

**DAVID'S DATLINE
AUGUST 2019 Newsletter**

**Sunday Worship, 8:30 & 9:50 a.m.
Church School, 9:50 a.m.**

Church Office

**Hours: Monday – Friday, 9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.
Phone: 937-434-2131, Fax: 937-434-1913
www.davidsucc.org**

Ministers of David's Church - All David's People
**Senior Pastor Brian Q. Newcomb
Associate Pastor Michelle Wilkey**

UPCOMING EVENTS

July 29-August 2 - Kettering Healthy Youth

July 29 - Potential Park & Play Project Start

August 4, 11, 18, 25 -

“You Asked For It” Sermons

August 5 - Warm Wishes II

August 7 - Church Picnic @ Bender's

August 9 - Game Night at The Grove

August 18 - Christian Education Fair

August 19 - Marion's Piazza Food Fundraiser

August 25 - Blessing of the Backpacks/
Confirmation Meeting

August 29 - Chancel Choir Begins

August 30 & September 2 - Office Closed

From the Pastor's Desk...

Well, my friends, these are challenging times. I say that because of the daily onslaught of difficult and challenging news stories, many of which include reports that young children and other immigrants and those seeking asylum are being held in deplorable conditions by our government at the Southern border of our country, and language being spoken (or tweeted) by the leader holding the highest office of our land that is full of obviously racist and demeaning taunts aimed at his political opponents.

You have heard me say, here and in sermons, that as a principle we in the mainline Protestant tradition of the United Church of Christ affirm a profound separation of Religion (Church) and State, and while we cannot fully affirm the liberating Gospel message of Jesus Christ without speaking to the moral issues on our political landscape, we strive to address these concerns without partisan interests or persuasion. Much of the time, in our nation's 243-year history, one could speak out on moral issues of the day, say, against slavery or in favor of women's right to vote, and equal pay for equal work, and not enter into a squabble between one political party or the other. But more recently, things have gotten more complicated, and I feel the need to own that here, so that all of you in our congregation will understand where I'm coming from, and how I, as one called to serve as "pastor and teacher" to this congregation, am struggling to do and be faithful to my calling, and the right kind of spiritual leader for these times.

No doubt, you've heard the quote often directed at ministers, theologians and preachers in their seminary education, that we should prepare our sermons "with the Bible with one hand, and the newspaper in the other." Those words have been attributed to influential Swiss theologian Karl Barth, who was active in Europe during Hitler's rise in Germany. He wrote and taught into the 1960's, appearing on the cover of Time magazine in 1962. Turns out, what Barth actually said on this subject more accurately is "take your Bible, and take your newspaper, and read both. But interpret newspapers from your Bible."

This idea, though, is that a person seeking to proclaim the faith in each successive generation in the Christian Church's 2000-plus year history will need to not only take the Bible and its message seriously, but as part of their discipline and study will also need to understand the world and culture that they are addressing. The concern here, quite seriously, is relevance. What does the Bible, an ancient text, written in two "dead" languages, have to say to us, all these years later, that would be relevant to our experience here in the modern world? How can we read that Bible as an authoritative source of wisdom and insight, when the culture in which it was written (at the time of the Roman Empire) is far removed from our life in a world that has exploded exponentially since the arrival of modern technologies?

When I was in seminary, a conservative Baptist seminary at that, we had a course that dealt with this challenge directly, where we were asked to read the book our professor had written, "Interpreting the Bible." Dr. Mickelsen attempted to teach us what he called a "two-step hermeneutic." Hermeneutics is the science and art of interpretation, it's a science because you seek to discover the real meanings expressed by the words in print, and it's an art form because the original author may have been using metaphors or symbolic language that is not readily apparent in a straight "reading" of the words.

In the opening chapter of his book, Dr. Mickelsen wrote that "the task of interpreters of the Bible is to find out the meaning of the statement for the author and for the first hearers or readers, and thereupon to transmit that meaning to modern readers." He went on to write, "that all biblical interpretation has two dimensions. The first is concerned with discovering the original meaning of a statement, while the second takes into account of changes in meaning which contemporary readers may attach to the same words." That's where his little two-step dance came into play. Dr. Mickelsen suggested that full understanding of the text required a deeper understanding of the culture from which it was written, so we needed to be able to "dance" around in the world of biblical times, understand the *sitz em leben* (German for "life situation" and culture), from which they wrote.

And then, we could skip over into our own world and time and see where those words from the past truly connect with the lives and questions of people in our time, where those words, ideas, thoughts would be relevant and meaningful. I still remember Dr. Mickelsen doing his little dance in front of our class, suggesting we learn how to dance in the world of the first century CE, and then literally skip over into modern times, and see where that dance fits, connects, speaks to our time. He insisted that required scholarship of the Bible as well as paying attention to the world around us, the life situations, experiences and culture that surrounded the folk sitting in our pews.

Just down the hall, and later each class day, that message was reinforced by my professor of Homiletics, which simply means preaching. There Dr. Erwin repeated the common wisdom of the Barth quote and added to it. He said, if we were going to speak to people in ways that were relevant and that mattered, in our time, we needed to prepare our sermons with the Bible in one hand, the newspaper in our second hand, and then a modern novel in the third (which was his idea of a joke). This good Dr. suggested we had to know what was going on in current events, but that we in order to understand the inner hearts and minds of our audience we needed to also take in the arts and creative expressions that expose a person's inner feelings and desires. I remember he was a particular advocate for the books of John Updike...and like a good student I've read a good half dozen or more of his novels.

