



The Johnstown United Methodist Church

January 2019

The **Connection**



Holy Cow!!! It is hard to imagine that another calendar year has come and gone. I am not sure about you, and your family, but in the pastor's house, 2018 was a year full of change. Of course, every family, or person for that matter, experiences vast amounts of change throughout their year, or even day, but none of it compares with the change that has come to the world, through the birth of Jesus Christ.

January marks the beginning of the Church season of Epiphany, or the time when the church celebrates the proclamation of the birth of Jesus. What we need to decide, in the aftermath of Christmas festivities, is if we are willing to proclaim Jesus to the world, beyond the day of His birth.

Now, I realize that the prospect of sharing anything about Jesus can be daunting during the best of times, so here are some suggestions about how to approach the opportunity:

1. **Remember that it is a privilege to share the Good News.** We have been given (which means YOU have been given) a wonderful privilege, in that *we* can share the Good News ourselves. It is not necessary for "special" or "designated" individuals to be involved, but rather this is something that all of God's people can do. By extension, we, as God's people, likewise have the same privilege of coming before God, talking with and to God, and worshipping God directly. Because of Jesus, it is not necessary for an intermediary, but rather we, ourselves, can come to God with whatever we need. Again, this is a wonderful privilege, and it should be proclaimed.
2. **Practice! Practice! Practice!** I hear frequently that it is hard to proclaim Jesus to others, because it is uncomfortable or awkward. The best remedy for this is to do it repeatedly, until it feels natural. So, it is okay to start by practicing with yourself and a mirror. Try to tell yourself about Jesus; and do it until it is no longer difficult, strange, or weird. Then you can move onto a trusted friend or confidant. Ask them how you could make your Jesus story easier to follow, or even easier to understand. Practice with them, and before you know it, this, too, will be comfortable. Then you are ready to venture out into the "real world" to do the same. If it gets rough again, go back to the basics, and practice, practice, practice!

These are just two things that might help you to discover how to capitalize on the opportunity to proclaim Jesus to those around you. Try them, and you might be surprised how much they help you to transform into a purveyor of God's Word. This does not have to be hard. Keep it simple. Relax. Perhaps this is going to be the biggest change you make in the next year, and that is okay too. Embrace it, and know that the more you tell others *about* Jesus, the more people will want to listen *to* Jesus. This is the year of proclamation. Embrace it and rejoice, Jesus Christ, the King of Kings and Lord of Lords, was born for all on Christmas day. Now, go forth and proclaim what His coming has meant to you, and how, because of Him, you will never be the same.

Pastor Matt

Pastor's Blog

by Pastor Matt



Money, Money, Money... Finance, Finance, Finance...

These are two words, which strike in the hearts of many, a sense of worry and dread. We are, after all, a church, and we should not be talking about money, right? Wrong. Rather, it is necessary to talk about money in our local church, as it is what powers the tangible aspects of ministry. Were it not for the money we collect in the form of the Sunday offering, or other special collections, the church, our church, would not be able to engage in ministry to our community and beyond. In other words, the saying that it takes money to make the world go around applies to us as well.

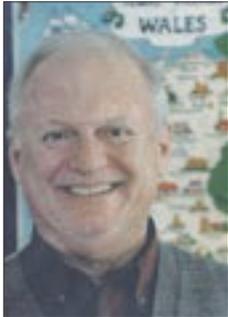
I know that this is a sensitive topic, and be assured that I am not using this as an opportunity to talk about tithing. (That is for another time! LOL) Instead, this is intended to remind the congregation that if you have questions about how or why we spend money in the areas we do, there are people to ask.

We are very blessed to have qualified individuals, who are willing to give of their time and talents, to ensure that our church stays on the right side of the balance sheet. This begins with Ron Carr. He has been so generous with his time over the past several years, filling the roles of Financial Chair, Financial Secretary, and Treasurer. For that, let me say a BIG thank you to Ron for all he has done.

Fortunately, in the year 2019, we have had two new members step forward to assume two of these roles. Matt Dole will be taking over the position of Financial Chair, while Chad Lattimer will assume the role of Financial Secretary. Between these three, along with the other members of the finance committee, the fiscal aspects of our church are in good hands.

