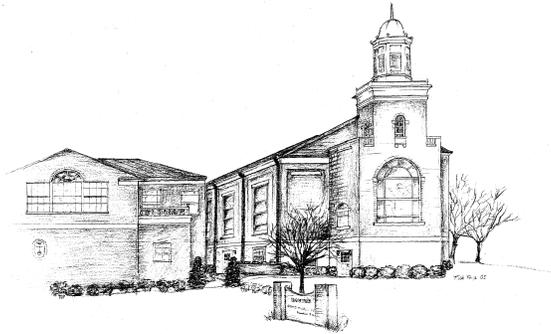


**DAVID'S DATELINE**  
**FEBRUARY 2014 Newsletter**



**Sunday Worship, 8:30 a.m. & 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](http://www.davidsucc.org)**

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

## **Upcoming Events**

February 2 – Communion Both Services

February 9 – Evolution Sunday

February 17 – Office Closed

February 22 – Spaghetti Dinner

February 23 – CUE Offering

March 5 – Ashes To Go & Ash Wednesday  
Services

March 12, 19, 26, & April 5 – Lenten Specials

## From the Pastor's Desk...

Well, what comes to mind when you think of February? Valentine's Day? Presidents' Day? David's Church's Spaghetti Dinner? Of course, I think of all that, but I also inevitably think of Evolution Sunday, the second Sunday of the month when I have often devoted my sermon to reflections on the current debates between those who insist that the Bible be taken literally as if it were intended to serve as a science text book, and those who accept the scientific explanation of the origins of the world as we know it, and thus teach evolution. Some years ago I signed on to a letter along with thousands of other American Christian clergy stating that we reject the idea of teaching the stories of creation in Genesis as if they were scientifically accurate descriptions of the world's origins, what is commonly known as Creationism, but rather affirm that faith and science do not need to be viewed as at odds with one another, but can be seen as two unique and valued ways of knowing and understanding the world as we experience it.

Here's the text of that letter:

*"Within the community of Christian believers there are areas of dispute and disagreement, including the proper way to interpret Holy Scripture. While virtually all Christians take the Bible seriously and hold it to be authoritative in matters of faith and practice, the overwhelming majority do not read the Bible literally, as they would a science textbook. Many of the beloved stories found in the Bible – the Creation, Adam and Eve, Noah and the ark – convey timeless truths about God, human beings, and the proper relationship between Creator and creation expressed in the only form capable of transmitting these truths from generation to generation. Religious truth is of a different order from scientific truth. Its purpose is not to convey scientific information but to transform hearts.*

*We the undersigned, Christian clergy from many different traditions, believe that the timeless truths of the Bible and the discoveries of modern science may comfortably coexist. We believe that the theory of evolution is a foundational scientific truth, one that has stood up to rigorous scrutiny and upon which much of human knowledge and achievement rests. To reject this truth or to treat it as "one theory among others" is to deliberately embrace scientific ignorance and transmit such ignorance to our children. We believe that among God's good gifts are human minds capable of critical thought and that the failure to fully employ this gift is a rejection of the will of our Creator. To argue that God's loving plan of salvation for humanity precludes the full employment of the God-given faculty of reason is to attempt to limit God, an act of hubris. We urge school board members to preserve the integrity of the science curriculum by affirming the teaching of the theory of evolution as a core component of human knowledge. We ask that science remain science and that religion remain religion, two very different, but complementary, forms of truth."*

[http://www.theclergyletterproject.org/Christian\\_Clergy/ChrClergyLtr.htm](http://www.theclergyletterproject.org/Christian_Clergy/ChrClergyLtr.htm)

Of course, at that time, and still today, I do not see that as a particularly radical statement. But for some of our more conservative Christian friends, "those are fighting words." As many of them insist on hearing these ancient texts literally, they believe that the earth is a mere 6000 years old (all evidence to the contrary), and that Creationism is an equally valid theory as the science of the Big Bang, the 13.7 billion year old universe, the nearly 5 billion year old earth and the evolution of life upon this planet right up to and including humans, and should be taught as part of science curriculums across our nation. So adamant are these advocates that they've created the multi-million dollar Creation Museum facility and are at work building a Noah's Ark themed water park, both in nearby Kentucky, and they have found their way onto school boards, and graduates of colleges that teach this thinking as required belief are making their way into school systems across the land.

