



# THE CENTRAL CONNECTION

Winter 2017/2018



## From the Pastor

As we continue to sort out the pledges and our budget for 2018, I know there can be some anxious feelings. I have some myself. But I wanted to take a moment to remind everyone that even when we find ourselves needing to regroup and rethink what we can do and stay within our budget, we still have vibrant and valid ministries at work here at Central Presbyterian Church.

Our community dinners continue to be a place of food and fellowship to our community and allow us to connect with our neighbors. This is of high importance in that many of us now live in neighborhoods outside of the church's immediate area.

In addition, the medical clinic that Paula Reams has headed up to work in tandem with our community dinners has been seeing growing numbers. It is becoming a place of healing on multiple levels and looks as if it will only be growing in 2018.

Sew Faithful continues their track record of ministering both within their group and outside of it. After their annual sale, they made a number of contributions to the church as well as ministries that our church is involved with. And the items not sold in the sale have begun to be distributed through the various organizations and ministries they supply goods to.

Our Deacons, through their monthly support of area agencies and ministries, Santa Breakfast, Project Santa, and other outreaches maintain the Deacons' call to be vessels of Jesus Christ in the world.

Our efforts in Vacation Bible School and the Easter Egg Hunt teach and feed children who may or may not be experiencing church on a regular basis.

Our Monday Music program has been growing at a remarkable rate, even spawning our summer outdoor concert that brought 80 people together for fellowship on the back lawn.

Our food pantry and Pirate Packs support continue to help provide food on the tables of area families. And still there are ideas people are coming up with that will ensure that we are not protecting ourselves but maintaining a presence in ministry in our area. I pray that as we move forward and continue to have to discern our finances that we will always keep our mission and ministry momentum.

*Pastor Cliff*



Poinsettias

Sunday, December 3, is the final day to place a poinsettia order. The poinsettias will decorate the Sanctuary beginning on Cantata Sunday, December 10, and can be taken home following our Christmas Eve worship service.

### Attention Committee Chairpersons !

It's time to start thinking about your report to be published in our **2017 Annual Report**. The due date is **Monday, January 8, 2018 at 9:00 AM...no exceptions**. Please contact Karen in the church office if you have questions or would like a copy of last year's report.



## CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

A congregational meeting will be held on Sunday, **December 10, 2017**, for the purpose of electing church officers and four (4) at-large members for the 2018 Nominating Committee. The meeting will be held in the Sanctuary immediately following our 11:00 Christmas Cantata.

Central Church's annual congregational meeting will take place on Sunday, **January 28, 2018**, for the purpose of reviewing the 2017 Annual Report and the 2018 Church Budget and to vote on Pastor Cliff's 2018 terms of call. The meeting will be held in the Sanctuary immediately following our 9:30 worship.

*the*  
**WINTER ROSE**



The Central Presbyterian Church Choir presents the Christmas cantata "*The Winter Rose*" on Sunday, December 10. Worship is at 11:00 AM in the Sanctuary.



Join us for our Christmas Eve worship service. Music begins at 7:00 PM with worship at 7:30.



There will be a single morning worship on December 24 at 9:30 AM in the Sanctuary. We will celebrate the Lord's Supper at this special service.



Please join Rev. David Tackett as he fills in for Pastor Cliff at our December 31<sup>st</sup> 9:30 AM service. This will be the only worship service that day and will be held in Fellowship Hall.



The Parish Life Committee wants to invite all of you to join us on Sunday, December 10<sup>th</sup>, following the Christmas cantata at 11 AM, as we celebrate our annual Christmas dinner in the Fellowship Hall. This will be a catered meal with chicken tenders and nuggets, lasagna, tossed salad, mac and cheese, dinner rolls, and drinks. For dessert there will be two sheet cakes celebrating the birth of our blessed Savior. We will have a carol sing following our meal.

In order for us to have an approximate count of attendees when purchasing the menu items, please fill out the form in the Sunday bulletin or notify a committee member or Karen in the office.

