



THE MESSENGER

JANUARY 2025

Dublin Community Church—United Church of Christ

Come, See, Be Engaged, and Surprised!



I regularly receive emails from the Heartland Conference of the United Church of Christ with information and opportunities offered by the conference. One such email caught my eye in recent months. The email was promoting the "Second Annual Pilgrimage to the U.S. Southern Border" and included in the promotion were the words, "Come, see, be engaged, and surprised! Let the narrative of fear be replaced by relationships empowered with love."

As the situation on the U.S. southern border has been a topic of much debate, especially during the most recent presidential election, I immediately felt a pull to pursue more knowledge and understanding. I have since signed up to travel with several UCC colleagues on this pilgrimage which will take place January 13-19, 2025. Below is some of what the promotional materials say about the trip:

This pilgrimage into our southern "borderlands" will actively engage us with Indigenous peoples, Hispanic communities, multicultural communities of migrants seeking to enter our country, and other brown-skinned peoples already assimilated, working and thriving in the region. We know that when we come together sharing time, compassion, hope, and stories, the barriers that divide us are broken down and God's Spirit of understanding and extravagant hospitality is alive among us. Encountering strangers face-to-face, walking in solidarity with one another seeing 'in technicolor' reality, helps us to envision new ways to initiate God's "beloved community" throughout the world.

On this spiritual pilgrimage you will:

Have time to interact with and come to know people of God in the borderlands.

Be invited to think in new ways.

Catch visions of extraordinary grace.

Engage experiences that will take you beyond your imagination.

Share excitement, compassion, the pain of injustice, and lament.

What I ask from each of you as I embark on what I'm sure will prove to be a very transformative and eye-opening experience are your daily prayers. Please keep me in your thoughts as I travel. And I will look forward to sharing much about what I learn with all of you on my return. And when I do so, I invite each of you to also, "come, see, be engaged, and surprised."

Shalom, Rev. Lisa Bowersock

Dublin Community Church
United Church of Christ

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Facebook:
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United Church of Christ:
www.ucc.org

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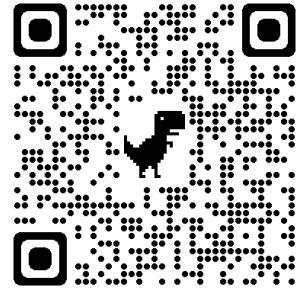
COMMITTEE NOTES

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.

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



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 cbitter77@yahoo.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).

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:
Erin Miller, C.E. Director:
Nancy Luikart, Music Director:
Laura Zuber, Church Office Administrator:
Gregg Dudash, Youth Leader:
Bianca DeMaria, Organist/Accompanist:
Barb Anderson, Interfaith Outreach Facilitator:

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TRAVELING BY 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)

In the opening credits of the 1940 classic animated film *Pinocchio*, Jiminy Cricket sings the song that has become a Disney signature. The lyrics promise, "When you wish upon a star, makes no difference who you are, anything your heart desires will come to you." If only it were that easy. We all know that wishing doesn't magically make things turn out alright, no matter how many stars we see. It doesn't matter whether it's the first star we see at night, or the brightest, whether it is falling or fixed firmly in place.

If wishing on stars brought about all our hearts' desires, there would be a lot fewer tears cried in the world. Likewise, if prayers were always granted in proportion to the fervor with which they are spoken, there would be much less pain and grief among God's people. But that isn't the way faith works. It isn't the way God works. God isn't a fairy godmother, ready to make all our dreams come true. God isn't a genie in a bottle, there to grant our wishes on demand. God isn't some heavenly Santa Claus, bringing us the things we want if we have been "good enough" this year.

And yet, every year at Epiphany we hear about the magi who saw the star and trusted in its promise of the coming Christ. But the hope of the magi was more than just wishing. They weren't expecting something to just happen to them. Instead, they understood that discovering the truth of the promise required a journey. The road that carried them from their homes far in the East to the place where they found the Christ-child could not have been an easy one. It would have been tiring, winding, arduous, long, and dangerous. They traveled by starlight, night after night, and when they came to their destination, they gave thanks for the Holy Presence, and continued traveling on yet another road, just as tiring, winding, arduous, long, and dangerous as the first.

