

Tower Times

St. John's United Church of Christ
515 East Third Street
Dayton, OH 45402



February 2019

Dear Friends,

Well, THAT was not how I was expecting January to go! From what I can tell, having done a little digging through some of our records, 2019 might be the first time we've ever had to close the church two consecutive Sundays ! While I certainly didn't mind the extra time for a lazy bit of sleeping-in, I most definitely found myself missing each of you and St. John's as we found ourselves captives of the "White Death."

I think, my missing of yourselves and St. John's speaks to something that is one of the most special items in the St. John's DNA: family. Time and again, I have been told by folks that they feel like they are part of a family here and time and again I too have felt that in my interactions with each and every one of you. Oh, sure, sometimes—like any family—we have our moments where everything goes a bit sideways and we need to spend a little time apart from each other. (Though, maybe not two consecutive weeks!) All the same, we worship, laugh, share, cry, and minister together as brothers and sisters, younger and older, in the grace and faith that come from Christ Jesus. Again, this is something that is rather rare in a number of churches today and its something to celebrate in our work together at St. John's. All the same, I have a question: what if we made a point of treating everyone—in every place—the same way we treat one another at St. Johns? Can you imagine the difference that would make in this world? Can you begin to dream about how different our lives would be, our friendships would work, and heck, perhaps even how our government might function? (I promise, I'm not reaching for the stars here!) What if we let the grace and faith that we share on Sunday be the grace and faith that we share every day?

As we continue to journey through this year (hopefully without too much more snow) I would



encourage you to perhaps begin contemplating what ways and forms you could find to make the world your church and not just this lovely building at 515 E. Third St. in Dayton, OH!

Let's go forth dreaming and then live lives of faith that bring dreams to life!

LOFTY WORDS

from Rev. Jeffrey Campbell, Minister of Worship

You All Are A Blessing

Thank you for all the kind words and prayers as I have officially become a United Church of Christ minister. The weather tried to discourage me because we had to cancel and reschedule, but as they say *"I am too blessed to be stressed!"*

Ordinary February?

In many ways, **February is a bonus/blessing** month this year because Lent does not start until March 6. So we have time to enjoy some Ordinary Time Sundays and have time to plan the Lenten Season and Easter. (By the way, I have NEVER experienced an "ordinary" Sunday at St. John's.) That being said, I would like to share some things that are in the works beyond February.

Observing Lent

I will be leading special **Lenten worship services** on Thursdays in Lent, starting March 14 at 7:00 pm. Lent is a time for extra prayer, devotion, and spiritual growth. Please consider making these Thursdays a part of your faith journey this year. It's better than giving up chocolate! We will gather in the chapel (with chairs!). Hymns, prayers, scripture, and a short sermon from me will be included. Lent is one of the *disciplines* of being a *disciple* of Jesus.

It's Not Easy Being Green

On **St. Patrick's Day**, Sunday March 17, we will have a special worship service and program starting at 10:30 am in the Fellowship Hall. There are great Irish hymns, prayers, and blessings we can use. After the service, we will have a **GREEN POTLUCK!** Bring dishes to share that are green. Be creative! Vegetables, desserts, side dishes, etc. The worship committee will provide a meat dish (probably not green). A short program will be part of the dinner. I have been in contact with St. Patrick to see if he will bless us with his presence. Remember how nice our Church picnic Sunday was in the Fellowship Hall? Remember how you enjoyed St. Nicholas Day? This will be like a combination of the two!

Other Things In the Works

Sunday, April 7 - A Service of Lessons and Carols for Lent

Palm Sunday, April 14 - A Festive Service including Raymonde Rougier and me, our Children's Choir and more.

Easter Sunday, April 21 - As we celebrate the Resurrection of Jesus, we will be joined by David Wion at the piano, and hear *"Because He Lives"* from Lynn and Doug Norton. And I will be at the organ.



From: The President of the Church Council.

With the past two-week's weather on Sundays forcing us to close, I wanted to find a verse that would have meaning. The below verse to me means through the rain and snow from heaven comes a harvest for the people instead of just dwelling on the rain and snow that disrupts our lives.

