

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

Dates to Remember!



Fall Back 1 Hour

Sunday, November 4

Youth at First UMC

Sunday, November 4
6:00 PM

Veterans' Recognition Sunday

Sunday, November 11
Reception to follow

Youth Project Feed

Wadsworth Middle School
Sunday, November 11
Leave CUMC 11:45 AM

ACCESS

November 11-18

Matthew 25 Produce

Distribution

Saturday, November 17
Luray Lanes
10:00 AM

Youth at FUMC

Sunday, November 18
6:00 PM

SPIRE Deadline

November 19

Thanksgiving Day

Thursday, November 22
Office Closed!

Feast Night

Sunday, November 25
5:00 PM Dauch Hall

Volunteer Ministry Schedules

Welcome Center

November 4

Kim Liston
Stacey Lucas
Barb Kirkbride

November 11

Tom and Marilyn Koop
Dottie Greene

November 18

Tim and Tracey Eagle
Dorothy Reader

November 25

Jack and Ann Cadley
Laurie McFarlin

Connection Café

November 4

Debbie and John Shanklin

November 11

Donna Workman
Bonnie Hobson

November 18

Leroy and Donna Weaver

November 25

Jeff and Joy Reep

Worship
Liturgy Team

November 4

Tom Koop

November 11

Jack Cadley

November 18

Kim Liston

November 25

Toni McKee

Communion
Team

November 4

Lynne Conway
Eve Gault

November
Counters

Marlene Brewer
Dottie Greene



...from the Pastor

What Makes People Grateful?

When you arise in the morning, think of what a precious privilege it is to be alive—to breathe, to think, to enjoy, to love. —Marcus Aurelius I have this quote on a card in my study at home where I can see it from my desk. It is one of my favorites.

Why is it that some people live their lives in gratitude and generosity, while others are seemingly ungrateful and stingy? I think the critical element is to be found in this quote from Marcus Aurelius.

Grateful people know that life is not something they deserve. Every new day is received not as payment on a debt owed, but as a gift given for no other reason than the One who gives it wants to do so. Even each breath is taken not as something only understood physiologically, but as a reminder that the One who gives each day is also present in each moment.

Ashland First United Methodist Church

Grateful people are astonished by the blessings they have received because they know that such joys are not deserved. Thus, persons who live their lives in gratitude focus on what they have been given, not on what has been denied.

And grateful people are generous. They are generous because they know that since what they have received is not owed to them, then neither do they own what they have received. As they have been blessed, so they in turn desire to bless others. They have known the joy of astonishment in receiving what they have not merited, and they want to pass such joy on to others.

Grateful people have no sense of self-entitlement. They do not ask what other people and the rest of the world owe them. Instead they ask what it is they owe to others, not because they must pay a debt they have not incurred, but on account of the fact that they want to reflect the character of the One who has so blessed them.

Grateful people can be found among the rich, the middle class, and the poor. Their ungrateful counterparts also know no social and economic boundaries. I have known very wealthy people who, in their gratitude, give out of their substance, and I have witnessed those who, in their poverty, have gratefully given out of what they have to live on tomorrow. I have also seen those who are quite rich refuse to be generous because, as they say, "That's what I pay my taxes for!" Their ungrateful but

impoverished counterparts emulate them in focusing only on what they think others have denied them. In resentment over the "blessings" they have not received, it never occurs to them that, even in their want, they can still find ways to bless others.

Grateful people embrace the generous wastefulness of God's grace, and then pass that grace on to others, reveling in the joy of astonishment they have experienced.

As we enter into this season of Thanksgiving, let us in gratitude reflect the character of God who has so blessed us that we might in turn bless others.