Every year, we are called to trust to the same hope, knowing that when we find Christ by the light of the star, it does not mean that we have come to the end of our difficult journey, but rather that we will be assured that no matter where the road takes us, the Holy One walks with us, and we are not alone.

For the last few years, I have invited the people of Dublin Community Church to embrace the tradition of receiving a "Star Word." 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. 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.

Star Words will be available in the narthex after worship on Sunday, January 5 and in the church office throughout the rest of the month. As you travel with your word, I invite you to be open to where it might lead you. I pray your star will guide you closer to Christ as the days unfold throughout 2025. May Christ's light shine ever brighter in and through you.

Peace and blessings,
Rev. Becky



December Moderator Moment

A few updates from the Dec. council meeting.

As the 2024 year nears an end, we are making great progress in filling the committee positions for 2025. If you are interested in volunteering for a committee, please reach out to Rev. Lisa or Rev. Becky



The new piano, purchased with the donation from the McAdow family in honor of Carol, has been delivered and sounds amazing. Come to the Christmas Eve 11:00pm service to hear the new sound!

The Kennedy Corridor work has begun. The doors near the pre-school will be temporarily closed until Jan. 6 as there is scaffolding in the stairwell for the ceiling replacement. Additionally, the men's restroom near the Kennedy rooms will not be accessible until the completion of this project. Please make use of the family restroom in the main hallway or the men's restroom near the nursery.

The 2025 annual meeting will be Sunday January 26th, immediately following the service. Please plan on attending in person if you are able!

Finally, a very merry Christmas to all of you!

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

WOMEN'S RETREAT 2025

The women's retreat is scheduled for 2/28-3/2, 2025! Please plan to join us at a new location, Hope Wood Pines 2790 State Route 61, Marengo, OH 43334 pines@hopewoodoutdoors.org. This center is part of church camps through the Lutheran Church. Lisa and I visited this beautiful retreat center and are very excited for you to see it as well! It's only about 45 minutes from Dublin, so even closer than Temple Hills. Here are some details about the specific building we will be in:

Priebe Retreat Center sleeps 20 people in 10 rooms; each room has two twin beds. There is a shared restroom in each wing. Priebe has a kitchenette with coffee pot, refrigerator, sink, and microwave. The patio and picnic tables nestled among the trees is popular during summer and fall. The living room has soft seating; conference tables and chairs can be added to accommodate your meeting itinerary.

We will walk a short, level distance to the dining facility where we will have our 3 meals Saturday and breakfast on Sunday. We will likely take sandwiches to eat when we carpool and arrive there early Friday evening.

Total cost for the weekend, 2 nights, 4 meals and wonderful fellowship is \$128 per person. If this is a difficulty for anyone, please let me, Lisa or Becky know, and we will confidentially arrange for you to attend. We'd love to have a full cabin of 20 of us attending, so please make plans now and let me know that you can attend. Lisa and Becky will be providing some structured time for us and will let us know more about that as time gets closer.

Let me know if you have any questions at all! andersonfamily2214@gmail.com 614-783-7998

Finance Committee Report/DCCF News

Dublin Community Church Financial Summary – through November 30, 2024

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

Contributions totaling \$42,750 were *favorable* to plan by \$5,839 or 116% of plan.

Total Operating Revenue totaling \$342,132 were *favorable* to plan by \$275,925 due to a transfer from Council Contingency Fund of \$281,312 for renovations.

Total Operating Expenses totaling \$53,227 were *unfavorable* to plan by \$27,417 or 66% of plan.

Net cash flow for the month was *unfavorable* to plan by total expenses exceeding total operating revenue by \$32,437.

Year-to-date

- Contributions of \$387,523** were *unfavorable* to plan by \$18,498 or 95% of plan

- Total Operating Revenue** of \$1,003,843 was *favorable* to plan by **\$473,566** or **189%** of plan

Total Operating Revenue includes a transfer of \$252,241 from the capital reserve for renovation of the Goodwill room and a transfer from Council Contingency Fund of \$281,312 for renovations.

