



# Parish News

2024

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## First United Church of Christ

### A Note from Your Pastor

Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

December brings us to what for many is the happiest time of the year...Christmas! But for many it is overshadowed by loss, lack of family and for some poverty. While many are out getting that perfect gift for their loved ones, there are those who can neither afford to purchase shiny new things or do not have the loved ones in their lives to share them with.

As we prepare for Christmas, let us be mindful that our Savior came into this world as a poor child who had nothing physical to give. He received many gifts from those who could afford them but would end up giving the greatest gift ever known to mankind. Let us emulate His love. Let us not worry about the shiny things, but rather the love we have been given to share with others.

For those of us who may no longer have the loved ones in our lives that we once did, let us give in their honor. Let us find those who need our help, who need our love, who might only find Jesus through our actions and gift to them. When we see the hungry let us work to feed them. Those without proper clothing or shelter, let us contribute to help improve their situation.

Jesus, our loving Lord, came for all of us. He gave His all for all of us. If we truly want to honor the birth of Christ this Christmas let us rejoice in helping and loving others, just as our loving King does.

Marian and I wish you all a very merry Christmas. We hope that it is a time of wonder and awe for you all. As we remember the birth of Christ, let us remember the hope He brought for us all. Merry Christmas and a happy, healthy, and hope-filled New Year!

*Pastor Gerry*

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## December Update

As the song goes, “It’s that most wonderful time of the year!” This has been a very challenging year for all of us at First United Church of Christ. With this being our last Christmas in our storied church, let’s now take the time to enjoy the season and really celebrate the birth of our Saviour. We have had many memorable Christmases at our church, so I encourage everyone to take time to take advantage of the events of the Advent Season.

Advent this year begins on December 1. We’ll have our traditional Advent wreath in place as we prepare each week for the arrival of the Newborn King. We do have to take care of a little business on December 8, as we hold our annual Congregational meeting to approve next year’s budget and elect Deacons and Elders. Many thanks to outgoing Deacons, Melanie Burger, Judy Fabian and Debbie Wimer, plus Elders Junior Fumerola and Bill Paxson. My personal thanks also to the aforementioned people who have agreed to extend their terms into the next year.

December 15 is our annual Christmas party. We’ll be having a covered dish dinner at 5:30 in our fellowship hall followed by entertainment from musical group Lock-4, who are returning after being with us last year. These talented gentlemen are a group you don’t want to miss, so please join us that evening. December 15 is also the day to pick up your kolache orders from the Deacons.

We will celebrate Christmas Communion on December 22 at our 11:00 a.m. worship service. Our last Christmas Eve in our sanctuary will be on December 24 at 6:30pm. There will be Carols and Candles plus the beauty of our 112 year old building. Please join us for this most moving time.

Our negotiations are continuing with a group which desires to acquire our building. I can tell you that this organization wants to use our facility for community theatre concentrating on youth who are interested in performing arts. One of our requirements of them, in order to take over the building, is keeping the basic general structure as it is for a reasonable amount of time. We feel this group has the ability to continue our legacy in downtown Warren.

Closing out this year, my many thanks to all for your patience, concern, work and love. This has not been an easy time for us, but our faith in our Lord and each other will see us through. Peace and love to all.

One more thing. Each month I close out my letter asking everyone to remember our shut-ins. I implore you at this time of year to really do it with a card, a call or even a short visit. These folks need to know that even in their absence, they continue to be loved and remembered by all of us.

Till next month, see you in Sunday school

Ron Schoch





## **“A Person’s a Person No Matter How Small”**

This is the oft-repeated proclamation of Horton the Elephant, the hero of the classic Dr. Seuss book, *Horton Hears a Who*. Theodore Seuss Geisel—a.k.a. Dr. Seuss—wrote this book in 1953 after a visit to American-occupied Japan. Although Geisel, like many Americans, held strong anti-Japanese opinions during the war, his visit to Japan changed him, and he hoped his book would convey a message of valuing everyone equally, regardless of race or status.