And to add to the circus like atmosphere, we have recently heard news of a debate between Answers In Genesis/Creation Museum founder Ken Ham and Bill Nye, "the Science Guy" on Feb. 4. In a meaningful debate, one argues one's position from several agreed upon facts... and I don't see how that can happen in this case, as neither Ham or Nye will concede that the other's position is based on a foundation of agreed upon facts.

To some this debate is a God-send, to many who think as I do it can feel at times like an embarrassment, as neither position takes into account a serious reading of the Genesis stories. That's right, have you noticed that there are two very different tellings of the events of creation, right there in Genesis, side by side?

In Genesis 2: 4b – 25, scholars tell us is the older of the two, which leads on into Chapter 3's telling of the first sin, fall, and expulsion from the garden. In Genesis 2's telling of creation, God first created a male human and then God "planted a garden in Eden," where God placed the man (we call him Adam, but it comes from the Hebrew root word *adamah*, which means ground or earth, thus he was a mud man/male, as God is said to have formed him "from the dust of the ground."). But the man grew lonely, and God says that it's not good for a human to be alone, and creates all the animals on the path to finding a suitable companion or mate. The man dutifully names all the animals, birds and creatures that God brings, but finally God puts the man to sleep, the text says, and takes the man's rib to make the woman. They were thus "flesh of my flesh," and "were both naked and unashamed."

In Genesis 1: 1 – 2: 4a, we get a very different order of events. It is here that we get the six days of creation idea, and on the seventh day God rests, saying of all creation that it is “very good.” Scholars suggest that this later telling of creation is rooted in the Priestly tradition, with its sense of order, separation and veneration of the Sabbath. When God began to create the world, the text says “the earth was a formless void and darkness covered the deep,” and with each day God separates one thing from another to create a place conducive to life as we know it. First darkness is separated from light, then skies from the seas, then the seas from the dry lands, which allowed for vegetation to grow and spread. Then day from night, and then the animals came filling the land, the fish the sea, and birds the air. On the sixth day, God says “let us make humankind in our image,” and then at the same time it says, “God created humankind... male and female he created them.”

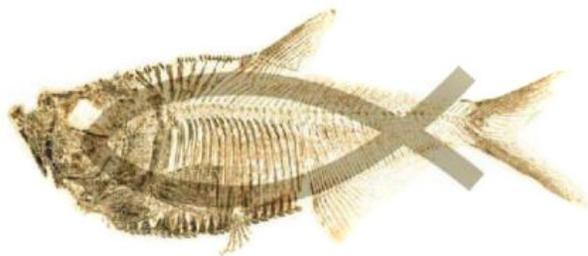
So right there in our Bible, right next to each other you have two very different tellings of creation, with very different orders, and unique expressions of how God is to be seen as the Source and Energy of Creation. I love that our Bible is not afraid to hang both those stories out there for discussion, for consideration, for reflection and spiritual enrichment. These discrepancies and differences are not a problem for the Biblical authors, and the redactors and compilers who place them here side by side, because they never expected this to be an accurate and scientific explanation for the creation of the universe, in the same way that we think of accurate scientific data. The primary purpose of these texts is theological, to tell us about God’s creative activity and will, about humanity and our relationship to God and the world, and to inspire us to follow in the will and way of our Creator God.

And, thus I have come to love and value each of these stories. But I also think they should never be taught in our schools and institutions of higher education as science. Which is essentially what Bill Nye gave as his reason for accepting this challenge to debate at the Creation Museum, he said he just wanted to be the voice of reason, and to insist that only science be taught as science, and Creationism is not science. And, in my opinion, it’s also not good interpretation of Scripture, nor is it good theology. So, we continue to talk about it. We continue to debate. It still doesn’t feel that radical to me, but clearly for some it continues to be.

