

# THE LINK

Volume 61

Issue 1

## GROWING A HEALTHY CHURCH

The Growing in Christ Task Group will be leading us through a process to identify our strengths and our areas for growth. We will be using the Natural Church Development materials and process. This strategy for church growth has had remarkable effects among congregations that have worked it.

Natural Church Development is based upon extensive research of healthy growing congregations. They have identified eight characteristics that are universally a part of growing healthy churches. The eight characteristics are as follows:

- ♥ Empowering Leadership
- ♥ Passionate Spirituality
- ♥ Inspiring Worship Services
- ♥ Need-oriented Evangelism
- ♥ Gift-oriented Ministry
- ♥ Functional Structures
- ♥ Holistic Small Groups
- ♥ Loving Relationships

The first step in this process is to diagnose our strengths and weaknesses. This is done by asking 30 active church members to complete a survey that assess these eight characteristics. The Growing in Christ Task group has identified a group of people to ask to take the survey, which we hope to accomplish the first week of February.

We will then work with a church consultant to compile the results of the survey and help us to identify 3 to 5 key issues to address.

We will be partnering with Ashland First UMC in using the services of Rev. Dirk Elliot. Dirk is the Associate Director of Congregational Development for the East Ohio Annual Conference and has been trained as a coach in Natural Church Development. Working this process with two churches in Ashland offers an exciting opportunity for Dirk and the promise of great benefit to our congregation. His services are free of charge and our only expense will be the cost of materials.

Once the surveys are complete and Dirk has compiled the results, our growing in Christ Task group will meet with him to develop a strategic plan toward the health of the congregation.

One of the great benefits of the Natural Church Development process is the information we get about our congregation. Often the impressions we have about our strengths and weakness are not truly our strengths and weaknesses. The survey and diagnosis phase of the process helps us to get concrete information so we can more effectively focus our efforts on building health within our congregation.

You are asked to be at prayer for this process and the Growing in Christ Task Group. The task group is open to new members. If you would like to help in developing our strategic plan, please let the church office know or speak with Pastor Jim.

More information about NCD, Natural Church Development can be found on the web at [www.ncd-international.org](http://www.ncd-international.org)

## February 2010

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Our website:  
[www.ChristUMCAshland.org](http://www.ChristUMCAshland.org)

### OFFICE HOURS

MONDAY -THURSDAY  
9AM - 4:00PM

PHONE: 419-289-0507  
FAX: 419-289-1541  
[christum@zoominternet.net](mailto:christum@zoominternet.net)

*Christ United Methodist Church*  
*Loving God, Loving Others,*  
*Bringing People to Christ*

### SUNDAY SCHEDULE

WORSHIP ~ 9:30AM  
CHURCH SCHOOL ~ 10:45AM  
TEEN SMALL GROUPS ~ 6:00PM

## Heartfelt Thanks



♥ Dear Friends,  
Thank you so much for letting TLC use your church for our Christmas program. It was so nice to have plenty of room for all our families and the children & staff really appreciated your generosity.

Thank you.  
*The Learning Center Staff*

♥ United Methodist Women  
Thanks so much for our "goodie bags". We appreciate them so much.

With love,  
*Gerald, Vivian & Jerry Kiplinger*

♥ Dear Pastor Cox & congregation  
Thanks for being at my Eagle Scout Court of Honor and giving special remarks on behalf of the church. Thanks for the Daily Devotional bible as well.

*Michael Gorton*

♥ Mrs. Johnson & CUMC congregation  
Thank you for allowing us to use your fellowship hall for Vanessa's memorial dinner and for everything you did to help ensure that all went well. We greatly appreciate it.

Sincerely,  
*The Wood family  
Jim, Paxton, Bryce, Theresa & family*

♥ Dear ones  
I want to thank you for the many faithful prayers that you have offered on my behalf. God has been faithful and ever present with me every step of the way through chemo and radiation. He has brought me through with good energy and very little physical discomfort.

*Shirley Boyd*

♥ Thank you to all who participated in Create-A-Christmas 2009. We were able to help five families enjoy the holidays this year. Praise be to god for the generosity and abundance we were able to offer the community! Let us carry the spirit of giving into the new year.

*~ the Eagles Wings class*



♥ My sincere thanks to the United Methodist Women for the Christmas gift. It contained so many useful items. Also, to Christ Church for the beautiful poinsettia. May God richly bless you all!

