

The Messenger

*Building a more diverse and open community
of committed Christian servants.*



The Work of Christmas

by Howard Thurman

*When the star in the sky is gone,
When the Kings and Princes are home,
When the shepherds are back with their flocks,
the work of Christmas begins.*

*To find the lost,
To heal the broken,
To feed the hungry
To release the prisoner,
To teach the nations,
To bring Christ to all,
To make music in the heart.*

Dear Friends,

Wow, thanks for all the ways you make music in the heart!

Thanks to all for the wonderful Christmas at Worthington UMC!! The music, laughter, and greetings are still filling the air with warmth! Truly the cry and presence of the Christ Child is heard/felt in this world through the actions of this congregation. In the February Messenger we will let you know more specifics of ways you reached out, but know your gifts of love, light and hope have been real during this special season.

As this Messenger goes to print, our offering from the 4th Sunday of Advent and Christmas Eve is being counted. We are hopeful that we can end 2017 with all responsibilities cared for and a good foundation for 2018. Thanks to all who have fulfilled 2017 commitments and been able to make a special Christmas gift.

If you are checking your giving list and desire to complete a commitment or make a special gift to the 2017 operations, please remember to do so by Sunday, December 31 - either in person at the 10:00 am Blended Worship Service (or by 1:00 pm) Sunday or electronically by midnight Sunday. If you are mailing in your gift, please make sure it is postmarked on Saturday.

Thank you for your continued support and the way you reach out telling the world Christ is born! It is wonderful to be in ministry with you.
Cyndy

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Join us
Sunday,
December 31
at 10:00 a.m.
For one
blended service!

Wear your pajamas!

Stay after for our
6th annual
cookie sampling
for all
and a piñata for
the children!

The Messenger is published monthly by Worthington United Methodist Church, P.O. Box 307, Worthington, OH 43085 (614-885-5365). **Monday, January 15** is the deadline for the **February Messenger**. To submit your article, drop it off or email it to Jessica Sapp at jessica@worthingtonumc.com.

Parish Concerns and Joys

We express love and sympathy:

- To friends & family of **Walt Bensen**, who died December 2.

We express joy and congratulations:

- To **Nick & Beth Ann**, at the birth of their daughter, **Evelyn Mae**, born December 3. Proud great-grandmother is **Harriet Allen**.
- To **Brent & Lauren Swander**, at the birth of their daughter, **Peyton Ann**, born December 7. Proud great-grandparents are **Ron & Suzanne Kendrick**.
- To **Brynne & Geoff Jacobson**, at the birth of their daughter, **Louise Elizabeth Jackson**, born December 13. Proud grandparents are **Amy & Jim Chapman**.



Elizabeth Circle will be meeting on Monday January 8 at 7:00 p.m. in the Dixon Lounge to work on Valentine Homebound gifts and assemble no-sew fleece blankets for My Very Own Blanket along with a donation of \$10 for the blankets. Contact Margaret Tyler with any questions.

Riverside Sewing Guild will be meeting on January 3, 2018 at Riverside Methodist Hospital from 9:30 a.m. -2:00 p.m.

Dear Church Family,

Thank you for joining with us as we embraced the fruits of the spirit, not only at Christmas but throughout the whole year!



We hope for you a Blessed Christmas Season and a wonderful New Year!!

Nendy

Cyndy

-Your Staff

SAVE THE DATE! THERE IS PLENTY OF TIME TO PLAN. We are now accepting applications for the next Adult Mission Trip. The dates are February 24 – March 3, 2018. We will be staying in Grand Bay, AL, which has been our base of operation for the last few trips. At this time we are not sure what projects we will be working on, but most likely it will be projects at individual's homes where service work is needed. Please join us for a time of fun and fellowship while we are carrying out God's work. This will be our eighteenth trip to Alabama. Some people may wonder why we aren't working around here. That's because it's a lot better working down there in the winter time. We are not going to Florida or Texas because it is at least another day of travel time both ways. I guarantee that you will have a good time and that the food will be great (don't plan to lose any weight). Don't feel that you have to have a lot of skills in order to participate in this trip. We do the best we can with the skills that the members of the team have, and there is always something that everyone can do. The final sign-up date for this trip is January 31, 2018. For more information, contact Russ Line.

Prison Ministries Make A Difference And So Can You!

