

Disciples Christian Church *Spreading the Word*

www.dccchamilton.org

December 2018



Merry Christmas

OUTREACH

Toiletry/Hygiene Ministry

On Wednesday, November 9, from 5:00 PM to 6:30 PM Disciples Christian Church held another successful evening regarding our free Toiletry/ Hygiene Outreach Ministry to the neighbors of our community. This month, 51 households were served, with 24 of them new to the Pantry. Since August, 95 families have been served with this outreach. Thanks again to all of our church members/ volunteers who contribute to support such a caring and needed Outreach. Please continue to help us support and stock our church pantry.

Our next Toiletry Ministry Give-Away will be Wednesday, December 5 from 5:00-6:30. Please arrive around 4:45 if you are helping. Please see the sign-up sheet to help.



Chosen

Meals will be served at **Chosen** on Wednesday, December 12th and Thursday, December 13th. See Sign-up Sheets on the board.

Miss Betty's Angels

Our Christmas Outreach Project will be to provide gifts to the children's ministry at the Trailer Park down the street. The sign-up list is now full. If you didn't get on the list, consider bringing gifts of candy to share, or donating money for this project. If you did sign-up, the gifts should range between \$5.00 - \$10.00 (so all get similar sized gifts) and should be brought to the church, unwrapped, by December 16th. Be sure to include a note of the age and gender you bought the gift for.

Community Meals

The December 28th Community Meal will be prepared on Thursday, December 27th at Zion Lutheran Church.

Special Offering – Christmas

The Christmas Special Offering will be collected December 16th and 23rd.

Our finest gifts support the work of regional ministries this Christmas. Your regional ministry works to:

- Connect congregations to each other
- Foster faith development
- Gather Disciples in camps, conferences, and assemblies
- Nurture the development of a new generation of pastors
- Assist churches in calling new ministers
- Interpret the global mission of the Church
- Represent the Church in ecumenical gatherings
- Counsel and pray with those who are troubled of spirit
- Lead the Church to address racism
- Inspire leaders to experiment and create
- Witness to the power of God to make things new

Your gift to the Christmas Offering supports the work of the Christian Church in Ohio, including Camp Christian, sustaining the life of our church. This year, due to the financial situation of the Region, this offering is more crucial than ever since the Christmas Offering is 40% of the Regional budget. Thank you for providing your finest gift.

EDUCATION & FELLOWSHIP

Fall Bible Study

Our Fall Bible Study is almost over. We saw the 4th movie – “It’s a Wonderful Life” last week, and will conclude with two discussions on either Monday evenings at 6:00 p.m. or Tuesdays at 1:30 p.m. in the afternoon.

White Christmas Messages

Okay maybe not White Christmas, but White Board Messages of Good Cheer can be had by all. Help us fill the church White Board in the Hallway with Christmas cheer for one another. Save on postage and give cheer to the congregation by posting your Christmas card for all to see. Perhaps consider the postage you save this year and donate it to a worthy cause.

Baby Shower

On Sunday, November 4, 2018, an all -church baby shower was held in the church fellowship hall for Reverend Bonnie and David Goodwin. A warm welcome of wonderful food, shower cake, and gifts were shared with love. May God bless Bonnie, David and Lily with a lifetime of health and happiness. A great time shared by all!



We had a request to share the recipe for the Hot Chicken Salad. Here it is:

HOT CHICKEN SALAD

6 cups (about 3 lbs) cooked, cut up chicken breasts

3 tablespoons lemon juice – pour over chicken

½ teaspoon salt

6 hard cooked eggs, chopped

1 can cream of chicken soup (or use cream of celery)

1 cup Hellmann's Mayonnaise

3 cups chopped celery

2 teaspoons onion, chopped

Mix the above together and place in a 9 x 13" baking dish. Refrigerate 12 hours before baking.

When ready to bake, add:

2/3 cup slivered almonds

1-1/2 cups grated Colby Cheese

1-1/2 cups crushed potato chips.