Allan



November 2018



Altar Flowers

- Marilyn Thompson.....4
- Sally Valentine.....6
- Joy Reep.....8
- Suzanne Carter.....16
- Needy Prosser..... 17
- Jessie Wally.....20
- Carlton Emmons.....21
- Edna Cox.....25
- Barbara Schantz.....26

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)
Dorothy Bender (Wassen)
Mabel Thompson (Wassen)

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

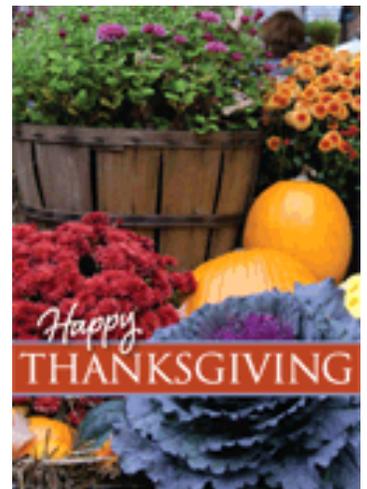
Lutheran Village

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

Spire Deadline

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

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.



Attendance

Worship

9/30	90
10/7	107
10/14	108
10/21	101
10/28	105

November 2018

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!

Financial Update

General Operating Ministry Budget

9/30	\$ 1,702.00
10/7	\$ 5,445.00
10/14	\$ 6,552.00
10/21	\$ 1,642.00
10/28	\$ 2,446.00

2018 YTD Current Revenue	\$ 175,415.56
2017 YTD Current Revenue	\$ 182,380.68



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.

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.

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

<u>Daily</u> Psalm 28	<u>Daily</u> Psalm 127	<u>Sat., Nov. 17</u> 1 Samuel 2:18-21 Coloss. 2:6-15	<u>Mon. Nov. 26</u> 2 Samuel 23:1-7 Revelation 1:4b-8 John 18:33-37
<u>Thurs., Nov. 1</u> Ezekiel 14:12-23 Matthew 20:29-34	<u>Fri., Nov. 9</u> Ruth 4:1-10 Romans 5:6-11	<u>Sun., Nov. 18</u> 1 Samuel 3:1-18 Mark 12:1-12	<u>Daily</u> Psalm 63
<u>Daily</u> Psalm 146	<u>Sat., Nov. 10</u> Ruth 4:11-17 Hebrews 9:15-24	<u>Mon. Nov. 19</u> 1 Samuel 1:4-20 Hebrews 10:11-25 Mark 13:1-8	<u>Tues. Nov. 27</u> 2 Kings 23:15-25 Revelation 11:1-14
<u>Fri., Nov. 2</u> Ruth 1:18-22 Hebrews 9:1-12	<u>Sun., Nov. 11</u> Ruth 4:18-22 Mark 11:12-14, 20-24	<u>Daily</u> Psalm 3	<u>Wed., Nov. 28</u> 1 Samuel 17:55 – 18:5 Revelation 11:15-19
<u>Sat., Nov. 3</u> Ruth 2:1-9 Romans 3:21-31	<u>Mon., Nov. 12</u> Ruth 3:1-5; 4:13-17 Hebrews 9:24-28 Mark 12:38-44	<u>Tues., Nov. 20</u> 1 Samuel 3:19 - 4:2 Hebrews 10:26-31	<u>Thurs., Nov. 29</u> 2 Samuel 2:1-7 John 16:25-33
<u>Sun., Nov. 4</u> Ruth 2:10-14 Luke 10:25-37		<u>Wed., Nov. 21</u> Deut. 26:5-10 Hebrews 10:32-39	<u>Daily</u> Psalm 25:1-10
<u>Daily</u> Psalm 146	<u>Daily</u> Psalm 113	<u>Thurs., Nov. 22</u> 1 Kings 8:22-30 Mark 13:9-23	<u>Fri., Nov. 30</u> Nehemiah 9:6-15 1 Thess. 5:1-11
<u>Mon., Nov. 5</u> Ruth 1:1-18 Hebrews 9:11-14 Mark 12:28-34	<u>Tues., Nov. 13</u> Genesis 24:1-10 1 Timothy 5:1-8	<u>Daily</u> Psalm 132:1-18	
<u>Daily</u> Psalm 18:20-30	<u>Wed., Nov. 14</u> Genesis 24:11-27 1 Timothy 5:9-16	<u>Fri., Nov. 23</u> 2 Kings 22:1-10 Acts 7:54 - 8:1a	
<u>Tues., Nov. 6</u> Ruth 2:15-23 Romans 12:17-21; 13:8-10	<u>Thurs., Nov. 15</u> Genesis 24:28-42 Luke 4:16-30	<u>Sat., Nov. 24</u> 2 Kings 22:11-20 1 Cor. 15:20-28	
<u>Wed., Nov. 7</u> Ruth 3:1-7 Acts 7:17-29	<u>Daily</u> 1 Samuel 2:1-10	<u>Sun., Nov. 25</u> 2 Kings 23:1-14 John 3:31-36	
<u>Thurs., Nov. 8</u> Ruth 3:8-18 John 13:31-35	<u>Fri., Nov. 16</u> 1 Samuel 1:21-28 1 Timothy 6:11-21		