Horizon Prison Initiative is a volunteer program that uses people like you to transform prisoners who then transform prisons. Volunteers are called Outside Brothers & Sisters. They are volunteers who meet with Horizon participants one night a week from September to June, to talk to inmate participants, listen to them, and serve as a source of inspiration and information.

Volunteers meet with Horizon Prison Initiative participants within the prison facility. Special care is taken so that volunteers and participants are protected. Volunteers undergo background screening, and come from all faith traditions. The volunteers' work is not to convert participants to a specific religion, but rather to show honor, respect, and dignity to each and every human being.

As a volunteer, you could make a difference simply by talking and listening with a participant!

Come learn more about how you could make a difference! Bishop C Joseph Sprague will be at WUMC on Saturday, January 27 to speak about volunteer opportunities and stories, at 10am. Mark your calendars now and plan to join us for an exciting presentation on Horizon Prison Initiative's volunteer opportunities and stories of transformation.

Please enjoy this book report from the "What's the Buzz?" book club.

The next meeting of the "What's the Buzz" reading group will be February 20 at 2:00 p.m. in the Dixon Lounge.

Finding God in a Bag of Groceries by Laura Lapins Willis

Laura Lapins Willis had wondered most of her young adult life if she should enter the ministry. She had felt this calling, but struggled at its appropriateness for her life. Eventually, Laura - married, with two children, and a husband who was a college professor, ended up with a part time job running a small food pantry in Sewanee, Tennessee.

Her spiritual journey and her job grew and merged together – and she eventually discovered that her spiritual calling was to run the ever-growing food pantry – and to minister to the clients using the services.

This book is about feeding our souls, as well as our bodies – one can of food at a time. Laura tells the stories of many of the individuals who participated in the program – and how working with them helped her grow her spiritual life in ways that can speak to all of us.

The time, talent, and gifts of the entire congregation throughout 2017 allowed us to accomplish so much in the service and celebration of God. As of this writing in mid-December, we're still working on year-end financials so look for a further report once that's complete. Thank you so much for the response to calls for further giving in December. In the end, I know we're ending the year on a positive note.

In early December, we reviewed our proposed 2018 Operating Budget with Administrative Council and it was approved with some discussion. We are unfortunately projecting a shortfall of about 5-7% (expenses over income) for 2018 primarily due to higher projected expenses and anticipated commitments that have not yet been made. To be clear, this is a projected deficit to the Operating Fund that provides for things like staffing, routine maintenance of the building, supplies for Sunday School and nursery facilities during service, and in general, "keeping the lights on."

The Finance Committee has confidence that we as a congregation can bridge this gap with the efforts of many. Knowing that we need to address a deficit so early in the year --being proactive now rather than reactive later in the year --is a blessing. So with that, I first ask that, if you plan to give in 2018 and have not communicated that, please reach out to Lynn Ebright at lynn@worthingtonumc.com with your commitment. And, if you're not sure that you've communicated a commitment yet, you can request that as well.

As a committee, we will continue to promote and drive open conversation about congregation finances and educate on how we can provide for each other throughout the year. We are exploring new channels to encourage and elevate Stewardship in the coming year and beyond. Look out for opportunities to help in those efforts and to invest in a congregation that thrives when investing in itself.

Of course if you have any questions, please feel free to reach out. Thanks for your continued support and dedication to each other.

Rob Kidder
rkidder2@columbus.rr.com

Church-wide bowling Sunday, January 21 3:00 p.m.

Contact Ashley Mills for
more information:
ashley@worthingtonumc.com





Save the Date!
District Leadership Training Day

**Saturday, February 3 at Powell UMC,
9:00 am – 12:30 pm**

We will be offering over 20 workshops
so plan now to be there!
Registration will start the first week
in January.

Church-Wide Open House
at Cyndy's
Sunday, January 7
4:00 – 6:00 p.m.

Come, spend time with friends,
make new ones.
Light refreshments will
be available.

Bethlehem on Broad Street – 213 Food Boxes!

Thank you to everyone who filled a food box and to everyone who donated cash, gift cards and extra food to help us exceed our goal of 200 boxes! Special thanks to Wendy Raab and the CPC staff, families and children who completed 25 boxes. Also thanks to everyone who staffed the display table and POD, checked and packed boxes, shopped for food to complete boxes, loaded and delivered boxes, and distributed boxes to needy families during the Christmas party at Broad Street UMC. We were humbled with the generous response from our WUMC family and by the kindness of our volunteers. On behalf of those whose lives were blessed with this food, we thank you for your generosity and caring to help make this outreach ministry a success!

