

**DAVID'S DATLINE
DECEMBER 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

December 1 - First Sunday of Advent

December 2-6 - Home Communion

December 6 - Parent's Night Out

December 7 - Nosh with St. Nick

December 8 - Christmas Caroling to Shut-Ins

December 10 & 17 - Coffee with Rev. Wilkey

December 15 - Lessons & Carols
(9:50 AM & 2:00 PM with 8:30 Worship in the Chapel)

December 21 - Holiday Concert with Tim & Lyn

December 22 - Longest Night/Blue Christmas Service

Christmas Eve Services - 5:00, 7:30 & 10:00 p.m.

December 25 & 26 - Office Closed

January 1 - Office Closed

From the Pastor's Desk...

They tell me that Thanksgiving is late this year, but it doesn't feel that way. But that was the excuse I've been given from several people to explain why there are so many Christmas decorations up so early. In many stores and businesses, it appears that folk started putting up Christmas trees and other decorations immediately after Halloween. My wife, Susie, said that driving through our neighborhood on her way home from work that many of our neighbors have already put up their Christmas trees, and other decorations. No doubt, we too will soon have some decorations up, as we have family visiting for Thanksgiving and it may be time to give Christmas gifts to our grandsons, since we won't see them again for a while.

The thing is, some of our more conservative Christian friends and some in the media have returned to their traditional talking point that there's some kind of a "War on Christmas," and some folk are saying things like, "Now, we can say 'Merry Christmas' again," as if there's ever been any real persecution for Christians in North America celebrating what has become one of the most commercialized and financially-focused season in the American economy. So, to be clear, what I'm saying is that these two things cannot both be true. We can't have stock market analysts reporting about whether the "Christmas gift giving season" has proven as beneficial to the economic interests of our nation and still believe for a moment any argument that says people are being hurt by the fact that when they were leaving some department store the security person wished them "Season's Greetings" or "Happy Holidays." In this country, Christmas music and decorations are ubiquitous in public life from Thanksgiving on, and this year especially it appears to be creeping up on Halloween.

Any day now, I'm going to get a Christmas card from a member of my family that says, "Put Christ back into Christmas," or something close to that message. And I certainly understand the point of this sentiment, although it used to be something people said because they were offended that some folk tend to abbreviate "Christmas" down to "Xmas." This has always been amusing to me, because although I was never a great student of New Testament Greek (Honest, I tried my best, and for those who are counting, it's "Koine" or the common Greek of everyday people at that time), I did learn in that class that many Christians came to use the letter "X" in their alphabet, which is pronounced "Chi" or "Kai" to refer to Christ quite naturally as it's in the first letter in the Greek word. Thus, one of the ways that early Christians chose to signify the concept of the "Christ" was with the combined letters "Chi - Rho. Because of that early awareness during my seminary studies, in most of my notebooks and often when writing by hand, I have used the "X" to represent Christ, and "Xian" to refer to Christians, as a sort of shorthand. Something you do when quickly taking notes in a class. Similarly, when writing notes, I never spell out the word "theology," I always cheat and use the Greek letter "theta." And, that sadly, is the extent of my current knowledge after taking 4 semesters of New Testament Greek back in the day. Gladly, I believe I've retained a fair amount of the content from other studies, I'm just not good with foreign languages.



That said, I take little offense at the odd "Merry Xmas" card that comes, I'm more shocked that people are still sending Christmas cards in the mail with actual stamps. And to be honest, while I certainly understand and nod in agreement with Charlie Brown when he is resistant to the vast commercialization of what Linus reminds us by quoting from Luke's Gospel is the story of "our dear Savior's birth," I find the general hoopla of our yearly Christmas rituals – with all the decorations, the parties and gifts, the shopping and food and extravagance – comforting in a meaningful way.

Of course, we've all encountered the odd Scrooge or Grinch here and there, but generally people tend to be of good cheer during the holidays. It feels special to me that we shop for each other and give gifts that we hope are the right size, that please the recipient, and gives them a sense of joy and appreciation. It's lovely that we push back against the darkness and cold of the beginning of winter with extra lights, and special events, and frankly, it's sweet that, generally speaking, people are a bit more jolly, kind, and festive this time of year. Sure, they're just being good to please Santa and rake in the goodies, a cynical person might think, but hey, I just like the result as folk tend to be a bit more gracious with one another while sorting out their holiday challenges.