- Total Operating Expense** of \$ 1,112,335 was *unfavorable* to plan by **\$225,251** or **125%** 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 Nov. 30, 2024	Month				Year-to-Date				Annual Budget	% of Budget
	Actual	Plan	Var. to Plan	% of Plan	Actual	Plan	Var. to Plan	% of Plan		
Revenue										
Contributions - Pledged	\$ 32,483	\$ 29,583	\$ 2,900	110%	\$ 273,347	\$ 325,413	\$ (52,066)	84%	\$ 355,000	77%
Contributions - Pledged Prior Yr.	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -		\$ -	\$ -	\$ -		\$ -	
Contributions - Unpledged	\$ 5,964	\$ 6,465	\$ (501)	92%	\$ 70,692	\$ 71,115	\$ (423)	99%	\$ 77,580	91%
Contributions - Prepaid & Other	\$ 4,303	\$ 863	\$ 3,440	0%	\$ 43,484	\$ 9,493	\$ 33,991	458%	\$ 10,358	420%
Sub-total Revenue - Contributions	\$ 42,750	\$ 36,911	\$ 5,839	116%	\$ 387,523	\$ 406,021	\$ (18,498)	95%	\$ 442,938	87%
Other Revenue	\$ 281,382	\$ 11,296	\$ 270,086	2491%	\$ 616,320	\$ 124,256	\$ 492,064	496%	\$ 135,542	455%
Total Operating Revenue	\$ 324,132	\$ 48,207	\$ 275,925	672%	\$ 1,003,843	\$ 530,277	\$ 473,566	189%	\$ 578,480	174%

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
Total Operating Revenue	\$ 324,132	\$ 48,207	\$ 275,925	672%	\$ 1,003,843	\$ 530,277	\$ 473,566	189%	\$ 578,480
Total Operating Expense	\$ 53,227	\$ 80,644	\$ 27,417	66%	\$ 1,112,335	\$ 887,084	\$ (225,251)	125%	\$ 967,723
Net Cash Flow fav. / (unfav.)	\$ 270,905	\$ (32,437)			\$ (108,492)				

A New Year and An Old Promise!

Happy New Year! The Dublin Community Church Foundation (DCCF) Trustees PROMISE to continue to do our best to be good stewards of your Foundation donations. We invite you to support our efforts with both living (right now) and legacy (from your estate) contributions. You can make cash/credit card donations or you can designate the DCC FOUNDATION as an insurance policy beneficiary OR as a recipient of your RMDs (Required Minimum Distributions). Our goal is to be able to award more and more grants with bigger and bigger values each year. These grants must support the overall missions of our church.

You are invited to begin thinking about ways you might be able to use a grant so that when the amounts and numbers of grants are announced during the Foundation's March 17th Anniversary, you will be able to immediately submit your grant request application. Details will be forthcoming as the day draws near. For now, get those wheels turning and think of ways a DCCF grant might enhance your committee's aspirations. Contact a DCCF Trustee with questions.

This quarter we initiated vocational and life skill activities in order to better prepare the young children for life after City of Child. Whether it is electric work with Santosh or sewing and cooking with Suvarna. The idea is for the children to be better equipped for everyday life.



Children helping in the kitchen



Learning to repair their clothes

Agriculture



This quarter saw the harvest of Bajri (pearl millet) what City of Child uses will be set aside and the rest will be sold in the market. The tur (pigeon pea/red gram) continues to grow well. The polyhouse has about 700 vegetable seedlings growing. We also prepared for wheat sowing.

Tur (pigeon pea/red gram)

Deep Griha Academy

Due to ongoing challenges with Government approvals, the numbers at school continue to suffer. We are making progress on the approvals and hope to have resolution in time for the next academic year. Through the challenges, DGA continues to focus on Sustainable Development Goal 4 (SDG 4) and aims to ensure that the school community has access to quality education and lifelong learning opportunities. DGA ensures their students have access to quality education, and through community outreach initiatives the teachers reach out to students from local schools, ones without the resources available to DGA, with language enrichment and computer classes. DGA also ensures that the teachers have access to continuous learning as they facilitate learning in the classrooms. This year DGA has organised Parental workshops in an effort to help parents support their child's growth and learning at home. DGA in effect is creating a space for learning, not just for the students but for everyone connected to the school.

