November 2011 Newsletter

Deerfield United Methodist Church
Connecting to God; Serving Others

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Deadline for December's newsletter is November 23. Email to Deerfield@zoomtown.com.

Message by Pastor Jackie

Hello Church!

'Tis the season for giving thanks, and I am most thankful for you, Deerfield UMC! We have every reason to rejoice and give thanks this month. We have the privilege of being able to not only give thanks to God, but also to celebrate Holy Communion (11/6), welcome new brothers and sisters into DUMC membership (11/20), celebrate the sacrament of Holy Baptism (11/20), pledge our gifts of talent, service, money (11/13), celebrate Advent with the "Hanging of the Greens" with St. Mary Magdalene (11/20), and begin Advent! (11/27)

Our Commitment Sunday will be on November 13th, and I wanted to share with you some of the reasons why I give to the church.

1. This is God's world. God created it and I am a caretaker of what has so generously been given to me. I want to live out this blessing.
2. My creative talents are all given to me from God. I want to use them for God's glory.
3. I want what I give back to God to reflect my generous response to God's love and amazing grace towards me.
4. Because the Bible says to give to others!
5. Because giving money is not just about budgets… it's about practicing a spiritual discipline. I am more in tune with God as Creator, Redeemer, and Sustainer when I give.

6. Because "practice does make perfect!" Giving and tithing are practices to be cultivated and improved, just like prayer, scripture study, service, worship, fasting, etc…
7. Giving helps me keep my priorities in order. Money is something that needs to be used for God's glory, not merely my own wishes and desires.
8. Because I said that I would support my church with my prayers, presence, gifts and service when I joined the church!
9. Because I trust the leadership of the church to use the money wisely.
10. I give money because I have witnessed with my own eyes the transforming, resurrecting power of God's love! I know that it affects people's lives and hearts, in part through the ministries that DUMC performs and provides.

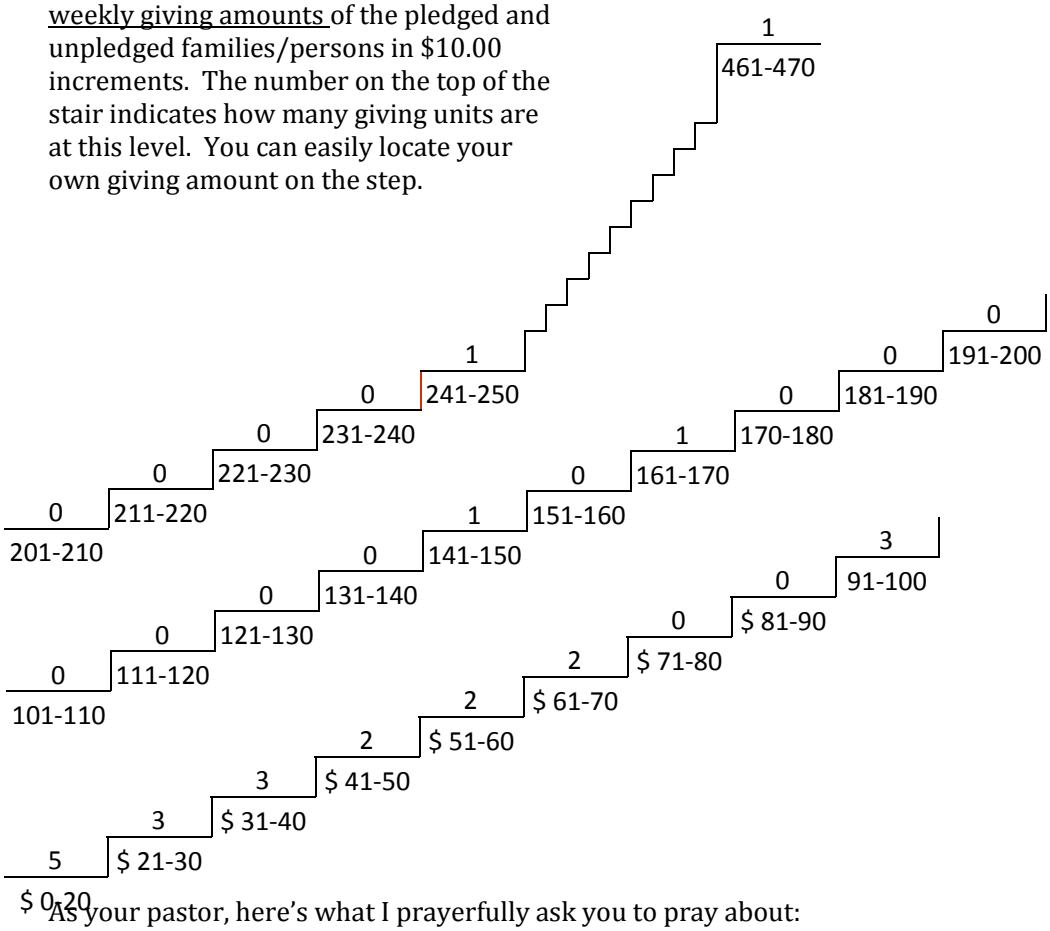
I have done some research with the monetary giving numbers at DUMC, and I thought that you all would be interested to know the results too. At this time there are 15 active pledged units giving to the church. (A pledged unit is a person/family that promised to give a certain amount to the church for this year.) Also, there are 9 other unpledged person/families giving regularly. Additionally, others give gifts as they are able.

