

Deerfield United Methodist Church

January 2017 Newsletter

A Note From the Pastor

And let us consider each other carefully for the purpose of sparking love and good deeds. Don't stop meeting together with other believers, which some people have gotten into the habit of doing. Instead, encourage each other, especially as you see the day drawing near.

Hebrews 10:24-25

Recently I heard the statistic that nationally, church attendance of once a month is considered by church go-ers as regular attendance. This is down from previous years where going to church twice a month was considered regular attendance. While this statistic is alarming, Deerfield UMC seems to be in keeping with the trend, as 91 percent of our congregation attends worship services once a month at most.

Being the Body of Christ together is an amazing, sacred gift given to us by God. We are a community of believers who are to know one another deeply and care for one another—to bear one another's burdens and share each other's joys, as the song, *Love One Another*, says. Being part of a church is about relationships, both with God and with each other. The way to be in relationship is to spend time together. Worship is for the purpose of praising God, our Creator. Gathering together corporately to worship God is hard-wired into us by God. When we live into this hard-wiring, we function as we are made to do.

When we become members of Deerfield United Methodist Church, we promise to support the church with our prayers, presence, gifts, service, and witness. Joining the church is part of our spiritual development—it is a step forward on our journeys with God. Supporting the church means supporting our own spiritual development—our relationships with God and each other. We adhere to these standards:

1. **Prayers**—we promise to pray for each other's needs, for the church and our mission in the world. We also promise to participate in prayer ministries, such as the prayer chain

and prayer events, such as a Prayer Vigil.

2. **Presence**—we promise to be in worship weekly unless we are out of town, sick, or working. When we are absent frequently, we hurt the Body of Christ, as well as ourselves and God.
3. **Gifts**—we promise to support the work of God through Deerfield UMC by giving regularly of the financial and spiritual gifts God has entrusted to us. Our goal in financial giving is at least a tithe (10 percent) and we are all working toward that goal. Some are called to give more than a tithe. We also commit to serving God with our spiritual gifts such as teaching, hospitality, service, workmanship, leadership, administration, prayer, music, to name a few.
4. **Service**—we promise to serve within the church by participating on a ministry team or in a leadership capacity in the church and by serving in mission outside the church.
5. **Witness**—we promise to share the Good News about Jesus with someone who doesn't have a church home by inviting 2 people or families to attend a church event or worship service each year. We will offer to pick them up and bring them with us or make plans to meet them at the event so the invited persons feel comfortable.

Let's be a trend-breaker and start a new trend! Let's be the church where 91 percent of the congregation is in worship every week! Make 2017 the year that you commit to worshipping God weekly as a priority in your life. You, God, and the Body of Christ, will be blessed.

Leaning into the new year,

Pastor Linda

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

- January 1** Where Is the Child?
Epiphany Sunday
- January 8** Going Down to the River
- January 15** What Is the Kingdom of Heaven?
- January 22** Anyone Can Walk on Water
- January 29** "He Ascended into Heaven"

Christmas Play

Thank you to all that participated in our Children's play this year. The children enjoyed the extra support from the congregation and a fun time was had by all!



Church Council

Church Council Engaged in Long Range Planning

Church Council is continuing to work with Mary Shumard on long range planning for the mission of Deerfield United Methodist Church. As part of the process, Church Council has been talking about healthy ways to handle conflict. Conflict is an inevitable part of life whenever 2 or more people are in relationship with each other. Conflict is not good or bad, it just is. How people handle conflict is what makes it helpful or harmful. People may think that churches should not have conflict, but that is unrealistic. Conflict, handled in a healthy way, can bring about needed change and growth in individuals and an organization.