Your pastor & friend,  
*Brian Q. Newcomb*

## Evolution Sunday, a Time to Thank God for Good Science

Pastor Brian will continue the practice of devoting the second Sunday of February, the closest to the birthday of Charles Darwin (Feb. 12), to speak on the relationship between faith and science. This year, on **February 9**, Dr. Newcomb will continue our Evolution Sunday participation. With some Christians arguing that the Bible insists that the earth is only 6000 years old, and that “intelligent design” and the Genesis accounts be taught in schools as an alternative scientific theory, Dr. Newcomb wants to go on record with thousands of other pastors and modern day religious leaders and thinkers, espousing the common sense view that we can believe in God and still accept the teachings of evolutionary science.



## Adult Education Second Hour Classes Series on Welcome Dayton Initiative

What is possible if Dayton becomes a city that intentionally welcomes immigrants? Come to the Adult Education classes from 11:15-12:15 in the Adult Education Room during the month of February to learn more about the Welcome Dayton Initiative. Light refreshments are provided.

February 2: Tom Wahrab, past Executive Director of Dayton's Human Relations Council and honored as a Champion of Change at the White House, will start the conversation on why have the Welcome Dayton Initiative and how it will benefit the region.

February 9: Media Jyawook, a refugee case manager at Catholic Social Services of Miami Valley, will discuss refugee resettlement in our community and her personal experiences as an immigrant.

February 16: Hubert Matumaini will discuss the mentoring program he administers that helps refugee students who have been in the United States three years or less. Mr. Matumaini came to Dayton as a refugee from Burundi.

February 23: We will open a dialogue that focuses on how our community might work to sustain the Welcome Dayton Initiative. In this interactive session, we will ask you to participate in imagining future possibilities. This session will be led by Colleen Saxen, MPH, who is involved in research related to the Welcome Dayton Initiative.

## Keenagers

Well, that was a first. Keenagers has never cancelled before but we hope that you agree that tricky footing and bitter cold temperatures were important reasons to stay home. For those of you who were looking forward to Jean Blum's apple dumplings, fear not. They have been frozen and Jean has promised me the recipe for the sauce. But first, the meal . . . how about pot roast with potatoes and carrots and a jello salad? We tried it and it's delicious. Our speaker, Kris Horlacher, has promised to come in February, so we are in for a passionate talk about her Shoes for the Shoeless ministry. Just about perfect, I'd say, especially if you are there. See you Wednesday, February 12 at 11:30 a.m.

## February 23 – An Offering to Support UCC Seminaries

As a denomination with a rich heritage that values an educated clergy, the United Church of Christ has three excellent graduate schools in the mid-west offering a Master's of Divinity program that prepares new ministers to serve the needs of the Church. They are Chicago, United (located in Minneapolis/St. Paul) and Eden (in St. Louis, MO). We invite our members who care about maintaining this value of an educated UCC clergy to support the work of our seminaries, directly, and the future ministers of David's Church with a generous gift.

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## David's United Church of Christ



presents our  
47<sup>th</sup> Annual



# SPAGHETTI DINNER

Saturday, February 22, 2014 – 5:00–8:00 PM

Tickets - Adults: \$8.00 in advance, \$8.50 at the door,  
Children (3-12): \$4.00, Children (2 and Under): Free

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Buy your tickets now so you won't miss out on this delicious dinner that has become a tradition at David's Church. See you at the Spaghetti Dinner!!!

Tickets are available on Sunday mornings in the Narthex or by calling the church office 434-2131.

Volunteers are needed in many areas. You can check the sign-up board in the narthex or contact *Robyn & Chris Moore* at 546-8956 or [rmoore98@gmail.com](mailto:rmoore98@gmail.com). We are looking for couples to serve the meal, bakers to provide 3 dozen cookies, and people who can help set-up on Friday or Saturday, and/or clean-up Saturday night.

