



DECEMBER 2024
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First Baptist Church of Dayton • 111 W. Monument Avenue • Dayton OH 45402
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God as Our Home for the Holidays

INSIDE THIS ISSUE	
Service of Lessons & Carols	3
Koinonia Christmas Party	3
Christmas Eve at First Baptist	5
BYF Christmas Party	6
Reflections on All-Church Retreat	7
Adult Sunday School Classes	8
Various Photos	9
Midweek Advent Study	13
December Birthdays and Prayers	14

When Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Years roll around I am often transported in my mind back to childhood. Somehow snowstorms often factored into those Iowa stories as travel could be treacherous to get home, or to visit grandparents in Minnesota or Montana. More than once I left a car in a country road ditch to walk to the nearest farmhouse for assistance in getting back on the road after sliding off. Despite the hazards, the reward of walking into a warm house that felt like home has always called me back.

One of my favorite psalms begins, “Lord, you have been our dwelling place through all generations” (Psalm 90:1). It’s been true enough for me and generations of my family who have looked to God as a spiritual home. We’ve lived with God and found God to be a companion and friend, the real meaning of what makes a place home.

As we begin another Advent season, we technically begin a liturgical year on December 1st this year. While most of the world thinks of December as the Christmas season, we try to remember that December is a time of anticipation, of traveling toward home, so to speak. And so on the wall calendar we are reaching the end of our church’s 200th year, even as we are beginning a new one.

In studying our church’s history I’ve been intrigued by how much our attitudes have changed through the years. In our church’s beginnings we were what might have been called “primitive Baptists.” Like the old Puritans before us, our forebears were rather somber folk, rejecting the celebration of Christmas as a Catholic fetish. In the early years of our congregation they did not even sing in worship, until one year some brave progressive souls rose in worship to sing and break tradition—and we’ve been singing ever since. I’m not sure when we started recognizing Christmas, but I’m glad we did.

(continued)

And so we have come back to the broader church tradition, with the Christian calendar as a helpful aid to understanding the times and seasons in which we live. There are lots of ways in which we can slide off the road and into the ditches, so to speak. We might reject some traditions only to find our own experience the poorer for it. Or we can get caught up in earthly expectations of spending money to create happiness, when we are generally happier when we spend time creating memories.

As we enter the Advent season let's gather our memories and open ourselves to creating new ones. Let's wait expectantly for Christ, while knowing he may appear in unexpected people and ways. I hope you find your way home, whether that's with your family or your church family. And know that you can dwell with a God who is always your truest home.

--Pastor Kent Berghuis



Celebrate the Advent/Christmas Season with Special Worship Services at FBC

All are invited to special music and worship events at First Baptist Church of Dayton during this Advent/Christmas season, with music that will range from classical to contemporary, including traditional carols and spirituals.



First Sunday of Advent, Dec. 1, 10 a.m.

Communion Sunday

The season of Advent starts with a festive worship service in our beautiful sanctuary decorated for the holidays.



Second Sunday of Advent, Dec. 8, 10 a.m.

Lessons and Carols of Advent

This special service will consist of Bible readings of the season interspersed with music from the Chancel Choir, organists, and congregational singing of beloved Christmas hymns and carols.



Third Sunday of Advent, Dec. 15, 10 a.m.

Children's Christmas Pageant

Our children's Christmas Pageant will take place during morning worship.



Fourth Sunday of Advent, Dec. 22, 10 a.m.

Special Guest Artist Phillip Armstrong, Tenor



Christmas Eve

Tuesday, Dec. 24, 2024

Music Prelude at 5:30 p.m. | Service at 6:00 p.m.

Arrive by 5:30 to hear the pre-service concert with special guests.



The Mitten Tree

During the Advent/Christmas season, we ask that you honor the gift of Christ with gifts for those in need. You may bring gifts of hats, mittens, gloves & scarves to place on our Mitten Tree for kids and families served by the Dayton Christian Center. The Mitten Tree will be set up in the narthex at the front entrance of the church during Advent.