Aura Lee Whittaker

The next Red Cross Blood Drive
is Thursday, January 25
From 1—6 p.m.



Sign up between services on
Sundays, January 7 & 14.

We had ten members join Worthington UMC on Sunday, December 10.

The next New Member Class series begins Jan 14! Mark your calendars now and plan to join us Sunday mornings during the Sunday School time (10:45-11:15am) for the 5-session class Jan 14 through Feb 11. Can't attend all 5 classes? No problem. Indicate the Sundays you will be absent when you register, and we'll be sure to get the corresponding class information to you.

Classes are designed to help you meet other new members, discover ways you can get involved in the life of the church, and become familiar with some of the history and core beliefs of the United Methodist Church. Classes run concurrent with Children's Sunday School and Nursery childcare.

For questions or registration, call the church office (614)885-5365, or email Pastor John Girard, john@worthingtonumc.com



Jerry & Debby Colvin: Jerry & Debby are retired, and enjoy computers, photography, gardening, music, and art.

Jim & Nancy Laughman: Jim is a retired employee of the JCPenney Co. Nancy works as a medical secretary. They are transferring their membership from Rocky River UMC. In their spare time, Jim & Nancy enjoy travelling, reading, cooking, and church.



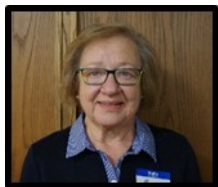
Barbara Nelson: Barbara enjoys music and even teaches piano lessons.



Steve & Deb Rohde: Steve is a retired natural gas pipeline controller. Deb is a retired LPN, who worked in pediatrics. Steve is interested in genealogy, and Deb likes scrapbooking, sewing, and baking.



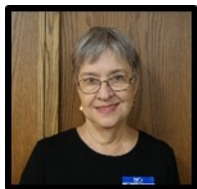
Sue Sims: Sue is a retired teacher. She is transferring membership from First United Methodist in Lancaster. In her spare time, Sue enjoys sewing, food prep, and book groups.



Maureen Uslick: Maureen is married to WUMC member Nathan Hittepole, and is mother to daughter, Elise (age 6). She works as an IT software consultant for Salesforce. In her spare time, Maureen enjoys reading, skiing, travel, and spending time with family.



Bev Wright: Bev is retired, and enjoys art, music, gardening, and speaking to groups.



Worthington United Methodist Church

Some of the Lay Leadership for 2018

*New to position this year
As of January 1, 2018

Complete listing of elected Teams in Office **ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL 2018**

Committee	Chair(s)
Administrative Council	Johann Yang*
Lay Leader	Gari Aber
Board of Trustees	To be elected by Trustees
Altar Guild - Flowers & Paraments & Taize Set -Up Organization	Ann Wheat
Communion Stewards	Sheri and Doug Scott
Endowment	Dick Ollila
Family Ministry Team	Julia Hinten
Finance	Rob Kidder
Financial Stewardship Enhancement	Keith Stimpert and others to be determined
Hospitality Coordinator	Sally Falk and Joree Novotny*
Library	Molly LaBadie
Memorial	Tim Beers
Lay Leadership	Cyndy Garn
Lay Members to Annual Conference	Gari Aber and Ann Wheat
Outreach	Tony Palmer*
Staff/Parish	Bill Kapus*
Creative Play Center Board	Lindsay Duffey
CPC Scholarship Committee	Beth Dudley
Open Hearts	To be determined
Treasurer	Diane Meadows
United Methodist Women	Beth Kellogg
Welcoming and Inviting (Evangelism)	Allison Blankenship
Youth Leadership Council Team	Chris MacFarlane* and Jacob Strous*
At Large Members:	Carol Rachfal and Mary K Walsh

And Staff: Cyndy Garn, John Girard, Ashley Mills, Linda Nolan, Lynn Ebright, and Wendy Raab

BOARD OF TRUSTEES: Alicia Danforth*, Sally Falk*, Jon Edwards*, Paul George, Craig Kramer, Allen Proctor, Duane Snyder*, Lesly Wade,

STAFF/PARISH RELATIONS COMMITTEE: Bill Kapus, chairperson*, Alice Beers, Bruce Gaddis, Marty Jacobs*, Kent Koch*, Mary Stephens, Kelly Wegley and Debbie Wertz*

January 2018 Outreach Calendar

Join us as we "Make a Difference"!

