



December 2019

Parish News

First United Church of Christ

Update

The journey to Bethlehem could be compared to our journey through our Christian life. Traveling with friends who seek the same destination encourages us.

Joseph and Mary's arrival in the crowded busy, noisy town of Bethlehem, could be compared to our shopping trips to local stores filled with shoppers looking for Christmas delights.

The couples who search for lodging reminds us Jesus longs to abide in our hearts. Sometimes the Lord must look around our busyness to find first place in our hearts.

The beautiful lights we enjoy remind us of the brightness surrounding the angels announcement to the shepherds. Jesus is the light of the world.

The carols we sing relay the angels proclamation "Joy to the World, the Savior has come!"

Our gifts we give remind us of the wonderful gift God gave to all mankind.

John 3:16 - "For God so loved this world He gave His only begotten Son that whosoever believeth in Him shall not perish but have everlasting life."

I believe our church improvements are done for this year. Some projects have been put on hold until spring. November saw a successful Bazaar/Bake Sale here at the church. Keep in mind we hope to make this an annual event. Remember, one persons trash is another persons treasure.

Please join us for worship and hanging of the greens after worship on November 24th. Thursday, December 5th, will be a great opportunity for families, couples, and individuals to have their pictures taken. These pictures will go into a new church directory and you may purchase extra pictures if you so choose. This is by appointment only, so please call the church to make your appointment. Come Join us on Sunday, December 8th at 5:30 p.m. for a joyous time of good food, fun, fellowship, and entertainment. There will be a sign up sheet in the lobby. Feel free to bring your favorite recipe and a guest or two. Everyone is welcome!

God bless,

Beverly DeSavigny
President of Consistory



A Note from the Pastor

Greetings!

Here it is December already! The month we celebrate the birth of our Lord Jesus. It is my hope that all will have a wonderful Christmas and find true comfort in knowing that Jesus came to life for you. As we celebrate His coming let us be mindful of His purpose. He came to teach us how to love and share the gifts we have been given. He came to love and to be loved. He came so that He could offer Himself as the supreme sacrifice to save us all from eternal death. What glorious gifts He brought us! Let us share all we have been blessed with so that we might help others to discover the gift that is Jesus Christ.

December also signals the end of another year. Our lives are so busy these days, and the life of the Church is no exception. We have been busy too! We celebrated our 125th birthday, had a wonderful picnic, a successful bake sale/bazaar (raising over \$1500) and accomplished a lot of repairs to the church building. We have collected food for the needy, school supplies for the children, and Christmas items for those in need. How wonderful the Body of Christ is!

With all that has been going on, and with all the successes we have had, it needs to be pointed out that we couldn't have done any of it without the guidance and leadership of our Consistory. These fine men and women are truly dedicated to the continued growth of our church and to keeping it sustainable. I want to thank each member of the Consistory for their efforts and their support. We certainly could not have done these things without you.

As we prepare to say goodbye to 2019 let us resolve to make 2020 even better. Let us join in prayer for a year of growth and outreach so that we may spread the gospel of our Lord to all. Let us pray that our church family be healthy and vital not only for their own comfort but for the continued prosperity of the church body. For a healthy body is a prosperous body and a true gift from God. Let us remember in prayer all those who give to our church and help keep us going. A special thank you to Kay Fisher and Bob Powell for their continued extraordinary giving, we appreciate your long-distance support and keep you in our prayers.

It has been a special gift from God to serve as your Pastor this year. I thank you all for the opportunity and for your support. You truly have become my family and I love you all. I pray that you will have a joyous Christmas and a prosperous and healthy New Year!

Yours in Christ,

Pastor Gerry





Property Committee

Happy November! It's cold; it's snowy, and its hibernation time! I hope those of you in Ohio are staying warm and safe.

This month brought an end to the water problem over the West entrance doorway. (I sure hope.) Simon Roofing was here again to check out my complaint of still getting water from the roof. They determined that the flow was great enough that when it hit the 90 degree turn the stream couldn't stay within the valley. Their suggestion was to install two downspouts to catch some of the flow and alleviating the rush and amount of flow hitting that corner. Sounds simple huh? Of course not!

Brent from Simon Roofing went to the rooftop to determine the best area to install the downspouts. He had previously thought the original gutters had a liner in them and he could simply cut through that. Again, wrong! He discovered in the past the gutters had been filled in. They are completely filled in, from bottom to top. He attempted to use a coring tool to determine what the fill consisted of. The top layer of the fill was so hard he couldn't get the coring tool to penetrate it. He finally got through it with a hammer and chisel. In about an hour's time he determined the top 3" was filled with an epoxy type material that is as hard as concrete. Below that is a solid plastic sheet, about an 1/8" thick, and the remainder is filled with a rubberized material, also a solid. His supervisor arrived to see what Brent had discovered. They were both perplexed as to why this was done. In all their years of experience, neither of them had seen such a thing. But, it is what it is. There was no explaining it. There was also no way of installing downspouts in the existing gutters.

After some contemplating and discussion it was decided it would be best to install new gutters around the perimeter of the entrance roof. Downspouts could then be added to the new gutters. If any water was to escape the original roof valley, the new gutters would catch it and channel it through the new downspouts. Brent took all the necessary measurements and Simon Roofing fabricated the new gutters in their shop. Brent then installed them along the roof a few days later. This seemed to work well as it was raining the day the downspouts were installed into the new gutters.

