

# THE LINK

Volume 69

Issue 1



## God's Valentine's Day Gift

*"We love because he first loved us."*

*~ 1 John 4:19*

This time of year always makes me reminisce of beautifully decorated Valentine day mailboxes. My mom always made decorating our boxes a huge production. We would spend hours dreaming up and creating the perfect design. Between the two of us, we would transform an old oatmeal or cereal box into something whimsical and beautiful. There was something very exciting about watching the plain container transform from something ordinary to something quite extraordinary. Not only would the exterior of the box be transformed but its entire purpose would be transformed. No longer an empty used up container, destined for the trash, it was now destined to be filled with the love and goodies which would be bestowed on me by my classmates.

After the box was decorated then my mom and I would head out to the store to find the perfect cards for me to put in my friend's boxes; would I pick Scooby Doo, Garbage Pail Kids, Fat Albert, Kitties, Puppies, or Loony Tunes? The options seemed endless and finding the perfect cards was an essential part of the Valentine day process. After choosing the perfect design I would then spend hours deciding which friend received which card. In my elementary aged mind, this whole process was very important and possibly life changing.

I can't help but think of the similarities between the journeys that we must make to the cross as we prepare our hearts for God and the painstaking care that I took with my Valentine Day preparations.

Throughout our faith journey, we must take time to prepare and transform our hearts and lives into something of beauty, something that is fully prepared to receive the love and grace which Jesus Christ so willingly gave up for us. Just like those empty cereal boxes destined for the trash, we too can go from ordinary to extraordinary! But we must take time to prepare ourselves for the gifts which we are about to receive. We do this, with God's help, through repentance, prayer, meditation, worship, fellowship, Bible study and fasting.

We are transformed by the love and grace of Jesus Christ and the indwelling presence of the Holy Spirit, we not only become receptacles of God's love but we also become dispensers of that love. We are called to find the perfect way to love our neighbors; reaching out so that they too can be transformed and filled with God's love.

Jesus is God's Valentine's Day gift for each and every person who chooses to accept him. Are you ready to receive the gift? Are you ready to give the gift to those around you? May we all take time to transform our lives, from ordinary to extraordinary as we prepare our hearts to receive the love that God freely gives to us.

Love, *Rev. Laura*

## February 2019

In this Issue:

2019 Cmt. Leadership	pg.	5
2019 Mtg Schedule	pg.	6
February Calendar	pg.	7
Matthew 25	pg.	4
Peter Frantz update	pg.	10-11
Willing Servants	pg.	8
Youth Schedule	pg.	3



Be sure to check us out on Facebook or at our website:  
[www.ashlandteamministry.org](http://www.ashlandteamministry.org)



<p><u>OFFICE HOURS</u>                  MONDAY -THURSDAY                  9AM - 4:00PM</p> <p>PHONE: 419-289-0507                  FAX: 419-289-1541  <a href="mailto:christum@zoominternet.net">christum@zoominternet.net</a></p>	<p><i>Christ United Methodist Church</i>  <i>Loving God, Loving Others,</i>  <i>Bringing People to Christ</i></p>	<p><u>SUNDAY SCHEDULE</u>                  WORSHIP ~ 9:30AM                  CHURCH SCHOOL ~ 10:45AM</p> <p>TEEN'S—SUNDAY EVENINGS</p>
--	---	--



## Heartfelt Thanks

♥ Dear wonderful friends of Christ UMC ~  
Thank you from the bottom of my heart for the weekly cards. They mean more to me than you know. Your kindness is truly appreciated. May you all have a happy & healthy 2019!

Love, Jane Biehl  
Canton OH

♥ Dear friends ~ Roger & I wish to thank so many people who have supported us with prayers during my recent surgery. It meant a lot to me and helped me so much to know that the Christian community is supporting us in the very special and important way. Special thank yous go to Rev. Laura, Rev. Tom & Kitty Snyder, Tom & Mary McNaull, our daughter and grandson Jenny & Caleb Moore, Jim & Sandy Pifer and all the special people who have been encouraging me. God bless you all.

Most sincerely, Ellen Moore

♥ Christ United Methodist Church ~  
Thank you all for supporting the Safe Haven (Domestic Violence Shelter) throughout the year. Your donations continuously help residents in our shelter and we are so thankful for your support and generosity. Thank you!  
Safe Haven Staff

♥ Thank you to the UMW ladies for the Christmas gift bag and poinsettia. It made me feel loved and not forgotten. I look forward to the Link each month and Rev. Snyder's visits. I'll be back now and then. Thank you again.

Thoughts and prayers ~ Ann McMillen

♥ I want to thank the UMW for the Christmas gift bag and all it's useful items. It was so thoughtful and I enjoy the cards sent to me after each monthly meeting. My memories are many, of the years being a part of this wonderful group.

God bless ~ Patsy Barr

♥ Our friends @ Christ United ~  
Thank you for your recent donation to Ashland Christian Health Center. We are blessed by a giving community. Thank you for partnering with us.