Bake at 400 degrees for 20-25 minutes

Thanksgiving Dinner

On Sunday, November 18, 2018. Disciples Christian Church held their annual Thanksgiving Dinner in the fellowship hall. Our buffet dinner included, Turkey, dressing, mashed potatoes, gravy, broccoli casserole, corn pudding, rolls, an assortment of pies, cakes, apricot bars, various cranberry dishes, coffee, tea and much, much more. What a wonderful time to gather and give thanks. Many blessings to all who contributed and prepared the Thanksgiving dishes. A great time was shared by all.



Men's Group News

We will continue to address growth in Spirituality with Andy Stanley and have some brief discussions as we continue to focus on becoming the men that God made us to be by viewing "It's Personal" with Andy Stanley. This series is about how "You don't have to understand everything to believe in something." We ran late in discussions and did not get time to review session 3 of "It's Personal" with Andy Stanley, but we will reconvene with session 3 at our January meeting since our December meeting will be a gathering out at a restaurant.

At the October meeting, the men discussed Thoughts on the fundraisers/Fellowship for December, however, they decided that they will not be doing one until sometime early in 2019.

There was discussion on sharing of ideas with the men's group from the Kemper Road to Disciples Christian Church. This too will happen after the first of the year and we talked about having them come to one of our meetings in early 2019 and we would have a very condensed meeting and then have pizza brought in for us to mingle, share some thoughts, ideas with them and let them ask questions of our group. I have spoken with the gentleman that leads the men's group at the Kemper Road Christian Church and they are looking forward to meeting with us. One of the items to discuss is possibly doing a project together that would impact the community. One such project could be in conjunction with the Sleep in Heavenly Peace Program. Sleep in Heavenly Peace Program is a group of volunteers dedicated to building, assembling and delivering top-notch bunk beds to children and families in need. All children deserve a safe, comfortable place to lay their heads. In Idaho and across the US, too many boys and girls go without a bed—or even a pillow—to sleep on.

Next meeting will be December 11th at **6** PM at a place to be determined. We will make an announcement when the location has been decided.

Keep in mind this is a relaxed environment and does not require deep theological processing, we are simply a group of guys having a discussion. We hope that those that were not able to attend our last meeting will join us on December 11th, which will be our Men's Group Holiday Gathering/Outing and will be an evening of fun and fellowship.

Blessings to all!

Next meeting will be December 11th at **6** PM, which will be our Men's Group Holiday Gathering/Outing and then January 8th at 7 PM at DCC.

The Men's Group



Care Ministry

One of my mother's favorite prayers and song was the prayer of St. Francis. My mother absolutely loved the Christmas season. She exemplified Christmas and what it was truly all about. While yes, she did go all out with decorations and gifts, she never failed to remind us what Christmas was truly about – the birth of the greatest gift, our Lord Jesus Christ.

As we enter the season of Advent, in the preparation of the birth of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, may we reflect on some of the words below in **bold** in the prayer of St. Francis. Perhaps do some random acts of kindness, like sending a card to our shut-ins, or to someone you haven't spoken to in a while, or something else you might think of, but something extra during the **Christmas** Season.

Prayer of St. Francis

Lord, make me an instrument of your peace.

Where there is hatred, **let me sow love**;

Where there is injury, **pardon**;

Where there is doubt, **faith**;

Where there is despair, **hope**;

Where there is darkness, **light**;

And where there is sadness, **joy**.

O Divine Master, grant that I may not so much seek to be consoled, as **to console**; to be understood, as to understand; to be loved, as to **love**.

For it is in giving that we receive,
it is in pardoning that we are pardoned, and
it is in dying that we are born to **eternal life**.



Blessings!!!

The Care Ministry Team.

We are here for You!!!

