

January 2023

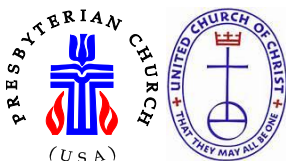
# The Good News

The monthly newsletter of Christ United Church

## Christ United Church

A federated church  
of the Presbyterian Church  
(USA) and the  
United Church of Christ

With Christ  
as our heart  
and God's love  
as our fire,  
we learn, we love,  
we care for all  
people.



## Called To Do This All Year Round

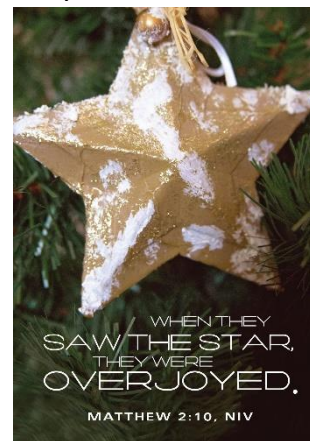
A message from Pastor Janis

As we enter the new year we move into the Season of Epiphany or the actual twelve days of Christmas. On January 6 we will celebrate the day that many believe the Wise People made it to the manger where Jesus was placed. We also reflect back on the second anniversary of the insurrection on the Capital building. The juxtaposition of these two events stand in stark contrast. One we rejoice as people honor the newborn king and celebrate the life of God embodied in our world. The other we weep for the violence and danger of our nation.

Why do I bring both up when we are looking towards the new year in our church? When we are looking forward to the Facilitator and the good that we will accomplish this year ahead? I bring both up because as we see every holiday season we just witnessed coat drives, increased of financial giving, giving of gifts, and other outward signs of giving throughout our communities everywhere we look. What many people forget is that the tired, sick, cold, hungry homeless, aren't around just with us at Christmas. We as the church aren't called to do the hard and holy work of taking care of the least of these one or two times a year. Rather we are called to do this all year round.

We will be doing that this year by having our annual hat and mitten tree put up on the 9th of January which is the closest to Epiphany Sunday. And instead of collecting just hats and mittens, if you have gently worn coats, socks, underwear, etc. bring those in too. For we have people who will still be in need throughout this coming year.

Another way to share love to one another this year is to spend time during the week of Martin Luther King's Birthday to participate in different events during the week. There are a number of activities put on by BW and other churches in the Berea area. It is another part of our Christian walk to learn from those who have gone before, to learn about their lives, and learning how we too might walk in the same ways. I think this Epiphany it would be a blessing to not only add to our Mitten tree, but also to attend one event too see how we might still take care of the least of these today. Go and do likewise. ✚



In Christ,  
Pastor Janis

# Celebrating MLK

Baldwin Wallace's MLK Week activities are detailed at: [MLK WEEK ACTIVITIES](#)

And include:

- Monday, January 16, 9 am, Annual Prayer Breakfast, Mt. Zion Baptist Church
- Wednesday, January 18, 7 pm, Kulas Musical Arts Building, Gamble Auditorium, Keynote Speaker: Dr. Mary Frances Berry
- Thursday, January 19, 12:15 pm, BW Chapel Worship Service, Lindsay Crossman Chapel

## Consultant Meetings Set

We will be holding three very important meetings this winter to help us hear everyone's voice. We hope that everyone will choose to participate in the process and attend all three meetings. This is where all the work and decision-making will occur. Each meeting will be immediately following church with a light lunch and will last until 2 or 2:30 PM. The dates and themes are as follows:

January 15 – Discovering Our Strengths

February 12 – Envisioning Our Future Together

March 12 – Engaging in the Big Questions and Key Decisions

It is important to note that we truly want everyone's input, and we can help make arrangements to come to you. Another important point is that Leslie is not going to come in and tell us what to do, rather she is there to guide us in the process so we as a congregation can discover and chart Christ United Church's future together. †

## Mitten Tree

The Mission Teams are sponsoring the Mitten Tree this year. The program will run From January to February in the Friendship Hall area. When the program is completed, we will deliver the items to Berea Kiwanis organization who will bag the items and place the bags on the Berea Rec. Department fence. There is a great need all winter for these items. The items the Kiwanis organization requested are:

1. Warm, waterproof, cold weather gloves
2. Heavy socks to keep their feet warm

3. Beanie type hats to keep their ears warm

Women, men, and children all sizes needed. Thank you for your support. †

## Thank You for your Grace

We would like to thank the church for the generous grace that has been extended to the Montgomery family. There is never going to be a limit to the gratitude that we feel for our church family. Being called as pastors it is sometimes hard to accept or even ask for grace and love when we are hurting and in need. From the worship staff and Pastor Ogie who stepped up and took over the worship services in the middle of an Advent series and it was beautiful. Thank you to Personal who told us to go and not stress. Thank you for the phone calls, cards, texts, emails and the hugs. Thank you for showing us the love that we needed as we went to spend our moments with grandma and to grieve as we needed to. Thank you for being the loving, gracious, generous church that we are blessed to call our family.

Well done Good and Faithful Servants.  
Janis, Joel, Caleb, Ceilidh, Holly and Highland

## Happy Birthday!

### January

- |    |                  |
|----|------------------|
| 4  | Alec Suehrstedt  |
| 15 | Jeremie Hilberg  |
| 15 | Nancy Wares      |
| 18 | Carol Gardner    |
| 18 | Zack Van Zante   |
| 20 | Georgia Wilson   |
| 25 | Jennifer Malusky |
| 28 | Leah T. Allen    |



# Upcoming Dates

- January 1 – New Year’s Day Worship Service;  
Only live-streamed, no in-person
- January 8 – Epiphany Sunday, Star Service
- January 14 – John Spooner Memorial 2pm;  
Reception following in FH 3pm
- January 15 – Consultant lunch and meeting  
following worship
- February 12 – Consultant lunch and meeting  
following worship
- March 12 – Consultant lunch and meeting  
following worship

# Fellowship and Discuss For January 2023

*The heart of the discerning acquires knowledge, for  
the ears of the wise seek it out.*  
Proverbs 18:15

Fellowship and Discuss will gather to continue a study titled, “JESUS, The God Who Knows Your Name”, authored by Max Lucado. This is a DVD small group study, six session series that will be held at the Crall home on Thursday, January 5th at 7 pm. This month’s study will be the third of the series, “Compassionate Physician”. The purpose of this entire study is: to get to know Jesus. We will come to know Jesus while he walked on this earth and learn what that means for our life today.



Inform Bonnie of your plan to attend so she can arrange the right amount of seating and provide enough printed material: by phone (440-234-2202) or email [bcrall@ameritech.net](mailto:bcrall@ameritech.net). Your Bible is a useful resource when you want to refer to scripture related to each month’s study, be sure to bring it. The Crall’s home is located at 6459 East Vancey Dr., Brook Park (off Sheldon Rd, two streets west of Donte’s Restaurant which is located on the corner of St. Rt. 237 and Sheldon Rd.) ☩



## The Good News

The monthly publication of  
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