

**DAVID'S DATLINE
DECEMBER 2020 Newsletter**

Sunday Worship, 9:50 a.m. Facebook Livestream

**Church Office Is Currently Closed to The Public
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 2, 9, 16 & 23 – Pastor Michelle's
Virtual Advent Study

December 20 – Longest Night/Blue Christmas
Livestream on our Facebook Page 7:00 p.m.

December 24 - Christmas Eve Candlelight
Service Livestream on our
Facebook Page 7:30 p.m.

December 25 & 28 – Office Closed

January 1 – Office Closed

January 31 – Virtual Annual Meeting of the
Congregation

From the Pastor's Desk...

Well, it's been quite a year, this 2020. We tend to say things like that at the end of every year, I know... but 2020... WOW! Now 2019 was already pretty hard for many here in the Dayton area, what with the major tornadoes that destroyed whole neighborhoods to our north, but then that horrible mass shooting down in the Oregon district. Because of all of that, the focus at our Interfaith Community Thanksgiving service a year ago at Temple Beth Or was "Dayton Strong," and we were honored to have Dayton Mayor Nan Whaley come be a part of our faith communities' yearly effort to give thanks. At the time, we were all looking forward to putting 2019 behind us, thinking that we'd have better, less challenging experiences in the new year.

And, like most years we came into 2020 hoping for the best, a fresh start, new challenges and opportunities, with anticipation of good outcomes for ourselves, our families, our neighborhoods, our country, and here locally, for our congregation. "Hope," as the saying goes, "springs eternal."

But here as we are hours away from entering the last month of 2020, I think it's safe to suggest that 2020 will stand alone in our memories for the challenges we've all endured as we have tried to cope with the impact of the COVID-19 virus. Here at church, we'd become aware of the global spread of the virus by mid-February, as we'd begun to include in our prayers concerns for folk we know of living in South Korea while hearing stories of cruise ships that had been forced into quarantine. Soon we were learning about places we knew little about, like Wuhan China, and hearing horror stories out of Europe, especially the hard-hit Italy, and soon NYC.

When our Ohio Governor shut-down our state for larger gatherings of people in mid-March, it felt like the responsible thing for our congregation to do to stop in-person gatherings, and move our Sunday worship services to a live stream on Facebook, but none of us thought it was going to last longer than a month, maybe two. But here we are looking at offering all of our Christmas services online and wondering if the promised vaccines will be available to enough of us to think about reconvening for in-person public worship by Easter in 2021. We've been hosting most of our small-group studies and church board meetings via Zoom conferencing online, and Pastor Michelle and I have had to attend the annual meeting of the Heartland (formerly Ohio) Conference of the UCC, and Fall Meeting of the Southwest Ohio Northern Kentucky Association of the UCC via Zoom and the internet.

Throughout this entire experience, I have been impressed by the ingenuity, creativity, and commitment of the folk on all our boards that so many of our church folk have adjusted to online worship and business meetings, using technology that most of us didn't know existed until all this happened. But it's been genuinely impressive how the Mission Board has adjusted to the limitations that come with social distancing requirements to maintain still very needed ministries, like the monthly feeding down at the Gateway homeless shelter and the regular ingathering of Peanut Butter to meet our commitment to the Kettering Schools' Backpack Program.

We saw similar efforts when Warm Wishes found ways to reconvene and continue producing those hats, mittens, and scarves that are dispersed to lower income and needy folk throughout the Kettering and Greater Dayton area through area ministry partners. They produced and delivered another record-setting, nearly 1950 3-piece fleece sets this year, plus 228 crocheted hats and scarves, all while wearing masks while they were working together and staying over 6 feet apart to practice physical distancing. Our Quilters also rose to the occasion and we were able to bless and dedicate another 40 quilts made between Memorial Day weekend and Veterans Day in November, which means they have donated 281 quilts to Veterans at the Hospice out at the Veterans' Home since this ministry started in 2015.

As we are getting into the Christmas season, members of our congregation responded in new ways to participate in the Joyce Lee Giving Tree which provides Christmas gifts for 80 Head Start children in low-income families, many of whom would have very modest Christmas without your generosity. Usually you would just walk down the hall after service and choose a child's name on a hand-written ornament on a special Christmas tree, but of course this year the entire program had to find a way to manage via the internet, and you did. And, the SIGNS ecumenical youth group that is housed here at David's has adopted a very large family for Christmas and are providing them with personal gifts and much needed household items. Plus, our yearly program to provide holiday meals for needy families at Thanksgiving and Christmas had to be handled this year by giving each one a grocery gift card, and you rose to the occasion with enough for 50 meals on each special day.