Talking things out directly when a conflict occurs between two people is always the most healthy and helpful response. Using "I" language, such as "I felt" or "I was concerned" to own your feelings without placing blame can open doors for understanding, which can lead to healing. Repeating back what you heard the other person saying, such as "It hurt your feelings when I said..." helps to make sure the message sent is the message that was received. While it might seem easier and less painful to ignore conflict or try to avoid it, in the long run, unresolved conflict can stifle an organization, even a church. In 2017, let's resolve to work through conflict in healthy ways in order to bring about better understanding and health to Deerfield UMC, all for God's glory!

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 Saturday, January 28, 2017, at Armstrong Chapel. The theme is *Mapping a Strategy for the Future*. Ever had a destination in mind, but you didn't know how to get there? Ever wondered how to get from where you are to where you want to be? Watch this video and then save Saturday, January 28 to attend the ORV Leadership Training Day: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=o68_2HXfEis&feature=youtu.be There will be several different workshops to provide training for a variety of church ministries. Church Council members are strongly encouraged to make this event a priority on January 28. You can register starting Thursday, December 22 by going to <http://www.westohioumc.org/events/all/register>. All are invited to attend!



Unhanging the Greens



Willing and helping hands are needed (and the rest of the bodies, too!) on Saturday, January 7 starting at 9:30 am to take down and put away the church's Christmas decorations. We should be done by 11 am if several people come to help. Trees, wreaths, banners, and outdoor decorations all need to be packed away for another year. The weather may be cold outside, but it will be warm inside with friendship and laughter as we work together on this annual task. Children can help, too!

Trustees

How awesome is this place! This is none other than the house of God, and this is the gate of heaven. Genesis 28:17

A prospective tenant for the vacant parsonage has been found and the terms of a lease have been verbally accepted by the Trustees and the prospective tenant. The Trustees are working on obtaining a signed lease and finalizing the agreement. We anticipate that the new tenants will be moving into the parsonage in January, 2017. Trustees will be performing repair, painting, and cleanup at the parsonage to prepare it for the new residents.

The parsonage is in good shape and only minor repairs are needed. The interior of the parsonage does need to be repainted. The Trustees have begun by removing wall anchors and picture hangers from the walls and patching the walls to prepare for painting. If you are interested in helping to paint the parsonage, please contact a Trustee. The exact date for a "painting party" has not been set and will be announced when our plans are finalized.

In other Trustee news, the exterior lighting at the church has been replaced with high efficiency and brighter LED lighting. Lighting around the parking lot, along the exterior walkways, and at the building entrances have all been replaced and expanded. The new LED lights provide more light and longer bulb life while consuming significantly less electricity. In some locations fixtures that consumed 150 Watts were replaced by fixtures that consume 15 Watts while providing the same or more light.

Inside the building, the Trustees have been replacing burned-out incandescent and CFL bulbs with LED bulbs for quite a while. We plan to replace the remaining interior lighting with LED lights in 2017 to complete the migration of all of our lighting to be

as energy efficient as possible. The Trustees are taking advantage of rebates offered Duke Energy to commercial buildings to defray the cost of the new lighting fixtures being installed inside and outside of our church. Between the rebates and lower lighting costs, the lighting replacement project will pay for itself over the next 3 to 5 years and provide for lower operating costs into the future.

Extravagant Generosity

How are we able to give as generously as this? Everything comes from you, and we have given you only what comes from your hand. 1 Chronicle 29:14

Pledges for 2017 have been higher per giving unit than for 2016. This is good news because we anticipate ending 2016 with a deficit. At the time of this printing, 2016 financials are not finalized, but we anticipate a deficit of \$20,000—maybe a little more; maybe a little less. Pledged, unpledged, and loose plate giving were all lower than expected for 2016. We also lost out on a couple of months rent when the parsonage went unrented for a time.

For a church with a budget of \$170,000, \$20,000 is a significant sum of money. Church leaders work hard to keep spending at a minimum, and we have been faithful in paying 100 percent of our apportionments to the larger United Methodist Church, as we should. The pumpkin patch netted the highest ever profit of \$4,200, which went toward the annual budget. Currently, however, two church families support 50 percent of the church's budget, which is of concern.