WORSHIP

Worship Leader Schedule

Dec. 2	Margaret Adamson	939-2213	Jan. 6	Dean Schmidt	777-3738
9	Jill White	829-5690	13	Cindy Williams	680-5767
16	Jeri Pendergest	608-5859	20	Terry White	829-5690
23	Mike Rosser	777-1828	27	Pete Ayers	777-8530
30	Jana Mullins	288-0308			

Come, Share Rejoice



Advent Devotional

The Christian Church in Ohio has prepared an Advent Devotional. It may be found by control-clicking on the link below. I've also saved the .pdf file and attached it to the email used to send this newsletter.

<https://mail.google.com/mail/u/0/?tab=Cm#inbox/FMfcgxvzLrKfvHPrBPkFMsrcPfdxJzdB>

Poinsettias

Now is the time to decorate the church with poinsettias. You can bring a fresh or silk one anytime. If it's fresh, let me know so we can keep it watered. Thanks, Jan R

PASTOR'S PONDERINGS

What a year 2018 has been for our congregation and for my family especially. We have done a lot of waiting, preparing, and rejoicing together. As a congregation, we prepared for construction in our fellowship hall; waited for permits; waited for contractors; waited for completion, and then rejoiced at the sight of an open and welcoming space for further ministry together. As the Goodwin family, we have prepared every detail we can imagine for Miss Lily, we have waited the months to go by and soon we will rejoice as she joins our family come Christmas! I must say it has been a different year for me as I have progressed through this pregnancy and paused frequently to imagine Mary, the mother of Jesus, going

through the same milestones. Though she may not have had the multitude of doctor's appointments I have endured, she would have had similar hopes and dreams for the baby growing inside of her. I imagine her to feel as unprepared as I find myself no matter the preparation that I attempt to organize. In truth, a baby changes everything. Lily will change our lives forever. The Christ Child changes ALL of our lives forever. By welcoming a babe in a manger over 2000 years ago and hearing the hope brought to this world through the coming Kingdom, our very lives are changed if we accept the true gift of the season into our hearts.

Blessings and Merry Christmas!

Rev. Bonnie Goodwin

MISCELLANEOUS NEWS

Congregational Meeting

A Congregational Meeting has been called for Sunday, December 2nd to vote on the 2019 Budget. Please plan to stay for this important vote. If you are not able to be at there, copies of the budget will be available in the narthex for a few weeks.

Bonnie's Maternity Leave

Baby Lily is almost here! And that means it's time to let the congregation know about Bonnie's maternity leave and what it means for us.

Subject to Lily's approval, Bonnie's maternity leave will begin on December 19 and will end on February 27. If Lily needs to come earlier, then dates will be shifted accordingly. She will return part time on February 28 for Sunday preaching and visitations, but no office hours for 4 weeks.

While Bonnie is gone, Carol Oetzel will be serving as our minister for December and January. She will preach at all services and has agreed to provide any pastoral visits/care needed during this time. She is not available in February, so John Pendergest has agreed to fill the pulpit on Feb 3 and 17. The remaining 2 Sundays will be filled by Rev. Steve Tossey. You may remember that he filled the pulpit a couple of times at our other location. During the month of February, all pastoral and visitation needs will be filled by John Pendergest and the Elders.

It is important that the congregation understand that during the December 19-February 27 portion of her maternity leave, Bonnie will not be available for pastoral duties, which means she will do no visitation and no counseling. Please contact any of the Elders or John Pendergest to arrange for these needs. Current Elders are Dave and Margaret Adamson, John and Kathy Baughman, Jana Mullins, and Cindy Williams.

If you have any questions, please contact me.

Kathy Baughman, Chair of Elders

Communication Concerns

There are several ways that we communicate in our congregation for you to be aware of on a weekly basis. Many are aware that we have announcements mentioned in worship, as well

as, printed in the Sunday bulletin. Each month a newsletter is prepared with information for the congregation about the month's upcoming events and ministry. The White Board in the hallway is used for sign-ups to help with outreach ministries and even fellowship events. The Bulletin Board in the hallway is used to convey current information about the Region, regional events, regional finances, community-wide events, and even services available to the community. This board is updated regularly, and it is important to check out not to miss anything. Another way we communicate is through email from Rev. Bonnie or the Church Office in the event that something is occurring on a short notice. All of these are avenues for us to communicate with one another. In the new year, Rev. Bonnie will try to make it more of a priority to update the Facebook page on a regular basis to relay information. We need your help though. Communication can only occur if we take the time to be aware of all of these venues. Please take time to read the bulletin and newsletter, listen during announcements, like the church Facebook page, read your emails, and spend time in front of the bulletin and white boards.