To put it mildly, it's been a very impressive thing to see all of you find creative ways to maintain the many ministries of this congregation, even though we've not been able to gather for worship for 8 long months, and who knows how much longer it will be before we've all had enough of our members vaccinated so that we can resume gatherings in person? And that's the part I miss the most in all of this, the part where we gather together. Yes, friends, I miss being together with all of you, each one of you.

In the Scriptures, God promises that where 2 or 3 are gathered together in my name, I will be there in the midst of you. So, I know I'm fortunate in that I get to experience that, even in this time when we've been forced to stay isolated so as not to spread the virus. There are at least 5 of us together doing the worship service for the live stream on Sunday mornings, so we're able to have that connection, but of course it's not quite the same. There are 4 of us in our home, I'm

sure it's much harder for folk who live alone. When we do see each other, sometimes different folk from church, I hear that many of us chose to have our small Thanksgiving meal celebrations limited to only folk in our "bubble," and then reached out to extended family via Zoom chats on the internet, FaceTime or phone calls. And, I am so grateful for all of that, that we can manage to see and connect with each other in this time.

But I'll say it again, I really miss being together in one place, and it's been especially hard when we've had folk sick and hospitalized, and were not allowed to visit, and when a dear one has died and we've not been able to gather together to celebrate their life among us with thanksgiving to God. I miss greeting and chatting with a bunch of different folk who are coming and going prior to worship, even small talk about the weather and what you did in the last week feels quite extravagant in this time of limited exposure and relative isolation. I miss preaching in a room full of people, where occasionally someone will nod their head to let me know they get what I'm saying. It's really hard to measure whether the message you are sharing is really connecting to people when I'm preaching into a camera with a mirror image of myself on the screen. It's so comforting to get finished with the service and see the comments some of you have left, to know I wasn't just talking to myself.

Tim & Lyn have been so generous with their music, and the instrumentals they have provided together with the music from our Bell Choir has been quite inspiring, but I miss singing in a room together with other people. Chris Wood, our office administrator has had the added responsibilities to manage the technical side of our service, and has done a great job using the iPad and production app that we've been using to connect all our phones to provide different visual angles throughout the services; it's so much more pleasant than Michelle and I just putting our phones on a tri-pod and turning it around manually to show you our musician friends. So, we have learned a new skill set, and we're making improvements as we go, and learning more about how to use the technology.

All of which is to say this: the big lesson in all of this is that we can and still continue to be the church, together and to one another, no matter how difficult or challenging the situation. I miss so many of you, some of you I haven't had the occasion to speak with since back in March, and I do miss it, miss you, I really do. We've always said that being the church was something more than just going to a building, it was significantly more than potlucks and socializing at coffee-hour, it was us coming together out of our mutual interest and attraction to the Gospel message of Jesus Christ, and the underlying conviction that we could and would be better people, better Christians, more effective and efficient if we joined our energies and efforts together in a congregation. And what we've learned here in 2020 is that if we are serious and intentional, we can live out the high calling of our faith even in the most challenging of circumstances. While I'll be glad when it's over, I do want to take that lesson to heart.

This difficult year has raised many questions about the future, what relationships and institutions are durable enough to last through this time of forced divisions. The economy is suffering, and we know that many small businesses are at risk of closing down for good. I sometimes wonder if folk who've been watching the watching services online at home on Sunday mornings in their jammies with a cup of coffee nearby are going to be willing to come back to live services once we have been able to put some of this behind us? And what about those folk, who gave up on church because the online thing doesn't work for them? It can be scary to think that we'll lose ground, that our congregation might be diminished by this difficult pause in the way things have happened up until now. Will we come back as healthy and vibrant as we were when this all started, it's hard to know.

So, for now, while we continue to wait for the arrival of that vaccine, when many of us will feel safe again to return to something that will no doubt be a new normal, until then we can and will remain faithful. From time to time, here in the church office I open a page in my directory, and I just go down the list praying for each person and each family. When I preach on Sunday morning, looking into my phone which is looking back at me, I try to imagine all of you, sitting in your pews, the ushers handing out the bulletins, the choir in their robes, the children coming down front for the Children's Message, and all of us together singing praises to God at the same time with one common voice.

