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# John Stewart United Methodist Church Family Newsletter

## 2015

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Merry Christmas! Greetings to you, our Church family. We pray you are well and filled with anticipation as the holy season of remembering the birth of our savior comes to us again.

More and more, it seems, we are living our lives through not just our children, but through our children's children. I could not have imagined how much joy comes from watching these special children grow, discover their purpose in life, and live in God's abundance. I can only imagine how God must feel about all those whom God creates and claims as children of God.

This was our year to plan a "big" travel adventure. JoAnne and I made a commitment to one another to plan for a honeymoon of sorts every five years.

The last couple of vacation trips have been shared with family members and have been quite meaningful. In the spring we zipped back to Iowa to catch up with JoAnne's family and a few days after returning to Ohio we took off for Brussels, Belgium.

Our oldest son, BJ, his wife Iza and their children, Olaf (5) and Mia (3) continue to live in Brussels. After being with them for several days, we then traveled all together to Tenerife, Spain—one of 7 of the Canary Islands off the southern coast of Morocco. Go figure, we travel to a resort region on a tropical island and the grandchildren are most entertained by the swimming pool. They have the best concept of fun, of course. Being in the sun, splashing in the pool, and eating ice-cream treats (the simple things) were more important and enjoyable even for us!

This fall Olaf enjoys mid-week music class and Saturday Polish lessons in addition to his regular school. Mia started school and is in the same building as Olaf now. This makes life easier for the family as they bike or bus around the city.

Life is certainly different for our daughter, Jeanine and her family. She and Mark had a house built in the country near Bluffton, Ohio. So within the last 6 months they've moved into a new house, seeded a new lawn, and have a new dog.

Jeanine continues to teach 8th grade in Wapakoneta and Mark continues to work for Emerson Electric maintaining Liebert UPS units.

Jeanine and Mark's children seemed to have adapted quickly to the new country home. Dylan (6) is in the first grade this fall and has a l-o-n-g lane to walk down to catch the

bus. He played t-ball this past summer and really enjoys swinging a golf club—sometimes hitting the ball across a big yard (5 acres).

Gabriella, now 4, loves to dance. She really has a natural sense for the rhythm. This fall she has taken lessons once a week in tap and ballet. She is always a great helper in school and at home.

Julianna at two and a half is a typical “two year old.” She loves to imitate her sister with dance moves and doesn’t hesitate to sing radio advertising jingles when asked. Of course, she’s not afraid of anything and is willing to try anything unless it’s a vegetable.

Our youngest son, Jesse, graduates in a few weeks from The Ohio State University with a Bachelor in Science degree in electrical engineering. We’re eager for him to discover where and what kind of work he might do in the coming months. He has become quite the big hearted young man—we’re very proud of him.

As for us? Well, JoAnne continues to serve as the “granny nanny” at Jeanine’s house. It’s not teaching work, but ever since we moved away from Iowa, she has always longed to be closer to and involved with our family. Now with Jeanine living just 30 minutes away, she’s really enjoying herself—even if she comes home exhausted at the end of the week. The window of providing childcare for these growing grandchildren will disappear quickly. Then we’ll see what God has in store for her next.

This year I reached the milestone of having served 25 years in ministry. That was in June. But with family vacation and mission trips, the date came and went.

What I didn’t know was that a surprise waited for me in mid-July. JoAnne and the Associate Pastors and their wives detailed a plan for a celebration event, complete with even a fake bulletin I was handed just as worship was to begin. I never saw it coming. How wonderful it was to have together members of all of our church family—from the first parish, the last parish, and, of course the current parish. I am still thankful for everyone who made my silver anniversary day special. Even JoAnne’s sister and her husband made a special visit!

This year, in so many ways as a parish, we are truly experiencing together the birth of Christ anew in our spiritual lives. It is a joy! It’s what brings peace! We pray that each of you are renewed in this season through the child.

*Pastor Brian and JoAnne and family*

## F.Y.I (For Your Information)

\*Christmas Eve Service @ 7 p.m.

Our Senior Choir will sing, Our Bell Choir will play and Our Pastors will perform a drama which includes Our Youth.