We are looking forward to seeing you there on the 10<sup>th</sup> as we begin the Christmas season with food, fun and fellowship.



The Building & Grounds Committee is looking for new leadership. Joe Lucas has been chairperson for the last 16 years. He and Patty are both retired now and doing a lot of traveling and not being in town a lot, he feels he can't do a proper job as chairman to get the things done around the church that need to be done. He and Patty will remain on the committee, attending the meetings when in town and supporting the new leadership with whatever needs to be done to keep Central Presbyterian Church in great condition into the future.

Building & Grounds Committee

The Deacons invite the congregation and community to a free pancake breakfast on Saturday, December 16, from 9:00 - 11:00 AM. Rumor has it a Jolly Old Man in a bright red suit will be making an appearance...





**Hanging  
*of the*  
Greens**  
Saturday, December 2  
10:00 AM  
All are welcome!!!



The church office will not be staffed on the following dates:

- Monday, December 11
- Monday, December 18
- Monday-Friday, December 25-29
- Monday-Tuesday, January 1-2

## FINANCIAL SUMMARY - Oct 31, 2017

	ACTUAL YR TO DATE	BUDGETED YR TO DATE	YR TO DATE 83.3% of year
<u>INCOME</u>			
Loose	3,544	3,333	88.6
Pledges	140,326	140,140	83.4
Presby Foundation	6,537	3,000	217.9
Non-pledged giving	7,801	2,083	312.0
CPC Endowment	6,000	6,000	83.3
CPC Housing Fund	13,000	13,000	83.3
Other	833	833	83.3
TOTAL INCOME	178,041	168,390	88.4
<u>EXPENSES</u>			
Administrative	13,238	15,957	66.0
Maintenance	23,899	20,958	81.1
Mission	5,125	7,083	80.3
Program	8,428	13,125	53.5
Pastor's Expense	81,898	82,355	82.7
Staff Salary	68,751	69,508	82.4
TOT EXPENSES	181,338	188,987	78.2
NET BALANCE	-3,297	-20,597	



# Altar Flowers

December 10 - **Jeff & Laurel Hemmelgarn**, in honor of their 25<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary

December 17 - **Susan Sundermeyer**, in remembrance of Myrt Gutwein and Corrine Maxwell

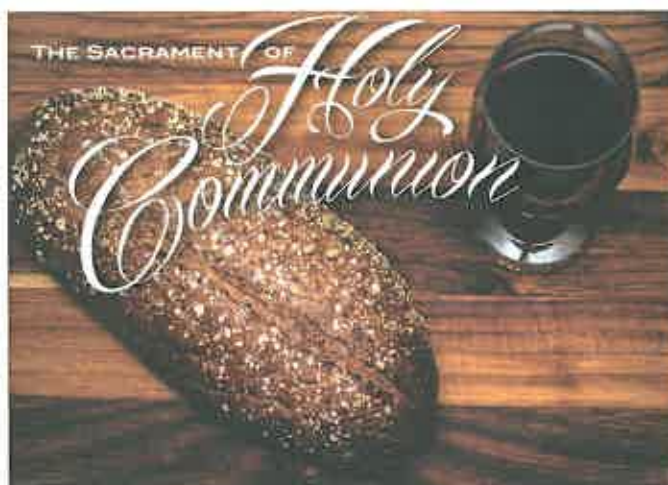
December 24 - **Don Henry**, in remembrance of Connie Henry

December 31- **Frank & Beulah Armstrong**, in honor of their 64<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary

The 2018 ordering form will be in the bulletin beginning December 17. Again this year, Furst Florist has not increased the price - arrangements will continue to be \$30. If you have a Sunday in 2018 in mind before the form is available, contact Karen in the church office to reserve your date.



