

The mission of the United Methodist Church is to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.

## Deerfield United Methodist Church

# December 2015 Newsletter

### *A Note From the Pastor*

*While they were there, the time came for Mary to have her baby. She gave birth to her firstborn child, a son.... Luke 2:6-7a*

During the month of December we are looking at the ways Jesus embodies attributes of God—that Jesus is God “Under Wraps.” The first Sunday of Advent we talked about God being expectant—God expects us to respond to the gift of Jesus. God expects Christmas to change the world.

God expects us to respond to the gift of Jesus by preparing for this marvelous gift. Perhaps God is asking you to prepare by committing to serving others in a new way, or to join a Bible study, or to set aside time for prayer and meditation. Maybe God is asking you to prepare by committing to come to church each Sunday and to worship on Christmas Eve, or by giving generously so that others can also have gifts or food to eat at Christmas. God also expects us to share the story of Jesus with others. Is there someone you could invite to church on Christmas Eve? Look for business-sized cards passed out in worship for you to give to friends, relatives, neighbors, and acquaintances inviting them to come to church on Christmas Eve.

We also talked about our own reaction to Christmas—what do we really expect? Do we expect shopping craziness, party overload, and baking and wrapping marathons? Or do we expect to be touched by Jesus in some new, real, and tangible way? If you only expect the former and not the latter, what changes can you make to allow more room for Jesus to be heard in your life?

God wants to touch your life this Christmas—not just with the same old, same old, but with a new insight, a new understanding, a new experience of God’s love. I look forward to worshipping with you each week and especially on Christmas Eve, as we welcome Emmanuel, “God with us.” Let us each approach Advent and Christmas with joyful and expectant hearts!

Waiting expectantly,

*Pastor Linda*

**Traditional Candlelight  
Christmas Eve Service  
7:30 pm, December 24  
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 6,** Under Wraps: God Is Zealous

**December 13,** Children's and Teens' Christmas Shows

**December 20,** Under Wraps: God Is Faithful

*Christmas Eve, 7:30 pm*

**December 24,** A Season of Joy

**December 27,** Welcome the Stranger

### Christmas Poinsettias

Envelopes are included in your Sunday bulletins for ordering Christmas Poinsettias to decorate the sanctuary for Christmas. You may order flowers in honor of or memory of someone. See the envelope for sizes and colors and orders are due by Sunday, December 13. Please include your payment in the envelope.

## Church Council

### Safe Sanctuary Training

Deerfield UMC is scheduling a Safe Sanctuary Training on Monday December 9 at 6:30pm. Anyone currently working with the children's ministry, nursery, Boy and Cub Scouts chartered by Deerfield UMC, or anyone wanting to start the Safe Sanctuary Process, please plan to attend. Deerfield UMC is adopting the West Ohio Conference of the United Methodist Church Safe Sanctuary Policy. If you attended a training class prior to May, 2015, you need to take a refresher course.



### Sunday School Teachers Needed

Help keep our Sunday School going strong! Your team of Sunday School teachers is looking for assistants and substitutes to ensure we keep 2 safe sanctuary trained/screened adults in the room at all times. No preparation required! After you sign up,

just show up and assist the lead teacher. Not Safe Sanctuary Trained, but would like to help? Attend the December 9 training. Contact Julie Reed if you're interested (513-933-0471). Already trained and willing to help? Go directly to the Sign Up Genius link: <http://bit.ly/1RgZxmt>



### Leadership Training Day

The annual Ohio River Valley District Leadership Training Day will be upon us before we know it - January 30, 2016. Armstrong Chapel has agreed to host us again and we are grateful.

Workshops will focus on administrative processes of the church and developing and implementing a modified leadership structure. Three different church structure conversations will be held based on church size, giving you the opportunity to really see how it would work in your setting and what fruit and of course, challenges, to expect.