\*The church calendar is available on our website: [www.johnstewartumc.com](http://www.johnstewartumc.com)

And also available upon request ☺ Give the office a call or stop by.




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## *Upcoming Sermons*

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### December

13<sup>th</sup> "Ready, Set..." Luke 3:7-18

20<sup>th</sup> "Ready, Set, Go..." Luke 1:39-45

27<sup>th</sup> "Layers" Luke 2:41-52

### January

3<sup>rd</sup> "Looking In the Window" John 1:10-18

10<sup>th</sup> "Got IT!" Luke 3:15-17

17<sup>th</sup> "Wow, no Vow" John 2:1-11

24<sup>th</sup> "American Freedom or Kingdom Freedom?" Luke 4:14-21





# Wednesday Community Meals @ 5:30 pm

Help is needed for our Wednesday Community Meals. Needed are people to set up tables and chairs, and clean up after the meal. The meal does not have to be anything special, just something you like to prepare.

If you have questions contact Scott Goodman.



## WAY @ JSUMC

Wyandot Afternoon Youth (WAY) will be at John Stewart Church on Wednesday afternoons. The Family Life Center will be open from 3:00 – 5:00 p.m. for Junior High youth to come play games or hang with friends. Church members are asked to come help fill in on the dodge ball teams, or take on one of the youth in pool or just be a friendly face in the room. Talk to the pastor about this being YOUR opportunity to be the face of Jesus to the youth of our community. The main door of the church will be closed at 3:00 p.m. so that everyone comes in through the Family Life Center door. This way we know everyone who is in the church. This is for the safety of the youth.





My last day as church secretary will be December 31, 2015. After 28 years I hope you know that I love you all and I thank you for allowing me to use my gifts and talents in this ministry to the church. I leave you with two songs. ~ Marilyn Lehman

### “For Good” – from the Musical “Wicked”

Words by Stephen Schwartz  
 Copyright © 2003 Greydog Music  
 (Adapted by Marilyn!)

I've heard it said that people come into our lives for a reason  
 Bringing something we must learn  
 And we are led to those who help us most to grow If we let them  
 And we help them in return  
 Well, I don't know if I believe that's true  
 But I know I'm who I am today because I knew you...

It well may be that we will never meet again In this lifetime  
 So let me say before we part so much of me is made of what I learned from you  
 You'll be with me like a handprint on my heart  
 And now whatever way our stories end I know you have re-written mine by being my  
 friend...

And just to clear the air I ask forgiveness for the things I've done you blame me for but  
 then, I guess we know there's blame to share  
 And none of it seems to matter anymore

Who can say if I've been changed for the better?  
 I do believe I have been changed for the better  
 Because I knew you...

And the other song is from our hymnal, page 163.

### “Ask Ye What Great Thing I Know”

Take this as my personal testimony and I pray that you can also answer the questions asked in the song with the same response – “Jesus Christ, the crucified.”

Ask ye what great thing I know  
That delights and thrills me so  
What the high reward I win  
Whose the name I glory in?  
Jesus Christ the crucified

Who defeats my fiercest foes?  
Who consoles my saddest woes?  
Who revives my fainting heart,  
Healing all its hidden smart?  
Jesus Christ, the crucified.

Who is life in life to me?  
Who the death of death will be?  
Who will place me on his right  
With the countless hosts of light?  
Jesus Christ the crucified

This is that great thing I know  
This delights and stirs me so  
Faith in Him who died to save  
Him who triumphed o'er the grave  
Jesus Christ the crucified

- Benjamin H. Kennedy | Franklin Ritter | Henri Abraham Cesar Malan | Johann Christoph Schwedler
- © Words: Public Domain
- Music: 1992 Lorenz Publishing Company (Admin. by Lorenz Corporation)