The story itself is simple and delightful: Horton the elephant, because of his large ears, can hear things others cannot. Because of this ability, he discovers an entire world of microscopically tiny people called the Whos, living on a speck of dust, and he vows to protect them, because “a person’s a person no matter how small.”

The problem is that nobody else in the jungle can hear the Whos, and they decide that Horton is crazy. “Why that spec is as small as the head of a pin! A person on that? Why there never has been!”

Horton, however, has the evidence his ears give him. He knows that size is not the deciding factor in “personhood.” He remains firm in his convictions in the face of rising opposition from the other jungle animals, even when they try to put him into a cage and annihilate the dust-spec “in a hot steaming kettle of beezlenut oil.”

A person’s a person no matter how small. Or seemingly insignificant. Or young. Or old. Or ill. Or disabled. From conception to the end of life, every human being has intrinsic value. Everyone is precious in God’s eyes, created in His image.

“I will praise thee; for I am fearfully and wonderfully made marvelous are thy works and that my soul knoweth right well My substance was not hid from thee, when I was made in secret and curiously wrought in the lowest parts of the earth. Thine eyes did see my substance, yet being unperfect; and in thy book all my members were written, which in continuance were fashioned when as yet there was none of them” (Psalm 139:14–16).

*Roy Jacobsen*





# Christ Is King

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 K A T M D T S T Y C G F S T F V C C U I D  
 N A S T A F S L N H F Y A E J Z W V M G S V W  
 M F U I I S R I O X C Q B E M N A T H E H S F I S  
 N G R H T W R B R R R W V N E E T S X X E D M Q G N J  
 J A G S H H X E X H A O U J H G N W Z M P Y Y B W A C G E  
 W Z N U C C L Z E Y Z Z W Y H Q O A L  
 Z Z C D I U T Z L H E V A Q E G O T W D S  
 M D A R S C V J H C E L H L R G Z Q I R F H J  
 N N N J P M I Y T X V E A M D C M W O M K E E T N  
 L D D C E Q R G E G O B D P S B Y C A M T Y S G A R W  
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## Christ Is King (word list)

BABY	CHRISTMAS	HOPE	SHEPHERDS
BETHLEHEM	DECORATIONS	JESUS	STAR
BIRTHDAY	FEASTS	JOY	TRAVEL
CANDLES	FRIENDLY BEASTS	LOVE	TREE
CAROLING	GIFTS	MANGER	WISE MEN
CAROLS	GIVING	SAVIOR	

## The Symbolism of Our Chrismon Tree

Our beautiful lit tree is decorated with Chrismons—symbols from Christian history which refer to our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. The word is a combination of two words—Christ and Monogram—truly a monogram of Christ.

Though the idea originated in the Lutheran Church of the Ascensions in Danville, Virginia in 1057, the symbols are interdenominational and the heritage of all.

We affirm our belief that through the ages the church has found varied ways of telling the Good News and making God’s love more meaningful and apparent to humanity. For several years we tried to add new designs to our tree. Some are developed from symbols of the church in it’s earliest years, others were first used by the inspired writers of the Bible, and still others are new interpretations which add depth to our understanding of our Lord and our relationship to Him. Any symbol on the tree must, first of all, point to our Lord and God.

All Chrismons are made in combinations of white and gold. White, the liturgical color for Christmas, refers to our Lord’s purity and perfection; gold, to His majesty and glory. We point to Christ as the light of the world by using tiny white lights on the tree.

The Chrismon tree is complete only when those who see it understand it’s meaning. Please feel free to look at the Chrismon more closely. May each of you be blessed with the love, joy, and true meaning of Christmas.





## Annual Christmas Party

Our Family Christmas Party will be on Sunday, December 15, 2024, at 5:30 p.m. Please bring a covered dish and your own tableware. Beverages will be provided.

Our entertainment will again be Lock-4, a barbershop quartet from Akron, Ohio. Come and join us for a great night of food, fellowship and entertainment!