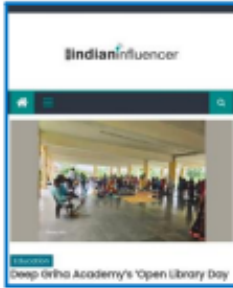


Parental workshop



Interactive Science models

Through corporate sponsorship the Science Lab was set up with interactive science models to engage students with activity to enhance learning. The teachers were trained on how to use the models in their classes.



DGA organised an Open Library Day where we opened up our library to schools in the area, parents, grandparents of the students, in a bid to encourage reading among all age groups. This event had 300 participants in person at school as well as online. It was fabulous to see grandparents reading with their grandchildren, adults and children enjoying stories together. Students from other schools in the vicinity had wonderful things to say about the event, they were thrilled to see the wide variety of books available and were surprised by the warm and respectful welcome at DGA. We made it to an online English news portal for this event, a first!

'Run to Learn' a mini run was organised to highlight SDG4, to encourage children to work their body as well as their mind. 92 participants from different schools, and institutes participated with support from traffic police, a hospital for an ambulance, and local vendors. The event succeeded in not just bringing the community together but also helping students appreciate a host of services in place to ensure their safety and ease as they move around in the world.



The India Hub of the GGU (Girl Gearing Up) Leadership Academy was led by Deep Griha and had girls from DGA, Aadhar Kendra Sponsorship Programme as well as an NGO from Mumbai represented. Another incredible experience for the young girls.

This Quarter saw the beginning of Applied Theatre sessions at school for Grades 4 and 5. The sessions seek to enhance: communications skills through expression, content improvisation for creativity, and to understand team work better.

DGA continues to strive for the holistic development of the children with access to academics, sports, music, theatre, dance, agriculture, vocational training and to create space to better understand their roles and responsibilities as part of society.

Healthy Ageing

The Senior Citizen Programme is focused on helping participants get their documentation in order to access various Government services. The ongoing activities have continued through the quarter, here is a snapshot of numbers reached:

- | | |
|----------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 1. Total elderly – 4,366 | Total elderly at the camp – 395 |
| 2. Total Home visit - 10,384 | Total eye surgery – 44 |
| 3. Total Community Meetings - 87 | 7. Total Social Security Scheme |
| 4. Total attendees – 1868 | benefits - 563 |
| 5. Total OPD– 60 | |
| 6. Total eye checkup camps – 12 | |

Apart from health services provided, we continue to ensure Dance and Movement therapy sessions continue, as do other recreational activities. In this quarter the ladies came together to celebrate the Nagpanchami festival with henna and some dancing together, always great for general well being of our Ajjis and Ajobas (Grandfathers and Grandmothers)



JANUARY

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	
<p>AA Meetings Mon-Sat, 7 AM (KS) Mon, 6:30 PM (KS) Tues, 10AM; 1 PM (KS) Thurs, 1 PM (KS) Fri., 6:30 PM (KS) Fri., 7:30 PM (GW)</p>		<p><i>* All upstairs meetings will move to the west part of the Goodwill Room during Kennedy Renovations.</i></p>	<p>1 DCC OFFICE CLOSED HAPPY NEW YEAR! MORE, 6:15 AM</p>	<p>2 ECSB—GW 7PM</p>	<p>3 SMMF 8—9:30 AM</p>	<p>4</p>	
<p>5 Worship 10 AM</p>	<p>6 Grief Group 7PM</p>	<p>7 Growth and Rolls 7PM Parlor</p>	<p>8 MORE, 6:15 AM</p>	<p>9 10-12 AM Embroiderers WORD PM</p>	<p>10 WORD AM Excellence Group 12-3PM</p>	<p>11</p>	
<p>12 Worship 10 AM *Take down greens Creativity Circle 3-5 PM—parlor 3-5PM Confirmation</p>	<p>13</p>	<p>14 Red Cross—GW pm DCCF Zoom 7pm</p>	<p>15 MORE, 6:15 AM</p>	<p>16</p>	<p>17 SMMF 8—9:30 AM</p>	<p>18</p>	
<p>19 Worship 10 AM</p>	<p>20</p>	<p>21 Church Council 7PM</p>	<p>22 MORE, 6:15 AM Messenger Articles Due</p>	<p>23</p>	<p>24</p>	<p>25</p>	
<p>26 Worship 10 AM ANNUAL MEETING</p>	<p>27</p>	<p>28 Red Cross—GW PM</p>	<p>29 MORE, 6:15 AM Creat. Circle 1-3 PM—parlor</p>	<p>30</p>	<p>31 * Lisa will be gone on a UCC trip to the Border 1/13 – 1/19.</p>		
<p>Boy Scouts Wednesdays 7 PM— Goodwill Room</p>		<p>Red Cross Blood Drives * 2nd and 4th Tuesdays in the Goodwill Room</p>					
<p>Indian Dancers—Narthex or GW Room Tues. 5:30—9:30 PM</p>		<p>Choir Practice is at 7pm on Sundays in the Sanctuary. Handbell Practices are on preschedule scheduled Sundays at 5:30 pm in the Sanctuary.</p>					

