

Deerfield United Methodist Church

December 2016 Newsletter

A Note From the Pastor

“The LORD your God is the God of all gods and Lord of all lords, the great, mighty, and awesome God who doesn’t play favorites and doesn’t take bribes. He enacts justice for orphans and widows, and he loves immigrants, giving them food and clothing. That means you must also love immigrants because you were immigrants in Egypt.” Deuteronomy 10:17-19

Many times in scripture, God admonishes the Hebrew people to welcome the stranger, welcome the alien, welcome the immigrant because they knew what it meant to be strangers in a new land. God seems to be saying that the Hebrews should be gracious to others because they know what it was like to be the outsider, arriving in a new land and not knowing anybody or what the new customs would be like. There are no prerequisites to being welcomed. The immigrant does not need to worship in the same religion, nor does the immigrant need to pay taxes or get a job before being welcomed.

"When immigrants live in your land with you, you must not cheat them. Any immigrant who lives with you must be treated as if they were one of your citizens. You must love them as yourself, because you were immigrants in the land of Egypt; I am the Lord your God. Leviticus 19:33-34

Mary and Joseph were immigrants of sorts as they traveled from Nazareth to Bethlehem. Later on they became immigrants as they traveled to Egypt with the toddler Jesus to escape from King Herod’s wrath. Jesus was the ultimate immigrant—God coming to earth and

taking on human form—God incarnate—Emmanuel—God with us.

There are over 92 verses in the Old Testament alone that refer to immigrants and how we are to respect and treat them. This Christmas season, I pray that you will find a way to bless an immigrant. Look for a way to bless someone you do not know, someone who is new to this land and struggling.

“The same law applies both to the native-born and to the foreigner residing among you” Exodus 12:49

Watching for someone to bless,

Pastor Linda



 * **Advent and Christmas** *
 * **at Deerfield UMC** *
 * Sunday, December 11 11:00 am *
 * Children’s Christmas Play during worship *
 * Sunday, December 11 6-7:30 pm *
 * Community Christmas Dinner *
 * Tuesday, December 13 6:00 pm *
 * Caroling at Berry Wood Retirement Home *
 * Saturday, December 24 7:30 pm *
 * Christmas Eve Candlelight and *
 * Carols worship *
 * *Nursery care provided* *

Passionate Worship

(Sundays, 11:00 am)

Ascribe to the LORD the glory due his name; bring an offering and come before him. Worship the LORD in the splendor of his holiness. 1 Chronicles 16:29

- December 4** How Can This Be?
- December 11** Children's Christmas Play
- December 18** Why Has This Happened to Me?
- December 24** What Will This Child Become?
- December 25** No Worship
- January 1** Where Is the Child?

Share the Good News!

How did you learn about Jesus and his birth at Christmas? Who told you?

God desires for us to share the story of Jesus with others. Good news travels fast!

Is there someone you could invite to church on Christmas Eve? Look for business-sized cards to be passed out in worship and also located on the Welcome Center for you to give to friends, relatives, neighbors, and acquaintances inviting them to come to church on Christmas Eve. Share the Good News!



Let Us Know If You Get a Postcard!

The United Methodist Church has partnered with Outreach, Inc. to send postcards to local homes in communities around Methodist churches regarding Christmas Eve worship. Through a grant from the United Methodist Church, each local congregation can send 1,000 postcards via Outreach, Inc. into the community at no cost to the church. Deerfield UMC is sending 1,000 postcards to homes in surrounding neighborhoods to invite the community to attend Christmas Eve worship at Deerfield UMC. If you get a postcard, chances are good your neighbors get one too. Follow up with neighbors by giving them an invitational business card and personally invite them to attend Christmas Eve worship at Deerfield UMC! Spread the word!

Church Council Trustees

The Trustees are sad to report that the parsonage is vacant again and will soon be back on the market as we look for a new tenant. The tenants, who moved into the parsonage last spring after signing a multi-year lease, fell behind on their rent and were asked to move out. We are happy to report that they quickly complied with our request and moved out in mid-November. The trustees are in discussions with the property management company to determine what actions are needed to recover unpaid rent and other expenses associated with the tenants' failure to live up to the terms of the lease.

The trustees have inspected the parsonage since the tenants vacated the house and found the parsonage in good shape. The parsonage will require the expected amount of between-tenant patching and painting of interior walls, minor repairs, the removal of some items left behind, and some cleaning before a new tenant can move into the house. We are working with the property management company to get the house back on the market as soon as possible, although the holiday period and winter months are typically poor months for seeking new tenants.