Inclement Weather Closing Communication

For Sunday morning services, a decision will be made by the President of the Congregation and the Minister (or Elder Chair) to close or remain open no later than 9 a.m. If the decision is to cancel services, an email will go out to the congregation and friends alerting them to the decision. For those who do not use email, communication will be made via the phone.

*****In the event that services remain and you are uncomfortable leaving the house or driving, please stay home. We would rather our friends and family stay safe than get out in unsafe conditions for them personally.*****

During the week, the minister will have the discretion to close the office and work from home depending on the condition of the roads and our facilities. Again, if the office will be closed an email will go out to the congregation alerting them. The minister will be in contact via cell phone (570)250-3057 and email (bbrowning83@gmail.com) in this case.

November 2018 Financial Report

Simplified Report: Everything is as expected. Property is going to be over budget in 2018 due to work being done on the building (not remodeling).

Checking Account Balance at 11/30/2018: \$4,079.40

Investment Account Balance (DCEF): \$290,818.62

November Income (Offerings): \$ 7,973.89 actual, \$6,676.09 adjusted

November Expenses/Outreach: \$ 16,134.93 actual, \$7,392.81 adjusted.

* Adjusted takes into consideration early offerings and the interest from investments in the budget and pro-rates these throughout the year. It also uses normal expenses only. Insurance and budgeted capital improvements are spread throughout the year. This provides a better month - to - month picture of how we're doing than the actual numbers. Adjustments made this month: Income - money removed from sale of stock given as an early offering (it's part of the adjustment I've been adding in each month of early offerings), \$3,105.35 for tables and chairs (part of remodeling expenses) and \$5,940.77 for the fire alarm installation. These aren't part of the budget.

Fellowship Hall

Just a few “wrap-up” items on the Fellowship Hall:

You may have noticed that one of the round tables purchased folds in half. We got this to make it easier to move upstairs in the event we want a round table there, and to allow members to borrow it if needed at their homes (similar to the way tables have been borrowed before.) To avoid conflicts, please let Diane know via email if you plan to borrow that table.

We no longer have bulletin boards on the walls, and we don't want to damage the walls with regular tape. Special tape has been purchased to use for hanging decorations – we have both one sided and double sided poster tapes. You may also use Command Hooks. The tape (and a few hooks) are located in a small bin in the Fellowship Hall Closet. Please let Diane know if you notice these supplies need replenishing. And be sure to remove the tape when the decorations are taken down.

Trustee Report

The Trustees are focusing on the budget and planning various repair and safety projects for next year. You'll hear more about those at the December 2nd Congregational meeting.

Also, during November, we received a request from Kensho Shotokan Karate asking to use our Fellowship Hall for Karate classes for neighborhood children. This benefits the community, which is one of the reasons we moved here, so we decided to pursue this. Bonnie met with them and Mike Rosser knows them from the work they do at his school and highly recommended them. The Trustees have voted to allow this. At the present time, they plan to meet on Saturdays from 11:30 – 12:30 starting in January. They will be paying rent which will cover utilities and wear and tear on the Fellowship Hall.