Isaiah 55:10

For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven, And do not return there without watering the earth And making it bear and sprout, And furnishing seed to the sower and bread to the eater;

A former President reminded me that he (Steve Carroll) also had to close the church in his first month of service. That's January in Dayton!

Also, thanks to the Search Committee and the congregation in having the faith in me to be president of the Church Council. Our first meeting with the old and new members was productive and we look forward to accomplishing some very important task in 2019 for the betterment of St. Johns UCC.

Douglas Goudy,



Tower Times – VP Report – February, 2019

Installation of Officers & Committee Members – will be re-scheduled.
Obviously, this has been postponed due to the weather.

Dayton Project Watch:

Interested in the things happening in downtown Dayton? There's a map.

<https://www.bizjournals.com/dayton/maps/dayton-project-watch>

Need Scholarship Money?

Fri., Mar 8 – Dayton Foundation – Scholarship Connect Deadline

\$15 million in scholarships - nearly 12,500 Dayton-area students in last 10 years

Dayton Foundation likes to reward scholars with potential.

Think TV – Channel 16/14 - Leader Board “B” – Monday, April 9

St. John's wants to make a commitment to this fund raiser, just as we always do.

Please let me know, if you wish to be part of the team.

(These are personal donations, not money from the St. John's budget.)

Best regards,

Chris van Breukelen, VP



Dear St. John's Family,

As a somewhat new face to St. John's, many of you probably are not familiar with who I am. I wanted to write a quick introduction as I assume the role of treasurer for the congregation. I grew up as one of six children in Southern Indiana. I earned my undergraduate degree from Indiana University and am currently working towards my master's degree in nonprofit management. I first moved to Dayton five years ago (to the day I am writing this article, actually) for a fourteen-week internship and fell in love with the city and the community.

Since moving, I have started working for Ronald McDonald House Charities of Dayton as a fundraiser. I absolutely love everything about my job. I have a passion for providing access to healthcare. In addition to my job, I also serve on the Associate Board of Equitas Health. Their mission is to provide healthcare to all, specifically focusing on those in the LGBTQ+ community.

When I'm not busy working or volunteering, I enjoy spending time with my dog, Elwood. I also enjoy grabbing drinks with friends, checking out the new restaurant in town, or attending community events.

I'd like to thank the congregation for not only welcoming me with open arms but also entrusting me with the duties of treasurer. Jeff G. held the torch for many years and I am so grateful for the work he's done and for providing me with training and guidance as I take over the role. I am excited for what the future holds. I am thrilled to be a part of the St. John's family and look forward to getting to know each of you more as we grow in our walk with Christ.

All the best,

Isaiah Ashba

Budget & Finance Committee

Tower Time Article – January 2018 Meeting

The Budget & Finance Committee met Sunday, January 6, 2019. Present at the meeting were Patty Staley-Chair, Jeff Gerrior- Out-Going Treasurer, Isaiah Ashba, Incoming-Treasurer, Nick Shumacher, Secretary, Debbie Watts and Norm Newbauer. Absent: Ron Duckson.

The meeting was called to order. The Committee reviewed and approved the November Meeting Minutes. The December minutes along with the January Minutes will be reviewed at the February Meeting.

Jeff Gerrior presented the Treasurer's Report for December 2018. Giving for the month fell behind last year by \$770 but for the year was up by \$7,146. Operating Income for the year was up over budget and expenses lower than budget with the year to date deficit at (\$39,120) considerably less than the budgeted (\$65,096). Checking account balance is at \$27,452.95 giving us a good start for 2019. General Fund Investments are at \$165,355.61 and the Memorial Endowment Investments at \$53,467.40 with Total Assets at \$246,275.96. Missions have been paid. Clarifying Missions, the budgeted amounts are set aside in the event specific missions giving does not reach the budgeted amount, then the amount held in the budget would be used to make up the difference so no mission receives less than \$200 (the budgeted amount) but could receive more if giving is more than the \$200 budgeted. All amounts contributed to the designated missions goes to those missions, so if they go over the budgeted amount that entire amount goes to the mission. Christmas Giving totaled \$1,379. The Percy Jones Scholars for Sacred Choral Music balance is currently \$440. Dividends from the Wellesley Fund of \$4,187 and General Fund – MS Dividends of \$309.50 were received as was a \$6,000 donation from the Developer for the Building at the corner of 3rd and Sears to extend the period for negotiation of a parking lease. Donations from MJ's and Square One totaling \$600 were received and distributed to St. Vincent DePaul. Christmas Tuning for the organ was paid totaling \$930.02 as were a few other miscellaneous maintenance expenses. In all, we ended 2018 in a better position than 2017 and if we keep up the momentum, we can look forward to a very positive 2019. Let's work together to make that happened.