*Pauline Gortner*

♥ Christ Church family  
It meant so much to be remembered. Thank you for your Christmas gift. God's love truly shines out through your generosity. Happy New Year to all!

*Carol Lee, CUMC custodian*

♥ Dear friends at CUM church  
Thank you so very much for the prayer quilt you brought for Richard. Also thanks for the lovely poinsettia plant you sent to us at Christmas. Your kindness, thoughts and prayers are very much appreciated!!

God bless you!!

Sincerely,  
*Charlene Brown*

♥ Dear friends of Christ UMC  
Thank you so much for being such a caring and sharing congregation in the giving of a love offering as a staff Christmas gift. Your kindness and generosity is so appreciated. Throughout the coming year may you sense God's guidance, stay wrapped in his love and be blessed in abundance.

Love & Blessings,  
*Barb Raudebaugh, CUMC Admin. Asst.*

Dear CUMC,  
Hello and Happy New Year! I wanted to give you an update on my life as well as provide my new contact information. I am still working as a Resident Director at Malone University in Canton, Ohio. I got married a year and a half ago, and my husband Scott is the Director of Men's Ministry at Refuge of Hope, a homeless shelter in Canton. In addition, I am in my 1<sup>st</sup> year at Kent State University, where I am working towards my Ph.D. in Counseling and Human Development Services. My new contact information is as follows:

Christina Schnyders  
2600 Cleveland Avenue NW  
Canton, OH 44709  
(330) 588-7531  
[cschnyders@malone.edu](mailto:cschnyders@malone.edu)

Much love and God's grace to all of you!  
Christina (Partridge) Schnyders

## From the Pastor's Study . . .



Why do we make such a fuss about Lent?

The season of Lent is the 40 day period excluding Sundays prior to the celebration of the resurrection on Easter. It is often defined as a time of spiritual preparation. During Lent the church challenges its members to take on special spiritual disciplines like fasting, abstaining from some food, acts of special generosity, prayer, or study.

All of these disciplines seem like things we ought do be doing all the time. But we don't. The truth is, for me at least, I need this special focus. Without it, I know that business as usual will not bring the same results.

I need a time of challenge to keep me growing in the faith. Our relationship with Christ is a life-long journey. We never truly arrive at a place where we can stop growing. There is always some part of our life that needs improvement. There is always some part of our relationship with Christ that could be better. If we are not going forward spiritually, then we are either stuck or even worse falling backward.

Unless I am intentional about growing in the faith, I usually stay in the comfortable old places. Unless I plan to go somewhere, I wind up going nowhere. Lent for me, then, is a time to plan on going forward with my relationship with Christ.

As a season of preparation in the Christian family, I encourage you to become purposeful and intentional about things that will help you deepen your faith and grow spiritually.

What are some of the things you can do?

- Commit to regular worship attendance. Even if you are away from Christ UMC, go to church somewhere.
- Commit to regular Bible Study with a group or individually. I think a group is preferable, but alone is better than nothing at all and has the flexibility of fitting into our busy schedules.
- Commit to regular devotions. Pick a time that works for you every day. Keep it. If you aren't using the Upper Room, pick one up. It only

takes a few minutes. If you are already using the Upper Room devotional, add some more time to your prayer time. Expand your time with the Lord.

- Commit to a group focused on spiritual growth like a Sunday School class or our Prayer for Peace service on Saturday evenings during Lent.
- Commit to prayer before every meal.
- Commit to fasting by skipping a meal a week or by abstaining from some food that has meaning for you.
- Commit to setting aside some change every day for a special Lenten missions offering.
- Commit to ending a bad habit or changing a behavior that you know injures another.

Do what is meaningful to you. Let the spirit lead you. Plan to do something that will increase your time with Jesus. But whatever you do, offer it to Jesus as a means to grow closer to him.

*Pastor Jim+*

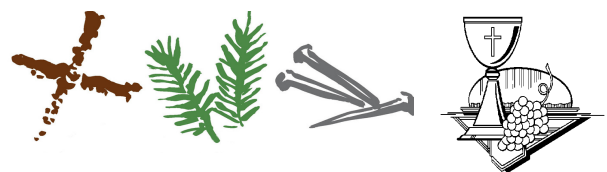
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## LENTEN PREACHING FOCUS: SPIRITUAL GROWTH

The season of Lent begins Ash Wednesday on February 17. We will worship at 7:30 p.m.