Happy Birthday!



- 1 Megan Graves
Karin Hoyt
Teresa Menges
Jake Reed
Vera Rizzo
- 2 Amy Nichols
- 3 Arianna Price
- 4 Amy Daniels
Connie Montgomery
- 6 Madison Hall
- 7 Justin Ward
- 8 Angela Hiller
Marty Tussing
- 9 Matt Hoyt
- 10 Jaret Bowzer
Becky Carlson
Michelle Feasel
Erin Lewis
Blake Russell
Gregg Simpson
- 11 Kay Albright
Molly Coburn
Ryan Crawford
Jessa Haynes
Andrew Patterson
- 12 Judy Hoover

- 13 Donna Seiple
- 14 Vincent Forster
Tim Hirschfeld
- 18 Leslie Kern
Susan Korte
Becky Sunday
- 19 Olivia Dudash
William Easterday
Suzanne Feasel
Tim Haid
- 20 Mike Perkins
- 22 Randy Luikart
Pierce Malinowski
Lynda Rohr-Howard
- 24 Anna Hodge
- 25 Alice Coburn
Hilary Loustauna
- 26 Isabel Kuck
Ethan Leary
Evelyn Wirchainski
- 28 Sheila Ebersole
Amy Green
Ashley Lawrence
Allison Thornbloom
- 29 Kelton Glover
Sam Montgomery
Richard Termeer
- 30 Adam Hiller
Dick Toberen
Terry Moore

JANUARY 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:

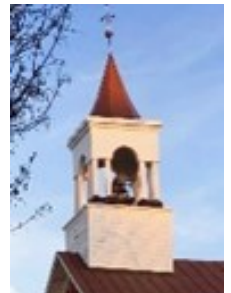
Rev. Bowersock's normal day off is Thursday.

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.

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.



Thank you for your generous giving!

Thanks to your generous spirits, the five families we supported through One Dublin and one of our own church families will have a Merry Christmas. Your donations and the gift cards from WORD are greatly appreciated.

We also are so thankful for those that donated gift cards to help the ministers support the many calls and visits we have during the year from people who just need a little extra help to get by during tough situations that life can present. We all know that life can sometimes present challenges and not everyone has a support system to lean on.



VISIT US ONLINE AT
WWW.DUBLINCOMMUNITYCHURCH.ORG



Dublin Community Church

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“We are proudly and officially an Open and Affirming Congregation.”

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.

WORD WINTER/SPRING 2025

Our 2 Women of Religious Diversity groups (WORD) will begin a new book beginning in January, 2025, and we invite you to join us! The book is titled Field Notes for the Wilderness, Practices for an Evolving Faith, by Sarah Bessey.

The books have been ordered and are \$20 each, check made payable to Dublin Community Church.

We will begin on Thursday, January 9th, 7-8:30 p.m. with our zoom session and on Friday, January 10th, 9:15-11:15 a.m. in person. This schedule will continue each week with zoom only on Thursdays and in-person only on Fridays. As usual, we will stay on the same schedule of discussion with both groups, so you can go back and forth between groups if you need to.

If you're new to our group, you will be welcomed warmly! Just let me know so that I can add you to our email list for updates, etc.

andersonfamily2214@gmail.com, 614-783-7998