The funny thing to me now, is that I was in class with those two Dr's in my first year of seminary, the fall of 1979, the year my oldest son, who will turn 40 in a couple months, was born. And, back then we still had three major TV networks, and binge watching meant tuning in for all the shows on NBC on a Thursday evening (anyone remember "St. Elsewhere" and "Hill Street Blues"). What passed for "modern culture" in 1979 feels so quaint when you think of what modern technology is like today. As Bruce Springsteen once sang, we've got "57 channels and nothing's on", and folk binge watch whole seasons over the internet; there used to be popular radio stations so the weekly "Top 40" was something we had in common, but now everyone listens to their own individually designed streaming options; and while we once had Walter Cronkite to tell us authoritatively "that's the way it is," now we all watch our own 24-hour niche news programming that suits our particular political biases and leanings. As a culture we have a lot less in common when it comes to news, information, and entertainment.

So not only is it a lot harder to connect with folk in this ever expanding and diverse cultural reality, but now there are "alternative facts," where even the basic events of modern experience are called into question depending on the source, and the result of course is increased polarization, and hostility between opposing views. We're no longer just arguing about our differing perspective on current events, we are challenging the accuracy of each other's events. And that broadens divisions between not only our political parties, which no longer seem able to discuss a bi-partisan bill, but we've found these divisions show up in our families and churches.

Which brings me to my point, that it's hard in this culture and time to stand up and speak about what we can commonly agree that the Bible is saying to us on the relevant issues of the day, in this time and place, without being accused of being "too political" or even "partisan." That has been a problem in progressive Christian denominations like the UCC, even in simpler times. Churches were divided over the issue of slavery; some were convinced that the idea of one person owning another would be something Jesus would reject, while others quoted verses from both Testaments that not only don't challenge the existence of slavery as an institution, but seems to endorse it. In time, most modern-day Christians would agree that slavery is evil, and every denomination from the UCC to the Southern Baptists has produced a statement decrying the evil of human trafficking.

Same could be said on lots of issues over time, as the church has evolved in an effort to speak with relevance to the issues of the ever-evolving culture. From Martin Luther King's moral (and biblical) arguments for equal rights for people of color to women's right to vote, to be ordained, and receive equal pay for equal work, to rights for LGBTQ+ individuals the church has struggled to get on the right side of morality as well as the right side of human history.

I know that pastors in conservative congregations of the UCC used to worry every two years when the General Synod would meet, for fear of what "liberal" resolutions would pass and get play in the local newspapers. Certainly, back in 2005 when the General Synod voted overwhelmingly in favor of the right to marriage equality for gay and lesbian couples, and it got picked up by network TV news, and many congregations who had no intention of ever becoming Open & Affirming were distressed, and some congregations voted to leave the UCC. That happened over slavery too, and women's ordination when the UCC was the first to ordain a woman into the professional Christian ministry, Antoinette Brown, and no doubt will happen again. I've seen a couple of UCC bumper-stickers that suggest provocatively that "We're Not 'Liberal', We're Just Early," as a way to accentuate the fact that we are often early if not first in affirming a broader, more expansive view of who will find full welcome and affirmation in our congregations.

But most of our congregations, like us here at David's Church, are not just liberal or conservative, we have a healthy mix of political values and concerns in our community of believers; no doubt there are both committed Republicans and Democrats as well as independents in our church, which is as it should be. Honestly, I wouldn't have it any other way. In my humble opinion, our faith is not and should not be a partisan political affair. As your pastor and friend, I'm sure you know something of my political leanings, I don't make a secret of them, but I do make a concerted effort to keep my party affiliation and leanings out of our work in and for the church. In our theological tradition the separation of Religion (Church) and State is a great value, so we would never endorse or speak against either a political candidate or a political party. Out of our value of informed political involvement, we encourage every citizen to participate in the political process, to be an informed voter, but we respect the value of each individual to make up their own mind, and vote after their own understanding.

That said, we come from a tradition that has always felt called to speak to modern issues of morality and practice in our society, to address policies that affirm the values of our faith and scripture, and to challenge policies that diminish and/or dehumanize our fellow citizens. So, if you've been paying attention, you can see where the tension arises. Here is the very place where the rubber hits the road, and we heard it in the resolutions which were passed at General Synod in Milwaukee earlier this summer. As a body, the UCC GS2019 affirmed resolutions that address Climate Change by affirming the values of the Green New Deal, and called on congregations and church members to halt their use of Styrofoam and other single-use plastics; Delegates voted to call our congregations to address the global immigration crisis, to protect immigrant children and families, while hundreds turned out to protest a local ICE office; they called for action and resources to address our nation's opioid addiction crisis; and to "Break the Silence" in support of victims of

sexual violence; and denounced White supremacy and acts of violence perpetrated by hate groups, while condemning acts of bigotry toward other religious traditions, affirming the work of inter-faith dialogue; they also affirmed the work of the Mental Health Network; affirmed the UCC Latinx Ministries as an Historically Underrepresented Group; and, among other things, called for the US to pull back from the brink of nuclear war, inviting work on treaties that would eliminate the number of loose nukes and other weapons of mass destruction. It's comforting to know that opposition to nuclear is pretty much a non-partisan concern, but sadly enough, we live in a time when any mention of immigration or climate change is viewed by many through a partisan lens.

So, here is my challenge each Sunday, to study the Bible and follow the news and speak a message that affirms the necessary moral courage of our members, so as to equip each person who comes for the spiritual challenges they will confront in their daily lives. The Gospel message is Good News, we affirm, and yet we know that Jesus taught and spoke in ways that "comforted the afflicted and afflicted the comfortable." Every preacher I know, struggles in their own community to strike a balance, to address the conflicts and difficulties of life while inviting their listeners to rise up and live fully and well as their best true selves, loving God, and loving their neighbors as themselves.

As we enter this coming year's highly contested political season, with examples of racism and bigotry in the daily news and concerns about an immigration policy that dehumanizes and mistreats even those who come seeking their legal right to asylum, especially children, and further, and some who deny the crucial fact that climate scientists are telling us that the next decade is crucial for life as we know it on this planet we share, I just want to acknowledge the tensions all of us are surely feeling, and say out loud (or here in print) just this once, that this feels like a particularly precarious time, and I'm fully aware of the risks involved in this very partisan political climate.

