

Tower Times

St. John's United Church of Christ

515 East Third Street

Dayton, OH 45402

February 2018



Believe it or not, Lent is almost upon us! I know, it seems that we just finished the Advent and Christmas seasons; truth be told, we did! For reasons that are more than a bit difficult to explain, the annual life of the church sees both of these busy -if powerful- seasons come virtually back-to-back! With the Lenten season almost upon us, some of you might have questions bubbling in the back of your minds - What do I need to give up? What are we doing as a church? What's the point of all of this? To begin to place answers to these, I think it's important to firstly consider what the intent of the Lenten Season holds within it.

Lent, contrary to popular belief has never been intended as a season of guilt, shame, suffering, or torment. Instead, Lent has been a period that has been intended to prepare us for a continuing death -to ourselves and the things of this world- so that we might know and experience new life on the morning of Easter. Now, death certainly brings with it symptoms of suffering and torment, there's no argument in that, and the transformation Lent calls to is one that certainly can call us to give-up on or of things, and to consider -sometimes painfully and shamefully so- just who we are and who God is. All the same, the overall intent of Lent -acute side-effects aside- is to prepare one for new life, life that is beyond one's self and one's world, life that is eternal and Christ-like. With this framework laid out, I'd like to talk a bit about what you can expect to see at St. John's this Lenten season.

1.) An Examination of What We Believe: If you haven't noticed, our website has a section that says "What We Believe." For our Sunday services, from February 18th onwards in the season, we'll be examining these points of faith, what they mean, and how they call us to be. Moreover, Bible Study will be returning every Thursday morning at 11, to provide a more detailed engagement with the background and intricacies of these beliefs. Finally, we'll be challenging and contrasting our beliefs by exploring a video series entitled "Discovering Islam"



every Tuesday at 7pm. The goal of all of these efforts will be to help spark our journeys to know a bit more about who God is and a bit more of who we are in light of that.

2.) An Examination of How We Worship: At a meeting, on the 24th of January, members of the Christian Nurture, Worship, and Building and Property committees discussed how we might make our worship practices more engaging for the elderly, families, singles, and small children. Right now, we have a set pattern of worship that is a "one size fits all" construct. Now, don't get me wrong, I like our worship -heck, I design it weekly- but all parties involved agreed we needed to do more to creatively engage all ages and stations within our Sunday morning worship. What will this ultimately look like? Heck if we know, but we have some ideas! Thus, during the Lenten season, you might see some new things popping into the bulletin for Sunday worship. Some of these things may work; some of these things may not, but in all of this we hope to learn a bit more about what it is to live-into the new life and new ways of being that God calls us towards.

In all of these things, I think we will help examine who we are as a people of faith and what we intend to be as God's Holy Church. Again, some of these things are experimental, some of them may require us to give-up on certain things, and some might be downright painful, but all of these will help lead us to an Easter morning where new life and new living are far from abstract ideas, but are instead very real and very near to who we, one and all, are and how we live.

Here's to the journey!



VP Article - February 2018

Congratulations & Thank you to the 2018 Council & Committee Members:

OFFICERS: President -Judy Humphrys
Vice President: - Chris van Breukelen
Secretary: - Ballard Yates
Treasurer: - Jeff Gerrior

Budget & Finance:

Chair – Patty Staley

Nick Schumacher 2019

Ron Duckson 2019

Deborah Watts 2018

Doug Goudy 2018

Building & Property:

Chair – Ed Humphrys

Tim White 2018

Brian Dunkle 2018

Marlene Miller 2019

Wilfred van Breukelen 2019

*Steve Boggs – Ex-Officio

Worship:

Chair - Pat Kern

Dottie Norton 2018

Anita Hedeker 2018

Edie Jenkins 2019

Gary Barlow 2019

*Jeff Campbell – Ex-Officio

Christian Nurture:

Chair – Ethel Burns

Pat Goudy 2018

Karen Clark 2018

Jill Johnson 2019

Ann Morrissey 2019

*The Pastor & Council President are Ex-Officio Members of Every Committee

Dee Goudy & Patsy Goin have served on the Budget & Finance Committee.

