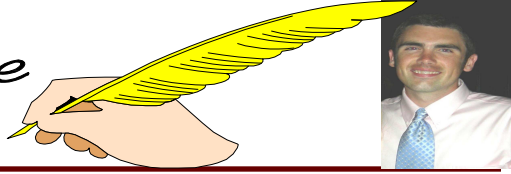


From the Pastor



We've been talking a lot about money lately. So let me give the briefest of stewardship messages:

- Are you grateful for the gift of new life that Jesus has given you by offering you his life? Then give out of gratitude to God.
- Has God given you a heart to serve those in both spiritual and physical need? Then give and share out of compassion for others.
- Do you believe Point Place UCC is or can become a place where the Gospel is coming alive in people's hearts? Then give out of a passion to see people's lives changed, including your own.

I hope gratitude, compassion, and the hope of a life changed by the Spirit are sufficient reasons to give. The more it becomes about other things (like filling a budget), the less we draw on the grace and power of God to move in our lives and the lives of others. In other words, we become less the Body of Christ and more just another human organization looking for money.

Ok, next topic. Throughout our Advent worship services, we'll be looking at some of Isaiah's prophecies, which God spoke through the prophet over 500 years before Jesus came into the world. Isaiah lived and spoke in an in-between time. He looked back to the amazing ways God worked in Israel's past and forward to a time when God would send his Messiah into the world. We find ourselves in a similar place. We look back to the amazing ways God worked in the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus and forward to a time when the Messiah will return. So Advent is a time of celebration of our faith's foundation and a yearning for our faith's completion. But not just for the sake of history or predicting the end of the world. It's more about allowing our lives to be shaped by God in the present. Jesus' coming gives us a glimpse into life in God's Kingdom. The prophecies of his return give us a glimpse into life in God's Kingdom. My prayer for the Advent season is that looking back and looking forward will help us to be a glimpse of life in God's Kingdom right now to the world around us.

Parish Paragraphs

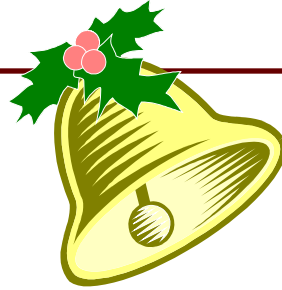
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Weekly Schedule:

- Sun, 9:00am —Church School
- Sun, 10:30am —Worship Service
- Sun, 11:30am—Coffee Hour
- Wed, 8:30am—Bible Study
- Wed, 5:30 pm—Simple Supper
- Wed, 6:15 pm—RECESS Worship
- Thurs, 6pm—Bible Study
- Thurs, 8pm—AA Meeting



ELIZABETHAN NEWS



The November gathering began with greetings and lots of hugs and laughter! Boots Kunckle set a beautiful fall table and baked a deliciously unusual caramel cake for us to enjoy. Along with nuts and ice cream bars our snacking was complete.

Two articles from Country Magazine were selected by Bonny Beebe for her devotional reading. As the meeting was near Halloween, the first article was timely in dealing with ghosts, Vikings and will'o'the wisps titled "Do You Believe?" The other "A Jar Full of Dimes" told the touching story of carrying on family traditions begun by members long passed on. Bonny ended with a prayer titled "Purpose in My Life" by Helen Steiner Rice asking for patience in our daily lives.



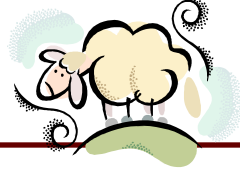
Bonny reported \$283.55 in the Elizabethan General Fund and \$317.93 in the Penny Fund totaling \$601.48. It was decided unanimously to give \$100.00 from the Elizabethan General Fund to the Kids Camp Fund, a most worthy cause. It was also decided to send hand written Christmas Greetings to all our shut-ins. It is still being determined which electric roasters will be best suited for the church's use that the Penny Fund will cover.