Cheryl Benway

♥ A sincere note of gratitude and thanks to all in the congregation who so generously gave towards the Christmas Love Gift for the staff of Christ UMC. It is truly a blessing to be a part of a such a caring body of God's people and together share his message of love & grace..

## WHAT ARE YOUR SPIRITUAL GIFTS??

Have you ever wondered just what your spiritual gifts from God might be? Together, we will try to find out what they are and how your gifts can be used to share God's plan for Christ UMC.

If you go to the website

<https://www.seeallthepeople.org/resources-downloads/>  
You will be able to download a guide for discovery that includes spiritual gift questions for you to answer. On the first Sunday of March, during the Sunday School hour, Rev. Laura will give a General Conference update in Fellowship Hall followed by a potluck lunch and celebration training of our various spiritual gifts. *(if you have trouble downloading the guide, a copy is available in the church office.)*



Matthew 25 Outreach Center is called to feed the hungry in our community, as we bring to life the words of Jesus found in the scripture of Matthew 25:31-40. Through the combined efforts of countless volunteers from area churches, businesses, schools, and civic organizations, our monthly FREE produce distributions provide year-round supply of fresh, healthy fruits and vegetables.

Providing food is important, but we also enjoy visiting with our guests while we conduct our food distributions. Engaging in conversations often inspire meaningful interactions, which foster the development of heartfelt relationships, as we strive to make a difference in the lives of those we encounter.

Matthew 25 Outreach Center employs a strong collaborative effort to engage the community in support of one another. Utilizing the strengths and gifts of the entire community affords the opportunity for more people to serve, leading to more people being served.

## You can make a difference.

**We invite you to join Matthew 25 Outreach Center as we distribute food, build relationships, and share the love of God. Contact us to learn more, volunteer with us, or send your financial contribution to support this ministry.**

Monthly food distribution for this project will take place at Luray Lanes parking lot on E Main St. If you would like more info or want to help as a volunteer, contact Jeff Wright @ 419-961-0110 or contact Pastor Laura.



### LIFE GROUPS

**GOD' TRAILBLAZERS** next gathering will be **Sunday, March 10th** for a trip to Malabar Farms Maple Syrup Festival.

Those going should meet at 1:00pm at the home of Bob & Doris Quackenbush.

**Everyone is invited** to join in this time of fun fellowship and enjoying the beautiful season of early spring. If you have other questions, contact Bob or Doris Quackenbush at 419-651-4484.

**HEARTFELT THANKS** to all the volunteers who helped with our Free Clothing Day in January. The clothing left over from the successful Fall Rummage Sale was neatly arranged in the Fellowship Hall to allow people to choose and to take with them whatever they needed or wanted. We also had some stuffed animals for the children.

Most everyone who visited expressed their gratitude for this special day. We are truly blessed with all the wonderful donations we receive and with all the volunteers who work hard to make these events happen! Again, thank you.

Becky Dorr, sale coordinator

PLEASE NOTE: *due to recycling costs, we are no longer able to accept any TVs for the rummage sales.*

### YOUTH SCHEDULE

February 3- Super Bowl Sunday  
8am make subs at Christ UMC  
Youth at 6 at First UMC

February 10- Youth at 6 at First UMC

February 17- Youth at 6 at First UMC

February 24- Ashland High School Musical- No Youth

March 3- Youth at 6 at First UMC

March 10- Youth at 6 at First UMC

March 17- District Dodgeball Tournament at Sunbury UMC

Meet at Christ UMC at 1 p.m. We will return at 6pm.

March 23- Rock-a-Thon fundraiser at Christ UMC

To sign-up, join Remind by texting @Larryha to 81010



**HOW AWESOME...**For the Christmas season, Associated Charities was able to provide Christmas toys & gifts as well as holiday food to 359 families! They reported that 2018 was by far a record year for new toy donations for their Christmas room and offered wonderful choices for the families. Our Create-A-Christmas project helped to make this happen.



- ~ Wyndy & Mike Reuschling on the death of her sister, Becky Kidd who died on Wednesday, November 28th
- ~ Bea & Bruce North on the death of her brother, Charlie Gudel who died on Friday, December 7th.
- ~ Mike & Wyndy Reuschling on the death of his mother, Martha Reuschling who died on Tuesday, Dec. 11th.
- ~ Sandy & Jim Pifer on the death of her brother, John Martin who died on Sunday, December 23rd.
- ~ Debbie Kreis and family on the death of husband & father, David Kreis who died Wednesday, January 2nd.
- ~ The Hostler family on the death of Marty's brother, Richard who died on Thursday, Jan 3rd.
- ~ Gaylord & Beulah Miller on the death of their son, Mark Miller who died on Friday, January 18th.

### HONORING OUR COMMITMENTS

Perhaps you were at church (2 weeks ago) when Martha posed the question during the Children's Chat, "what does tithing mean?" Several children mentioned "tying your shoes", even "Tide laundry". She eventually said tithing is a form of giving. It can be monetary or giving your time or talents. CUMC is blessed with those faithful monetary givers, people who share their talents, and those that volunteer enormous amounts of their time.