What I'm saying is, Christmas comes at us each year with all kinds of baggage, some of it unfortunate and challenging, but mostly, at this point in my life I'm quite happy to go along for the ride. Of course, we've outgrown the stage where we are trying to please children who have been overwhelmed by the constant barrage of television commercials and other messages that put pressure on parents to try and make this day extra special, and that can mean spending more money than one can really afford. I get that pressure which can overwhelm parents these days, but I know in my heart that more than all the gifts and glitter, what children really want and need from us is our presence, our interest and concern, our support and care.

Finally, the message I want to share with all of you, my dear friends, is that our celebrations of the birth of the Christ child should have some resemblance to what we have learned about who that child grows to be as an adult. Someone who walks closely with God, and lives compassionately in the world, with and for people. I've seen those memes about "Keeping Christ in Christmas," and they often come with a great list of behaviors and values that we might benefit from emulating as we move through this festive season. "Feed the hungry, comfort the afflicted, love the outcast, forgive

others, inspire the hopeless,” says one meme. Another adds, “clothe the naked, welcome the unwanted, care for the ill, embrace outsiders, share with those in need.” Of course, the actual list isn’t important, the point is that we should remind ourselves about how Jesus lived and loved, the values that he embodied as he walked through the world, the lessons he taught in the Sermon on the Mount (Matt. 5 – 7; Luke 6: 17ff.) and elsewhere.

Turns out, that lots of people claim Jesus, either for their specific church, or favorite theology, and some even attach “being Christian” to voting for one political party or the other. People sometimes debate how Jesus would live here as we enter the 2020’s, some want to say Jesus would vote this way or that, others insist Jesus would drive this kind of car or act or dress a certain way. All of that speculation and debate can make for some interesting conversations, but the side we take in any of those conversations is likely to reveal more about us and what we care about, than it does anything about Jesus. Truth be told, we do have one primary point of connection: The Jesus we encounter in Matthew, Mark, Luke and John.

That’s why I think it’s important that we gather regularly to read the texts and talk about them, together, to remind ourselves who we are as followers of Jesus, and whose we are. In the day to day busyness of life, we often forget, and can easily forget what truly matters most. It’s nice to come together each Sunday and sing a few songs, share some thoughts and ideas, and touch base with what is real and important, and be reminded what Jesus reveals about God’s love and justice.

One of the great things about being a part of a church community, in my humble opinion, is that we don’t have to start from scratch, we don’t have to figure life out all by our lonesome, that we don’t have to go it alone when life gets hard and confusing. And, we don’t have to find ways that make for a better world, and a more meaningful way to live in isolation. We have the benefit of a faith tradition, and generations of folk who have gone before us who have plenty of wisdom and stories to share. And, more importantly, we have each other to bounce our questions and concerns off, and to combine our efforts to make a meaningful impact on the needy world around us. I don’t know where to start on my own to “feed the hungry…” and all that. But here at David’s Church, there have been opportunities to donate food to feed folk at the homeless shelter, to bring peanut butter to feed hungry school children, make cookies for shut-in folk to leave with them when we go and sing Christmas carols for and with them, and there were those Thanksgiving and Christmas dinner baskets given to folk in the community, lots of great ways to do and be good in the world.

I didn’t have to think very hard to come up with ways to do what I know is important and valuable, because I’m part of a community that’s prioritizing that very thing, and I’m able to join my small gift with the small gifts of others and see how together we can make a big difference. Same goes with “comforting the afflicted,” and “loving the outcast,” we can take on these things as a congregation and have a bigger impact by participating as a whole. So, let’s dive in to Advent together, let us look for the new thing that God is going to do in our midst, let’s not miss out on the good and lovely things that happen when we meet together and keep Christ at the center of our lives by Being the Church.

Merry Christmas to one and all.

Your Pastor and friend,

Brian Q. Newcomb

Notes from Rev. Michelle

Back in August, I received the news that I had been accepted into the Kettering Leadership Academy. This is a nine-month program and is designed for citizens to learn about every major aspect of community life through presentations, discussions and direct experience. The learning experiences I will get to have will include classes covering topics such as public safety, city government, education/schools, community diversity, health care, business, history and service clubs/volunteering. I will get to work with my fellow class members on a class project and I am tasked with attending a wide variety of different board meetings. Through all of these different opportunities, I will come to know the city where I serve a lot better.

This program is set up in a similar fashion to my Next Generation Leadership Initiative. I am learning alongside a group of different leaders who work in the Kettering area. We grew closer as we participated in a wide variety of team building activities at Camp Joy. Here is a picture of our group at our opening retreat at Camp Joy.