We serve an abundant God who is extravagantly generous. Our giving back to God is in direct relationship to our faith, trust, and love for God. Living on 90 percent of our income and giving 10 percent back to God is a sign of our willingness to trust God to provide for all we need. We don't want finances to stop us from being in ministry to our community and prevent us from leaning into God's preferred future for Deerfield UMC. The Extravagant Generosity ministry team encourages all church families and individuals to prayerfully consider your giving in 2017 and to be as generous toward God as God is toward us. God is always faithful. May we be so, as well.

Radical Hospitality

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

Be hospitable to one another without complaint. 1 Peter 4:9 The Hospitality Committee will be meeting January 12, 6:30-8:00pm to set the

calendar for 2017. Committee meetings will be bi-monthly meetings on the second Thursday.

We will be discussing the committee's goals and plans to align with the church vision for Deerfield UMC. We will be discussing how to welcome all to our church, follow-up with guests, sharing hospitality to God's people, and supporting people's needs throughout the year. Events will be identified where Hospitality can couple with another committee to share God's Love.

The current hospitality members are: Debbie Berta, Deb Thomen, Martha Miker, Marilyn Clark, Barb Dixon, Bruce Brengman, Karen Kenwell, and Penny Cesco. If you are interested, have any suggestions or questions, please contact a committee member.

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

Please join us Sunday, January 8 for the first Community Dinner of 2017. We will be preparing our favorite Comfort Foods that help ward off winter's chill. The dinner will be served from 6-7:30pm and is open to the entire community, so invite your family, friends, and neighbors! If you would like to volunteer to help, please sign up to bring a dish or help serve on either the Communication Card in your Sunday Bulletin or on Sign Up Genius. If you have any questions, contact Stephanie Copley at stephanie.copley@gmail.com.

Food Pantry

Deuteronomy 16:17 Every one shall give as he is able, according to the blessing of the LORD your God which he has given you. We are continuing our monthly themed food pantry contributions for 2017. This month's theme is canned soups and chili. Please keep this opportunity to give in mind while you are grocery shopping and watch for specials or coupons. Even the smallest item can make the biggest difference in someone's life. Please see the Food Pantry display for more ideas or contact Stephanie Copley at stephanie.copley@gmail.com or Barb Dixon at bdbluebird@cinci.rr.com.



30th Annual Men's Spaghetti Dinner

On Sunday, February 26, the evening begins at 5:00 pm with seating for the Spaghetti Dinner. Food service begins at 5:15 pm.

Carry out is available starting at 4:30 pm. The men of Deerfield United Methodist Church and St. Mary Magdalene Episcopal Church make and serve the spaghetti dinner complete with choice of sauce (meat, vegetarian or meatballs), salad, garlic bread and drinks. Tickets are \$10 per adult (kids 12 and under are free) and can be purchased at the door. There is a \$25 per family maximum cost. During the meal, enjoy special entertainment followed by a special performance by the "Merry Men." The meal is followed by the Dessert Auction.



30th Dessert Auction Following Men's Spaghetti Dinner

SAVE THE DATE: Sunday February 26, 2017. Every year Deerfield UMC chooses a child who has a medical need and their family to be supported after the Men's Spaghetti Dinner by a Dessert Auction. We will need many dessert donations (we have had 60 or more in years past!) which can be homemade or from your favorite location. We are currently looking for a recipient by working with Kings Elementary Schools but if you know of a child in our community who has a need, please contact Stephanie Copley. More information to come once a recipient has been chosen. If you are interested in working on this amazing mission opportunity by planning, contacting local businesses for donations, or providing desserts, please contact Stephanie Copley at stephanie.copley@gmail.com.