Tithing to me is a commitment. I try to honor my monetary commitment to the church each year. If I miss a Sunday, I try to make it up the following week. I know my church does not go on vacation and even if I miss a Sunday, my church will always be here for me. Certainly the closing of our church during the snow storm will hurt our financial bottom line if these monies are not made up.

As we begin the new year, please try to honor your commitment to the church. Perhaps you were feeling unsure during the proposed merger study and have been hesitant to give. If for some reason your financial situation has changed and you cannot meet your pledge, we understand. Our 2019 Budget total is \$285,340.00. To meet this budget, I encourage you to continue to give faithfully to Christ United Methodist Church.

Join me in prayer that we will be able to meet our 2019 commitments.

Diane Moretz, Finance Chair

### HEART TRIVIA

February is the month of showing those we love that we care. In this newsletter how many times can you find the word 'heart' \_\_\_\_\_ and 'valentine' \_\_\_\_\_? How many hearts can you find?? \_\_\_\_\_ How many times can you find the word 'love'? \_\_\_\_\_

**LIGHTS & ACTION!**

The Trustees have made the decision to replace the lights in the sanctuary in increments. We will first be installing more energy efficient LED overhead bulbs and fixtures in the balcony and front chancel area which will give better lighting and eliminate the intense heat now generated in the front area.

Over the years we've been able to rely on the income from Building and Maintenance Endowment and other reserved funds to accomplish many maintenance needs. We do have earnings from our investment funds to cover the cost. However, the earnings funds available will be largely depleted by the replacement cost for both the bulbs and hiring someone to install them. It would be a blessing for the future, if we do not have to deplete these funds.

Therefore, we are asking you to prayerfully consider making a one-time donation toward the replacement of the lights. All money received marked 'lights' will be used to cover the cost. Thank you in advance for your help and generosity with this sanctuary update. Now let's see...



If you know of someone not listed above who would enjoy having a CUMC parish visitor, please contact Jan Haberman or the church office.



On Sunday, January 27th, **we welcomed into the family of God, through the waters of baptism, Henri James Snyder**, born April 17th, 2018. He is the son of Peter & Shana Snyder and little brother to Liam. Maternal grandparents are Julie and the late Mike Poland; paternal grandparents are Rev. Tom and Kitty Snyder. God bless Henri.

**OUR 'CUP RUNNETH OVER'  
PROGRESS UPDATE**

On December 14th, 2015 nine area United Methodist Churches started a goal of raising \$15,000 for Associated Charities Capital Campaign [Our Cup Runneth Over]. As of December 20th, 2018, \$13,168 has been collected from the Methodist Churches of Ashland County, in just 3 1/2 years!

We would like to thank all the churches and individuals who have contributed to this effort. Christ UMC has given a generous portion of the donated monies. The special recognition of being named on a plaque at Associated Charities will recognize the combined United Methodist Churches of Ashland County as being donors contributing \$15,000 or more during the Capital Campaign. We look forward to reaching this special goal that is making a difference in the lives of many families in the Ashland community.

If you have any questions about this outreach project, please contact either Bob Quackenbush @ 419-651-7976 or Jim Pifer @ 419-289-6848.

Yours in Christ & Blessings this Winter,  
Bob Quackenbush and Jim Pifer  
Christ United Methodist Church

**MONDAY NIGHT INSTITUTE  
RENAMED 'PUB THEOLOGY'**

The weekly study group 'Pub Theology' will now be meeting at Uniontown Brewery room @ 7:00 pm-8:15 pm. It will be led by area UMC clergy: Rev. Dr. Allan Bevere, Rev. Laura White, Rev. Tom Snyder, Rev. Jeff Coggins and Pastor Jake Heskett. This study is open to anyone wanting to attend.

**PRAYER IS THE HEART OF THE CHURCH**

Without prayer our lives and the church would be empty shells. You are invited to join in another time of prayer, sharing and discussion on **Wednesday mornings at 10:00** in the CUMC lounge.

If you have questions about the prayer group, call Bill Whipple at 330-880-6089. We welcome you!

*Christ United Methodist Church***2019 CHURCH LEADERSHIP****ADMINISTRATIVE BOARD**

CHAIRPERSON .....	Bob Quackenbush
Administrative Lay Leader .....	
Pastor .....	Rev. Laura White
Finance Team Leader .....	Diane Moretz
Church Treasurer .....	Nichole Lang
Financial Giving Secretary .....	Brenda Gardner
Investments .....	Mary McNaull
Lay Member of the Annual Conference .....	
Staff Parish Relations Representative .....	Bill Achberger
Trustees Representative .....	Kenny Oberholtzer
Audit Committee .....	Bill Whipple
Stewardship & Planned Giving .....	Bill Whipple
<u>Class of 2019</u> .....	Mike Michalovich
.....	Stan Ryland
<u>Class of 2020</u> .....	Kyle Vaughn
.....	Bruce Bookmyer
<u>Class of 2021</u> .....	Fred Rafeld
.....	Kenny Oberholtzer