Should you have questions or comments about our collections, spending, or other matters related to ministry, please feel free to talk to any of the following:

<i>Financial Chair:</i>	Matt Dole
<i>Financial Secretary:</i>	Chad Lattimer
<i>Treasurer:</i>	Ron Carr
<i>Other Members:</i>	Pastor Matt Cindi Reeves Mary Thomas Terry Priest Dan West



Greetings from the Associate Pastor

As many of you know, I will be six months at Christ United Methodist Church in Baltimore, Ohio, as interim pastor there. I am leaving for a "season" and hope to return to Johnstown UMC on July 1, 2019. However, I do not know what is going to happen at the Special General Conference in St. Louis in late February. Our District Superintendent, Rev. Dr. Tim Bias, does not know which churches or which pastors may leave our denomination if they are dissatisfied with the organizing option that the Special General Conference chooses.

During these winter months when the skies are cloudy and temperatures are cold (with the possibility of snow), I encourage you to think about the warmth of God's Presence in your life. God is always present to us even when we do not know it. I pray that all of you will share the warmth and strength that you receive from God's Presence with others as well. We have our family and friends, of course, but we also can share God's strength with people that we have not yet met. God's Presence and love are for everyone so please share them.

I will be returning to complete the study on the book *The Quest for Holiness* which meets at 10:30 a.m. on Thursdays through February. We will be starting again on January 17th when we will be considering Chapter Four.

I again thank you for the tremendous support and for your prayers during the time that I was sick this past summer. Your prayers have meant a great deal to me and to my family. They will never be forgotten.

Be well. Keep the faith. Seek to be disciples of our Lord Jesus Christ.

God bless you!

Pastor Stacy

Note from Cheryl Evans

I hope you have all been enjoying the Christmas season. My conversations have been going slowly due to my fall sinus infections, but I feel hale and hearty now, so I will be contacting people to finish up before we have a follow-up session together. We are planning that session after church on January 27.

If you are real nice to me (*and you always are*) I will provide a light lunch for us to enjoy as we talk.

My very best wish to all of you for a blessed 2019.



Church Finance Ministry Update *by Ron Carr, Finance Chair*

Current Balance Summary of Accounts as of December 27, 2018.

<u>General Fund</u>	<u>Savings Accounts</u>	<u>Investments Fund</u>	<u>Rental Account</u>
\$1,500	\$69,600	\$266,300	\$3,400



Note: All amounts are rounded to the nearest \$100. Figures do not include December 30th offering. The Treasurer will report the status of the church finances monthly in the newsletter. If you have any questions regarding the finances of the church, please contact Ron Carr, treasurer, at jumcfinance@twc.com or 740-973-4112.

1. General Fund- Giving for the first fifty-one Sundays of this year has averaged \$2,507 per Sunday, and the expenses have averaged \$3,840 per week, with the difference being made up with transfers from the Rental Fund, various savings funds, and spending the carryover balance in the general fund from the beginning of the year. The renovation of the rental house at 31 S. College St has been completed and paid. General Fund giving has been increasing this month and is on target to exceed the annual budget by approximately 20%. General expenses are moderating with the winter months, but repairs and renovations have drawn upon our savings.

2. Rental Fund- Two of the three rental units continue to be occupied. The unit at 31 College St. has completed major renovations and is ready to rent. All current expenses, including the new storage sheds and payments for construction costs have been paid. We have transferred \$15,400 from the Rental Account to the general fund this year to meet current church expenses, which includes the budgeted amounts for the parsonage-as-rental unit. We used some general church funds (from saving accounts) to support the rental renovations.

3. Savings & Investment Funds- There has been some decrease in our saving accounts as we spend funds to renovate the rental house at 31 College St. We have seen small increases as we receive donations to the Memorial and Mission accounts. So far, we have transferred \$47,317 from the savings accounts to the general fund for use on the church lighting project, parsonage renovation, rental house renovation and scholarships. No additional funds are expected to be needed. The Investment Funds (listed below) now includes both the Building Fund (Wright Fund) and the Capital Fund (House Sale Fund). Each of these

funds are being tracked and managed separately. The Investment Funds have dropped about \$7,000 from the opening balances for the year and are representative of the market values that have declined from the beginning of the year.