**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*)

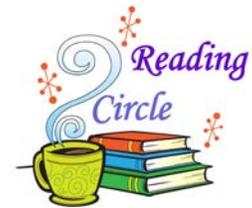
Asher Kettering (*Mary Kettering*)

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

Patricia Boyer (*David Boyer*)

Holly Fulmer (*David Boyer*)

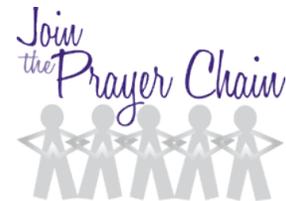
*(Please call the church office if you would like
to add someone to the prayer list.)*



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 CHRIST
UMC ON THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 1.**

Women
Serving
Christ



From the
First United Methodist Church

**Come join the Women Serving Christ
Ministry on November 26. WSC will be
meeting at Tim Horton's at 11:30 AM. If
you have any questions, please see Sandi
Rowsey. (Notice date change!)**

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

Dear First UM Church Family:

My sincerest and heartiest thanks to you, the Staff-Parish Relations Committee and the Hospitality Committee for the bang-up job you all did to celebrate Pastor Appreciation Month.

You sure do know how to make us feel that we are indeed appreciated! Kitty & I came home from the October 14th reception (best punch and cupcakes ever!) and read through your cards and personal notes - so deeply touching. It is my privilege to serve among you and minister with my cherished colleagues Allan, Laura and Jenny. So blessed, so grateful.

Pastor Tom Snyder

Dear Women Serving Christ group and Church family:

Thank you so very much for the beautiful expressions of love I received on Pastor Appreciation day. The mailboxes, prayer calendar, delicious punch and cupcakes, and the individual crosses were an over-the-top kind of special day that will not be soon forgotten! Reading all the cards and notes was a special way to spend the afternoon with Brooks and I will treasure them always. Thank you for embracing me as one of your pastors - I am grateful for your prayers, encouragement, and kindness.

*In love and gratitude,
Pastor Jenny*

Dear Beloveds,

I would like to thank each and everyone one of you for the way that you have blessed Ray and me.

Especially, thank you for the notes of encouragement and tokens of gratitude that you showered on us during Pastor Appreciation month. It is both an honor and a joy to serve in ministry with you.

*Thank you,
Rev. Laura*

Dear Ashland First Church Family,

Once again, I come to you with a heartfelt thanks to all of you who took the time to come to calling hours for my dad, to those of you who sent cards of sympathy, and to the church family for the beautiful flowers you sent to Dianna and I. Our hearts are full and we feel very much a part of the Ashland First UMC family.

May the Lord continue to bless you as you as you continue to serve Him and show the love of Christ to all those you come in contact with.