\*\*Sharon Longworth will be collecting staff gifts until Sunday, December 15.

October Income	October Expenditures	October Net
\$2,376.80	\$7,778.72	-\$5,401.92

## Toy Drive

From now until the end of November we will be holding a toy drive for the Warren Family Mission. If you wish to participate, there will be a bin in the lobby where you can drop off any new, unwrapped toys at any time.

In late November or early December, we will take these toys to the Mission for their yearly Christmas give away. Please keep in mind that while it's fun to shop for the little ones, there are teenagers who need love and support at Christmas also.

Thank you in advance for your kindness. If you have any questions, please see Karen Schoch.





## Prayer List

Terry Caddell	Denise Long	Hailee	Betty Jamison
Becky Callahan	Dean Mahalick	Those affected by the conflicts throughout the world.	Dick Leiby
Jerry Currie	Peggy Marshall		Marilyn Leiby
Rodger Davis	Larry Mattison		Glenn Mark
Steve Duracin	Paul Muck		Norma Patchin
Phil Fletcher	Carter Plott	<b>Shut-ins:</b>	Sue Schoch
Ericka Gammon	Mary Sabol	Donna Beavers	Bob Spencer
Ruth Gilbert	Joe Vugrincic	Ruth Gilbert	Barb Sponaugle
Dick Leiby	Layes Wood	Betty Howren	

## Floating Five Emergency Fund

In July 2009, the Floating Five Committee decided to start an emergency account to help those in the church having an unexpected need for money such as a car repair, medical bill, or legitimate need as recommended by church members or staff, etc. Please speak with Judy Fabian, Keith Burger, Karen Schoch, or Rev. Gammon should you have such a need.

This is a confidential service available to any church member, staff member, or anyone who attends regularly. This is not intended to be an ongoing source of income but rather for emergency situations which one might encounter.

## Prayer Chain/List

The Prayer Chain has been slightly revised. As a reminder, names of people for the Prayer Chain with specific messages are prayed for regularly for that person for seven days. Be sure to begin your request by calling the church office or by filling out a prayer request card.

Names on the Prayer List in the weekly bulletin will be carried for that month unless requested it be continued on or removed prior to the end of the month.

\*\*If you would like to be a caller and offer prayers for those on the prayer chain, please notify the church office (330) 394-4741 or fill out a prayer request card.



**First United Church of Christ**

280 E. Market Street  
Warren, Ohio 44481  
(330) 394-4741  
Email: firstuccwarren@gmail.com



*The church with the “golden dome”*

website  
[www.firstuccwarren.org](http://www.firstuccwarren.org)

**Pastor:**

Rev./Dr. Gerald Gammon

**Pastor Emeritus:**

Joe Doran  
Everett Gould

**Elder Emeritus:**

Al Conklin  
Nick Fabian  
Ed Gilbert  
Don Howren  
Glenn Mark  
Sylvia Moyes  
Bill Paxson  
George Schneider  
Bill Schoch  
Charles Weller  
Ken Wright

**Deacon Emeritus:**

Dick Leiby



**Consistory**

<b>President:</b>	Ron Schoch	<b>Elders:</b>	Keith Burger	12/31/26
			Jr. Fumerola	12/31/24
<b>Vice President:</b>	Bill Paxson		Linda Paxson	12/31/24
			Bill Paxson	12/31/24
			Karen Schoch	12/31/26
<b>Secretary:</b>	Nancy Hamrick			
<b>Treasurer:</b>	Rev. Gammon	<b>Deacons:</b>	Melanie Burger	12/31/24
			Sheryl Cozad	12/31/25
			Judy Fabian	12/31/24
<b>Financial Officer:</b>	Sheryl Cozad		Marian Gammon	12/31/25
			Candy Lemasters	12/31/25
<b>Bookkeeper:</b>	Sheryl Cozad		Sharon Longworth	12/31/25
			Debbie Wimer	12/31/24

