

Dublin Community Church United Church of Christ

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SEE INSIDE

Lisa's Message	. 1
Committee Notes/Second	
Mile	.2
Becky's Message	.3
Moderator Moment	.4
DCCF/DFP	.5
Giving Tree/Annual Meeting	.6
Financials	.7
Deep Griha Update8-	-9
Calendar/Birthdays10-:	11
Christmas Eve Services	12

THE MESSENGER

DECEMBER 2024

Dublin Community Church-United Church of Christ

There's No Place Like Home

As we enter the Advent season and once again prepare our hearts to welcome the Christ Child, it's hard to believe that four years ago we were all "sheltering in place" due to the Covid pandemic, and unable to be physically together for the Advent and Christmas services. Those were trying times, obviously,



on many levels. Here at DCC the staff were tasked with maintaining connections as best we could, and that included providing opportunities to worship virtually. As we did not yet have the capacity to livestream, we were very much "learning as we went" when it came to finding ways to stay connected as a community of faith.

Prior to Covid, the pews here at DCC on Christmas Eve were always completely packed for all three of our services. What a complete joy to be gathered together for these very sacred and celebratory times.

And then, Covid hit.

Christmas of 2020 we were not able to be physically together. The staff put together virtual services complete with a message, music, and scripture, and made it accessible online.

But coming back, then, from Covid, over the last four years, has been a long, slow process. The good news is, we are now able to livestream and record our Sunday morning worship services so that they are available on YouTube. This has been tremendously helpful as it has allowed those who are not physically able to join us on Sunday morning the opportunity to still feel a part of worship.

What we have found, however, now that livestreaming is readily available, is that although our attendance numbers are back up to pre-Covid levels if you combine in-person attendance with online views, the number of people in the pews on any given Sunday is fewer because of the opportunity to worship from home. I realize, again, that for some people, virtual worship is their only option, and we honor and support that. But if you are able to be in worship in person, there is a sense of community present that unfortunately does not translate to virtual worship. I have had many people tell me that DCC feels like "home" to them, and there is little that warms my heart more than that.

And so, I invite you to come "home" this Christmas if you are able. I look forward to seeing you in the pews in the coming weeks, as well as on Christmas Eve.

After all...there's no place like home.

Shalom, Rev. Lisa Bowersock

Creativity Circle

Creativity Circle is a group of women who gather twice a month for the sole purpose of creating knit, crochet, and machine sewn items that are in turn donated to a variety of charities in the Columbus area. Knit and/or crochet blankets are donated to the Van Buren homeless center and/



or the YWCA Family Center. Fleece blankets are hemmed and given to Star House, and a variety of baby items (blankets, hats, bibs, burp cloths) are taken to Gifts for Angels (a charity that provides baby items to mothers with little or no means) Both groups meet in the parlor on the second Sunday of the month from 3-5 p.m. and the last Wednesday of the month from 1-3 p.m. For more information, please contact Cindy Bitter at cbit-ter77@yahoo.com

COMMITTEE NOTES

SECOND MILE: CHOICES

Choices is a service in the central Ohio area providing temporary shelter to victims of do-



mestic violence who have no safe place to go. In addition, they provide a wide range of services such as counseling, support groups, and legal and community advocates to help victims overcome domestic violence.

Please consider giving through the second mile envelopes in the Sanctuary or Scan the QR code below to give directly through VANCO.

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).

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 Office Administrator:
Gregg Dudash, Youth Leader:
Jena Biegler, Mid-High Youth Leader:
Bianca DeMaria, Organist/Accompanist:
Barb Anderson, Interfaith Outreach Facilitator:

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A Special Gift

Did you know there is a gift under the Christmas tree with your name on it? Sometimes it is difficult to see. But it's there. If you look closely you will see that the tag is carefully marked: to YOU, from God. But then you get busy. After all, there are trees to assemble and parties to plan. There are potlucks to attend, porches to decorate, and cookies to bake. Not only do you need



to get all of your last minute shopping done, but all those presents have to be wrapped as well. The house needs to be made ready for company. The list goes on and on... And the gift under the tree waits.

Somewhere in the midst of the hustle and bustle, Christmas itself comes...and goes. And too often we forget about that gift—the one from God. Or when we go to open it, the box looks empty.

The holy seasons of Advent and Christmas are times to focus on our relationship with God. These holy days are meant for us to make room in our hearts for Christ to find a home. We remember that on that first Christmas so long ago, Mary and Joseph struggled to find a place for Jesus to be brought into the world. That struggle is still alive today. Sometimes we get caught up in the trappings of the holidays and forget to make room for Christ to live among us. Sometimes we are hit so hard by the realities of life—our personal struggles or the pain and injustice in the world around us—that it seems impossible to create space for hope, peace, joy, and love.