The theme this Lent will be spiritual growth. The preaching focus will be on the ways that God shapes and forms our spirits. The question is "How do we grow spiritually?"

If you have a question about spiritual growth please email it to Pastor Jim at [icoxcumc@zoominternet.net](mailto:icoxcumc@zoominternet.net)



**PRAYER FOR PEACE**  
*in the*  
**TAIZÉ**  
*style of*  
**WORSHIP**

7:30 p.m.  
 Saturdays\* at  
 Christ U.M.  
 Church  
 1140 Claremont,  
 Ashland

www.christumcashland.org  
 (419) 289-0507

• Beginning 2/13/10  
 • Saturdays in Lent 2/20  
 • 2/27 (no meeting)  
 • 3/6, 3/13, 3/20, 3/27



This year's stewardship theme, "Blessed by God; Called to Share", is based upon Matthew 10:8 in which Jesus says to his disciples, "Freely you have received, freely give." (NIV)



As I look at the Financial Secretary's report, there is much cause for rejoicing. Many families and individuals have chosen to respond to God's grace by pledging support for God's work through Christ United Methodist Church. As of the

beginning of the year, 144 have pledged a total of \$231,709 against a budget of \$355,947.15 in 2010. (\$6,170 of that is pledged toward specific uses.) There are, of course, others who contribute without pledging. I give thanks for all who enable the work of our Lord to continue by supporting the church financially.

There is reason for concern and it is this: Last year the number of pledges was 158 and the total amount was \$238,022 against a budget of \$368,825. The budgeted amount is less in 2010. but the number of pledges is down and the amount pledged is down. The potential shortfall is significant.

Let us continue to be aware of the need. Let us continue to be thankful for God's immeasurable gift to us in Jesus, the Christ. And let us give as we are able to the work of the Lord.

Gordon W. Ruggles, chairperson  
 Stewardship Committee

## Prayer for Peace

We will be offering a Saturday evening worship service during most of the weeks of Lent. The service will begin at 7:30 p.m. Rev. Jane Jacques will be leading a prayer service in the Taizé style of worship. We will be meeting in the sanctuary.

Taizé (pronounced Tay-zay) worship uses the meditative repetition of easily sung scripture and prayer phrases. Its name comes from the monastic community in France where the style was developed. It seems to have a particular appeal to folks who have a longing to quiet their souls to feel the intimate embrace of our savior. All are welcome.

Please note dates in the bulletin and the information enclosed elsewhere in this newsletter.

### EXTRA OFFERING ENVELOPES

If you receive the monthly offering envelopes and aren't sure what to do with the extra, white return address envelopes included, please bring them into the church office. We can probably find a use for them.

### Choirs

3:30-4:30 Cantus and	(gr. K-2)
Treble Clef Choirs	(gr. 3-6)
4:30-5:15 Crescendo &	
Covenant Bells	(gr 3-6)
6:30-7:30 Celebration Bells	(gr 7-Adult)
7:15 Chancel Choir	(Adult)

If you would like to make music to the lord and be a part of either the bell choirs or Chancel choir please contact David deSilva or Leann Schoch.

## Here's what's happening with our

During the month of December, the United Methodist Women's group completed assembling and delivering 50 Christmas goody bags to our members that are shut-in/homebound. Awesome!



## Schedule of Worship Services

### Fifth Sunday after the Epiphany

February 7, 2010 [Green]

**Theme:** How do we draw closer to God in worship?

**Celebration:** Holy Communion will be celebrated.

**Scriptures:** Isaiah 6:1-13; Psalm 138  
1 Corinthians 15:1-11; Luke 5:1-11

**Music:** Chancel Choir

**Sermon:** "Going Deeper in Worship"

### Transfiguration Sunday

February 14, 2010 [Green]

**Theme:** Acknowledging our partnership with First UMC, we will have a pulpit exchange. We pray that our partnership may reflect the glory of Christ in the world.