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## **Ashes-To-Go at David's UCC on Ash Wednesday**

**from 7:30 – 8:30 am, Noon – 1 pm, and 5 – 6 pm.**

**Ash Wednesday services inside at 11 am and 7 pm.**

Lent is, in the Christian tradition, a pre-Easter season of preparation that lasts 40 days (not counting Sundays), often marked by penitence and confession, fasting or other kinds of sacrifice, special times of prayerful reflection, and acts of service or generosity. Ash Wednesday is the beginning of Lent, a reminder to Christians that life is fragile. Traditionally, the ashes are imposed with the words "Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return." This reminder of one's mortality, an act of humble contrition, can be a helpful, powerful reminder of God's goodness and grace and the promise of new life that Easter brings. We offer two worship services to begin the season, one at 11 am in the chapel, without music, and the other at 7 pm in the Sanctuary, with musical accompaniment, hymns and special music from the Chancel Choir. For those who wish to mark the beginning of Lent, but cannot attend services, we're offering **drive-by Ashes-to-Go** in the parking lot outside our offices at the times listed above, before work, over the lunch hour and during the evening rush hour drive home.

## **Mark Your Calendars for Pike Lake!**

It seems early to be thinking of hiking, wildflower seeking, picnics, dancing, wiffleball and volleyball games, but pull out that new 2014 calendar and mark May 16-18, 2014 as the date for Pike Lake.

If you are a regular to this spring event, you'll want to make sure you hold that date open or if you already have another event for that weekend, please contact Kevin and Debbie McCoy (299-9218) so we can fill your cabin! Several cabins are available right now so if you're interested in attending this year, please give us a call immediately. If you enjoy tent camping, you can always join in the fun by setting up in the campground!

Remember this is a very special year – when the Lake will be drained as they repair the spillway so we'll be planning some special activities to compensate for the lack of water!

If you'd like more information about Pike Lake, please give Kevin and Debbie a call. We'd be happy to share a synopsis of the weekend!

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## **DAVID'S CHURCH WEDNESDAY LENTEN SERIES 2013**

*Lent will soon be here and we hope the Wednesday night series will be part of your plans.*

**March 12, 19, 26 & April 5**

**5:45 PM Dinner      6:30 – 7:30 PM Class**

We will gather for dinner in Fellowship Hall at 5:45 p.m. and then break into our classes at 6:30 p.m.

Four classes will be offered (choose only one to be attended four sessions): Rev. Brian Newcomb's class, a movie "The Greatest Game Ever Played" led by Warren Back, Knitting Ruffle Scarves taught by Margie Phillips, and Yoga led by Sherri Raderstorf. Children's activities & nursery will also be provided.

Mark your calendars now--more details later.

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## **Women's Joy Renewal Retreat**

David's women, you and your friends are invited to a weekend of refreshment, renewal, and exploration just for women at Hope Springs Institute, May 2-4, in Peebles, Ohio! Arrive between 3 and 5:30 on Friday and spend the weekend recharging. Among the offerings: Rev. Daria's joy renewal playshops, yoga taught by Robyn Moore each morning, a labyrinth walk, a spirit doll workshop, vespers worship that engages all the senses, fabulous companionship, delicious food, comfortable lodgings in shared rooms, and, of course, plenty of time for sabbath rest, all in a beautiful Southeastern Ohio setting. Cost for the entire weekend is only \$231.50, which needs to be paid to Rev. Daria no later than February 28th. Come play and grow with us! E-mail or call Rev. Daria at [dragonflyjoy7@gmail.com](mailto:dragonflyjoy7@gmail.com) or 937-776-0378, if you're interested in attending.

Blessings,

*Daria*



Dear Friends,

As Chairmen of the Spaghetti Dinner, we invite you to take a break and treat yourself to a night out with family and friends. Please join us for the fun at David Church's popular Spaghetti Dinner. Our supper this year is on Saturday, February 22, 2014 from 5 PM to 8 PM. This event brings together a large part of our church family to transform our Fellowship Hall into a sit-down, Italian restaurant. Church members and the community at large come together for an evening of friendship, memories, and pasta!