Diane Peters assists the Worship Committee & Brian Thompson assists Building & Property.

Thank you to all for your service.



St. John's was recognized as an official Historic Landmark of the City of Dayton in a service in January. Pictured is Reverend Adam receiving the plaque that signifies our designation.

GOT SCHOLARSHIPS?

Dayton Foundation – ScholarshipCONNECT

<https://www.daytonfoundation.org/scholars.html>

Applications now available. Close: **March 9, 2018 - 4pm.**

1200 students received assistance through this valuable resource.

We extend our sympathy to the family & friends of Emma Sheridan. She was an awesome lady & a lifelong member of St. John's.

OPPORTUNITY TO PROVIDE GOOD PUBLICITY FOR ST. JOHN'S & HELP THE COMMUNITY:

WYSO – Radio – Week of March 5

WDPR – Radio – Mon., Mar. 18 - Sun., Mar. 25, 2018

THINK TV – Mon., April 16, - Sat., April 21

By pooling our contributions, we are able to provide publicity for St. John's. We are not asking that you take dollars away from your St. John's donations. However, if you are supporting these other organizations, consider being part of the St. John's team.

Please contact me. Chris van Breukelen, 885.4784

Respectfully submitted,

Chris van Breukelen

Budget & Finance

The Budget & Finance Committee met Sunday January 7, 2018. Present at the meeting were: Patty Staley, Chair, Debbie Watts, Doug Goudy, Nick Schumacher, Jeff Gerrior, and guest, Norm Neubauer. Dee Goudy was present briefly to present minutes from the December Meeting for approval. Ron Duckson and Rev. Wirrig were not present as both were out of town.

The meeting was called to order by Patty Staley, Chair.

First order of Business was nomination of Secretary and Vice Chair. Nick Schumacher volunteered to fill the position of Secretary and Doug Goudy volunteered to serve as Vice Chair. A formal vote will be taken at the next meeting with the provision of a proxy/e-mail vote from Ron Duckson to provide a quorum. All present at the meeting are in favor of Nick as Secretary and Doug as Vice Chair.



The minutes from the December 10, 2017 meeting were reviewed and approved.

Jeff Gerrior noted that the Treasurer's Report was not ready but he would have it ready for presentation at Council. So the Committee will have two reports to review at next meeting.

In new business, Patty reviewed the expectations of confidentiality the committee is expected to adhere to. She also reviewed the role and responsibilities of the committee and its members. Patty will again attempt to attend at least two meetings of all other committees to further understand the needs of each and has encouraged the other members of Budget and Finance to also try to attend at least one meeting of each of the other committees as well. The Responsibilities of the committee include monitoring and maintaining the Budget and Stewardship primarily and representation on both Personnel (Doug Goudy and Patty Staley) and Parking Ministry (to be appointed once status of committee has been determined) Committees.

Committee activities and focus for the upcoming year will include the Budget with more review and input from all members of the committee. Patty will again ask Council for direction in having committees submit their budget requirements by the August Council Meeting so that Budget & Finance can prepare the Budget for submission to Council in September allowing time for revisions or corrections if needed prior to the November Congregational Meeting. Each committee member was provided a copy of the Budget to become familiar with. Stewardship will also be a major focus of the committee given its direct tie into the budget process.

In old business, the City of Dayton Historical Landmark Designation plaque will be presented at the January 14th Worship Service.

Director of Family Life Ministries – there are two people exploring “member in discernment” status with SONKA. (That's like our ordinand status...) If they move forward there is potential one would like to serve in this capacity.

Stewardship is an area where much consideration and work is needed. Patty has asked the committee members to each take the Stewardship packet and the Legacy Planning pamphlet and review them and make recommendations on how we can make

more viable to meet the needs of the Church for budgeting and planning purposes. For the last two years we have only received 21 slips returned. While we are a smaller congregation at the moment, there is still a lot of room for greater response to fill the needs of the Church. Suggestions made in the meeting that will be considered is to have Committee Chairs pass out and collect the Stewardship slips; separating the financial from the time and talent, etc. We have a secure lock box that will be used for the next round so that they do not have to be placed in the offering plates. Also, we would like to consider doing Stewardship in the month of July before the budget is prepared rather than in September after it is more or less completed.

