



THE VISITOR

January 2019

From the Pastor's Pen

The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand...

New Year's Eve – staying up till midnight with friends, pigging out on Chinese food, eating the last of the Christmas cookies and maybe having a little too much to drink – is all about the last hurrah, a final indulgence at year's end. New Year's Day – writing resolutions, turning over a new leaf, counting calories and joining a gym – is more about becoming the person we've always wanted to be. Have you ever thought how odd it is that we go from feasting to fasting in one day just because the calendar turned over? Perhaps it's because we are creatures of time. Its rhythms and cycles are stamped in us, body and soul. Perhaps it's because we know deep in our bones that every New Year, like every new day, is an opportunity to start over.

How wonderful that God isn't constrained by time. The good news Jesus preached began with the words, "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand..." (Mark 1:15). God doesn't have to wait until the cycle of months resets to offer us a new deal. God doesn't need the stars to align to begin drawing our crooked lines straight. As the Apostle Paul wrote, "Now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation" (2 Corinthians 6:2). Every new now God is ready to receive you **just as you are** and to lead you into **who you can become**. The only thing it takes is for you to say, "God, I don't know if I'm ready, but please take me. I want to be yours from this moment on."

Right now everything is perfectly poised for you to start a new life in Jesus Christ. If you try to time it, if you try to wait until the moment is just right, you will miss it altogether. Give your heart to Jesus in this new "now." You will be amazed at your new year.

Turning to God together with you,

Pastor Mike

January Worship

January 6

Epiphany
Communion
Coffee Hour

January 13

The Baptism of Christ
Coffee Hour

January 20

Second Sunday after Epiphany
Third Sunday Potluck

January 27

Third Sunday after Epiphany
Coffee Hour

***“Beginnings”
will begin January 30,
2019, at 5:30 pm in the
Church Parlor!***

“Beginnings” is an eight-week introduction to Communities of Practice. A Community of Practice is a relational space that invites people deeper into Christian community. Each hour-long session of “Beginnings” will focus on one of the elements essential to this relational space. There will be a snack supper offered as part of the experience to allow people to come straight from work. If you are a relative newcomer to the congregation, I especially invite you to check out this opportunity that I will be leading.

Come to “Beginnings.” Attend to your spirit in the new year!

Pastor Mike

Youth News

Youth Fellowship (6th-12th grades)

January 4th-5th: Youth and Mentor Retreat at Temples Hills
January 6th: 6-8 pm at the church
January 13th: 6-8 pm at the church
January 20th: No YF, MLK Lock-In at Federated Church in Chagrin Falls for grades 8-12
January 27th: No Youth Fellowship, All church Family Night at the Orrville Boys & Girls Club from 4-7pm

Kids Club (K-5th grades)

January 2nd: NO Kids Club (winter break)
January 9th: Kids Club resumes at 5:15pm
January 16th: Kids Club 5:15pm
January 23rd: Family Night 5:15pm, the whole family is invited to attend
January 30th: Kids Club 5:15pm

Kids Club Family Night

On January 23rd our Kids Club meeting will be a Family Night. The whole family is invited to attend!! Meet in the “Lower Room” at 5:15pm. There will be a dinner for the whole family at 6:00pm. No need to RSVP unless your family cannot attend.

Youth & Mentor Retreat: January 4th & 5th

We’re looking forward to a fun couple days at Temples Hills for our youth& mentors (both current and alumni). Please meet at the church at 6:00 pm on Friday, January 4th to carpool over. We should return to the church on Saturday, January 5th at 5:00 pm. Please bring an ornament from home that has a special meaning to you.

Martin Luther King Overnighter: January 20th-21st

All youth in 8th -12th grades are invited to a special event at Federated UCC in Chagrin Falls. This event is your typical overnighter with games, food, music and little sleep. It's also an opportunity to explore the life, faith and words of Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King. We will leave Sunday evening (20th) from Christ Church at 6:00pm and return to Christ Church on Saturday at approximately 9:00am.

If you are interested in attending please let Lisa know, no later than Sunday, January 6th so she can get everyone registered.