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Bags of Blessings Family Mentor Foundation Buddy Bags	1 NNEMAP Pantry 9 am – noon Worthington Pantry 9 am – 3 pm	2 NNEMAP Pantry 9 am – noon New Life Clothing Room 9 am – 11:30 am	3 NNEMAP 9 – noon New Life 9 – 11:30 Worthington Pantry 2 pm – 8 pm	4	5 NNEMAP Pantry 9 am – noon	6
7 Operation Sandwich New Life Clinic 7 am – 9 am	8 NNEMAP Pantry 9 am – noon Worthington Pantry 9 am – 3 pm	9 NNEMAP Pantry 9 am – noon New Life Clothing Room 9 am – 11:30 am	10 NNEMAP 9 – noon New Life 9 – 11:30 Worthington Pantry 2 pm – 8 pm	11	12 NNEMAP Pantry 9 am – noon	13
14 Operation Sandwich New Life Clinic 7 am – 9 am	15 NNEMAP Pantry 9 am – noon Worthington Pantry 9 am – 3 pm	16 NNEMAP Pantry 9 am – noon New Life Clothing Room 9 am – 11:30 am	17 NNEMAP 9 – noon New Life 9 – 11:30 Worthington Pantry 2 pm – 8 pm Mat Ministry Plann Party 1 – 4 pm	18 Friendship Dinner 5 – 8 pm	19 NNEMAP Pantry 9 am – noon	20 Worthington Pantry 9:30 am -12:30 pm
21 Operation Sandwich New Life Clinic 7 am – 9 am	22 NNEMAP Pantry 9 am – noon Worthington Pantry 9 am – 3 pm	23 NNEMAP Pantry 9 am – noon New Life Clothing Room 9 am – 11:30 am	24 NNEMAP Pantry 9 am – noon New Life 9 – 11:30 Worthington Pantry 2 pm – 8 pm	25 Red Cross Blood Drive 1 – 6 pm	26 NNEMAP Pantry 9 am – noon	27 Worthington Pantry 9:30 am -12:30 pm Gates Fourth UMC Breakfast 8:30-10
28 Operation Sandwich New Life Clinic 7 am – 9 am Bags 12:00-12:30	29 NNEMAP Pantry 9 am – noon Worthington Pantry 9 am – 3 pm	30 NNEMAP Pantry 9 am – noon New Life Clothing Room 9 am – 11:30 am	31 NNEMAP Pantry 9 am – noon New Life 9 – 11:30 Worthington Pantry 2 pm – 8 pm	PROJECT MORE 30 Minutes any Monday - Thursday		

Snow Emergency Sunday Cancellation Policy

In case of an announced Snow Emergency in Franklin County on a Sunday, the Church Service Cancellation Policy is:

Level 1 Snow Emergency –

Sunday Services will continue as planned; please use caution.

Level 2 Snow Emergency –

Only the LAST Sunday Service of the day will be held.

Level 3 Snow Emergency –

All Sunday Services are cancelled.

In the case of **weekday** snow emergency, please contact the church office, at 614-885-5365, or check the church's website.



Sunday Schedule at Worthington UMC
 9:30 a.m. *Worship in the Sanctuary &*
 11:15 a.m. *Emerge Worship, in the Potter Chapel;*
Sunday School at 10:40 a.m. for children, youth & adults
Childcare for infants & toddlers at 9:30 & 11:15 a.m.;
Children's Church at both services
Fellowship Time is 10:30-11:15 a.m. in the Dixon Lounge;
Youth Impact is on Sundays at 6:00 p.m. unless otherwise noted.