Harps of Grace Christmas Concert is Monday, December 4, at 7:00 PM at Normandy United Methodist Church. Selections include Christmas songs, Celtic music, classical selections and familiar tunes. Mary Sparks will be playing her harp and Leslie Stratton will play and direct the group - 14 harpists all performing together makes a spectacular sight and sound! The concert is free and donations are gratefully accepted to help defray costs. The church is located at 450 W. Alex-Bell Road, Dayton, 45459.



**December 24<sup>th</sup> Servers - one service at 9:30 AM**

Sandy Ayers, Gail Birden, Don Henry, Marge Houston, Melanie Tullis (*1 additional server is needed*)

**Christmas Eve Servers - 7:30 PM**

Steve Gagen, Don Henry, Sue Labatzky, Tom Troxell (*2 additional servers are needed*)

**January 7<sup>th</sup> Servers - Baptism of the Lord**

9:30: Bill Awsumb, Don Henry, Sheila Reynolds (*3 additional servers are needed*)

11:30: Steve Gagen and Steve Uphouse

**The rest of the 2018 Communion schedule is as follows:**

February 11 - Transfiguration of the Lord

March 29 - Maundy Thursday (7:00 PM)

April 1 - Resurrection of the Lord

May 20 - Pentecost (single service at 11:00 AM)

June 10 – 10<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time (outdoor worship at 9:30 AM)

July 22 – 16<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time

August 19 - 20<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time

September 16 - 24<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time

October 7 - World Communion Sunday

November 25 - Christ the King Sunday

December 23 - Fourth Sunday of Advent

All ordained Elders and Deacons may serve Communion and are encouraged to do so at least once a year, if you are physically able to. If you would like to serve on one of the dates above that need servers, please contact Karen in the church office at [karen@centralpreschurch.com](mailto:karen@centralpreschurch.com) or 298-2864, ext. 0.





## *Music News*

Greetings!

As I walked the dogs this morning, I passed my neighbor's house where they have a sign out front that reads: 28 DAYS UNTIL CHRISTMAS! The numbers are changeable, so that they can update it every day. My only thought - okay, how many musical events can we fit into 28 days before the big day? Personally, I've got 4 harp ensemble programs, 2 Christmas Pops orchestra concerts, 10 Nutcracker performances and a bevy of private programs. Just keep me in mind and eat a cookie for me as you attend your 10<sup>th</sup> holiday party - I'll be hauling a harp someplace.

As we all bustle about, just remember that there is a reason for the season! Christ's birth is worth celebrating, and at Central Presbyterian Church, we do it in style! The Bell Choir will perform on Sunday morning, December 3, then our choir will present the Christmas cantata "The Winter Rose" on Sunday, December 10, at 11:00 AM. The cantata will include a wonderful group of musicians, and I trust you'll bring your friends to experience the beautiful sounds of the season. On Christmas Eve, the morning service will be full of familiar Christmas music, and in the evening, we will have pre-service music at 7:00 PM with the service beginning at 7:30. Again, a service filled with the talents of our Central Church musicians. My hope is that you find the special music inspirational, and that hearing the beautiful sounds of Christmas brings your mind to a sharper focus of the meaning of Jesus Christ in our world and lives.

And of course, then it will be 2018 with so much to enjoy in a new year. For now, as I pass my neighbor's house each day, I'll pray that as we count down to Christmas Day, we also count our blessings and thank the Lord for the season that reminds us of His precious gift of Jesus Christ.

Enjoy the holidays, and especially enjoy the music that keeps us focused on the incredible presence of God in our midst.

Happy Holidays!  
Leslie Stratton

# Christian Education Corner

## Serving Central in the Call of Christian Education

As the 2017 year draws to a close, so too does my season at Central. Joining the Central family in June 2016 as the Christian Education Director, I stepped into a community steeped in family, fellowship and faith. Thank you for all you have done to assist me in journeying through the world of Christian Education at Central.

