

1ST UNITED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
117 NORTH MAIN STREET
P.O. BOX 579
BELLEFONTAINE OHIO 43311

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THE UNITED VISITOR

First United Presbyterian Church

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ON THIS DAY

DATED MATERIAL, PLEASE DELIVER PROMPTLY

SHARING IN THE MINISTRY OF 1ST UPC

Ministry Partners	Members & Friends of the Church
Custodian	Ralph Morrison
Secretary	Julie McCarthy
Church Treasurer	Sue Dearwester
Sunday School Secretary	Sara Stahler
Coordinator of Parish Nursing	Phyllis Lyons
Coordinator of Pastoral Partner Program	Marty Marine
Clerk of Session	Judy Wical
Moderator of the Board of Deacons	Tammy Fowler
Moderator of Presbyterian Women	Karen Brady
Handbell Choir Director	Cindy Jenkins
Chancel Choir Directors	Bob Day & Cindy Jenkins
Organist	Thomas Boone
Nursery Attendants	Kent, Deb & Allison Amey
Christian Education Director	JoAnne Sharp
Pastor	Rob Fulton

Mend a quarrel. Search out a forgotten friend. Dismiss suspicion and replace it with trust. Write a love letter. Share some treasure.

Give a soft answer. Encourage youth. Manifest your loyalty in a word or deed.

Keep a promise. Find the time. Forego a grudge. Forgive an enemy. Listen. Apologize if you were wrong. Try to understand. Examine your demands on others. Think first of someone else.

Appreciate, be kind, be gentle. Laugh a little more.

Express your gratitude. Worship God. Gladden the heart of a child. Take pleasure in the beauty and wonder of the earth. Speak your love. Speak it again. Speak it still again. Speak it still once again.

-Author Unknown-

December 2011

STATE OF THE CHURCH

NOTES OF THANKS

November 2011

2011		Receipts Report			
Congregational Portion	Needed Yearly	Needed Weekly	Needed Year to date	Received to date	Plus/Minus to date
Original Pledges	\$262,654.00				
discount '2011 (4%)	\$10,506.00				
Pledges	\$252,148.00	\$4,849.00	\$232,752.00	\$222,372.59	-\$10,379.41
Non-pledge amount	\$39,000.00	\$750.00	\$36,000.00	\$36,619.09	\$619.09
Loose Offering	\$5,500.00	\$105.77	\$5,076.92	\$4,287.51	-\$789.41
Sunday School	\$2,000.00	\$38.46	\$1,846.15	\$2,027.79	\$181.64
Misc. Offerings	\$3,000.00	\$57.69	\$2,769.23	\$4,006.00	\$1,236.77
TOTALS	\$301,648.00	\$5,800.92	\$278,444.31	\$269,312.98	(\$9,131.33)

“Building Christ’s Church Together – with Love, Faith and Sacrifice”

Stewardship Campaign Update:

106 Pledges totaling \$ 248,776.50

58 remaining the same as 2011

24 increases in pledges

14 decreases in pledges

10 New pledges

2011 Results: 111 Pledges received – totaling \$ 262,654.00

ALL 2011 CONTRIBUTIONS MUST BE IN THE CHURCH OFFICE BY NOON ON FRIDAY, DECEMBER 30TH.

Sharing of Your Time, Talents and Treasures are very much appreciated!!

Thank You!

Dear Friends, we wish to **THANK YOU** for your continued financial support of Our Daily Bread. Your \$200.00 donation will help to feed those less fortunate. Bless You.

Glenna M. Theis, Manager/Director Our Daily Bread

(This \$200.00 monthly donation is made possible through your generous support of 2-cents A Meal)

THANK YOU to all who helped in any way with the Election Day Luncheon and Bazaar. Whether you cooked, baked, washed dishes, served or cleaned up or just joined us to partake in the festivities, you did a great job!!! And we could not have done this without YOU!!! Thanks so much. **Again thank you to EVERYONE!!**

Jennifer Crisler and Becky Mast, Co-Coordiators

Dear 1st UPC Family of Faith, what a joy it is to be a member of this church! Thanks to all of you for the We Care poster and especially the lovely flowers that Rob delivered to me while in the hospital following my knee replacement surgery. I am truly grateful for all your concerns and fellowship.