We will miss that feeling this year, and we'll likely miss it most on Christmas Eve. It will feel weird to light our candles there in that darkened sanctuary with only a few of us present in our masks. But I will know in my heart that many of you are on the other side of that live stream via the internet and lighting your own candles at home. And when we pause to raise them, we will be raising them together even if we are not in the same room this year.

I know I won't be seeing most of you face to face, on Sundays or on Christmas Eve like we do most years, so let me wish each one of you now a most Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. And whatever challenges and new uncertainties we will face in the days to come, this much I know is true today. God has walked beside us faithfully through this year, as we have done our best to walk beside each other – from a safe distance. And I believe good things await us, as we get on the other side of this virus and come back together to be the congregation of Jesus-followers that meets together and makes up David's United Church of Christ.

Your Pastor and friend,

Brian Q. Newcomb

Notes from Rev. Michelle

One of my favorite writers, Anne Lamott, says that “Rest and laughter are the most spiritual and subversive acts of all. Laugh, rest, slow down.” So, I begin my article with a little Christmas humor. Three men find themselves at the Pearly Gates waiting to enter heaven. On entering they must present something relating to or associated with Christmas. The first man searches his pocket, and finds some mistletoe, so he is allowed in. The second man presents a fruit cake, so he is also allowed in. The third man pulls out a pair of stockings. Confused at this last gesture, St Peter asks, 'How do these represent Christmas?' For which the man replies: 'They're Carol's.'

I believe this year, more than anything, we need to be reminded of the beauty that can be found in the story of baby Jesus; the Christmas story we remember year after year. When I was in undergrad, I had a professor that used to talk about the story of Jesus' birth by explaining that God was coming down to move into our neighborhood. This was his way of describing the incarnation which means the embodiment of a deity or spirit in some earthly form. Many believe, including myself, that Jesus not only pointed us to God, but Jesus was God; Jesus was God with flesh. God saw the mess that the world had become, and God chose to do something about it. God didn't take away the mess and solve all the problems of the world; but God chose to come down and live among us and be present with humanity; be present in the mess.

I love the story of the little girl who woke up during a thunderstorm and was afraid. After a bright flash of lightning and loud roar of thunder she ran to her parents' room. Her mother awoke and asked her what was wrong. She told her mother she was afraid. Her mother said, “You don't have to be afraid, sweetie, God is with you.” Very astutely her daughter responded, “That's nice, mother, but I want someone with skin on her face.”

There is something immensely beautiful about the story of God becoming flesh and dwelling among us. The Christmas story points to a God who is fully present with us; a God who was willing to move into our neighborhood. I loved how the late Eugene Peterson chose to translate John 1.14 in the Message Translation; “The Word became flesh and blood and moved into the neighborhood. We saw the glory with our own eyes, the one-of-a-kind glory, like Father, like Son. Generous inside and out, true from start to finish.”

2020 has certainly been a difficult year as we have had to navigate our way through this Global Pandemic. There have been thousands upon thousands of lives lost to Covid-19. The virus has turned our world upside down and we have had to rethink how we do so many things including restructuring how we do church. We have been doing our worship services on Facebook live since March. It is hard to believe that we have been doing virtual worship for that long and I miss our face to face worship services so much. But I am grateful for our Sunday morning services even if they are online. During these times, when we find ourselves not really going anywhere and so many of our events cancelled, it's nice to have something to look forward to each week.

It's important to hold onto hope and right now more than anything we need hope. We need hope for a better tomorrow. We need hope that one way or another we are going to come out on the other side of this virus. I can't think of anything more hopeful than the story of Christmas; the story of God becoming one of us. This timeless story about a baby born in a manger points us to a God who is with us. As we continue to go through these days of social isolation, it's important to remember that we are not alone. God is with us every single step of the way and we can also be there for one another and in our own way, we can be like Jesus to others.

There is a story of a woman who lost her spouse. She went into a deep depression and she didn't leave her house for months. One day a person from her church showed up at her doorstep with a casserole. The woman graciously accepted the gift from her church friend. Years later, this grieving woman recalls how Jesus came to her door holding a casserole. I love this story because it illustrates how we can be the very face of Christ for others. You never know how much of an impact one small act of kindness can make in someone's life.