Our latest venture in Christian Education has been to initiate a visioning process that unpacked three key components of Central's CE identity: Who We Are, What We Do & Why We Do. We spent the last three months digging into the process with a core group of about 15. Thank you to each of you who gave up those Saturday mornings once a month to lean in and listen together to our heart for growing in God. Your passion for God and commitment to wrestling through the reality of change are a true testament to a church positioned to move into the "more of God."

I have always envisioned Christian Education to be broader than just the "Sunday School hour" or the Children & Youth activities of the church. I have spent the last year and a half sharing that view and inviting committee and church members alike into the broader vision. Christian Education is literally the life of church. It's the place where the learning and growth takes place. It's the place where we allow our children and youth to have a place to enter into faith, but it's also a place where the lives of members are lived out within the framework of faith. It's a place rich and ripe for responding to the needs of a growing church -- in size, in maturity and in life.

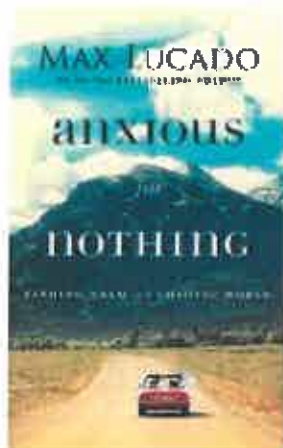
As the Christian Education Committee moves into a new calendar year and looks to bring some new elements of the articulated needs and desires into being, I ask that you as a church family continue to support. Show up, ask questions, be engaged. Most importantly, never stop growing in your relationship with God, nor allowing His Word to mature you in your faith.

To the members of the Christian Education Committee, you have honored me immensely with your trust of my vision for the ministry. Thank You. Your commitment to answering Christian Education's call goes beyond my season at Central. As you continue to serve the Central family, allow God's heart to be felt and heard in the things you envision and undertake.

What's next for me? Well, I gave birth a few months ago to a new vision and established a new consulting ministry for churches, organizations and individuals -- Ministry ThinkTank, Inc. Honestly, I realize daily this is the hardest thing I've ever stepped out and done, and I've definitely stepped out in faith many times before and navigated new waters. Yet, I believe God for His faithfulness and fruitfulness. I will dedicate myself to continuing to answer the call of God as I serve people in new ways, new places and new spaces. When you think of me, say a prayer of God's peace and success. When I think of you, I will think of the hugs, laughter, tears and growth you have gifted me in this season. I will think of you all, say a prayer for you all and smile. Thank you, Central Family. It has been a blessing!

Blessings & Joy,  
Rev. LaKendra

## Christian Education Corner cont'd



Do you feel weighed down by worry? Does the uncertainty and chaos of life keep you up at night? Are irrational fears your constant companion? Could you use some calm? In *Anxious for Nothing*, bestselling author Max Lucado explores God's promises in Philippians 4:4-8 and shows that while anxiety is *part* of life, it doesn't have to *dominate* life. As you follow God's prescription for worry—celebrate his goodness, ask for help, leave your concerns with him, meditate on good things—you will experience his peace. You *can* stop letting anxiety rule your day and find true calm and contentment in Christ.

Beginning February 4, Bob Westfall will lead a five session class on overcoming worry based on resources created by Max Lucado. If interested, we hope you will join us and be a part of this group experience.



*Christmas Blessings  
and  
Warm Wishes  
for a  
Happy New Year  
from the staff of  
Central Presbyterian Church*

Pastor Cliff, Kevin, Joe, Tom, Leslie,  
Rev. LaKendra, Suzie, Marcy and Karen



A Central Presbyterian Church  
Women's Ministry



As the year comes to a close, Sew Faithful would like to share some of the facts, figures and fun that made 2017 a blessing for us as well as those we give to. We give thanks to Central Presbyterian Church for granting us the use of the fellowship hall on Monday mornings and storage space in the nooks and crannies of the church.