A Service of Lessons & Carols

Sunday, Dec. 8 @ 10am

This special worship service will consist of Bible readings of the season interspersed with music from the Chancel Choir, organists, and congregational singing of beloved Christmas hymns and carols.

Koinonia Christmas Party



Friday, Dec. 13 @ 7pm

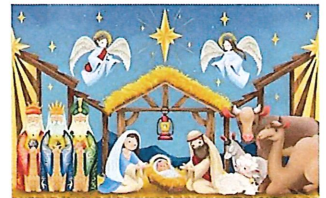
Home of Daryl & Barb Bogan
(7610 Rolling Oaks Dr, 45459)

Please bring hors d'oeuvres to share!

Children's Christmas Pageant

Sunday, Dec. 15 @ 10am

Mark your calendars, as we are once again looking forward to our children and youth (and the young at heart) offering some Christmas Pageantry as part of our worship on December 15. Casting and rehearsals will be on Sundays, December 1 & 8 during the 11:30am Sunday school/Second Hour time, and take place in the Sanctuary. If you have any questions, speak with Pastor Jason.



Blue Christmas Worship Service

Thursday, Dec. 19 @ 7pm

St. John's United Church of Christ
(515 E. Third St., Dayton 45402)



Special Guest Artist **Philip Armstrong, Tenor**

Sunday, Dec. 22 @ 10am

A native of Ohio, Philip (Phil) Keith Armstrong's musical interest began in the church, singing in the local hometown church where his father was pastor for over 29 years; Mt. Carmel Baptist Church, Bidwell, Ohio. During his formative years, he received local recognition for singing the National Anthem (a cappella) at the football & basketball games at all the area elementary and high school sporting events. While in high school, he was fortunate to receive an outpouring of community support from those who witnessed his talent at an early age. Those supporters and donors introduced him to singing and reading sheet music to be able to attend various summer music camps in the region, most notably, the Martin Essex School for the gifted on the campus of The Ohio State University and Shenandoah College & Conservatory of Music in Winchester, Virginia.



As a sophomore in high school, he received the honor of being awarded two (2) full-time Presidential Scholarships to attend Shenandoah College and Conservatory of Music and Central State University in Wilberforce, Ohio. He chose to attend Central State University, a member of the HBCU system (Historically Black Colleges & University). One of the University's most noted graduates, was the world-renowned Soprano, Leontyne Price. Phil pursued a Bachelor of Arts in Mass Communications, and minored in music vocal performance, under the coaching of baritone William Henry Caldwell. As a soloist, he traveled extensively around the United States as a member of the widely acclaimed Central State University Singers and was part of two recordings with the Cincinnati Pops Orchestra under the Telarc recording label.

Since moving to Tulsa, Oklahoma in 1997, he has performed for various major events, concerts, company meetings, weddings, churches, and organizations throughout the state of Oklahoma and regionally. During the summer of 2011, he was a featured soloist with a dynamic group of Tenors from across North America called "The Mighty Sound of SEVEN". He was also a featured soloist in concert with the Ohio Valley Symphony Orchestra under the direction of Maestro Ray Fowler at the historic Ariel Theater in Southeastern Ohio. He debuted with the Tulsa Symphony Orchestra in December 2020 for a TV holiday special called 'A Hometown Holiday' which was aired commercial-free on KQCW. For the past 13 years, Phil has been a featured soloist in the annual Christmas Concert with the music ministry of First Methodist Church under the direction of conductor and senior worship minister Rev. Joseph A. Bias.

Professionally, Phil has a varied background working in the corporate and non-profit sector(s). In 2019 he was hired by the Tulsa Community Foundation as Project Director for the 1921 Tulsa Race Massacre Centennial Commission to lead all coordination for fundraising, educational curriculum, economic development initiatives and construction projects; namely, the building of Greenwood Rising Black Wall Street History Center. In July 2021, he was tasked with leading the history center through its infancy as the Interim Executive Director. In 2023, Phil accepted his current new role as the President and CEO for the Oklahoma Center for Community & Justice. In this new role, he will be tasked with inspiring and equipping Oklahomans to overcome bias, bigotry and oppression.