**Celebration:** Jesus is transfigured before the disciples.

**Scriptures:** Exodus 34:29-35; Psalm 99  
2 Corinthians 3:12-4:2; Luke 9:28-43

**Music:** Chancel Choir & Celebration Bells

**Sermon:** Rev. Dan Bilkert

### Ash Wednesday

February 17, 2010 [Purple]

**Theme:** The ashes remind us of our sin and our mortality. They call us to a season of repentance, expressing our sorrow for the way sin has corrupted God's purpose within our lives.

**Celebration:** The beginning of the 40 days of Lent, in which we prepare our hearts for the celebration of Christ's resurrection.

**Scriptures:** Joel 2:1-2, 12-17; Psalm 51:1-17  
2 Corinthians 5:20b-6:10;  
Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21

**Music:** Chancel Choir

**Sermon:** "A Time to Repent"

### Next Newsletter Deadline

Articles for the **March** issue of the **Link** are due in the church office by **February 15th, 2010**  
Send Email to: [christum@zoominternet.net](mailto:christum@zoominternet.net)

### First Sunday in Lent

February 21, 2010 [Purple]

**Theme:** Jesus faces the devil's attempts to dissuade him from his mission. As God has a purpose for God's son, so God calls us to holy living and gives us Jesus to walk with us in times of temptation. Spiritual growth begins when we accept God's mission and purpose for our lives.

**Celebration:** We begin the 40 days of Lent with attention to our commitments for spiritual growth.

**Scriptures:** Deuteronomy 26:1-11; Psalm 91  
Romans 10:8b-13; Luke 4:1-13

**Music:** Chancel Choir & Voices of Praise

**Sermon:** "Living for Christ"

### Second Sunday in Lent

February 28, 2010 [Purple]

**Theme:** Jesus longs to gather God's people as a hen gathers her brood. We are called to live in community and must reject the harsh behaviors that destroy community. Living together in community helps us to grow spiritually.

**Scriptures:** Genesis 15:1-12, 17-18;  
Psalm 27 Philippians 3:17-4:1; Luke 13:31-35

**Music:** Treble Clef Choir & Covenant Bells

**Sermon:** "Gathered with Christ"

### New Membership Class Come join us!!

Pastor Jim will be leading a membership class during the Sundays in Lent beginning February 21<sup>st</sup> through March 28<sup>th</sup>.

Persons interested in joining the church may call the church office or speak with Pastor Jim to arrange to be a part of the class.

### Stewardship Update

January Receipts (thru 01/24/10)	\$	20,613.42
Needed each Week		6,845.14
Monthly Need	\$	29,662.26



~ the family & friends of Kathryn Mowry who died on Monday, December 28th, 2009.



**Next Caregivers meeting:**  
February 15th  
at 7pm in room 215

The continuing education topic will be "Listening" led by Vicki Johnson. Guest speaker will be Martha Jordan of Hospice of North Central Ohio.

Ann Roepke will have devotions and snacks. All Stephen Ministers please plan to attend. Former Stephen Ministers are also invited to join us.



Keep these members lifted in prayer...

June Beecher, Mike Bonnell, Richard Brown, Jeremy Burr, Essie Creasy, Warren Gebhart, Margaret Helvie, Ron Hostler, Joyce Jenny, Ruth Ohl, Doris Plice, Arlene Siders, Mary Lou Spicer

**REMEMBERING OTHERS...**

Happy New Year! We hope that you all had a blessed Christmas. We know that we did here at Associated Charities and the Ashland Co Food Bank. The blessings that we have been lucky enough to receive over the past few weeks have been wonderfully overwhelming.

Thank you for your generous donations. *Rosemarie Donley, Director of Ashland Co Food Bank.*

- |                   |               |
|-------------------|---------------|
| Apple Juice       | Sunny Delight |
| Mayonnaise        | Miracle Whip  |
| Pancake mix       | Syrup         |
| Sugar             | Flour         |
| Laundry Detergent | Paper towels  |
| Fresh Potatoes    |               |
| Rice-a-Roni       |               |

Items can be placed in the grocery cart in the north entry way at the back of the sanctuary.