Finally, you saw Bonnie's note on Inclement Weather Closing Communication. I wanted to share plans for getting the lot plowed and salted. We are trying to balance keeping the lot clear so we can use the church building with being good stewards of our money. Assuming it's not actively snowing on Sunday morning or Toiletry Pantry Day, the lot will be plowed and salted in time for services/pantry. If it snows earlier in the week, and the weather forecast indicates that it will melt by Sunday, the lot will not be plowed (with the exception being the 1st Weds. of the month). That leaves the tricky situation of when it snows earlier in the week and it won't melt by Sunday. We'd like to only have to plow once, so if no further snow is expected, we would plow earlier than Sunday (and especially try to have it done by Saturday for the Karate Classes.) If more snow is expected, we may put off plowing until Saturday or Sunday.

A Message from John Pendergest

During my sermon on Sunday, November 25th, I talked about fear not being one of the gifts or spirits that God gave us, but rather fear comes to us from our enemy Satan. I shared that faith and fear cannot share the same house. They shared. There was a difference between worrying which is driven by fear and concern that is driven by compassion, a gift that God did give us. The following was authored by Thomas Merton and hopefully will inspire and help you when fear comes knocking.

Do Not Fear

My Lord God, I do not see the road ahead of me.
I cannot know for certain where it will end...
I know that You will lead me along the right road,
though I may know nothing about it.
Therefore, I trust You always.
I will not fear, for You are with me,
and You will never leave me to face my perils alone.

Thomas Merton



Faith and Fear Can't Share the Same House!

Amen!!!

Blessings!

John Pendergest

Commissioned Minister/Pastor

PRAYER REQUESTS

John Pendergest, the Goodwin Family as they await the arrival of Baby Lily, Glen Russell (Dave Adamson's Brother-in-law), Brent and Melissa Rosser (Mike & Bev's Son & Daughter-in-law), The Allen Family, Nancy Kibler (Jill White's Mother), Family of Dave Davis (Former classmate of Jana), Classmate of Debbie Ittel with rare blood disease, Father of Shawn (John P's Son's friend), Ed and Betty (friends of Jill White), Loren Hawkins (Adamson's friend), Family of Lloyd (Relative of Ellis Ittel)

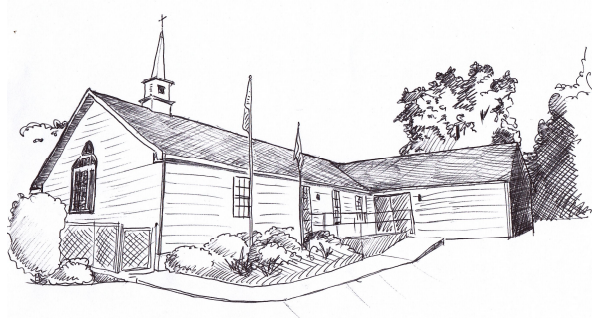
BIRTHDAYS

December		January	
Bev Rosser	2	Lynn Adams	6
Diane Kinner	8	Beverly Schmidt	11
Linda Ashbrook	14	Kim Vangen	13
John Baughman	14	Todd Richards	15
Jasmine Shanholtzer	26	Marie Garnett	25
Ellis Ittel	29	Debbie Ittel	28

DECEMBER CALENDAR

2	10:45 a.m. Worship	16	10:45 a.m. Worship
	12:00 p.m. Congregational Meeting		Gifts for Miss Betty's Angels Due
3	6:30 p.m. Bible Study		3:00 p.m. Piano Recital - Xiaoming
4	1:30 p.m. Bible Study	19	Baby Lily is supposed to arrive!
5	4:45 p.m. Toiletry Pantry Set-Up		Bonnie's Leave Starts
	5:00 p.m. Toiletry Pantry	20	6:30 p.m. Praise Team Rehearsal
9	10:45 a.m. Worship (Memorial Tree)		7:15 p.m. Choir Rehearsal
10	6:30 p.m. Bible Study	23	10:45 a.m. Worship
11	1:30 p.m. Bible Study	24	7:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Service
	6:00 p.m. Men's Group Meeting	25	<i>Merry Christmas</i>
12	5:30 p.m. Chosen	27	3:00 p.m. Community Meal Prep
13	5:30 p.m. Chosen	28	10:00 a.m. Newsletter Deadline





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