Phil has been actively engaged in the Tulsa community serving on several boards, most notably, Reading Partners of Tulsa, Tulsa Regional Chamber of Commerce, City Year Tulsa, Tulsa Opera Board, Arvest Bank, Tulsa Tech College and past board chair of the Greenwood Cultural Center. Phil and wife Monique have a blended blessing of five children, and recently welcomed their first grandson.

Christmas Eve at First Baptist Church

Music Prelude and Candlelight Service



Tuesday, December 24, 2024

5:45pm Music Prelude

6:00pm Candlelight Service

The historic First Baptist Church of Dayton will open its doors on December 24th for a special music prelude at 5:45 p.m., followed by a traditional service at 6:00 p.m.

The music prelude at 5:45 will feature internationally acclaimed violinist Aurelian Oprea, principal violinist and concert master for the Dayton Philharmonic Orchestra. He will play special music for the organ and violin, and will be accompanied by Gregory Land. Also Ryan Bradley, guitarist, will join us again. We look forward to his return to worship with us this holiday season. Please come early to get a seat and hear this incredible music.

The worship service will also feature music director William Henry Caldwell and the Chancel Choir, and include congregational carol singing and a message from Rev. Dr. Kent Berghuis, lead pastor. The service will conclude with the singing of "Silent Night," while lighting one another's candles.



Holiday Office Hours

Monday, Dec. 23 – Office closes at 1pm

Tuesday, Dec. 24 – Office closed

Wednesday, Dec. 25 – *Merry Christmas!*

Thursday, Dec. 26 – Open 10-2

Friday, Dec. 27 – Open 10-2

Monday, Dec. 30 – Open 10-2

Tuesday, Dec. 31 – Office closed

Wednesday, Jan. 1 – Office closed

ABC-USA December Offering

In December the Retired Ministers & Missionaries Offering (RMMO) is a tangible way for the American Baptist congregations to say "Thank You" for the commitment, service and spiritual guidance of retired ministers, missionaries and their widowed spouses. Make checks payable to FBC and note RMMO on the memo line. Thank you!



Church Women United News Christmas Clergy Celebration

On Saturday, Dec. 7th at 1:00 p.m., Church Women United will be holding its annual celebration of Dayton area clergy and their spouses at United Christian Church, 8611 Hoke Rd, Clayton OH. **Note: You do not have to be a member of the clergy to attend.** We have a number of clergy at FBC, both active and retired. Come and help us celebrate their many contributions to God’s work.

Annual Reports Due Jan. 6

Annual reports for 2024 are due by Monday, January 6, 2025 from all Board Chairs, Committee Chairs, and pastoral staff. Please email reports to Linda Blair at fbc@fbcd Dayton.org. Thank you!

December Church Meetings

Board Meetings

Wednesday, Dec. 11 @ 6:30pm

Executive Council Meeting

Wednesday, Dec. 18 @ 6:30pm

Change to Online Giving

The new online giving site, Engage, is available now for use, and the old site will be phased out as of 12/31/24. Nancy Kerr will assist you if you have any difficulties. More info will be available in the weekly bulletin/email announcements. Instruction sheets/flyers will be available soon as well. The link to the new online giving site is: <https://engage.suran.com/firstbaptistdayton>

BYF Christmas Party 2024

We are hosting a Christmas Party for our BYF youth (grades 6–12) along with youth from Harmony Creek Church on Sunday, December 15 @ 5:30-7:30pm. Pizza will be provided, and we invite folks to bring a snack/dessert/side to share (potluck style) and we’ll spend our time connecting and playing games. We also plan to do a Silly Gift Exchange (gifts can be made, regifted or bought (\$10 max.). They just need to be anonymously wrapped. Friends are always welcome. Just RSVP to Pastor Jason (jalspaugh@fbcd Dayton.org) so we have enough pizza, etc.

Blanket Donation Drive for St. Vincent DePaul Shelter

Following the lead of our young people, we invite you to donate a blanket or two for the St. Vincent DePaul shelter. We began collecting donations on November 17, and will continue to do so through Sunday, December 15. Blankets can be placed on the designated table in Fellowship Hall. If you have any questions, please speak with Pastor Jason. Thank you!