**CUMC HELPING AARP HELP OTHERS**

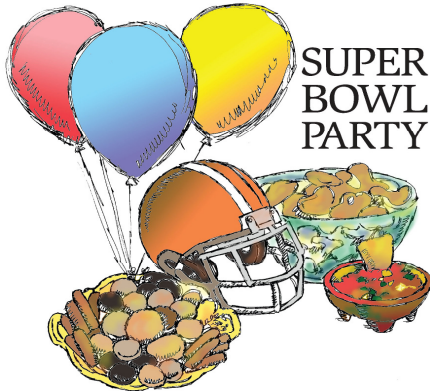
Beginning in February, AARP will be at CUMC on Thursdays from 9am—2pm and Saturday mornings from 9am-1pm to help prepare Federal and State Income Tax mainly for Sr. Citizens and people with lower incomes.

Appointment times are not assigned and those attending must bring a copy of last year's return, their social security card and all documents pertaining to this year's return.

**HOMEBOUND MEMBER OF THE WEEK**

So we as a congregation can be mindful of those members not able to be in worship with us, an address will be listed so a card can be sent or a visit made. If you know someone who qualifies, but might be overlooked, please contact the church office, Pastor Jim, or Doris Hintz.

<u>February 7</u>	<u>February 14</u>	<u>February 21</u>	<u>February 28</u>
Richard (& Charlene) Brown	Mary Knowles	Walter Leibolt	Maxine McConnell
24 Morgan Ave	Brethren Care—rm 307	Crystal Care—rm 101	Good Shepherd Villa rm 204
Ashland OH 44805	2000 Center St	1251 E Main St	726 Center St
	Ashland OH 44805	Ashland OH 44805	Ashland OH 44805



### Special Points of Interest

2/7 – Super Bowl Sub Sale

2/7 – Super Bowl Party @  
the Halblaub's

2/14 – Feast Night @ First  
UMC

2/19 & 2/20 – Fundraiser  
Dinner @ FUMC before  
musical

2/28 – JOSHUA Brunch  
2/28 - Teen small group @  
FUMC 6p – 8p

### **Feast Night @ First United Methodist**

02/14/10  
4:30p – 6:30p



## **SUPER BOWL PARTY**

### **@ THE HALBLAUB'S HOME**

Bring a bottle of pop, bag of chips, or some type of dessert. Party starts @ 6p and goes until the game ends. See you there!!

#### SUPER BOWL SUB SALE

The youth will be having a fundraiser for the JOSHUA trip. We will make subs at 9am during church. Please pick up your subs after church on February 7th until 11:45am.

### JOSHUA Brunch—02/28/10

**10:30a-12p**

Menu consists of pancakes, sausage, bacon, eggs, biscuits, fruit, and beverages.

Helpers please report to the kitchen at 9am.

# JOURNEY

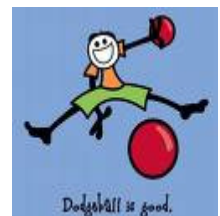
02/19 & 02/20  
Dinner before  
musical to raise  
money for missions  
and summer camp.

### **Details forthcoming.**

There will be a flyer  
in the bulletin in  
upcoming weeks.

Thanks to all who  
helped out with this  
year's **Dodge Ball  
Tournament**. It was  
an incredible success  
and we raised over  
\$1,900 for Associated  
Charities.

Praise  
the  
Lord!!





*Congregational  
Congratulations & Blessings*

With joy, we celebrate the following birth:

- ~ Arienne Grace Vaughn, daughter of Jenise & Kyle Vaughn born on Friday, January 15th weighing 8 lbs.

**Get Your Tickets!!**

**Paul Young**, bestselling author of *The Shack*, is coming to Ashland Theological Seminary on **April 14, 2010**.

Tickets for this event will go on sale January 4th. Ticket price is \$20.00.

If you have read Paul's book *The Shack* or have been a part of a discussion group about it, then you won't want to miss this opportunity to hear him in person.

For more information go to the ATS website: <http://seminary.ashland.edu/>

**LET'S READ & TALK TOGETHER**

Come join the CUMC **Book Bunch** for a lively book discussion! The next meeting will be **February 2nd at 7:30 pm in the Lounge**.



We will be discussing "The Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Pie Society" by Mary Ann Shaffer and Annie Barrows. All are welcome and encouraged to invite friends. Please call the church office so we will know how many to plan for. Refreshments will be served.

Questions? Contact Meredith Priset.

Thank you to the members of Scout Troop #586 for participating in the worship service on January 31st in observance of Scout Sunday.