If you have any questions about the parsonage or would like to volunteer to help with the needed painting and other activities, please contact Len Troy, Luke Copley, or Dale Wik. You can usually find these members of the Trustees in the praise band, playing and singing during the Sunday morning worship service.

Have You Sent in Your Stewardship Card?



During the month of November we were taking a look at verses in the Bible that talk about money. Did you know Jesus talked about money more than he talked about the Kingdom of God? We also heard members of our congregation talk about why they tithe or why they give to the church. Folks in worship on November 20 were invited to make their pledge for 2107. If you were not in worship on November 20, commitment cards will be mailed to you to complete and return to the church. Please check your mail in the next couple of days. Completed commitment cards may be returned to the church office. Please return cards quickly so the finance ministry team can make plans for the 2017 budget.

District Training for Churches

Each year the Ohio River Valley District offers a Saturday of training workshops for local churches. This year the training will be held on January 28, 2017, at Armstrong Chapel. The theme is *Mapping a Strategy for the Future*. All members of various leadership teams are encouraged to mark your calendars now, and plan to attend on January 28.

Radical Hospitality

Welcome one another, therefore, just as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God. (Romans 15:7)

Thank You!

Thank you to all who volunteered on election day to help keep the snack table supplied and restocked throughout the day as well as supplying lunch for the workers. There were many compliments given by not only the poll workers but by the community members who came in to vote. This was just a small act by Deerfield UMC to help support our community, and the kindness was definitely appreciated.

Risk-Taking Mission & Service

Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry and gave you food, or thirsty and gave you something to drink? And when was it that we saw you a stranger and welcomed you, or naked and gave you clothing? And when was it that we saw you sick or in prison and visited you? Matthew 25:37-39

Community Dinner

Come and join us on December 11 for our next Community Dinner. We will be celebrating Christmas with a dinner that includes turkey, ham and delicious sides and desserts. The dinner will be served from 6pm - 7:30pm and is open to the entire community. If you would like to volunteer to help, please sign up to bring a dish on either the Communication Card in your Sunday Bulletin or on Sign Up Genius once the sign up has been created. If you have any questions, contact Stephanie Copley at stephanie.copley@gmail.com.

Caroling at Berry Wood Retirement Home



Please join us on Tuesday, December 13, at 7 pm to go caroling through the halls at Berry Wood Retirement Home located at 3394 Townsley Drive. Please arrive by 6:45 pm so we can begin

caroling at 7 pm. We will follow up with a short time of fellowship in the kitchen/dining area and treat the residents with cookies and beverages. Please sign up on the Communication Card if you are planning on attending and/or available to bring cookies or beverages. If you have any questions, contact Stephanie Copley at stephanie.copley@gmail.com.

Christmas Giving Tree

It is that time again...Christmas songs are playing on the radio, decorations are being put up, and the Christmas ads and sales are everywhere! While giving gifts is an important aspect of the Christmas festivities, let us not forget the true meaning of this joyous holiday and remember Christ's giving spirit. In that same spirit of giving, we are sponsoring two families, totaling 9 children, in this year's Christmas giving tree. Please take as many tags from the tree as you feel called to shop for and sign your name on the sign up sheet at the base of the tree. Please return your **UNWRAPPED** gifts with the **TAG ATTACHED** by Sunday, December 11 so that they can be delivered to Kings Mills Elementary School by Monday, December 12 to be distributed to the families before the winter break begins. Please contact Stephanie Copley at stephanie.copley@gmail.com or Julie Reed at jdr1@roadrunner.com with any questions. Thank you in advance for your generous heart!!



Christmas Meal Baskets

Matthew 25:35 *For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in.* This month instead of a food pantry drive, we would like to make 25 Christmas Dinner baskets to provide to some of the community dinner patrons who have expressed a need for assistance during the holiday, as well as some local families through Kings schools. We are asking each family to sponsor at least one basket (but are welcome to do more than one) in which the following things should be provided: canned vegetables, stuffing, boxed potatoes, boxed bread mix, cookie or cake mix, and a \$10 gift card so the family can put towards buying a main meat. Please contact Stephanie Copley at



stephanie.copley@gmail.com with questions. Baskets will be available at church with your generous giving. Baskets need to be returned to church by Sunday, December 11. Thank you in advance!

Christmas Treats



We will once again be remembering our dear Deerfield Township Emergency Responders who are away from their own families on this special holiday to protect us and keep us safe. Please have treats to the church by the Christmas Eve Service on December 24. If you are interested in helping deliver the treats on Christmas Day, please sign up on the Communication Card or email Stephanie Copley at stephanie.copley@gmail.com.



