



December Calendar Addendum



Dec. 2	8 Men's B 10 Wor Prac 11 K of Hope 7p Cantata
Dec. 3	8 Service 9:15 SS 10:30 Service 6p Cantata
Dec. 4	9 Sew Blest 1p Clothing Store 1p Hospice Class
Dec. 5	1p Clothing Store 6p Trustee Party
Dec. 9	11 K of Hope 5:30p Yankee Swap
Dec. 10	8 Service 9:15 SS 10:30 Service
Dec. 12	8 Prayer Cell 1 Clothing Store 7 SPRC Party
Dec. 14	5:30p Foster Party 6:30p Choir Practice
Dec. 17	8 Service 9:15 SS 10:30 Service 1:30p Youth Party
Dec. 23	11:30 K of Hope 2:30p M/P room in use
Dec. 24	8 Service 9:15 SS 10:30 Service 6p Eve Service 11p Eve Service
Dec. 31	9:15 SS 10:30 Service
Jan. 6	10 Wor Prac 11 K of Hope



2018 GREETING SCHEDULE

1st Sunday	Sanctuary Welcome Center Front Door Ash St. Door	7:40	Betty Debord _____ Theresa & LaMont Baudendistel George Zimmerman	10:15	Denae & Darin Jones Curt & Sharee Manning Dwight & Bonnie Bogart Jeff Little
2nd Sun-day	Sanctuary Welcome Center Front Door Ash St. Door	7:40	Guy & Linda Marquette _____ Bev Courts Brenda & Steve Morehouse	10:15	John & Karen Hirschauer Pat & Jim Brannock George Rooks Pat Spangler & Carol Stieringer
3rd Sunday	Sanctuary Welcome Center Front Door Ash St. Door	7:40	Sue Lanigan & Diana Shambling _____ George Rooks Charlotte Broach	10:15	Bob & Joy Gabbard Ellie Bailey Priscilla Sloan Sandy Cumby
4th Sunday	Sanctuary Welcome Center Front Door Ash St. Door	7:40	Joe & Wilma Cluxton _____ Mike Kilgore Tom & Linda Millman	10:15	Gloria Canter Priscilla Sloan Eric & Amy Moorehead Mark McIntyre
5th Sunday	Sanctuary Welcome Center Front Door Ash St. Door	7:40	Nancy VanderWoude _____ Ken & Glo Walker Bill & Janet Bick	10:15	Our Youth Carol & Scott Childers John & Karen Hirschauer Bonnie Beckelhymer

Many thanks for all of you!

Chair – John & Karen Hirschauer

513.734.2438

Church Master Calendar

Dec 2017 (Eastern Time)

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>26</p> <p>8am - Service</p> <p>9:15am - 8.8.</p> <p>10:30am - Serv</p>	<p>27</p> <p>1pm - Clothing</p> <p>1pm - Hospice</p> <p>6pm - Decorate</p>	<p>28</p> <p>8am - Prayer</p> <p>1pm - clothing</p>	<p>29</p> <p>T. Girls Doodle</p> <p>1pm - Clothing</p>	<p>30</p> <p>6:15pm - Eran</p> <p>6:30pm - Choir</p> <p>7:30pm - Cantata</p>	<p>1</p>	<p>2</p> <p>8am - Men's B.</p> <p>10am - W or.</p> <p>11am - K of</p> <p>7pm - Cantata</p>
<p>3</p> <p>Advert</p> <p>8am - Service</p> <p>9:15am - 8.8.</p> <p>10:30am - Serv</p>	<p>4</p> <p>9am - Sew Blest</p> <p>1pm - Clothing</p> <p>1pm - Hospice</p>	<p>5</p> <p>8am - Prayer</p> <p>1pm - clothing</p> <p>6pm - Trustee</p>	<p>6</p> <p>1pm - Clothing</p>	<p>7</p> <p>6:30pm - Choir</p> <p>6:30pm - Missio</p>	<p>8</p> <p>5:30pm - 50+</p>	<p>9</p> <p>10am - W or.</p> <p>11am - K of</p> <p>5:30pm - Tank</p>
<p>10</p> <p>Advert</p> <p>8am - Service</p> <p>9:15am - 8.8.</p> <p>10:30am - Serv</p>	<p>11</p> <p>1pm - Clothing</p> <p>1pm - Hospice</p>	<p>12</p> <p>8am - Prayer</p> <p>1pm - clothing</p> <p>7pm - SPRC</p>	<p>13</p> <p>1pm - Clothing</p> <p>6:30pm - Famil</p>	<p>14</p> <p>H. Day's</p> <p>5:30pm - Poste</p> <p>6:30pm - Choir</p>	<p>15</p>	<p>16</p> <p>10am - W or.</p> <p>11am - K of</p>
<p>17</p> <p>Advert</p> <p>8am - Service</p> <p>9:15am - 8.8.</p> <p>10:30am - Serv</p>	<p>18</p> <p>9am - Sew Blest</p> <p>1pm - Clothing</p>	<p>19</p> <p>8am - Prayer</p> <p>1pm - clothing</p>	<p>20</p> <p>1pm - Clothing</p>	<p>21</p> <p>6:30pm - Choir</p>	<p>22</p> <p>Chimes Due</p>	<p>23</p> <p>10am - W or.</p> <p>11am - K of</p> <p>2:30pm - M/P</p>
<p>24</p> <p>Advert</p> <p>8am - Service</p> <p>9:15am - 8.8.</p> <p>10:30am - Serv</p>	<p>25</p> <p>Christmas</p> <p>Office Closed</p>	<p>26</p> <p>8am - Prayer</p> <p>1pm - clothing</p>	<p>27</p> <p>1pm - Clothing</p>	<p>28</p>	<p>29</p>	<p>30</p> <p>10am - W or.</p> <p>11am - K of</p>
<p>31</p> <p>8am - Service</p> <p>9:15am - 8.8.</p> <p>10:30am - Serv</p>	<p>1</p> <p>New Years Day</p> <p>Office Closed</p>	<p>2</p> <p>8am - Prayer</p> <p>1pm - clothing</p>	<p>3</p> <p>1pm - Clothing</p>	<p>4</p> <p>6:30pm - Choir</p>	<p>5</p> <p>6pm - W. Crew</p> <p>7pm - Venture</p>	<p>6</p> <p>8am - Men's B.</p> <p>10am - W or.</p> <p>11am - K of</p>