**INVESTMENTS COMMITTEE**

Investment Secretary .....	Mary McNaull
At Large Members: .....	Bruce Bookmyer, Fred Rafeld

**COUNTING COMMITTEE**

Supervisors .....	Kevin Oberholtzer
.....	Fred Rafeld
.....	Steve Hill
Assistants .....	Sandy Baker
.....	Brooke DaHinden
.....	Judy Stewart
<u>Counters:</u> .....	Ken Brown
.....	Tony Chapman
.....	Joanie Chapman
.....	Steve Crone
.....	Ron Johnson

**AUDITING COMMITTEE**

Chairperson .....	Bill Whipple
Ex-Officio .....	Nichole Lang
<u>Class of 2018</u> .....	Al Cappel
<u>Class of 2019</u> .....	Jim Scott
<u>Class of 2020</u> .....	Gene Haberman

**NOMINATIONS & LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT**

CHAIRPERSON .....	Rev. Laura White
<u>Class of 2019</u> .....	Kyle Vaughn
.....	Sonja Bringman
<u>Class of 2020</u> .....	Bea North
.....	Roger Amos
.....	Jan Achberger
<u>Class of 2021</u> .....	Steve Hill
.....	Janet Boyd

**STAFF-PARISH RELATIONS COMMITTEE**

CHAIRPERSON .....	Bill Achberger
Lay Member of Annual Conference .....	Bill Achberger
Administrative Lay Leader .....	

<u>Class of 2019</u> .....	Wayne Fryback
.....	Jan Haberman
<u>Class of 2020</u> .....	Mary Jane Amos
.....	Joan Scott
<u>Class of 2021</u> .....	Glen Stewart
.....	Debbie Portner

**BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

CHAIRPERSON .....	Kenny Oberholtzer
Parsonage .....	Steve Crone
<u>Class of 2019</u> .....	Tony Chapman
.....	Larry Portner
.....	Sharon Ihrig
<u>Class of 2020</u> .....	George Bringman
.....	Carolyn Norris
.....	Bruce North
<u>Class of 2021</u> .....	David Yanchunas
.....	Mary McNaull
.....	Kenny Oberholtzer

**EDUCATION & YOUTH**

Education and Youth Chairperson .....	Patti Hill
Scouting .....	Ed Boyer
Scholarship .....	Bob Quackenbush
Sunday School Curriculum .....	Mary Eshelman
Way of the Good Shepherd .....	Denise Jackson
Vacation Bible School .....	Carol Oberholtzer
Camps .....	
Library .....	Hildegard Yanchunas
Audio Visual Coordinator .....	Ken Woode
<u>Nursery Care:</u> .....	Patti Hill, Gayle Akkerman, Doris Quackenbush

Pre-School: Carol Oberholtzer, Kyle Vaughn.

Good Shepherd Teachers: Denise Jackson, Nancy Boyer,  
Janet Rockenfelder

Student Ministry: Janet Bonnell, Larry Hachtel, Justina Fabich,  
Carolyn Brown, Kim Halblaub, Debbie Portner

Adult Class Leaders: Bill Achberger, Bob Quackenbush,  
Mike & Wyndy Reuschling,

**LIBRARY COMMITTEE**

Librarian & Chairperson .....	Hildegard Yanchunas
Children's Library .....	
<u>Members:</u> .....	Janet Stoufer
.....	Norma Underwood

**SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE**

Chairperson.....Bob Quackenbush  
 Members:.....  
 Bea North, Nancy Boyer, Gayle Akkerman, Evelyn Nusbaum

**STEPHEN MINISTRY**

Pastor..... Rev. Laura White  
 Leader ..... Ron Johnson  
 Stephen Ministers: Ann Roepke, Ron and Vicki Johnson,  
 .....Mike Reuschling, Loretha Kline, Bill Whipple

**PARISH VISITORS**

Pastor..... Rev. Laura White  
 Parish Visitors Coordinator .....Jan Haberman  
 Parish Visitors: ..... Bruce Bookmyer  
 Shirley Bookmyer, Lee Marr, Janet Rockenfelder, Ann Roepke  
 Bill Achberger, Kenny Oberholtzer, Roger Moore

**WORSHIP, MUSIC & ARTS**

Worship, Music & Arts  
 Assoc. Lay Leader & Chairperson ..... Jim Scott  
 Choir Director..... Jane Ruggles  
 Organist .....David Roepke  
 Children's Choir .....  
 Altar Guild Representative ..... Jane Ruggles  
 Acolyte Coordinator .....Betsy Chapman  
 Sound ..... Ken Woode  
 Ushers ..... Bill Aten  
 Scripture Readers..... Tom Snyder  
 Greeters ..... Kitty Snyder  
 Class of 2019 .....Karen Spellman  
 Class of 2020 ..... Joan Scott  
 Class of 2021 ..... Carolyn Norris  
 ..... Jim Scott

**ALTAR GUILD**

Chairperson .....Jane Ruggles  
 Class of 2019..... Perry Corbin  
 ..... Becky Corbin  
 .....Pat Well  
 Class of 2020.....Bea North  
 ..... Tony Chapman  
 ..... Ruth Wilkerson  
 Class of 2021..... Luke Gebhart  
 .....