Worship will be a very key part of our day, both in the morning and the afternoon. You'll take away learning insights, and you'll also have a chance to share what you know with others, too. *Given* is the theme to Annual Conference 2016 and we'll begin to immerse ourselves in *Given* with Luke 6:38: *Give away your life; you'll find life given back, but not merely given back - given back with bonus and blessing. Giving, not getting, is the way. Generosity begets generosity.* (The Message)

Mark your calendar for this great day of learning and fellowship and stay tuned for sign up information coming soon!

## Radical Hospitality

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

### Coffee time Fellowship

Our coffee time fellowship occurs from 9:30-12:30. It is between both services and after Deerfield's service to get a chance to talk with friends and to welcome new guests to both churches. Both churches have their roles. St. Mary Magdalene congregation buys the coffee



and tea. They are responsible for making the morning coffee, tea, and hot water, as well as setting up the coffee time before their service and they also provide some snacks. St. Mary Magdalene uses a sign-up sheet on their bulletin board for their congregation to volunteer. Each congregation asks for volunteers instead of using a budgeting item from the church to support this ministry. If you are looking for a small way to be involved here it is.

Deerfield UMC's congregation brings drinks such as milk, juice, lemonade, and provides snacks as well. Ed and Margie Burke always make sure there is an abundant amount of creamers to meet each person's likings. Deerfield UMC has a Sign Up Genius website for people to sign up to bring bagels & cream cheese, fruit, sweets, and the drinks. It is also Deerfield UMC's responsibility to clean up after our worship service.

Each congregation has decided to use their own form of sign up to encourage those who want to participate. This article is to inform us all how the system works. I want to ask each person in each church to be involved as you wish. If you are coming to church on Sunday, it is a small way of serving the Lord; welcoming guests to our churches, and being involved. In recent weeks there has been a request for more fruit during the fellowship time. Please feel free to contribute and help the cause. There are always ways to improve and we are open for suggestions. Contact Penny Cesco with questions (513-324-5843).

## 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

### Missions Board

Check out the new Missions Bulletin Board that is located in the hallway outside the sanctuary, across from the coat rack. You can see what has been happening at DUMC, what mission opportunities are currently available, and what to mark your calendar with for future events. If you have ideas or events you would like to share, please contact Stephanie Copley at [Stephanie.copley@gmail.com](mailto:Stephanie.copley@gmail.com)!

Vision  
Mission  
& Values

**PLEASE NOTE:** Community Dinner sign up sheet will no longer be passed around during service. Instead, please sign up using the communication cards found in the Sunday bulletin. The sign-up sheet will be updated and kept hanging on the Missions bulletin board so feel free to check out what sides are already being provided and where openings still remain. If you have any questions, please contact Stephanie Copley at [stephanie.copley@gmail.com](mailto:stephanie.copley@gmail.com). Thank you!

### The Giving Tree

We have an opportunity to spread Christmas love in the form of gifts for families in need of a little Christmas cheer and blessings. Look for gift tags (as ornaments) on the Christmas Giving Tree, sign up which tag you took, and return your wrapped gifts back to church by Sunday December 13.



### Love A Good Christmas Carol?

Why not share your love of Christmas carols with others! Please join us in sharing song, fellowship and good will with our Maineville neighbors at Berrywood Retirement Community. Plan to meet at church at 6:15 pm on Monday, December 7 to carpool over, or just meet at Berrywood Retirement Community (3394 Townsley Drive, Loveland) at 6:30 pm. Please bring some cookies to share, as we will join with the residents in a small reception following caroling. The Deerfield UMC Mission Committee will distribute gifts of hand-knitted scarves for the residents as we go a-caroling. If you're a member of the Monday evening Bible Study, we'll likely finish caroling by 7:15 for you to make it back to Deerfield UMC. Come join in the fun and help spread some Christmas cheer to others!