With heartfelt love and appreciation,

Debbie Dalton

HELP SUPPORT OUR TROOPS
2018 OPERATION: CHRISTMAS FOR OUR TROOPS



The AFUMC Veterans' Ministry will once again be assisting the Ashland Military Support Group with the collection of items to be sent to many servicemen and women from Ashland who are serving our country abroad. The Ashland Military Support Group plans to send care packages to our troops this Christmas and has requested that our church donate items to send. A designated collection container and list of suggested items to send are located in the upper concourse area of the church. So that shipment is made in time for the holiday, **the deadline for collecting items will be Veterans' Recognition Sunday, November 11.** Please show your patriotism and generosity to our troops. Your actions will have a positive impact on their morale while they are away from home. If you have any questions regarding this request, please contact Diana Harris at 419-289-0193 or Jack Cadley at 419-289-7803.

YOU'RE INVITED TO VETERANS' RECOGNITION SUNDAY



The AFUMC Veterans' Ministry is going to recognize our veterans during the 9:30 am worship service on **Sunday, November 11, 2018** and at a reception held immediately after the service in the upper concourse area of the church. Everyone is cordially invited to attend. **We encourage you to invite a veteran (relative, friend or neighbor) who may not be connected to a church to come with you.** Please join us as we celebrate and honor our Lord and our veterans.

The Review

A young American soldier had gone off to pray before his upcoming mission. It was late at night when he was returning to his barracks. As he came around the corner, he was confronted by an officer. When asked why he was out so late, he told the officer, "I went to pray before our mission tomorrow". The officer laughed and didn't believe him. The officer then took him to the Commanding Officer with charges of Misconduct and Treason. The Commanding Officer asked the soldier why he was out in the field so late and were the charges against him accurate.

The soldier replied, "No Sir. I went to pray before our mission tomorrow".

The Commanding Officer told him to prove his claim. As the soldier got down on his knees, he began to pour out his heart to God and asked God to be with his team as the served their country. He asked for protection for them and for wisdom for the Commanding Officer as he led them, and for those who were the enemy.

When he was finished praying, he stood before the Commanding Officer with tears in his eyes. The Commanding Officer told him he was free to go.

The accusing officer asked why he was letting him off. The Commanding officer replied, "He is innocent. If this soldier had not been so well trained, he would not have done well in review".

How well would we do under review?



**Ashland First United Methodist Church's Annual
Christmas Dinner**

A Christmas Gathering

Friday, December 7, 2018
Ashland First United Methodist Church
6:00 p.m.



Meat and drinks will be provided. Please bring a salad, side dish, or dessert to share.



Come enjoy a wonderful evening and delicious food free of charge! Santa and Mrs. Claus will also be here as well. What a wonderful way to begin to celebrate the joyous season of our Savior's birth! Sign up for reservations beginning November 4th before and after the worship service. You won't want to miss it!

Update on Addi Brightbill

Addi is currently with her family in the Ronald McDonald House following her surgery awaiting a stem cell transplant, which is scheduled for Nov. 19. When she is recovered from that procedure she will undergo radiation. If all goes well, she hopes to be discharged to home sometime in January. The family is so grateful for all the prayers and cards and gifts sent to Addi in recent weeks. Please keep Addi and her family on your church prayer list. And, if anyone wishes to do so, cards and/or small gifts would still be appreciated. Please remember, when you sign your name, also add First United Methodist Church Ashland so the family will know the source of the card.

Thank you so much. Ellen Moore, Prayer Chair co-ordinator at Christ UMC.

**Addi Brightbill
c/o Jerry Gierhart
P.O. Box 120
Nankin, OH 44848**

CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS

It's time to place your order for the beautiful poinsettias that grace our sanctuary during the holiday season.



POINSETTIAS...

- will decorate the sanctuary from mid-**December** through Christmas Day worship service.
- may be picked up **AFTER WORSHIP ON CHRISTMAS DAY or by Dec. 31.**

All orders MUST be in by Wednesday, November 28th
Please make checks out to Ashland First UMC

Please fill in information below and return to the church office
or drop in the offering plate on Sunday morning.

_____ All red poinsettia @ \$9.50 = _____

_____ All white poinsettia @ \$9.50 = _____

In honor of _____

In memory of _____

Given by _____

Phone number or email _____