All of which is to pray for your indulgence and understanding, while I invite your prayers for me as I seek to faithfully serve the role to which you have called me, as a spiritual leader in this dear community of beloved saints and sinners of every and all political stripes. I will do my very best to avoid getting sucked into the partisan political fray, while living into my responsibilities. I will not endorse or condemn any political candidate or party, but when we see people treated less than humanely in crowded detention cells, denied decent place to sleep, access to basic hygiene, and are held there from 40 days or longer as if in jail cells, and we hear of children being unnecessarily separated from their parents, we have a responsibility to point out the immorality and cruelty in such actions, and call our government back to its better and higher values.

I have colleagues discussing early retirement for just this very set of concerns, but I am committed to live and serve faithfully for as long and as well as my health allows me to do all the job asks of me. I pray regularly for all of you, please think of me when you can.

Your pastor & friend,
Brian Q. Newcomb

Notes from Rev. Michelle Wilkey

The United Church of Christ proclaims that "God is still speaking," and I wholeheartedly agree. God indeed is still speaking and doing new things in this world and this was made even clearer to me as I attended my third General Synod for the UCC this summer. According to Wikipedia: "The [General Synod](#) of the [United Church of Christ](#) is the national decision-making body for the denomination, responsible for giving general direction to the evangelistic, missionary, and justice programs of the UCC." From June 20-25, I attended and participate in the 32nd General Synod which was held in Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

This year, I participated in Synod as not only a representative of our local church, but I was also there as a representative of Next Generation Leadership Initiative (NGLI). NGLI is the leadership program that I have been involved in for going on 4 years and this dynamic program is made possible thanks to the UCC Pension Board. It was a wonderful time at Synod as I attended all 8 of the Plenary Sessions, which were the meetings where business and resolutions were voted on. It was a wonderful time as I got to hang out and be surrounded by so many of my clergy friends. I enjoyed being able to reconnect with many of my colleagues who are in my cohort with NGLI. I wanted to take time in my article this month to give you a brief recap of the 32nd General Synod of the UCC. Some of my clergy friends put together a document which listed all the resolutions and even talked about two times where we took our theology to the streets and performed acts of justice and witness. The information I share now is taken from that document.

Here are the list of the resolutions and their outcomes:

1. A Resolution of Witness to Abolish the Growth and Existence of Private Prisons. (Passed)
2. A Prudential Resolution on an Ecumenical Relationship between the UCC and the Iglesia Evangelica Unida De Puerto Rico. (Passed)
3. A Resolution of Witness Reaffirming the UCC's Commitment to Interreligious Relations and Deploring Religious Bigotry. (Passed)

4. A Prudential Resolution Establishing an Action Team to Conduct a Listening Campaign and Bring Recommendations on the Future of Christian Witness at General Synod. (Passed)
5. A Resolution of Witness Regarding the Use of Plastic Foam. (Passed)
6. A Resolution of Witness on Support for the Energy Innovation and Carbon Dividend Act of 2019. (Passed)
7. A Resolution of Witness Denouncing Acts of Violence, Hatred, and Racism Carried out in the Name of Neo-Nazi and White Supremacist Ideologies. (Passed)
8. A Prudential Resolution Designating the Mental Health Network of the UCC as a Historically Underrepresented Group. (Passed)
9. A Prudential Resolution where the Colectivo De UCC Latinx Ministries Requests to be recognized as a Historically Underrepresented Group. (Passed)
10. A Resolution of Witness on the Stewardship of Exhibit Space as a Mission of Justice. (Tabled)
11. A Prudential Resolution Supporting Survivors of Rape and Sexual Violence Through an Ongoing Church-Wide Observance of Break the Silence Sunday. (Passed)
12. A Resolution of Witness calling for the US to pull “Back from the Brink” and Prevent Nuclear War. (Passed)
13. A Prudential Resolution Discerning, Articulating, and Resourcing the Nature, Purpose, Composition, Covenantal Autonomy and Definition of “the basic unit of life and organization of the UCC” for the 21st Century. (Passed)
14. A Resolution of Witness Calling upon the UCC Board to Bring Bylaws Revisions that include Non-Binary Gender Language. (Passed)
15. A Prudential Witness Calling for Oversight of the Local Church and its Covenantal Relationship with the Association in Which It Holds Standing as a Local Church of the UCC. (Tabled)
16. A Resolution of Witness titled Jesus Said, “Follow Me.” (Passed)
17. A Resolution of Witness Declaring Support for the Green New Deal and Affirming the Intersectionality of Climate Justice with all Justice Issues. (Passed)
18. Direct to Plenary Resolution on Protection of Immigrant Children and their Families. (Passed)
19. Direct to Plenary Resolution on Recognizing Opioid Addiction as a Health Epidemic, Ensuring Access to Treatment and Pharmaceutical Corporate Responsibility. (Passed)
20. Direct to Plenary Resolution on Nehemiah’s Life: A Call for Congressional Hearings on Violence in America. (Passed)
21. Direct to Plenary Resolution on a New Conference in Southern New England. (Passed)

As I said, we also performed and participated in two acts of justice and witness. The first act occurred on Sunday June 23. On that day, many clergy gathered together to perform a service of blessing for the Milwaukee Planned Parenthood Clinic. This gathering reaffirmed the UCC’s long history of support for reproductive choice for women and for health care providers delivering the full range of services to their patients. The second act occurred on Monday afternoon when approx. 1000 delegates and visitors to General Synod gathered together to rally and march to the Milwaukee ICE Office. We were lifting our voices to denounce the Border Separation of Families and Unjust Deportations and we were making our voices heard and speaking out for those who have no voice. We were calling for a change in the policies that separate families. This was the one act I had the honor of participating in and it was a very powerful experience as we marched together to the ICE Office. I kept thinking of the passage from Romans: “How beautiful are the feet that bring good news.” On that day, we certainly were bringing good news, we were proclaiming the good news of God’s love for all people.