In many ways our relationship with God through Christ Jesus is like all our other relationships—in order for it to be a healthy relationship both parties have to do their part. We know that God is faithful, but what about us? Perhaps that special gift under the tree looks empty because we forget that we have to put something in the box in order to get something out.

It may sound cliché, but I believe that all God ever wants for Christmas is you, just as you are. So give God your prayers, your fears, your love, your pain, your trust, your doubts, your service, your wonder, yourself. And then, when you open the gift, know that the hope, peace, joy and love are meant for you to take—some for yourself, and some to share with the world that so desperately needs them.

Wishing you all a blessed Advent and a very merry Christmas,

-Rev. Becky



Celebration for Jill DeiCas-Nehls

We will be celebrating the retirement of our Christian Ed. Director, Jill DeiCas-Nehls on Sunday, December 15th during coffee hour immediately following the children's Christmas Pageant! We hope you can join us in thanking her for her many years of dedication to the children's program here at Dublin Community Church.

November Moderator Moment

A few updates from the Nov. council meeting.

Great news, the stewardship team has reached the 2025 pledge goal!! Thank you all for your commitments to DCC-UCC; this would not have been possible without your support and response to the request to complete your annual pledge.



Sometimes, pledge cards are lost. There are many reasons this can occur such as lost in the mail, misplaced during offering collection, etc. This time of year, especially with poinsettias sign ups, pledging, 2nd mile, attendance sheets, etc. there are many opportunities for these to be misplaced. If a stewardship member has reached out to you after you have submitted a pledge, please understand they are doing their due diligence, and kindly let them know you have already pledged. We do try to minimize this from happening, but we are all human and mistakes can happen.

The Chapel renovation is nearing completion while the Kennedy Corridor refresh project will start Dec. 19.

For anyone who has supported coffee hour over the last year, thank you so much for creating this special fellowship time. Please be on the lookout for the 2025 sign up, it will be available in the Narthex in the coming weeks.

Finally, if you are looking for an opportunity to get into the Christmas spirit, the Christmas Caroling event will be Dec. 1 between 3-5

These are only a few highlights of the fantastic work all of our committees are doing to make this a great place to "be".

Thank you for your time!

-Jacob Coburn

Rummage Update:

We are excited to announce the October Rummage Sale brought in \$18,646.83! This could not have been possible without our wonderful volunteers who help with set up, lunches, sorting, tear down and the sale day. We have volunteers that also sell things online for us. We also thank everyone who donated items to the sale. This money helps our church's wider missions through the UCC and our youth programming for their mission work here in Central Ohio and in other states.

Be sure to add Dublin Community Church to Your Holiday Charity Gift List!

Many of us get multiple requests to donate to non-profits during the months of November and December. The trustees of the Dublin Community Church Foundation (DCCF) hope you will prayerfully consider giving a gift to OUR FOUNDATION before the 2024-year ends. Your donations help to increase the number and size of grants we are able to award annually. Gifts to the Foundation can be made in a variety of ways. You can make cash/credit card gifts (credit card payments go through The Columbus Foundation), make gifts by using your RMDs (Required Minimum Distributions), and by designating the DCCF as a life insurance beneficiary, to name a few. Please consider adding the DCC Foundation to your holiday list! Added bonus: A Foundation gift needs no gift-wrapping! (Of course, if you miss the December 31st "deadline," we would be thrilled to have you make a New Year's gift.)

Be sure to indicate that your gift is to go to the DCC FOUNDATION.

Happy Holidays!

The DCC Foundation Trustees

DCC VOLUNTEERS NEEDED IN JANUARY AT DFP

There is an opportunity to volunteer on <u>Thursdays</u> at the Dublin Food Pantry during the month of <u>January</u>. Several other churches have taken other months, and The Pantry is very grateful!

We would need 4 volunteers per <u>Thursday</u> morning (1/9, 1/16, 1/23, and 1/30), the shift would be <u>9 a.m.-1 p.m.</u> You can sign up for one or more Thursdays that you would like to work. You might be serving clients in the aisles, replenishing stock, or working in the kitchen, doing



whatever is needed most that day. There is no need for detailed training ahead of time, there will be experienced volunteers there with you to answer any questions. We will provide you with a Food Pantry t-shirt to wear and a name tag as well. We will have sign ups in the narthex in December, but you can also email Barb Anderson at andersonfamily2214@gmail.com

Giving Tree 2024

We will again have our Giving Tree in the Narthex for advent where we will collect items to benefit Star House and Choices/Faith Mission. Supporting these organizations through Second Mile in November and December is one way to help those in need. Providing items from their wish list is also of great help. Many Creativity Circle members and others have been making hats and scarves. Shopping lists will be available in the Narthex, on the Giving Tree and below. We thank you for your support!