Dottie Cost

Dear Church Family, thank you for the goodies that were delivered to me. I really enjoyed it. It is so nice to be remembered by the church. Again, many thanks.

In Christian love and Friendship,

Phyllis Baker

MANY THANKS for those that supported the Sr. High fundraiser...our next fundraiser will be in January....the famous Soup Luncheon. Be watching for more information!

Decorating of the Sanctuary for Advent: Many thanks to the following people for raising the Christmas Trees and providing eager hands to Hang the Greens! Sue Dearwester Margaret Appel, Cathy Draper, Ruth Miller, Anne Brienza, Nancy Wisse, Betty Kindell Mary Reames, Shelbi Johnson, Brendon Myers, Landyn Butler, Mark Butler, Bill Wical Bob Core, Frank Turner and Blake Olson



Be watching as we LAUNCH the First United Presbyterian Church facebook page very soon!! The page won't replace the group we already have, but we will be able to share more information, pictures and such, so be watching for your invite!! Thanks to Colin Yoder for creating our facebook page.

Church News

THE SYMPATHY AND LOVE OF THE 1ST UPC FAMILY OF FAITH is shared with

- **Curtis and Carol Champion and family** following the death of Curtis' brother Bryan, following an extended illness.

Our thoughts and prayers are with you all!

Presby Book Club News: The next meeting of the book club will be Monday, December 19th, at 7:00 P.M. in the home of Janet Fulton (595 Rd 199 W), weather permitting, or at the church. Stay tuned for the weather forecast.

We will be sharing Christmas or winter poems with the group. Bring your favorite.

The January selection will be "March" by Geraldine Brooks. Y'all come.

Library News

Many thanks to Ruth Bowden for our latest addition. A program of 11 CDs listening of the book "Unbroken" by Laura Hillenbrand is in our library in the media section. This World War II story of Louis Zamperini is a story of survival, resilience, and redemption. When war came Louis embarked on a journey that led to his doomed flight, a tiny raft, and a drift into the unknown. The book is a testament to the resilience of human mind, body, and spirit. **Check it out.**

NEEDED: Chase's mom, Erikka Kartak, is in need of a good, reliable, older car. She is going to school and has to drive to Dublin daily. Does anyone know of a car that might fit that description and is for sale? Please call Katie Amidon at 599-3763 or 441-1778 or Woody Amidon at 844-3102. Thank you so much.

FYI.....Sunday's bulletins are on our website as well as sermons, prayer list, events calendar, birthdays, pictures, newsletters, etc.

Check it out!!

www.bellefontainepres.com

January 2012 (where has this year gone??!!)

Newsletter Deadline: Thursday, December 15



LAST TUESDAY COMMUNITY DINNER. Our church serves an evening meal on the Last Tuesday of each month. This is a great opportunity to serve others in need. Please see Ranae Lentz to volunteer.




An ongoing project of our Board of Deacons, our **2-cents-A-Meal Offering** is an attempt to help meet hunger needs locally, within our own community. The basic idea is this: Bring 2 cents for every meal you have eaten in the previous month and place it in the **2c-A-Meal** boxes at each of the entrances to the sanctuary. Our Board of Deacons will see that these funds go to help feed the hungry locally through Our Daily Bread and the Lutheran Food Pantry. Remember the parable of Jesus feeding of the 5,000! Five loaves and two fishes fed a multitude! It only takes a little on your part – but it sure helps a lot when it comes to helping to feed hungry people!

Habitat for Humanity

“Building a Strong Community takes a Community”

Building a strong community takes a community. Habitat for Humanity in Logan County can use our help. Keeping Habitat in our prayers, sharing of our treasures and of our time. If you are interested in serving others through Habitat, please contact the church office or Kathleen Bow 539.0275.



