

Tower Times

St. John's United Church of Christ

515 East Third Street

Dayton, OH 45402

November, 2018



Well, it's that time of the year again! 'Tis the season for all things "Annual Meeting" at St. John's. That means today you should be able to pick up annual reports -alongside your TT- and hopefully we'll see you on the 10th of November as we hold our annual gathering. To say that folks have worked long and hard both to compile reports and/or with the activities of their committees would be an understatement. Truly, both members of council and the teams they represent are due some considerable applause for all they've done this last year.

Truthfully, as I look over the last year, there have been many moments of stress, but also many moments of joy. As I think most of you have heard me say previously, we have really increased our capability in a number of ways through 2019. I certainly will not cry if 2020 isn't nearly as hectic as its predecessor, but hectic doesn't always mean bad. If there's one thing I've had to remember through the year, it's that: ministry isn't always about the razzle dazzle.

Ministry isn't always about preaching, visiting, praying, or anything else. Sometimes ministry is tunneling ethernet wires through the ceiling, laying carpet in the chapel, or trying to set up a new financial system in the office. Often the greatest ministries aren't the ones that everybody can see, but the ones that make it possible for things to even be dreamt in the first place. I think that, when we get down to it, we have spent a lot of 2019 setting ourselves up for success in the future. What we now have to do is to go forward and capitalize on what we've built so that we might better do what we've been called to.

With your involvement -in your time, talent, and treasure- we can go forth and really live into new and exciting ways of being "church" for our downtown Dayton neighborhood. What that might look like comes down to, well, you! I certainly have ideas, the team leads have ideas, and they're good ideas too. What we need, however, is for everyone to be involved with what they can and bring their ideas to the table regularly.



So, as we step our way out of 2019 and into 2020, I encourage you to think: "How will I help move St. John's in the next year?"



Lofty Words
Rev. Jeffrey Campbell

Lofty Words
From Rev. Jeffrey Campbell, Minister of Worship

Our November at St. John's begins with Totenfest Sunday, during which we remember with thanks and prayers those who have died in the past year. Another name for this is **All Saints Sunday**, which calls us to remember those who have died as well as celebrate "the Communion of Saints". Saints are those made holy by Jesus. All of us who are loved by Jesus are saints – even me, even you! We celebrate our unity with saints past, present and future. Family members of the deceased will receive a white rose from the altar.

In November, I will be privileged to preach two Sundays:

November 17 – We will observe Thanksgiving Sunday.

November 24 – We will celebrate "Christ the King" as our church year draws to a close and we look forward to Advent and Christmas.

Sing with our choir for two months? Please consider singing with us for the two holiday months. Our choir music is not difficult and is faith building. The choir brings blessings to the congregation. After the two months, you are free, without guilt, to return to your place down in the congregation.

Plan now how you will observe Advent. It's a month away. Carve out some time from your very busy December and grow in faith and service to Jesus, whom it is all about. Prayer time? Reading? Sharing? Caring for someone else? Extra offering? Extra serving and helping?

Here are some things I have been thinking about: It would be nice to say the **Apostles' Creed** (and/or one of the other creeds in our hymnal) at worship, at least from time to time. I would like to have an Evening Prayer Service (**Vespers**) in our chapel occasionally. It would be refreshing to **vary our Sunday order of service** once in a while. What do **you think** about these things?

Some thoughts on our annual meeting, November 10: Remember we are doing the church's business. We are looking at how we best can serve our Lord Jesus as a church family. Our consideration should be what is the most faithful, helpful and best way to be the church in this time and place. We are united in love. We also should be thankful and supportive of the thought, work, and time that the Lead Pastor and Church Leaders have given in the past year and to prepare budget and reports. We are called by God to be kind and gentle, even we disagree or we present our own thoughts on matters. These are some thoughts from one of your pastors – **me!**

Warm Christian greetings!