Accepted Star House Donations include:

New and gently used men and women's clothing (for ages 14-24) Brand new underwear, bras and socks **Blankets** Sleeping bags Backpacks, drawstring bags and reusable grocery bags Travel bags and luggage Winter coats Waterproof gloves, scarves and brand new winter hats Brand new hygiene items New hairbrushes, hair ties and combs Feminine hygiene products Flashlights Umbrellas and rain ponchos Reusable water bottles

Accepted Choices Donations include:

New or gently-used women's coats—plus sizes only (we have an excess of smaller sizes)

New women's sweatpants—size large and up

New boys' pants—sizes 10-20

Textured/African American hair products (i.e. the Cantu brand)

Gender-neutral body lotion (full-sized products) Diapers sizes 3-6

* please note that they have a surplus of other items at this time, so these are the only items they can take at this time.

ANNUAL MEETING.



The 112th Annual Meeting of the Dublin Community Church-United Church of Christ will be held Sunday, January 26, 2025. Look for reminders in January. 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 2025 and vote upon the report of the Nominating Committee.

The Worship Committee is still looking for one more member to fill a committee spot. Please let Laura Zuber know if you would like more information about Worship Committee.

Finance Committee Report

Dublin Community Church Financial Summary – through October 31, 2024

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

For the Month

Contributions totaling \$31,719 were unfavorable to plan by \$5,192 or 86% of plan.

Total Operating Revenue totaling \$40,861 were unfavorable to plan by \$7,346 or 85% of plan.

Total Operating Expenses totaling \$46,890 were unfavorable to plan by \$33,753 or 58% of plan.

Net cash flow for the month was *unfavorable* to plan by total expenses exceeding total operating revenue by \$5,946.

Year-to-date

- Contributions of \$344,772 was unfavorable to plan by \$24,338 or 93% of plan
- Total Operating Revenue of \$679,710 was favorable to plan by \$197,640 or 141% of plan

Total Operating Revenue includes a transfer of \$252,241 from the capital reserve for renovation of the Goodwill room

• **Total Operating Expense** of \$1,059,108 was *unfavorable* to plan by \$252,668 or 131% of plan due to costs for renovations and final payment of mortgage

Total Operating Expenses included a payment to pay off the mortgage of \$188,464 as a transfer from capital reserves.

Through Oct. 31, 2024	<u>onth</u>						Year-to-Date									
Revenue		Actual		Plan	Va	r. to Plan	% of Plan		Actual		Plan	Va	r. to Plan	% of Plan	Annual Budget	% of Budget
Contributions - Pledged	\$	22,970	\$	29,583	\$	(6,613)	78%	\$	240,863	\$	295,830	\$	(54,967)	81%	\$ 355,000	68%
Contributions - Pledged Prior Yr.	\$	-	\$	-	\$	-		\$	-	\$	-	\$	-		\$ -	
Contributions - Unpledged	\$	5,251	\$	6,465	\$	(1,214)	81%	\$	64,728	\$	64,650	\$	78	100%	\$ 77,580	83%
Contributions - Prepaid & Other	\$	3,498	\$	863	\$	2,635	0%	\$	39,181	\$	8,630	\$	30,551	454%	\$ 10,358	378%
Sub-total Revenue - Contributions	\$	31,719	\$	36,911	\$	(5,192)	86%	\$	344,772	\$	369,110	\$	(24,338)	93%	\$ 442,938	78%
Other Revenue	\$	9,142	\$	11,296	\$	(2,154)	81%	\$	334,938	\$	112,960	\$	221,978	297%	\$ 135,542	247%
Total Operating Revenue	\$	40,861	\$	48,207	\$	(7,346)	85%	\$	679,710	\$	482,070	\$	197,640	141%	\$ 578,480	117%
Net Cash Flow from Operations		Current Actual	Cu	rrent Plan	Va	r. to Plan	% of Plan	Y	TD Actual	,	YTD Plan	Va	r. to Plan	% of Plan	Annual Budget	% Expended
Total Operating Revenue	\$	40,861	\$	48,207	\$	(7,346)	85%	\$	679,710	\$	482,070	\$	197,640	141%	\$ 578,480	117%
Total Operating Expense	\$	46,890	\$	80,644	\$	33,754	58%	\$	1,059,108	\$	806,440	\$	(252,668)	131%	\$ 967,723	109%
Net Cash Flow fav. / (unfav.)	5	(6.029)	5	(32,437)				5	(379,398)							

Respectfully submitted by the DCC Finance Committee: Brenda Rizzo (Chair); Stefan Niewiesk; and Randy Evans

Pledge questions: As we approach the end of the year, members may have questions about their pledges based on their giving statements. Our bookkeeper, Christine, handles the financials and tracks giving in Church Windows software for our church. If you have questions about your pledges, please contact Christine via email at: christinerees0117@gmail.com.