In 2009, I attended my first UCC church and from that moment on, I knew that I had found my spiritual home. I am so proud to belong to a denomination that is passionate about making a difference in the world and passionate about bringing about as much of God’s Kin-dom here on earth as possible. If you would like to learn more about all the things that happened at Synod including more information on each of the resolutions, please follow this link:

<https://www.synod2019.org/en/uccsynod2019>

Much love and appreciation,
Pastor Michelle

All Church Picnic – August 7



Location: Lynn Bender’s home- 10300 Stationview Court, Centerville, OH 45458
 Time: 6:00 p.m.



Main meat dish, drinks, and tableware will be provided. Sign-up sheet will be in the Narthex, on the bulletin board.
 You may choose to bring a vegetable, salad, side dish, or dessert for 10 people.

Please bring a lawn chair.

If you have any questions, please contact one of the host.

2019 WAG Rummage Sale Successful

The Women's Activity Guild 33rd Annual Rummage Sale opened on Thursday, July 18 with \$535.10 in admission collected for the Kettering Backpack Peanut Butter Program! The Sale continued Friday, July 19 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. with 25% off during the last two hours through Saturday, July 20 from 9 to Noon, where customers received 50% off everything! Thanks to the generous donations of our congregation, the Women's Activity Guild raised nearly \$13,000!

We offer special thanks to all who spent countless hours making pick ups, hauling, providing child care, sorting, pricing, and working the days of the Sales as well as helping to pack up the remaining treasures to help others at St. Paul's (Clothing), the Book Loft, SICSA (Towels), Kettering Healthy Youth Summer Lunch Mission Project (Books & School Supplies), Christ United Methodist for Tornado Recovery (Socks & Work Gloves), Warm Wishes (Winter Hats & Gloves), Habitat for Humanity ReStore (Light Fixtures) and Salvation Army after the sale. A Yamaha Clavinova was donated and will be used in the Choir Room where it won't be affected by changing temperatures and humidity.

Thanks to all who supported the Rummage Sale as well! We're looking forward to another successful sale in 2020!!

Congratulations Confirmands!



On Sunday, June 2, 2019, *Sophie Dhanraj, Connor Havig, Michael Hunter, Ian Jones, Joey Schairbaum, Sam Wellbaum, and AJ Wright* were confirmed into the life of the church by *Rev. Dr. Brian Q. Newcomb and Rev. Michelle Wilkey.*

August – “You Asked For It” – Sermons

Pastor Brian received some good questions again this year, so these are the topics he'll be addressing for the four Sundays this month:

- Aug. 4 – In popular culture, we often hear some Christians equate the idea that they are “saved” because “Jesus has forgiven my sins.” So are salvation and forgiveness the same thing, is salvation something bigger that includes forgiveness, or are they different ways of saying the same thing?
- Aug. 11 – “I’ve been told all my life that Bible says that gay and lesbian people will go to Hell. What does the Bible really say about LGBTQ folk, and how should we interpret the Bible when it addresses controversial topics where the modern understanding has changed due to better science and a fuller understanding of humanity?” Pastor Brian often recommends folk read this great article by theologian Dr. Walter Wink as a starting point when discussing “Homosexuality & the Bible:” http://stpetersloganville.org/images/Homosexuality_and_the_Bible.pdf Pastor Brian will use this sermon to answer the question, but will go on talk more broadly about how to approach our Bible and take it seriously given that author Peter Enns reminds us it is “an Ancient, Ambiguous, and Diverse Book.”
- Aug. 18 – “What is prayer? We’ve often been told what prayer is not: a request line to ask God to accomplish individual goals; and that it doesn’t necessarily keep tragedy from occurring. So what should be the point of prayer, how can we pray properly? How does prayer influence the world?”
- Aug. 25 – “How are we to remain Religious/spiritual in this Cynical Age?” Many people have become turned off by religious judgmentalism/narrow-mindedness, church scandals, and what they see as hypocrisy, so more and more people are either saying they are “spiritual but not religious,” or when asked about their religious affiliation are answering “None.” Most mainline Protestant denominations are in decline, with lower attendance, shrinking budgets, and many smaller churches closing, and even large Evangelicals and megachurch congregations are facing decline. We will see this drop off in participation especially among youth and younger adults, what can we say or do to stem the tide? How and why should we stay aboard what appears to be a sinking ship? Why be religious today?