I want to confess that I haven't done so much home visitations this month (October). In as much as I wanted to, but to no avail. So it came to my mind the need to expand the ministry of prayer to the whole congregation. For now the PRAYER-GROUP consistently meets every other week, Thursday at 3:30 in the afternoon. We want to propose to have the Prayer ministry available to all by offering prayer to individual members who may want to be prayed for right after the worship service. The church could designate one of the rooms as prayer room where we can hold the prayer ministry every Sunday.

I want to believe that every Sunday some people who come to church wear their smile on their face to hide the hurt of relational problems, financial failures, health problems and other pains. These people are desperately needing the touch from God. People come and go. Bringing their problems in but they carry them back out too. They may have received the message for the day but don't know how to apply it to their wounds. The best we can offer to the broken humanity is PRAYER. Let's not forget that prayer is the power of God in the hands of the faithful.

May the peace of God which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus (Phil. 4:7 NRSV).

Hector F. Guzman

Director of Family Life Ministry

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Fri., Dec. 13 – Dayton Foundation – “Scholarship Connect” may begin applications FAFSA & other requirements, but Dayton Foundation is generous to MANY young people.

Sat., Dec. 14 – 8:00 – Elisabeth Von Trapp at the Human Race Theatre
Tickets are now on sale, 228.3630 – Ticket Box Office

Jan., 2020 – Steve Boggs’ anniversary, as St. John’s “Haus Meister.”
More info will follow.

Respectfully submitted,
Chris van Breukelen

GOOD GRIEF

Good Grief will meet the third Saturday, Nov. 16, at Franco’s Restaurant at 4:30. All are invited to join us. Just let me know if you are coming so I can turn in reservations.

At our September meeting, we had a suggestion that we move our meeting to Saturday morning. Many of us are concerned about driving in darkness and heavy traffic through the winter months. We’ll discuss this at our November get together.

Please note there will be no meeting in December – too close to Christmas.

Pat Kern

WORSHIP REPORT

We're looking at a busy month for November. Nov. 3 we observe Totenfest or All Souls' Day remembering those of our community who have entered eternal life the past year. Letters of invitation have been sent to the families. White roses for each will decorate the altar and after the service will be given to family members. This year a third white flower arrangement, in addition to our altar flowers, is placed in memory of the victims of the Aug. 4 tragedy in our Oregon District. Communion will be offered. A luncheon will follow the service.

Nov. 10 is the Annual Congregational Meeting immediately following the service. No fellowship. Please make every effort to attend. There are several important items on the agenda.

Nov. 17 Thanksgiving Observance. Begin collecting and bringing in your items for our food drive.

Note this is early for us this year as Thanksgiving is not until Nov. 28.

Nov. 24 Christ the King Sunday observance.

Jeff has extended an invitation to anyone to join choir for the two holiday months of November and December. "The music is not difficult and is faith building" (see Jeff's report) Also, our choir people always appreciate extra voices.

Brandan Jeffries is a member of the Stivers School for the Arts Chamber Choir which is participating in Dayton Bach Society's first performance of the new season Nov. 3, at 4 p.m. Kettering Adventist Church, 3939 Stonebridge Rd. Bach Society Chorus, String Orchestra also participating. Information call 294-2224.

Odds and Ends - Nov. 3 time to 'Fall Back' an extra hour to snooze but don't forget to get up and get to church! We had a great time at the Blessing of the Animals Oct. 20 – 6 dogs and 1 cat and some attendees who weren't able to bring their beloved furbabies. Check Facebook for pictures. The painters have started work on our building – power washing the exterior. Watch the progress!

Pat Kern

Council Minutes
St. John's United Church of Christ
October 14, 2019
(Rescheduled from October 10, 2019)

This meeting was rescheduled as a result of a number of council members being unavailable on October 10, 2019.

Present: Adam Wirrig, Douglas Goudy, Chris van Breukelen, Ballard Yates, Patty Staley, Bill Smith, Karen Clark and Pat Kern.

Guest(s): None

The meeting was called to order by Vice President Chris van Breukelen at 06:07 p.m.

Devotions: Doug Goudy presented the opening devotions and prayer.