I am a few months into this program and I have already learned so much about the wonderful city of Kettering. In September, we had our opening retreat and then in October our first full day session was centered on the Kettering city government. On that day, we got a personal tour of Kettering and we got to meet and hear from many government employees. In November, our focus was on education and schools and we had the honor of meeting and hearing from many people who serve in different capacities on the school board and work for Kettering City Schools. We also got to take a tour of



Fairmont High School and we got to learn more about a student led group called Hope Squad.

Hope Squad is comprised of 50 student leaders who are there to uplift other students around them. They give out compliments and are ready to listen and even respond if and when there is a crisis. During our tour of the school, we got to meet with several of these student leaders and hear more about this program. Hope Squad is a school-based peer-to-peer, suicide prevention program for students. Members are students nominated by peers as trustworthy classmates and are trained to identify at-risk students, provide friendship and seek help from an adult.

I am truly inspired by these students who are taking the time to spread a message of kindness and love. This group lives up to its name, I believe, they are spreading hope in their school and in each other's lives. Desmond Tutu once said that "hope is being able to see that there is light despite all of the darkness." I believe this group of students from Kettering who form the "Hope Squad" are actively being a light in the darkness. And speaking of being a light in the darkness, let's talk about the story of Jesus' birth.

It is hard to believe that it is that time of year again, that special time when we remember and celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ. Marcus Borg and John Dominic Crossan have this to say about the season of Advent: "Christmas is about the coming in the present of the Lord who came long ago in the past. Jesus comes again each Christmas. This is the central purpose of the season of the church year known as Advent, the four Sundays and four weeks before Christmas. Each Advent, Christians relive ancient Israel's yearning and hope, and each Christmas Christians celebrate the fulfillment of that yearning: Joy to the World- the Lord is come. The purpose of Advent and Christmas is to bring the past into the present."

I liked what Crossan and Borg had to say about Christmas being about light coming into the darkness. They write: "Christmas is about light coming into the darkness of our individual lives, about our return from exile, about inner peace. Indeed, it is about the birth of Christ within us. In the 13th century, Meister Eckhart preached about Christmas as the birth of Christ within us through the union of God's Spirit with our flesh. So also a line from the familiar 19th century hymn "O Little Town of Bethlehem" affirms the personal meaning; "O holy child of Bethlehem...be born in us today.""

The message of Christmas is one that gives me continued hope because it shows us a God who cares, a God who cares so much for God's people that God comes down and becomes one of us. God enters into our messy world and experiences all that comes with being a human. And I love that God doesn't enter into our world in some grand and majestic way, God enters in the most humble way possible. God is born in a smelly manger surrounded by stinky animals.

My faith rests on the belief that God is with us now and always. The story of Jesus' birth illustrates just how far God is willing to go to show us just how much God loves us. God loves us enough to move into our neighborhood and become one of us and suffer like one of us and die like one of us. For me, this gives me great hope and it is for me a light in the darkness.

I believe this Advent and Christmas season; we can learn a lot from the students at Fairmont High School who are a part of Hope Squad. These students are being a light in the darkness and are spreading hope in a seemingly hopeless world. As we enter into this season, how can we be a light in the darkness and how can we join the students in spreading hope in our world?

May everyone have a wonderful Holiday Season!

Much love to all,

Pastor Michelle

Stewardship Update

The Stewardship Committee would like to thank everyone for their 2020 pledge cards received on November 10. As of November 19, there were 93 pledge cards received, totaling \$381,704. The current proposed 2020 operating budget is \$520,000, with 10% set aside for Benevolence (Mission Board). If you have not turned in your pledge card yet, please do so as soon as possible. Pledge cards are available in the Narthex and can be mailed or dropped by the church office or placed in the offering plate.

Serving at Gateway

The first Sunday of every month, David's Church is responsible for providing and serving a meal at the Gateway Shelter for Men. This meal, which consists of meat loaf, green beans, mashed potatoes, rolls, salad, and lemonade, is one of the favorites served at the shelter. In the Narthex, you will find a sign-up sheet for food that is needed as well as an opportunity to be a server at the shelter. Our next serving is Sunday, December 1. Many items are still needed. Please take a moment to see where you can help!

Christmas In-Gathering of Food

Thank you for your generous donations for our Thanksgiving food baskets. We were able to feed 40 families in our surrounding communities a nice Thanksgiving meal. We are now collecting food to provide 50 families with a meal for their Christmas dinner. Your donations for the Christmas food baskets will spread lots of holiday cheer to families in our community who are in need. We need, mashed potatoes; canned green beans, corn, yams, cranberry sauce/jelly, gravy, packaged Christmas cookies/boxed brownie mix; or money to purchase hams. These donations can be brought to the church office until December 8.