**SERVICE & WITNESS COMMITTEE**

Outreach & Witness  
 Assoc. Lay Leader & Chairperson:..... Janet Bonnell  
 Pastor .....Rev. Laura White  
 Service and Witness Ministry Coordinator .....Jenny Whitmore  
 Local & Conference Missions.....  
 UMW ..... Jean Stauffer  
 Public Relations .....  
 Create-a-Christmas ..... Patti Hill  
 Crop Walk ..... Jim Pifer  
 Rummage Sale ..... Becky Dorr  
 JOSHUA..... Kenny Oberholtzer  
 All God's Children Meals Coordinator ..... Becky Dorr  
 Ashland Care Center Liaison .....  
 Member at Large ..... Ellen Moore

**HOSPITALITY COMMITTEE**

Kitchen..... Becky Dorr  
 Visitor Follow-up .....  
 Weddings & Receptions..... Shirley Bookmyer  
 ..... Loretha Kline  
 ..... Sandy Pifer  
 ..... Ann Roepke

**2019 CUMC MEETING SCHEDULE**

The following is the regular schedule of meetings. Please notify the Pastor and Church Office if you need to cancel or change meeting times due to the work of your committee or special meetings. Regular meeting time is 7pm. The meeting dates for the Worship Committee & Parish Visitors will be made as needed per the chairperson.

Thursdays	January	February	March	April	May	June
First	Trustees		Trustees		Trustees	Trustees
Second		SPR	Church Council		Church Council	
Third	Church Council	Education & Yth		Education & Yth		
Fourth	Altar Guild	Outreach/Witness			Outreach/Witness	
Thursdays	July	August	September	October	November	December
First	Trustees		Trustees		Trustees	Outreach/Witness
Second	SPR		Church Council		Church Council	
Third		Education & Yth	SPR		Altar Guild	
Fourth		Outreach/Witness			Education & Yth	

# February 2019



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	
<p>Love asks nothing in return but seeks those who need it. And who needs our love more than those who are consumed with hatred and are utterly devoid of love? —Dietrich Bonhoeffer</p>						<p>1</p>	<p>2</p> <p>9am-1:30pm AARP-fh</p>
<p>3 COMMUNION</p> <p>Blood Pressure Clinic—café Rev. Tom Snyder preaching Super Bowl subs available 6 Yth @ FUMC</p>	<p>4</p> <p>6:30 Scouts - rm 6 &amp; fh 7 Pub Theology @ Uniontown Brewery</p>	<p>5</p> <p>9am-1:30pm AARP-fh 10 Pastors @ Downtown Perks</p> <p>5 serve All God's Children @ Mansfield</p>	<p>6</p> <p>10 Prayer Group</p> <p>Choir rehearsal</p>	<p>7</p> <p>9am-2:30pm AARP-fh</p>	<p>8</p>	<p>9</p> <p>9am-1:30pm AARP-fh</p>	
<p>10</p> <p>Pastor Jenny Whitmore preaching 6 Yth @ FUMC</p>	<p>11</p> <p>4pm All Staff meeting 6:30 Scouts - rm 6 &amp; fh 7 Emmaus Bd-rm 108 7 Pub Theology @ Uniontown Brewery</p>	<p>12</p> <p>9am-1:30pm AARP-fh 9 Gloriosa Gardeners—rm 15 10 Pastors @ Downtown Perks</p>	<p>13</p> <p>10 Prayer Group 12 Quilt Guild - rm 15 2 Clergy Spiritual Formation—lounge</p> <p>Choir rehearsal</p>	<p>14</p> <p>9am-2:30pm AARP-fh NEWSLETTER DEADLINE</p>	<p>15</p>	<p>16</p> <p>9am-1:30pm AARP-rm 212</p>	
<p>17</p> <p>Guest preacher—Peter Frantz 6 Yth @ FUMC</p>	<p>18</p> <p>PRESIDENTS DAY Office Closed 6:30 Scouts - rm 6 &amp; fh 7 Pub Theology @ Uniontown Brewery</p>	<p>19</p> <p>9am-1:30pm AARP-fh 10 Pastors @ Downtown Perks</p> <p>6 Ash Co Gen Society—fh</p>	<p>20</p> <p>10 Prayer Group</p> <p>Choir rehearsal</p>	<p>21</p> <p>9am-2:30pm AARP-fh</p> <p>7 Education &amp; Youth committee—rm 15</p>	<p>22</p>	<p>23</p> <p>9am-1:30pm AARP-fh 10am-1pm Matthew 25 @ Luray Lanes 3 Cub Scouts Pinewood Derby—fh</p>	
<p>24 Scout Sunday 6 Yth @ FUMC</p>	<p>25</p> <p>6:30 Scouts - rm 6 &amp; fh 7 Pub Theology @ Uniontown Brewery</p>	<p>26</p> <p>9am-1:30pm AARP-fh 10 Pastors @ Downtown Perks</p> <p>6:30 Quilt Guild—fh</p>	<p>27</p> <p>10 Prayer Group</p> <p>Choir rehearsal</p>	<p>28</p> <p>2:30 Newsletter sent out 7 Missions &amp; Outreach—rm15</p>	<p><b>Choir Practices:</b> 6:30pm Celebration Bells 7:15pm Chancel Choir</p>		