Old Business was lightly touched on as the Constitution and ByLaws were passed at the November Congregational meeting along with the Budget – now our focus in those areas are to work toward implementation Stewardship will hopefully transition to an ad hoc fundraising committee that can grow to a new Fundraising Team. Patty will work to seek out people and work with the group to make this happen.

Expectations/Roles of the Committee also were briefly discussed with Nick Schumacher volunteering to remain as Secretary with the full support of the Committee. Patty will reach out to Ron Duckson to see if he will serve as Vice Chair.

Financial Controls were also briefly discussed with Patty and Isaiah meeting soon to go over his transitioning into the Treasurer role and what other control measures will need to be reviewed and implemented once he is in place.

Form 1023 Status – Patty is transitioning employers and will get this through as quickly as possible. She will also meet with Isaiah to make sure he is part of the process.

Unfortunately, the Committee ran out of time and was not able to complete many items on the agenda so those items will be part of the February meeting.

It was discussed and decided that meetings of the Budget and Finance Committee will move to 6:30 pm the Monday just prior to the Wednesday Council Meetings.

The next meeting of the Budget & Finance Committee will be Monday, February 11, 2019 at 6:30 p.m.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

You are welcome to join us at the next meeting if you would like to get to know more about what we do and how the Committee functions. You may come as a guest, however if you have something to be discussed, please let me know so you can be added to the agenda.

Respectfully submitted,

Patty Staley, Chair



WORSHIP REPORT

What would YOU like to see in our Sunday morning worship service? Pastor Adam posed this question to the Worship Committee at the very opening of our January meeting. Look for Committee members to engage in such conversations with the congregation soon. We'll be soliciting your ideas and suggestions. THINK about it.

Plans are in order for the season of LENT. March 6 Noon Ash Wednesday service. Events planned for the six weeks of Lent include: 7 P.M. Evening Lenten Services on 5 Thursdays including Mar. 14, 21, 28 and April 4 and 11. We encourage you to, "GIVE UP AN HOUR A WEEK" forget the candy, bad habits. etc. Spend an hour in worship those six weeks. Sunday March 17 a St. Patrick's Day Service in Fellowship Hall with an 'All Green Pot Luck Carry-In. Pastor Jeff will have a short program on St. Patrick. NO carry-in on the second Sunday of March.

Holy Week - Palm Sunday April 14, Maundy Thursday April 18, Good Friday April 19, Easter April 21. Details forthcoming in March Tower Times.

Winter weather forced us to cancel services on Jan. 13 and 20. Events have been rescheduled for Jan. 27 and include a carry-in, installation of officers and committee people and a celebration of Pastor Jeff's acceptance as an ordained minister in full standing in the United Church of Christ. Congratulations, Jeff

Pat Kern

GOOD GRIEF meets Saturday February 16 at 4:30. Since our January meeting was cancelled, we'll stay with Franco's Restaurant, the January choice.

Pat Kern

Worship Team

Building, Property and Grounds

"Snow was falling,
so much like stars
filling the dark trees
that one could easily imagine
its reason for being was nothing more
than prettiness."

— **Mary Oliver (1935 – 2019)**

Not all of us would agree with the sentiment as we shoveled the driveway or attempted to break the ice away from the windshield. Traveling was its own not-so-thrilling circus ride. But there were some of us who did have the opportunity to watch and enjoy the flakes glide through the air and brush the ground white with a stillness, grace and beauty.

