



**John Stewart UMC**

130 W Johnson Street  
Upper Sandusky OH 43351  
phone: 419-294-2867

**Forest UMC**

111 E Dixon St  
Forest OH 45843  
phone: 419-273-3148

**Wharton UMC**

208 E Sandusky St  
Wharton OH 43359

Numbers. In between hospital visits, funerals, shut-in visits, sermons, snowy days, rainy days, hectic days, good days—in between the mirage of activities of a pastor, I've been dealing with lots of numbers. I am learning a new non-profit soft-ware with Financial Secretaries, the Bookkeeper, and the Administrator at JSUM—lots and lots of numbers. I have been counting down to the days to spring—that number keeps getting larger as the days stay cold and dreary. I have counted too many illnesses in our parish—I never like that number. And the deaths this winter—no, let's not talk about that number.

But numbers define my life! I am a Father of 3. I am a Grandfather of 6. I am a husband of 1 (as if that number would ever be anything but 1!). I am a pastor to more than 300. After the death of my sisters, I am an only child—the only 1. Between JoAnne and I, we've lost 3 parents, with 1 that survives. I am on call 7 days a week, 24 hours a day for God in service to the parish and to the world. Numbers. I am... nothing without the numbers that define me.

But the most defining of the numbers are these: I am created by 1 God. I am saved by

1 Son, and I am empowered by 1 Spirit. And these 3 are really only 1! And called as I am, with you, the faithful of the parish, so that we as 1 Church, may live in peace, become strengthened for ministry, fear only the 1 Lord our God, and welcome the encouragement of the 1 Holy Spirit with the expectation that we will increase in numbers. Yes! Increase in numbers!

Maybe numbers are good. Maybe numbers are not to cause us to be fretful, but instead should cause us delight. Maybe the number of rainy days are only a sign of the many fruits to be harvested in another season. Maybe numbers don't have to make our minds spin: numbers of things that disturb us, with a little faith and a little wrestling, may bring us into peace; numbers of things that challenge us may well be what strengthen us.

Numbers. Let us have and share life by the numbers. ~ Pastor Brian

Acts 9:31 Then the church throughout Judea, Galilee and Samaria enjoyed a time of peace and was strengthened. Living in the fear of the Lord and encouraged by the Holy Spirit, it increased in numbers. NIV

# Minutes of Leadership Council Meeting

January 8, 2018

Those in attendance for the January meeting of the Leadership Council were Pastor Doug Pummell, Brenda Deringer, Terri Exline, Elois Cramer, Peggy Hafer, Joe Hochstettler, Kathy Kin, Mike Kin, Stanley Seabert, and Tom Deringer.

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Joe Hochstettler, and he also opened in prayer.

The minutes of the November 13, 2017 meeting were approved as presented.

Many things were discussed in regards to facility issues, and all were referred to the trustees for action.

1. Organize basement and get rid of the furniture in the lower level. (Top priority. Others are not in order of priority.)
2. New sump pump and dehumidifier are needed in basement.
3. Has the parsonage furnace been checked?
4. Preschool has their A/C out of the window, but Headstart does not. This is a waste of heat and needs to be addressed.
5. The chair by the pulpit needs glued. Follow-up with Dennis Phillips who volunteered to fix it.
6. Handicap accessible area in sanctuary can be made by removing the back right pew in the front section.
7. Window in west storeroom of the basement is leaking water.
8. Pews need to be arranged so the aisle is again wide enough for weddings.
9. Roof on garage is leaking.
10. Guidelines for weddings needs updated.
11. Light is needed at back door entry to Fellowship Hall.
12. Gutters should be cleaned yearly.
13. A new sanctuary cleaning sign-up sheet needs to be put on the information table.

The financial statements from the bank have not yet arrived, so we have no financial report this month. However, there is enough in our balance to pay for our apportionments, and since it was already voted to pay them if balance was available at our last meeting, Terri was instructed to pay both district and conference apportionments in full. It was suggested that the Special Offering totals be published in the bulletin, but not the weekly offerings. We also need to let the congregation know we are thankful that they have stepped up their giving. Doug will address this on Sunday. Shirley will be putting the current financial statements on the information table as soon as they are ready.

It was also suggested that the treasurer and financial secretary set up our bank account online so that they can access it whenever they like, and not have to wait for the statements to arrive in the mail.

Church in the Park was discussed. We need to decide at the March meeting as to how we will be supporting the lunch served at Martins in May and the Church in the Park itself in July.