Secretary's Report: Ballard Yates had e-mailed and distributed both the minutes of the special council of September 8, 2019, and the regularly scheduled council meeting of September 12, 2019. As there were no additions or corrections for either set of minutes submitted, he asked they be approved. Vice President Chris van Breukelen declared them approved.

Additional Information

There were two items that required immediate attention in the interim period between the September 12, 2019 council meeting and this October 14, 2019 meeting. For transparency, they are listed below.

Office Copier

Several council members had been reviewing the status of our current equipment. Our copier is approximately five years old, was becoming very expensive to use and maintain, as well as being out of date. It was under review to be replaced when it was discovered that our current contract would automatically renew on October 31, unless we gave a 30 day notice of cancellation. In accordance, notice of cancellation was given to that vendor on September 25th, and a new machine ordered from a different vendor on September 26. This action will result in a more advanced machine at a lower total cost. Prior to these actions, all council members received detailed information electronically on this situation, and an electronic vote was taken whether to proceed. The vote was unanimous to proceed with these actions.

Exterior Painting Contract

As a result of our original painting contractor cancelling the contract, Bill Smith contacted seven painting contractors for bids, but only three chose to bid. These bids were shared with all council members, and the contractors investigated. One was selected, and Bill Smith and Brian Dunkle walked the property with the contractor to be sure that the company was aware of requirements and expectations. While this task is weather dependent, the contractor believes they can complete it this fall. Building and Property will monitor the project to assure that the contractor is working on all available days. With good weather coming to a close, it was in the church's interest to begin work on this project as soon as possible. Accordingly an electronic vote was taken, as to whether to proceed. The vote was unanimous in favor of proceeding.

Financial and Treasurer's Report:

As Isaiah Ashba was unable to attend due to employment requirements, Patty Staley and Rev. Adam Wirrig gave the Treasurer's report.

Work continues on implementation of the new Realm accounting software, with additional accounts being added, and some "fine tuning" and minor adjustments being made as required.

September experienced heavy expenditures, primarily due to regular maintenance, and large billings for taxes, health care, pensions etc. from the denomination. The U.C.C.'s original plan was to do this monthly, but they are still trying to catch up for items they had not invoiced.

Rev. Adam Wirrig reported that since we are now making monthly payments on our loan, he is pleased to report that the church is receiving contributions toward these payments from the congregation. Of course the congregation will need to continue this practice.

Budget and Finance will probably sell \$15,000 of asset investments to cover any shortfall of liquidity in the last quarter of the year. This was included in last year's authorization.

Ballard Yates made a motion to approve the Treasurer's Report which was seconded by Doug Goudy and approved by vote of the church council.

Old Business

Dish Washer Project

The church council's vote on this project scheduled for tonight has been delayed. The timing for the meeting with the parties involved was rescheduled due to schedule conflicts.

Building of Committees

This item will be an ongoing monthly item. A report was distributed this evening (with some handwritten additions) indicating the individuals filling the various positions—Officers (“The Executive Committee”), Team Leaders, and Team Members. All positions are filled with the exception of two team members who have not confirmed their acceptance as of tonight’s meeting. Patty Staley made a motion to place this slate of Officers, Team Leaders, and Team Members for approval and ratification in the Annual Report Booklet. It was seconded by Karen Clark and confirmed by vote of the Church Council.

New Business

Building and Property

Bill Smith advised that the circulating pump for the heating system has not yet been returned and he is not sure of the cost for repair. He will keep us advised.

He also announced ECO Restorations has been awarded the contract for the outside painting of our church property.

Bill Smith made a comment that we really need to consider painting and doing a general “clean up” of the upper floor of the educational building. It is in definite need.

Bill Smith would like to see St. John’s move toward having a professional review of our physical building once a year. This would keep us advised of upcoming items needing repair or replacement and reduce the sudden unanticipated emergency repairs which we have often experienced.

2020 Budget

Karen Clark made a motion that we provide an item to set aside \$45,000 from the Endowment Fund for 2020 to fund the deficit if required. It was seconded by Doug Goudy and approved by vote of the council.