Constitution and ByLaws, there has not been any additional work on these as of yet due to the parking, holidays and other items of note that needed attention, however, Patty will again request Council to try to bring this matter back to the front of the focus for revision to better meet the changing needs of the Church.

Grants and Fundraising, Patty noted that Reverend Wirrig has done a fantastic job of looking for and securing grants and other methods of fundraising and projects that will bring more to the Church. However, she requested that each of the committee members should also be doing their part searching for grants through The Dayton Foundation, local and federal – google – be creative and see what we as a committee can do to ease the financial burden of Reverend Wirrig and the Church as a whole. Also the committee was asked to think of various fundraising activities that might also prove beneficial. Patty will revisit the issue of a fundraising committee at Council as well. Some suggestions that came up during discussions on this topic include: Food Truck Rally in the parking lot and/or in conjunction with some of the areas other Downtown Dayton Events and maybe the Third on Third, etc. Bingo was suggested but will require several considerations that will have to be reviewed (legal in particular).

With respect to parking, the committee was updated on the current status of parking, the temporary food truck lease, and other considerations being discussed including conversations with neighboring businesses on the status of our parking and parking ministry. Further updates will be made after Council has addressed the matter of Parking Ministry.

The floor was opened to comments and questions, a question was raised regarding Parking Ministry as to what would happen if a request for funds was made given

that there currently is not a Chair and we are not appointing a member yet. Patty noted that the Council President is who makes the appointment of the chair for Parking Ministry but that a vote could still be taken, as I can act as the representative until we appoint someone else but that Council will most likely be discussing Parking Ministry at the meeting on Wednesday so we don't really believe there would be an issue/emergency that could not be addressed.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

The next meeting of the Budget & Finance Committee meeting will be on Sunday, February 11, 2017 at 9:15 a.m.

If anyone has any questions or concerns regarding the information discussed here or in the Budget & Finance Committee, I welcome you to speak with me at any time. I also invite anyone who would like to attend the meetings to join us as a guest. If you have something that needs to be addressed at the meeting, let me know so that I can place the information on the agenda.

Respectfully Submitted,



Patty Staley, Chair

Budget & Finance Committee



WORSHIP

LENT BEGINS ASH WEDNESDAY FEB. 14

Exploring Our Faith is the theme for Pastor Adam's Sunday morning sermons during Lent. Music, scripture, prayer will be led by the choir. Plan to be with us as we make the journey together through these coming weeks.

Dates to Note -

Holy Communion Feb. 4

Carry-in Dinner Feb. 11

Ash Wednesday Feb. 14 at 12 noon. No lunch provided but folks may want to get together and go for a bite to eat following.

Study Group 'Discover Islam' DVD documentary films Tuesdays during Lent 7 p.m.

Mar. 25 Palm Sunday 10:30

Maundy Thursday Mar. 29 at 7 p.m.

Good Friday Mar. 30 at Noon with lunch to follow.

Easter April 1 Easter Breakfast and 10:30 service

Random Notes

Pastor Jeff offers **Holy Communion** immediately following the regular worship service on all Sundays except the first Sunday of the month.

The new **Flower Calendar** is posted outside Pastor Adam's door. Thanks to our folks for providing altar flowers most Sundays. Flower arrangements that are placed by the church are distributed to shut-ins or other individuals who might be observing a special occasion in their lives.

Liturgists and greeters. If you would like to serve, please contact Edie Jenkins or anyone on Worship. Contact Pat Goudy if you would like to serve as an **Usher**.

Thanks to Pat & Doug Goudy and Pat Kern for recent contributions to our **Stivers Fund**.

