

# JANUARY

**Parish News**

**2024**

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**First United Church of Christ**

## **A Note from Your Pastor**

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

HAPPY NEWY YEAR! I pray that the New Year will bring you all prosperity, good health, and much joy!

With a new year, we celebrate another year of life. As the past few years have shown us, that is a gift that not all get to share. But what does it really mean to have such a gift? What do we do with it? We can sit around and reflect on the past and the dreams we had for our future, or we can use the time we have been blessed with to live a life that makes a difference. A difference for ourselves and others. I realize that many of us are no longer physically able to do what we once did, myself is certainly included. But we have the chance to help others and in doing so bring more fulfillment to our own lives.

We can help others to realize their potential by sharing our knowledge, our time, and our faith. We can help others by living out the time we have left on this earth being a good example of the love that Jesus exemplified with His life. We have all faced struggles in our lives, and we have survived many different trials and tribulations. We can help others to do so too by sharing our experiences and the lessons we learned from our own situations.

We can testify to the importance of Jesus in our lives and how faith has helped us through even our darkest times. We can use our God-given gifts to help others realize that they too have special gifts and talents to share and bolster others in their times of need.

As we look around us, it is easy to see that the number of people of faith is dwindling. Why? Is it because people do not feel that they need a God? That it really doesn't matter what they do? Perhaps. But maybe it is because they really haven't had anyone share our faith with them before. Or maybe they have had a bad experience with people of religion. (We need to remind them that Jesus did too!)

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## A Note from Your Pastor

Whatever the case, trials and tribulations will occur. None of us are immune. But as people of faith, we know that things will get better! For our God has told us that He has plans for us to prosper. We know and trust in His plan for us, eternal life with Him through Jesus Christ our savior! We need to work to grow our faith and help others to do the same. We might just be the miracle they have been searching for!

As we age, it can be easy to think of ourselves as too old or irrelevant. Nothing could be further from the truth! We are now more mature, wiser, and the vessels of history and knowledge. We are what will shape the future of the world, both this one and the next one. But we can only do this if we are willing to share what we have inherited from those before us!

Again, I wish you all a very happy and prosperous New Year! I hope that the greatest struggle you have this year is remembering to write 2024 instead of 2023! May almighty God bless you and keep you safe from all harm, and may you share your blessings in such a way that you make a difference!

With love and prayers,

*Pastor Gerry*

## Thank You

I want to thank Pastor Gammon for the beautiful service, Karen Fumerola for picking out the hymns, and everyone who came to pay their respects. I also want to thank everyone for their cards, prayers, & phone calls for Angie and your prayers and sympathy during this very difficult time.

*Homer Wiland*

**November Income**

\$4,307.50

**November Expenditures**

\$8,115.12

**November Net**

-\$3,807.62





## January Update

Happy New Year! Question: How many of you make New Year's resolutions? I have to admit I have never been one to follow this tradition very seriously. I think I kind of know that they wouldn't last long and really have never thought that you accomplish a whole lot just by turning a page on the calendar. If it was really that important I probably would have been doing it in December. But there is one resolution that I have made in the past and will resolve to do again. This year I promise to be a regular blood donor. This is something I have done in the past, but got away from during the pandemic. This is such a simple action that helps so many and the need is tremendous. I would encourage all who are able to take this one small step to help others.

Here at First Church, we are beginning the New Year with a mission as always of serving our God in the best manner we can. We are small in numbers, but very faithful and continue to serve our fellow man. This is evidenced in a number of ways as shown in our toy drive, our Harvest Sunday food collection, and our continual year round donations to the Floating Five. I am also so touched by the support our church family gives to those in our church who have suffered losses. If my count is correct, we lost four faithful servants this past year.

At our recent Congregational meeting, we elected two people to new terms as Elders. They are Keith Burger and Karen Schoch. Thanks so much to these two who agreed to serve a second term. Also thanks to the Congregation for approving a budget for 2024. And thanks to the Finance Committee for their work in putting the plan together. That group is comprised of Sheryl Cozad, Keith Burger, and Reverend Gammon.

Speaking of finances, we thank everyone for their support of our church. With the age and limited incomes of many of us, it is a sacrifice to continue these contributions. We currently are running at a deficit, but have been able to continue thanks to endowments made to our church over the years. Unfortunately that money will not last forever. Beginning in January the Elders will begin discussions concerning our future as a Congregation. The Elders will not resolve this issue by themselves as it will require input and help from everyone who is a part of our church, whether as a member or an active participant in our church functions. We ask everyone to be an active part in these discussions.

In closing, thank you to everyone who contributed to our Christmas celebrations, including Sharon Longworth who organized the Christmas party, Karen Fumerola and the choir for the beautiful music, the Advent and Christmas Eve readers and also to Reverend Gammon for his inspiring messages during such as beautiful time as we celebrated the birth of our Savior, Jesus Christ. After all, He is the reason we do all these things. Emmanuel.

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

Ron Schoch





# Happy New Year

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

## WORD LIST:

|                |                |              |              |
|----------------|----------------|--------------|--------------|
| AULD LANG SYNE | COUNTDOWN      | GUY LOMBARDO | NOISE MAKERS |
| BLACK EYED     | DANCING        | HOPE         | REVELRY      |
| PEAS           | FALLING ASLEEP | KISS         | TIMES SQUARE |
| CELEBRATION    | FIREWORKS      | MIDNIGHT     |              |
| CHAMPANGE      |                |              |              |





## Prayer List

|                 |                       |                  |                   |
|-----------------|-----------------------|------------------|-------------------|
| American People | Peggy Marshall        | <b>Shut-ins:</b> | Lyon/Busko Family |
| Donna Beavers   | Larry Mattison        | Donna Beavers    | Williams Family   |
| Becky Callahan  | Norma Patchin         | Ruth Gilbert     | Wiland Family     |
| Betsy Chapley   | Mary Sabol            | Betty Howren     |                   |
| Dave Davis      | Layes Wood            | Dick Leiby       |                   |
| Roger Davis     |                       | Marilyn Leiby    |                   |
| Phil Fletcher   | Those affected by     | Glenn Mark       |                   |
| Ruth Gilbert    | the conflicts through | Norma Patchin    |                   |
| Dean Mahalick   | out the world         | Barb Sponaugle   |                   |

## 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 |
| <b>Secretary:</b>         | Nancy Hamrick |                 | Karen Schoch     | 12/31/23 |
| <b>Treasurer:</b>         | Rev. Gammon   | <b>Deacons:</b> | Melanie Burger   | 12/31/24 |
|                           |               |                 | Sheryl Cozad     | 12/31/25 |
| <b>Financial Officer:</b> | Sheryl Cozad  |                 | Judy Fabian      | 12/31/24 |
|                           |               |                 | Marian Gammon    | 12/31/25 |
| <b>Bookkeeper:</b>        | Sheryl Cozad  |                 | Candy Lemasters  | 12/31/25 |
|                           |               |                 | Sharon Longworth | 12/31/25 |
|                           |               |                 | Debbie Wimer     | 12/31/24 |

