



THE MESSENGER

FEBRUARY 2026

Dublin Community Church—United Church of Christ

“To Everything There is a Season”

I am writing this month’s Messenger article while hibernating at home, awaiting the arrival of the winter storm that has been described as a “once-in-a-decade event.” I bought groceries, gathered candles and flashlights, and hunkered down with my cat, Andy, as the snow began to fall. I am reminded of my late Grandfather Ackerman who used to say, “Take ‘er as she comes.” In other words, we weather many storms throughout our lives, and the best we can do is all we can do.



Next month, March 13, marks the 10-year anniversary of my husband, Mike’s, death. In many ways his death seems like yesterday – until I start to list everything that has transpired over the last 10 years. When Mike died, Barack Obama was still president. Bridge Park did not exist. Mike missed the worldwide Covid pandemic, he missed the high school graduations of two of our four children, and he missed my seminary graduation and ordination. One of our sons is now a full-time musician in Nashville, another has won awards for his filmmaking, two of our children own homes, and our daughter has fostered hundreds of animals. It’s mind-boggling to think of all the moves and job changes and travel that have happened in 10 years. Mike has missed much.

As I reflect on life without Mike, however, I am also grateful for many things. I am grateful for the 30 years of marriage that Mike and I shared as we raised our children. Those truly were the best years of our lives. I am grateful for the ways in which my children have continued to take care of each other and take care of me. I’m grateful for the family traditions we have maintained, for the precious memories my kids and I continue to share, and for the new memories we are making. And I will be forever grateful for the support and love of Dublin Community Church which has been my church home for more than 20 years. It has been one of the greatest privileges of my life to serve among you.

As I look to my retirement and the end of my tenure as Senior Minister at Dublin Community Church, I have very mixed emotions. Retirement, without Mike, looks completely different than I ever imagined it would look. There is much I will need to figure out as I enter this new season of my life. But I hold onto the words of Ecclesiastes, “To everything there is a season.” And I hold onto the words of my dear Grandpa Ackerman who always said, “Take ‘er as she comes.” Wise words, indeed.

- Shalom, Rev. Lisa Bowersock

Dublin Community Church
United Church of Christ

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Dublin, Ohio 43017

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Website:
www.dccucc.com

Facebook:
www.facebook.com/
dublincommunitychurchucc/

United Church of Christ:
www.ucc.org

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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 11:30 a.m. —1:30 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



SECOND MILE:

Heartland Conference

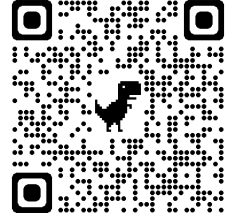
Outdoor Ministries –

provides support for camping experiences in the Heartland Conference.



Summer camp registration is open! There are all types of amazing camps to get Involved with this summer! Visit this link to explore your next summer camp adventure.

<https://heartlanducc.org/storycontinues/>

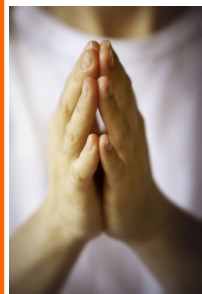


Instant Church Directory



Church Growth and Rolls is asking for your help in keeping the church online directory up to date. Please review your profile to make sure all information is accurate. This is also the perfect time to update your family photo or add one if necessary. We would love to have as many photos in the directory as possible. If you have any problems updating your profile or adding/changing your photo, please send your information to directory.dcc@gmail.com.

P.S. Did you know there is an Instant Church Directory app you can add to your smartphone? It's quick to use and has our church directory at your fingertips. Download from your app store.



PRAYER CHAIN

Our Prayer Chain offers comfort and support in a thoughtful, confidential, manner. If you know of someone's need for prayers or you would like to be added to the group that prays for those who need support, contact our Prayer

Chain through Karen Harget (karenharget@yahoo.com or 614-891-8303).