4. Planning for 2019–The Church Council has passed the 2019 budget as presented by the finance committee. Copies are available from the Church Office. We have purchased new software for church operations that will include financial contribution tracking, membership information, communications (emailing and postal mailing) support, and a host of other management tools for the pastor and staff to help with our expected growth next year. Stay tuned!

In addition to our monetary support of God's ministry here at JUMC, we need volunteers to help with the day to day financial operations of our church. To keep things running smoothly, we need help with the following:

- Counters: We need two individuals each Sunday to count and record the offering and make the deposit at Heartland Bank drop box. This takes less than 20 minutes each Sunday, and no special skills are required (training is provided). We would like to have four individuals to share the responsibility by working in pairs and rotating from week to week.

- Financial Secretary- Responsible for recording and tracking the giving statements and providing annual giving statement reports to members. Also recording the minutes of the financial committee meetings.

- Treasurer- Pay bills and do paychecks, manage accounts, and generate reports. They should be familiar with a computer financial software program such as QuickBooks, Quicken, or

(continued on page 5)



Lydia Circle

by Carol Butt

The Ladies of Lydia Circle were treated to a Christmas Brunch in the home of Mary Thomas on Wednesday December 19th. Members and guests were treated to delicious food. A brief business meeting was held and a Bible Selection about Jesus was read. Philanthropic projects were discussed. Members also brought food items for the local food pantry. Lydia Circle will be in recess through March; however, should we be graced with a mild Winter we will hold a meeting in March.

Staff Parish Relations Committee

by Cindi Reeves

The SPRC committee did not meet during December, but we would like to thank anyone who participated in the Adopt-A-Child program. We made twenty children's Christmas a little brighter. Stephanie Stephens told me that this program serves over 185 children. I was also given a tour of the facility.

Pastor Matt will resume the Tuesday morning Bible Study on January 8 due to Christmas and New Year's days. Stacy will be finishing up his Bible Study and then will be serving Christ United Methodist Church in Baltimore, Ohio beginning in January. After that interim service he will be returning to JUMC.

We have an incredible staff, and we would like to wish them and their families a wonderful Christmas and a Happy New Year.

(Finance continued from page 4)

Microsoft Money. The church can provide the computer and software, as well as training on the tasks required. The SPRC has recommended a salary of \$2,000 for the treasurer as compensation for time required for this task.

- Finance Chairperson- Lead the Finance Committee and coordinate the financial responsibilities of the church, including coordination between the various committees of the Church Council. Maintain financial policies and provide financial oversight of the church operations.

As required by our U.M. Church Discipline, each of these positions must be filled by a different person to maintain strict adherence to proper audit policies and procedures. If you are interested in helping with this ministry, please contact Ron Carr, Pastor Matt, or any member of the Finance Committee for more information. A big THANK YOU to those who have stepped forward to help with these tasks.

Thanks to all who have provided the resources we need to operate our church. Please continue to support God's church with your God-given time, talents, and resources, and help to further our mission in this community. Help to "Make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world".

Remember Our Shut Ins

Gary Banyay

Brookdale Chestnut Hill
5055 Thompson Rd., #306
Columbus, OH 43230

Send Gary's mail to:

409 Clark Dr.

Johnstown, OH 43031

Smith Clark

Sharon Brooke

Senior Living, #112

920 Sharon Valley Rd.

Newark, OH 43055

Booty Hammond

c/o Vicky Hilton

3159 Maginn Dr.

Beavercreek, OH 45434

Marge Heimerl

Kendal at Granville

2158 Columbus Rd.

Granville, OH 43023

Send Marge's mail to:

11220 Worthington Rd.

Pataskala, OH 43062

Addie Huff

Brookdale Chestnut Hill

5055 Thompson Rd., #202

Columbus, OH 43230

Mary Kearns

222 Antrim St.

Pickerington, OH 43147

Irene Long

The Inn at Summit Trail

8115 Summit Rd., #406

Reynoldsburg, OH 43068

Send Irene's mail to:

310 Oak Meadows Dr.

Pastaskala, OH 43062

Eva Nell Reed

Bennington Glen

825 State Route 61

Marengo, Ohio 43334



Caring Ministries Update

by Carol Butt, Coordinator

Prayer Ministry

Contact: Carol Butt • 740-967-9681

or Ella Brown • 740-966-3162

For prayer requests, please contact Carol Butt or Ella Brown, and if they are unavailable you may leave a message for them. In the event that one of them cannot be reached, contact the Church Secretary, Jodi at 740-967-6691 between the hours of 8 am thru noon, Monday thru Thursday.