Save the Date : March 17th is the 2019 Youth Auction

The Youth Fellowship group will be holding an auction on Sunday, March 17th downstairs in the Fellowship Hall after worship. This event will again be a combination of a Live and Silent Auction. All the proceeds from this fundraiser will go towards the Youth Mission Fund which helps the youth attend their annual mission trips and helps with other local mission work that the youth participate in. If you have any items you would like to donate to the auction please see Lisa Yeagley or one of the older youth. More details will be coming in the February Newsletter.

Bridging Team News

Thanks to all for your patience and enthusiasm with the name tag project. We now have permanent tags. Find yours at whichever door you left it last Sunday. We are working on a better way to keep them during the week but that is still in progress. If you would like to keep yours in the choir room or in your purse, fine, just don't forget next Sunday to bring it with you.

If your tag is misspelled, smudged or missing, just let Elizabeth know and we will get you a new one. At this time, we only made name tags for those in Confirmation or older. We will be glad to make one for your younger family member, just let us know. We will still have the sticky tags for those who want them. Visitors can get one that looks like the permanent tags, we will just have to write in the name.

People have been great about wearing the tags. Team members agree that it has helped us with names we sometimes forget, or just never really knew. Thanks for participating in this effort to make visitors, and, indeed, all of us, better acquainted with one another.

Consistory News – Dec. Meeting

- Youth Ministries reported that the Youth Auction is scheduled for March 17 and will include a lunch.
- Fellowship Committee reminded members that the annual cookie exchange will take place on December 16.
- Christian Education Committee reported that Advent Family Night was successful and the Sunday School program and breakfast are fast approaching.
- Worship Committee is working on Epiphany service.
- The Bridging Team has finished welcome bags, the name tags are done, updated fliers are in the pews, and a new version of the Sunday bulletin is being used.
- The 2019 church budget was reviewed by Consistory for presentation to the congregation for a vote of approval.

Treasurer's Report

November 30, 2018

	Month of	YTD	Last Year
Current Fund	Nov. '18		
Income	\$ 15,808	\$206,694	\$237,873
Expenses	\$ 28,765	\$220,731	\$255,540
Net Surplus (Deficit)	\$(12,957)	\$ (14,037)	\$ (17,667)
Benevolent Fund	\$ 1,868	\$ 36,545	\$ 40,438
Pastor's Emergency Fund	\$ 407	\$ 6,656	\$ 6,606

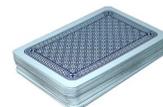
Brian Amstutz, Treasurer

Game Night



Game night will be held at the Orrville Area Boys and Girls Club this year on Sunday, January 27th

from 4:00 to 7:00! All are invited to blow off some steam and enjoy an evening of fellowship. Bring a finger food and a board game to share. Also, please feel free to **bring friends!** Drinks will be provided. The gym and junior games room will be open for use as well, so there should be something for everyone.



Daughters Dinner

The Fellowship Committee will be holding the annual Daughters Dinner this year, but the date has been moved to March 9, which coincides with the UCC's Women's Week. So mark your calendars now! Baby Bundles for CAMO will be assembled as tradition, so watch for the tags hanging in the Gathering Area in February.

100th Birthday

Glen Gerstacker (Grace Gehres' father) is celebrating his 100th birthday. The congregation is invited to a birthday reception on Saturday, January 12, from 2-4 pm, in the lower level reception area of Maple Terrace. No gifts, please.



Thank You

Thank you to my church family for your support during my knee surgery and recovery. I especially want to thank the confirmands and Pastor Mike for the pre-op prayers, the Merry Cooks and others for the delicious food you shared with us, the carolers on Sunday evening, and so many for the cards, calls, prayers and well wishes. Your encouragement has lifted my spirit in the hardest times. Bless every one of you!

Shirley Weyrauch

Maryalice Blanket Offering

On January 13th, we will collect our annual Church World Service (CWS) special offering. For almost 60 years, the UCC has partnered with other denominations to support the people-centered global relief and development ministries of the CWS. CWS ministries are based on the belief that there is enough food, water, and justice for everyone in the world.

The Blanket Offering supports grassroots projects, education, and disaster relief. Examples of CWS projects and tools include health care, microcredit, winterized family tents, clean-up and hygiene kits, schools, dams, fishing cooperatives, raised garden beds, and emergency food packages. And blankets! Lots of blankets – domestically and internationally.

Please give generously!