The Baked Goods Sale held during our annual Craft Show was successful in raising \$124.00 for the Church's General Fund. This success, of course, was due to the very generous contribution of sale items made by the congregation. Many thanks to all who gave so willingly of their time, cost and effort.



A decision was made to hold our meetings at 7 PM starting December 6th. This is our annual Snack Night get-together, held in Pater-son Hall. Please be there for an enjoyable evening.

FEED MY SHEEP



We passed a big milestone during our October meal – we've served over **500** dinners! Your overwhelming support makes this possible. This is a great measure of the program's success, however, it is also a sobering fact that the need is so great.

In December we will serve hold an Italian dinner of lasagna, spaghetti, fresh garden salad, garlic bread, cookies and beverages on December 27th. from 5 – 7 in Paterson Hall. We are cleaning out our surplus of Italian food items for this meal, so donations requests are fewer, however, food donations should be left at church by Sunday December 26th.

You can be a part of this program by

Volunteering -

- to help set up for the dinner
- to help cook the food
- to serve during dinner
- to help with clean up
- to help with publicity or yard sign placement
- to deliver a meal to a church member's home
- or donating–
- food and supplies
- Cash for purchase of perishables.

We are in need of donations of.....

- -cans of diced tomatoes
- -Bottles of Italian salad dressing
- -cans of grated parmesan cheese
- -baked cookies

Sign-up sheets are available in Paterson Hall if you are interested in volunteering or donating, or you may call Tina Mockbee 419 276 0637 or Lori Winne 734 848 4120 for more information.

CHURCH COUNCIL REPORT

Pastor Jon reminded us that we are finishing up the study of Ephesians and moving into Advent beginning with the last Sunday in November. The first meeting of all boards on one evening occurred in November, which seemed to go well. For the next set of meetings, the groups will be spaced apart a bit more to help everyone be heard within their group. Pastor Jon also shared that he and Lauren enjoyed the first simple supper to get to know members of the church better and is looking forward to the upcoming dinners.



We are quickly approaching Pastor Jon's installation and Bonny Beebe has graciously stepped up to lead a committee to plan that ceremony with input from Pastor Jon. She will also plan the luncheon to follow the installation.

By the time you are reading this, we will have already celebrated Thanksgiving. We hope everyone had a nice Thanksgiving and was able to share some time with family and friends. We will move right into the Advent season with a potluck after church on the last Sunday in November with some nice activities planned to follow the meal.

We can also look forward to a slide presentation showing many of the activities that have our church and congregation have been involved in over the last year before the services on December 5th and 12th. Please remember to fill out your pledge cards and time and talent sheets. You may put them in the offering plate on those two Sundays. When you are filling out the time and talent sheets, please think about serving the church by being a member on one of the boards. The membership committee is reviewing the list to see what board positions will be available. If Leslie Geletzke approaches you about becoming a member of a board, please seriously consider saying yes. If you have a strong interest in a particular board, you might even want to ask her if there is an opening. She will be glad to write in your name.

Respectfully Submitted,

Bonnie Nelson, Church Secretary

MISSION BOARD UPDATE

We continue to collect Christmas gift items during the month of December to be given to area families through Mustard Seed. While gifts for children of any age are always welcome, there is usually a shortage of gifts for the teens and infants. Ideas include infant outfits, games for teens, lotions, hair accessories – be creative! Last day for donations will be December 17. Visit the Giving Tree table in Paterson Hall for more gift ideas.

This month we will also be collecting holiday baking supplies to be donated to Feed Your Neighbor. As you head to the grocery store this holiday season to buy all the ingredients to make cookies, pies, bread, etc., remember to buy an extra pound of flour, or extra sugar, or container of sprinkles to donate to Feed Your Neighbor.

