



JANUARY 2024

THE MESSENGER

Dublin Community Church—United Church of Christ

Dublin Community Church United Church of Christ

81 W. Bridge Street
Dublin, Ohio 43017

Church Office:
614.889.1026

Website:
www.dublincommunitychurch.org

Facebook:
www.facebook.com/dublincommunitychurchucc/

United Church of Christ:
www.ucc.org

Tradition

Saying that “tradition” is important in my family is very much an understatement. Having just celebrated another Advent season, my family, of course, did all the things we normally do. We have a number of Christmas movies we always watch – but we’ve now seen them so many times that often we don’t even really watch them – we put them on in the background as we cook or decorate the tree or wrap gifts. As long as the movies have at some point during the season played on the TV, we mark them off the “to do” list for another year. It’s the tradition of it that holds the key.

I’m guessing that most people have traditions they follow during particular times of year – special foods, yearly gatherings, family customs that have been handed down through the generations. What is it about these traditions that hold so much power for us?

I know for my family, part of the importance of tradition has to do with honoring family members who are no longer with us. After my husband’s death seven years ago, it became extremely important to my children and to me that we continue to do all the things we always did when Mike was alive. Our traditions became a way of honoring Mike, keeping his presence with us and his spirit alive. In our often uncertain and ever-changing

world, there is comfort in the familiarity of holding onto sacred traditions.

And now, as we begin a brand-new year once again, there will be challenges and uncertainty ahead. There will undoubtedly be ups and downs – that is just a part of life. And at times we will need to be open to adapting even the most carefully thought-out plans. But some things will never change. Throughout my life I have been privileged to have always been part of a church family – a place where I have felt loved and cared for, despite the ups and downs of life. The traditions of the liturgical year have always been and continue to be a comfort, continually reminding me of the power of the Holy Spirit in our lives.

I am so grateful for Dublin Community Church – for our traditions, old and new, and for the love that is continually lived out in this community of faith. Thank you for your enduring presence and support.

Wishing you all much peace and love in the new year!

Shalom,
– Rev. Lisa Bowersock



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Creativity Circle

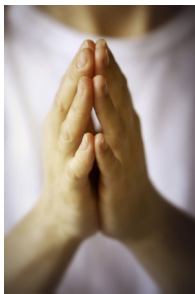
Are you interested in Creativity Circle? We have two Creativity Circles – one meets the second Sunday of the month from 3 to 5 p.m. and one meets the last Wednesday of the month from 1 to 3 p.m. **You're welcome to join us at either or both!**

Questions about the Sunday group, contact Karen Royce at kroyce6@gmail.com

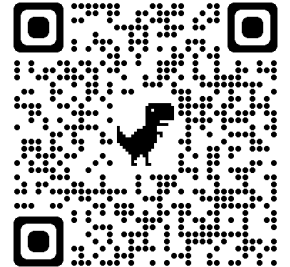
Questions about Wednesday, contact Cindy Bitter at kcbitter77@gmail.com

Prayer Chain

Our Prayer Chain offers comfort and support in a thoughtful, confidential, manner. If you know of someone's need for prayers, contact our Prayer Chain through Karen Harget (karenharget@yahoo.com or 614-891-8303).



Second Mile: Dublin Food Pantry. The Dublin Food Pantry provides food to assist Dublin Residents in need. They also link clients to much needed resources in the community to have many of their other basic needs met. Their new location is at 6608 Dublin Center Drive, Dublin, OH 43017.



Ann's Angels: There is still an ongoing need for gift cards, supplies, and cash donations for the Gimenez family. You can use the link below to go directly to a sign up genius link to provide gift cards (please bring to the church office). [https://www.signupgenius.com/go/904044EA9A828ABFF2-anns#/. The QR code to the right will take you to our church VANCO page where you can donate directly to Ann's Angels.](https://www.signupgenius.com/go/904044EA9A828ABFF2-anns#/)



There is still the opportunity to give the family rides to church. Visit this link to sign up: [https://www.signupgenius.com/go/904044EA9A828ABFF2-sunday#/.](https://www.signupgenius.com/go/904044EA9A828ABFF2-sunday#/)

Want to receive DCC information?