(Continued on page 2)

Thank you in advance for your faithful service to God and this body of Christ we call our church. May God richly bless you for your generosity and faithfulness!

(Continued from page 1)

The step diagram below shows you the <u>weekly giving amounts</u> of the pledged and unpledged families/persons in $10.00 increments. The number on the top of the stair indicates how many giving units are at this level. You can easily locate your own giving amount on the step.



As your pastor, here's what I prayerfully ask you to pray about:

1. If you are tithing (10%) – thank you! If you are close to being a tither, pray about making the commitment.
2. If you are a pledged unit – thank you! Can you go up a step? ($10.00 more a week)
3. If you are a regular giver – thank you! Can you pledge this year, and go up a step? ($10.00 more a week)
4. If you are a gift giver – thank you! Can you pledge this year and increase your giving?

As we all know, church budgets always run entirely on the faith of our members and friends! Thank you in advance for your faithful service to God and this body of Christ we call our church. May God richly bless you for your generosity and faithfulness!

Always Talking About Money (Anonymous)

Not long ago, someone said, "Our preacher is always talking about money, and he makes me tired." That started me thinking. Just how much talking should a preacher do on the subject of money?

Before I tried to decide the matter, I made a hurried trip through my New Testament and arrived at some very interesting and surprising discoveries.

I may have missed a few, but I found that Jesus had preached at least 31 sermons on the subject of money and possessions. Out of the 39 parables, at least 13 of them deal directly with the question of money.

Now, if our pastor preached on money at the same ratio, he would devote one third, or about 17 sermons, of his total year's preaching program to the matter. And I confess, that would sound to me like a lot of money talk.

But Jesus was never the pastor of a church, and maybe he did not know how much trouble too much money talk makes inside a congregation. But Paul knew. He founded a whole string of churches and was the pastor of several, and he knew how people such as we are feeling about such things.

I didn't have time to real all Paul's letters carefully, but I did discover that in one of his sermons, he quoted Jesus as having said that "it is more blessed to give than to receive." I couldn't find that in any of the four Gospels, and I decided that it must have been one of Jesus' sayings that was remembered by the people but was not included by any of the Gospel writers. That made me think that Jesus must have done even more talking about money than is recorded in the New Testament.

In addition, I found Paul warning the churches again and again against the sin of covetousness. Apparently that was a problem in some of the congregations. And in one case, to the Thessalonian church, he talked pretty straight, telling them that if a man would not work, he was not to eat. Evidently they had some folk up in that town that were trying to live off other people.

So pastor, go on preaching about money. Preach about it just as Jesus did, as Paul did, and as the saints and martyrs did.

One of the most interesting things I discovered as I skipped through my New Testament was that the apostle Paul took up the first great Christian collection. It must have been just a little like one of our modern campaigns, for he had a committee in every church who were responsible for collecting and forwarding the money, and the people were expected to give something every week!

He insisted that it should be done in a systematic and orderly fashion, not haphazard or by chance. It sounded just a little like an every-member canvass, to me.

The principal difference was that Paul's great collection was taken in behalf of some kind of missionary project. It seems that a lot of the Christians in Jerusalem were in desperate need, and the money was collected to help feel them, not spent on the local budget. It must have been a good big collection because it took a considerable group of men to transport it to Jerusalem.

That collection meant a lot more to me when I read somewhere that the first Christian churches were made up of slaves, working people, women, widows, and only a very occasional man of affairs. There was a depression on in the east about that time, and business was at a standstill in many cities. But Paul never let up on the subject of that collection. And the people gave generously.

As I have thought it over, I am glad our preacher does ask for money a good many times. That means that we are a church that is doing things. We are always attempting just a little bit more or Christ's sake. I think I would be ashamed of ourselves if he did not have to ask for money. It would make me think that we were in the peanut business.

So pastor, go on preaching about money. Preach about it just as Jesus did, as Paul did, and as the saints and martyrs did. We're with you, for the responsibility – the stewardship for it – belongs to all of us, and not just to you alone.