Pat Kern



OUR STIVERS STUDENTS

You have probably noticed our two Stivers students have taken a much more active part in our choir under Jeff Campbell's direction. Sunday, Jan. 21 Camryn demonstrated her ability with a difficult Ravel piano piece. Now she has begun the exciting process of visiting music schools making plans for this fall. She will graduate in May. Logan has increasingly been doing solo parts. We're looking forward to his directing the choir one of these Sunday mornings. Logan is a junior and we expect him to be with us at least another year. He is interested in developing a career in conducting.

Most of you know our students receive a small stipend for participating in our choir. This is not a church budgeted item and is covered by donations from individuals, parking ministry funds and a grant we received from Sonka last year. If you would like to contribute, envelopes marked *Stivers Fund* are available on the desk outside the sanctuary. We believe this is a valuable program for both St. John's and our young people. Choir has trained voices supporting it while our students receive experience working with a choir in a religious setting.

Pat Kern

Worship Committee



Friends,

Your St. John's Building and Property Committee has been busy in the cold of this past December and January. Busy clearing walks and salting the parking lot. Busy with Christmas decorating and then un-decorating. And especially busy with our heating system.

In December the boiler control systems— involving both pneumatics and electronics— failed us. As a result, the boiler overheated and over pressurized the system causing a major leak in the main line serving the south end of the Sanctuary. As a result we had a couple of cool Sunday services, and no heat in the core of the Education Building including the Social Room. There was also a major mess in one of the rooms of the basement: water, wet plaster, asbestos, and years of dirt all came cascading out of the basement ceiling soaking the old carpeting and threatening to rot the wooden floor underneath. Cleaning up required head to toe coveralls, masks, and a lot of trash bags, and a truckload of trash to the dump.

A few false starts and nearly \$1000 later and we have finally worked a fix on the heating system's pneumatic control systems that seems to be holding. The boiler is working fine; both buildings seem to be heating properly. However, for more than a month, before the recent repair, the "fix" to keep the system from over pressurizing again, and to keep the church from being too cold risking freezing pipes in below zero weather was our custodian, Mr. Boggs, coming in three times a day EVERY DAY and EVERY EVENING to run the heat for a time before manually shutting it down, only to come back in and do all over it again. And again. And again. So please, the next time you see him, a big thanks to Steve for going above and beyond (yet again) on behalf of St. John's. Thanks also to Brian Dunkle, Wilfred van Breukelen, and Jill Johnson (and her truck and trailer).

Yours in Christ,

—Ed Humphrys, Building and Property Chair



Thank you! Thank you! Thank you!

The combined resources of St. John's UCC, Square One Spa and Salon, and MJ's on Jefferson raised over 650 pairs of brand new men's, women's, and children's undergarments in December!

These garments will help to provide basic dignity to those who might not otherwise experience it and show just what we can do when we love our neighbors as ourselves and invite others to join in that dance with us!

Pictured below are Brent Johnson, owner of Square One, Reverend Adam, and Bruce Lindsey, general manager of MJ's on Jefferson



Now that the holiday's are over, there is still a need to donate non-perishable food to our shopping cart.

The 3rd Sunday of each month the shopping cart will be located in the front of the sanctuary. Reverend Adam will bless the food each month before it is taken to the food pantry that is located in Good Neighbor House on First Street in Dayton.

Thank you, St. John's, for your support.

Ethel Burns, Chairperson, Christian Nurture Committee



A Few Announcements from Reverend Adam

1.) Study, Study, Study!

Join us every Thursday morning for Bible study in the parlor! Our studies will run from the 15th of February until the 22nd of March at 11 am! All folks -regardless of age or experience- are welcome to join in this time of discussion and engagement! See Rev. Adam if you've any questions!

2.) Discovering Islam!

You hear it talked about virtually every day in the news, but do you actually know what Muslims believe? How does this differ from Christianity? How might this be similar? What does all of this mean for a people of love and grace in a world where those things seem so alien? Join us every Tuesday at 7pm from February 20th until March 27th as we take an hour and a half to watch some intriguing videos and then discuss amongst ourselves!

3.) Calling All Educators!

Are you a current or retired teacher? Do you have some thoughts on how St. John's might augment its worship style/practice to better engage all ages and styles of learning? Your church council is VERY interested to hear from you on these issues! Please think this over, as you will, and let Pat Kern, Ethel Burns, or Rev.'s Adam or Jeff know as you can!