Send your request to: dublinuccoffice@gmail.com

You will receive *The Messenger* and important DCC announcements.

Our DCC-UCC Staff is Here for You

Lisa Bowersock, Senior Minister:
Becky Sunday, Associate Minister:
Jill DeiCas-Nehls, C.E. Director:
Nancy Luikart, Music Director:
Laura Zuber, Church Administrator:
Gregg Dudash, Youth Leader:
Jena Biegler, Mid-High Youth Leader:
Bianca DeMaria, Organist/Accompanist:
Barb Anderson, Interfaith Outreach Facilitator:

lisaabowersock@gmail.com
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andersonfamily2214@gmail.com



THE LINGERING STARLIGHT


"They set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was." Matthew 2:9 (NRSV)

Is Christmas over already? It seemed like such a short season this year. Perhaps that's because it was! The way the 2023 calendar fell, we experienced the shortest possible Advent season—just 22 days, including Christmas Eve. That same calendar compressed the liturgical season after Christmas as well, giving us just six days before our celebration of Epiphany in worship on Sunday, December 31. Consequently, it all seemed rather hurried this year.

It might be a good year to be reminded that the Christmas star continued to shine long after Baby Jesus was born. While our Christmas creches and pageants usually picture the shepherds and magi together with Mary, Joseph, and the angels in Bethlehem, scholars believe it likely would have taken the magi about two years to reach the infant Jesus and his family. Life was moving on, but the starlight still lingered. And they continued to follow.

Last Epiphany, I introduced “Star Words” to Dublin Community Church. The tradition of Star Words has grown in popularity over the last decade or so in some Protestant churches. A Star Word is a word given as a point of spiritual focus—something to pray over, to meditate on, to wonder about, to inspire and guide us. They are simple words like “hope,” “compassion,” “awareness,” or “gratitude.” You might choose to let your word help guide you for a week, for a season, or for the year. I have found this to be a particularly helpful practice in my own spiritual life in recent years, so I wanted to share it with all of you again. Just as the magi of old followed the star that led to the Christ-child, we also might let these stars guide us on our spiritual journeys.

If you were with us for worship on Epiphany Sunday, December 31, you were invited to choose a Star Word for yourself. If you were unable to join us for worship that day and would like a Star Word, we have them available in the church office. Even as we leave the baby in the manger behind for another year, I invite you to continue to bask in the lingering starlight. Be open to where it might lead you. I pray your star will guide you closer to Christ as the days unfold throughout 2024. May the light shine ever brighter in and through you.



Peace and blessings,
Rev. Becky



CHILDREN'S MINISTRY/FINANCE

Jill DeiCas-Nehls
Jcd.dcc.ucc2014@gmail.com

SUNDAY SCHOOL UPDATE Vacation Bible School Save the Date July 28—31, 2024

UnTrip 2024

Sunday, June 9, 2024 —Wednesday, June 12, 2024

2023 Pageant Photos: Thanks to all the youth and volunteers who helped make this year's pageant, The Doubtful Shepherds, a success!



Dublin Community Church Financial Summary – through November 30, 2023

Financial Update: Thank you for your generosity and ongoing support of the Dublin Community Church!

For the Month

Contributions totaling **\$30,919** were favorable to plan by **\$833** or 103% of plan

Total Operating Revenue was **\$50,294** were favorable to plan by **\$4707** or 110% of plan

Total operating Expenses was **\$63,783** unfavorable to plan by **\$10,654** or 120% of plan.