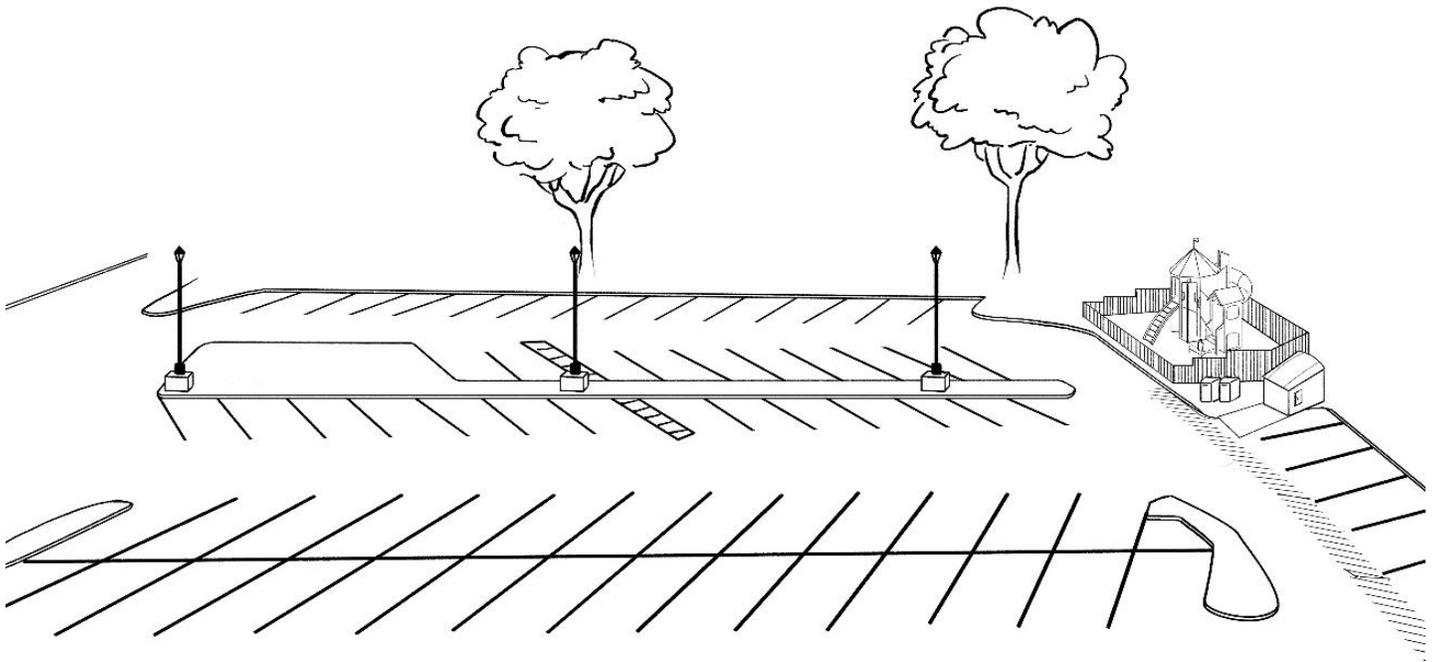
Park & Play Project Update:

The goals of David's Park & Play Project are to increase available parking, maintain and resurface the current parking lot, and to relocate and build an updated playground.

This is an update of the project:

- A pre-construction meeting was held for the Park & Play project on Tuesday, July 9th.
- The good news is that construction is scheduled to start on or after Monday, July 29th.
- They will start with the demolition of the existing playground and the construction of the upper parking lot the first week.
- The second week will conclude with the repaving of the existing parking lot. Parking at the church during this time will be little to non-existent, so please realize that if you need to come to church, you will likely be required to park elsewhere and walk back to the office door.
- It is anticipated the parking lot construction will take two, maybe part of three weeks, depending on the weather and other contingencies.
- If necessary, we are preparing that the August 11 worship service will be held at Temple Beth Or. Please watch for further announcements that week.
- The week of August 12-16 is our target for completion of the parking lots.
- Arrangements are currently being made for installation of the playground equipment – Mid-September is our goal for the equipment. Fencing will occur thereafter, as well as the planting of trees and shrubs.

The committee wishes to thank those who have donated or pledged for this much needed project. We have reached two-third of our goal of \$50,000 dollars. We encourage those who are planning to pledge or donate to please do so and please read the article below on the Park & Play Matching Grant. Giving information can be found in the Narthex. We need everyone's support.



Generous Matching Grant Available to Fulfill “Park & Play” Commitment

A generous member of David's Church has anonymously offered a Park & Play challenge matching grant for up to \$10,000. New pledges, increased pledges and amounts exceeding donations already made by members who have not pledged will all count towards this \$10,000 challenge. Let's use this opportunity to put Park & Play funding over the top. Construction will begin July 29 and finish in two-three weeks, depending on weather with the Playground installed in early September.

Sunday School is About to Begin!

Fall Sunday School will begin on Sunday September 8 and we are in need of teachers and shepherds. Please prayerfully consider if this might be a way for you to contribute to the life of David's Church. The kids will be ready; we just need a few willing volunteers. There is no experience needed and Confirmed youth are welcome to volunteer as shepherds. This year, we need 6 teachers, 6 shepherds, 2 helpers, and 2 Superintendents. There will be a CE Fair on Sunday, August 18, in the Fellowship Hall immediately after church and you will have an opportunity to hear more about our curriculum and more about the ways you can sign up to help. If you have any questions and/or would like to sign up to teach please contact KC Harmer (kcharmer82@gmail.com) or Rhonda Havig (rhonda.havig@gmail.com).

Confirmation 2019 – 2020

Another year of Confirmation is quickly approaching!!! All those entering 7th and 8th grade are invited to be a part of this upcoming year's Confirmation Class! We have a really exciting year planned; full of different worship visits, field trips, service projects, and important conversations about how to live out our faith. This fantastic year will culminate with our Confirmation Pilgrimage to Chicago in June. We will have our Parent and Student Informational Meeting for Confirmation on Sunday, August 25 following the 9:50 service. All those planning on joining Confirmation and all those continuing on in our class; make sure to attend this meeting which will be held in the Fellowship Hall. Following this meeting, all past and present students and their families are invited to spend the day at King's Island.

Upcoming Confirmation Dates:

- Sunday August 25- Confirmation Opening Event!! Following the informational meeting, all Confirmation Students from this past year and the new ones coming into the class are invited to spend the day at King's Island.
- Saturday September 14-Sunday September 15- Camp Kern Weekend!
- Sunday September 22- Confirmation Classes begin!

For any questions about the confirmation program contact Rev. Michelle at 937-434-2131 or michelle@davidsucc.org / supermitch45013@yahoo.com.

Christian Education Fair on Sunday August 18!