Chris Wood

WORSHIP SERVICES

ADVENT

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|-------------|----------------|--|
| December 1 | 8:30 & 9:50 AM | <i>Advent Worship</i> |
| December 8 | 8:30 & 9:50 AM | <i>Advent Worship with Communion</i> |
| December 15 | 8:30 AM | <i>Advent Worship in the Chapel</i> |
| | 9:50 AM | <i>Advent Worship with Lessons & Carols (2:00 PM Lessons & Carols)</i> |
| December 22 | 8:30 & 9:50 AM | <i>Advent Worship</i> |
| December 22 | 7:00 PM | <i>The Longest Night/Blue Christmas Service</i> |



CHRISTMAS EVE

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|----------|---|
| 5:00 PM | <i>Service for the Young and Young at Heart</i> |
| 7:30 PM | <i>Traditional Candlelight Service with Choir</i> |
| 10:00 PM | <i>Traditional Candlelight Service with Special Music and Communion</i> |

Childcare is available at the 5:00 PM and 7:30 PM Services

Parent's Night Out on Friday, December 6 - 6:00-9:00pm

All children through 6th grade are invited to spend a fun evening at David's Church from 6-9 p.m. on Friday December 6. We will spend the evening eating pizza, playing games, doing crafts, and watching a Christmas movie. This event will take place in the Fellowship Hall. There is no cost, but donations are encouraged and will go toward our Confirmation program. If you have any questions or you would like to sign your child up, please see *Pastor Michelle*.

Nosh with St. Nick on Saturday December 7

On Saturday December 7, all families of all shapes and sizes are invited to come and "Nosh with St. Nick" from 10:00am-12:00pm. This event will be a memory-making time for families of all shapes and sizes! Family and friends will share some yummy treats, hear a Christmas story, play some fun holiday games, and have the chance to visit with a familiar face of Christmas. If you have any questions and/or would like to come to this event, please see Pastor Michelle.

December 8 Christmas Caroling

December 8 - Christmas Caroling to David's Homebound Members

There is a sign-up sheet in the Narthex for:

People who will *bake special Christmas cookies* for the Homebound Members

Please come to Fellowship Hall for lunch before going Caroling.

Fellowship & Hospitality Board will set up your lunch.

You provide the joy and the voices in this intergenerational activity.

Members enjoy seeing David's children and youth in addition to the adults.



WHO Group Holiday Gathering

The WHO (Women Hanging Out) Group will dine out at Sweeny's Seafood Bar & Grill

(<http://www.sweenysseafood.com/dinner-menu.html> 28 W. Franklin Street, Centerville) for food, fun, and fellowship on Tuesday, December 10 at 5:30 p.m. This is a combined November and December holiday date, so we are meeting after Thanksgiving and before we get too much into all the hustle and bustle of the Christmas Season. Please RSVP to Jan Olt (433-0077 or jansar@ameritech.net) by Thursday, December 5 so that we can be sure to save you a seat around the table. P.S. For those of you that may not be a fan of seafood, they have amazing non-seafood entrees as well.

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, December 21. No need to RSVP, but you can call the church office at 434-2131 with any questions.

"A Festival of Lessons and Carols" by Hal Hopson December 15, 9:50 a.m. & 2:00 p.m. (with 8:30 worship in the Chapel)

In lieu of our regular Christmas cantata, this year the choir will be performing "A Festival of Lessons and Carols" by Hal Hopson. Lessons and Carols had its origin at Truro Cathedral in England. It began on Christmas Eve when a service of scripture and supporting carols was developed by the Bishop of Truro. It was quickly duplicated by cathedrals and churches throughout the world. The heart of the service continues to this day – the retelling of the Christmas story of faith from the fall of Adam to the coming of the Word Incarnate.

The work is unlike the cantatas in the instrumentation as well. We will use a double string quartet, handbells, percussion, and organ. This will have a different sort of sound than we have been hearing in the cantatas – no brass or woodwinds. My hope is that the simplifying of the instrumentation will allow the clarity of the text to be greater. There will even be a Carol Prelude that is entirely instrumental. There are nine lessons interspersed with prayers and a musical selection.

Some of the pieces are very sparse as far as instrumentation like the one after the first lesson – "God Walked in Eden's Garden Fair." The only accompaniment is handbells which play chord clusters while the choir then sings phrases that sound very much like plainsong. Some lesser known carols have been utilized and adapted for this work. To feature the inherent beauty of both male and female voices, one carol is provided for SSA (Soprano, 2nd Soprano, and Alto) and one for TB (Tenor and Bass). The congregation will be joining in much more than they have in the past. My intention is that having sung carols together, our hearts will be more prepared for Christ's birth.