To learn more about the church's Boy Scout Troop, visit their website at [www.troop586bsa.org](http://www.troop586bsa.org). You can also link to the troop's website from the church's website.



**Just for KIDS**

*Our first love*

In Deuteronomy 10:12 (NIV), Israel is asked a question that's also for us to answer: "What does the LORD your God ask of you?"

To find the answer, write the words from the puzzle pieces on the matching shapes in the completed heart.

*... your heart and with all your soul ...*

Answer: "... fear the LORD ... to walk in all his ways, to love him, to serve the LORD your God with all ..."

**THANK YOU, THANK YOU!**

Come check out the cleaned-up Sunday School Resource Room! Feel free to use our church resources for any class or group.

Please help us keep the room clean by properly replacing borrowed items ( DonnaJean deSilva can help assist you if needed) and by not adding any items without first checking with a member of the Education committee.

Also a very sincere thank you to the following members who helped with the task of reorganizing the room last Sunday: Beth Boyer, Carolyn Brown, Mary Eshelman, Patti Hill, Carol Oberholtzer, David, DonnaJean, Adrian, Austin and Alexander deSilva.

*You are a letter of Christ...written not with ink but with the Spirit of the living God, not on tablets of stone but on tablets of human hearts. ~ 2 Corinthians 3:3*

# FEBRUARY 2010

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 6:30 Scouts - rm 6 and fh 7 St Min training—	2 10 Prayer Group 6-9 Ash Co Umpire Assoc—rm 15 7:30 Book Bunch—	3 Choir rehearsal 8:30-9:30 Young Adult Group	4 9am-2pm AARP-fh 1:30 UMW Circle-lounge 7 Education - rm 15	5	6 9am-1pm AARP-fh
7 Super Bowl Sub orders delivered  6 Teen's Super Bowl Party @ Hablaub's home	8 6-9 Ash Co Umpire Assoc—rm 15 6:30 Scouts - rm 6 and fh 7 Emmaus Bd-rm 108 No St Min classes	9 9 Gloriosa Gardeners—rm 15 10 Prayer Group  6-9 Ash Co Umpire Assoc—rm 15 7 SPRC—rm 215	10 1 Quilt Guild - rm 15 Choir rehearsal  8:30-9:30 Young Adult Group	11 9am-2pm AARP-fh  NEWSLETTER DEADLINE  7 Admin Board - rm 15	12	13 9am-1pm AARP-fh  7:30 Taizé worship service
14  Valentine's Day Pulpit exchange with FUMC 2 Kingston ministry 4:30 Teens help with Feast Night @ FUMC	15 PRESIDENTS DAY Office Closed 1 UMW Exec-library 6-9 Ash Co Umpire Assoc—rm 15 6:30 Scouts - rm 6 & fh 7 St Min training—rm 212 7 St Min mtg—rm 215	16 10 Prayer Group  6-9 Ash Co Umpire Assoc—rm 15	17 ASH WEDNESDAY  Choir rehearsal 7:30 Worship service 8:30-9:30 Young Adult Group	18 9am-2pm AARP-fh 1 Study Discovery - library  6:30 Scouts Patrol Ldrs—rm 6 7 Scout Adults—rm 6 7 Altar Guild—library 7:30 Worship—lounge	19  Teens @ FUMC to help with JOSHUA fundraiser dinner	20 9am-1pm AARP-fh  Teens @ FUMC to help with JOSHUA fundraiser dinner  7:30 Taizé worship service
21	22	23 9 UMW workday 10 Prayer Group  6-9 Ash Co Umpire Assoc—rm 15 7 Quilt Guild—fh 7 Growing In Christ Task Group	24 9 Newsletter assembled & mailed  Choir rehearsal  7:30 Worship Service	25 9am-2pm AARP-fh  7 Outreach & Witness	26	27 9am-1pm AARP-fh  No Taizé worship service (Ash Symphony performance)
28 JOSHUA Brunch 6 Teen small group @ FUMC	6-9 Ash Co Umpire Assoc—rm 15 6:30 Scouts - rm 6 and fh 7 St Min training—rm 212					

## WILLING SERVANTS OF THE CHURCH FOR FEBRUARY

### Greeters

- |                             |                      |
|-----------------------------|----------------------|
| 7 Evelyn & Bob Nusbaum      | Marilyn Hursh        |
| 14 Jeannine & Ray Boyer     | Wilma Jean McConnell |
| 21 Martha & Ron Hostler     | Doris Hintz          |
| 28 Anne & Kenny Oberholtzer | Bertina Schwartz     |

Greeters are asked to arrive no later than 9:00, wear your red name tag, and stand at the front entrance (Claremont) or in the Foyer area at the Glass entrance (Broad St).