Everyone is invited to come and check out the CE Fair on Sunday August 18 after church. On that day, we will have different booths set up in the Fellowship Hall and each booth will represent the many different things that the CE Board oversees at our church. Everyone will have an opportunity to stop by each booth and sign up for the wide variety of things. If you want to hear more about SIGNS, Confirmation, Sunday School, SALT, Children's Moments, Children's Choir, Acolyting, and the OWL Program, then you should come to the CE Fair! If you have any questions, please see *Pastor Michelle*.

Adult/Handbell/Children's Choirs

Choir season is on the horizon, so all you singers and ringers, get ready. We will be having our first Sanctuary Choir practice on Thursday, August 29 at 7:00 p.m. I would like to invite all of the congregation and friends to prayerfully consider joining us as we lift our voices to God in praise! There are several of you who have beautiful voices who are still sitting in the pews rather than the choir loft. I know we need people to hear what we are singing, but you can hear it when you're singing from the loft. David's Church has a long-standing tradition of great music, and we want to make it the best season we have ever had. The Adult Bell Choir and Children's Choir will not meet until after Labor Day.

Peace,

Tim Williams

Back to School – Blessing of the Backpacks

At the 9:50 service on Sunday, August 25, we want to take a moment and offer a prayer of blessing over all those who are returning to school, and the tools of their education. So, we invite all those who will be attending school in the Fall—pre-school, grades K thru 12, and even college and grad school—to bring their backpacks and place them on the altar around our communion table prior to the service. During the Children's Moment, we will say a prayer of blessing upon all those backpacks and upon all those going back to school. Everyone should remember to pick up their backpacks before they head for home.



How To Help With Gateway?

As you many know, monthly the Mission Board depends on donations to feed homeless men at Gateway shelter. Additional information might encourage you to help.

- Meatloaf can be made with your recipe or found frozen at GFS if time is short.
- Potato buds are also available at GFS to which you add water or use your recipe.
- Green beans can be fixed with any recipe you want.

All should serve 18, need to be in a disposable container and at church prior to 11 a.m. on the first Sunday of the month. Please be sure to sign up in the Narthex.

Many, many thanks to all who donate to this important service! You are invited to become more involved & possibly lead one month! Please speak to a Mission Board member for further details: *Mark Anthony, JoAnn Bambauer, Becky Sledge, Debbie McCoy, Addie Weaver, Mandy Shannon, Vaughn Shannon, Chris Walther,*

Peanut Butter Needed, Again



We are about to start a new school year with our affiliation with the Kettering Backpack program and we need your help. The Mission Board appreciates your enthusiastic support for the program. Please continue to bring in 16-ounce jars of peanut butter. They will be put in a backpack to feed a hungry Kettering child for a week.

-The Mission Board

Game Night

Attention all Gamers! From 7-10 p.m. on August 9 come to The Grove (hosted by Mary Bayman) for Game Night. Bring a snack, BYOB, your favorite games, and be prepared to have fun playing board games or card games like euchre, double pinochle, or canasta.

Young Adults - Keep In Touch

As a young adult of the church, you may be experiencing some great transitions of life: going off to college, getting married, moving into your first apartment, or buying your first home. Wherever you are, whatever you're doing, we want to stay in touch with you. Please call the church office, or email chriswood@davidsucc.org, so that we may update you on Church activities and send you monthly copies of Dateline via email.

Attention All Men!

For many years, the third Saturday of each month has been reserved for the men of David's Church to get together and have breakfast. These days, those who are available, have been meeting at the Bob Evans in Centerville (7115 Far Hills Ave) at 8:00 a.m. Any gentleman who would enjoy getting to know others from church and eat some good food is invited to join in! The next Men's Breakfast will be on Saturday, August 17. No need to RSVP, but you can call the church office at 434-2131 with any questions.

Altar Flowers

Altar flowers (\$20 per vase) are available for the upcoming months. You may order flower arrangements for the altar to honor or remember a special someone in your life or to celebrate a special occasion. Your message will be printed in the Sunday bulletin. Call the church office, 434-2131, to order.

Pillowcases For SISCA

Once again Warm Wishes is asking you to donate any used pillowcases you may have to make pet bedding. The fleece scraps that are too small for the hats, scarves and mittens are used to stuff the pillowcases. We try to not put anything into the trash while benefiting the animals at SISCA. During the month of September there will be a box in fellowship hall for you to leave your clean, gently used pillowcases. As always, thank you for your support. Questions should be directed to *Nedral Dalton* at (937) 416-4164.



S.I.G.N.S. Ecumenical High School Youth Group



SIGNS High School Youth Group is gearing up for another great year. Now that we're back from our summer trip, we're planning our summer activities and school-year start-up. If you know a current high schooler who might want to come see what SIGNS is all about, please send their name and address to me: chabut.jjcna@att.net

Deacons – Planned Giving

Every Sunday in the Mission Moment time before our offertory, I try to remind you that everything that happens through the ministry of David's Church, every life that is touched, every spirit that is lifted, every person who comes to know the love of God because of our bold proclamation that "no matter who you are, or where you are on life's journey, you are welcome here." All that and much, much more is made possible by your generous gifts. – Brian Q. Newcomb

No doubt, we all have reflected on the significance of that statement by Pastor Brian. Throughout your lifetime, you've given faithfully to the mission of David's UCC. You have committed your annual pledge and participated in capital campaigns that met specific needs, such as the sanctuary improvements or the new Park & Play project. Perhaps you've made a memorial gift to honor a loved one.

Each gift is an expression of your values, priorities, and gratitude for God's blessings in your life. By giving, we worship God and strengthen our community, as every gift blesses others.

Through the ministry of planned giving, we have a powerful opportunity to ensure that our most sacred values and commitments are part of the legacy we leave behind for future generations. Since planned gifts generally come from the accumulated assets of our lifetime, it is an opportunity to make a final statement of support for a ministry dear to our hearts.