Net cash flow for the month was *unfavorable* to plan by **-\$13,594** total expenses exceeding total operating revenue. HVAC expenses contributed to this unfavorable cash flow

Year-to-date

Net cash flow for the year was **-\$115,594** as total expenses exceeded total operating revenue

Through November 30, 202	Month				Year-to-Date					
Revenue	Actual	Plan	Var. to Plan	% of Plan	Actual	Plan	Var. to Plan	% of Plan	Annual Budget	% of Budget
Contributions - Pledged	\$ 30,919	\$ 30,086	\$ 833	103%	\$ 382,259	\$ 330,946	\$ 51,313	116%	\$ 361,033	106%
Contributions - Pledged Prior Yr.	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -		\$ 150	\$ -	\$ 150		\$ -	
Contributions - Unpledged	\$ 8,722	\$ 5,003	\$ 3,719	174%	\$ 66,509	\$ 55,033	\$ 11,476	121%	\$ 60,031	111%
Contributions - Prepaid & Other	\$ 1,249	\$ 615	\$ 634	203%	\$ 14,782	\$ 6,765	\$ 8,017	219%	\$ 7,382	200%
Sub-total Revenue - Contributions	\$ 40,890	\$ 35,704	\$ 5,186	115%	\$ 463,700	\$ 392,744	\$ 70,956	118%	\$ 428,446	108%
Other Revenue	\$ 9,404	\$ 9,883	\$ (479)	95%	\$ 112,473	\$ 109,313	\$ 3,160	103%	\$ 119,185	94%
Total Operating Revenue	\$ 50,294	\$ 45,587	\$ 4,707	110%	\$ 576,173	\$ 502,057	\$ 74,116	115%	\$ 547,631	105%
Net Cash Flow from Operations	Current Actual	Current Plan	Var. to Plan	% of Plan	YTD Actual	YTD Plan	Var. to Plan	% of Plan	Annual Budget	% Expended
Total Operating Revenue	\$ 50,294	\$ 45,587	\$ 4,707	110%	\$ 576,173	\$ 456,470	\$ 74,116	115%	\$ 547,631	105%
Total Operating Expense	\$ 63,888	\$ 53,129	\$ (10,759)	120%	\$ 692,094	\$ 531,368	\$ (107,547)	118%	\$ 637,596	109%
Net Cash Flow fav. / (unfav.)	\$ (13,594)				\$ (115,921)					

YOUTH GROUP



The New Perspectives Youth Group has been active this fall. Due to the GRIP Project downstairs, they have been meeting off site for their meetings. They held a bowling outing at Ten Pin Lanes in Hillard earlier this fall and then rounded out the year with a Christmas Party, white elephant gift exchange and wonderful food provided by the Sugars! The youth also helped prepare for the Christmas Eve Services by assembling the candles for candle lighting during Silent Night.

We have Mid-High youth group and Sr. High Youth Group usually once a month. Look for dates to come out from Gregg and Jena for the new year.



January

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Rev. Sunday on Vacation 1/1-1/15	1	2	3 MORE, 6:15 AM Scouts—7PM Chapel	4	5	6
	Church office Closed					
7 Seekers 8:30 AM Worship 10 AM	8 Grief Group 7PM	9	10 MORE, 6:15 AM Scouts—7PM Chapel	11 WORD PM— Zoom	12 WORD	13
14 Seekers 8:30 AM Worship 10 AM 3-5PM Creativity Circle	15 MLK, JR. Day Office Closed	16 Church Council 7pm *Deadline for Messenger Articles.	17 MORE, 6:15 AM Becky's Class 7PM Scouts—7PM Chapel	18 WORD PM— Zoom	19 WORD	20
21 Seekers 8:30 AM Worship 10 AM Confirmation 3-5PM	22	23	24 MORE, 6:15 AM Becky's Class 7PM Scouts—7PM Chapel	25 Confirmation 5-7:30 PM WOR D PM— Zoom	26 WORD	27
28 Seekers 8:30 AM Worship 10AM Chapel ANNUAL MEETING Confirmation 3-5PM	29	30	31 MORE, 6:15 AM Creativity Circle 1-3PM Becky's Class 7PM Scouts— 7 PM	Indian Dancers—Kennedy North Tues. 5:30—9:30 PM Thur. 7—9PM		
Boy Scouts Wednesdays 7 PM— Chapel during GRIP project	Red Cross Blood Drives 2023 Kennedy Room Wed. 12:30 PM—6:30 PM		Music Rehearsals: Bells: 5:30 PM Sundays Choir: 7:00 PM Sundays.		AA Meetings Mon-Sat, 7 AM (KS) Tues, 10AM; 1 PM (KS) Thurs, 1 PM (KS) Fri., 6:30 PM (KS) Fri., 7:30 PM (Chapel during GRIP) 1st Wed , 7 PM (Parlor) Mon., 7:00 pm (KS Oct-Jan).	

