

# December

## Parish News

2023

### First United Church of Christ

#### A Note from Your Pastor

Merry Christmas!

It seems impossible that we are already at this time of year, yet here we are! I extend my wish to each of you for a joyous and healthy Christmas. As we get busy with the hustle and bustle of this time of year, let us remain focused on why we celebrate. Our Lord Jesus Christ, who came to us as the greatest expression of God's love for us, was born of the virgin to become man. We celebrate this birth on Christmas, but we enjoy the fruits of this gift throughout eternity.

What a precious gift we have received in Jesus! What a miracle He is! And because of this wonderful gift we can forever rejoice with our Creator throughout eternity. God's love has no bounds, and we are all instruments of that love. As we celebrate the birth of Christ, let us make a conscious effort to share His love with others. Let us carry a carol of the season of love in our hearts and express to others the joy we feel from knowing our Savior.

Of all the gifts we give this season, let us give the greatest of all, sharing the Gospel of Christ. What gift could be greater than salvation? Let us joyously share what we have been blessed with, so that others too can enjoy the true meaning of Christmas.

Again, I wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a prosperous New Year! May you enjoy the blessings of prosperity, good health, and joy now and forever.

*Pastor Gerry*



## Christmas Cookie Bake Sale

### First United Church of Christ Bake Sale Pre-Order Form Christmas

Pickup is: December 17, 2023  
after church from 12:00 – 1:00 p.m.

Cookie Plate (Bkr's Doz.)	_____	\$5.00	_____
		<b>Total Order</b>	_____

**Deadline for  
Orders:** Dec. 10th

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_  
Order Taken By: \_\_\_\_\_

Pickup is at: First United Church of Christ  
280 E. Market Street  
Warren, Ohio 44481  
330-394-4741





## December Update

Christmas Greetings everyone! Yes it's that time of the year. The stores are getting busier, traffic is more congested, but most importantly, spirits are up. Like the song that we hear so often right now says, "It's the Most Wonderful Time of the Year." It is a wonderful time, but for us Christians that wonderful feeling should be with us for all twelve months of the year. The Nativity was just the beginning of the Greatest Story Ever Told. Sometimes we get so caught up with all the business of the Christmas season that we forget that. Hopefully the spiritual "highs" that we get during the month of December continues.

Here at First Church December will be a very active month. The first Sunday in Advent is December 3rd and the fourth Sunday will be on December 24th. We will have our usual Sunday morning service on the 24th at 10:45 and Christmas Eve service that evening at 6:30 p.m. and there is a lot going on in between. December 10th is our annual family Christmas party with a covered dish dinner. On December 17 we will have our annual Congregational meeting during which we will elect two Elders and also be presented with the annual budget for 2024.

Earlier this year we started a new project to help bring a few smiles to those youth in our community who may be less fortunate than many of us. Thanks to Karen Schoch for spearheading this effort to gather toys to be turned over to the Warren Family Mission for distribution. The response was overwhelming and we thank everyone who donated this very worthwhile venture. Thank you also to all those who brought in food for Harvest Sunday. The response again was outstanding and the Warren Family Mission was so appreciative of the donations for their Thanksgiving Dinner.

Speaking of Thanksgiving, I would like to thank Judy Fabian and Melanie Burger for their beautiful decorating efforts to dress up the sanctuary during the fall and harvest season. And they are not done yet as the Fall decorations come down, the Christmas ones go up. Thanks to everyone involved.

In closing I would like to make a personal thank you for the love and support from everyone following the passing of my mom, Sue Schoch. This church was a very big part of Mom's life for over 70 years after moving here from Pennsylvania. On behalf of Mom's entire family, thank you for your thoughts and prayers.

