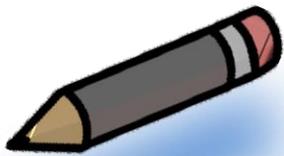

John Stewart United Methodist Church

Family Newsletter

FEBRUARY 2016

From the Pastor



The Dead of Winter

Across Ohio there is a sentiment among many at this time of the year that we've reached "the dead of winter." And it's true, there is a slowing of the pace of life in winter compared to summer. Lower temperatures, fewer hours of daylight, and a season of hibernation, dormancy or relative inactivity for most living things gives us the impression that the world around us is, well, dead. In our minds—especially in this twenty-first century—we know this is not true. But do we know in our hearts that in "the dead of winter" life is really not dead?

My father came unwillingly into a time of his life that he might have called and extended "dead of winter." Having watched his two daughters suffer as their bodies were attacked and slowly devoured by cancer, he swore that he would never seek treatment if he were ever diagnosed with such a disease. When the time came, however, he understood that if he were to have a chance at more life, he would need to choose treatment. It was at about that time that I would say he entered into his own personal "dead of winter."

Only weeks ago, he reported that the previous nine months had been like a decade of years. Indeed, he had lived under the weight of discouragement, of pain and of suffering. It even frustrated some of us in the family to think that he would "give up" on life. During his "dead of winter" season, I found myself personally invested in the same question that all during the fall the members of our congregation had been asking one another, "Where have we seen Jesus at work in the world around us?"

Jesus was sitting along side one of my grandchildren (my father's great grand children) as they perched themselves on the seat of his walker while he pushed them around the living room of his home. Jesus had his hand upon my father's hand the first time he used the Christmas present that was installed on that same walker—a bicycle bell (and boy did the bell get used a lot during those short weeks after the holiday!). Jesus was sitting on the edge of the bed, listening along side of me, as my father—with a smile—mumbled through one of his 14 minute stories on the last day that he was coherent (all I could understand was the often repeated phrase “have you heard this one...” in between the mumbling).

What my father had a hard time staying in touch with, was that during his “dead of winter” experience, Jesus was alive as ever. It's not that he didn't know this truth. Only a couple of Sundays ago, I took him and mother to worship with their congregation in Wapakoneta. That day he and another member, who also is experiencing a “dead of winter” season, both made the incredible effort to be in worship. He came home talking about how God offered a wonderful witness for life through he and that other woman. While the rest of the congregation had to get to worship through the nuisance of the snow that morning, he and the other woman endured the unforgiving pain of their bodies. Members of the congregation heard the witness loud and clear—because Jesus is alive, we joyfully worship even if the flesh should be in pain.

“The dead of winter” is only a season. “The dead of winter” is only of the flesh. “The dead of winter” is only what magnifies our joy—the joy that Jesus is alive and at work in the world around us. Thank you Dad for suffering “the dead of winter” so that Jesus would be made known anew.

Mark 13:2 “Do you see all these great buildings?” replied Jesus. “Not one stone here will be left on another; every one will be thrown down.”¹⁰ And the gospel must first be preached to all nations.¹⁸ Pray that this will not take place in winter,¹⁹ because those will be days of distress unequalled from the beginning, when God created the world, until now—and never to be equaled again.²³ So be on your guard; I have told you everything ahead of time.

Where is Jesus at work in “the dead of winter” of the world you see?



Thank-you!!!

Dear Friends in Christ,

Thank you for your very generous donation of \$684.20 and the HUGE amount of food/toiletry donations to the Christian Food Center. Your continuous support is greatly appreciated.

Gifts, like yours, make it possible for the Food Center to continue the ministry of feeding the hungry in Wyandot County.

His Service,

Darlene Schaadt,

Volunteers, and Those in Need

Thank-you!!

Your outpouring of love and support for my retirement has paid for the new paper folding machine in the church office. Thank you for the hugs, the cards, and the words of encouragement. See you in church!

Marilyn Lehman



PRAYER CALENDAR

February 2016

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 Pray for people with health issues.	2 Pray for those who have lost a loved one recently. GROUND HOG DAY	3 Pray for those who have money problems.	4 Pray for our USA government.	5 Pray for missionaries' everywhere.	6 Pray for the homeless. Ask God what you can do to help someone who has no home.
7 Pray for those who don't know Jesus.	8 Pray for the youth of our church.	9 Pray for Pastor Brian, Pastor Bob & Pastor Doug	10 Pray for churches everywhere. ASH WEDNESDAY LENT BEGINS	11 Pray for people who are traveling.	12 Pray for those in nursing homes.	13 Pray for someone who has an addiction.
14 Praise God for His unconditional love for you. VALENTINES DAY	15 Pray for children in school. PRESIDENT' DAY	16 Pray for those who are in prison.	17 Pray for those who have chronic illnesses.	18 Pray for our military.	19 Help us to love the unlovable.	20 Pray for forgiveness for things you should have done and didn't do.
21 Pray that you will make good choices.	22 Pray for strength and patience for caregivers.	23 Thank God for our Pastors.	24 Pray for guidance to share your faith with someone today.	25 Pray for our Sunday School leaders.	26 Thank God if you have a job.	27 Pray for a cure for cancer.
28 Thank God for our Praise Teams that enhances our Worship.	29 Thank God for your home that keeps you warm and dry.	Psalm 17:6 (NIV) <i>I call on you , O God, for you will answer me; Give ear to me and hear my prayer.</i>				

