

# Deerfield United Methodist Church January 2012 Newsletter

## Happy New Year

from Pastor Jackie

### Deerfield UMC 2012 Breakthrough Goals

Goal	2011	2012
Average worship Attendance	44	55
Professions Of Faith	4	4
Baptisms	2	4
# of small groups	6	9-12
Financial Giving	n/a	3% increase

### INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Unbinding Your Heart	2
Intentional Faith Development	3
Risk Taking Mission	3
Passionate Worship	2
Welcome	2
Prayer Concerns	4
January Birthdays	4
January Anniversaries	4
Did you know?	4
Forgotten Heritage	4

I do believe that every year I say: "I can't believe another year is here already." The great thing about a "new" year is the fact that we can choose to mark it as a time where we can start over. Literally we can say, "I (we)" want to begin again. Nothing could be more true for Deerfield UMC.

One of my core life bible verses is this: **"Do not remember the former things, or consider the things of old. I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it? I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert. The wild animals will honor me, the jackals and the ostriches; for I give water in the wilderness, rivers in the desert, to give drink to my chosen people, the people whom I formed for myself so that they might declare my praise."** (Isaiah 43: 18-21)

Isaiah was speaking to a people in exile...that they were going to experience a new exodus from Babylon. Earlier in this same chapter he says "Do not fear, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name, you are mine. When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and through

the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you; when you walk through fire you shall not be burned, and the flame shall not consume you. For I am the Lord your God, the Holy One of Israel, your Savior." (Is. 43: 1a-3)

We have been worried and afraid lately for a variety of reasons, but we also know what Jesus tells us about these things: "And can any of you by worrying add a single hour to your span of life?" (Mt. 6:27) "So do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will bring worries of its own." (Mt. 6:34a) "Are not two sparrows sold for a penny? Yet not one of them will fall to the ground apart from your Father. And even the hairs of your head are all counted. So do not be afraid; you are of more value than many sparrows." (Mt. 10:29-30)

2012 will be our official year to begin again. I have been preparing for our new beginning for six months. As your leader, I believe that God is going to do a "new thing" this year. Deerfield UMC has already been hard at work, even before I had perceived that God wanted me to be here

with you. To use a biblical metaphor: you have been plowing the ground diligently, to get ready to plant the seeds. Plowing is hard work, as we know. You have made changes already, and I promise that there are more to come. This is what happens when God does new things among us. But we will pray, work, and play together, as we perceive God's new way for us.

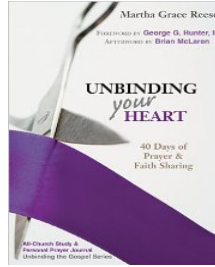
A first and very important way for you to begin to see what new thing God is telling you, is to be a part of one of the small groups beginning the second week in January. Begin now to pray for God to make a way for you to be able to participate in the study! (Childcare will be available.) I will be preaching on the topics we cover, and leading one of the studies.

Secondly, I want you to know that I am actively speaking with my colleagues in the West Ohio Conference, doing research, and reading a few recommended books, one of which is called, *"Planting Growing Churches, a Comprehensive Guide for New Churches and Those Desiring Renewal."* (by

Aubrey Malphurs). While we are not technically a “new church start” we need to follow the lessons of successful church planters for our own “church restart renewal.” You will be hearing much more about this as we live into 2012.

Deerfield UMC: you have been faithful, committed servants of the Lord. I am very thankful for you and for your strong, vibrant commitment to the Church. Now is the time to open our hearts and minds to perceive what God has in mind for us. We will continue our journey together, and it will take all of our gifts and graces working in tandem to do it.

“Do not be afraid little flock, for it is the Father’s good pleasure to give you the Kingdom.” (Luke 12: 32)  
There’s a way through our wilderness, and God is going to show us. I believe this with all my heart. Believe it and work for it Deerfield! Oh, and by the way, there will be manna, and God’s living water (Jesus) to feed us every step we take. **Happy 2012!**



## Unbinding your Heart, 40 Days of Prayer & Faith Sharing

(by Martha Grace Reese)

Based on a study of more than 12,000 congregations in 50 states, 49 denominations, and 8 countries, our author will help us to focus on real life evangelism! We will discuss “why do it?”, read real examples of faith sharing, and analyze what is possible for us. During the study we will have the opportunity to move closer to God with a 40-day personal prayer journal, and we will be praying together each week. We will be able to share with each other our own experiences and feelings on evangelism, and relate our faith stories as well.