### December Food Pantry Drive

Please help us provide Christmas dinners to families in our community. Our goal is to provide 12 meals. Each basket/box should include at least one of each of the following: boxed potatoes, canned vegetable, boxed bread or cornbread mix, jar of gravy, boxed stuffing, and a boxed dessert. Missions will provide the main meat to go with each meal. You can bring in several items to go toward a basket or create an entire basket! Please have donations to church by Sunday, December 13. Please contact Stephanie Copley at [Stephanie.copley@gmail.com](mailto:Stephanie.copley@gmail.com) with questions. Thank you!



## Community Dinner

Please join us Sunday, December 13, from 6:00-7:30 pm to serve a homemade Christmas dinner to people in our Community. Please sign up to bring a dish on the communication card and/or on the sign up located on the Missions bulletin board. If you have questions send them to [Stephanie.copley@gmail.com](mailto:Stephanie.copley@gmail.com). Invite a neighbor, family, or friend! All are welcome!

## Operation Christmas Child



Deerfield United Methodist Church sent off 167 Operation Christmas Child boxes this past November! Thank you to all who packed boxes at home, brought materials to fill boxes at church, and came to help pack boxes at church! Packing boxes together is a fun way to socialize while doing mission work for others.

The Cub Scout troop that meets at the church helped out by putting appropriate labels on the boxes (gender and ages) at the Scout's Wednesday meeting. After a final inspection and rubber banding around the boxes, they were picked up by Phil Wenger from Loveland UMC and shipped on their way to the distribution center, where they will be sent around the world to share the Good News of Jesus along with love from us packed in a box. Boxes all contained personal care items, school supplies, and toys and games for children.



Samaritan's Purse will add a booklet about Jesus in the language of the country the boxes are sent to, and after receiving their boxes,

children will be invited to participate in a 12-week discipling opportunity to learn more about Jesus. Look for future articles in upcoming newsletters to find out where our shoeboxes went!



## Buckeye Brigade

Recruiting for the Buckeye Brigade! You should make the buckeye centers at home and freeze them. We will be getting together on Saturday, December 5 at 10:00 am at the church for dipping and packaging them for sale. If you have made buckeye centers, please plan to bring them frozen on December 5. They are easier to handle when they are frozen. Please bring enough bags of chocolate chips to dip all the centers you bring. The paraffin and other supplies will be provided. If you have a double boiler, please bring that, also. We plan to be finished before 1 pm, but that depends on how many Buckeyes we make. The sale begins on December 6 and if there are extras they will be sold at the Community Dinner. To ensure you receive some, there are pre-order forms right outside of the church office. The proceeds will be used to fund our Community Dinners and other mission projects. If you have any questions or would like to volunteer or donate ingredients please contact Barb Dixon at (513-683-0281). Plans are flexible, so all suggestions and help are welcome!

### **Buckeyes**

*Yields about 5 dozen*

#### Center Ingredients:

1 stick of 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.

#### 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.

*\*This recipe is the "old" one. Since then the manufacturer has decreased the size of the peanut butter jars to 16 oz., so you will need to add an additional 2 oz. from an additional jar of peanut butter. It is suggested to try mixing up the recipe using the 16 oz. jar and if the batter is too stiff, then add the additional peanut butter from new jar.\**



## Intentional Faith Development

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

### Experiencing God Study

The Monday evening study will continue to meet until December 14 and then will resume January 4.

### Advent Study: Under Wraps

Starting November 29, two new small-group study opportunities will be available. This study will last the 4 weeks of Advent and will help us prepare for Christmas. In tandem with the sermon series, the small groups will take a closer look at the character of God described in the Old Testament and then revealed through Jesus Christ. Each week centers on a key word describing a characteristic of God: faithful, dangerous, expectant, and jealous. One group will meet Tuesday mornings at 11 am. The second group will meet Tuesday evenings at 7:00 pm. Plan now to be a part of one of these small-group studies to prepare your heart for Christmas!

### Production time!

During the December 13 church service, the kids and youth will be presenting 2 short plays celebrating the miracle of Christ's birth. Sit back and enjoy "The Shepherds' Christmas" and "Christmas on Canvas." Invite your family and friends to join us as we share the story of Christmas.