Stanley Seabert presented Kathy Kin's Mutual Ministry Team Covenant as approved by the covenant team. Stanley then moved, and Peggy Hafer seconded, accepting the covenant as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

The Safe Sanctuary Policy needs to be taught to all in positions that require it within the church.

The SPPRC needs to review job descriptions yearly, and have an employee review yearly.

Hempy Water has been a great help our church, providing water and helping with our food pantry deliveries. We need to recognize their generosity and let them know it is appreciated. Stanley moved and Tom Deringer seconded that we send them a card of appreciation signed by the church members and friends. Motion passed unanimously.

The meeting was closed in prayer by Pastor Doug.

The next meeting is scheduled for March 12, 2018, at 6:30 p.m.

Presented by Kathy Rickenbacher Kin, Acting Secretary in absence of Martha Cramer

# Forest United Methodist Church

Hardin-Wyandot Charge

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## In The Loop

Joe Hochstettler, Chair  
Forest Leadership Team

Within the minutes of the Forest UMC Leadership Team meeting held on January 8, 2018 there is mentioned something that we all should celebrate. It has been a long time since we have been able to state that we have met 100% of our apportionments. Paying our apportionments is the fulfillment of our connectional covenant.

“United Methodists throughout the world are bound together in a connectional covenant in which we support and hold each other accountable for faithful discipleship and mission.” – *United Methodist Church Book of Discipline Section 1: The Churches*, ¶125.

By meeting our 2017 Conference and District apportionments we have sustained a connection to all Methodists throughout the world. This is also referred to as “Connectional Giving”, which is described as simply “as people coming together, combining their money to accomplish something bigger than themselves. United Methodists support apportioned and designated funds through their connectional gifts.”

It is important for us to remember that our local church is not the total body of Christ. Just as John Donne said that “no man is an island unto himself”, so too no church is either. The reason we can do great things is through our “connectionalism.” Each local church is “connected” to one another by a common mission and a common governing body we call Methodism which allows us to have an impact throughout the world through ministry with each other and even other denominations.

We should be encouraged by having met our commitments to the West Ohio Conference and the Northwest Plains District for 2017, but at the same time understand that the job is not done. 2018 brings new challenges for our congregation. We need to meet those challenges with the resolve that we had for 2017.



# Forest-Wharton Food Pantry

Our pantry is truly a “community food pantry.” Many area churches donate items and/or funds to the pantry as well as individuals volunteering on servicing day. The pantry would not exist without their help and the help our church members on servicing day. Thanks goes out to them for seeing the need and give their time to help others.



At Thanksgiving and Christmas time area churches donate one type of item or funds in order to give each family a sack with food for that special day, as well as their ample 3 day supply of food.

We service on the fourth Monday of the month unless a holiday prevents this, in December we serviced 58 families, a total of 192 individuals.

Special thanks to the following people who put themselves out each and every month for the food pantry.

Ron Horn and Tom Deringer, they both make trips to West Ohio Food Bank in Lima to pick up items for the food pantry.

Peggy Pfeiffer, a member of the Wharton United Methodist Church, who has been with the pantry through the forming of the pantry. She is lead person in the pantry each month.

My list could go on and on, but I do appreciate every person who takes time to help our pantry.

Lois L. Thiel, Director

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## UPCOMING EVENTS

### Forest UMC

**Wednesday, May 2 – Worship Team, 5:30 pm**

**Sunday, May 6 – Fellowship Lunch after morning worship**

**Wednesday, May 9 – United Methodist Women, 1:30 pm in Fellowship Hall**

**Monday, May 14 – Leadership Team, 6:30 pm in Fellowship Hall**

**Wednesday, May 16 – USDA delivery, 10:30 am**

**Wednesday, May 16 – Forest Christian Preschool Graduation, 7 pm**

**Monday, May 28 – Memorial Day**

**Saturday, June 23 – Women’s Retreat, 9 am – 4 pm**



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## Hardin/Wyandot County CEF

**Volunteers** will be having a garage sale in Kenton in June. If you would like to donate items for our garage sale please let Cathy Morris know 419-273-2378. Will be collecting items now through May.