This study is much, much more than knocking on people’s doors to tell them about Jesus. It is much, much more than our stereotypes of evangelism...it is about being informed, learning how to overcome obstacles, growing in our faith, and seeing new possibilities for church growth!

**This is the study for everyone in our church to attend beginning the second week in January. Get ready for an amazing experience together!**

Church-wide  
study sign up  
on January 8

**Which time is right for you? Here are the offerings:**

- ⇒ Sunday morning: 9:00-10:30am Leaders: Margie Burke, Shem Loftland
- ⇒ Monday evening: 7:00-8:30pm Leaders: Ryan & Susan Roosen
- ⇒ Tuesday evening: 7:00-8:30pm Leaders: Pastor Jackie, Sandy Vogele
- ⇒ TBA: Leaders: Dale Wik, Luke Copley
- ⇒ Other options could include Sunday evening, or a daytime study. Watch for more details very soon.

## WELCOME

On Sunday, November 20, 2011, Deerfield welcomed into its fellowship five new members: Luke & Steph Copley, Ron Denicola & Julie Denicola and Lynn Robinson.


Luke and Steph Copley began attending when Luke became part of the church band a few years ago. Luke works for Grainger and enjoys being a musician. Steph is a teacher at Summit Academy.

Ron & Julie Denicola have been attending DUMC since last summer and decided to become

members. They have two children, Danielle (6) and Jasmine (4) who were baptized the same day. Julie works for Premier Designs and enjoys working out in the gym, running, biking, rowing and cooking. Ron has his own business, JR Computer Outlet.

Lynn Robinson has been attending DUMC for some time, also. She works for Macy’s Credit Customer Service and her interests include sewing, knitting and reading. She also enjoys working on the community dinners here at DUMC.

## Passionate Worship (Sunday, 11:00 a.m.)

- Jan. 1<sup>st</sup> – Epiphany worship will celebrate the visit of the Magi and their offering to the Christ Child. Holy Communion will be served as we worship with St. Mary Magdalene at **10:00am.** 
- Jan. 8<sup>th</sup> – We kick off a seven-week sermon series based on our small group study “Unbinding the Heart.” The key verse from Acts 8:26-37 is “How can I [understand the good news] unless someone guides me?”
- Jan. 15<sup>th</sup> – We’ll hear about “The Paul Problem” from Acts 9:1-19. The key verse is “Go, for he is an instrument I have chosen to bring my name.”
- Jan. 22<sup>nd</sup> – Consider “The Prayer Plunge” based on Luke 5:1-10. The key verse is “Put out into deep water and let down your nets for a catch.”
- Jan. 29<sup>th</sup> – We’ll look at “The Converted Community” in Acts 2:14, 32-39. Our key verse is “The promise is for you and your children... everyone whom the Lord calls to him.”

# Intentional Faith Development

## Adult

### Good Morning God!

January 8, 9:00-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 retreat will have a short worship service followed by a time for you to contemplate the paths you have travelled and the one you are embarking on this new year. 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.

### Prayer Group

Tuesday evenings at 6:30 p.m. Everyone is welcome! For information, contact Margie Burke.

### Bible Study

Every Sunday, 9:30 – 10:30 a.m.. Topic: “Chronological Walk through the Gospels.” Starting January 15th, this will be one of the groups studying “Unbinding Your Heart” for six weeks. It will return to its regular study afterwards.

### Craft/Bible Study Group

First & Third Monday of the month (January 2 & 16), 6:30 p.m. in the kitchen. Bring your craft to do while we study “The

Old Testament” taught by Professor Amy-Jill Levine of Vanderbilt University Divinity School. Contact Barb Dixon at 683-0281 if you have any questions.

### Ohio River Valley District Training Day

**This is a fantastic opportunity!** Mark your calendars for Saturday, January 21<sup>st</sup>, from 8:30am-3:30pm to experience the huge variety of workshops available to equip you to use your ministry gifts even better! Please check out our district website for all the opportunities: [www.orvumc.org](http://www.orvumc.org). Click on the training day info, and then click the “workshop descriptions” on the right side of the page.