Soup & Eggroll Sale – January 6th

Christ UCC Cancer Crusaders will be having a soup & eggroll sale Sunday, January 6th. Homemade soups (\$6 quart & \$3 pint) and eggrolls (\$8.00 per half dozen—**limit 3 per order**) will be available. To pre-order, fill out this form or contact Linda Combs at 330-683-2057 or by email: scombs@zoominternet.net, no later than Wednesday, January 2nd. **If you want eggrolls, please pre-order. Thank you! Checks should be made out to: The Ohio State University Foundation**

Name _____

Chicken Noodle	___	Qt	___	Pint	Chicken w/ Wild Rice	___	Qt.	___	Pint
Chili	___	Qt.	___	Pint	Broccoli Cheese	___	Qt.	___	Pint
Mushroom Barley	___	Qt.	___	Pint	Hamburg Vegetable	___	Qt.	___	Pint
Cheeseburger	___	Qt.	___	Pint	Eggrolls	___	1/2 dozen		

Birthdays and Anniversaries

Birthdays

1/01 Ron McGrew	1/16 Judy Arnold
John Yungen	Stacey Haley
Daniel Malcuit	1/18 Jana Kohler
1/03 Christine Malcuit	Mark Holderman
Shellie Weeman	1/19 Dean Duvall
Staci Williams	1/23 John LeFever
1/05 David Bupp	1/24 Don Bilderback
Todd Wallace	Scott Musser
Beth Boggs	1/25 Zach Luangraj
Mitchell Cassidy	1/27 Gary Singer
1/07 Meredith Midura	Jaxon Thistlethwaite
Haddie Kirtley	1/28 Brent Nussbaum
1/08 John Hofstetter	1/30 Linda Lacy
Mollie Curie	Julie Yates
Danny Luangraj	
Matthew Maher	
1/09 Kelsey Feltner	
1/10 Deanna Domer	
Jackie Gresser	
Brooks Curtis	
Craig Smith	
Ross Robart	
1/11 Cindy Ferich	
1/13 Lori Hilton	
Colton Fetzer	
1/14 Bill Lytle	
1/15 Emma Fletcher	

Anniversaries

1/06 Mark and Stefanie McHenry
1/12 Jim and Suzanne Jelinek
1/23 Hank and Connie Bowen



January 2019

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		Office Closed ¹	7:30p Chancel Choir ²	5:30p Friendship Meals ³	Youth & Mentor Retreat at Templed Hills (through 5th) ⁴	⁵
9:00a Sunday School 10:15a Worship; Communion 11:30a Parish Nurses—BP's 11:30a Coffee Hour 5:00p Confirmation 6:00p Youth Fellowship ⁶	7:00p Spiritual Council ⁷	7:00p Pastoral Relations ⁸	5:15p Kid's Club 6:30p Carol Choir 6:30p Bell Choir 7:30p Chancel Choir ⁹	5:30p Friendship Meals 6:00p Governance & Ministry ¹⁰	¹¹	¹²
9:00a Sunday School 10:15a Worship 11:30a Coffee Hour 5:00p Confirmation 6:00p Youth Fellowship ¹³	7:00p Consistory ¹⁴	¹⁵	5:15p Kid's Club 5:30p Beginnings 6:30p Carol Choir 6:30p Bell Choir 7:30p Chancel Choir ¹⁶	5:30p Friendship Meals 7:00p Worship Committee ¹⁷	¹⁸	¹⁹
9:00a Sunday School 10:15a Worship 11:30a Third Sunday Potluck 5:00p Confirmation 6:00p MLK Youth Lock-In ²⁰	²¹	6:30p Bridging Team ²²	5:15p Kid's Club—Family Night 5:30p Beginnings 6:30p Carol Choir 6:30p Bell Choir 7:30p Chancel Choir ²³	5:30p Friendship Meals ²⁴	²⁵	²⁶
9:00a Sunday School 10:15a Worship 11:30a Coffee Hour 4-7p Game Night (at Orrville Boys & Girls Club) ²⁷	7:00p Christian Ed ²⁸	²⁹	5:15p Kid's Club 5:30p Beginnings 6:30p Carol Choir 6:30p Bell Choir 7:30p Chancel Choir ³⁰	5:30p Friendship Meals ³¹		