Thank you, God Bless – Cathy (Seabert) Morris

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WHERE WOMEN BASK IN GOD'S PRESENCE

### Women's Retreat

**June 23, 2018 9 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. Held at Forest UMC**

**Cost: \$35 – includes: materials, snacks & lunch  
(Please list any diet restrictions)**

**Payment & Registration Due: Friday, June 8, 2018**

**Payable to: John Stewart UMC, upon registration**

**Please fill out one form per person – you may combine payments.**

**If you are unable to pay –  
Please let Becky (419-310-9395) or Sue (567-232-2191) know.  
We have funds to help you!**

**We want everyone to be able to attend! Bring a friend or two 😊**

## Registration

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Phone Number:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Paid:** \_\_\_\_\_ (check, cash)

**Special Diet/Restrictions:**  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Would you like: Ham Salad on Croissant \_\_\_\_\_ or Chicken Salad on Croissant \_\_\_\_\_**

## The new PRAYER Room at the Forest Church!

Scripture tells us to pray without ceasing. We are all in need of prayer. Sometimes we need to do that in a group with fellow believers. At times we need to go to a room and talk to God one on one. Other times we need to just sit and listen to God. Whatever the situation we need to pray without ceasing.

On Easter morning the Forest church opened their new prayer room. A quiet room where anyone can go and talk to God. Forest also started a prayer team. A group of believers who will pray before and after the service. They are also available for special prayer when needed. All this in an effort to become churches and people that pray without ceasing. ~Pastor Doug



# Wednesday Night John Stewart UMC Community Dinners

@ 5:30 p.m. All are welcome for food and fellowship! Menu is subject to change.

**April: 25<sup>th</sup> – Hot dogs, cole slaw, baked beans, applesauce**

## May

- 2<sup>nd</sup> Turkey gravy over mashed potatoes, green beans, rolls, jello
- 9<sup>th</sup> Taco salad, cake
- 16<sup>th</sup> Grilled cheese, tomato soup, cookies
- 23<sup>rd</sup> Hamburger gravy over mashed potatoes, corn, rolls
- 30<sup>th</sup> Ham & cheese sandwich, chips, pickles, pudding

No meals June – after the Wyandot County Fair.



## Have a great summer!

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*Thank you!*

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On March 20, 2018 Sue and I celebrated our 25<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary!

We want to thank our church families for the surprise party. It was a great memory to celebrate our silver anniversary with all of you, our family! We are grateful and so blessed to be a part of such a wonderful family of believers!  
~ Pastor Doug & Sue Pummell

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**THANK YOU** to all of you who brought in items for our “UNDIES” under the tree project. There were a total of 264 items that have been distributed at the Christian Food Center. Thank you for supporting our Wyandot County mission. ~ Sheila Roszman

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**\*\*Prayers & Squares** have made over 400 prayer quilts since 2010.

**\*\*The Card Ministry** has sent over 5,300\_cards since March 2011.

## John Stewart UMC Leadership Council

### Minutes of the February 26, 2018 Meeting

Sara Lou opened with a “Jesus Moments”.

10 members present: Sara Lou Binau, Scott Cisar, Anne Denman, Susan DeVene, Betsy Bowen, Carol Minehart, Jim Minehart, Pastors: Brian Arnold and Doug Pummell. Not in attendance: Terri Baker, Rylee Goodman, Dylan Ham, Jenny Ham, Kathy Garrison, Jeff Bowen, Sherry Goodman. Prayer was offered by Susan DeVene. Minutes from the last meeting were available. Scott Cisar motioned to accept the minutes, Susan DeVene seconded, motion passed.

### Committee Reports

#### Finance:

- Scott Cisar reported on Finance.
  - A budget meeting will soon be scheduled.
  - Endowment Funds look good
  - Gary Ward, CPA will be scheduled to help set up the non-profit QuickBooks program and he will be available to help the financial secretaries and bookkeeper.

#### SPRC:

- Betsy Bowen reported on SPRC.
  - Charge and individual church SPRC meetings have taken place.
  - Judi Lambrite, Phyllis Koehler, Stan Seabert (Forest UMC) and Betsy attended a workshop in Elida regarding procedures and practices for SPRC. It was a very helpful workshop. The workshop was taught by our district superintendent, Rev. Barry Burns. We have especially learned that we should keep Sundays as a Worship day for all staff and better ways to help keep the church running smooth. We are available to listen to questions or concerns.
  - We have been reading “Guidelines Pastor-Parish Relations Connect the Pastor Staff, and Congregation” book and have been reviewing the Book of Discipline to better serve our church.
  - SPRC will be meeting every 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of the month and once a quarter with the charge.
  - Pastor Doug shared with the leadership that we have the Safe Sanctuary and Active Shooter policies ready and will be implementing and training our congregation and anyone using our facilities on the appropriate directions to follow. All of the information will be available to the congregations. We will also inform the Police regarding our meeting spot during an active shooter account. We will form task groups to help train and educate our congregation.