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 Office is closed	2 7:15 p.m. – Devotions 7:30 p.m.—Trustees 8:00 p.m.—Sr High Devos	3 9:30 a.m.—Riverside Sewing Guild 7:00 p.m.—Boy Scouts Patrol Leaders Meeting	4 4:30 p.m.—UMW Exec Board 4:30 p.m.— Children's Bells 5:00 p.m.—Children's Choir 7:00 p.m.—Chancel Choir 7:00 p.m.—College Aged Dinner	5 9:00 a.m.—Bulletin Assembly 9:30 a.m.—Alzheimer's Support & Respite Care 11:30 a.m.—Alzheimer's First Friday Meeting 6:00 p.m.—Staff Epiphany Party	6
7 <i>See Sunday Schedule</i> 11:00 a.m.—Jubilee Ringers 4:00 p.m.—Epiphany Open House at Cyndy's 5:30 p.m.—Youth Choir 6:00 p.m.—Impact Epiphany Party	8 10:30 a.m.—Prayer Group 6:00 p.m.—Emerge Planning 7:00 p.m.—SPRC 7:00 p.m.—Boy Scouts Troop 365 7:00 p.m.— Elizabeth Circle 7:00 p.m.—CPC Board Meeting	9 9:30 a.m.—Ruth Circle 6:00 p.m.—Worthington Cotillion 7:00 p.m.—Welcoming & Inviting 8:00 p.m.—Sr High Devos	10 7:30 p.m.—Taize Worship Service	11 10:00 a.m.—CANDO Board Meeting 4:30 p.m.— Children's Bells 5:00 p.m.—Children's Choir 7:00 p.m.—Chancel Choir 7:00 p.m.—Martha Crafting Circle	12 9:00 a.m.—Bulletin Assembly 6:30 p.m.— WUMC Singles	13 7:30 a.m.—Men's Breakfast
14 <i>See Sunday Schedule</i> 11:00 a.m.—Jubilee Ringers 5:30 p.m.—Youth Choir	15 Office Closed 11:00 a.m.—Martin Luther King, Jr. Day Celebration 7:00 p.m.—Boy Scouts Troop 365	16 1:00 p.m.— Immunization Clinic 6:00 p.m.—Worthington Cotillion 7:00 p.m.—Finance Committee 8:00 p.m.—Sr High Devos	17 1:00 p.m.— PLARN Party 6:30 p.m.—CPC Info Session 7:00 p.m.—Boy Scout Summer Camp Meeting	18 4:30 p.m.— Children's Bells 5:00 p.m.—Children's Choir 6:30 p.m.—Friendship Community Dinner 7:00 p.m.—Chancel Choir	19 9:00 a.m.—Bulletin Assembly 10:00 a.m.—Prayer Shawl Ministry	20 5:30 p.m.—ProMusica Concert
21 <i>See Sunday Schedule</i> 11:00 a.m.—Jubilee Ringers 3:00 p.m.—Church-wide Bowling 5:30 p.m.—Youth Choir	22 10:30 a.m.—Prayer Group 7:00 p.m.—Endowment Committee 7:00 p.m.—Boy Scout Troop 365	23 9:30 a.m.—Worthington Women's Club 6:00 p.m.—Worthington Cotillion 7:05 p.m.—Ad Council 8:00 p.m.—Sr High Devos	24 6:30 p.m.—Hannah Circle 7:00 p.m.—Boy Scout Summer Camp Meeting	25 1:00 p.m.—Red Cross Blood Drive 4:30 p.m.— Children's Bells 5:00 p.m.—Children's Choir 7:00 p.m.—Chancel Choir	26 9:00 a.m.—Bulletin Assembly	27 9:00 a.m.—UMW Kick-Off 10:00 a.m.—Library Work Day
28 <i>See Sunday Schedule</i> 11:00 a.m.—Jubilee Ringers 5:30 p.m.—Youth Choir	29 10:30 a.m.—Prayer Group 7:00 p.m.—Boy Scout Troop 365	30 6:00 p.m.—Worthington Cotillion 6:30 p.m.—WUMC Singles 8:00 p.m.—Sr High Devos	31			

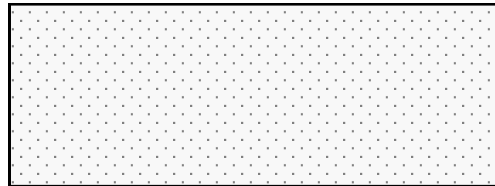
The Messenger

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600 High Street, P.O. Box 307
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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Dated material:
Please deliver by January 1, 2018



This Month's Happenings

- January 1 - Office is closed
- January 4 - College-Aged Dinner
- January 7 - Impact Epiphany Party
- January 10 - Taize Worship Service
- January 15 - Martin Luther King, Jr. Day Celebration (*Office is closed*)
- January 17 - PLARN Party
- January 18 - Friendship Community Dinner
- January 20 - ProMusica Concert
- January 21 - Church-wide Bowling
- January 27 - UMW Kick-Off