**WILLING SERVANTS OF THE CHURCH FOR FEBRUARY**

**Greeters**

- |                               |                                    |
|-------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| 3 Janet Boyd and Sharon Ihrig | Joanie & Tony Chapman              |
| 10 Barb & Mike Michalovich    | Loretha Kline and Ann Roepke       |
| 17 Becky & Mike Dorr          | Brenda Gardner and Barb Raudebaugh |
| 24 Shirley & Bruce Bookmyer   | Janet Bonnell and Brooke DaHinden  |

Greeters are asked to arrive no later than 9:00am, wear your red name tag, and stand at the front entrance (Claremont) or in the Café area at the top of the steps across from the hallway bulletin board. If you would like to have your name added to the list of those willing to be a greeter, please contact Kitty Snyder @ 419-606-9886.

**Ushers**

- Bill Aten—Head Usher  
 Kevin Oberholtzer  
 Terry Harper  
 Sonja Bringman  
 Kenny Oberholtzer

**Altar Guild**

- Jane Ruggles  
 Ruth Wilkerson

**Scripture Readers**

- 3 Betsy Chapman  
 10 Barb Raudebaugh  
 17 Rev. Laura White  
 24

If you would like to be a part of the worship service by reading scripture, please add your name to the sign-up sheet outside the office.

**Acolytes**

- 3 Braden Thomas  
 10 Arienne Vaughn  
 17 Alyssa Sampson  
 24 Caleb Moore

Serving as acolyte coordinator is Betsy Chapman.

*We would love to have any kids in 2nd through 8th grade interested in being an acolyte join us!!*

**Altar Flowers**

- 3 North  
 10  
 17  
 24

**A new flower calendar for 2019 has been posted on the bulletin board outside the office.**

To add to the beauty of the service by donating flowers in memory or in honor of someone or an event, see the sign-up sheet located outside the church office.

The flowers are pre-ordered & delivered at a cost of \$24.00. **Please send payment to the church** either by mail or put it in the offering with your envelope marked "Altar Flowers".

***Let God Lighten Your Load***

Keeping Sabbath, not just on Sundays but throughout the entire week in an integrated way, keeps us sane, says Donna Schaper. While our culture pushes us to move faster, work harder and acquire more money and stuff, Sabbath observances promote play, rest, love and worship.

"Sabbath – time for God – is a gift in its origin and in its keeping," Schaper writes in *Sabbath Keeping* (Cowley Publications). "It is not another must; it is a may. God invites us to keep Sabbath; God does not demand it."

The commandment to keep the Sabbath day holy, she notes, "is an invitation to a party, not to a hanging. Sabbath keeping is not one more thing to add to our already long lists. It is lightness, not heaviness."

[reprinted from Newsletternewsletter Feb 2019]



**Counters**

- Kevin Oberholtzer  
 Brooke DaHinden  
 Tony Chapman  
 Ron Johnson



Brooke DaHinden, Jane Eshelman, Claudia Guenther-Snyder, Martha Hostler, Marybelle Landrum, Nichole Lang, Ellen Moore, Doris Pllice, Marylyn Reep, Carol Sommers,

Jean Stauffer, Norma Underwood, those we name in our hearts ♥

### *Affectionately Yours*

*St. Valentine, a Roman priest, was martyred in 270 A.D. for loving Jesus. Some sources say he performed weddings after the emperor banned them; others say he rescued Christians from Roman prisons. Two centuries later, the pope declared February 14 St. Valentine's Day.*

*According to legend, the priest signed his letters "Your Valentine." Later, Christians followed suit to honor him. By the mid-1700s, friends and sweethearts exchanged heart-shaped trinkets or sent handwritten notes of affection on February 14.*

*[reprinted from Newsletternewsletter Feb 2019]*



### **AARP / IRS TO OFFER TAX FORM ASSISTANCE**

From now through April 13th, assistance with completing & e-filing income tax forms will be available on **Tuesdays and Saturdays from 9am to 1pm and Thursdays from 9am to 2pm here at the church.**

This is a FREE service and appointments are not needed. You must bring your social security card along with last year's return and any documents pertaining to this year's return.



