



Parish News

December 2018

First United Church of Christ

Update

As I sit here writing this, Thanksgiving has come and gone, and the Christmas season is fast approaching. There will be snow, gifts, family time and the celebration of the birth of Christ. While I think about the future, I am also forced to reflect on the past, specifically, this past year. The church and its people have gone through a lot this year. We have so much to be thankful for! We have finally received a pastor, we received much welcomed new members, and things are starting to happen within the church that have long been dormant.

Truly the Holy Spirit is among us. We continue to come together and praise our God despite illness and other difficulties. We are answering the Christian calling through our giving and our programs to help the church and outside agencies. But we cannot afford to rest on our successes, we must continue the good works of Christ in the remainder of this year and in the new one that is front of us.

This month promises to be a busy one. December 2nd is the first Sunday of Advent. We will celebrate the coming of the Lord with the lighting of the advent wreath candle. The following Sunday, December 9th, we will come together as a church family at our annual Family Christmas Party which will take place at 5:30 p.m. December 9th is also the deadline for ordering poinsettias. The sign-up sheet is in the lobby on the table.

December 16th we will celebrate the Lord's Supper. After service that day, we will have a congregational meeting to vote on the proposed 2019 budget and new deacons and elders. This is an important meeting please plan on attending.

December 23rd will be our normal service at 10:45. Christmas Eve service will take place on Monday, December 24 at 6:30 p.m.

As you can see the month of December is a busy one. But I encourage each of you to take some time to share with family and friends, and prayerfully reflect on the blessings you have received this year. Give thanks and praise to God for all He does in our lives.

I sincerely wish you all a joyous Christmas Season and a New Year filled with blessings.

Beverly DeSavigny
President of Consistory



A Note from Your Pastor

Hard to believe that its Christmas time! I love the sense of communion with people, the music, the food, the hustle and bustle of the season. To be honest I could do without the cold weather though. Christmas is a magical time of year, despite the cold. People are nicer, there is a sense of joy in the air, and I feel that there is a risen awareness spiritually. (More people in church!)

Wouldn't it be nice if those things happened all the time? Imagine how pleasant life would be if we all shared in the joy of Christ's birth every day. We somehow let the excitement of Christmas wear off throughout the year, which is unfortunate. We are so blessed that He doesn't lose His excitement about us!

As we gather with family and friends this season, let us resolve to hold on to the spirit of Christmas longer in the upcoming year. We can celebrate the coming of our King repeatedly with songs in our heart and by giving of ourselves to one another. Giving gifts at Christmas is fun, but we don't have to limit it to one day a year. There are plenty of people who need gifts throughout the year. Think about giving a gift in honor of the gifts you've been given. Pray for those who are suffering in any way. Share time with those who need your presence and encouragement. Love as you are loved by our Father in heaven.

To keep Christmas alive is to keep Christ alive. We celebrate His birth and rebirth. Let us celebrate Him and our heavenly Father every day in every way. Prayerfully ask God to give you what you need to enable you to live like His son, full of love and peace, willing to share the wonders of our God with all.

As I close, I want to wish you all a blessed Christmas and prosperous New Year, but I also want to thank you all for your support of the Church and the Body of Christ. Without your financial support, the work that you do, and the prayers on our behalf the church would cease to exist. You keep Christmas in my heart all the time!

Blessings,

Pastor Gerry





Prayer List

Beverly DeSavigny
Aiden Elder
Don Howren
Betty Jamison
Becky Kunkel
Dick Leiby
Candy Lemasters

Marlin Martin
Sylvia Moyes
Norma Patchin
Linda Paxson
Jeff Robinson
Florence Simons
Joan Wimer

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.

First Ladies

The First Ladies met for lunch on Wednesday, November 14th at the church. Karen Fumerola was the hostess and she decorated the table with a Thanksgiving/Fall theme. She also provided some yummy dessert pies.

Everyone turned in their boxes for "Operation Christmas Child". Overall, more than fourteen boxes were collected. Thank you to everyone who participated and helped in making these children's lives happier.

Our next meeting will be on Wednesday, December 19th, which is our Christmas Party, at Melanie Burger's, 8183 Fairhill NE, Warren. Everyone is asked to bring a finger food and a "white elephant gift".





Christmas

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Word List

ANGEL	CHURCH	JOY	SILENT NIGHT
BABY	EGGNOG	LOVE	SLEIGH
BELLS	FAMILY	MANGER	SNOW
BETHLEHEM	GIFTS	NORTH STAR	STAR
BOXES	GOODWILL TOWARD MEN	ORNAMENTS	STOCKINGS
BULBS	HOLYNIGHT	PEACE ON EARTH	TREE
CANDLES	HOT CHOCOLATE	PRESENTS	WISE MEN
CAROLING	HYMNS	RIBBONS	WRAPPING
CHRISTMAS CARDS	JESUS	SHEPHERDS	WREATHS

Annual Family Christmas Party

Our Family Christmas Party will be held on Sunday, December 9, 2018 @5:30 p.m. Please bring a covered dish and your own table service. Beverages will be provided.

The Trumbull Senior Productions will be our guests this year. All are welcome to join us for a night of delicious food, fun, and entertainment.

**Sharon Longworth will also be collecting for staff Christmas gifts through Sunday, December 9th.

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 or Karen Schoch 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.





Angel Tree

The Boomers are once again sponsoring the Angel Tree this Christmas Season. In the coming days, tags will appear on the Christmas tree in the lobby. We ask those who choose to participate, to take a tag and purchase the gift suggested on that tag. Your wrapped gift should be returned to the church by Sunday, December 16th with the tag attached.

We are helping two families, one of which has a special needs child, so some of the gift suggestions are specific. This is due to the child's disabilities.

We appreciate your past support of this worthwhile project, and we hope you will find it in your heart to participate this year. Thank you!

Harvest Sunday



We collected over 1100 lbs. of food for the Warren Family Mission. How wonderful we have come together in spirit and deed!

Altar Flowers

If you would like to honor someone with flowers, please see the sign up sheet on the office door or call the church office. The cost is \$15 per vase, \$30 for both.



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

Pastor:

Rev. Gerald Gammon

Pastor Emeritus:

Joe Doran
Everett Gould

Elder Emeritus:

Al Conklin
Don Howren
Ed Gilbert
Sylvia Moyes
George Schneider
Bill Schoch
Charles Weller
Ken Wright

Deacon Emeritus:

Dick Leiby



Consistory

President:	Beverly DeSavigny	Elders:	Keith Burger	12/31/18
			Betty Jamison	12/31/20
Vice President:	Bill Paxson		Donny Longworth	12/31/20
			Bill Paxson	12/31/18
Secretary:	Nancy Hamrick			
		Deacons:	Joanne Bode	12/31/19
Treasurer:	Donny Longworth		Melanie Burger	12/31/19
			Bev DeSavigny	12/31/18
Financial Officer:	Keith Burger		Judy Fabian	12/31/18
			Jeff Robinson	12/31/19
Financial Bookkeeper:	Donna Mark		Bob Spencer	12/31/18
			Homer Wiland	12/31/19