Operation Christmas Child

What a fantastic turn out we had of handy little helping elves for the packing party! With the many helping hands we were able to put together a total of 190 boxes on November 5 in about 2.5 hours! There were more boxes that came in after the packing party and the final count that Deerfield UMC donated was 207 boxes! Wow, what an accomplishment! Thank you to everyone who took the time to pack boxes, donate items to be put inside the boxes as well as donated money to help cover the shipping costs.

Buckeye Time

Hope everyone is busy making and freezing buckeye centers as we will have a "dipping party" on Saturday, December 3 at 10 am in the church kitchen. Any donations of chocolate chips or ingredients for the buckeye centers would be appreciated. Bring the chocolate chips to the dipping party and if you have a double boiler, bring that, too. Using the double boiler keeps the chocolate liquid longer and makes for easier, quicker dipping.



Buckeye Recipe

(yield: about 5 dozen)

Center ingredients:

1 stick butter, softened (1/2 cup)
1 box (1 lb.) powdered sugar
18 oz. jar of creamy peanut butter*
1 tsp. vanilla

Mix together thoroughly and roll into 1 inch balls. Freeze. *If all you can find is the 16 oz. jars of peanut butter, use that and if the batter is too stiff add more peanut butter from another jar.

Dipping ingredients:

12 oz bag of chocolate chips
small piece of paraffin

Heat chocolate chips and paraffin in the top of a double boiler. Stir when melted. Dip by putting toothpick into a center and dipping and swirling it in the melted chocolate. Let cool on waxed paper. Makes about 60 Buckeyes.

Simply Give at Meijer

Kings Food Pantry has been chosen by Meijer to again partner with their location on St. Rt. 22&3. The 2016 Holiday "Simply Give" began October 30 and will finish December 31, 2016. This campaign assists Kings Food Pantry in replenishing their shelves with food they cannot always purchase.

For every \$10 donation at the Montgomery store, Meijer will match it with an additional \$10. Meijer has also designated December 11 & 12 as double match days! That means for every \$10 donation card purchase they will match it with \$20! There are Simply Give cards located on the Missions Board and you can also get them at Meijer. Just present them at any checkout register with your donation.

The cards customers have purchased will be converted into Meijer food-only gift cards and given to the Kings Food Pantry.

Intentional Faith Development

They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers.
Acts 2:42

Christmas Play



Come one, come all to the community Christmas play on December 11 during the Deerfield UMC worship service.

This year, ALL of the congregation is invited to participate in this simple/narrated story of Christ's birth. The youth will narrate, while the children and any willing adults will be our Marys, Josephs, shepherds, animals, angels and kings. Come dressed as your favorite Nativity character for Service on Sunday December 11! There's no such thing as too many Marys/Josephs or ANY character! That's all part of the fun! No costume? No worries! No rehearsal required for adults, but children/youth will rehearse after service on Sunday December 4 (we'll pitch in for pizza!), and arrive at 10:15 am for a quick run-through on December 11 before service. If you have any questions, please contact Julie Reed

at 513-253-4953. Come dressed up to participate on December 11, but we'll also have extra costume items for those who'd like to participate.

Wesleyan Moment on Money

by Dale Wik, lay leader

John Wesley had 3 simple rules for living. As a Methodist, you may have heard these before, but in case you haven't, here they are: Do No Harm, Do All the Good You Can, Stay in Love With God.

I have heard slight variations of the wording, but these are the ones that ring true for me. The shortened version of the second one is just Do Good.

These seem pretty straight forward and make logical sense if you are intending to lead a Godly life.

Just a few quick thoughts that will hopefully get you thinking about how you can live your life by these 3 simple rules.

I find the first rule one of the harder ones to fully integrate in my life. That is because it is so easy to fall in to the mentality of it's all about me. A self-centered person is not about "Doing No Harm". They are about maintaining their self-respect and dignity no matter the cost. Taking time to step back and think about the other person first so that you do not harm their self-respect is difficult to do. It is counter intuitive to me. Harm is not just physical harm. We need to be sensitive not to harm someone's mental or spiritual wellbeing by our actions or words.

I will let you ponder how you can change your thoughts and actions to live by this rule.

We can review the others in a later newsletter.

A good resource on this topic is a book by Rueben Job titled *Three Simple Rules*. Pastor Linda has copies in her office if you would like to borrow one to read. It is short but powerful.

Adult Sunday School

An adult Sunday school class meets on Sundays, 9:30 – 10:30 am in Room 101. We are studying *Be Basic, Believing the Simple Truth of God's Word* by Rev. Warren Wiersbe. Come join in!