During the month of December, our church will be participating in the last 5 for 5 UCC Mission giving of the year – The Christmas Fund (formerly known as Veterans of the Cross). You have the opportunity to be a part of this ministry that cares for the active and retired clergy and lay employees of the United Church of Christ through your participation in the annual Christmas Fund Offering. Your gift to the Christmas Fund will not only assist pastors, but also provide for the Supplementation of Small Annuities, Supplementation of Health Premiums and provide Emergency Grants to active and retired clergy and lay employees. This Christmas Season, send a Christmas card to your entire church family and donate the cost of what you would have spent on postage to the Christmas Fund Offering! Hang your holiday greeting card on the Christmas tree in the church lounge and place your donation in the envelope designated for the Christmas Fund.

Let's see if we can't cover the tree with many cards!

Ericka Winne



MOMENT WITH THE MODERATOR

Each November I attend the national foreign language conference. It's my professional "shot in the arm". I learn new things, network with colleagues from all over the country, present workshops, go out to dinner (I was in Boston this time – yummy lobster bisque!), listen to well-known national and international speakers, and return home exhausted, but enlightened and enthusiastic about going back to the classroom on Monday morning.

This year I, along with Susan Korecki and Kathy Placzkiewicz, attended the Extraordinary Women's conference in Indianapolis. Again, it was a chance to learn, talk with my friends at more length about topics other than the weather and the kids, enjoy great music, browse the library of faith-filled books, and come away inspired by fantastic speakers.

These two events allowed me to regain some optimism in my life. It was a chance to take a step back and center myself. The events of the fall have been overwhelmingly jammed with changes in my family life, my work, and my role as moderator in our church. But above all, allowing myself time to think, to pray, and to read God's word have been the constants that have kept me on path in the midst of all the chaos. I'm grateful to all who have crossed my path with words of encouragement, a laugh, or a hug. I have felt God's presence through those around me and I am thankful.

My students always say to me on the Monday morning after a conference, "Oh, Frau Winne, we know YOU were at a conference!" because I always bring back some new idea. So I decided to give you a visual of the chaos of my world these last few months. You'll be able to identify with some of this picture, but go to www.wordle.net and create one of these word clouds for yourself! And smile, God loves us all!



I learned this week that the Chinese character for "crisis" is made up of two symbols – danger + opportunity. It is from danger that new opportunities arise. 'Do not fear, for I am with you; do not anxiously look about you, for I am your God. I will strengthen you, surely I will help you, surely I will uphold you with My righteous right hand.' (Isaiah 41:10) As long as I keep God in the center of my world, even when it is chaotic, I will be OK.

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING HELD NOV. 14th



The congregation held its budget meeting after worship service on November 14. Seventy members were in attendance. After explanation and discussion of 2011 budget, it was passed by a majority. Each of the Boards should be commended for working together to reduce amounts requested in the various line items. It was noted again, however, that approximately 85% of the budget is personnel costs.

Now it is time to turn in pledge cards. Some members had already filled out their pledge cards and turned them in immediately after the vote, which is quite encouraging. December 5th and 12th will be the official dedication dates of our pledges.

Secondly, the matter of unrestricted and restricted monies in the Endowment Fund was explained to the congregation. The congregation voted to use some of the unrestricted monies, as needed, to help the 2010 deficit. It is some temporary relief, but increased pledging is really the answer to keeping our community of faith together.

Our commitment to Point Place United Church of Christ also includes our dedication of time and talent. Don't be afraid to turn in this sheet! We DO look at them and gratefully accept your help.

Thanks to all of you who support this house of God with your prayers, your attendance, your participation, and your financial commitment.

HOLIDAY HAPPENINGS



Christmas Caroling Dec. 12th after Church

Everyone is welcome and invited to Christmas Caroling on Dec. 12th following worship.

We will meet downstairs for snacks then divide into groups and carpool to our destinations. What a great chance to spread Christmas cheer and our love and caring. If you have any questions please call Susan Korecki at church or 419-726-0940.

ADOPT A FAMILY FOR CHRISTMAS

Once again, Mustard Seed is looking forward to helping families in our area with Christmas. In these difficult economic times more and more families are in danger of being left out for the Holidays.

