

Ashland First United Methodist Church, 220 Sandusky St., Ashland, OH 44805

Dates to Remember!

1st Sunday of Advent
Sunday December 2

Youth at First UMC
Sunday, December 2
6:00 PM

Christmas Dinner
Friday, December 7
6:00 PM

2nd Sunday of Advent
Sunday, December 9

Youth at FUMC
Sunday, December 9
6:00 PM

Girl Scout Party
Friday, December 14
5:00 PM Dauch Hall

3rd Sunday of Advent
Sunday, December 16

Youth Christmas Caroling
Sunday, December 16
4:00 PM CUMC

4th Sunday of Advent
Sunday, December 23

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service
Monday, December 24
7:00 PM

Christmas Day Communion Service
Tuesday, December 25
10:00 AM

Feast Night
Sunday, December 30
5:00 PM Dauch Hall

Volunteer Ministry Schedules

Welcome Center

December 2
Charlie and Melody Barnes
Hazel Ritchey

December 9
Ken and Darlene Householder
Edna Cox

December 16
Denny and Ruth Ann Hiner
Cheri Welch

December 23
Dan and Laurie McFarlin
Diana Harris

December 30
Mary Pheneger
Kay Sayers
Marlene Brewer

Connection Café

December 2
Tom Workman
Molly Wilson

December 9
Denny and Ruth Ann Hiner

December 16
Hazel Ritchey
Dottie Greene

December 23
Jeff and Joy Reep

December 30
Dan and Georgene Aber

Worship Liturgy Team

December 2
Tracey Eagle

December 9
Kim Liston

December 16
Greg Squires

December 23
Rob Wally

December 30
Ann Cadley

Communion Team

December 2
Kim Liston

November Counters
Marilyn Koop
Bonnie McQuate



From the Pastor...

BURNOUT AND THE ADVENT AFFECT

It's a term we hear often in our fast-paced, 21st century world today—*burnout*. Along with stress it is touted as the “disease” of our time. Every major magazine devotes an article to burnout at least once a year. In my own circle of colleagues, burnout is a frequent topic of discussion. When I was ordained in 1986, there were eighteen other persons ordained along with me. I can now count on one hand the ones who remain. Some retired early, others just gave up. But it isn't just my profession that has to confront the problem of burnout. Teachers, city workers, secretaries, blue and white-collar workers face burnout. No profession is immune from it.

While the reality we call burnout is quite real, I have come to the conclusion that the metaphor we use to describe the phenomenon is not. “Burnout” is a term that is borrowed from rocketry. When a rocket rising from the earth runs out of fuel it “burns out” and falls back to earth. Burnout implies that our problem is a lack of energy. But many people who think they are “burning out” do so, not from lack of energy, but from lack of meaning. It is not the difficulty of the work and the amount

Ashland First United Methodist Church

of time spent in the work that is the problem; it is the inability to draw significant meaning from the work people do. When persons fail to find meaning in their labors, they do not “burn out” for lack of energy, the “fizzle out” for lack of desire.

Advent is an appropriate season to ask, “Where shall renewal and restoration be found for tired people like us?” The prophet Isaiah is of help in answering this question. *Those who wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength, they shall mount up with wings like eagles, they shall run and not be weary, they shall walk and not faint (Isaiah 40:31)*. The English translation of the first clause is not quite right. A better translation of the Hebrew is “Those who *serve* the Lord.” It is a foundational Christian claim that service to God is renewing, that in taking up the burdens of Christ, he gives us what we need to carry them. In other words, to wait on God is not like sitting in the lobby of a doctor's waiting to be called into the examination room by a nurse; it is to serve God as a server would wait on us in a restaurant.

Waiting in this sense reminds us that we are not self-sufficient, that we need someone to come and save us; that we cannot find our own meaning, we need someone else to give us the meaning of our lives because he is the one who has created us and called us. Waiting in this sense reminds us that whatever the task, whatever the job, whatever the relationship, we live for the glory of God and we do all things for the glory of God. In such living our meaning is found, as well as our renewal and restoration.

Here are our Advent questions: Will we receive the Messiah, Jesus, as he is rather than as we would have him to be? Will we let God come into our lives as God will, not as we desire? Will we allow our expectations for God to be schooled, formed, and

reformed by the reality of the Christ-Child who comes to us in this season? Will we let God be God in our lives and will we allow him to work his will in us and in all things for his glory?