Please consider contributing to this ministry of hospitality. If you are interested in helping, please contact our greeter coordinator Joe-Ann Edmondson.

### Ushers

- George Bringman – Head Usher  
 Kevin Oberholtzer  
 Sonja Bringman  
 Jay Edmondson  
 Sean Snow  
 Michael Barr  
 Kenny Oberholtzer  
 Terry Harper  
 Ron Baker

### Altar Guild

### Scripture Readers

- 7 Barb Raudebaugh  
 14 Mike Reuschling  
 21 Julia Fabich  
 28 Wyndy Reuschling

If you would like to be a part of the worship service by reading scripture, contact Jane Eshelman.

### Acolytes

- |                  |                   |
|------------------|-------------------|
| 7 Austin deSilva | Alexander deSilva |
| 14 JJ Marimi     | Daniel Marimi     |
| 21 Jonah Moretz  | JJ Marimi         |
| 28 Lexi Portner  | Lindsey Crone     |

Julia Fabich coordinates the list of acolytes each month.

### Altar Flowers

- 7  
 14 Bruce & Shirley Bookmyer  
 21  
 28

To add to the beauty of the service by donating flowers in memory or in honor of someone or an event, see the sign-up sheet located outside the church office.

The flowers are pre-ordered & delivered at a cost of \$22.00. **Please send payment to the church** either by mail or put it in the offering with your envelope marked "Altar Flowers".

### Hospitality Ministers

Hospitality Ministers are persons who extend the hand of welcome and enthusiasm for Christ Church. These persons make a very brief home visit to first-time visitors. They deliver a welcome packet of materials about our church along with our hope that they return to Christ Church soon. Sonja Bringman coordinates this outreach ministry

Our Hospitality Ministers for the month are:

- |    |                        |
|----|------------------------|
| 7  | Anne Roepke            |
| 14 | Joan & Jim Scott       |
| 21 | Sandy & Ron Baker      |
| 28 | Brooke & Dean DaHinden |



### Counters

- Kevin Oberholtzer  
 Sandy Baker  
 Michael Barr  
 Sean Snow

**JOIN THE CAFÉ TEAM!**

The Christ Café has become a popular gathering place and Martha Buckner is looking for a team of helpers to volunteer in the café when she is not available. These persons need to be willing to come to church early (8:40) to make coffee prior to worship, make sure coffee is available after worship, and clean up either during Sunday School or afterward.

If you are interested, please contact Martha at 419-281-3932 or stop by the café. On Sundays when a coffee fellowship or other gathering is planned for after worship, beverages are provided in the café prior to worship only.



**HAVING A MEETING OR GATHERING AND WANT TO USE THE CAFÉ?**

Please read the directions posted on the coffee brewer.

Use only clean, clear, cold water from the lounge! A Brita water filter has been purchased and will be attached to the faucet in the lounge. When it is available for use, please use only cold, filtered water in the brewer. A sign will be posted and a notice placed in the Link and bulletin when the filter has been installed and is ready for use.

Coffee is pre-measured for both full and half pots. Sugar and sweetener packets and powdered creamer are provided. If you or your group brings other items to the café, please take them with you when you are finished. Do not leave sugar bowls or other food in or on the carts.

We ask that you do not rearrange the furniture or remove any furniture or supplies from the café. If you have any questions please contact Martha at 419-281-3932

•••••  
• The Teen Youth Group members still have a few copies left of the 'Around The Town' coupon booklets available for purchase.  
• The cost is \$20.00 and all the proceeds will be used for the upcoming JOSHUA mission trip and 2010 summer camp.  
• See Jared Priset or Julia Fabich to get one!!  
•••••

**Mid Ohio District Disaster Response HAITI EARTHQUAKE RELIEF**

On Tuesday, January 12, a magnitude 7.0 earthquake rocked the island country of Haiti, primarily impacting the capital, Port-au-Prince. Office, houses, hotels, and shops have collapsed. Hospitals are overflowing and the search for survivors is intense. The streets of Haiti are filled with people in shock and searching for loved ones among the rubble.