Reflections on All-Church Retreat Expanding Our Learning Community

By Rev. Jason Alspaugh

On Saturday, November 9th the Board of Christian Education hosted a morning retreat in which I facilitated times of reflection and conversation about *What Has Been, What Is, and What Might Be* in terms of our individual and collective experiences of learning/discipleship.

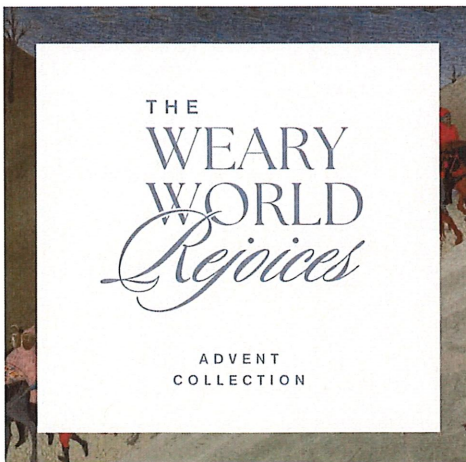
We spent about half of the time in small groups, taking time to create timelines of own discipleship journeys, noting formative moments (*What Has Been*); and then we considered the image of a table and who our current learning partners are around our “tables” (*What Is*). We allowed for some sharing both in our small groups and with everyone gathered.

And after a break, we considered what it is that we feel we need to learn and what voices/learning partners might be missing from our tables, who would be helpful and even necessary for us to learn those things (*What Might Be*).

Some of the things we shared as *To Be Learned...* included: The Bible, Evangelism/Witnessing, Building Community, Being Church throughout the week, Spiritual Practices/Disciplines, Faith & LGBTQ+, Accessibility, and Being a Sanctuary Church. And in thinking about how we might learn of such things in *today’s* context, we thought some of the voice/learning partners that are missing/needed are: people with disabilities, other churches and organizations, folks who are unhoused/homeless, college/young adults, families, people with whom we disagree, voices from other faiths, kids/youth, caregivers, and those experiencing loss/grief.

This retreat was not a “one-off” kind of conversation, but one of many I hope for us to have, as we seek to expand our learning community, nurturing a life of faith that is engaged in learning here with one another on Sundays and with others beyond our church throughout the week. As I shared at the beginning of the retreat, gathering together to share, connect and discern such things is one of the ways we can do the work of our Covenant. There will be more opportunities like this in the coming months, and I hope you will join with us in this worshipful, faithful work.

Advent Devotional Recommendation



The Season of Advent and the new liturgical year (Year C) for the Church begins on Sunday, December 1st, and I would like to commend to you Kate Bowler’s Advent devotional guide called, “The Weary World Rejoices.” You can access the material at www.katebowler.com/Advent. I will also be making print copies available to folks on the table outside the church office.

There is an individual and a group guide available. If you’d like to be a part of forming a small group, let me know (Pastor Jason – jalspaugh@fbccdayton.org).



Special Advent Series!

Angels All Around Us

Led by Rev. Dr. Karen Johnson

Sundays, Dec. 1 & 8 @ 11:30am-12:15pm

1st Floor - Chapel

Are you curious about angels? How do you picture them? These messengers from God are poised to act in a surprising number of ways. Through art, angel-lore and the Biblical witness, we will become more familiar with angels and their actions. Join Dr. Johnson during December Sundays for light-hearted and informative Sunday School sessions, including a survey of angels in the nativity narratives.

Sermon Talkback

Second Sundays @ 11:30am-12:15pm

Next Session is Dec. 8

1st Floor - Choir Room

Sermon Talkback sessions are on the Second Sunday of each month in the Choir Room. We hope you'll join us and share the questions, insights, challenges, etc. from your hearing of the morning's sermon.