The Advent Affect is the remedy for burnout for weary hearts and tired bones.

Wishing you God's richest blessings!

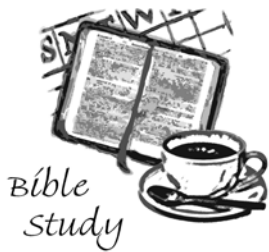
Allan





Noah Stampfli.....3
 Charles Barnes.....13
 Colleen Free.....15
 Josh Hildebrand.....16
 Traci Thompson.....29

If your name is not listed and you would like it to be, please call the church office.



Weekly Scriptures Offered

You are invited to join Pastor Allan and/or Pastor Laura each week for an hour of study on the Bible lessons for Sunday worship.

Two times are offered for your convenience:
 Monday evening @7:00 p.m.
 at Christ UMC
 1140 Claremont Avenue

Tuesday morning @10:00 a.m.
 at Downtown Perk
 145 West Main Street

Bring your Bibles with you and join the conversation!



Want to spread God's love today? Why not drop a note to a shut-in or visit a church member who is in a nursing home.

Belmont Tower

(2140 Center St., Ashland)
 Kathy Chorpening
 Verla Long

Brethren Care

(2000 Center St., Ashland)
 Ruth Emmons
 Richard Kriens (Bradford House)
 Cappie Stone (Wasen) #119

Crystal Care

(1251 E. Main St., Ashland)
 Steve Chorpening

Good Shepherd Villa

(726 Center St. Ashland)
 Sandy Benson

Kingston of Ashland

(20 Amberwood Pkwy, Ashland)
 Carol Barnes #313
 David & Sandra Grindle

Lutheran Village

(330 Davis Rd., Ashland)
 Cliff Hubler
 Needy Prosser
 Mary Puglisi
 Ireene Thomas



Altar Flowers

If you would like to contribute flowers for the Altar in memory or in honor of a person or event, there is an Altar Flower Sign Up Schedule on the wall in the entrance area. If you sign up for flowers and are having them delivered, please make sure that they are delivered on **Thursday** of that week. They will be placed in a refrigerator to keep them fresh for Sunday.

Spire Deadline

If you would like to submit an article for the November newsletter, the deadline is Monday, November 19, 2018.

Attendance

Worship

9/30	100
11/11	108
11/18	94
11/25	100

Financial Update

General Operating Ministry Budget

11/4	\$ 7,848.00
11/11	\$ 3,343.00
11/18	\$ 3,808.00
11/25	\$ 2,817.00

2018 YTD Current Revenue	\$ 213,915.56
2017 YTD Current Revenue	\$ 220,953.39

GOOD NEWS! The newly signed "Protecting Americans from Tax Hikes Act of 2015" makes certain "**Charitable contributions of IRA distributions**" provisions permanent.

Note: Those Americans subject to RMD's (required minimum distributions) can now elect to have their IRA custodian send charitable contributions **directly from their IRA to an eligible charitable organization**. When these transfers are made directly from the IRA to the Qualified Charitable Organization, the event is nontaxable.

This provision can really be helpful for many senior citizens who have part of their Social Security and the IRA distribution become taxable by eliminating the IRA from coming into income altogether.

If you are subject to RMDs and are planning on supporting any qualified charitable organization, such as the church, please contact your IRA plan sponsor, your investment advisor or accountant.



Electronic Giving is a convenient, consistent way to help our church year round.

Consider scheduling a recurring electronic contribution today. It's easy! You will no longer need to write out checks and prepare envelopes every week. Even when travel, illness or other circumstances prevent you from attending services, your electronic contributions will continue to be received on an uninterrupted basis.

Get started today!

Ask for an authorization form in the church office or visit our church website:
www.ashlandteamministry.org.

Update from the Finance Committee

The Finance Committee of the church would like to give an update on our finances. For the past three years we have been able to fully fund our denominational apportionments, pay our bills and build a small reserve. However, our giving has declined recently. Our 2017 giving was about 10% below prior year giving and for the first six months of 2018 we are down another 10%. This puts us about \$15,000 behind last year's giving. Our reserves from prior years are nearly exhausted and the Finance Committee wanted to make the church aware that we need about \$30,000 more in giving by the end of the year to match last year's giving level and to be able to pay all of our apportionments and fully fund the ministries of our church. We appreciate all of the faithful giving of the congregation. We just want to clearly lay out the need for funds to continue our current ministries. We would encourage our entire congregation to give as God continues to bless and give to us.