As in the past, there are going to be two performances of the Lessons and Carols. The first is at our 9:50 worship service on the 15th of December. The other one is later that afternoon at 2:00. We are excited to share the gospel story this way. We hope to see you there – bring a friend or two!

Peace,

Tim Williams, Director of Music





13th Annual Peals of Joy Concert at David's

Tim and Lyn have planned a special treat for their 13th Annual Peals of Joy Concert! Joseph Glenn, a classically trained percussionist who specializes on the Steel Pan, will be our featured artist. Born and raised in Chicago, Joseph has performed professionally since age 12 and is one of the founders of the Project Jericho Steel Band, which serves as a mentoring program for youth in the Springfield area. Come out on December 21st at 7 p.m. for his solos, trios with Lyn and Tim, and your Christmas favorites performed on piano, organ, saxophone, steel drum, synthesizer and voice. We promise an uplifting, toe-tapping evening of seasonal gems.

Longest Night of the Year (Blue Christmas) Service

Sunday, December 22, 7:00 PM in the Chapel

Amid the vast commercialization and the spirits of forced joy that often accompany many of the expectations of Christmas, many of us find it a challenging, even a difficult holiday season. For some it's the external circumstances around welcoming the birth of the one called the "Prince of Peace" while the world around us is distressed by war, poverty, hunger and disease. For others it's a more personal dis-ease, sometimes due to grief at the loss of loved ones, financial or employment concerns, distance from family and friends, or outright loneliness. Many of us need a place to honestly express our longing for wholeness, to acknowledge our real feelings of disappointment and sadness, before we can move into the Christmas spirit of joyful expectation and hope for better days in the New Year. So, we gather close to the Winter Solstice, the longest night of the year, to remember the prophet Isaiah's word that "the people who walked in darkness have seen a great light." Indeed, the Christmas story speaks of God come to dwell among us, to embrace all that comes in the human condition. We'll light candles to push back the darkness, offer prayers for healing, and hear the word of hope that comes in the birth of love in our midst.

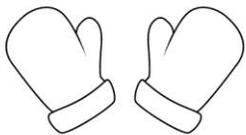


Pastor's Emergency Fund & Our Policy for Dealing with Solicitations

Throughout the year, we've used money in this Pastor's discretionary fund to help church members, other benevolent institutions, and some in the community who are dealing with hard times. We've helped families and individuals with food, medicines, and utilities, only helping people once in a calendar year. In recent days the need has been great, so we invite those of you who are able to give above and beyond your regular giving commitment to help us care for those in great need.

That said, our policy at David's Church is not to hand out any cash when we are approached by folk soliciting help on Sundays, or as we are coming and going to meetings. We want to run due diligence and follow-up on those we have helped, so we ask that members give no money to folk who are approaching them. We hope that you will direct them to the church office on Monday – Friday during business hours and let them know to bring picture I.D. so they can fill out the information forms we've created, and we will do our best to help them in a way that's professional and accountable. Thanks for your help in this regard.

Warm Wishes Evening Meeting



Have you wanted to be a part of Warm Wishes and cannot meet during the day? Well, this is your opportunity. We have formed an evening group that will meet on Monday, December 2 from 6:30 to 8:30 PM. At this meeting you will learn to either cut fleece, sew fleece or assist with the process.

If you have basic sewing skills and own a sewing machine, you can do this! There will be 2 sewing machines available for your use or you may bring your own. You can also learn to sew these items at the meeting and then sew them at home. If you want to cut fleece following a pattern, we will give you complete instructions and even provide the scissors.

This group makes hats, scarves and mittens for the needy and homeless in the greater Dayton area. You will have an opportunity to make new friends while you are following the David's church mission of outreach. Take action, be involved, make a difference.

A sign-up sheet will be posted in the narthex. We will meet again on December 9. Questions should be directed to Nedra Dalton at 937-416-4164 or relatoredral@sbcglobal.net.

2019 Christmas Greeting List

The following would appreciate special greetings at Christmas.