Legends, Symbols, and Traditions of the Holiday Season

Led by Angie Berghuis

Sundays, Dec. 15 & 22 @ 11:30am-12:15pm

1st Floor - Chapel

If you enjoyed or missed the Sunday School sessions on Cemetery Symbols, you just may like these two sessions on the Legends, Symbols, and Traditions of the Holiday Season and objects we see every day. Some stories may bring you laughter and joy while others may bring peace and solace. Join Angie Berghuis on December 15 and 22 for these special holiday classes. All attendees will receive a special gift.

Church History: Medieval Christianity

Led by Dr. Roy Vice

Sundays, Dec. 29 and Jan. 5, 12 & 19 @ 11:30am-12:15pm

1st Floor - Chapel

We once again welcome Dr. Roy Vice, as he shares his knowledge of pivotal moments in Church History, this time focusing on Medieval Christianity. The High Middle Ages were the Golden Age of building the great Gothic Cathedrals. Gothic architecture has pointed arches, ribbed vaulting and flying buttresses. Some cathedrals have as much stone below ground as above. Notre Dame de Paris is just the most famous of these cathedrals. This was also the era of the growth of universities and Scholasticism, the effort by Thomas Aquinas and others to integrate the philosophy of Aristotle into Christian theology. This revival of learning was very influential.

(continued)





After 1300 the weather turned colder and wetter and there were famines. The Ottoman Turks began to conquer land in Turkey and Greece. During most of the 14th century the papacy was in Avignon, France and the popes built a magnificent palace. John Wyclif criticized the wealth and worldliness of the church. To add to the suffering, The Bubonic Plague swept through Europe killing around a third of the population. Finally, the Hundred Years' War between England and France broke out. Ultimately, the new Nation States began to emerge...



DABA Fall Gathering Nov. 3, 2024



All-Church Retreat Nov. 9, 2024



First Baptist Sings Concert

Nov. 10, 2024



Happy Retirement

Johnny Davis!

Nov. 10, 2024



Mission Board on Nov. 13

Matthew 25 Ministries Rep met with Board.



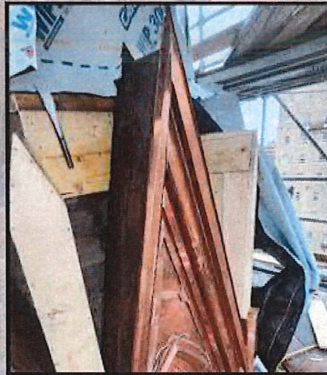
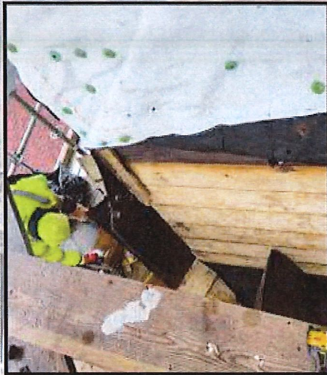
Food for the Journey Rep met with Board.