Reflective Scripture Readings

Daily

Psalm 25:1-10

Sat., Dec. 1

Nehemiah 9:16-25
1 Thess. 5:12-22

Sun., Dec. 2

Jeremiah 33:14-16
1 Thess. 3:9-13
Luke 21:25-36

Daily

Psalm 90

Mon., Dec., 3

Numbers 17:1-11
2 Peter 3:1-18

Tues., Dec. 4

2 Samuel 7:18-29
Rev. 22:12-16

Wed., Dec. 5

Isaiah 1:24-31
Luke 11:29-32

Daily

Luke 1:68-79

Thurs., Dec. 6

Malachi 3:5-12
Philippians 1:12-18a

Fri., Dec. 7

Malachi 3:13-18
Philippians 1:18b-26

Sat., Dec. 8

Malachi 4:1-6
Luke 9:1-6

Sun., Dec. 9

Malachi 3:1-4
Philippians 1:3-11
Luke 3:1-6

Daily

Psalm 126

Mon., Dec. 10

Isaiah 40:1-11
Romans 8:22-25

Tues., Dec. 11

Isaiah 19:18-25
2 Peter 1:2-15

Wed., Dec. 12

Isaiah 35:3-7
Luke 7:18-30

Daily

Isaiah 12:2-6

Thurs., Dec. 13

Amos 6:1-8
2 Cor. 8:1-15

Fri., Dec. 14

Amos 8:4-12
2 Cor. 9:1-15

Sat., Dec. 15

Amos 9:8-15
Luke 1:57-66

Sun., Dec. 16

Zephaniah 3:14-20
Philippians 4:4-7
Luke 3:7-18

Daily

Isaiah 11:1-9

Mon., Dec. 17

Numbers 16:1-19
Hebrews 13:7-17

Tues., Dec. 18

Numbers 16:20-35
Acts 28:23-31

Wed., Dec. 19

Micah 4:8-13
Luke 7:31-35

Daily

Psalm 80:1-7

Thurs., Dec. 20

Jeremiah 31:31-34
Hebrews 10:10-18

Fri., Dec. 21

Isaiah 42:10-18
Hebrews 10:32-39

Sat., Dec. 22

Isaiah 66:7-11
Luke 13:31-35

Daily

Luke 1:46b-55

Sun., Dec. 23

Micah 5:2-5a
Hebrews 10:5-10
Luke 1:39-55

Mon. Dec. 24

Isaiah 9:2-7
Psalm 96
Titus 2:11-14
Luke 2:1-20

Tues., Dec. 25

Isaiah 52:7-10
Psalm 98
Hebrews 1:1-12
John 1:1-14

Daily

Psalm 148

Wed., Dec. 26

2 Chron. 24:17-24
Acts 6:1-7; 7:51-60

Thurs., Dec. 27

Proverbs 8:32-36
John 21:19b-24

Fri., Dec. 28

Isaiah 54:1-13
Revelation 21:1-7

Daily

Psalm 147:12-20

Sat., Dec. 29

1 Chronicles 28:1-10
1 Cor. 3:10-17

Sun., Dec. 30

1 Samuel 2:18-20, 26
Colossians 3:12-17
Luke 2:41-52

Thurs., Dec. 31

1 Kings 3:5-14
John 8:12-19

**Ongoing Prayers for Our Church
and Community**

Please keep the following people in your prayers:

Chuck Ritchey

Victims of Hurricanes Florence and Michael

Don Larson (Chuck and Hazel Ritchey)

Vicki Johnson (*Jenny Moore*)

Barbara Fenn (*Sally Ann Hull*)

Jon Pickering (*Jane Betts*)

Cappie Stone (*Stacey Lucas*)

Steve Budd (*Marlene Brewer*)

Naomi Koons (*Debbie Shanklin*)

Heart of Ohio Emmaus/Chrysalis/Face to Face

Pilgrims (*Melody Barnes*)