It is the easiest, quickest, and fastest way for our organization to raise money!

Simply shop at any of the participating Community Cash supermarkets, save your cash register receipts and 1% cash back will be donated to us for qualifying purchases (tobacco, alcohol, purchased services and sales tax not included). Simply shop, save and support our organization!

Remember, save your cash register receipts and return them to our organization!

You'll get great prices, service and value by shopping locally, and our organization will receive much needed charitable funds.

Thanks for your Support!

Our Organization: First United Presbyterian
Our Community Cash Stores: Fulmers & Community Mrkts.
Our Organization Contact: Joyce Core

Remember Community Cash on your next shopping trip!

All proceeds benefit our 'In Church Sharing Fund'

Serving in December:

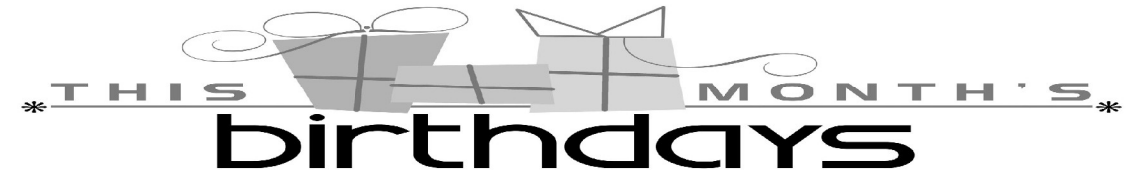
Deacons "On Call": Jennifer Oelker & Tammy Fowler

Dec. 4: Greeters: East Entrance: Mac & Carol Smith
West Entrance: Toby & Jennifer Oelker Back Door: Rachel Lang
Ushers: Margaret Appel, Frank Turner, Audrey Hurley, Toby & Jennifer Oelker,
Betty Lloyd, Jeanne Zupp, Steve Cox, Adam Wunderle, Betty Kindell
Sound Tech: Eric Caughenbaugh
Acolytes: Caitlyn Shumaker & Abby Kite
Nursery: The Amey's Preschool: Viganskys & Devin Fowler
Elder Greeters: East: Elder Frank Turner West: Elder Anne Brienza

Dec. 11: Greeters: East Entrance: Warren & Celynn Taylor West Entrance: Standley Family
Back Door: Carla Murdock
Ushers: Margaret Appel, Bud Eichholtz, Jim Hilliker, Bridget Hawkins, David Ritter,
Mark & Landyn Butler, Janice Bowsher and Rose Shoemaker
Sound Tech: Rodney Willis
Acolytes: Jack Costin & Connor Mentzer
Nursery: The Amey's Preschool: Krista & Abbi Adelsberger
Elder Greeters: East: Elder Bridgett Hawkins West: Elder Larry McCarthy

Dec. 18: Greeters: East Entrance: Janice Bowsher West Entrance: Nate & Becky Weber
Back Door: Karen Brady
Ushers: Steve Mast, Michael Brady, Jon Hines, Betty Hunt, Ryan Lane,
Vance Holloway, Cathy Draper, Allen Huffman, Ty Rader
Sound Tech: Paul Deardurff
Acolytes: Nolan Robson & Evan Standley
Nursery: The Amey's Preschool: Molli Jackson & Camryn Clark
Elder Greeters: East: Elder Rob Storm West: Elder Bill Wical

Dec. 25: Greeters: East Entrance: Denny & Mary Jane Lane
Christmas Day West Entrance: Adelsberger Family Back Door: Judy Wical
Ushers: Michael Chervenak, Courtney Chervenak, Brandon Standley, Peggy Hatcher,
Eric Caughenbaugh, Vicky Petty, Pam McBrien, Jeremiah Vigansky
Sound Tech: Colin Yoder
Acolytes:
Nursery: The Amey's Preschool: Floras & Caroline Eader
Elder Greeters: East: Elder Eric Adelsberger West: Elder Tony Core