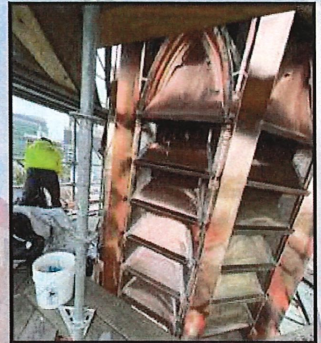
Steeple Work Progress

Photos provided by HKC and Jon Wolfe, Chair of Trustees

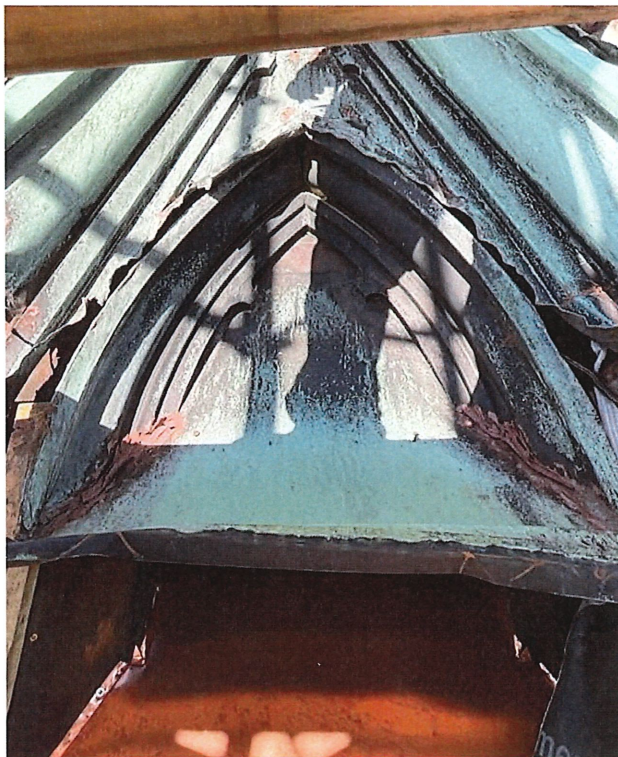
THE TEAM ALSO WORKED ON RESTORING EXISTING WOODEN STRUCTURES, CLADDING THEM WITH COPPER.