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:
 Michael Koss, Organist/Accompanist:
 Barb Anderson, Interfaith Outreach Facilitator:

lisaabowersock@gmail.com
revbeckysunday@gmail.com
erinmiller7210@gmail.com
nluikart@icloud.com
dublinuccoffice@gmail.com
dccnpyg@yahoo.com
michaelpkossphd@gmail.com
andersonfamily2214@gmail.com

PUTTING ON OUR JESUS GLASSES



Early in my seminary studies, I remember a class exercise where the professor divided us up into small groups and gave each group a random page from a local newspaper. Our groups were then tasked with considering and discussing each story on the page, reflecting on how it related to a life of faith. The professor told us to read the newspaper through “Jesus glasses,” to look at every story and ask, “What does God have to say about this particular event or information?” How might we understand the stories in light of scripture and tradition? Where did we see God on the page? Some pages told stories of current events—a longtime local shop closing its doors after decades of service to the community. One page had a story about an upcoming election. Another contained police reports. One story had to do with the recent actions of the City Council. There were obituaries and classifieds and everything else you could imagine from the local paper. And we were being asked to somehow see God in all of it. It was an exercise in theological reflection—the process of examining everyday experiences, information, and events through a lens of faith.

Recently, a diverse cross-section of our DCC community gathered for the first of four Intergenerational Disney Movie Nights we will share over the next few months. It was a great evening. Together, we watched one of my favorite films, Disney’s *Encanto*, and spent time reflecting theologically afterward—the kids through crafts and games, and the adults through group discussion. How might the movie be understood in light of our lives of faith? While the film itself isn’t overtly religious, we found themes relating to gifts in the church, rites of initiation, service, sacrifice, crucifixion, and resurrection. After the discussion, one church member pointed out to me that the film’s main protagonist was the sole character who wore glasses, suggesting that she was the only one who could see beyond the surface to truly grasp what was going on.

A life of faith always invites us to look deeper. We are each invited to practice putting on our “Jesus glasses” as we look at the world around us. I believe that when we practice this sort of theological reflection, we inevitably find that God can and does speak to and through every aspect of daily life. There is always more to see if we are really willing to look. We are called to consider what God has to say about our relationships, about what we see in the news, about what we consume, about our interactions in the marketplace, and so much more.

So I invite you to come and practice putting on your “Jesus glasses” for our next three films. We will gather on February 21, March 21, and April 18 for fun films, food, fellowship, and faithful theological reflection. I hope you’ll consider joining us!

Peace and blessings,
Rev. Becky

VISIT US ONLINE AT WWW.DCCUCC.COM

MISSION TRIP 2026

The Sr. High Mission Trip is May 31 through June 6, 2026. We are traveling to St. Louis, Missouri! The trip is open to all youth currently in 8th through 12th grades and their friends. Travel is by passenger van, as this is more cost effective and allows for greater freedom in the evenings to explore the area we will be working and staying in.

Work opportunities for the group are still being developed and will be shared in the future once all are set up. As with previous years, we will have a fun day built into the week as well.

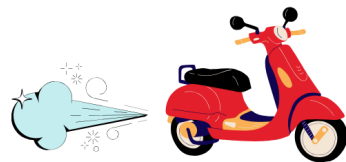
If you have a daughter and/or son and any of their friends who would like to go, please let Gregg Dudash know. The email is dccnpyg@yahoo.com.



MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR FEBRUARY 22nd for YOUTH GROUP BOWLING!



Dublin Community Church
**INTERGENERATIONAL
MOVIE NIGHT**



FREE

MOVIE & PIZZA

**Optional Discussion to Follow
with Crafts and Games for Kids**

R
S
V
P



**Please bring:
Blankets, pillows,
bag chairs, etc.
Your own fillable water
bottle
PJ's are welcome!**

Dublin Community Church | 81 W. Bridge St., Dublin, OH
www.dublincommunitychurch.org

FINANCE REPORT

Finance Committee Report

Dublin Community Church Financial Summary – through December 2025

Financial Update: Revenue ended modestly below Plan at 96% of annual budget while Expenses are slightly unfavorable at 102% of annual budget, respectively. Thank you for your generosity and ongoing support of the Dublin Community Church!

For the Month

- Contributions of \$15,767 were **unfavorable** to plan by \$15,976 (50% of Plan).
- Total Operating Revenue of \$50,503 was slightly **unfavorable** to plan by \$381 (99% of Plan).
- Total Operating Expense of \$65,254 was **unfavorable** to plan by \$14,361 (128% of Plan).
- Net cash flow for the month was **unfavorable** to plan by \$14,742.

Year-to-date

- Contributions of \$459,929 are **unfavorable** to plan by \$24,344 (95% of Plan).
- Total Operating Revenue of \$88,777 is **unfavorable** to plan by \$21,919 (96% of Plan).
- Total Operating Expense of \$624,462 is **unfavorable** to plan by \$13,966 (102% of Plan).