DEEP GRIHA-Q3 Update



Deep Griha Society

"Empowerment of the marginalised through capacity building and sustainable rural and urban development programmes"

Quarterly Report July to September 2024

Key Advancements/Highlights

As part of the Research Study, Deep Griha was part of a Conference organised with KEM Hospital Diabetes Unit and Weill Cornell Medicine on the "Causes And Consequences of Gestational Diabetes Mellitus (GDM) And Postpartum Diabetes". The conference had around 80 attendees, including clinicians, Ob/Gyns, medical students, and researchers. The topics covered were 'Diagnosis and Management of GDM, Risk Factors for GDM, Consequences of GDM, and Future Directions for Public Health, each session made space for open discussion and questions. Speakers came from all over the country, representatives from ICMR (Indian Council of Medical Research), AIIMS (All India Institute of Medical Sciences), and other reputed institutes came together to share their experience and research findings.

The most relevant discussion for the study was around the limitations faced by the Public Health Department in reaching women. Through the study Community Health Workers(CHWs) have reached out to and home screened over 300 women from low income communities and over a 100 women who tested positive for GDM have been enrolled in the study. Our CHWs were recruited from the communities that they collect data from and have been trained by the team from KEM's Diabetes Unit. It is an incredible privilege to be part of an intervention that supports empowerment of community members to better look after their own community.



DGS - Community Health Workers, KEM - Diabetes Unit and Cornell teams at the conference

Key Challenges faced

General Programme Updates Aadhar Kendra Sponsorship Programme



The new team has been bringing in small changes which has positively impacted interaction with the children. Our numbers are around 230 children with close to 180 sponsors. We are working on bridging this gap to be able to enrol more children.

This quarter saw sessions around adolescent changes for young people to prepare them better for what is to come and to help them understand changes they may be going through. A session for younger children focused on identifying safe/unsafe touch. A

few students attended the India Hub of the Leadership Academy by GGU (Girl's Gearing Up) and they

DEEP GRIHA Q3 Update continued

shared what they had learnt with other students from the Aadhar Kendra programme. These sessions led to very interesting conversations around issues in the community and an individual's role in changing the environment. After a long time we had Sangam volunteers visit and this time they spoke to young women and girls about menstrual hygiene.

Birthday celebrations and other get-togethers continued as usual. We have increased the frequency of group meetings of the field team with children for relationship building and for the children to have a space to talk about where they would like more support.



City of Child

At the time of the report we have 50 students staying at the City of Child 44 students already



enrolled and 6 new admissions in this quarter. This term we conducted a health camp for the children with blood tests to identify children with anaemia primarily but also other nutritional deficiencies and possible health concerns. Lucky Iron Life, Canada donated Iron leaves that are used during cooking to improve the iron content of the meal. The health camp also doubled as a baseline data collection drive to better monitor the changes of the Lucky Iron leaves. 15 children were identified with anaemia and dietary changes were recommended too.

This year the team has initiated Parent meetings at City of Child, the Counsellors are a part of these meetings and conduct awareness sessions too. The purpose of the Counsellor session was to foster trust and engagement with the children. The main objective of the parents' meeting was to provide an update on the children's well-being, academic progress, and overall development at CoC. It also aimed to address any concerns or suggestions from parents and develop more open communication between the CoC team and the parents.





City of Child has been working on funding for a wall as is required legally for a residential facility for young children. During this time we explored alternatives and it was decided to create a bamboo wall instead, and with the help of our CSR partners we had around 150 volunteers plant 330 bamboo saplings, 40 coconut saplings around the borders and about 700 vegetable saplings in the polyhouse. The plants have potential for income generation for the programme as an added benefit.