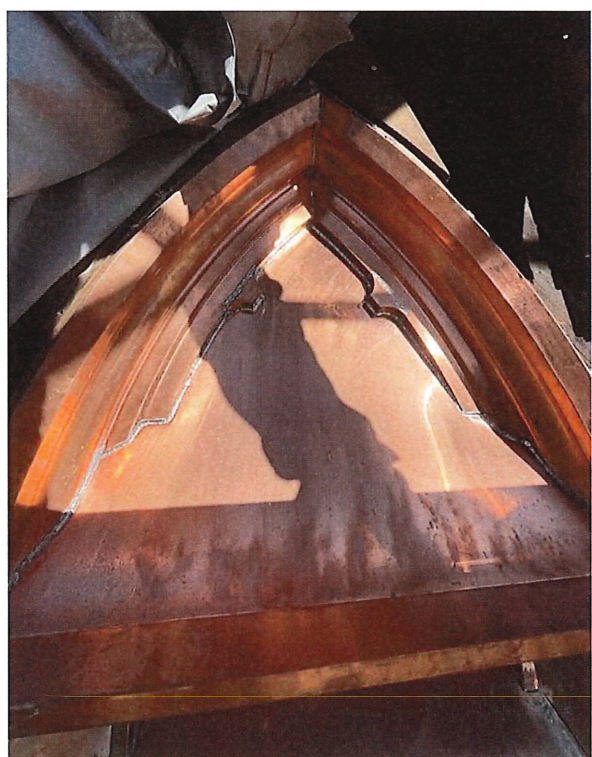
THE TEAM ALSO ATTACHED THE REPLACEMENT COPPER CLADDING TO THE MAIN STRUCTURE

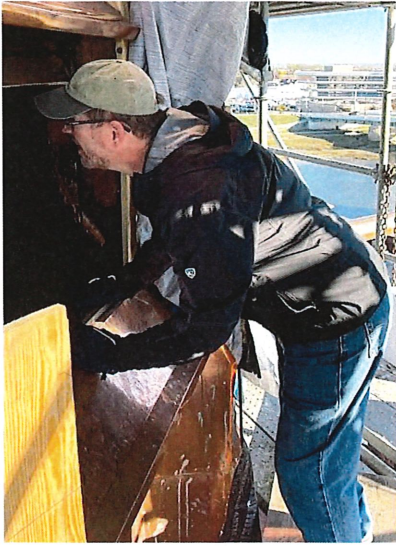


BEFORE

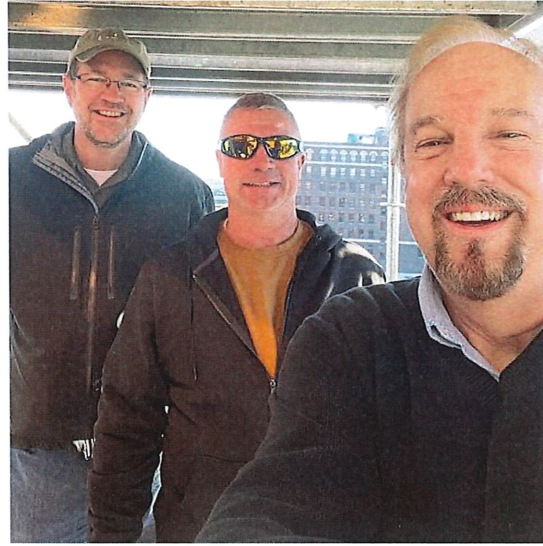


AFTER





Kent checking it out



Kent, Brian (HKC), Jon



Kent with trophy



Thanksgiving Dinner

Nov. 24, 2024





Midweek Advent Study with Christ Episcopal

Wednesdays @ 11am-Noon

December 4, 11 & 18

Christ Episcopal Church

(20 W. First St., Dayton 45402)

You are invited to take part in a midweek Advent study involving folks from FBC and Christ Episcopal. We will be using material from an Advent Devotional called, "Words from the Beginning" to help shape our time together. Copies will be available on Sunday, December 1. This is another opportunity for us to nurture ecumenical relationships and grow together in faith. Note, participants are also invited to stay for the midweek Eucharist service that takes place at 12:10pm.

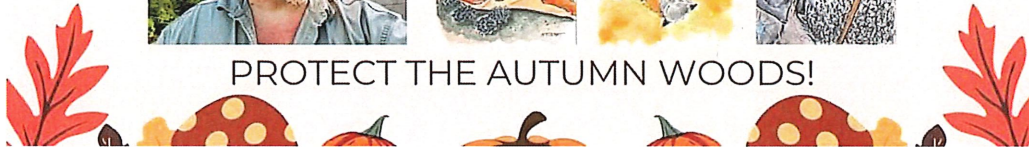


ARTIST TALK WITH JEROME STUEART

December 7th, 1 - 2 PM at the Dayton Society of Artists



PROTECT THE AUTUMN WOODS!



Jerome's art show "Protect the Autumn Woods!" runs through Dec. 15 at the Dayton Society of Artists, 48 High Street, Dayton, in the St. Anne's Hill area. Open on Fridays & Saturdays from 12:00-5:00pm. **Jerome will have an Artist Talk on Saturday, Dec. 7 at 1:00pm (48 High Street).**



HAPPY BIRTHDAY

December Celebrants

- 7 Luke Earnest
- 8 Reagan Lloyd
- 9 Angie Berghuis, Cynthia Mieg, Judy Smith
- 10 Andy Wilson
- 11 Lynnae Faith Nelson
- 13 Michael Cox, Debbie Harshman
- 16 Julia Wolfe
- 17 Mark Ryan
- 18 Nick Gough
- 19 Ella Mikesell
- 20 Kyle Mikesell, Ron Petry
- 23 Bill Wilson
- 25 Ryan Kline
- 27 Tathiane Ayers, Drew Powell
- 28 Rachel Gruszecki
- 29 Matthew Owens
- 30 Gregory Land

For Our Cards & Prayers

- | | |
|-------------------------|------------------|
| Tathiane Ayers | Merkle Family |
| Clara Black | Shirley Nash |
| Don Brown | Mary Ann Paloncy |
| Linda Ginter Brown | Susan Parent |
| Gerald Busch | Judy Smith |
| June Collier | Roger Stephens |
| Donovan-Schlaile Family | Thomson Family |
| Lavanda Ferguson | Lee Tyson |
| Bill Harrell | Anne Veghte |
| Karen Johnson | Harold West |
| Kalbfleisch Family | Dorothy Williams |
| Landis Family | Sharon Wingham |
| Gene Lee | |

Military Duty:

Sebastian Ewald, Sunny Ewald, Brittany Kalbfleisch, Will Radachi, Andy Wilson



Stewardship Campaign 2025

“STEADFAST & JOYFUL”

(Pledge cards are available at church or call Nancy Kerr, 937-222-4691 x. 402, with your pledge for 2025.)

OCTOBER 2024 Financial Report

	Budget	Received	YTD Budget	YTD Received
Loose Offerings	1000.00	48.00	833.34	909.03
Pledges	207794.00	13130.00	173161.67	161433.50
Non-pledged Contributions	55000.00	3907.00	45833.34	45081.00