David's planned giving program benefits both our present and future members. Through planned giving, we can help members of our congregation provide for the needs of their family through effective estate planning and tax reduction strategies. Planned gifts also ensure that the church will have the resources needed to continue its mission and ministry for many years to come.

Planned giving does not have to be complicated—and it is not only reserved for those with great wealth. It can be as simple as adding a bequest to the church in your will.

Please take a moment to read the following online resource, Planned Giving Guide for you and your family, (<https://bit.ly/2QhOOy1>) which explains the most common types of planned gifts and their benefits.

We ask you to prayerfully consider taking the next step—exploring planned giving opportunities to support David's. Members of the Deacons Board stand ready to provide more information or meet with you for a confidential discussion about planned giving options to best suit your particular circumstances.

To discuss further planned giving opportunities please email *Tom Webb* (tpwebb@gmail.com) or *Terry Foster* (terryfoster@yahoo.com).

Bread For The World Offering Of Letters 2019

Once again it is time to write letters to Congress as part of Bread for the World's continuing fight against hunger. This year's campaign is titled "Better Nutrition, Better Tomorrow" and is requesting Congress to increase funding for global nutrition programs. Beginning Sunday, August 25, packets for your letter writing will be available in the narthex and church office. Our letters do make a difference!

Betsy Keyes, 937-435-0124

Marion's Piazza Fundraiser

On Monday, August 19 from 4:30 - 7:30 PM, David's UCC Deacon's will present "An Evening at Marion's Piazza," at the Town & Country location only. A percentage of food purchases will be donated to David's Church when a flyer is presented at check-out. The flyer is necessary for the church to receive the rebate. The informational flyer (below) can be used, or you can pick one up in the Narthex Sunday, August 11 & 18.



David's United Church of Christ Deacons

Present an Evening at Marion's Piazza



Monday, August 19, 2019

4:30-7:30 PM

Marion's Piazza
(Town and Country location ONLY)
50 E. Stroop Road
Kettering, OH 45429
296-1177

Marion's will be donating 20% of your food purchase to David's United Church of Christ

Good for pizzas, sandwiches & spaghetti only.
EAT IN OR CARRYOUT

*** You must present this coupon with your order ***

Pastor Brian's Fall Study Options

In the Fall and Spring months, Dr. Newcomb tries to offer several options for those who want to study scripture or read and discuss current progressive theology books by relevant authors, as one way for folk to dig a little deeper, think a bit more broadly as they seek to grow spiritually. This Fall, Pastor Brian is offering two options.

Isaiah Parts 2 (Do Not Be Afraid!) & 3 (Your Light Has Come)

Last year, a good-sized group of us studied the first 39 chapters of Isaiah, using a brand-new study resource from the Kerygma Program. Scholars have learned that the book of Isaiah contains three distinct sections, address three specific times in Israel's experience of the exile, the first 39 chapter written by the original prophet of that name. The second section, which begins with the words "comfort, O comfort my people" (Chapters 40 – 55) was written at a later date, and part 3 (Chapters 56 – 66) still later, by authors writing in the tradition and spirit of the original Isaiah. Isaiah is one of the books of the Old Testament, like Deuteronomy, that Jesus and the Gospel writers often quote. Studying the way the nation of Israel coped and maintained a living faith in God through the challenging days of their exile has real resonance for our experience today.

The good people of Kerygma are putting both Parts 2 & 3 in one study guide, which will require us to meet for 6 weeks to cover the second section, titled "Do Not Be Afraid," and 5 more weeks to address part 3, titled "Your Light Has Come." Since the curriculum is currently in the final stages of development, we cannot offer specific dates for when we will begin the study, but Pastor Brian hopes to start the class on Monday nights at 7 pm, as early in the month of September as the company can make the materials available. He intends for the class to meet for 6 weeks straight, then take a few weeks off, and pick up with the third section for 5 more weeks later in October into November. While the class dates have yet to be decided (depending entirely on how early we can get the printed recourse books), we're going to go ahead and invite interested folk to sign up and order your copy of the book, which will cost \$20, and remember we encourage sharing between partners/spouses/friends. You can sign up for the class by making your check out to David's UCC, write "Isaiah study" in the memo, and put it in the offering plate or bring it to the church office.

Book Study: Richard Rohr's "The Universal Christ"

A second option is to read and meet to discuss the latest book by Franciscan monk, author and mystic, Fr. Richard Rohr. Titled "The Universal Christ; How a Forgotten Reality Can Change Everything We See, Hope For, and Believe" (Convergent Books/Penguin/Random House, 2019). As the inside jacket describes, "Drawing on scripture, history, and spiritual practice, Rohr articulates a transformative view of Jesus Christ as a portrait of God's constant, unfolding work in the world. 'God loves things by becoming them,' he writes... Thought provoking, practical, and full of deep hope and vision, 'The Universal Christ' is a landmark book from one of our most beloved spiritual writers and an invitation to contemplate how God liberates and loves all that is."

So, if you're interested, go ahead and purchase the book in whatever format you are reading these days, and let Pastor Brian know you plan to meet with him about 5 times, on Sundays following services. Pastor Brian imagines the group covering about 50 pages each time they meet for discussion, negotiating the dates to come together so that all who desire to participate can make it; the first gathering will be Sunday, Sept. 15 following the 9:50 service in the conference room, second class will be two or three weeks later, as decided by the group. So, pick up the book and start reading... noting those things that you find especially meaningful or challenging. And as Proverbs says, "come, let us reason together..."

A Personal Thank You from Pastor Brian

As many are aware, shortly after we were with my father, Rev. Paul E. Newcomb, at a family wedding in Ontario on June 15, he entered the hospital after returning to Rochester with issues related to his respiratory system and heart. Dad was in and out of the ICU, with every modest improvement met by further decline. On June 28, the doctors met with the family, with me and my brother who lives in rural Ontario calling in by phone, and we learned that the medical team had reached the limit in their ability to intervene and accepted their recommendation that Dad be provided palliative care, and kept comfortable. He died peacefully on the evening of July 29.