Children's Sunday School

(Age 4 years - Grade 2)

◇ December 4, 11, 24 attend worship with parents.

◇ December 18 attend Sunday School.

Children start in the worship service and leave for their class after the time Especially for Children. They can be picked up immediately following worship.

iWitness Study

(Grades 3 – 6)

◇ December 4, 11, 18, 24 attend worship with parents.

Jr./Sr. High Sunday School

(Grades 7 – 12)

◇ December 4, 11, 18, 24 attend worship with parents.

Let Us Pray!

E-Prayer Group

Wanting to help in the power of prayer? Join the Prayer Team! If you are interested, please contact Karen Long at 513-543-0965 or by email kshlong357@gmail.com). You'll receive emails sent from the weekly prayer requests submitted at Sunday service, as well as information about helping when a member of Deerfield UMC is in need.

Prayer Concerns

Baby Matthew	Family of Barb Leach
Barb & Jim Benson	Abbi Lehmkuhl
Al & Judy Billock	Margee
Marsha Brashear	Judy Mannix
Karen Bundy	April Matson
Karen Burke	Glenn Miller
Margie & Ed Burke	Bill & Mickie Montgomery
Jensie Caguimbal	Tom Murray Jr.
Emily Cates	Tonya Oriol
Jennifer Cavanaugh	Destiny Pope-Gould
Penny Cesco	Julian Pope
Connie Combs	Lee & Kathy Reynolds
Chery & Ron Condo	Howard Robinson
Pat Donovan	Lynn Robinson
Ernhart family	Chris Schenkel
Bette Farrell	Emily Schenkel
Lisa Fetty	Mike Schenkel
Jennifer Fields	Tim Schenkel
Katie Gaefe	Shaughnessy family
Gabriel Gansler	Lissa Skalaski
Aaron Haggard	Den Stabb
Judy Hallman	Sue Staab
Rita Hawkins	Jeff Stacy
Bill Hengels	Ben & Mike Steward
Jenae Hickman	Aiya & Ron Thompson
Lynn Huber	Marge Turner
Wanda & Al Iverson	John Vonberger
Lois Johnson	Sandra & Mark Waise
Ryan Kenwell	Pam Wisby



December Birthdays

12/6	Alexis Marroso
12/10	Penny Cesco
12/11	Roy Dixon
12/19	Lauren Reed
12/22	Doug Hawker
12/28	Tom Reed
12/30	David Marshall



December Anniversaries

No known anniversaries



Motherless Daughters Ministry

The Journey: Healing the Wounds of Mother Loss One Step at a Time focuses on mother loss and its effect on your life, how her absence shapes your identity, influences your style of mothering and relationships, how your grief surfaces throughout your lifetime, and how you experience living beyond your mother's final years. This 4-day accelerated class could literally change your life. Are you ready?

Upcoming Class:

Connections & Conversations

Getting Through the Holidays As we face life's daily challenges, we might ask ourselves, "Why am I feeling this way? How should I respond? I'm overwhelmed, what should I do or who can I talk to?" We all have relationship issues, whether at work, home or in our community. Know that you are not alone in this journey of "womanhood."

Motherless Daughters Ministry Group, Connections and Conversations can help you process your feelings and choices. We meet monthly in an informal, yet supportive setting to discuss how mother loss, whether through death, neglect, or absence has affected us as women.

⇒ Monday, December 5, 6:30 pm - 8 pm

Location: Montgomery Community Church
11251 Montgomery Rd.
Cincinnati, OH 45249

Cost: \$10 Light refreshments will be available.

To register for this study, contact Penny Cesco at Penny@motherlessdaughtersministry.com or go to <http://www.motherlessdaughtersministry.com>.

Office Closed

The church office will be closed the week after Christmas, December 26-30.



Kroger Plus Card

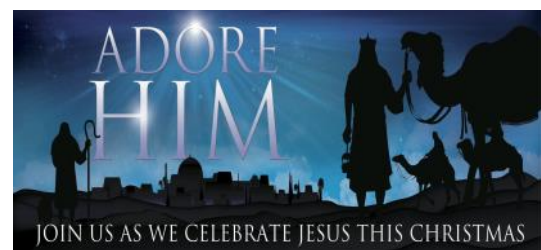
Deerfield UMC will receive proceeds from your Kroger shopping, and it doesn't cost you a thing! You can enroll anytime, but you need to re-enroll once a year to benefit Deerfield UMC! Please follow the steps below to enroll for the first time or re-enroll your Kroger Plus Card.