Greeting Card Ministry

Contact: Shirley Hendren • 740-967-6142

Shirley Hendren is serving as the new Chair and you can call her if you know of anyone in our church family in need of a Thinking of You, Get Well or a Sympathy card.

Bereavement Ministry

Contact: Sharon Johnson • 740-967-7771

The Bereavement Committee had no activity during this past month.

Shut-In Ministry

Contact: Pastor Stacy • 740-739-6706

Smith Clark was visited during the month of December by the team of Ella Brown and Charlotte Berkley, Shirley Hendren and Emma Lou Rhyan visited Addie Huff and Gary Banyay. Charon Wright visited Marjorie Heimerl in rehab at the end of November. Addie Huff and Gary Banyay were also visited by Charon Wright during the month of December. Connie Ryan and Peggy Dearth visited Eva Nell Reed and Smith Clark. Pastor Stacy was able to visit Mary Kearns and Irene Long in December.

Anyone interested in joining the Shut In Ministry please contact Pastor Stacy Evans at 740-331-0205. Visitors can perk up anyone's day.

Meals Ministry

Contact: Carol Butt • 740-967-9681

The Meal Ministry committee members served no meals during the month of December.

Birthdays

Sally Hall	1/02
Ethan Risdon	1/02
Cindi Reeves	1/04
Joe Dodrill	1/05
Linda Keirns	1/09
Larry Caudle	1/11
Crystal McFellin	1/11
Barbara Fleshman	1/16
Carolyn Loggins	1/21
Marjorie Heimerl	1/23
Jim Hill	1/23
Pat Kessler	1/23
Cathy Hattery	1/24
Booty Hammond	1/29
Grace Ann Robertson	1/29
Todd Dodderer	1/31
Suzanne Pitzer	1/31

Anniversaries

Jim and Brenda Hill 1/21

Altar Flowers

Two vases • \$40

(Specify for one \$30 arrangement)

Make checks payable to JUMC with "Altar Flowers" written in the memo.

Food Pantry

PLEASE DONATE!

All donations are appreciated!
Some specific items are Canned Fruits, Peanut Butter, Jelly, Soup.

Little Friendly

Food Box

Pastor Matt & his family are in charge of the Little Friendly Food Box for January.

Thanks to all for donations!

Meet Our Members

by Mary Thomas

Neal Wengatz grew up around Parma on a farm where hogs and sheep were raised. He enjoyed theater and Boy Scouts in his youth and became an Eagle Scout. He kept raising the animals and that helped pay his way at Ohio State University where he majored in agricultural education. He was drafted and sent to Vietnam where he served as a combat medic. The next step in his adult life was construction where he was a construction manager. He built restaurants in 26 states. He also built a Holiday Inn in Bogota, Columbia. He feels that one of his prize construction projects was the Germain car dealership.



Neal then established the Home Healthcare which is in Gahanna. This really keeps him busy as he has calls to answer and getting needed items immediately to people. He does find some time for his hobbies -- Harley-Davidson motorcycles and classic Ford cars. He is a 32nd degree Mason and serves as a treasurer. He belongs to two lodges.

He is the father of three daughters. Lori lives in Florida. Mallory does social work in Columbus. Jamie lives in Johnstown and is involved in real estate. There are five granddaughters and one great-grandson.

Living in Gahanna at the present time Neal is looking forward to building a home on twenty-three acres on Miller Road starting this Spring.

New Study Coming Up

Starting **March 21, 2019** there will be a new Study offered on Thursdays at the church, exploring the topic of **Comparative Religion**. We will explore the basics of Christianity, with various denominational examples, as well as other world religions, such as Judaism, Islam, Buddhism, and Hindu faiths.



Each week we will discover what it means for adherents of each of these traditions to worship God in their way, and how that relates to the world. Our hope is that this study will provide participants a better understanding of the world around us, in addition to the way in which we can relate to others in our greater community, and beyond.