AT HOME

Bob & Carolyn Brethen

501 Lockerbie Lane
Dayton, OH 45429

Carla Creager

3717 Marshall Road
Kettering, OH 45429

Jack & Carolyn Grable

7010 Malabar Ct.
Dayton, OH 45459

Heather Greene

2354 Appleblossom Drive
Miamisburg, OH 45342

Margie Heffner

306 Lincoln Park Blvd.
Dayton, OH 45429

Norma Jean Hendricks

756 Meadowview Dr.
Dayton, OH 45459

Mary Ellen Hopkins

3012 LaPlata Dr.
Dayton, OH 45420

Betty Jones

34B Knight Terrace
Springfield, OH 45504

Thelma Leach

200 Adamsmoor Dr.
Apt. 211
Waynesville, OH 45068

Jana Lehman

336 Lewiston Road
Kettering, OH 45429

Marilyn Lemons

4380 Wallington Drive
Dayton, OH 45440

Miriam Maue

373 W. David Road
Kettering, OH 45429

Carrie Morris

4945 Pennyroyal Road
Franklin, OH 45005

Lea & Mark Nakauchi

c/o Diane Tyndell
13943 Covington Drive
Plymouth, MI 48170

Margaret Walker

5848 Taylorsville Rd.
Huber Heights, OH 45424

SPECIAL CARE FACILITIES

Bethany Village

6451 Far Hills Avenue
Dayton, OH 45459

Janet Marks – Linden House

Carlyle House

3490 Far Hills Ave.
Dayton, OH 45429

Ruth Nelson

One Lincoln Park

590 Isaac Prugh Way
Dayton, OH 45429

Correne Moran - #507

Ken & Irene Hopkins - #406

St. Leonard's

1050 St. Leonard Way
SDR C. 202

Centerville, OH 45458

Fred & Else Schiller

Trinity

3218 Indian Ripple Road
Beavercreek, OH 45440

Bob & Lois Bosshardt

Walnut Creek

2501 Keystone Club Dr.
Dayton, OH 45439

Marilyn Lusa



Special Offerings in December

Love Offering

Each year the church says “Merry Christmas” to all members of our staff by offering them a Christmas check. If you would like to contribute, simply make your check out to David’s Church, memo line Love Offering and place it in the envelopes provided in the pews or in the offering plate. Or you can go online and contribute by choosing the box “Love Offering”. Contributions will be accepted by online through December 11, and by check through Sunday, December 15.

- *Board of Elders*

Christmas Eve Offering

Your Mission Board is asking for your support for a special Christmas Eve Offering. This contribution will be divided evenly in four ways:

1. *Crossroad Ft. Wayne Children’s Home* is a UCC sponsored residential care home for troubled youth throughout our region. Most of the young people have been in abusive situations and need loving, skilled care to recover and get on with their lives. During the year, we also send Campbell Soup labels that go toward the purchase of specialty items.
2. *Trinity community of Beavercreek* is a UCC sponsored retirement community. The Life Enrichment Fund assists residents whose assets have been depleted. Trinity prides itself on affirming that no one has ever had to leave the community due to financial reasons.
3. *The Christmas Fund for Veterans of the Cross* provides assistance for retired UCC clergy and their families when the need arises. Many clergy have faithfully served churches where they received small incomes with little or no pensions. The assistance is appreciated in the form of a Christmas gift check, a health insurance subsidy, or as an emergency grant.
4. *David’s UCC* will use this support to help meet the church’s 2019 Operating Budget.

A Christmas Eve Offering envelope will be available in the pews on Sunday, December 22, and on Christmas Eve for you to make a contribution. If you are unable to attend these services and wish to contribute, please mail your check to the church office and put “Christmas Eve Offering” in the memo line. Your support is greatly appreciated.

Pastor’s Emergency Fund

As in recent years, our congregation would like to give Christmas memorial gifts to those in need instead of elaborately decorating the sanctuary with live poinsettias. Through the generosity of members and friends, David’s Church has again been lovingly decorated for the holidays.

Your gifts to the Pastor’s Emergency Fund will help those in need throughout the year. Due to the current economic conditions, there has been an increase in requests for distributions from the fund, both from individuals in the community and from members of David’s congregation. If you would like to remember a loved one while making your gift, please fill out the form and return it with your contribution to the church or place these items in the offering plate by December 15. Please mark your check “Pastor’s Fund.” The names of those remembered will be published in the Christmas Eve bulletin.

PASTOR’S EMERGENCY FUND

Donation by _____

Message _____

Pastoral & Staff Relations Committee (PSRC)

David's Pastoral & Staff Relations Committee (PSRC) is a standing committee of our church that seeks to support and maintain an open and healthy relationship between the pastors, staff, and members of the congregation. PSRC serves in two main ways: 1) as an advisory group to the pastors and music director, and 2) as support for their leadership. As an advisory group, the PSRC shares with the pastors and music director ideas, hope/dreams, expectations, and concerns of the congregation. As support for the pastors and music director, PSRC interprets their roles, functions, and needs to the congregation.