Caroling at Berrywood Retirement Home

We could not think of a better way to begin the Christmas festivities than by caroling at Berrywood Retirement Home. There were 13 Deerfield UMC congregation members both young and old that caroled in the kitchen/dining area and then through the halls for the folks at Berrywood Retirement Home. Then we shared some time in fellowship with the residents as we enjoyed a snack of cookies with them after we sang. Thank you to everyone who volunteered your time and donated cookies!





Thank You!

The Missions Team wants to express their appreciation and awe in how generous you were for the Christmas-themed mission projects of the dinner baskets and the Giving Tree. Together, we created more than 25 Christmas dinner baskets, each with a gift card to go toward perishables such as a main meat or veggies, as well as 27 Christmas gifts, serving two families, totaling 9 children. You truly make serving on the Missions Team a blessing! Thank you and we look forward to serving with you in 2017!!

Intentional Faith Development

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

Wesleyan Moment on Money by Dale Wik, lay leader

John Wesley had 3 simple rules for living. I am sure as a Methodist you 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.

To continue from last month, let's consider Do All the Good You Can. As noted last month, this is an extended version of just Do Good. I think it is an important distinction to do all you can. There are many times or situations where I think I am doing good, but if I take a closer look, there was something more I could have done which would have made a greater good. Often it is a very small thing that would require very little effort on my part. As we are starting a new year, I hope you will consider doing all the good you can. This may take a little more time or energy, but the rewards are eternal.

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

I will review the final rule in a later newsletter. A good resource on this topic is a book by Rueben Job titled *Three Simple Rules*. See Pastor Linda for a copy of the book.

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)

- ◇ January 1, attend worship with parents.
- ◇ January 8, 15, 22 attend Sunday School.
- ◇ January 29, attend Fun day Sunday!

Children will 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)

- ◇ January 1, 15, attend worship with parents.
- ◇ January 8, 22 attend Sunday School.
- ◇ January 29, attend Fun day Sunday!

Children will start in the worship service and leave for their class after the time Especially for Children.

They can be picked up immediately following worship.

Jr./Sr. High Sunday School

(Grades 7 – 12)

- ◇ January 1, 15, 29 attend worship with parents.
- ◇ January 8, 22 attend Sunday School.

Children will start in the worship service and leave for their class after the time Especially for Children.

They can be picked up immediately following worship.

Let Us Pray! E-Prayer Group

Wanting to help in the power of prayer? Join the Prayer Team! If you are interested, please contact Tonya Oriol at oriols@fuse.net or dumc@deerfieldumc.org. 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

- | | |
|----------------------------|--------------------------|
| Al & Judy Billock | Bill & Mickie Montgomery |
| Marsha Brashear | Linda Murray |
| Karen Bundy | Tonya Oriol |
| Valerie & Karrington Bundy | People of Aleppo |
| Connie Combs | Payton Price |
| Chery & Ron Condos | Chuck Reed |
| Christa | Lee & Kathy Reynolds |
| David | Howard Robinson |
| Mittie Dick | Lynn Robinson |
| Pat Donovan | Debra Saunders |
| Sharon Ernhardt | Bonnie & Mike Schenkel |
| Jia Mei Farrell | Chris Schenkel |
| Bette Farrell | Emily Schenkel |
| Renie Fleshman | Mike Schenkel |
| Julie Gee | Tim Schenkel |
| Ruth Gibbons | Shaughnessy family |
| Jenae Hickman | Jeff Stacy |
| Sarah Hicks | Ben & Mike Steward |
| Kenwell family | Teresa |
| Leach family | Aiya & Ron Thompson |
| Brandi Lumpkins | John Vonberger |
| April Matson | Sandra & Mark Waise |
| Glenn Miller | Wik family |



January Birthdays



- | | |
|------|------------------|
| 1/1 | Steph Copley |
| 1/14 | Howard Robinson |
| 1/19 | Shannon Clark |
| 1/21 | Michelle Prather |
| | Cat Neal |



January Anniversaries

No known January Anniversaries.