The best of our humanity is Christ living in us and through us, which is nothing less than a disclosure and revelation of what God is like. As C.S. Lewis put it, we are called to be “little Christs.” We are called to be, both individually and as a church, little mirrors, little fleshly embodiments of the living Christ. As we enter this Advent season and prepare to celebrate once again the birth of the baby Jesus; let us continue to strive for ways that we can be fleshly embodiments of Christ; ways that we can be “Little Christs” in our world and in our community.

I wish everyone a safe and Merry Christmas!

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 100 pledge cards received, totaling \$369,524. Members who have not pledged (76) have provided gifts this year of about \$130,000. Thus, the projected campaign total stands at about \$500,000. The current proposed 2021 operating budget is \$536,000, with 10% set aside for Benevolence (Mission Board). If you have not turned in your pledge card yet, please mail it, or drop it in the office lock box, as soon as possible. Pledge cards are available and can be mailed upon request.

Special Offerings in December

Love Offering

'Twas the year of the COVID and our church is so still
No worship, no music, our gatherings are nil

This year has been a challenge, it's rough there's no doubt
No friends, no connections, we whimper and pout

However alone we might feel this long, long year
There are some people who keep going – and showing no fear!

The office is busy, our church is still tidy
Our staff keeps on working, they are strong and so mighty

We sing in our homes with services online
Our pastors and staff – their new talents do shine!

Our email is full of the latest of news
The phones still do ring, and we meet via Zoom

Let us remember there is still work to be done
And our staff continues to be there (it's just not as fun!)

Please let us remember our staff - oh so sweet
The LOVE Offering is perfect to give them a treat

Open your hearts, your kitchens, or even some money
And send them some love – I'm not being funny!

And among this new normal we must bear in mind
That Christ is the reason December does shine

Merry Christmas to all, each one of us dear
With David's around us, we have nothing to fear.

Merry Christmas!

Please donate to the LOVE offering online or by sending a check to the office.

Deadline dates are listed below.

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 mail it to the church office. Or you can go online and contribute by choosing the box "Love Offering". Contributions will be accepted online through Friday, December 18, and by mail-in check through Tuesday, 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 2020 Operating Budget.

If you would like to contribute, simply make your check out to David's Church, memo line "Christmas Eve Offering" and mail it to the church office. Or you can go online and contribute by choosing the box "Christmas Eve Offering" under the Missions heading. Contributions will be accepted through December 24. 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 contribute, simply make your check out to David's Church, memo line "Pastor's Fund" and mail it to the church office. Or you can go online and contribute by choosing the box "Pastor's Emergency Fund".

New Directories and 2021 Offering Envelopes

We have new, paper directories and monthly offering envelopes available for you to pick up in the office entryway.

These will only be available during office hours M-F, 9-11 and 2-5 through December, and on Saturday, December 5 at the Fellowship Hall entry doors from 10-12.

The office, itself, will not be open to public traffic.

Christmas Eve Candle Pick-Up

Since we will not be able to physically be together for Christmas Eve Worship, we would like for you to have the opportunity to have your own Christmas Eve Candlelight Service at home this year. We will offer our traditional candles and drip protectors for you to pick up outside of both the office door and the Fellowship Hall door until the evening of Christmas Eve (while supplies last).

LIVESTREAM WORSHIP SERVICES

ADVENT

- | | | |
|-------------|---------|---|
| November 30 | 9:50 AM | <i>Advent Worship</i> |
| December 6 | 9:50 AM | <i>Advent Worship</i> |
| December 13 | 9:50 AM | <i>Advent Worship</i> |
| December 20 | 9:50 AM | <i>Advent Worship with Communion</i> |
| December 20 | 7:00 PM | <i>The Longest Night/Blue Christmas Service</i> |



CHRISTMAS EVE

- | | |
|---------|--|
| 7:30 PM | <i>Traditional Candlelight Service</i> |
|---------|--|

Longest Night of the Year (Blue Christmas) Service will be live streamed on the David's Church Facebook page this year.

Sunday, December 20, 7:00 PM Livestream on our Facebook Page

This year, due to COVID-19, all our special holiday services as well as regular Sunday worship are being live streamed on the David's United Church of Christ Facebook page. We offer this service, amid the vast commercialization and the spirits of forced joy that often accompany many of the expectations we experience around Christmas, when 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 on the night before the Winter Solstice, which some call the longest night of the year, to remember the prophet Isaiah's words 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, you may want to have a few candles handy to light along with us as you watch and participate in the service virtually.