Susie and I were able to travel up to Rochester, to be with extended family for the funeral on July 6, and I spoke during the service in my parents' home church, offering a eulogy for my Father. We are so grateful for the support we have received from the congregation, from Sue Walters, the President of the congregation, and all those who sent cards, messages and other signs of care and affection. It is the larger sense of compassion from those in our family and faith communities, as well as our trust in the end that we remain in God's nurturing, caring hands, that sustain us in times of loss and grief. Thank you for all the ways you have been there for us. We cannot express fully how much your friendship and support means to us, both in common ordinary times, and those of unique challenge. We wish you all, God's blessings and peace.

August Birthdays

- 1 Julia Sizek
Evvie Thompson
- 2 Margaret Walker
Chris Wood
Bobbie Hughes
- 3 KC Harmer
- 4 Sam Stanley
- 5 Judy Lambright
- 6 Ted Eltzroth
- 7 McKay King
- 8 Emily Phillips
Layla Stolz
- 9 Lois Ruse
- 10 Mary Bayman
Lily Meehan
- 11 Andy Storar
- 12 Diane Herbst
- 13 Gerri Creel
- 14 Marilyn Cartwright
Curt Heaton
Kelly Stafford
- 15 Bob Stone
Michelle Hutchison
Katie White
- 16 Kellie Hughes
Emily Angel



- 17 Jack Grable
Don Porter
- 18 Margie Heffner
Eric Vogler
Zach Angel
Morgan Bartshe
- 21 Joan DeLon
Eliza Thompson
- 22 David Blumberg
- 23 Amy Thompson
- 24 Linda Ford
Bert Jones
Ed Webb
- 26 Ruth Gordon
Ian Jones
- 27 Else Schiller
Laura Mann
Andrew Lewis
- 28 Lea Nakauchi
Dick DeLon
- 29 Jeff Baldwin
Nikki Cantrell
- 30 Alix VanHouten
- 31 Janice Kinghorn
Grant Hutchison

Church Directory Change

Carla Creager

3717 Marshall Road
Kettering, OH 45429

Deaths

Our sympathy to *Brian & Susan Newcomb and family* in the loss of Rev. Newcomb's father, **Rev. Paul Newcomb**, on June 29, 2019 in Rochester, NY.

Our sympathy to *Linda & Rick Smith* in the loss of Linda's brother, **Mike Parker**, on July 3, 2019.

Usher & Greeter Sign-Ups

Check out the sign-up sheet in Fellowship Hall if you would like to greet or usher at the second service on Sunday mornings.

Are We Missing Things?

Does the church office have all of your current information in our database? Since the publication of the last pictorial directory:

- Has your address changed?
- Do you still have a landline? And if not, do we have your cell phone number?
- Do we have your correct email address?

Please contact us if you have any updates to provide. (937) 434-2131 or chriswood@davidsucc.org.

Interested In Another Play?

I am working on a Christmas themed play about three angels who come to earth to infuse the holiday spirit into a disjointed family. I am shooting for early December. If interested in a part (nothing as involved as A Christmas Carol) please let me know asap at 937-993-5464.

Thanks,
Rich Luh

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
 <h1 style="margin: 0;">AUGUST 2019</h1> <p style="margin: 0;">David's United Church of Christ (937) 434-2131 www.davidsucc.org</p>				1 <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; margin: 5px auto; width: 80%;">PARK & PLAY PROJECT</div> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; margin: 5px auto; width: 80%;">KETTERING HEALTHY YOUTH</div>	2 	3
4 8:30 & 9:50 AM Worship Gateway 7:00 PM Book Study	5 9:30 AM Warm Wishes 10:30 AM Staff Mtg. 6:30-8:30 PM Warm Wishes II	6 10:00 AM Quilting Ministry 7:00 & 7:30 PM Board Meetings	7 6:00 PM Church Picnic at Bender's	8 	9 7:00-10:00 PM Game Night at The Grove	10 8:30 AM Trustee Meeting
<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; margin: 0 auto; width: 90%;">PARK & PLAY PROJECT</div>						
11 8:30 & 9:50 AM Worship 11:15 AM Deacon's Mtg. 7:00 PM Book Study	12 9:30 AM Warm Wishes 10:30 AM Staff Mtg. 6:00-8:00 PM Y12SR Yoga 7:00 PM CE Mtg.	13 10:00 AM Quilting Ministry	14 6:00 PM Yoga	15 7:00 PM T&C Book Group at The Grove DATELINE DEADLINE	16 	17 8:00 AM Men's Breakfast @ Bob Evans
<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; margin: 0 auto; width: 90%;">PARK & PLAY PROJECT</div>						
18 8:30 & 9:50 AM Worship Food & Clothing Outreach 11:30 AM CE Fair 12:30 PM Private Reception at The Grove 7:00 PM Book Study	19 9:30 AM Warm Wishes 10:30 AM Staff Mtg. 4:30-7:30 PM Marion's Piazza Food Fundraiser	20 10:00 AM Quilting Ministry 7:00 PM Council Mtg	21 6:00 PM Yoga	22 	23 	24
25 8:30 & 9:50 AM Worship w/Communion Blessing of the Backpacks 11:15 AM Confirmation Meeting 7:00 PM Book Study	26 9:30 AM Warm Wishes 10:30 AM Staff Mtg. 6:00-8:00 PM Y12SR Yoga	27 10:00 AM Quilting Ministry	28 6:00 PM Yoga	29 7:00 PM Chancel Choir	30 Office Closed Wedding Rehearsal	31 5:00 PM LeAnn Clark & Jason Byrge Wedding & Reception