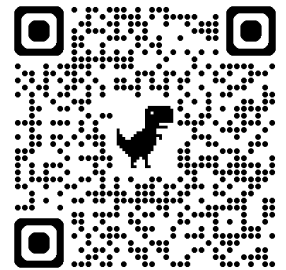
Respectfully submitted by the DCC Finance Committee: Randy Luikart (Chair) and Mark Miller

Through December 2025	Month				Year-to-Date				FY Budget	
	Actual	Plan	Var. to Plan	% of Plan	Actual	Plan	Var. to Plan	% of Plan	Annual Budget	% of Budget
Revenue										
Contributions - Pledged	\$ 15,767	\$ 31,743	\$ (15,976)	50%	\$ 357,231	\$ 380,960	\$ (23,729)	94%	\$ 380,960	94%
Contributions - Pledged Prior Yr.	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -		\$ -	\$ -	\$ -		\$ -	
Contributions - Not Pledged	\$ 20,412	\$ 7,473	\$ 12,939	273%	\$ 70,303	\$ 89,632	\$ (19,329)	78%	\$ 89,632	78%
Contributions - Prepaid & All Other	\$ 2,615	\$ 1,141	\$ 1,474	229%	\$ 32,395	\$ 13,681	\$ 18,714	237%	\$ 13,681	237%
Sub-total Revenue - Contributions	\$ 38,794	\$ 40,357	\$ (1,563)	96%	\$ 459,929	\$ 484,273	\$ (24,344)	95%	\$ 484,273	95%
Other Revenue	\$ 11,709	\$ 10,527	\$ 1,182	111%	\$ 128,848	\$ 126,423	\$ 2,425	102%	\$ 126,423	102%
Total Operating Revenue	\$ 50,503	\$ 50,884	\$ (381)	99%	\$ 588,777	\$ 610,696	\$ (21,919)	96%	\$ 610,696	96%
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	\$ 50,503	\$ 50,884	\$ (381)	99%	\$ 588,777	\$ 610,696	\$ (21,919)	96%	\$ 610,696	96%
Total Operating Expense	\$ 65,254	\$ 50,893	\$ (14,361)	128%	\$ 624,462	\$ 610,496	\$ (13,966)	102%	\$ 610,496	102%
Net Cash Flow fav. / (unfav.)	\$ (14,751)	\$ (9)	\$ (14,742)		\$ (35,685)	\$ 200	\$ (35,885)		\$ 200	

YEARLY VANCO UPDATES



Did you update your pledge for 2026? If you made any changes to your pledge for 2026 and use VANCO, please remember to log in and update your account at the QR Code to the right. If you would like to learn more about using VANCO, you can also click the link and create an account. It's a great way to set up your giving and can be customized to be withdrawn to your liking (weekly, monthly, etc.).



FEBRUARY

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Dublin Robotics Club—GW-West Mondays— 5:30—7:30PM	STAFF WEEKLY WORSHIP PLANNING @11AM – TUESDAYS	Choir Practice is at 7pm on Sundays in the Sanctuary. Handbell Practices are on preschedule scheduled Sundays at 5:30 pm in the Sanctuary. Indian Dancers—GW Room Tues. 5:30—9:30 PM BSA: Wednesday evenings—GW Room			AA Meetings Mon-Sat, 7 AM (KN) Mon. Step Class, 6 :30 PM (KN) Tues, 10AM; 1 PM (KN) Thurs, 1 PM (KN) Fri., 6:30 PM (KN) Fri., 7:30 PM (GW)	
1 SEEKERS 8:30 AM WORSHIP 10 AM	2 GRIEF GROUP 7PM	3	4 MORE 6:15 AM BSA EAGLE SCOUT COURT OF HONOR 7PM	5 7PM FLUTE CHOIR DSB- 7 GW WORD PM— ZOOM	6 WORD AM KAY WAGNER FUNERAL 3:30 PM CONFIRMATION CLASS TRIP TO BETH TIKVAH	7 DCB—HS SOLO COMPETITION 8AM –2PM UPSTAIRS SPACES
8 WORSHIP 10 AM CREATIVITY CIRCLE—11:30 AM CONFIRMATION 2:30—4:45 PM NO CHOIR REHEARSAL	9	10 DCCF ZOOM— 7PM	11 MORE 6:15 AM	12 EGA—10 AM 7PM FLUTE CHOIR WORD PM— ZOOM	13 WORD AM RED CROSS 11:30—5:15	14 ECO SUMMIT 9AM—4PM GOODWILL ROOM
15 SEEKERS 8:30 AM WORSHIP 10 AM NEW MEMBER LUNCHEON 11:30 AM	16 NEW FREEDOM ANNIVERSARY BREAKFAST 7:15 RED CROSS 11:30—5:15	17 CHURCH COUNCIL 7PM MESSENGER ARTICLES DUE	18 MORE 6:15 AM ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE 7PM	19 7PM FLUTE CHOIR WORD PM— ZOOM DSB- 7 GW	20 WORD AM	21 CE MOVIE SERIES 6-8:30 GOODWILL
22 SEEKERS 8:30 AM WORSHIP 10 AM CONFIRMATION 2:30—4:45 PM YOUTH GROUP BOWLING	23	24	25 MORE 6:15 AM CREATIVITY CIRCLE 1-3PM LENTEN STUDY 7PM	26 7PM FLUTE CHOIR WORD PM— ZOOM	27 WORD AM	28 MIKE SMITH MEMORIAL SERVICE 11AM



FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

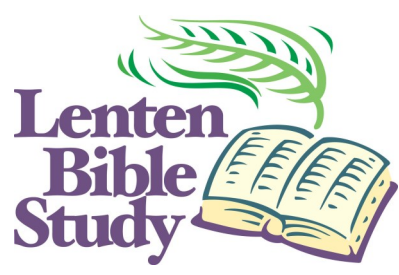


- 1 William Crecelius
- Robert Redfield
- 3 Caela Weber
- 4 Richard Evans
- Dennis Julian
- 5 Sharon Hatton
- Julia Haid
- Jack Hirschfeld
- 7 Janet Whitney
- Nathaniel McCauley
- 8 Elisa Travaglio
- Barbara Travaglio
- Caleb Redenshek
- 9 Claire Allen Culler
- Nicole Young
- 10 Pam Riedel
- 11 Amy LaDu
- Greg Lam
- 12 Bryson Malinowski
- Lennox Louters
- Scarlett Louters
- Web Hatton
- Megan Wintermantel
- 13 Ryan Hodge
- 14 Lindsey Geese Kaufman
- Caroline Kalix
- Alex Ward
- 15 Leona Jones
- Sharon Uber
- 16 Jordan Kerr
- 17 Bob Tussing
- 19 Brenda Olen
- Nancy Chapman
- Evan Ployer
- 21 Doug Martin

- 22 Bruce Rizzo
- James Notestone
- 23 Bill Easterday
- Nate Green
- Emily Rose
- 24 Kathy Blair
- Trace Kaufman
- Catherine Zugaro
- 25 Heidi Baldwin
- Andrea Niewiesk
- 26 Chris Hodge
- Makayla Schofield
- 27 Amy Lane
- Trevor Sell
- Tim Louters
- 28 David Nichols
- 29 Kayleigh Doherty

WEDNESDAY LENTEN STUDY

You are invited to join Rev. Becky on Wednesday evenings during the Lenten season for a study of the Old Testament book of Job. Participants will gather from 7:00pm to 8:30pm on Wednesday evenings beginning February 25 and concluding April 1. All are welcome!



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.

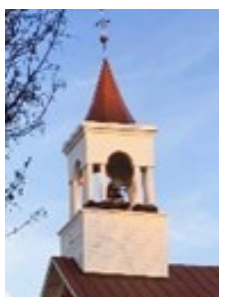
MINISTERS/CHURCH OFFICE HOURS:

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.



Want to receive DCC information?

Send your request to:
dublinuccoffice@gmail.com
You will receive *The Messenger* and important DCC announcements.



Dublin Community Church

81 W. Bridge St.
Dublin, OH 43017
www.dublincommunitychurch.org

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

Women's Retreat 2026

Please join us for this year's Women's Retreat, April 24-26th. All are welcome! We will leave for Camp Christian, less than an hour away, about 5:30 p.m. on Friday, April 24th. We will car-pool from Dublin Community Church and return about noon on Sunday, April 26th.

Cost is \$110 which includes 2 nights stay, 3 meals on Saturday and breakfast on Sunday.

If the cost is an issue, please let me or Rev. Lisa or Rev. Becky know and that will be taken care of confidentially. We do not want the cost to be a barrier for anyone.

Details will be forthcoming, but feel free to let me know now that you'd like to attend. Payment will be due the end of March.

Hope you can join us for a weekend of growth, fellowship, and fun!

Contact Barb Anderson for more info. and to sign up:

andersonfamily2214@gmail.com

614-783-7998