We invite you to show your support for this special fundraiser by becoming a table sponsor, or as we like to call them, "Top Chefs". For only \$100, Top Chefs receive ten tickets that can be used, given as gifts or donated back to the church to pass along to folks who cannot afford the dinner, potential members, or to resell. *Additionally*, Top Chefs will receive a table named after them and first available seating upon arrival at the event. Please consider this special way to show your enthusiasm for David's Church.

Below is an order form we encourage you to complete and return to the church. You can use it to be a table sponsor, advance order tickets or give a donation. We typically serve over 400 dinners and in the past have served up to 550. With your support we are confident we will hit that number again.

Peace and blessings,

Robyn & Chris Moore

- .....
- I would like to be a "Top Chef" and sponsor \_\_\_\_\_ tables (\$100 a table + 10 tickets)
  - I would like to advance purchase \_\_\_\_\_ adult tickets (\$8 each)
  - I would like to advance purchase \_\_\_\_\_ children's (ages 3-12) tickets (\$4 each)
  - I would like to donate \$ \_\_\_\_\_ to the Spaghetti Dinner Fund

Total Enclosed: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

- I will pick up my tickets from will call.  I would like my tickets mailed to me.

Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

\*\*\*Please return form and check made out to David's United Church of Christ by February 17<sup>th</sup>.\*\*\*  
David's United Church of Christ 170 W. David Road, Kettering, OH 45429

## February Birthdays

- 1 Irene Hopkins
- 2 Gus Greene
- 3 Rolf Lindner  
Gary Hutchison  
Glenn Wood  
Cody Wright
- 4 Julie Wellbaum
- 5 Tara Heiner
- 6 Don Ashbrook  
Teresa McClure  
Chris Wellbaum
- 7 Dave McElwee  
Sam Wellbaum
- 8 Jill Blum
- 10 Katie Gregg
- 13 Dagmar Michel  
Jamie Mhaskar
- 14 Andy Bearce
- 15 Jim Widman  
Amy Stamper  
Jenni Thompson



- 16 Herbert Sizek
- 17 Betsy Keyes
- 18 Sean Miller  
Nicholas Kaloukian
- 19 Cody Boothe
- 20 Bill Kessen  
Alan Avila-John  
Lucas Avila-John  
Nicolas Avila-John
- 21 Thelma Leach  
Jerry Beinlich
- 22 Steve Mason
- 23 Lois Schlemmer  
Debra McKenzie
- 24 Bill Love
- 26 Maureen Trost  
Malia Creel
- 28 Amy Hamm
- 29 Pat Johnson

## New Members

**Rachel & John Barnett  
Fischer Barnett**  
1130 Crimson Court  
Waynesville, OH 45068  
513-897-1493

**JoAnn Bambauer & Jill Shaffner**  
9631 Stephen Court  
Centerville, OH  
937-886-0605

**Cesar Chaves**  
1874 Sally Circle  
Miamisburg, OH 45342  
727-515-3559

**Dave Ireton**  
455 Forest Ave., Apt. 7  
Dayton, OH 45405  
937-681-1796

**Kate Hill**  
182 Queens Crossing  
Centerville, OH 45458  
937-885-5539

**Becky Wierwille**  
1039 Hampshire Road  
Dayton, OH 45419  
419-733-1019

## Member Deaths

Our sympathy to *Barbara Pelfrey & Family* in the loss of her husband, *EC Pelfrey*, on January 17, 2014.

## Deaths

Our sympathy to *Betty Wilson & Family* in the loss of her mother, *Jean Wilson*, on January 15, 2014, in Caryville, TN.

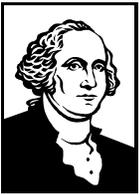
Our sympathy to *Melanie Behm, Bill Weeks & Family* in the loss of their sister, *Dee Dee McCormack*, on January 17, 2014.