David's PSRC operates as an independent group separate from Elders and the Personnel Committee. Because the effectiveness of the PSRC rests heavily upon trust built and maintained between the pastors, music director, and the Committee, members pledge to maintain strict confidentiality concerning the content of the meetings and discussions. Three separate groups have been established to support Pastor Brian, Pastor Michelle, and Music Director, Tim Williams.

PSRC for Pastor Brian

Anne Brown	937.299.5771	afbrown8000@gmail.com
Ernie Dalton	937.723.6762	tuffyernie1@msn.com
Alice Stone	937.433.3505	aliceg.stone@gmail.com

PSRC for Pastor Michelle

Jeff Baldwin	513.855-4575	s.roark@att.net
Dave Dhanraj	519.205.7994	davedhanraj@gmail.com
Diane Herbst	937.886.9119	desi_herbst@hotmail.com

PSRC for Tim Williams

Debbie McCoy	937.689.4224	kdam4300@gmail.com
Matt Teeters	937.436.5231	mjteeters@woh.rr.com
Jacque Housel	937.269.4304	jhousel@woh.rr.com

Members of the PSRC committees are committed to strengthening the mission of David's UCC, a progressive community where faith comes to life.

Recycle Your Printer Cartridges

Have empty printer cartridges you don't know what to do with? Bring them to church and put them in the basket in the Narthex. They will be taken to Staples for recycling.

Gluten Free Communion

We offer individually wrapped, gluten free, communion wafers. For those who are interested in enjoying their communion gluten free, please pick up a wafer, in the narthex, prior to Communion services.

S.I.G.N.S. Youth Group

S.I.G.N.S. invites you to join our group! We are an ecumenical, faith-based, high school group and have been active in Kettering for more than 19 years. We hold meetings during the school year every Sunday evening from 7:00-8:30 p.m. at David's Grove. At our meetings, we delve into a wide variety of topics, and we participate in many social, spiritual, and community service and outings throughout the year. If you would like to join us, please contact *Jill Chabut*, at 297-0324 or jjcna@att.net.

December 1 – 1-Room Schoolhouse at David's Church, Regular Mtg. at 7:00 PM w/Adopt-A-Family gift wrapping.

December 8 – Regular Meeting

December 9 – Peanut Butter

December 15 – SIGNS Annual Christmas Party

December 22 – No Meeting

December 29 – SIGNS Movie Night

Usher & Greeter Sign-Ups

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

December Birthdays

- 2 Joanne Wallad
Howard Webb
- 4 Bill Schottelkotte
- 5 Neil Jones
- 6 Dan Pickrel
Mandy Shannon
- 7 Mike Shaneyfelt
- 8 Jay VanHouten
- 9 Tom Routsong
Scott Thompson
Shabonne Shaneyfelt
- 10 Samuel VanHouten
- 11 Phyllis Kramer
Terry Williams
- 12 John Runzo
- 13 Jean Semler
Dorothy Cooper
Sonja Gegel
Addie Weaver
- 14 Karen Frey



- 15 Shirley Berry
Karin Avila-John
Heather Vest
- 17 Sophia Shannon
- 18 Correne Moran
Beverly Gilberg
Danielle Van Brackel
- 22 Samuel Routsong
- 24 Carolyn Brethen
Sherill Weinberg
Jen Phillips
- 25 Charlie Boothe
- 26 Ashley Rohrbacher
Bram Hardenbrook
- 27 Donna Wright
Emma Wissler
- 29 Dave Herrick
- 30 Kathe Lindner

Death

Our sympathy to family of *Harriett Seeberger*, the wife of former David's Music Director, *Gene Seeberger*. Harriett passed away on November 16, 2019.

Tax Information

All 2019 donations to David's Church must be in the church office, or postmarked, by **December 31**. Also, please write separate checks for individual funds.

Annual Reports Due

To all boards, organizations and staff members: Your annual reports are due into the office by Tuesday, December 10, 2019.

Peanut Butter

Please remember the kids in the Kettering Backpack Program this winter as we go to the grocery, to buy a certain number each week. That will be your own personal goal to see how many weeks in a row you remember. Thanks to all of you who have been faithful contributors.

- Mission Board

Calling All Bakers

The Fellowship & Hospitality Board is looking for anyone who would like to bake cookies, brownies, dessert bars, breads, muffins, etc. that we can freeze to be used for coffee time after second service. You may bake at any time that works for you. You may make as many as you wish; however, 3 dozen would be plenty. Please make sure the baked goods are packaged for the freezer, label them for F&H and place them in the freezer on the top shelf. This way many people can enjoy a treat on Sunday mornings along with their coffee or lemonade. Contact *Bobbi Beyer* at 901-5286 or bbeyer1004@gmail.com for any further questions.