#### Trustees:

- Betsy Bowen reported for Trustees on behalf of Jeff Bowen.
  - Betsy read a “Thank You” letter from WyandotCARES, Jenni Miller. Jenni thanks John Stewart church for helping them plant their office in our basement meeting room for a few months while they are in transition (they do not have a home). This is a school ministry program.
  - Betsy informed the council that we have a donor who is paying for the 2<sup>nd</sup> half of the renovations (\$24,000) to the outside of the building.
  - Jeff & Betsy Bowen have made a donation of a cabinet seen in the Narthex that will showcase History and Records artifacts.
  - There have been 2 couches donated to the church. Two old ripped couches were removed from the church and replaced by the donated couches.

### Passionate Worship:

- Pastor Doug reported on Passionate Worship
  - We are going to try a new format for our bulletin/attendance and prayer requests. We will have a perforated bulletin in which all in attendance will fill out and place in the offering plate. This will replace the pew pads for attendance and will provide our church with a lot of possible information.
  - We have addressed the issues of our sound board squealing and the technicians are working with each individual group to meet their specific needs with sound. We are thankful for our volunteers.

### Business:

- John Stewart church has received an anonymous donor to have our payroll and taxes supplied by Gary Ward, CPA. Scott Cisar moved that we accept the donation to the Payroll Accountant, Betsy Bowen seconded, discussion followed, motion passed.
- Betsy Bowen announced that there will be a VBS this year. Cathy Morris from our sister church (Forest UMC) will be running the program with the CEF group and will provide the materials needed. We will need to provide volunteers and snacks. Jenny Ham has agreed to be our contact with Cathy Morris and organizer. VBS will be July 22 – 26<sup>th</sup> in the evening.
- The Ice Cream Social is set for July 19<sup>th</sup>
- Ellis Lake is set for July 22<sup>nd</sup>

Meeting adjourned at 9:15 pm

Submitted by:

Sue Pummell, Church Administrator

**Next meeting: April 23, 2018 @ 7:00 p.m. Room 103**

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You Came to the Rescue!

Words cannot describe how thankful we are that you have given us space in your beautiful church building while we are between office locations! Being able to use Room 16 to keep the ministry functioning smoothly as our new location is being prepared is a wonderful blessing. It's a critical time for School Ministries Ohio, as God is opening many doors for Released Time Bible Education in public schools throughout our state. We currently are working to help communities organize programs for RTBE (just like our county's WyandotCARES) and for established programs to expand their offerings. This is the only way some children ever hear about God, and we are grateful for your help to keep this valuable ministry moving forward.

Thank you for the kindness and warm welcome you've shown us! We are here during the week (although we do travel some days) and invite you to stop by room 16 to say "hello". You can visit our website at [schoolministriesohio.org](http://schoolministriesohio.org) to learn more about us.

With deep gratitude,

Jenni Bacon Miller on behalf of the Board, staff and volunteers of School Ministries Ohio



# **Minutes of the Hardin-Wyandot UM Charge Conference: Forest, John Stewart, and Wharton United Methodist Churches**

Date of Conference: 5 November 2017

Presiding Elder: Doug Flinn

The Number of Members Present: 15

Also Present: Rev Brian Arnold and Rev Doug Pummell

(The following proceedings were in fact held as a Church Conference, meaning that any Professing Members present from any of the congregations were granted voting privileges.)

## Opening:

Rev Brian Arnold opened in prayer and introduced the Presiding Elder.

Rev Doug Flinn directed an informal conversation with the members about the ministries conducted at the Hardin-Wyandot Churches.

## Ministry Reports:

The Continuation of Candidate for Local Licensed Pastor Ministry: Doug Pummell.

The Renewing of Certified Lay Servants – Betsy Bowen

New Certified Lay Speaker – Betsy Bowen

Renewal of Certified Lay Minister – Kathy Kin

Anne Denman made a motion to recommend these persons as ministry candidates as listed.

Alice Fay offered a second. The motion carried: 15 yes, 0 no

A List of officers of each congregation for the 2018 year was presented.

Pastor Brian made a motion to recommend these persons as officers for 2018 as listed. Richard Pfeiffer offered a second. The motion carried. 15 yes, 0 no

## Practical Stewardship:

A membership report was prepared by Mrs. Suzanne Pummell (John Stewart) and Brenda Deringer (Forest), including the names of persons to be read for removal from the Pressing Member roll for a first and a second year.