**Marilyn Lehman - Thank you!**

~ **You will be missed and we thank you for your 28 years of office ministry~**

# PRAYER CALENDAR & DAILY READING

| December 2015  |  |   |   |  |   |  |
|--|--|---|---|--|---|--|
| Sun  | Mon  | Tue   | Wed   | Thu  | Fri   | Sat  |
|  |  | <b>1</b><br>Pray for world peace.                                     | <b>2</b><br>Pray for missionaries to be safe & successful.            | <b>3</b><br>Thank God for your good health.  | <b>4</b><br>Pray for those battling chronic diseases.   | <b>5</b><br>Thank God for the military who give themselves for our freedoms! |
| <b>6</b><br>Pray that you will be open to the pastor's message today.                          | <b>7 PEARL HARBOR DAY</b><br>Remember the sacrifices made for you. | <b>8</b><br>Pray for a friend in need. What can you do to help?       | <b>9</b><br>Pray for our pastors as they prepare their sermons.       | <b>10</b><br>Pray for ALL people to be kind to each other.   | <b>11</b><br>Pray that we can share warm hats and gloves with those without.  | <b>12</b><br>Praise God for our Sunday School teachers.                      |
| <b>13</b><br>Guide our church to reach others to hear about God's love for us.                 | <b>14</b><br>Thank God for our UMW groups.                         | <b>15</b><br>Help us to feed others through our Food Bank.            | <b>16</b><br>Pray for healing for those in nursing homes.             | <b>17</b><br>Thank the Lord for our new choir director and those giving of their time to bring us a message in song. | <b>18</b><br>Help us to remember THE REASON FOR THE SEASON of Advent.   | <b>19</b><br>Ask God to keep you healthy this winter.                        |
| <b>20</b><br>Pray for those who don't know Jesus.  | <b>21</b><br>Pray for families in conflict.                        | <b>22</b><br>Winter Solstice (Northern)<br>Enjoy this winter season!  | <b>23</b><br>Pray for people traveling during the holidays.           | <b>24 Christmas Eve candle light service</b><br>Pray that people will come to Worship HIM.                           | <b>25 CHRISTMAS</b><br>Happy Birthday JESUS!  | <b>26</b><br>Pray that our children will learn to love our LORD Jesus.       |
| <b>27</b><br>Pray that you can find the words to tell someone about Jesus and his love for us! | <b>28</b><br>Pray for our Youth groups and their leaders.          | <b>29</b><br>There are people who have no clean water. Pray for them. | <b>30</b><br>Think about your goals for a healthy and happy New Year. | <b>31 NEW YEAR'S EVE</b><br>Pray for safety for those celebrating.   | <b><i>She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins. Matthew 1:21 (NIV)</i></b> |  |



*O Come*  
Let Us  
Adore Him

| January 2016                   |  |                                  |                                   |                           |                                 |                              |
|--------------------------------|--|----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------------|------------------------------|
| Sun                            | Mon  | Tue                              | Wed                               | Thu                       | Fri                             | Sat                          |
|                                |  |                                  |                                   |                           | <b>1</b><br>Corinthians<br>5:17 | <b>2</b><br>Isaiah 58:6      |
| <b>3</b><br>Jeremiah 15:21     | <b>4</b><br>Ezekiel 36:26  | <b>5</b><br>Deuteronomy<br>28:13 | <b>6</b><br>Psalm 91:15-16        | <b>7</b><br>Ephesians 1:7 | <b>8</b><br>Romans 8:1-2        | <b>9</b><br>Matthew 11:28    |
| <b>10</b><br>John 14:27        | <b>11</b><br>Isiah 54:17   | <b>12</b><br>Psalms 34:7         | <b>13</b><br>Proverbs 3:5-6       | <b>14</b><br>Isaiah 58:11 | <b>15</b><br>Psalm 32:8         | <b>16</b><br>Jeremiah 33:3   |
| <b>17</b><br>James 1:5         | <b>18</b><br>John 14:16  | <b>19</b><br>Romans 8:11         | <b>20</b><br>Lamentations<br>3:25 | <b>21</b><br>Mark 11:24   | <b>22</b><br>Luke 11:9          | <b>23</b><br>Matthew 6:31-33 |
| <b>24</b><br>Philippians 4:19  | <b>25</b><br>Isaiah 44:3   | <b>26</b><br>Deuteronomy<br>31:8 | <b>27</b><br>Joshua 1:9           | <b>28</b><br>1 John 4:4   | <b>29</b><br>Psalm 103:2-5      | <b>30</b><br>1John 2:25      |
| <b>31</b><br>Ephesians 3:16-19 | <b>Prayer:</b><br><b>Our Heavenly Father, be with us as we read your word daily. Guide us in all that we do and all that we say. May we bring glory to your name O' Lord. Thank you for the air we breathe and for meeting our daily needs. Hold us tight in your loving arms. In your name we pray - Amen</b> |                                  |                                   |                           |                                 |                              |

# COLLECTION FOR FOOD TREE



**Food Tree** bring in your donations for the Wyandot County Food Pantry. These will be collected thru Jan. 3, 2016. Place your donation in the boxes under the tree, which is in the Foyer.