Our ladies (and gents) worked all year to make items for donation and for our annual Quilt Sale. Here is a round-up of where our donations went this year:

- Agape
- Homefull (services for the homeless)
- Moraine Little League
- Kettering and Southview Hospitals (neo-natal units)
- Walter Shade and Harold Schnell Elementary (hats)
- Animal Rescue and Resource Center (dog beds)
- West Carrollton Police (teddy bears)
- Walnut Creek
- The Wellington

In total, we donated over 2200 items to these organizations!

After a successful fundraiser in November, we were able to make additional cash donations to:

- Pirate Packs (WC Schools)
- West Carrollton Food Pantry
- The River (a Presbyterian mission in Tennessee that provides shower and laundry facilities for women in need)
- Central Presbyterian Church

Once again, we invite you to join us on Monday mornings. We have a great time and can always find a reason to celebrate with food and frivolity!



### Christmas Joy Offering

This Advent and Christmas season, we reflect on God's greatest gift in the birth of Jesus, given to us all. Donating to the Christmas Joy Offering is one way we can celebrate and grow that gift, by supporting current and retired church workers in times of need and the education of future ethnic leadership of the Presbyterian Church U.S.A.

The annual offering, a Presbyterian tradition for over 70 years, will be received at our worship services during the four Sundays in Advent. A special offering envelope can be found in Sanctuary pews and hall tables, should you wish to contribute to this offering (*if donating cash, please remember to write your name on the envelope so that you are properly credited for your gift*).



With inclement weather now a possibility, please note the list of Cox Media Group Ohio's resources we use to get the word out if the church office will be closed or opening late/closing early or if Sunday morning services or other church activities are cancelled.

95.7FM

AM1290 News Talk Radio WHIO

WHKO-FM K99.1FM

WHIO-TV

[www.newstalkradiowhio.com](http://www.newstalkradiowhio.com)

[www.k99online.com](http://www.k99online.com)

[www.953theeagle.com](http://www.953theeagle.com)

[www.whiotv.com](http://www.whiotv.com)



7 - Ron Labatzky  
 7 - Shirley Singleton  
 8 - Pat Settles  
 12 - Pam Beck  
 14 - Gail Birden  
 16 - Marilyn Ward  
 21 - Jim Wilson  
 28 - Ryan Bluhm  
 30 - Sarah Alverson  
 31 - Jeff Hemmelgarn



1 - Jim Awsumb  
 1 - Lois Awsumb  
 1 - Florence Corey  
 8 - Bob Westfall  
 9 - Sandy Oole  
 11 - Marlene Gagen  
 13 - Boots Brown  
 15 - Jacqueline Bluhm  
 18 - Jim Hayman  
 23 - Laurel Hemmelgarn  
 23 - Brenda Uphouse  
 26 - Joe Lucas  
 29 - Madeline Haddox



4 - Geneva Hayman  
 7 - Betty Hurley  
 8 - Brian Miller  
 11 - Sharon Fecteau  
 12 - Austin Hemmelgarn  
 12 - Paula Reams  
 12 - Chad Terrill  
 14 - Karl Ayers  
 20 - Steve Gagen  
 24 - Diora Randolph  
 24 - Steve Uphouse  
 25 - Tom Schneider

***If you have a December, January or February birthday and are not listed above,  
 then we do not have your birth date on file in the church office;  
 please contact Karen to update your membership file.***