Take this opportunity also to go to the Strengthfinders workshop. You purchase the book (there are links on the district webpage), take the on-line test, and print the results. Bring the results with you to the workshop for the seminar. Ad. Council – this is a great way for us to put the synergy of our strengths together to maximize our effectiveness!!!

## Children

### Children's Sunday School

(Age 4 through grade 2)

- ◆ Jan. 1, attend worship with parents
- ◆ Jan. 8, 15, & 22, 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):

- ◆ Jan 1 & 15, attend worship with parents
- ◆ Jan. 8 & 22, attend Bible Study. Children can be dropped off at 10:55 a.m. and picked up immediately following worship.

### Children's Fun Sunday

(Age 4 through Grade 6):

- ◆ Jan. 29, the fifth Sunday of any month the children gather together for a joint fun Sunday. They are encouraged to bring their friends. Children can be dropped off at 10:55 a.m. and picked up immediately following worship.

## Risk Taking Mission

### January Community Dinner

Sunday, January 8, 6:00–7:30 p.m.

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

January 21, 5:30 p.m. If you would like to join them, they would love to have you.

### Thank You!

We received a thank you note from Bernie's Place! It is posted on

## Did You Know?

- Scott Douglas and Mark Bredemeier work on our magazine and radio ads.
- Susan Roosen recently changed our outside sign.
- We received a \$7,980 grant to upgrade our worship communication system.
- Jackie Marshall and Susan Roosen recently attended a workshop on how to use Photoshop to enhance worship.
- Dale Wik & Brian Leary recently hung the cross in the sanctuary.
- Mother Anne and Pastor Jackie collaborated and made the blue Advent altar cloth.
- David Marshall is working on new name tags and signage with Mark Bredemeier.
- Barb Dixon spearheaded the buckeye making, and the creation of the new Bible/Craft Study.
- Regina Meeker, Nancy Bredemeier, & Penny Cesco beautifully organized and executed the Children's Christmas Pageant.
- Julie Reed organized the Giving Tree and Berrywood caroling for the first time.
- Ad. Council recently submitted all paperwork to re-finance our mortgage loan.
- Ron Denicola recently installed new, updated computers and a server system for our office.
- Sandy Vogeles has her pastoral certification interview in early February.
- Shem Loftland (& missions) provide beautiful decorations for our community dinners.
- Ryan Roosen recently went with Pastor Jackie to a district pastor leader's meeting to help plan Easter service.
- Ad. Council has discussed our church goals for 2012 and they can be found in a frame in the fellowship area. (and this newsletter)
- Our new and improved website is now up and running! Check us out at: [www.deerfieldumc.org](http://www.deerfieldumc.org)
- Pastor Jackie will be attending a seminar called "Guide to Facebook Marketing" (for business) Jan. 17, 9-4pm. Anyone want to join in?

## Prayer Concerns

Brett Bondurant  
Julie Cromwell  
Kent Dennison  
Rebecca Hershey  
Shawna Hershey  
Kris Johnson  
Karen Mason  
Don Peak  
Stephi Penny & baby  
Gabiella  
Chris Schenkel  
Heather Shaughnessy  
Stanley Family  
Ray Snider  
Diana Thomas

## January

### Birthdays

1 Steph Copley  
2 Spencer Meeker  
14 Harold Robinson

### Anniversaries

14 Jim & Sandy Vogeles  
14 John & Vicki Young

## A Forgotten Heritage: The German Methodist Church

After 18 years of research, writing and procrastinating, Barb Dixon completed her book. The book is about the German speaking branch of the Methodist church that flourished in the tri state area from about 1864 to 1930. During this period, many German families immigrated to this country to avoid the European wars and live the American dream. The German Methodist Church served these immigrants. Barb's great grandfather was one of these immigrants and he became a German Methodist pastor. He met his wife who had come from the Netherlands with her family. My grandfather, who also became a German Methodist pastor, came from Switzerland. He and my grandmother served in many churches in the tri-state area. He kept 40 years of diaries detailing his life and my book features many of his thoughts on events of the times.

Barb has donated a copy of her book for our library which you can borrow. Thank you Barb.

We are on the web  
[www.deerfieldumc.org](http://www.deerfieldumc.org)



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.