

A WORD FROM THE PASTOR

Christmas is less than a month away, and we are all trying to fit in all the celebrating we can. Oh, I am not against the get-togethers and enjoying the sights and sounds of the season, but I've heard already how taxing it is from several friends. One friend said to me, why can't we have it like when I was a kid? You remember! We didn't really see or hear the ads until Thanksgiving morning. You didn't see the decorations at the stores. What changed? The answer we came up with was progress! Ever sense that conversation, I have really been thinking about it, and our need to slow down and maybe think more about what took place all those years ago.

So, as we move closer to the joy of Christmas and once more celebrate the birth of Jesus, I can't help but think about what it was like for Mary and Joseph. They had that journey to make to Bethlehem. Joseph walking, leading a donkey that carried Mary. Not like the roads we travel today. And unlike us, they had no reservations at the end of their journey, no warm bed. Just a stable! Yet, that stable and what took place that night, was the beginning of a life that would transform the world.

As we remember the events of that night and the days that followed of shepherds being told the news by angels, and how one day that child born that night would be the shepherd of the world. Or the three that came from a far distant land all because of a very special star that rose in the sky. Some call them kings others say they were wise men. Yet they humbled themselves and came bearing gifts fit for a king, yet more than a king. For on that night our Savior was born, Jesus Christ.

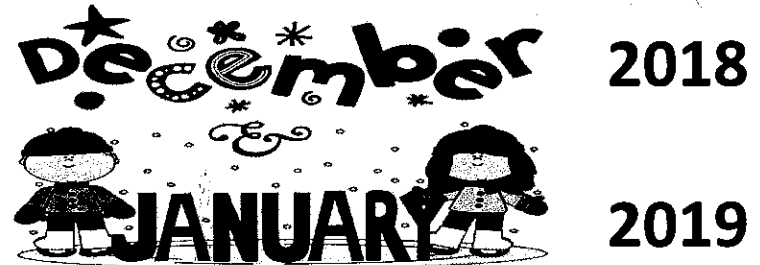
When we look around today, it seems that Christmas starts way too soon. We rush to it and through it. And just maybe we all need to slow down. Remembering that on that night so long ago, the world was given a gift that surpasses all gifts. In closing I offer this prayer:

Almighty God, thank you for the gift of Jesus, your Son. May we remember the events of that night so long ago, and may we celebrate that gift and the love it brought into this world not just today, but each and every day. May we share that love with those that seek shelter, with those who struggle, and with those who still search and long for comfort and peace in their hearts. In Jesus name I pray. Amen.

Peace Joy and love.
Pastor Sam



The Monthly Periodical of:
Firestone Park United Methodist Church
250 North Firestone Boulevard
Akron, OH 44301



COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS CONCERT

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 1, 7:00 p.m.

ST. PAUL CATHOLIC CHURCH

CHRISTMAS POTLUCK COVERED DISH

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 9

AFTER WORSHIP

BRING YOUR OWN TABLE SETTING!!

There will not be a Coffee Hour before worship.

CHRISTMAS GIFT BAGS FOR HOMEBOUND & SHUT-INS

Please bring in cards, goodies, note pads, pens or anything that would be useful or fun for these persons. The bags are on a table in the Firestone Blvd. lobby along with a list of names. Please help the Mary Circle spread a little holiday cheer to our absent church family!

BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

3 - Melissa Thomas	23 - Brian Hardesty, Jr.
5 - Debbie Jones	26 - Kimberly Pierce
7 - Victoria Dann	28 - Jim Bachtel, Jr.
9 - Pam Ferguson	Holly Hengstenberger
14 - Mark Donatelli	Frank Witzl
16 - Noah Thomas	29 - Beth Smith
17 - Addison Hengstenberger	
18 - Brian Glymph	

JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

1 - Isaac Beery	18 - Elaine Forsch
Noah Beery	19 - Sarah Hardesty
Josephine Beery	Jackson Lundgren
Steven Beery	20 - Terrie Wilson
Janet Burns	27 - Sara Vargo
4 - Amy Howell	29 - Civic Keley
6 - Hazeljean Adams	Carol Orosa
7 - Tiffany Menefee	
10 - Tasha Ferguson	
15 - Gabriel Donatelli	
16 - Daniel Hayes	
Heather Menefee	
Helen Miller	
Nancy Smith	

DECEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

28 - Brian & Debbie Hardesty - 28 yrs.
Gene & Carol Lauro - 61 yrs.

JANUARY ANNIVERSARIES

1 - Craig & Raylene Kelley - 2 yrs.
Gary & Patricia Hunsicker - 52 yrs.

CONDOLENCES

Our prayers and condolences to the family and friends of JoAnne Ryan, who passed away on November 23; and to the family and friends of Hal Queer, who passed away on November 25.

May they rest in the arms of the Lord.