Patty Staley and Adam Wirrig presented the proposed budget, offering explanations of the various line items. Karen Clark made a motion to accept the budget for 2020 which was seconded by Doug Goudy and approved by vote of the church council.

November Congregational Meeting

Rev. Adam Wirrig made a motion to place a copy of the proposed St. John's UCC Member Covenant in the Annual Report Booklet. On approval, this will become a portion of our "new" constitution which will go into full effect as of January 1, 2020. It was seconded by Doug Goudy and approved by vote of the Church Council.

President Doug Goudy presented the agenda for the annual Congregational Meeting to be held, following the Worship Service, on November 10, 2019 at 11:30 A.M. Patty Staley made a motion to accept the agenda which was seconded by Pat Kern and approved by vote of the Church Council.

Doug Goudy will ask Bill Smith to act as Parliamentarian at the annual meeting as he is familiar with Robert's Rules of Order.

Committee Reports Received

The following Individuals and Committees submitted written reports: Vice President, Building and Property, Worship, and Lead Minister.

Items for the Good of the Order:

We continue in our efforts to secure transportation for Jan Zahn to attend our worship service. The possibilities suggested unfortunately seem to be people who have to arrive very early because of other St. John's commitments.

AED Defibrillator/Security. Doug Goudy will have an update at the November meeting.

Adjournment

Patty Staley made a motion that the meeting be adjourned which was seconded by Chris van Breukelen and approved by vote of the council.

Closing

The meeting was closed with all praying the Lord's Prayer.
Respectfully submitted,

Ballard Yates, Council Secretary

Next regular meeting Thursday, November 14th, 2019 at 6:00 P.M. Devotions and opening prayer by Karen Clark.

FOOD DRIVE HAS ARRIVED!!!

'Tis the season to be gathering non-perishable food items for The Good Neighbor House! You can bring these items in on any given Sunday in November and we will get them to the proper place after worship on Sunday the 24th.

Please remember: non-perishable items such as toilet paper, diapers, female hygiene items, etc. are always desperately needed so don't just limit yourself to green-beans and beanie weenies!

If you have any questions, please contact any member of the Christian Nurture Committee.

Thank you,
Christian Nurture Committee





On November 24, 2019 The Christian Nurture Committee will place 40 Gift Tags on the Agape Christmas Tree that will be located in front of the Chapel.

The Gift Tags will be for the children, and the parents who have been reunited with their children through the Agape Foster Care Organization of the Miami Valley.

At this time, the return date of the gifts has not been decided. Ann Morrissey of the Christian Nurture Committee will inform everyone when the return date has been decided by the Agape Organization.

In the past, our St. John's Family has made this an annual tradition, and we hope this year that our tradition will continue.

Thank you,

Christian Nurture Committee



Kroger Community Rewards Program

New Number for St. John's - **WD785**

Krogers assigned St. John's a new number for the Community Rewards Program.