The major news for January from the Building group was snow and more snow with a bit of ice. A great BIG THANK YOU to Steve and his diligence stay after the parking lots and walkways. The safe conditions were great appreciated by a wedding the first weekend. The ESL classes continued, and the walks were safe. The following weekend was a battle of extreme cold temperatures, rain, snow and then ice. Thank you, Steve.

Discussions continue with the Women of St. John's concerning the dish washer in the kitchen. We are seeking a sustainable resolution applicable to our needs, environmentally friendly and practical. The goal is to have equipment in place by March assuming we can coordinate all the various parts of this project.

The drain on the east side was attached but water continues to find its way into the ceiling and down the wall which is causing the problem in the stairway basement wall. Continued inspection is necessary to find the source of the leak. Once repaired we can move forward with repair of damage both visible and behind the wall to roof.

Plumbing problems continue to surface relating to the furnace or structure drainage. The plumbing and heating systems are long-range issues. The most immediate needs are fixed to make it through the cold season. In the meantime, attempting to develop a reasonable long-term solution.

During this cold season we are planning to plan. This means a careful examination of needs. This would be both short- and long-term. The goal is to have a broad-brush draft ready to Council (and Congregation) review in April. But priority remains to keep up with the immediate needs to maintain services and do no permanent harm to the building.

Thank you to the many who assisted in the decorations for the holiday season, cleaning the storage area and storing the decorations over the past month. Thank you to the Building group members (and others) who committed several Saturdays to this process. Again, thank you to Steve Boggs for his continuing support.

Bill Smith and Ed Humphrys



WOMEN OF ST. JOHN'S

Bake Sale

The Women of St. John's want to thank all who participated in many ways in making our "Holiday Bake Sale" a tremendous success. From the many baked goods, candies, novelty goodies and especially for those who donated several gift baskets to be raffled off. Your participation in supporting this event was more than we could have imagined. It was one of the best we have ever held. The net profits from this event was an unbelievable \$576.95. Once again thanks to all of you.

Other projects:

We are still collecting can tabs for Ronald McDonald House, used eyeglasses for the Lion's Club to distribute to those in need, and used postage stamps for the Philatelic Clubs. These donations can be dropped off in the church office or given to any member of the Women of St. John's.

Once again thanks to all of you who have supported these projects and the Women of St. John's look forward to continuing to support them.

Janet Neubauer,
President

Please Note: *the Women of St. John's will be meeting after the Fellowship Hour on February 3.*



In loving Memory

Memorial Contributions Were Made in Memory of:

The Durst Family—by Jane Durst Williams

February Birthdays

Edith Zakel—03

Benito Botteri—08

Nancy Duckson—08

Vivian Giesert—10

Dottie Norton—12

Marlene Miller—26

Mary Fessler—30



Flowers & Fellowship

Flowers

02/03: Open

02/10: Open

02/17: Open

02/24: Anita and Inge Hedeker

Fellowship Hours

02/03: Norm and Janet Neubauer

02/10: Carry-In

02/17: Fellowship Committee

02/24: Open

*** A NEW flower chart is available on the wall outside Rev. Adam's office. Please sign-up as you wish. A new fellowship chart will be coming soon and we thank Anne Pepiot for, yet again, making a new one for us! ***

February 2019

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
 10:30am Worship Service 27	28	29	8:30am Breakfast Club 5:30pm Martial Arts	31	Feb 1 11am Staff Meeting	2
3 10:30am Worship Service 12pm WOSJ Meeting 4pm Spirit(s) Bar Church	4	5	8:30am Breakfast Club 5:30pm Martial Arts	7	8 11am Staff Meeting	9 Council Outing
10 10:30am Worship Service	11 6:30pm B&F Meeting	12	13 8:30am Breakfast Club 5:30pm Martial Arts 6:30pm Church Council	14	15 11am Staff Meeting	16 4:30pm Good Grief
17 10:30am Worship Service	18	19	20 8:30am Breakfast Club 5:30pm Martial Arts 6:30pm Worship Committee	21	22 11am Staff Meeting	23
24 10:30am Worship Service	25	26	27 8:30am Breakfast Club 5:30pm Martial Arts	28	Mar 1 11am Staff Meeting	2