Joe Hochstettler made a motion to accept the first year reading for removal. Mike Kin offered a second. The Forest members voted unanimously in agreement to the motion.

Anne Denman made a motion to accept the first year reading and the second year reading for removal. Sherry Goodman offered a second. The John Stewart members voted unanimously in agreement to the motion. The second year names will be removed from the Professing Member Roll placed on the Constituency Roll for another two years with the hope that contact information may still be found for these persons.

There were no member names reading from the Wharton congregation.

Rev Brian Arnold offered a prayer for the families of the deceased and a prayer of remembrance and celebration for their lives.

## Trustees Legal and Property Report:

The Trustees Legal and Property Report, including the Safe Sanctuary and Active Shooter Policies as well as the Parsonage Inspection reports, was placed before the members. Sherry Goodman made a motion to receive all the reports including the new Active Shooter Policy and the significant updates that were made to the Safe Sanctuary policy to be used for all three congregations. Joe Hochstettler offered a second. There was a brief discussion about these policies and the consensus of the group was that as soon as possible the SPRC and Leadership Councils will implement them, including offering training for all. The motion carried. 15 yes, 0 no

## Pastoral Compensation Packages:

The Hardin-Wyandot Charge Pastoral Salary and Support proposal was placed before the members as prepared by the SPRC. The report included:

1. The recommended 2018 cash compensation for Pastor Brian Arnold is to be set at \$49,964.70. Anne Denman made a motion to this affect. Stan Seabert offered a second. The vote was unanimous to approve the motion. The recommended 2018 cash compensation for Pastor Doug Pummell is to be set at \$16,925.00. Richard Pfeiffer made a motion to this affect. Betsy Bowen offered a second. The vote was unanimous to approve the motion.
2. The requested 2018 housing exclusion declaration for Pastor Brian Arnold is to be set at \$4,500. Betsy Bowen made a motion to this affect. Richard Pfeiffer offered a second. The reminder was offered by Rev. Flinn that the housing exclusion allowance is included in the already applied salary and does not involve any additional funding. This vote represents the establishment of a contract that allows the pastor to take advantage of an IRS income exclusion declaration. The vote was unanimous to approve the motion. The requested 2018 housing exclusion declaration for Pastor Doug Pummell is to be set at 100% of approved cash salary. Alice Fay made a motion to this affect. Kathy Kin offered a second. The vote was unanimous to approve the motion.
3. The recommended 2018 Accountable Reimbursement Policy amount for Pastor Brian Arnold is to be set at \$4,500. Sherry Goodman made a motion to this affect. Dale Mussleman offered a second to the motion. The vote was unanimous to approve the motion. The recommended 2018 Accountable Reimbursement Policy amount for Pastor Doug Pummell is to be set at \$2,500. Stan Seabert made a motion to this affect. Richard Pfeiffer offered a second to the motion. The vote was unanimous to approve the motion.

No changes were offered to change or create Breakthrough Goals—a Conference self-monitoring process which congregations have been encouraged to use in recent years.

## Closing:

Rev Doug Pummell closed the Church Conference with prayer.

Church Conference Secretary: *Sue Pummell*



The 2014 team that make the trip to Blue Knob Work Camp, serving the Altoona, Pennsylvania area: Back Row: Lindsey Ward, Andrew Taylor, Kayla Adkins, Cali Andres, Reagan Ward, Toni Daughenbaugh, Jeran Ward; Front Row: Josie Smalley, Lené Goodman, Pastor Brian, Storm Rife, Braden Cano Trudy Daughenbaugh, Trever Daughenbaugh.

## --Work Camp--

### Now Gearing Up for its 5<sup>th</sup> Summer Adventure

The first youth team to be sent in recent years from JSUM congregation for a summer work camp experience included eleven students, six of whom will be attending their 5<sup>th</sup> summer adventure this coming July. Year around, the students work to raise funds for the privilege of giving 25 hours of community service to repair homes for needy families.

This year during the first week of July, a dozen students and their chaperons are headed to Jacksonville, Florida to help with rebuilding from damage done last year by hurricane Irma. Thank you for the many ways that you support your volunteers in mission. Each year they raise \$7,500 to \$10,000, for the experience. The group works with a co-sponsor organization, *TEAMEffort*, provides arrangements for meals, sleeping space and, of course, a place for worship every night of the week!

Why send our students across the country for mission? Well, there's just something about experiencing the hand of God in a fresh way when we go away from our familiar surroundings. Students often come home more eager to serve their own communities because of their one week mission experience. We're shaping leaders for God's future!

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