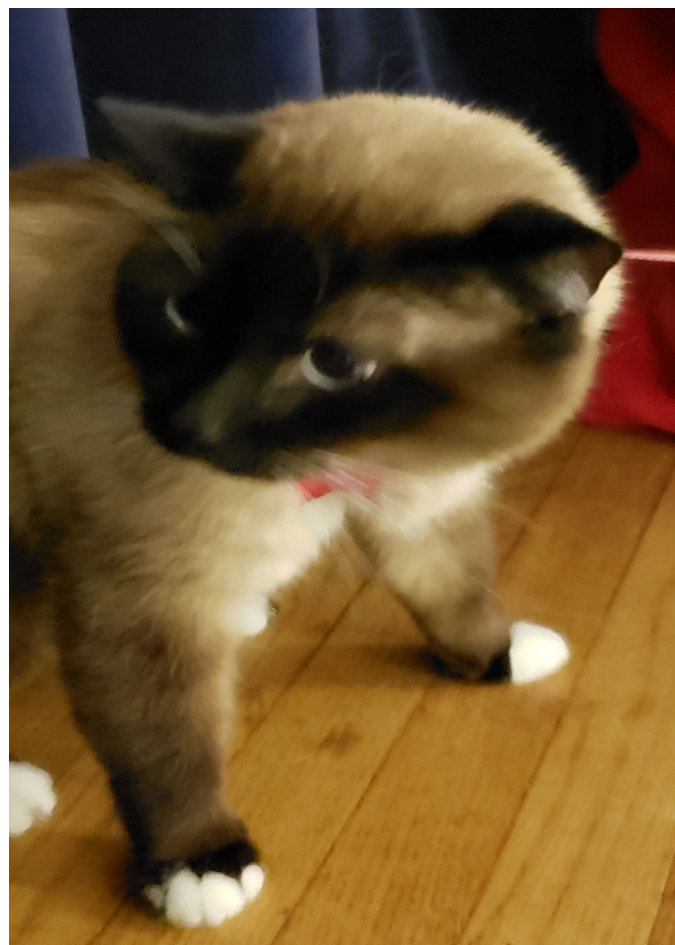
This new number is **WD765**.

If you are currently enrolled, you can still access your account with the old number, the new number, or by searching the church name.

If you are enrolling as a new member search by **WD765** or St. John's United Church of Christ, Dayton.

Instructions for signing up as a new Community Rewards member are in the Church office.

You can also see Dottie Norton or Rev. Adam with any further questions.



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German American Heritage Sunday!



November Birthdays

16th—Pat Goudy

16th—Phyllis Thomas

27th—Dane Harker



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 is in the basement fellowship hall for your convenience.

Flowers

11/3—The Zwick Family

11/10—Betty Lou and Butch Martin

11/17— Bill Smith and Susan Kolze

11/24— Rev. Adam

Fellowship Hour

11/3—The Wirrig Family

11/10—No Fellowship

11/17—Bill Smith and Susan Kolze

11/24—Fellowship Committee

In
Loving
Memory


Memorial Contributions were made in memory of

Jim Hall by Steve Boggs

Inge Hedeker by Dottie Norton

Edith Zakel by Ron and Nancy Duckson, Patsy Goin, and Dottie Norton

November 2019

<div>SUN 27</div> <div>Reformation Sunday</div>	MON 28	TUE 29	WED 30	THU 31	FRI Nov 1	SAT 2
<ul style="list-style-type: none">10:30am Worship Service12pm Realm Class					<ul style="list-style-type: none">11am Staff Meeting	<ul style="list-style-type: none">1pm Music Recital
<div>3</div> <ul style="list-style-type: none">9am Building and Property10:30am Worship Service4pm Spirit(s) Bar Church	<div>4</div>	<div>5</div>	<div>6</div>	<div>7</div>	<div>8</div> <ul style="list-style-type: none">11am Staff Meeting	<div>9</div>
<div>10</div> <ul style="list-style-type: none">10:30am Worship Service11:30am Annual Meeting	<div>11</div> <ul style="list-style-type: none">6:30pm Budget and Finance	<div>12</div>	<div>13</div>	<div>14</div> <ul style="list-style-type: none">6pm Church Council	<div>15</div> <ul style="list-style-type: none">11am Staff Meeting	<div>16</div> <ul style="list-style-type: none">4:30pm Good Grief
<div>17</div> <ul style="list-style-type: none">10:30am Worship Service	<div>18</div>	<div>19</div>	<div>20</div>	<div>21</div> <ul style="list-style-type: none">3:30pm Prayer Group	<div>22</div> <ul style="list-style-type: none">11am Staff Meeting	<div>23</div>
<div>24</div> <ul style="list-style-type: none">10:30am Worship Service	<div>25</div>	<div>26</div>	<div>27</div>	<div>28</div>	<div>29</div> <ul style="list-style-type: none">11am Staff Meeting	<div>30</div>



Annual Congregational Business Meeting

November 10th, 2018

Please plan to be present!