- December 3: Sara Stahler & Patrick Boyle
- December 4: Laura Flora, Carla Murdock & Lee Wilcoxon
- December 8: Millie Swaidner, Anne Brienza, Lori Sidders & Carmen Shumaker
- December 10: Judy Oldiges
- December 12: Kim Forsythe
- December 15: Chris Stephens
- December 16: Tony Core
- December 17: Tyler, Adam & Nik Wunderle
- December 19: Jo Mustaine & Jack Harris
- December 20: Woody Amidon
- December 22: Denny Lane
- December 24: Eric Caughenbaugh
- December 25: Theodora Holloway
- December 26: Julie Sailors, Amy Willis & Sandi Chervenak
- December 27: Anne Heinlen & Phyllis Baker
- December 30: Peg Lee & Tiffany Wilcoxon

Happy Birthday to You

Happy Birthday to You

And many more.....!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

If we have missed a birthday, please call the office at 592-6611. We don't want to leave anyone out!!



- ❖ THANK YOUBecky Mast and Jennifer Crisler have asked that we thank everyone once again for their help with the Election Day Luncheon. In whatever way you helped,(whether you baked or made a salad, helped make noodles, created a craft, helped cook or serve, washed dishes, delivered orders around town, or donated money for expenses), your contribution was an important part of the success of the event. We currently have received income of \$3,113 after expenses. All the money is slated for Mission giving and support of First UPC.
- ❖ COOKIE EXCHANGE DECEMBER 11THAren't Christmas cookies fun? Isn't it fun to gather new recipes or share some of your favorites with friends? We are organizing another "Cookie Exchange" this year and everyone is invited. Just bring some of your favorite cookies and join the fun. The exchange works like this; you bring three dozen cookies to share and take three dozen home. This number works really well. It's OK to bring fewer cookies; you just take home the same number you bring. Please bring copies of your recipe to share also. Join us in the chapel after church on December 11th. It only takes a few minutes. Please call Tracy Huffman (599-6480) or Becky Mast (592-9060) if you have any questions.
- ❖ NEW OFFICERS INSTALLED NOVEMBER 20thThank you to our new officers who were installed during the worship service on November 20th. They are: Moderator- Kirista Adelsberger, Vice Moderator – Becky Mast, Secretary – Joyce Core, Treasurer – Vicky Petty, Board members – Karen Brady, Janet Fulton and Bridgett Hawkins.
- ❖ THANK OFFERING SUNDAY.....And speaking of November 20th, thank you to all the women who participated in the worship service. A special thank you to Kim Forsythe for sharing a wonderful message. Let us pray that our thank offering may allow others to know the healing presence, sustaining power, protection, love and peace of God.



Friday morning Tristen woke me up to "Gma Jo, your phone is flashing!" The flashing meant that I had emails waiting for me...Three email accounts had "Black Friday" ads from Bath and Body to Christian Bookstore...a friend from home posted on Facebook Friday morning that he had 45 "Black Friday" email ads and thus he was staying home and not joining the crowds...This morning again Tristen woke me up to "Gma, your phone is flashing!" Not "Black Friday" ads but "Cyber Monday" ads! Not 45 like my friend Jed but 3 or 4 for each of the three accounts, but nestled among those ads were some emails that I look forward to each and every day. Two are from Bible Gateway, giving me a Bible verse for each day, and the other is the Bible reading for the day to help me read through the Bible in a year. Then there is Whisper of God, a daily devotion that can arrive in your email or you can find it on Facebook. My dear friend Jane who I taught with years ago shared that one with me when Trey was deployed the first time. Then there is my favorite email from www.d365.org. Each morning this devotion arrives in my inbox and it is the first email I read. Starting this morning (Sunday, November 27, 2011) the name changes to "Following The Star" and the focus is Advent.