(from The Abingdon Guide to Funding Ministry Vol. 3, pgs. 44-45)

The Way Forward

After extensive research (available online at www.umc.org/CalltoAction), the Call To Action (CTA) Steering Team made key recommendations to focus the Church's leadership for the next 10 years, recommendations centered on what the Council of Bishops and the Connectional Table agree is the Adaptive Challenge of The United Methodist Church. That challenge is to redirect the flow of attention, energy and resources to an intense concentration of fostering and sustaining an increase in the number of vital congregations effective in making disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.

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The CTA research identifies four "key drivers" of vital congregations:

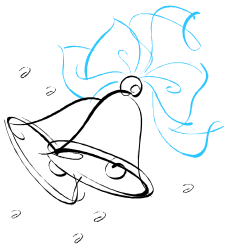
- Effective pastoral leadership including aspects of management, vision and inspiration;
- Multiply small groups and programs for children and adults;
- Mix of traditional and contemporary worship services; and
- High percentages of spiritually engaged laity who assume leadership roles.

To begin the process of redirecting attention, energy and resources of the denomination toward creating vital congregations, leadership will engage in five mutually dependent initiatives, which are:

1. For a minimum of 10 years, starting January 2011, use the drivers of vital congregations as initial areas of attention for sustained and intense concentration to build effective practices in local churches.
2. Dramatically reform the clergy leadership, development, deployment, evaluation and accountability systems.
3. Collect, report, review and act on statistical information that measures progress in key performance areas to learn and adjust our approaches to leadership, policies and the use of human and financial resources. (This will include indicators such as how congregations and annual conferences are increasing their effectiveness in implementing the three factors of vitality from the Towers Watson report (attendance, growth and engagement).
4. Reform the Council of Bishops with the active Bishops (1) assuming responsibility and public accountability for improving attendance; increasing professions of faith, baptisms, participation in servant/ mission ministries and benevolent giving; and lowering the average age of participants in local church life; and (2) establishing a new culture of accountability throughout the Church.
5. Consolidate program and administrative agencies, align their work and resources with the priorities of the Church and the decade-long commitment to build vital congregations, and reconstitute them with much small competency-based boards of directors in order to overcome current lack of alignment, diffused and redundant activity, and higher than necessary expense due to independent structures.

You are invited!

Potluck post-wedding celebration and blessing of Ryan & Susan Roosen's marriage.



November 5, 6:00 p.m., in the Sanctuary. On August 13, Ryan & Susan's wedding day was beautiful in the mountains of North Carolina!

They would love for you to share in their joy as they continue the celebration here with their local friends. Please join them for a potluck dinner and blessing of their marriage. No gifts please! They would just love your company. Just bring a dish to share and we will celebrate together! Drinks, cake and ice cream are provided

An Opportunity to Give

In an effort to bring our beloved church office into the 21st century, our church has been given the gift of a new server, 2 updated computers with new flat screens, and an updated Microsoft office software package! This upgrade will make our church office function better, and more people will be able to use the main office computer. If you would like to contribute to the cost ($810.00 for the computers & $146.00 for software) you may do so! Please clearly indicate "office computers" on your check. Thank you!

Intentional Faith Development

Prayer Group

Until November 10th, Thursdays at 6:30 p.m. Staring November 15th, they will return to Tuesday evenings at 6:30 p.m. Everyone is welcome! For information, contact Margie Burke.

Uppity Women in the Bible Women's Study

Sunday, Nov. 13, 9:30 a.m., Room 103. Last session on Esther. Come and join us for this exciting conclusion of the Esther story. Childcare available. The sessions will continue after the beginning of 2012.

Bible Study

Every Sunday, 9:30 – 10:30 a.m.. Topic: "Chronological Walk through the Gospels."

Journey Well Class

Sundays: 11/6, 11/20, 9:30 a.m., Pastor Jackie, leader. This class will explore the biblical/faith/science connections of wellness in our lives. Topics include: mind, body, spirit, motivation, and relationships. Come, learn, and be encouraged by others as we explore Jesus' desire for an abundant life for everyone!

Craft/Bible Study Group

This group will focus on needlework/ crafts and doing a Bible study. Planning meeting was held on Sept. 28. Time and place discussed. Contact Barb Dixon at 683-0281 for details.

Children's Sunday School

(Age 4 through grade 2)

- Nov. 6, attend worship with parents
- Nov. 13, 20, 27: Attend Sunday School. Children can be dropped off at 10:55 a.m. and picked up immediately following worship.

Children's Bible Study

(Grades 3 – 6):

- Nov. 6 & 20, attend worship with parents
- Nov. 13 & 27: Attend Bible Study. Children can be dropped off at 10:55 a.m. and picked up immediately following worship.