<b>Assisting in our Winter Worship Services</b>							
<b>Date</b>	<b>9:30 Elder of the Day</b>	<b>9:30 Ushers</b>	<b>9:30 Liturgist</b>	<b>9:30 Sound</b>	<b>11:30 Elder of the Day</b>	<b>11:30 Hosts</b>	<b>11:30 Sound</b>
Dec. 3	Joe Espelage	Linda Moorhead Arline Schneider Marcy Wilson	Bill Awsumb	Joe Lucas	Steve Gagen	Steve & Marlene Gagen	Rick Reams
Dec. 10 <i>11:00 Worship Only</i>	<b>Open</b>	Susan Sundermeyer Nancy Watson	N/A	Jim Alverson	N/A	N/A	N/A
Dec. 17	Tom Troxell	Merv Hardman Don Henry Chuck Lantis	Sheila Reynolds	Robert Beck	Steve Uphouse	Gary Neeley	<b>Open</b>
Dec. 24 <i>9:30 Worship Only</i>	Bill Awsumb	Jim Brown Ron Bundy Joe Espelage Austin Hemmelgarn	Karl Ayers	Austin Hemmelgarn	N/A	N/A	N/A
Dec. 31 <i>9:30 Worship Only</i>	Steve Donisi	Bob & Marsha Dues Frank & Beulah Armstrong	Don Henry	Austin Hemmelgarn	N/A	N/A	N/A
Jan. 7	Don Henry	Linda Moorhead Arline Schneider Marcy Wilson	Sheila Reynolds	<b>Open</b>	Steve Gagen	Steve & Marlene Gagen	Rick Reams
Jan. 14	<b>Open</b>	Susan Sundermeyer Nancy Watson	Bill Awsumb	Jim Alverson	Paula Reams	Dave Gossett	Chuck Lantis
Jan. 21	Bill Awsumb	Merv Hardman Don Henry Chuck Lantis	Sheila Reynolds	Robert Beck	Paula Reams	Gary Neeley	<b>Open</b>
Jan. 28	<b>Open</b>	Jim Brown Ron Bundy Joe Espelage Austin Hemmelgarn	<b>Open</b>	Austin Hemmelgarn	Steve Donisi	Pat Settles	<b>Open</b>
Feb. 4	<b>Open</b>	Linda Moorhead Arline Schneider Marcy Wilson	<b>Open</b>	<b>Open</b>	<b>Open</b>	Steve & Marlene Gagen	Rick Reams
Feb. 11	<b>Open</b>	Susan Sundermeyer Nancy Watson	<b>Open</b>	Jim Alverson	<b>Open</b>	Dave Gossett	Chuck Lantis
Feb. 18	<b>Open</b>	Merv Hardman Don Henry Chuck Lantis	<b>Open</b>	Robert Beck	<b>Open</b>	Gary Neeley	<b>Open</b>
Feb. 25	<b>Open</b>	Jim Brown Ron Bundy Joe Espelage Austin Hemmelgarn	<b>Open</b>	Austin Hemmelgarn	<b>Open</b>	Pat Settles	<b>Open</b>

As of 11/30/17

**CENTRAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

**4699 LAMME ROAD**

**DAYTON OH 45439-3099**

**RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED**

**Pastor:** Rev. Cliff Haddox (revncliffie@gmail.com)

**Clerk of Session:** Sarah Alverson

**Board of Deacons Moderator:** Susan Sundermeyer

**Director of Music:** Leslie Stratton (leslie@centralpreschurch.com)

**Organist:** Tom Guth

**Director of Christian Education:** Rev. Dr. LaKendra Hardware  
(revlakendra@centralpreschurch.com)

**Childcare Provider:** Suzie Harris

**Treasurers:** Joe Espelage and Marcy Wilson

**Custodian:** Kevin Duffy

**Church Secretary / Bookkeeper:** Karen Mitchell (karen@centralpreschurch.com)

**Church Office Hours:** Monday-Friday, 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM

**Church Office Phone:** (937) 298-2864, Ext. 0

**Church Email:** cpcoffice@centralpreschurch.com

**Church Website:** www.centralpreschurch.com

**Traditional Worship:** 9:30 AM (Sanctuary)

**Christian Education for All Ages:** 10:45 AM

**Praise Worship:** 11:30 AM (Fellowship Hall)

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**CENTRAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

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...to **glorify** God through



**WORSHIPING  
LOVING  
TEACHING  
MINISTERING**

that **Christ** may be made  
known...

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The page is decorated with several blue and white snowflakes of various sizes and patterns, scattered around the central text.

**Welcome Winter!**