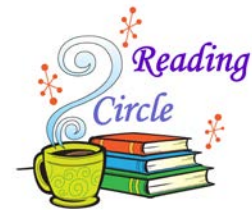
Asher Kettering (*Mary Kettering*)

For the refugees coming out of Syria (*Anna Slade*)

Patricia Boyer (*David Boyer*)

Holly Fulmer (*David Boyer*)

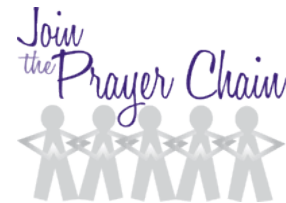
*(Please call the church office if you would like
to add someone to the prayer list.)*



WSC Reading Circle

*The next meeting for the WSC Reading Circle is
November 28th at 3:15 in the Library. Each
person is to read a Christian novel and will share
the story with the group.*

Feel free to join us if you enjoy reading.



Please contact the church office if you
would like to add someone to the Prayer
Chain email list. Please email at
afdebbie@zoominternet.net or call the
church office at 419-289-7551



PRIORITY PRAYER GATHERING

**THERE WILL BE PRIORITY PRAYER
MEETING THIS MONTH WILL BE AT FIRST
UMC ON THURSDAY, DECEMBER 1.**

Women
Serving
Christ



From the
First United Methodist Church

**There will be no meeting for The WSC for
December. See you in January.**

Office Hours

Monday – Thursday

8:00 am – 4:30 pm

PHONE 419-289-7551

Sunday Worship Hours

Worship – 9:30 am

Sunday School – 10:45 am

The Breakfast Club is inviting the larger church family to join us in making Christmas brighter for several local families.

Take one or more tags from the tree in the narthex. On the back of the tag is the info about each child.

Purchase the items and return to the church in the store wrapping. (Do NOT wrap in Christmas wrapping paper.)

Attach the tag to the package.

Place in the large box provided.
Please return by December 9th.



*Winter is fast on its way,
There is no time to delay.
The tree needs hats, and scarves
and gloves,
Before the snow falls from above.
Let us cover the tree with lots of love,
Plenty of hats and many a glove.*

We are collecting hats, gloves, and scarves for Associated Charities to give to those who are in need.

If you have these items and want to donate them, please place on the mitten tree by the front office.

These items will be delivered periodically to Associated Charities from December 10th through the 31st.

Thank you for
your generosity!



WSC is collecting taxable items for our Feast Night guests such as:

Shampoo, conditioner, soap,
Feminine Hygiene Products, toothpaste,
toothbrushes, mouth wash, toilet paper,
shaving cream, razors, aftershave lotion,
hand lotion, lip balm, deodorant, Q-Tips
cotton balls, hairbrushes and combs,
Kleenex, cough drops.

If you can help bring in these items, please place the items in the box in the Narthex. Thank you for serving the Lord by serving others in our community. Your generosity is greatly appreciated.

*The bells and ringing
The carols are singing
It's that time of year
Come join us as we sing
And listen to the bells ring
The Good News of Christmas cheer*

Saturday, December 15

3:00 PM

Christ UMC

Featuring Bell Choirs of
Ashland First UMC, Hayesville UMC and
Christ UMC



2018 OPERATION: CHRISTMAS FOR OUR TROOPS

Please see complete list of Military Personnel on the next page

The AFUMC Veterans' Ministry wants to thank all of you who donated items to be sent with care packages from the Ashland Military Support Group to our troops from Ashland County who are serving our country abroad this Christmas. Your actions will have a positive impact on their morale while they are away from home.

Even if you do not know them personally, your efforts to connect with these military personnel and to thank them for their service to our country will be appreciated much more than you realize. Please continue to keep them in your thoughts and prayers.

The Veterans' Ministry Team extends its thanks and appreciation to anyone who has donated money to our ministry this year. Your generous contributions will continue to help us provide funding for future Veterans' Ministry activities.

Thanks and God Bless You,
AFUMC Veterans' Ministry

**Thank you to everyone who donated
snacks for Celebrate Recovery. Your
generosity is much appreciated.**

Jenny Whitmore

Christmas Dinner

Friday, December 7

6:00 PM

Dauch Hall

Program will be provided by

Lee Wetherbee and Jamie Doerfler

A visit from Santa.

*Come join us for this special night
as we celebrate the season.*