Mission Moments

In 2017, the combined total for Mission Moment contributions was \$2,560.00.

Now that we are in a new year, here's to hoping we will not only meet last year's total, here's hoping we will exceed 2017's contributions.

On behalf of the Christian Nurture Committee, we thank you for your contributions to the following missions that are supported by St. John's.

Below is a list of the local and 5 for 5 Missions that are supported by St. John's UCC.

One Great Hour of Sharing - Provides domestic and international relief for people affected by disasters

Good Neighbor House (Local) - Provides food, clothing and household items to under served individuals and families in the Miami Valley.

City Heart (Local) - Provides urgent needs and referrals for long term solutions.

Strengthen the Church - Supports youth ministries and full time leaders for new churches in areas where new UCC Churches are located.

Trinity Community (Local) - Trinity Homes provides housing and other services for older adults. St. John's UCC helped start Trinity Community.

East End Community Center (Local) - Provides services to children and adults who reside in East Dayton. East End Community Center provides after school and summer programs to children in grades K-8.

Neighbors in Need - Awards grants to churches and organizations that do justice work in their communities within the United States.

The Christmas Fund (formally known as Veterans of the Cross) - Provides supplemental monies for pension and health insurance premiums to low income retirees. This fund also provides emergency assistance to clergy and lay employees and their families throughout the year.

Ethel Burns, Chairperson, Christian Nurture Committee

February Birthdays

5th Edith Jenkins
8th Nancy Duckson
8th Ben Botteri
10th Vivian Geisert
12th Dottie Norton
16th Sylvia Tritch
23rd Edith Zakel
26th Marlene Miller

Flowers & Fellowship

Flowers for the altar in the sanctuary can be purchased each week to help beautify the worship service and then take and enjoy in your home. Sign ups for the flowers are on the corner by the coat rack beside Reverend Adam's office, and priced as follows: one bouquet is \$13.75 and two bouquets are \$27.50. Flowers can be dedicated in memory or in honor of a loved one or event. Checks can be made to the church with indication that they are for flowers. Thank you for participating in this tradition.

Fellowship hours are open for sign up as well. Please contact the church office if you can help supply snacks and refreshments for our weekly fellowship hour here at St. John's. A new sign up sheet will be in the basement fellowship hall soon for your convenience.

Flowers

2/4 - Still available
2/11 - Kim Kindred
2/18 - Still available
2/25 - Still available

Fellowship Hour

2/4 - Neubauers & Amy Lynn
2/11 - Carry In
2/18 - Fellowship Committee
2/25 - Diane Peters & Jim Francis

In Loving Memory



Memorial Contributions were made in memory of Tom Norton by:

Kirsten & Michael Morris

Fred & Else Schiller

Joan Thiele

Mr. & Mrs. Kenneth Durst

Philomene King

Ron & Nancy Duckson

David McGee

Mr. & Mrs. Terry Williams & Marilyn Schwinn

Memorial contributions were made in memory of Mike Allerding by Ron & Nancy Duckson.

Memorial Contributions were made in memory of Helen Skeen by Wilfred & Chris van Breukelen.

February 2018

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
28 10:30 Worship Service	29	30	31 8:30 Breakfast Club	Feb 1	2	3
4 10:30 Worship Service	5	6	7 8:30 Breakfast Club	8	9	10
11 9:15 Budget & Finance Met 10:30 Worship Service	12	13	14 8:30 Breakfast Club 12p Ash Wednesday Service	15 11 Bible Study	16	17
18 Council Reports Due 10:30 Worship Service	19 Tower Times Articles Due	20 6:30p Christian Nurture Co 6:30p Worship Committee 7p Discovering Islam Study	21 8:30 Breakfast Club 6:30p Council Meeting	22 11 Bible Study	23	24 Hands to Work, Hearts to (
25 10:30 Worship Service	26	27 7p Discovering Islam Study	28 8:30 Breakfast Club	Mar 1 11 Bible Study	2	3