FROM THE TREASURER

August Offerings	\$10,778.00
August Disbursements	\$ 9,904.00
Net Monthly Gain (Loss)	\$ 1,297.00
September Offerings	\$13,034.00
September Disbursements	\$10,043.00
Net Monthly Gain (Loss)	\$ 4,288.00
October Offerings	\$11,112.00
October Disbursements	\$13,532.00
Net Monthly Gain (Loss)	\$ 1,869.00

A NOTE OF THANKS

Thank you to Debbie, Ruth, Patty, Kimberly and Brandon for helping with the Craft and Santa's Shoppe. A BIG "thank you" to Penny and Rickie for helping with the clean-up. Janet Wagoner

Thank you to everyone who helped to make our Swiss Steak Dinner and mini bazaar a success! A special thank you to Lyn Boldt and Paul Flemm for preparing the Swiss Steak Dinner. FPUMC

UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

UMW/ALTAR GUILD CHRISTMAS DINNER

Friday, December 14, 6:00pm

In the Fellowship Hall.

The Wesleyan Chimers will entertain us!

THE LIBRARY HAS A NEW BOOK!

"My Children or the Cross", by Miriam Dunn. We were gifted this book when the UMW went to P. Graham Dunn. We also have catalogs available if you would like to see them.

UPCOMING FPUMC EVENTS

BLUE CHRISTMAS HEALING SERVICE

Sunday, December 2, 7:00pm
In the Sanctuary.

CHANCEL CHOIR CHRISTMAS CANTATA

Sunday, December 16, During Worship
"The Night That Christ Was Born"
By Dale Mathews and Michael Frazier
Directed by Shelley McConnell

CHRISTMAS CAROLING & LITE SUPPER

Sunday, December 16, 4:00pm
Please let Shelley McConnell know if you will be caroling.

YOUNG DISCIPLES CHRISTMAS PROGRAM

Sunday, December 23, During Worship
"Catch the Christmas Spirit"
By Cathy Skogen-Soldner
Directed by Claire Russell

CHRISTMAS EVE CANDELIGHT SERVICE

Monday, December 24, 7:00pm

NIGHT WATCH SERVICE AND SEALING OF THE TIME CAPSULE

Monday, December 31, 7:00pm
In the Sanctuary.

Welcome 2019

CONGREGATIONAL LIFE

CHRISTMAS CARD POST OFFICE

December 1 thru 23

Please remember to check for cards each week. Tables will be in each lobby for you to distribute your cards.
Cards remaining unclaimed will not be forwarded.

LITURGISTS NEEDED FOR 2019

There are still open dates available: January, June, July, August, November and December.
Call the church office to sign up.

2019 ALTAR FLOWER/DECORATION CALENDAR

The calendar is hanging in the outer office. The cost is \$40. Please indicate if you would like to have live flowers.

UPCOMING DECEMBER/JANUARY MEETINGS

December 17 - Finance - 6:00pm

Trustees - 6:45pm

January 7 - Church Council - 6:00pm

January 14 - Finance - 6:00pm

Trustees - 6:45pm

Postcard reminders will no longer be mailed out.

2019 CHURCH DIRECTORY

The new 2019 Directory will be available in late January or early February. Please be sure all the information is correct. If you have a new phone number, email or even address, please notify the church office or put it on your attendance card on Sunday morning.

END-OF-YEAR FINANCIAL STATEMENT

Look for your statements in your email if you have one, or on the back table of the sanctuary in early January.

YOUNG DISCIPLES

BOWLING AND CHRISTMAS PARTY

Saturday, December 15, 11:30 am

Meet at the church then off to bowl two games. There will be pizza, games and a \$5.00 gift exchange. NO GIFT CARDS PLEASE. RSVP by

UPCOMING EVENTS AND FUNDRAISERS

February 3, 2019 — Souper Bowl and Subs Sale

March 8-10, 2019 — Canal District Retreat at Camp Wanake

April 2019 — Butter Bread Sale

May 2019 — Mexican Buffet and Super Star All-Star Draft

June 7-9, 2019 — Youth Annual Conference at Lakeside, Ohio

MISSIONS

MISSION FOR THE MONTH OF DECEMBER: WARM & FUZZY TREE

Please continue to bring in your donations thru December and place them on the tree.

MISSION FOR THE MONTH OF JANUARY:

HAVEN OF REST MINISTRIES

Monetary donations or seasonal clothing items will be accepted as well as toiletry items. Clothing sizes are needed for men, women and children, all sizes. Please be sure they are gently worn and clean.

EMERGENCY FOOD PANTRY AND FREE LUNCH/DINNER MISSION

December 5 - Free Lunch, 11am - 1pm

December 12 - Free Lunch, 11am - 1pm

December 19 - Free Lunch, 11am - 1pm

December 26 - Free Dinner & Food Pantry, 4pm - 6pm

January 2 - Free Lunch, 11am - 1pm

January 9 - Free Lunch, 11am - 1pm

January 16 - Free Lunch, 11am - 1pm

January 23 - Free Dinner & Food Pantry, 4pm - 6pm

January 30 - Free Lunch, 11am - 1pm



FIRESTONE PARK UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

God Gives First, And So We Joyfully Give Back!