### **Next Newsletter Deadline**

*Articles for the March issue of the Link are due in the church office by February 15th. Send Email to: braudebaugh@zoominternet.net*

## Here's what's happening with our

### Next Meeting:

### No meeting in February



### Caring for this World and the People in it by Our Prayers, Presence, Service and Witness, and Our Gifts.

Although we had some issues and difficulties in 2018, which were reflected in reduced giving, by year end we were able to meet our 2018 budgetary needs and pay our shared ministries 100%. This, however, left us with no carryover to start 2019. The approved budget for 2019 is \$285,341 and the 69 estimate of giving cards we received totaled \$183,596, as compared with last years 67 estimate of giving cards totaling \$174,531. Although our estimate of giving is up \$9,065 I still have concerns about 2019, but I am confident our congregation will meet our financial requirements

This past year you have continued to show your support for special offerings, fund raisers, donations, rummage sales, and our farmers market so that CUMC can financially support the following agencies and programs Access \$600, All Gods Children \$600, Ashland County Oral Health Services \$300, Ashland Care Center \$300, Ashland Christian Health Care \$300, Ashland County Council on Aging \$300, Ashland County Food Bank \$160, Associated Charities \$500, Associated Charities Capital \$1784, Celebrate Recovery \$200, Charley Summers \$1800, Create-a-Christmas \$115, Crop Walk \$2,452, Cuba Ministry \$110, Flat Rock Homes \$500, Flood Buckets \$1,108, Helping Hands in Loudonville \$200, Henderson Settlement \$300, Housing Partners of Ashland County \$800, Methodist Seminary in Cuba \$500, Navigators \$1,200, Open Hearts \$730, Pastors Discretionary Fund \$500, Safe Haven \$300, JOSHUA \$6,293 JOSHUA Ashland \$2,000, Salvation Army \$500, Shared Ministries \$2,000, Staff Christmas Gifts \$1,850, UMOR \$50, Zoe \$300. I have not listed all the smaller gifts but the total of our gifts is over \$28,000. These gifts also reflect the many volunteers and the many hours that they contributed to make these programs successful. Thank you one and all.

This past year we started the Celebrate Recovery program and the Matthew 25 program. Both these programs are an asset to our community and benefit many, and reaches out to the needs of our community. We had an advent study program in December and now we are having a study of apostles' Peter and Paul. Our church attendance is increasing and we had the highest Christmas Eve attendance in many years. New faces are in our Sunday Service. We have AU students attending on a regular basis. We have a positive attitude and force among our congregation. Financial support and volunteers are needed to maintain existing and new programs. God is lifting our spirits and moving us forward. Congregational vitality is a journey of life, energy, passion, discovery, and hope. It is a result of the living God breathing new life into the heart of a congregation. .

**Stewardship is everything we do after we say yes to Jesus Christ.**

God Bless ~ Bill Whipple Stewardship Leader

## *Salutations!*

My name is Peter Frantz, and I am on the path to becoming a full-time mission worker in Turkey. If you are receiving this letter it is because I have prayerfully been directed to you as a potential partner in my upcoming ministry! This letter may be helpful in understanding some of what I'm doing and what I'm looking for, but I would be more than happy to sit down and have a face-to-face conversation with you in the coming days to share more about this amazing opportunity.

Since the summer of 2013, I have been teaching English in Turkey. I originally traveled to Turkey with a Christian organization called Teach Overseas that helped acquaint me with a life of serving students in a foreign land in need of the gospel. Turkey is the largest unreached nation in the world, so it seemed a great place to start. I have had several opportunities to engage with students outside of the classroom, but my job was chaotic and unstable enough that it was hard to be a constant presence in their lives. The past year I have been spending a lot of time in prayer, asking God if it was finally time for me to return to the States. And believe it or not, He answered. But it was not the answer I was expecting...

There is a lot of need in the capital city of Ankara. The international church there is overwhelmed by the number of Turks and refugees in the community that are looking for the love of the Savior. Having been a part of this congregation for two years, I know what the needs are, what the goals and vision are, and I am overjoyed to be given a chance by the elders to serve them full-time. The Lord has called me and appointed me to this new task, and I could not be more excited about this!

**But I can't do this alone.** I am back in the United States right now because I am beginning to build a team of Warriors to pray for the work going on in Turkey right now, and to regularly give of their own finances to support me as I enter into this new opportunity. The following are a few of the areas I plan to be involved in, as well as some potential goals for each (though the latter is subject to change):

- **The International Protestant Church of Ankara (IPCA) English-speaking congregation** is working to establish more workshops and cross-cultural service opportunities to integrate the community so much more. Right now there are four different services - each in a different language. Building fellowship and unity among them is one of our objectives.
- **The new refugee ministry** is being setup as we speak. The church just acquired a new building that is being renovated into a community center. There will be English classes and other educational services provided, as well as recreational opportunities for young refugees out of their element. I intend to participate in all areas of this ministry
- **Mentoring young Turkish believers** is a need I have recently been made aware of. Some of these believers attend IPCA, but there are others in the community that I've already developed friendships with. Although there are quite a few young and growing Turkish Christians, they need seasoned believers pouring into them and nurturing spiritual growth.