CHURCH CALENDER

February 2016

February 2016

Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29					

March 2016

Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
	1	2	3	4	5	
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Jan 31	Feb 1 9:30am Prayers & Squares 7:00pm Passionate Worship Team	2 1:00pm Cards-103	3 3:00pm W.A.Y. -FLC 5:30pm Community 6:00pm PRAISE TEAM 6:30pm Youth 7:00pm CHOIR	4 8:30am Ministerial Association	5 9:30am Sit-n-Sew	6
7 8:00am Chapel Worship 9:00am Sunday School - 103 10:10am Main Worship 6:00pm Praise 6:30pm Bell	8 9:30am Prayers & Squares 7:00pm Passionate Worship Team	9 9:30am Susanah Hope Circle Rm 103 1:00pm Cards-103	10 3:00pm W.A.Y. -FLC 5:30pm Community 6:00pm PRAISE TEAM 6:30pm Youth 7:00pm CHOIR	11	12	13
14 8:00am Chapel Worship 9:00am Sunday School - 103 10:10am Main Worship 6:00pm Praise 6:30pm Bell	15 9:30am Prayers & Squares 7:00pm Passionate Worship Team	16 1:00pm Cards-103	17 3:00pm W.A.Y. -FLC 5:30pm Community 6:00pm PRAISE TEAM 6:30pm Youth Group	18 7:30pm Compassionate Friends - basement	19	20
21 8:00am Chapel Worship 9:00am Sunday School - 103 10:10am Main Worship 6:00pm Praise 6:30pm Bell	22 9:30am Prayers & Squares 7:00pm Trustees	23 1:00pm Cards-103	24 3:00pm W.A.Y. -FLC 5:30pm Community 6:00pm PRAISE TEAM 6:30pm Youth 7:00pm CHOIR	25 2:00pm Fairhaven Communion Service 7:00pm Dartball @ St Paul	26	27
28 8:00am Chapel Worship 9:00am Sunday School - 103 10:10am Main Worship 6:00pm Praise 6:30pm Bell	29 9:30am Prayers & Squares	Mar 1	2	3	4	5

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.



****FOR YOUR INFORMATION****

- PLEASE JOIN THE MINEHART FAMILY IN CELEBRATING JIM AND CAROLS MARRIAGE OF 40 YEARS AT AN OPEN HOUSE IN THE FAMILY LIFE CENTER, SUNDAY FEBRUARY 14, 2016 FROM 2-4.



LENTON LUNCHONS SCHEDULES

- **MEN LENTEN LUNCHONS, HELD AT FIRST EVANGELICAL AT NOON.**
- **SPEAKERS: FEBRUARY 10TH ~ CHRIS DARIS - EDWARD JONES INVESTMENTS**
 - FEBRUARY 17TH ~ RONALD MARVIN - WYANDOT COUNTY MUSEUM
 - FEBRUARY 24TH ~ CHAD BAKER - BAKER FINANCIAL SERVICES, LLC
- **MARCH 2ND ~ REV. RICHARD WEAVER- FIRST EVANGELICAL INTERM PASTOR**
- **MARCH 9TH ~ ANDREA DUNN - UNION ELEMENTART GUIDANCE COUNSELOR**
 - MARCH 16TH ~ MIKE MCKEE - SALVATION ARMY

• **WOMANS LENTON SCHEDULE NOON -1:00 P.M. A \$4.00 DONATION IS SUGGESTED. A NURSERY WILL BE PROVIDED, MOTHERS ARE ASKED TO FEED THEIR CHILDREN BEFORE THEY COME.**

- FEBRUARY 10TH HOSTESS: ST PAUL LUTHERN ~SPEAKER PASTOR JOE TRESTER
 - MENU: MACARONI 3 CHEESE BAKE
- FEBRUARY 17TH HOSTESS: TRINITY & EMANUEL UCC'S~ SPEAKER BRAD MCKIBBEN
 - MENU: HAMMY JOE SANDWICH
- FEBRUARY 24TH HOSTESS: TRINITY EVANGELICAL ~SPEAKER VALERIE PEIFFER
 - MENU: HOT CHICKEN SANDWICH
- MARCH 2ND HOSTESS: TRANSFIGURATION OF THE LORD~SPEAKER MANDY BALDWIN/HELEN RALL
 - MENU: BAKED SPAGHETTI
- MARCH 9TH HOSTESS: JOHN STEWART UMC~ SPEAKER REV. CATHERINE HINER
 - MENU: SHREDDED CHICKEN SANDWICH
- MARCH 16TH HOSTESS: FIRST PRESBYTERIAN~SPEAKER REV. STANLEY WALTERS
 - MENU: EGG SALAD CROISSANT



✝ 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.



Introducing

Sue Pummell, Office Administrator

I am happy to start my new ministry. I filled in for Marilyn during the months of August - October, then started my training in November. I enjoyed starting up the Newsletter again, but will no longer be sending that out. I am now responsible for other duties such as keeping the official church calendar, working with the bookkeeper, overseeing payroll and paying our taxes. I will also serve as the Membership Secretary as well as JSUM Charge/Church Conference Secretary. Most important...I am here with the half door open, ready with a smile, a listening ear, a hug and prayers. I am thankful to God for giving me this opportunity to serve.



Andrea McCarthy, Ministry Coordinator

I am happy to be at JSUMC and thankful for this opportunity to serve. I am the one you give your Bulletin, PowerPoint and Newsletter information to. I also prepare the leadership sheets, letters and assist in the organization for our various "groups", such as Radical Hospitality and Passionate Worship. I will attend and take minutes for all Council meetings, Schedule tours of Wyandot Mission Church and Acknowledge memorial gifts. I am thankful to God for giving me this opportunity to serve Him. I am always ready, behind the half door to lend a compassionate ear, sholder to lean on, a hug and of course any and all prayers needed.



JOHN STEWART UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
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Upcoming Sermons:

February 7 "Religious Nut"

February 14 "Three Simple Rules: The Wesleyan Method"

February 21 "Three Simple Rules: Do No Harm"