Name: _____

Address: _____

Telephone: _____ Email: _____

I express my 2019 commitment to our church and its many good missions and ministries by my pledge of: \$ _____ each Week Month Year (check one)

Pledges may be increased, decreased or cancelled by notifying the Church Administrator.

"For where your treasure is, there will be your heart also." (Matthew 6:21)

There is still time to make your pledge! Simply fill this out and mail it to the church if you have not already done so.

Nancy Thomas

Dec 2018 (Eastern Time - New York)

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
25 9:30am - Coffee Hour 10:30am - Worship 11:30am - Hang of Greens 5pm - Faith & Hope AA	26 6:30pm - Boy Scouts	27 5pm - Girl Scouts 5pm - SPRC Consult 6:30pm - Cub Scouts 6:30pm - Disciple 4 Class	28 8:30am - Men's Brk/Quilt 4pm - Free Dinner 7pm - Bell Rehearsal	29	30	1 7pm - Christmas Concert
2 9am - Chancel Choir 9:30am - Coffee Hour 10:30am - Worship/Com 5pm - Faith & Hope AA 7pm - Blue Christmas	3 6:30pm - Boy Scouts	4 5pm - Girl Scouts 6:30pm - Cub Scouts 6:30pm - Disciple 4 Class	5 8:30am - Men's Brk/Quilt 11am - Free Lunch 7pm - Bell Rehearsal	6 7pm - Chancel Choir	7	8 4pm - Private Event
9 9am - Chancel Choir 10:30am - Worship 11:30am - Holiday Din. 5pm - Faith & Hope AA	10 6:30pm - Boy Scouts	11 5pm - Girl Scouts 6:30pm - Cub Scouts 6:30pm - Disciple 4 Class	12 8:30am - Men's Brk/Quilt 11am - Free Lunch 6:30pm - Ruth Circle 7pm - Bell Rehearsal	13 7pm - Chancel Choir	14 6pm - UMW/AG Dinner	15 9:30am - Chancel Choir 11:30am - YD Bowl/Party 4pm - Private Event
16 Choir Cantata 9:30am - Coffee Hour 10:30am - Worship 4pm - Caroling 5pm - Faith & Hope AA	17 6pm - Finance Mtg 6:30pm - Boy Scouts 6:45pm - Trustee Mtg.	18 5pm - Girl Scouts 6:30pm - Cub Scouts 6:30pm - Disciple 4 Class	19 8:30am - Men's Brk/Quilt 11am - Free Lunch 12pm - Faith Circle 6:30pm - Mary Circle 7pm - Bell Rehearsal	20 7pm - Chancel Choir	21	22 2pm - Private Event
23 Children's Program 9:30am - Coffee Hour 10:30am - Worship 5pm - Faith & Hope AA	24 7pm - Candlelight Svc	25 Office Closed	26 Office Closed 4pm - Free Dinner/Pntry	27 7pm - Chancel Choir	28	29
30 9:30am - Coffee Hour 10:30am - Sunday School 10:30am - Worship 5pm - Faith & Hope AA	31 7pm - Night Watch	1 Office Closed	2 8:30am - Men's Brk/Quilt 11am - Free Lunch 7pm - Bell Rehearsal	3	4	5

Nancy Thomas

Jan 2019 (Eastern Time - New York)

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
30 9:30am - Coffee Hour 10:30am - Sunday School 10:30am - Worship 5pm - Faith & Hope AA	31 7pm - Night Watch	1 Office Closed	2 8:30am - Men's Brk/Quilt 11am - Free Lunch 7pm - Bell Rehearsal	3	4	5
6 9:30am - Coffee Hour 10:30am - Sunday School 10:30am - Worship 5pm - Faith & Hope AA	7 6:30pm - Boy Scouts	8 5pm - Girl Scouts 6:30pm - Cub Scouts 6:30pm - Disciple 4 Class	9 8:30am - Men's Brk/Quilt 11am - Free Lunch 7pm - Bell Rehearsal	10	11	12
13 9:30am - Coffee Hour 10:30am - Sunday School 10:30am - Worship 5pm - Faith & Hope AA	14 6:30pm - Boy Scouts	15 5pm - Girl Scouts 6:30pm - Cub Scouts 6:30pm - Disciple 4 Class	16 8:30am - Men's Brk/Quilt 11am - Free Lunch 7pm - Bell Rehearsal	17	18	19
20 9:30am - Coffee Hour 10:30am - Sunday School 10:30am - Worship 5pm - Faith & Hope AA	21 6:30pm - Boy Scouts	22 5pm - Girl Scouts 6:30pm - Cub Scouts 6:30pm - Disciple 4 Class	23 8:30am - Men's Brk/Quilt 4pm - Free Dinner/Pantry 7pm - Bell Rehearsal	24	25	26
27 9:30am - Coffee Hour 10:30am - Sunday School 10:30am - Worship 5pm - Faith & Hope AA	28 6:30pm - Boy Scouts	29 5pm - Girl Scouts 6:30pm - Cub Scouts 6:30pm - Disciple 4 Class	30 8:30am - Men's Brk/Quilt 11am - Free Lunch 7pm - Bell Rehearsal	31	1	2