1. Go to www.kroger.com/communityrewards.
2. Sign in to your online Kroger account (or create an account if you don't have one).
3. Click Kroger Community Rewards and search for "Deerfield United Methodist Church" or our organization's number: 80765.
4. Under "Select Your Organization" click the dot for Deerfield United Methodist Church, then click Save.
5. Use your Kroger Plus card every time you shop at Kroger. Your purchases will earn money for Deerfield UMC!



Church Council

Church Council Chair:	Deb Thomen
Staff Parish Relations Chair:	Randy Cesco
Trustees Chair:	Luke Copley
Finance Chair:	Stan Brown
Treasurer:	Karen Kenwell
Missions Chair:	Stephanie Copley
Hospitality Chair:	Penny Cesco
Intentional Faith Development	
Children:	Julie Reed
Teens:	Jackie Marshall
Adult:	Open
Worship Chair:	Open



Sunday Morning Worship Schedule:

9:30-10:30 am St. Mary Magdalene worship service, Sanctuary
 10:30-11 am Fellowship time, Lobby
 11:00-Noon Deerfield UMC worship service, Sanctuary

December

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 * Band Practice 7:00pm Sanctuary	2	3
4 * Worship (see above)	5 * Boy Scouts 6:30-8pm, Rms 101-103, 105	6	7 * Cub Scouts 6-8:30pm Rms 101-103, 105, 108, * Church Council Meeting 7pm Rms 101-103	8 * Band Practice 7:00pm Sanctuary	9	10
11 * Worship (see above) * Children's Christmas Play * Community Dinner 6:00pm	12 * 2757 Meeting 6:30pm Rm. 104 * Boy Scouts 6:30-8pm, Rms. 101-103, 105	13 * Caroling at Berrywood Retirement Center 6:00pm  <i>Joy to the World!</i>	14 * Cub Scouts 6-8:30pm Rms 101-103, 105, 108, * Trustees Meeting 6:30pm Rm 104	15 * Band Practice 7:00pm Sanctuary	16	17 * United Methodist Men's Meeting 9-10:30am Rm 108 10am
18 * Worship (see above)	19 * Boy Scouts 6:30-8pm, Rms 101-103, 105 *	20 Newsletter Articles Due	21 * Cub Scouts 6-8:30pm Rms 101-103, 105, 108, * Daisy Meeting 6-8pm, Rm 107	22 * Band Practice 7:00pm Sanctuary	23	24 * Family Christmas Eve Service 7:30pm 
25 <i>No Worship</i>  <i>Merry Christmas</i>	26 * Boy Scouts 6:30-8pm, Rms 101-103, 105	27	28 * Cub Scouts 6-8:30pm Rms 101-103, 105, 108,	29 	31 	

Breakthrough Goals

In November 2015 the Church Council set goals for 2016 regarding number of people in worship, number of people involved in small groups, weekly giving, number of baptisms and professions of faith, and other markers that indicate our fruitfulness in making disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. These goals are shared below so we can work together inviting the community, connecting to God, growing as disciples, and serving others. Twelve months into the year, here is how we are doing.

	<u>Goal</u>	<u>Actual</u>
Passionate Worship	55	45
Radical Hospitality		
Professions of faith	3	2
Baptisms	3	0
Intentional Faith Development		
Average no. small groups	4	3
Average no. attendees	25	21
Percentage of congregation in small groups	60%	46%
Risk Taking Mission/Service		
Total number engaged in	15	13
Extravagant Generosity		
Average weekly giving	\$2,450	\$2,270
Apportionments	100%	90%
Additional giving		
Missions	\$25,000	\$20,065
Fundraisers/budget	\$3,000	\$3,300
Capital	\$1,000	\$500
Memorials	\$500	—
Advance specials	\$500	\$500



NewsLetter
DEADLINE

Deadline for the next newsletter is:
Wednesday, **December 20, 2016**
Email to: dumc@deerfieldumc.org



2757 West U.S. 22-3, Maineville, OH 45039
(513) 683-PRAY (7729) Fax: (513) 683-7829
www.deerfieldumc.org
11:00 am Worship
Rev. Linda Troy



Our Mission...Connecting to God, Serving Others

Our Vision...To be a *healthy congregation* who shares God's love, grace and power through:

Radical Hospitality - that is attractive, welcoming, and invitational,

Passionate Worship - where we offer inspirational community praise,

Intentional Faith Development - where we foster growth and transform into caring, active disciples, and

Risk Taking Mission and Service - through which we interact with others by modeling Christ-like examples of compassion and service, and

Extravagant Generosity—giving generously to the mission and kingdom work of our extravagant God.