**Free Prom Dresses** available @  
John Stewart United Methodist Church  
130 W Johnson St., Upper Sandusky (enter through doors on 7<sup>th</sup> St)

Hours: 9:00 a.m. - 10:30 a.m. every Saturday in **February, March, and April** (except Easter weekend) any questions please email: [ham.jenny@gmail.com](mailto:ham.jenny@gmail.com)



**SR. Choir Practices, Wednesdays 7 - 8 p.m.**

Sunday mornings- in choir room @ 9:50 a.m.

Wear white top/black bottom - or - robes.



Upcoming Dates:

Sunday, December 20, 27 - SR Choir Sing at 10:10 service

Thursday, December 24 - SR Choir Sing at 7:00 service

Sunday, January 3, 17, 31 - SR Choir Sing at 10:10 service

Winter weather - no school = no choir practice

Any questions please call/text or email Esther Noggle cell phone 419-294-7040, email: [jestherw7@gmail.com](mailto:jestherw7@gmail.com)



**UMW 2016 READING PROGRAM BOOKS**

**– AVAILABLE TO EVERYONE –  
THESE BOOKS ARE READY FOR CHECKOUT**

***Education for Mission***

CHASING THE DIVINE IN THE HOLY LAND Ruth Everhart Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Company (2012) 176 pages E-book available RP1601

Ruth Everhart jumped at the offer to travel to the Holy Land as one of several ministers taking part in a documentary about pilgrimage. Little did she know just how demanding and rewarding her transformation from Presbyterian minister, wife and mom to pilgrim would be. In these pages, she writes about her trip into the dust and beauty of Christianity's cradle.

***Leadership Development***

I AM MALALA: The Girl Who Stood Up for Education and was Shot by the Taliban Malala Yousafzai Back Bay Books (2015) 368 pages E-book available RP1607

When the Taliban took control of the Swat Valley in Pakistan, one girl spoke out. Malala Yousafzai refused to be silenced and fought for her right to an education, almost paying the ultimate price. Instead, the 16-year-old's miraculous recovery has taken her on an extraordinary journey from a remote valley in northern Pakistan to the halls of the United Nations in New York.

***Nurturing for Community***

MISS BRENDA AND THE LOVELADIES: A Heartwarming True Story of Grace, God, and Gumption Brenda Spahn and Irene Zutell Water Brook Press (2015) 240 pages E-book available RP1612

Brenda Spahn was a business - woman who wouldn't take no for an answer when she discovered that God wouldn't either. When she invited seven hardened parolees into her home, she expected to house them, not love them. But her reluctant decision to serve female prisoners developed into a career, a calling and a ministry that has helped thousands of women leave prison behind for good.

***Social Action***

THE WHITE UMBRELLA: Walking with Survivors of Sex Trafficking Mary Francis Bowley Moody Publishers (2012) 208 pages E-book available RP1617

Every year, over 100,000 children in the United States are forced to do someone's sexual bidding. Most of them are between the ages of 9 and 19. This is not a faraway, foreign problem; this is in our neighborhoods, our towns and our cities. Throughout these pages are the stories of these girls and the people who have come alongside them to hold the white umbrella of protection and purity over them on the road to restoration.

***Spiritual Growth***

KEY UNITED METHODIST BELIEFS William J. Abraham and David F. Watson Abingdon Press (2013) 172 pages E-book available RP1619

Deepen your faith and enrich your life through this introductory examination of core Methodist beliefs. Written by popular seminary teachers, this book will connect you to the life and ministry of John Wesley, demonstrating relevance for the lives of Christians today.

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