### What is a Walk to Emmaus?

The Walk to Emmaus is a three day experience of renewal, learning and sharing in the atmosphere of a Christian community. It is a different experience for each individual.

The Gospel of Luke tells the story of the resurrected Christ appearing to two men walking on the road between Jerusalem and the small town of Emmaus. (Luke 24:13-35).

This story provides the background for the Emmaus Weekend, a program sponsored by the [Upper Room](#). The Emmaus brochure puts it best: "The Walk to Emmaus is a three-day experience which takes a New Testament look at Christianity as a lifestyle. It is a highly structured weekend designed to strengthen and renew the faith of Christian

people, and through them their families, congregations and the world in which they live. Emmaus is a combined effort of laity and clergy toward the renewal of the church."

Think you might be interested, have questions, or just want to hear more? Please get in touch with Dale Wik, Jackie Marshall, Julie Dian-Reed, Karen Kenwell, Shannon Clark, Karen Long, Margie Burke, or Penny Cesco. These individuals have been on an Emmaus Walk. They can provide you with more information.

There are two Women's Walk to Emmaus; the first one is April 14-17, 2016 and the second one is October 20-23, 2016. There are also two Men's Walk to Emmaus; the first one is April 28-May 1, 2016 and the second one is October 13-16, 2016.



### Adult Bible Study

This class meets on Sundays, 9:30 – 10:30 a.m. in Room 101. We are studying the Book of Acts. Come join in!

### Children's Sunday School

(Age 4 years - Grade 2)

- ◇ December 6, attend worship with parents.
- ◇ December 13, 20 & 27, 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.

### Children's Bible iWitness

(Grades 3 – 6)

- ◇ December 6 & 20, attend worship with parents.
- ◇ December 27, attend Bible Study. Children will start out 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)

- ◇ December 6 & 20, attend worship with parents.
- ◇ December 27, attend Sunday School.

## Let Us Pray!

### Prayer Group

The Tuesday evening prayer ministry is on hold while Margie Burke is recuperating from surgery. Please keep Margie in your prayers.

### E-Prayer Group

Wanting to help in the power of prayer? Join the Prayer Team! If you are interested, contact Karen Long (543-0965, 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

Victoria Adkins	Roy Johnson
Eric Amshoff	Greg Kenwell
Amy	Joe Laake
Al & Judy Billock	Barb Leach
Ed & Margie Burke	Glenn M.
John Burke	April Matson
Connie Combs	Lynn Robinson
Becky D.	Chris Schenkel
Jim Davidson	Emily Schenkel
Jon Gee	Colleen Shillington
Holland Family	Den Staab
Country of France	Dan Troy
Paula & Jade Humble	Family of Isa Turner
Duke & Judy Huth	Nancy & Fr Tom Van Brunt

### December Birthdays

12/10	Penny Cesco
12/11	Roy Dixon
12/19	Lauren Reed
12/28	Tom Reed
12/29	Gail Praither
12/30	David Marshall

### December Anniversaries

*No known Anniversaries.*

*If your birthday or anniversary was not listed, please either call the church office or send an email to [dumc@deerfieldumc.org](mailto:dumc@deerfieldumc.org).*

### 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](http://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!

### Breakthrough Goals

In December 2014 the Church Council set goals for 2015 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 to be the Body of Christ, Inviting the Community, Connecting to God, Growing as Disciples, and Serving Others.



	<u>Goal</u>	<u>Current</u>
Passionate Worship	60	45
Radical Hospitality		
Professions of faith	6	0
Baptisms	3	3
Intentional Faith Development		
Average no. small groups	8	3
Average no. attendees	50	24
Percentage of congregation in small groups	65%	54%
Risk Taking Mission/Service		
Total number engaged in	55	45
Extravagant Generosity		
Average weekly giving	\$2,500	\$2,470
Apportionments	100%	100%
Additional giving		
Missions	\$25,000	\$3,025
Fundraisers/budget	\$3,000	\$4,000
Capital	\$1,500	\$1,800
Advance specials	\$500	\$1,100