Motherless Daughters Ministry

The Motherless Daughters Ministry, Inc. is a Christian organization dedicated to serving women who have lost or missed the nurturing care of a mother.

A motherless daughter can be a woman who has experienced mother loss through death of her

mother, either by early loss before her 20's or later loss after her 20's. A motherless daughter could be a woman who has experienced a mother who may have quit nurturing her at an earlier age, and then she loses her mother again through death as an adult. This is defined as a double loss. A motherless daughter might be a woman who has a living mother but has never experienced her mother's nurturing care. Which one of these defines you?

Upcoming Class:

The Journey Class
(NEW ACCELERATED FORMAT)

The Journey class helps you identify ways the loss has affected you as well as how to move forward. This life-affirming study is based on the book *Motherless Daughters: Legacy of Loss* by Hope Edelman and *The Motherless Daughters Ministry Workbook* by Mary Ellen Collins, PhD.

⇒ 4 Saturdays: April 22, April 29, May 6, May 13
9:00am - 2:30pm

Location: Deerfield United Methodist Church
2757 W. US 22&3
Maineville, OH 45039

Cost: \$120 Light refreshments will be available.

To register for this study or if you have any questions, please contact Penny Cesco at Penny@motherlessdaughtersministry.com or go to <http://www.motherlessdaughtersministry.com>.



Thank You!

The staff at Deerfield UMC would like to thank all of you for your generosity toward us this Christmas season. You have blessed us and we truly appreciated you remembering all of us. We pray your holiday season is filled with many wonderful blessings and wonderful memories are made.



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



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 * Worship (see above) 	2	3	4 * Cub Scouts 6-8:30pm Rms 101-103, 105, 108, * Trustees Meeting 6:30pm	5 * Band Practice 7:00pm Sanctuary	6 	7 * Unhanging of the greens 9:30am
8 * Worship (see above) * Community Dinner 6:00pm	9 * 2757 Meeting 6:30pm Rm. 104 * Boy Scouts 6:30-8pm, Rms 101-103, 105 * E100 Study Group 7:00pm Rm 106	10	11 * Cub Scouts 6-8:30pm Rms 101-103, 105, 108, * Church Council Meeting 7pm Rms 101-103	12 * Band Practice 7:00pm Sanctuary	13	14 * United Methodist Men's Meeting 9-10:30am Rm 108 10am
15 * Worship (see above)	16 * Boy Scouts 6:30-8pm, Rms. 101-103, 105 * E100 Study Group 7:00pm Rm 106 	17	18 * Cub Scouts 6-8:30pm Rms 101-103, 105, 108, * Daisy Meeting 6-8pm, Rm 107	19 * Band Practice 7:00pm Sanctuary	20 Newsletter Articles Due 	21
22 * Worship (see above)	23 * Boy Scouts 6:30-8pm, Rms 101-103, 105 * E100 Study Group 7:00pm Rm 106	24	25 * Cub Scouts 6-8:30pm Rms 101-103, 105, 108,	26 * Band Practice 7:00pm Sanctuary	27 	
29 * Worship (see above)	30 * Boy Scouts 6:30-8pm, Rms 101-103, 105 * E100 Study Group 7:00pm Rm 106	31				

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: Stacey Marroso
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: Open
Adult: Open
Worship Chair: Open

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 and final results are shared below so we can work together inviting the community, connecting to God, growing as disciples, and serving others.

	<u>Goal</u>	<u>Actual</u>
Passionate Worship	55	46
Radical Hospitality		
Professions of faith	3	2
Baptisms	3	0
Intentional Faith Development		
Average no. small groups	4	3
Average no. attendees	25	20
Percentage of congregation in small groups	60%	43%
Risk Taking Mission/Service		
Total number engaged in	15	15
Extravagant Generosity		
Average weekly giving	\$2,450	\$2,309
Apportionments	100%	100%
Additional giving		
Missions	\$25,000	\$21,780
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, January 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.