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

S.I.G.N.S. is an ecumenical, faith-based, high school group and, like so many, we have made significant changes to how we meet and socialize this year! Each year we have a theme that we explore through our meetings and activities. Appropriately, this year's theme is "Together, While Apart". At S.I.G.N.S, we know that social distance does not have to mean social isolation. We strive to support our teens in creative ways through this crazy year, whether it is virtually or in-person, with safety precautions. We welcome and encourage any high school aged teens to join us! For more information, please contact Jessica Bloomingdale at jdbloomingdale@gmail.com or (937) 750-4224. Ultimately, the health and safety of our teens is always our top priority, so we will remain flexible and connected with our teens!

Gateway Meal Continues On Into The New Year!

As we prepare for Christmas in this very unusual time, the Mission Board at David's Church hopes you'll keep in mind that we continue our monthly collection and delivery of a hot meal to the Gateway Men's Shelter next on Sunday, January 3, 2021. Generally, it takes about 40 people volunteering to drop off food at David's Church on the first Saturday and Sunday of each month in order to feed about 200 men at Gateway Men's Shelter. Each month we take:

- 12 - 4 lb. Meatloaves to each serve 18
 - 12 - 13 x 9 Pans of Mashed Potatoes to each serve 18
 - 12 - 13 x 9 Pans of Green Beans to each serve 18
 - 8 - 36 oz. Bags of Lettuce Mix which are combined with
 - 2 lbs. Grated Carrots,
 - 2 lbs. Grated Cheese
 - and 3 - 32 oz. Bottles of Ranch Dressing
 - 10 - 2 Dozen pkgs. of Dinner Rolls
 - 10 - 3 Dozen plates of Cookies
 - 16 - 1 Dozen Individual Fruit or Applesauce Cups
 - 2 Large Canisters of Lemonade
- The Mission Board provides Gravy and Butter.

This means we ask for 87 Items EACH MONTH so you can see that many of the people who bring food do double duty! Won't you consider starting the New Year with a resolution to help with this ministry? Please contact Addie Weaver at addiemweaver@gmail.com OR Debbie McCoy at kdam4300@gmail.com or call 937-689-4224

Please plan to drop off COLD ITEMS at the Fellowship Hall doors on Saturday, January 2 between 10 and 11 a.m. HOT ITEMS may be dropped off the same place but on Sunday, January 3 between 9:30 and 10:30 a.m. If you sign up for both temperatures, please drop off on Sunday. Simply pull up to the Fellowship Hall Doors and our volunteers will be happy to get it out of your car for you. The Mission Board and the Men at Gateway are very grateful for all the support from David's Church Family which makes it possible to continue this ministry!

Opportunity to See Your Church Family and Help with Mission!

If you've been missing your church family on Sunday mornings and would welcome an opportunity to greet them AND participate in a Socially Distant Mission, the Mission Board would eagerly welcome extra hands to help unload food as our Church Family drops off their donation for Gateway at our Fellowship Hall doors on the first Saturday from 10 to 11 a.m. or Sunday from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. of the month!!! On Sunday, the hot food is collected and then we caravan to the Gateway Men's Shelter where we help get the food onto carts and they take it into the kitchen and serve it. Very short and sweet and such a good feeling to see our Church Family and help feed those in need!

Please contact Addie Weaver at addiemweaver@gmail.com
OR
Debbie McCoy at kdam4300@gmail.com or call 937-689-4224 to sign up for the Saturday or Sunday you prefer!

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. You can drop your peanut butter off at the church the first Saturday of each month from 10:00-11:00 a.m.

- Mission Board

Special One Zoom Schoolhouse for Kids Of All Ages And The Young At Heart

Church continues to be done differently as we continue to live out our days during this global pandemic. Sunday school is something we are always excited to offer year after year and we wanted to make sure to offer up something still this year for our kids. On Sunday, December 13, at 1pm, we will have a special Zoom meeting for all kids and teens and even any adults that would like to join us. This year we are not able to be together to sing Christmas songs or go caroling, so we are going to have a time of singing Christmas tunes together during this special Zoom meeting. We will share the story of Jesus' birth and offer up some prayers and then we will take time to celebrate Christmas by lifting our voices in song.