You can help prevent this by adopting a family and providing them with gifts and food they otherwise may not have.

Families of all sizes are available. If you are interested in helping out in this way, please call us – 419-727-1800.

Youth Candy Sale Dec. 12th

The Sr. High youth will be selling Homemade Christmas Candy on Dec. 12th during coffee hour. They will be making the candy on Sat. to help raise money for their mission trip to the Appalachian Mountains in June. This is a great time to buy candy for yourself or others for Christmas or the Holiday Season. Thank you for your support. If you have any questions please call Susan Korecki at the church or at home 419-726-0940.





A HUGE "THANK YOU" to everyone who participated in Tent City 2010 this year! On Saturday October 29th, a group of volunteers went downtown to help in the clothing donation tent for several hours. Not only did we sort clothes, shoes, and winter coats, but hopefully provided friendly faces to those walking through the tent to collect the items they needed. It was humbling to see the large number of people in our own city who were downtown that weekend in need of assistance. Thank you to those who gave of your time that weekend: Dick and Evelyn Berkhoudt, Jon and Lauren Komperda, Kathy Placzkiewicz, Donna Serviss, Lori Winne, Alicia Winne, Ericka Winne, Linda Woodall.

Thank you also to everyone who donated clothing items for Tent City. They were much needed and much appreciated!



I would like to thank everyone for all of their prayers, cards, calls and visits during my total hip replacement. My therapy has gone very well and I am finally back to church. I missed you all very much. I loved my prayer shawl and use it every day. I even received a prayer shawl from my daughter's church in Wilmington, North Carolina. I bless each and every one. Thanks so much.

Website, Directory and Newsletter

PPUCC Website....Check it out!!!!

Want to know what's happening at the church? Miss Sunday worship or want to hear the sermon again? Want to check our Parish Paragraphs? Want to double check the calendar and when things are happening? Well we have just the place to answer all of these questions. Go to the Point Place United Church of Christ website at pointplaceucc.org. you will find out what is going on and when, the calendar, Pastor Jon's sermons, the Parish Paragraphs, and other information. Check it out and if you have any questions or other information you would like to include on the calendar or website please contact Pastor Jon or Susan Korecki at the church, home 419-726-0940, or sdkorecki@ameritech.net.



Reminder that next month, we will start emailing Parish Paragraphs.



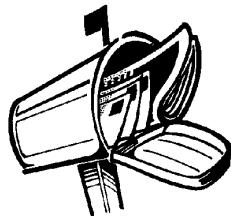
2011 Church Directory Update

Please provide your current information as soon as possible. Directory update cards are available for you to submit. Thank you

Postal Address

Email

Phone/Cell





COFFEE HOUR SERVERS NEEDED

Open dates remain on the coffee hour schedule in Paterson Hall - please take a moment to sign up for a date to sponsor the coffee, tea and optional cookies/baked goods. Make it a family event or join with friends and sponsor together. Many hands make light the work – why not sign up for a date today and fill the calendar in Paterson Hall. Questions – see Tina Mockbee or call 419 276 0637.



WHAT GOES UP MUST COME DOWN!



Please mark your calendars to help the Board of Diaconate remove the Christmas Decorations from the sanctuary and surrounding areas. On January 5th during Recess at 6 pm we will pack up Christmas for another year. Please help us take down the decorations for storage.

DON'T FORGET THOSE ATTENDANCE FORMS...

Remember on Sunday as you are sitting in the pew waiting for service to begin – fill in your name on the attendance sheets in the pew and pass them to your friends and neighbors in the pew also. Helpful info on your updated addresses/emails and visit needs are on the form also.



NEW, Al-Anon Meeting Starts Thursday, December 2, 8:00P.

The Al-Anon Family Groups are a Fellowship of relatives and friends of alcoholics who share their experience, strength and hope.

**POINT PLACE
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST**

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*To care for one another
as God cares for us.*