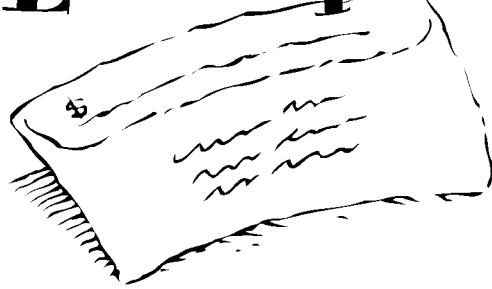
D365.org is produced by Passport, Inc. which is a student ministry organization, and the daily devotion is just one aspect of their ministry. The project is sponsored by the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship, Youth and Young Adults Ministries of the Presbyterian Church (USA) and Youth Ministries of the Episcopal Church. Now don't let the fact that it is geared towards students turn you away, it speaks volumes to adults also! Each week has a different author, this week it happens to be a friend from Charlotte, Michelle Thomas-Bush who serves Myers Park Presbyterian in Charlotte. During Lent, the name changes to "Journey to the Cross" and I am pretty sure I have shared writings from that series with some of you. For two weeks before school start the name changes to "Back 2 School" to help with the transition from summer to a new school year. With each week, there is music that plays in the background that fits the theme; of course I tend to turn the music off so that I can focus on the words!

I would encourage each of you to subscribe to d365.org, especially those of you who like me are tied to our computers more than we ever thought we would be! Also for those on Facebook, in the next few days we will be launching the First United Presbyterian Church Facebook page. The page won't replace the group we already have, but we will be able to share more information, pictures and such, so be watching for your invite from Colin, Julie or myself. When you see Colin, thank him for all his work on getting the page set up, because it has been a process.

To quote my friend Michelle, "We watch and we wait in Advent. We watch so that we might be found...Let us begin Advent."

JoAnne

Offering Envelopes



2012 Offering Envelopes: As a cost-saving measure, the Stewardship & Finance Ministry team will be handing out 2012 Offering Envelopes again this year instead of mailing them. Sunday, December 4th thru December 18th a member of the Stewardship & Finance Ministry team will be standing at the tables (before & after worship) on the EAST side of sanctuary to hand out offering envelopes. If you choose not to use offering envelopes, please let us know. We will not be mailing envelopes this year.

Thank you for your continued financial support of our church.



Christmas Sharing Project

Once again this Christmas our church family has heard and responded graciously and generously to the call to help those in our community in need. Our church family adopted **40** families this Christmas. Fifteen of our families are senior citizens and the other 25 families with children.

Come be a part of the fun and fellowship @ 9am on the 17th as we fill the food baskets. Our adopted families will come here on **Saturday, December 17th (11am-12pm)** to pick up their Christmas baskets. Santa will be joining us and refreshments will be served.

We do need all baskets and monetary donations here by **Wednesday, December 14th**, even if you plan to join us on Saturday.

Thank you for helping to make a neighbor's Christmas brighter!!



COATS FOR CHILDREN PROJECT - If you are looking for a way to give this season I have spoken with Aaron Pool, who runs Western Neighborhood Outreach Center, and he has expressed a need for children's warm winter coats. The ages of the kids who visit the center are kindergarten thru high school and children of all genders. So if you would like to donate a new or "gently" used winter coat please leave it in the office with Julie and I will deliver the coats to the center. Also ask a neighbor, a family member, or friend if they would like to help too. Please help keep our kids warm this winter.

Theresa Vigansky



HOLIDAY



Schedule

Sat. Dec. 3rd - 7pm - **West Central Ohio Community Concert Band** presents "A Christmas Gala Concert" on Sat, Dec. 3rd at BHS Auditorium. The concert begins at 7pm and will feature the Fountainaires Jazz Band, the Carilloneurs Bell Choir from the First Lutheran Church as well as the Concert Band. The featured vocalist for the evening will be Mary Knapke from Sidney. The band will be collecting canned goods and non-perishables for Our Daily Bread. Ticket prices are \$5.00 – Children under 5 Free.