If you have any questions and/or would like to participate, please contact Pastor Michelle.

Below are the Zoom meeting Details:

Topic: One Zoom Schoolhouse

Time: Dec 13, 2020 01:00 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85342794126?pwd=QUNTMmNyb2grNINxQTZ6NjIxUTNOdz09>

Meeting ID: 853 4279 4126

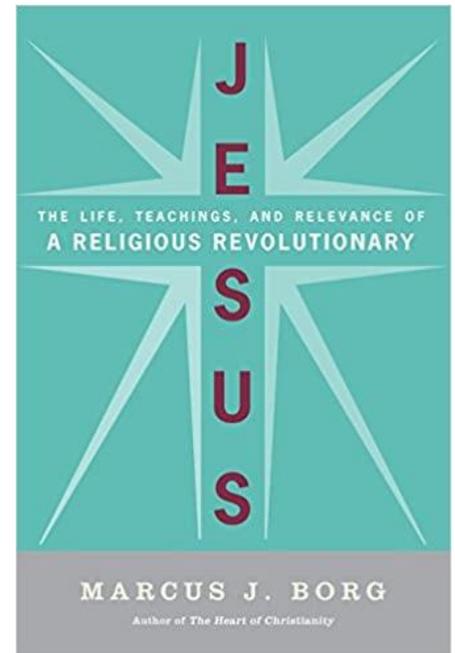
Passcode: 907649

Recording Secretary Needed for Council

Can you keep and record notes? David's Church Council needs a Recording Secretary to start in October and record the minutes of Council's monthly meetings. If you fill this role, you will see the inner workings of all the Boards of the Church and get to know the leaders involved. If your schedule prevents attending a meeting or two, a backup person is usually available. Please give your name to *Chris Wood* if this sounds like it would suit you.

Experiencing Jesus DVD/Zoom Study with Pastor Brian For The New Year

“Experiencing Jesus” is a 10 week study on the life and teaching of Jesus, based on the scholarship of Marcus Borg in his career-defining work as a member of the Jesus Seminar, in his best-selling book, “Jesus: Uncovering the Life, Teachings, and Relevance of a Religious Revolutionary” (HarperOne, 2015) Buying and reading the book as we work through the 10 lessons together is highly encouraged (online retailers are selling the paperback for \$13, they have Kindle version for \$15), but if you just wanted to join the class to experience the scholar’s brief lectures via DVD, that’s fine too. We have 12 copies of the Participant booklet that provides a guide through the 10 sessions, including scriptures and questions for dialogue, but we can try to order more if more than 12 are interested in joining the class. We found with our previous Zoom class, that this is not the easiest medium for personal engagement, sharing and dialogue, so we’re offering this class with the understanding that it’s going to require some adapting for the format, until we can return to gathering in person inside a class room together. Pastor Brian is hoping that the class will run for 10 straight weeks on Monday nights beginning at 7 pm, with the first class on January 11, and if all goes as planned, finishing up the class on the evening of March 15. As Lent begins on Feb. 17 with Ash Wednesday, this might be a considered as part of a Lenten preparation for Easter, which is on April 4 this year. If you have interest in joining this class, please contact Pastor Brian via his email: Brian@davidsucc.org, and let him know if you intend to purchase and read the book.



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	tuffyerniel@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
Jacquie 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.

Our Church in This Time of Coronavirus

We want to take a moment and update our church membership and friends about the ongoing work and life of our congregation as this time of the viral pandemic stretches out far longer than any of us anticipated. While our office remains closed to the public for now, our staff has returned to the office and are putting in their hours, working remotely when appropriate. If you need assistance with anything, please contact the staff via email or phone during our regular office hours. As far as services, we continue to follow the recommended health guidelines, so we will continue to offer our services via Facebook live until the numbers begin to drop, and it is deemed safe for gatherings of more than 50 to 100 to be indoors together, even if wearing masks, practicing physical distancing and additional hygiene/disinfecting. We have invested some money in better technology to improve the quality of our Sunday service live streams.

Plan to attend

David's United Church of Christ

Virtual Annual Meeting

of the congregation

Sunday, January 31, 2021

Following the 9:50 livestream

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
11 Phyllis Kramer
Terry Williams
12 John Runzo
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

Member Deaths

Our sympathy to the *Jim Johnson, David Johnson & family* in the loss of wife, mother, *Shirley Johnson*, on November 21, 2020.