Join us at 10:30 am each week, and be prepared to be enlightened as we discover, together, the beliefs and convictions of those who surround us. If you have questions, please feel free to contact me at any time.

Pastor Matt

FREE Veggie Gardening Classes in 2019

Pataskala United Methodist Church, Pataskala Parks & Recreation, and Licking County Master Gardeners are partnering to provide six FREE vegetable growing classes in 2019.

Each Saturday morning class starts at 9:30 and will end by 11:00. In addition to learning key concepts of growing healthy productive vegetable plants, we will also talk about how folks who do not have enough space at their residence can start a shared-space Community Garden or use one that already exists in their own community.

Classes are being held at Pataskala UMC, 458 S. Main Street on the following dates:

- 1/12 - Garden Planning
- 2/02 - Seed Starting & Getting the Jump on Growing Season
- 3/02 - Preparing Garden Beds/Planting Early Crops
- 4/06 - Planting for Summer/Limited Space Options
- 5/04 - Maintaining a Healthy Garden
- 6/01 - Harvesting Crops/Planting Late Crops

These workshops will be conducted by Licking County Master Gardener Volunteers which is a 501c3 non-profit organization affiliated with OSU Extension in Newark. LCMGV provides research-based horticultural education throughout Licking County.

Contact Lori Swihart, OSU Master Gardener Coordinator for Licking County, at 740-670-5322 or visit LickingCountyEvents.com website for more information about each class.

thank you!

to my church family for all the cards, visits, thoughts and prayers during my hip surgery and recovery.

A special thanks to Pastor Stacy for the visits, prayers and support while I was hospitalized and at Kendal where I am now, in assisted living, doing real well.

I hope to one day soon be back to church to see you all and to thank you in person. For now I am working on getting stronger with some therapy.

*Your visits and cards have been wonderful and I appreciate it all very much. **Marjorie Heimerl***

New Year Prayer:

Thank You Lord for giving me

The brand new year ahead.

Help me live the way I should

As each new day I tread.

Give me gentle wisdom

That I might help a friend,

Give me strength and courage

So a shoulder I might lend.

The year ahead is empty,

Help me fill it with good things

Each new day filled with joy

And happiness it brings.

Amen.



January

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 	2 7:30 pm <i>Choir</i>	3	4 8 pm <i>AA Meeting</i>	5
6	7 7 pm CCL 7:30 <i>Trustees</i>	8 10:30 am <i>Faith Exp. @Hot Spot</i> 8 pm <i>AA Meeting</i>	9 7:30 pm <i>Choir</i>	10 10:30 am <i>UMW</i> 7:30 pm <i>Finance</i>	11 8 pm <i>AA Meeting</i>	12
13	14	15 10:30 am <i>Faith Exp. @Hot Spot</i> 8 pm <i>AA Meeting</i>	16 7:30 pm <i>Choir</i>	17 10:30 am <i>The Holy Spirit Bible Study</i>	18 8 pm <i>AA Meeting</i>	19
20 Guest Lay Speaker: <i>Kathy Moore</i> Following Worship <i>Hospitality & Fellowship</i>	21 	22 10:30 am <i>Faith Exp. @Hot Spot</i> 8 pm <i>AA Meeting</i>	23 7:30 pm <i>Choir</i>	24 DEADLINE for February Newsletter Article 10:30 am <i>The Holy Spirit Bible Study</i>	25 8 pm <i>AA Meeting</i>	26
27	28 7:30 pm <i>Ldrshp. Council</i>	29 10:30 am <i>Faith Exp. @Hot Spot</i> 8 pm <i>AA Meeting</i>	30 7:30 pm <i>Choir</i>	31 10:30 am <i>The Holy Spirit Bible Study</i>		

Johnstown UMC
159 S. Main Street
Johnstown, OH 43031

Email: jumcoffice159@gmail.com
Website: www.johnstownumc.com
Office Hours: 8:15am-Noon, M-Th
Phone: 740.967.6691

Postage



“Together, let us make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world!”



The **Connection**

JANUARY 2019

Johnstown United Methodist Church
Sundays • 10:30am



Happy New Year!