Sun. Dec. 4th - "Miracle on Main Street" Our Children's Christmas Musical

Sun. Dec. 4th - Our *Children's Christmas Musical* during worship followed by our *Church Family Dinner*. Everyone is invited to attend. Please bring your assigned dish (**according to your last name**) and your own table service. Meat & drinks will be provided.

Church Christmas Dinner:

Please bring your table service and corresponding food dish:

Those with last names beginning with **A-I** bring a **Salad**

Those with last names beginning with **J-O** bring a **Dessert**

Those with last names beginning with **P-Z** bring a **Side Dish**

Please prepare enough food for 6-8 people.

If you have any question please contact Margaret Appel or the church office.

Sun. Dec. 11th – Our Women's Association is sponsoring their Annual **Cookie Exchange** right after church in the Chapel. You can bring 1, 2 or 3 dozen homemade cookies. If you bring 1 dozen, you leave with 1 dozen, etc. Please bring a container to put your cookies in. Questions?? Please contact Tracy Huffman (935-4558).

Sun. Dec. 11th – Our Chancel Choir along with choirs from area churches will present "Tapestry of Light" at the First United Methodist Church at 7:30pm

Wed. Dec. 14th – ALL the Christmas Sharing Baskets are **DUE!!**

Thurs. Dec. 15th – Deadline for January 2012 Newsletter

Sat. Dec. 17th – Join us at 9am as we assemble the 40 food baskets. Our adopted families will arrive between 11-12pm to pick up their baskets. Santa will be here and refreshments will be served. **Come be a part of our Christmas Sharing Project!!!**

Sun. Dec. 18th – Our Chancel Choir presents "Tapestry of Light" during our worship service. Michael Brady and Suzanne Dennis will be the narrators.



YOU'RE INVITED TO YOUNG ADULT KITCHEN MEMORIES INFORMAL BREAKFAST & FELLOWSHIP

Please join the Christian Education Ministry team on Sunday, December 18th for breakfast and fellowship. Why you ask, because we want to see you and find out what you're up to these days. Also gives you a chance to catch up with others you may not have seen in awhile. Please let us know if you can join us for breakfast which will begin at 9:30am.



Sat. Dec. 24th – 7pm *Christmas Eve Service*



Sun. Dec. 25th – *Christmas Day*

9:30am Fellowship Hour / 10:45am Worship

Mon. Dec. 26th – Church Offices Closed

Tues.. Dec. 27th – Last Tuesday Dinner @ the Prez

Fri. Dec. 30th – All **2011 Contributions** must be in the church office by Noon

Mon. Jan. 2nd - Church Offices Closed



"That last 'Glo-ooo-oooh-oooh-oooh-oooh-oooh-oooh-oooria' about did me in."

C. E. Committee Corner

Building Blocks

An important component of our Christian Education tradition is the Building Block program. Children are to learn the suggested items at each level of their experience. Some of these are passages of Scripture and some help children to be able to participate in Congregational Worship. In the Spring, those who have been able to show that they know the program are rewarded with a Wooden Block to keep. In addition to the block there is a partial scholarship for a week at Kirkmont in the summer. Teachers are working to help the children to learn the building block items. As in all educational programs, it is important that parents and grandparents be aware of what your children are learning so that support can be given at home. The following are the building block requirements for each grade level:

Pre Kindergarten: Colossians 3:20 and the song "Zaccheaus Was a Wee Little Man". Bonus...the song "Rise and Shine"

First Grade: The Lord's Prayer and John 3:16

Second Grade: Psalm 23 and The Golden Rule

Third Grade: The Ten Commandments and The Gloria Patri

Fourth Grade: Names of the Books of the Old Testament and the Doxology

Fifth Grade: Names of the Books of the New Testament and the Names of the Liturgical Seasons and the colors associated with each

Sixth Grade: The Apostle's Creed and the Old Testament Time Line

Seventh Grade: Psalm 100 and Two Verses of a Hymn

Eighth Grade: Psalm 46: 1-3;7-11 and The Beatitudes'.

Your child's teachers can provide you with more detailed information.

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