On top of these primary focuses for my ministry is the need to improve my own grasp of the Turkish language. I can speak and listen relatively well, but there is also a significant need for improvement as I invest more heavily in this country.

What am I looking for?

My time in the U.S. this winter and spring is being spent looking for the team that the Lord is building for me. I need prayers of the faithful to strengthen my spirit and defend me from spiritual attack while I serve in a land unhospitable to the gospel, and I also need to raise **\$2,500/month** to help me thrive as I do this. There are many paths to this ultimate goal, and I invite **YOU** to consider teaming up with me in this endeavor!

I would ask that you pray about contributing a monthly gift. How much difference would that make?

\$250/month being given by 10 partners =

\$100/month being given by 25 partners =

\$50/month being given by 50 partners =

\$25/month being given by 100 partners =

# \$2,500

Thank you so much for taking the time to consider how you can aid the coming of the Kingdom of God in Ankara, Turkey. Your prayers are very much appreciated as there are so many men and women there who are depressed and broken, yet searching. Together, our prayer for this ministry can be as follows:

*"The Spirit of the Lord God is upon me, because the Lord has anointed me to bring good news to the poor; he has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to those who are bound"* (Isaiah 61:1 NIV)

I pray God's favor and blessing upon you,

-Peter

[frantzmdiv@yahoo.com](mailto:frantzmdiv@yahoo.com)



**To Join the Team...** You can use the following information to make a monthly contribution to the ministry in Turkey. **My Account Code:** MidEast-IPCA.PRF

**BY MAIL:** Mail a check payable to Allegro Solutions with the above Account Code on an attached note to:  
Allegro Organizational Solutions, Inc.  
5535 Memorial Dr., Ste. F-811, Houston, TX 77007 USA.

**ONLINE:** Visit the Allegro Solutions website at <https://allegrosolutions.org/donate/> and use the above Account Code. Contributions can be made via credit card, Paypal or bank draft/ACH.

**OVER THE PHONE:** Call the Allegro Office directly and speak with a representative who can take your donation over the phone at [+1 \(713\) 874-1519](tel:+17138741519).

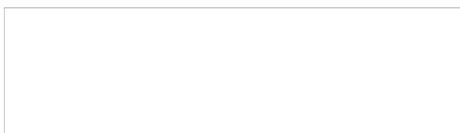
# CHRIST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

1140 CLAREMONT AVENUE  
ASHLAND, OH 44805  
419-289-0507

Address Service Requested



Dated Material . . .  
Please deliver promptly



## EQUIPPING THE CONGREGATION FOR MINISTRY

The Church phone number is 419-289-0507. Extension numbers are listed following the names.

Pastor.....	Rev. Laura White	pastorlaurasue@gmail.com	ext 101
Pastor Emeritus & Pastor of Visitation .....	Rev. Tom Snyder	profsnyder@gmail.com	
Coordinator of Witness & Service .....	Pastor Jenny Whitmore	jbwhitmore@zoominternet.net	
Organist.....	David Roepke	opera@bright.net	
Chancel Choir Director.....	Jane Ruggles	gruggles@zoominternet.net	
Way of the Good Shepherd Coordinator.....	Denise Jackson	deniseabaker11@gmail.com	
Administrative Assistant.....	Barb Raudebaugh	braudebaugh@zoominternet.net	ext 100
Treasurer.....	Nichole Lang	nlangCUMC@zoominternet.net	ext 104
Financial Giving Secretary .....	Brenda Gardner	bgardnercumc@zoominternet.net	
Investments.....	Mary McNaull	mary.mcnaull1@gmail.com	
Youth Team Volunteers .....	Janet Bonnell	janetbonnell@zoominternet.net	
.....	Larry Hachtel	larryhachtel@yahoo.com	
.....	Justina Fabich	jsfabich@aol.com	
Custodian.....	Stephanie Knowlton		
Kitchen .....			ext 107
Church Council.....	Bob Quackenbush	dquacken@bright.net	
Finance Chairperson.....	Diane Moretz	dmoretz@ashland.edu	
Staff Parish Relations .....	Bill Achberger		
Education / Youth Associate Lay Leader .....	Patti Hill	37pahill@gmail.com	
Parish Visitors .....	Jan Haberman	Ejhaberman@zoominternet.net	
Trustees .....	Kenny Oberholtzer	kenny@ashlandqualitystorage.com	
Outreach and Missions Associate Lay Leader.....	Janet Bonnell	janetbonnell@zoominternet.net	
Stephen Ministry Leader .....	Ron Johnson	ronnie7@zoominternet.net	
Volunteer Office Personnel			
Bulletin Board Volunteer .....	Bea North		
Greeter Coordinator.....	Kitty Snyder		
Mailing Volunteer.....	Claudia Guenther-Snyder		
Weekly Bulletin Volunteers.....	Claudia Guenther-Snyder, Jan Haberman		
Sunshine Table.....	Ann Roepke		

Witnesses for God's love .....everyone who is a part of Christ UMC