**Your help is needed for emergency relief and long term recovery of the approximately 3 million lives (one-third of Haiti's population) impacted by this earthquake.**

During this disaster, you can respond by:

- Praying – organize or attend a prayer vigil in your community. Continue to remind persons that our non-anxious presence and genuine concern speak to our faithful trust in God's presence through Christ's Body.
- Giving Money – collect funds through your local church treasurer.
- Designate funds to UMCOR Fund #418325 Haiti Emergency.
- Support One Great Hour of Sharing – the offering which funds the UMCOR presence already in Haiti.

**Is the United Methodist Church in Haiti?**

Yes. The United Methodist Church has an ongoing presence in Haiti.

**Are any UMCOR work teams in Haiti?**

UMCOR and the whole of Global Ministries are mourning the loss of two key staff members—the Rev. Sam Dixon, UMCOR's top executive, and the Rev. Clint Rabb, head of the Volunteers in Mission office. Dixon and Rabb were in Haiti to discuss efforts to improve medical services in the country. UMCOR thanks everyone for their thoughts and prayers during this time, and for expressing their support through overwhelming generosity in giving. Your gifts are enabling UMCOR in its response to the many needs in Haiti.

**How do I get more information?**

The Conference web site <http://www.eocumc.com/> and UMCOR <http://new.gbgm-umc.org/umcor/> are posting updates as fast as information can be confirmed.

**CUMC FINANCIAL TOTALS FOR 2009**

Total Giving	\$283,308.60
Total Need	\$368,824.78
Total Deficit	\$ -85,516.18
Total paid to Shared Ministry	
East OH Conference	63%
Mid-OH District	100%
Total together	66%

Thank you for your continued faithfulness and I look forward to another year of working with the financial blessings of Christ UMC.

Nichole Lang, CUMC treasurer

# CHRIST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

1140 CLAREMONT AVENUE  
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## EQUIPPING THE CONGREGATION FOR MINISTRY

The Church phone number is 419-289-0507. Extension numbers are listed following the names.

Pastor .....	Rev. James J. Cox.	ext 101	jcoxCUMC@zoominternet.net
Volunteer Deacon under Appointment .....	Rev. Jane Jacques		jjacques@zoominternet.net
Director of Music .....	Rev. Dr. David deSilva	ext 102	ddesilva@ashland.edu
Administrative Assistant .....	Barb Raudebaugh	ext 100	braudebaugh@zoominternet.net
Treasurer .....	Nichole Lang	ext 104	nlangCUMC@zoominternet.net
Financial Secretary.....	Brenda Gardner	ext 301	bgardnercumc@zoominternet.net
Youth Director .....	Jared Priset	ext 103	jprisetCUMC@zoominternet.net
Christian Education Director .....	DonnaJean deSilva	ext 105	djdeSilvaCUMC@zoominternet.net
Hand bell and Treble Clef Choir Director .....	Leann Schoch	ext 108	
Custodian .....	Carol Lee	ext 302	
Kitchen .....		ext 107	

Administrative Lay Leader .....	Bill Achberger	wcachberger@yahoo.com
Program Lay Leader.....		
Membership Secretary .....	Judy Rafeld	
Congregational Care Associate Lay Leader.....		
Education/ Youth Associate Lay Leader .....	Carol Oberholtzer	oberholtzer3@hughes.net
Worship Associate Lay Leader.....	Jane Ruggles	gruggles@zoominternet.net
New Member Coordinator .....	Doris Hintz	
Trustees .....	Kenny Oberholtzer	
Outreach and Missions Associate Lay Leader .....	Bertina Schwartz	

### Volunteer Office Personnel

Bulletin Board Volunteer .....	Velma Pifer
Greeter Coordinator .....	Joe-Ann Edmondson
Office Volunteers .....	Portia Abrams, Jane Eshelman, Freeman & Marilyn Harper, Helen Lent, Norma Repp, Ann McMillen, Norma Underwood, Eileen Withers, Karen Stradling,
Weekly Bulletin Volunteers .....	Claudia Guenther-Snyder, Peggy Spicer, Marge Whitcomb Jan Haberman