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Risk Taking Missions

Election Day Radical Hospitality

Tues., Nov. 8

We continue the tradition of providing coffee, juice, baked goods, and finger foods for voters and election workers. Check out the sign out sheet and indicate what you can bring or if you are available to help during the day to set out the food and beverages and provide a friendly face.

Thanksgiving Community Dinner

Sunday, Nov. 13, 6:00—7:30 p.m.

Let's show our thanks to God by sharing our abundance with our community. Sign up to bring something, to help set up or clean-up or just to come and share conversation with our neighbors. See Shem if you have any questions.

Bernie's place

November 19, 5:30 p.m.

If you would like to join them, they would love to have you. The Delaney family is providing the dinner. Thank you!

Passionate Worship

(Sunday, 11:00 a.m.)

November 6: Communion Sunday

The children will be joining us as we consider how to "keep our lamps trimmed and burning." Scripture lessons are: Joshua 24:1-3a, 14-18, and Matthew 25:1-13.

November 13: Commitment Sunday

We will be considering where our treasure in life is found. Scripture lessons include: Ex. 35:20-29, Luke 12:22-34, and 2 Cor. 9:7-10.

November 20: Thanksgiving Sunday

We have a lot to be thankful for this Sunday! New members will join our congregation, and children will be baptized! Anyone who has been coming to DUMC and is not yet a member is encouraged to join on this day. (All you have to do is stand up, and say yes!) Scripture lessons are: Dt. 8:7-18, and Luke 17:11-19.

November 27: First Sunday of Advent

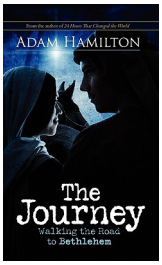
We begin a sermon series entitled "The Cast of Christmas." This day we will consider the contributions of Simeon and Anna. Scripture lessons are: Is. 40:1-5 and Luke 2:25-40.

Advent Events

Hanging of the Greens
Sunday, November 20, after church

After church we will have a potluck lunch and the hanging of the greens. Stay and share fellowship with St. Mary Magdalene as we decorate the church for Advent and Christmas.

Advent Bible Study: The Journey
Sunday, 9:30-10:30 a.m.
November 27 through December 18



Join us on a journey with Adam Hamilton as he travels on video from Nazareth to Bethlehem in this fascinating look at the birth of Jesus Christ.

This study combines book and DVD. The DVD was filmed in on location in the Holy Land and contains 10-15 minute video vignettes of pastor and best-selling author Adam Hamilton retracing the actual path of Mary and Joseph's journey to Bethlehem. Also includes a bonus segment on the Holy Land today.

Contact Jackie or the office to get a book.

Special Advent Good Morning God!
December 3, 9:30-noon
Come when you can for as long as you can

Come join us! What a way to start the day—spending one-on-one time with God.

This Advent retreat will have a short worship service followed by a time for you to contemplate the "reason for the season." During the contemplative time, you can experience the provided reflective exercises, do some mandala coloring, read your bible or bring something that you would like to do. We will end with a short sharing time. Lead by Sandy Vogele and Luke Copley.

November Birthdays

1 Dedra Delaney
2 Kurt Carpenter
Vicki Young
5 Reagan Lofland
6 Regina Meeker
9 Sarah Miker
17 Andrew Solimeno
18 Jennifer Carpenter
20 Mary Royer
21 Barb Dixon
23 Alisha Spath
24 Paul Vernon
25 Tanner Reighard
28 Bob Liedhegner
30 Luke Copley

November Anniversaries

14 Sheldon & Mei Carpenter

Prayer Concerns

Eugene Baker (Arlene's brother)
James & Julie Cromwell
Blanche Cupper
Chris C.
Rebecca Hershey
Shauna Hershey
Karen Mason
Vicki Myers
Chris Schenkey
Shaughnessy family
Don Withers
Wilson & O'Hara families

Births

William Pierce Dutson, born on Sept. 8, 2011 to Leah & Adam. Arlene and George Mason are proud grandparents.

Deaths

Sympathies to:

- Family and friends of Linda Oshio
- Bob Solimeno and family on the death of Bob's father

Deerfield United Methodist Church
Connecting to God, Serving Others

2757 West U.S. 22-3, Maineville, OH 45039
(513) 683-PRAY (7729) Fax: (513) 683-7829
11 AM Worship
Rev. Jackie Marshall, Pastor

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,
Faith Forming Relationships, Experiences, and Education - where we foster growth and transform into caring, active discipleship, and
Risk Taking Mission and Service - through which we interact with others by modeling Christ-like examples of compassion and service.