Happy Birthday!



JANUARY BIRTHDAYS/ RUMMAGE

1	Megan Graves Karin Hoyt Teresa Menges Jake Reed Vera Rizzo	13	Donna Seiple
2	Amy Nichols	14	Vincent Forster Tim Hirschfeld
3	Arianna Price	18	Leslie Kern Susan Korte Becky Sunday
4	Amy Daniels Connie Montgomery	19	Olivia Dudash William Easterday Suzanne Feasel Tim Haid
6	Madison Hall	20	Mike Perkins
7	Justin Ward	22	Randy Luikart Pierce Malinowski Lynda Rohr-Howard
8	Angela Hiller Marty Tussing	24	Anna Hodge
9	Matt Hoyt	25	Alice Coburn Hilary Loustauna
10	Jaret Bowzer Becky Carlson Michelle Feasel Erin Lewis Blake Russell Gregg Simpson	26	Isabel Kuck Ethan Leary Evelyn Wirchainski
11	Kay Albright Molly Coburn Ryan Crawford Jessa Haynes Andrew Patterson Erin Risser	28	Sheila Ebersole Amy Green Ashley Lawrence Allison Thornbloom
12	Judy Hoover	29	Kelton Glover Sam Montgomery Richard Termeer
		30	Adam Hiller Dick Toberen

Happy New Year!

It's not too early to be thinking of the upcoming spring rummage sale

which will be held on Saturday, May 4 th . Preparation will begin the

Saturday before so mark your 2024 calendar. Be sure to ask family,

friends and neighbors to remember this date. Please save your mall

shopping bags, paper grocery bags, and even plastic grocery bags for

use at the sale. Also, as you replace clothing, household items, etc.

with Christmas gifts, save those no-longer-wanted items for the

rummage sale. Thanks.

Our rummage sales are ALWAYS the first Saturday of May and the first Saturday of October.

MINISTERS/CHURCH OFFICE HOURS:

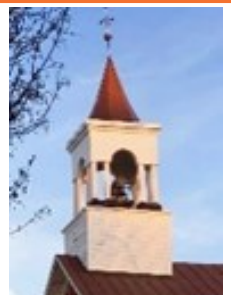
Rev. Bowersock's normal day off is Thursday.

Rev. Sunday's normal day off is Monday.

Church Office Hours:

9 a.m. – 4 p.m. Monday - Thursday.

9 a.m. – 3 p.m. Friday.



VISIT US ONLINE AT
WWW.DUBLINCOMMUNITYCHURCH.ORG



Dublin Community Church

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www.dublincommunitychurch.org

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"We are proudly and officially an Open and Affirming Congregation."

ANNUAL MEETING.

The 111th Annual Meeting of the Dublin Community Church-United Church of Christ will be held Sunday, January 28, 2024. Look for more details to come via email. The purpose of the Annual Meeting is to receive the annual reports of the staff, church officers and committees, approve the budget for the year 2024 and vote upon the report of the Nominating Committee.