There was one part of the installation that bothered me though. I didn't like where the south downspout emptied. It would have cause icing in the walk way if left as was. I let this bother me over a period of a few days. So this past Sunday I stayed after church and added additional drain pipe so the water will run out to the parking lot and away from where people will walk. I'm happy now.





Property Report (continued)

In other news, the bake sale/rummage sale is over. It was a lot of work but I think well worth it. We made some money on it, and hopefully got the word out that we exist and are welcoming anyone who wishes to attend worship service. The dog sitting is also over and I survived. More importantly, all the dogs survived too! Pastor Gerry and Marian seemed to have enjoyed their time away so I'm glad I could help them with that.

So fellow readers, I hope you are all doing well and I wish you and yours a very Happy Thanksgiving. I pray that all who are traveling arrive safely to their destinations and the same for their return trips.

Yours in Christian Fellowship,

Mark Gammon

Christmas Party

Our Family Christmas Party will be held on Sunday, December 8, 2019 at 5:30 p.m. Please bring a covered dish and your own table settings. Beverages will be provided. The Trumbull Senior Productions will once again be providing us with their talents. Everyone is invited to join us for a night of fun, food and entertainment.

Sharon Longworth will also be collecting for the staff Christmas gifts through Sunday, Dec. 8th.

WANTED:

Organist

First United Church of Christ
is searching for a permanent
Part-time Organist. If you, or
someone you know is interested
Please contact Nancy at
330-394-4741





Prayer List

Clyde Baker
Donna Beavers
Joanne Bode
Candy Bode
Fred Bode
Sheri French

Jamie Fuss
Don Howren
Betty Jamison
Becky Kunkel
Betty Mark
Marlin Martin

Melissa Rein
Bob Spencer
Jerry Stephens
Sue Torno
Mary Kate Zweidinger

Angel Tree

The Boomers are once again sponsoring the Angel Tree this Christmas season. The tree will be going up soon and the tags will appear by the end of the month. We appreciate your past generosity and hope you will once again support this project. Thank you.

Prayer Ministry

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 anyone would like to be added to the Prayer Chain, do not hesitate. There is always room for more. Just notify the church office (330) 394-4741 or fill out a prayer request card.

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.





Brr December

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 E W G A M T J L L
 A M Q R N K U A Y Z J
 E N C O G R R D O V U
 Y L G P E A K V L T H
 C K V E R W E E J O A
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 E C P O S R T A O
 M N E W Y E A R E V E Y S
 R S H O P P I N G E I H J L X
 D N O I T A R B E L E C T A Q F U
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 G T H S N H S B M A H E D X C O A T S
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 X M F T O M L D O R A S T M C A G M S
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 L G H D O T U I S E H M L
 Q O V N J S N N O V A D A L A
 V Y X I L I R O O O Q R B M S W Y
 M K C E A R J R Y L S S E L D N A C H
 Q B O R H H V T Z G Y A D H T R I B I Z W
 S S D I C R H C M S L Y Y T I V I T A N Q
 C N G N Y A S I P S T N E S E R P K T Y L U P
 J E F A U T X F S S L E U N A M M E I I X G B
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 D Z T B U L B S Y O P B K R J Q B U D I Z
 L A M W B P H O V P G E J E U S A O O
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 L K V D J H A J J K S





Word List

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|-----------------------|-----------|--------------|
| ADVENT | COLD | NATIVITY |
| ANGELS | ELVES | NEW YEAR EVE |
| BABY | EMMANUEL | NORTH STAR |
| BELLS | GARLAND | PRESENTS |
| BIRTHDAY | GIVING | REINDEER |
| BOOTS | GLOVES | SANTA |
| BULBS | HAM | SHOPPING |
| CANDLES | HATS | SNOW |
| CAROLS | JESUS | SNOWMAN |
| CELEBRATION | JOY | SON OF GOD |
| CHRISTMAS | LIGHTS | TURKEY |
| CHRISTMAS TREE | MANGER | WISEMEN |
| CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE | MISTLETOE | |
| COATS | MITTENS | |

First Ladies

The ladies met at the church at noon on Friday, October 25. Sadly we were missing some of our friends due to various health issues.

We were still able to complete 80 cards for the Veterans in the hospital in Cleveland. Thanks to Sally Spencer’s skill with her computer for providing them.

The November meeting was on Friday, November 15 at the church. We collected the completed boxes for “Operation Christmas Child” and delivered them to the collection point at Wildare Church in Cortland, Ohio. Our thanks to all who participated in this project.

The December meeting will be the annual Christmas Party on Wednesday, December 18 at the home of Joanne Bode at noon. All attending are asked to bring a finger food to share and a “white elephant” gift to exchange. All ladies are welcome!



First United Church of Christ

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



The church with the “golden dome”

Website:
firstuccwarren.org

Pastor:

Rev. Gerald Gammon

Pastor Emeritus:

Joe Doran
Everett Gould

Elder Emeritus:

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

Deacon Emeritus:

Dick Leiby



Consistory

President:	Beverly DeSavigny	Elders:	Jim DeSavigny	12/31/21
			Craig Cozad	12/31/20
Vice President:	Bill Paxson		Donny Longworth	12/31/20
			Ron Schoch	12/31/21
Secretary:	Nancy Hamrick			
		Deacons:	Joanne Bode	12/31/19
Treasurer:	Donny Longworth		Melanie Burger	12/31/19
			Mark Gammon	12/31/21
Financial Officer:	Keith Burger		Brenda Hibbard	12/31/21
			Jeff Robinson	12/31/19
Bookkeeper:	Sheryl Cozad		Homer Wiland	12/31/19
			Debbie Wimer	12/31/21