Our sympathy to the *Wesley Evans & family* in the loss of wife, *Jana Lehman*, on December 4, 2020.

Annual Reports Due

To all boards, organizations and staff members: Your annual reports are due into the office by Tuesday, December 15, 2020.

Don't Get Scammed!

Just a friendly reminder that there are some creative scams out there. Please be assured that your pastors will NEVER text, call or email you to ask you to purchase gift cards for them, or to send them money because they are stuck in a foreign country. Your DP&L will not be shut off in 30 minutes. Your SSN has not been compromised. Your car warranty is just fine. And your grandchild, who may be sitting right next to you, is not calling to have you send money to bail them out of jail. Be alert, be aware, wash your hands, wear your mask, and don't get scammed!

Tax Information

All 2020 donations to David's Church must be in the church office, or postmarked, by **December 31**. Also, please write separate checks for individual funds.

Livestream Church Services

If you would like to view the service, click on the David's Facebook Page link.

Tim & Lyn will provide 10 minutes of pre-service music. The service begins at 10:00 a.m.

+Please Note+

You do not need to be an active user of Facebook to view the videos.

You should be able to view them by clicking on the links below.

[David's United Church of Christ Facebook Page](#)

It will be available starting 10:00 am each Sunday.

A recording of the service will be saved on our Facebook page for viewing at another more convenient time if you can't be present at the time of the live stream. And, if you find the worship service meaningful, you can also share it on your own Facebook page.

As a reminder the pastors are using their cell phones currently to share the service over Facebook Live, please do not call or text them during the time of the service, as it will be disruptive for everyone.

If you have special requests for prayers that you would like included in the service, please email Pastor Brian at brian@davidsucc.org or Pastor Michelle at michelle@davidsucc.org

<u>SUNDAY</u> 	<u>MONDAY</u>	<u>TUESDAY</u>	<u>WEDNESDAY</u>	<u>THURSDAY</u>	<u>FRIDAY</u>	<u>SATURDAY</u>
6 9:50 AM Advent Worship on our Facebook Page 7:00 PM Book Study	7	8 6:30 PM CE Mtg.	9 12:00 PM Prayers and Meditation Moment with Pastor Brian on our Facebook Page 7:00 PM Pastor Michelle's Advent Book Study via Zoom	10 6:00 PM Adult Bells	11 3:00 PM Afternoon Prayers with Pastor Michelle on our Facebook Page	12 8:30 AM Trustee Meeting
13 9:50 AM Advent Worship on our Facebook Page 11:15 AM Deacons Mtg. 7:00 PM Book Study	14	15 10:00 AM Quilting Ministry 7:00 PM Council Mtg. via Zoom ANNUAL REPORTS DUE	16 12:00 PM Prayers and Meditation Moment with Pastor Brian on our Facebook Page 7:00 PM Pastor Michelle's Advent Book Study via Zoom	17 6:00 PM Adult Bells	18 3:00 PM Afternoon Prayers with Pastor Michelle on our Facebook Page	19
20 9:50 AM Advent Worship with Communion on our Facebook Page TBA SIGNS Virtual Christmas Party 7:00 PM Book Study 7:00 PM The Longest Night/Blue Christmas Service on our Facebook Page	21	22	23 12:00 PM Prayers and Meditation Moment with Pastor Brian on our Facebook Page 7:00 PM Pastor Michelle's Advent Book Study via Zoom	24 CHRISTMAS EVE 7:30 PM Candlelight Service on our Facebook Page	25 CHRISTMAS DAY  <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; display: inline-block;">OFFICE CLOSED</div>	26
27 9:50 AM Worship on our Facebook Page 7:00 PM Book Study	28 <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; display: inline-block; margin-top: 10px;">OFFICE CLOSED</div>	29 10:00 AM Quilting Ministry	30 12:00 PM Prayers and Meditation Moment with Pastor Brian on our Facebook Page	31 <div style="text-align: center;">NEW YEAR'S EVE</div>	<div style="font-size: 2em; font-weight: bold; margin-bottom: 10px;">DECEMBER 2020</div> DAVID'S UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST (937) 434-2131 WWW.DAVIDSUCC.ORG	