Coffee With Pastor Michelle

Pastor Michelle will be holding office hours out in our community. Throughout the year, she will hold office hours from 3-5pm at nearby coffee shops every second and third Tuesday of the month. On Tuesday, December 10 & Tuesday, December 17, she will hold her hours at Panera at The Green. If you have any questions, let *Pastor Michelle* know.

Interested In Another Play?

Those people interested in being a part of a play, tentatively planned for the end of February, early March, there will be a quick meeting after church in fellowship hall on December 1. Questions can be directed to *Rich Luh* at 937-993-5464 or by email, revluh@hotmail.com.

<u>SUNDAY</u>	<u>MONDAY</u>	<u>TUESDAY</u>	<u>WEDNESDAY</u>	<u>THURSDAY</u>	<u>FRIDAY</u>	<u>SATURDAY</u>	
1 8:30 & 9:50 AM Advent Worship Holiday Food Gathering Gateway 11:15 AM Second Hour/ Rohr Book Study 7:00 PM Book Study/ SIGNS	2 9:30 AM Warm Wishes 10:30 AM Staff Mtg. 6:30 PM Warm Wishes II	3 10:00 AM Quilting Ministry 12:30 PM Private Reception 7:00 & 7:30 PM Board Meetings	4 6:00 PM Yoga	5 6:00 PM Adult Bells 7:00 PM Chancel Choir	6 6:00-9:00 PM Parent's Night Out	7 9:00 AM F&H Mtg in the Kitchen 10:00 AM Nosh with St. Nick	
HOME COMMUNIONS							
8 8:30 & 9:50 AM Advent Worship w/Communion 11:15 AM Christmas Caroling to Shut-Ins 11:15 AM Deacons Mtg. 7:00 PM Book Study/SIGNS	9 9:30 AM Warm Wishes 10:30 AM Staff Mtg. 4:00 PM SIGNS Peanut Butter Yoga 6:00 PM Y12SR 6:30 PM CE Mtg.	10 ANNUAL REPORTS DUE 3:00-5:00 PM Coffee with Pastor Michelle at Panera at The Greene 5:30 PM WHO Group	11 6:00 PM Yoga	12 6:00 PM Adult Bells 7:00 PM Chancel Choir	13 5:00 PM Private Reception in Fellowship Hall DATELINE DEADLINE	14 8:30 AM Trustee Meeting 11:30 AM Private Reception in Fellowship Hall	
15 8:30 AM Advent Worship in the Chapel 9:50 AM Advent Worship with Lessons & Carols 11:15 AM Second Hour Food & Clothing Outreach 2:00 PM Lessons & Carols 7:00 PM Book Study/ SIGNS	16 9:30 AM Warm Wishes 10:30 AM Staff Mtg.	17 9:00 AM Private Reception at The Grove 10:00 AM Quilting Ministry 3:00-5:00 PM Coffee with Pastor Michelle at Panera at The Greene 7:00 PM Council Mtg.	18 6:00 PM Yoga 7:00 PM Private Reception	19 10:30 AM-Noon Women's Bible Study 6:00 PM Adult Bells 7:00 PM Chancel Choir 7:00 PM T&C Book Group at The Grove	20 Private Reception in Fellowship Hall	21 8:00 AM Men's Breakfast @ Bob Evans 9:00 AM-1:00 PM Private Reception in Fellowship Hall 7:00 PM Holiday Concert with Tim & Lyn	
22 8:30 & 9:50 AM Advent Worship 11:15 AM Second Hour 7:00 PM Book Study 7:00 PM The Longest Night/Blue Christmas Service	23 9:30 AM Warm Wishes 10:30 AM Staff Mtg. 6:00 PM Y12SR Yoga	24 CHRISTMAS EVE 5:00 PM Service for Young & Young at Heart 7:30 PM Candlelight Service 10:00 PM Candlelight & Communion Service	25 CHRISTMAS DAY 	26 <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; text-align: center;">OFFICE CLOSED</div>	27 Office Hours 10:00 AM-2:00 PM	28	
29 8:30 & 9:50 AM Worship 11:15 AM Second Hour 7:00 PM Book Study/ SIGNS	30 9:30 AM Warm Wishes 10:30 AM Staff Mtg. Office Hours 9:00 AM-2:00 PM	31 10:00 AM Quilting Ministry Office Hours 10:00 AM-2:00 PM NEW YEAR'S EVE	<h1>DECEMBER 2019</h1> <p>DAVID'S UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST (937) 434-2131 WWW.DAVIDSUCC.ORG</p>				