DECEMBER

1	2	3				
Worship 10AMPageantRehearsalConfirm. 3-5Caroling 3-6	•Grief Group	Newsletter Day GW Room— Preschool Cookies with Santa 3:30—7:30	4 ●MORE, 6:15 AM	•ECSB—GW 7PM •WORD PM	•Family Event Set up—pm lower level •WORD AM	Family Event 8-2 downstairs •B. Rizzo photos Narthex 2pm
Worship 10 AM Costume Fittings/ Pageant Practice Kiwanis 1-4:30 3-5 Confirmation Creativity Circle. Piano Recital 2pmSanct./ Narthex Blue Christmas 5pm—Chapel	7PM 9	•DCCF Zoom 7pm •Red Cross—GW pm	11 •MORE, 6:15 AM	•10-12 AM Embroiderers WORD PM Pageant set up 6-9 PM	• WORD AM •Excellence Group 12-3PM	•Pageant Rehearsal 10am Sanctuary
Worship 10 AM Pageant Jill's Retirement Coffee Hour Youth Group 5:30—7:30 PM	Work begins on Kennedy Room Project through the month of February.	•Church Council 7PM •Messenger Articles Due	•MORE, 6:15 AM	19	20	• SMMF 8—9:30 AM
22 •Worship 10 AM	23	24 Christmas Eve Services	25 DCC Offices C	26 Closed	27	28
		4:30 pm Children's Service 8:30 pm Traditional Service 11:00 Chapel Service. Red Cross—GW 9am—2pm				
•Worship 10 AM	30	•Red Cross 9-2— GW DCC Offices Classics	12/25- Lisa d	on vacation —1/3 on vacation 5—1/2		AA Meetings Mon-Sat, 7 AM (KS) Mon, 6:30 PM (KS) es, 10AM; 1 PM (KS) Thurs, 1 PM (KS) Fri., 6:30 PM (KS) Fri., 7:30 PM (GW)
Boy Scouts We	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	* 2nd and	Red Cross Blo 4th Tuesdays i	_	III Poom	(277)

North: Tues. 5:30—9:30 PM

<u>Choir Practice</u> is at 7pm on Sundays in the Sanctuary. Handbell Practices are on preschedule scheduled Sundays at 5:30 pm in the Sanctuary.



			Ryan Shannon
			Kent Weakley
1	Anastasia Gray		Jack Weber
	Emily Weakley	17	Mary Kalix
3	Randy Evans	18	Elise Bryant
4	Caitlin Menges		Christina Clayton
5	Corwyn Schmidt		Gregg Dudash
6	Susan Carroll		Mallory Montgomery
	Lauren Ruddy		Jean Philemond
7	Quinn Miller	19	Judy Kuck
	Lee North	20	Kyle Ruddy
	Fran Shonkwiler		Bobbie Termeer
8	Graham Mallott	21	Rod Mishler
	Pierce McCullough	22	Clint Bowersock
9	Chris Easterday	23	Stephanie Reed
	Chloe Goodman	24	Dianne O'Brien
10	Mollie Anderson		Jodie Hall-Schmidt
	Joel Campbell	25	Christian Kalix
	Annabel Hoyt		Lucas McGuire
11	Patty Graves	26	John Orr
	Justin Grosso	27	Breanne Rizzo-Antonsen
	Marilyn Termeer	30	Lydia Hoyt
12	Elise Ebersole	31	Kristoffer Gimenez
	Brendan Miller		

YOUTH GROUP MEEETING: We will be having our Annual Youth Group Christmas Party Meeting. This is open to all youth in grades 6 through 12.

When: Sunday, December 15, 2024

Time: 5:30 to 7:30

Dinner will be served and we will play Christmas games and music. Please bring a new (\$10.00 and under) or gently used item from home for our White Elephant gift exchange.

Please bring your friends to this get together. We will also, have time for those youth that do not have a block picked out in the youth room they can decorate one.

Thanks and please let me know if your son/daughter and any friends are coming. I would like to let the Sugar's know how many to prepare for. If you come last minute we will definitely have enough (we always do).

Thanks and Peace Be With You!

- Gregg

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Time to Celebrate

Why not recognize that special person or couple with a gift to honor their legacy? A gift to Dublin Community Church Foundation (DCCF) to celebrate a special birthday or congratulate friends or parents on their anniversary is the perfect way to give a gift that will keep on giving! Simply write a check payable to the DCCF, add "celebration gift" in the memo line, and drop it in the collection plate.



MINISTERS/CHURCH OFFICE HOURS:

Rev. Bowersock's normal day off is <u>Thursday</u>.

Rev. Sunday's normal day off is <u>Monday</u>.

Church Office Hours:

9 a.m. – 4 p.m. Monday - Thursday. 9 a.m. – 3 p.m. Friday.

Laura's days off are Saturday and Sunday. Please leave her a note in the notepad on her desk on Sundays and she'll get back with you during office hours.



VISIT US ONLINE AT WWW.DUBLINCOMMUNITYCHURCH.

Mary Kate Patterson

Candace Kennedy

Jack Carlson

Julie Homon

Ryan Anderson



Dublin Community Church

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