## Really, Really Fun Volunteer Opportunity Available!!

There is an opening to teach Sunday School for the 2 & 3 year old class! This is a sweet & fun group who is very tolerant of any lack of expertise on the teacher's part. It's a wonderful way to get acquainted with the next generation of the David's family. No experience needed, teaching materials provided, hugs and smiles dispensed generously. A teacher is needed for the Feb. 16 - March 23 session. Please give this your thoughtful and prayerful consideration and contact *Pam Storar* 937-657-1065, [camiha@aol.com](mailto:camiha@aol.com).

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
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# February 2014

DAVID'S UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST (937) 434-2131  
WWW.DAVIDSUCC.ORG

<p>2 8:30 &amp; 9:50 AM Worship with Communion Gateway 11:15 AM Second Hour 7:00 PM Book Study/SIGNS</p> <p><i>Groundhog Day</i></p>	<p>3 9:30 AM Warm Wishes 10:30 AM Staff Mtg. 6:00 PM Yoga 6:30 PM CE Board Mtg. 7:00 PM Painting the Stars</p>	<p>4 10:00 AM Quilting 7:00 &amp; 7:30 PM Board Meetings 7:00 PM Yoga</p>	<p>5 6:00 PM Yoga</p>	<p>6 11:00 AM-1:00 PM Knitting 5:00 PM Worship Staff Meeting 6:00 PM Adult Bells 7:30 PM Chancel Choir</p>	<p>7</p>	<p>8 8:00 AM Trustee Meeting 8:30 AM-12:30 PM Private Reception</p>
<p>9 8:30 &amp; 9:50 AM Worship <b>Evolution Sunday</b> 11:15 AM Second Hour 7:00 PM Book Study/SIGNS</p>	<p>10 9:30 AM Warm Wishes 10:30 AM Staff Mtg. 12:00 PM Adult Education Meeting 6:00 PM Yoga</p>	<p>11 10:00 AM Quilting 7:00 PM Yoga</p>	<p>12 11:30 AM Keenagers 6:00 PM Yoga</p> <p><i>Lincoln's Birthday</i></p>	<p>13 11:00 AM-1:00 PM Knitting 5:00 PM Worship Staff Meeting 6:00 PM Adult Bells 7:30 PM Chancel Choir</p>	<p>14 1:00-4:00 PM Private Reception</p> <p><b>DATELINE DEADLINE</b></p> <p><i>Valentine's Day</i></p>	<p>15 8:00 AM Men's Breakfast @ Bob Evans</p>
<p>16 8:30 &amp; 9:50 AM Worship 11:15 AM Second Hour Food &amp; Clothing Outreach 7:00 PM Book Study/SIGNS</p>	<p>17 6:00 PM Yoga</p> <p><b>OFFICE CLOSED</b></p> <p><i>President's Day</i></p>	<p>18 10:00 AM Quilting 7:00 PM Yoga 7:00 PM Council Mtg.</p>	<p>19 6:00 PM Yoga</p>	<p>20 11:00 AM-1:00 PM Knitting 5:00 PM Worship Staff Meeting 6:00 PM Adult Bells 7:30 PM Chancel Choir</p>	<p>21</p>	<p>22 5:00-8:00 PM Spaghetti Dinner</p>  <p><i>Washington's Birthday</i></p>
<p>23 8:30 &amp; 9:50 AM Worship 11:15 AM Second Hour 7:00 PM Book Study/SIGNS</p>	<p>24 9:30 AM Warm Wishes 10:30 AM Staff Mtg. 6:00 PM Yoga</p>	<p>25 10:00 AM Quilting 6:30 PM WHO Group 7:00 PM Yoga</p>	<p>26 6:00 PM Yoga</p>	<p>27 11:00 AM-1:00 PM Knitting 5:00 PM Worship Staff Meeting 6:00 PM Adult Bells 7:30 PM Chancel Choir</p>	<p>28</p>	