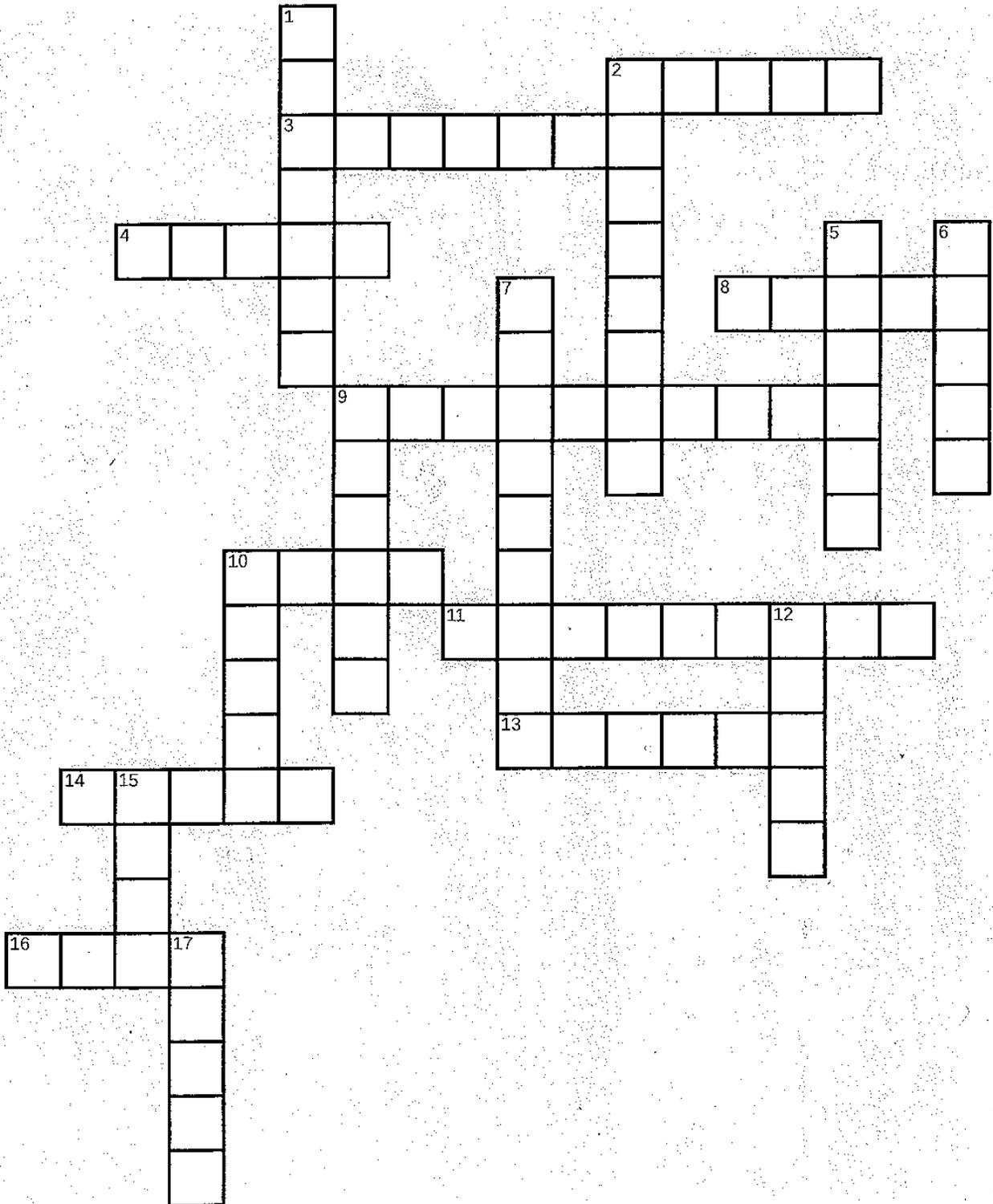
Till next time, remember our shut-ins and see you in Sunday school.

Ron Schoch





# Christmas Carols and Songs Crossword





## Christmas Across/Down

### Across

- 2 I Saw \_\_\_\_\_ Kissing Santa Claus
- 3 The Little \_\_\_\_\_ Boy
- 4 Joy to the \_\_\_\_\_
- 8 I Saw \_\_\_\_\_ Ships Come Sailing In
- 9 \_\_\_\_\_ Is Comin' to Town
- 10 The First \_\_\_\_\_
- 11 \_\_\_\_\_ Time is Here
- 13 Away in a \_\_\_\_\_
- 14 I'm Dreaming of a \_\_\_\_\_ Christmas
- 16 \_\_\_\_\_ the Herald Angels Sing

### Down

- 1 \_\_\_\_\_ the Red-Nosed Reindeer
- 2 You're a Mean One \_\_\_\_\_
- 5 \_\_\_\_\_ the Snowman
- 6 Jingle \_\_\_\_\_
- 7 O Little Town of \_\_\_\_\_
- 9 \_\_\_\_\_ Night
- 10 O Holy \_\_\_\_\_
- 12 Have Yourself a \_\_\_\_\_ Little Christmas
- 15 Do You \_\_\_\_\_ What I Hear?
- 17 We Three \_\_\_\_\_ of Orient Are

## Thank You

Thank you for the cards, prayers, and phone calls regarding the loss of our mother, Sue Schoch. She loved the church, and it is so gratifying to know that you loved her back. Thank you for your support

The Schoch Family

### October Income

\$5,876.00

### October Expenditures

\$7,842.31

### October Net

-\$1,966.31





## Family Christmas Party

Our Family Christmas Party will be on Sunday, December 10, 2023, at 5:30 p.m. Please bring a covered dish and your own tableware. Beverages will be provided.

Our entertainment will be Lock-4, a barbershop quartet from Akron, Ohio, with a combined experience of over 100 years of singing music.

Come and join us for a great night of food, fellowship and entertainment!

\*\*Sharon Longworth will be collecting staff gifts until Sunday, December 10th.

# Worship Takes Work

The First United Church of Christ is blessed to have the support of all who attend. We are not only members of the Body of Christ, but we are also family. Over the past few years, it has been my privilege to lead the Church with the help of so many people. Every year, I attempt to recognize their efforts by awarding the Pastor Person of the Year awards. This year I awarded five:





## Prayer List

American People	People of Israel	<b>Shut-ins:</b>	Barb Sponaugle
Donna Beavers	Dean Mahalick	Donna Beavers	Angie Wiland
Becky Callahan	Peggy Marshall	Ruth Gilbert	
Betsy Chapley	Larry Mattison	Betty Howren	
Dave Davis	Norma Patchin	Dick Leiby	
Roger Davis	Mary Sabol	Marilyn Leiby	
East Palestine People	Ukraine People	Glenn Mark	
Phil Fletcher	Angie Wiland	Norma Patchin	
Ruth Gilbert	Layes Wood	Bob Spencer	

## 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	12/31/23
			Jr. Fumerola	12/31/24
<b>Vice President:</b>	Bill Paxson		Linda Paxson	12/31/24
			Bill Paxson	12/31/24
			Karen Schoch	12/31/23
<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