**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 worship service, Sanctuary



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 * Under Wraps Study 11am & 7pm Rm 106	2 * Church Council 7:00pm * Cub Scouts 6:00-8:30pm	3 * Band Practice 7:00pm Sanctuary	4	5 * Buckeye Dipping 10am-4pm
6 * Worship (see above)	7 * Whiz Kids at JF Burns 4pm * Boy Scouts 6:30-8pm, Rms 101-103, 105 * Experiencing God Study 7:30pm-9pm * Caroling at Berrywood Comm. 6:15-7:15pm	8 * Girl Scouts Room 101 6:30pm * Under Wraps Study 11am & 7pm Rm 106	9 * Cub Scouts 6:00-8:30pm * Trustees Meeting 6:30pm Rm. 104 * Safe Sanctuary Training 6:30pm	10 * Band Practice 7:00pm Sanctuary	11	12
13 * Worship (see above) * Children Play worship * Community Dinner 6:00pm * Giving Tree gifts due * Food Pantry items due	14 * Whiz Kids at JF Burns 4pm * 2757 Meeting 6:30pm Rm 104 * Boy Scouts 6:30-8pm, Rms 101-103, 105 * Experiencing God Study 7:30pm-9pm	15 * Under Wraps Study 11am & 7pm Rm 106	16 * Cub Scouts 6:00-8:30pm * Daisy Scout Meeting 6-7:30pm Rm 107	17 * Band Practice 7:00pm Sanctuary  <b>Newsletter Articles Due!</b>	18	19
20 * Worship (see above)	21 * Boy Scouts 6:30-8pm, Rms 101-103, 105	22 * Girl Scouts Room 101 6:30pm * Under Wraps Study 11am & 7pm Rm 106	23 * Cub Scouts 6:00-8:30pm	24 * Christmas Eve Candlelight Service 7:30pm	25 	26
27 * Worship (see above)	28 * Boy Scouts 6:30-8pm, Rms. 101-103, 105	29	30	31 <b>NEW YEAR'S EVE</b> 		

## Thank You!

Our Family at DUMC!

We want to thank all of you from the bottom of our hearts for the amazing send off you gave us. We were touched and humbled by your love and kindness. We are truly blessed to have been a part of the DUMC family and we are so grateful for all of the amazing friendships we have made. We miss you all and pray that we will cross paths again in the future! Our door is always open! Our new address is: 8204 Morehouse Dr., Waxhaw, NC 28173.

With Love,  
The Loflands

### You Are Invited

This coming weekend, December 4-6, you are invited to come experience the Living Nativity at Loveland UMC. This is year 14 of production! If you go, you will get to see a familiar face there, Tonya Oriol and her family will be part of the cast all three nights. If you have never been, it is a walk through experience that is led by a tour guide, "Luke." Stand before Caesar and be counted by the Census Taker. Listen to Elizabeth, Zechariah, Mary and Joseph as they tell their part in God's miraculous plan. Share the exuberant joy of the angels and shepherds as they lead you to the peaceful scene in the Manger. You will be transported back in time by the sights and sounds of this free offering to the community, as Loveland UMC invites you to

hear The Greatest Story Ever Told! Performances are Friday and Saturday 6-9:00pm and on Sunday 4:30-7:30pm. Loveland UMC is located at 10975 S. Lebanon Rd, Loveland, OH 45140.



### Church Office Closed

The church office will be closed December 25-January 2. For pastoral emergencies, please call Pastor Linda on her cell phone: 513-227-8414.

NewsLetter  
**DEADLINE**

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Deadline for the next newsletter is:  
Wednesday, **December 19, 2015**  
Email to: [dumc@deerfieldumc.org](mailto:dumc@deerfieldumc.org)



2757 West U.S. 22-3, Maineville, OH 45039  
(513) 683-PRAY (7729) Fax: (513) 683-7829  
[www.deerfieldumc.org](http://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.