

The Aspire

First United Methodist Church, Wellington

November 2017

“Give thanks to the Lord, for his steadfast love endures forever” (2 Chronicles 20:21).

Dear Wellington Family,

It is said that the only constant in life is change. It seems we can't keep up with the technology changes of our world: dial phones to smart phones, from phonographs to blue tooth; and personal changes to family, friends, our health, and spiritual well-being. One day you're heading home from the hospital with your first child, the next you're babysitting your grandchildren. One day you're walking down the aisle with your beau, the next you're missing his voice that once filled your home with stories and laughter. One day you're gathered at the table with family and friends, from across the state or the country, the next you're on your own, your loved ones memories and the feasts having passed like meals of ghosts.

As Christians, though, we know that in the ever changing times of our lives, we do have one constant. That is the love of God that sees us through our trials and triumphs. As we gather to give thanks for our blessings, especially the blessing of family, let us give thanks to the anchor that is our God.

No matter where you are this Thanksgiving in your walk of life, whether you have a feast with family and friends, or now have a table for one, remember God's steadfast love. His love endures forever and helps us through the trials of this life that we may one day walk in glory, seeing God face to face, feasting at the heavenly banquet.

Despite all of our challenges and changes, we can be thankful. For we have a Lord who is the same yesterday, today, and tomorrow. No matter what our changing state of being or circumstance, He is steadfast and constant, our prime meridian, our north star, our redeeming love. He loves us the same yesterday, today, and tomorrow even when our love fails. God's love does not depend on happenstance. It is only a matter of our receiving it.

Be thankful through all of life's changes, both trial and triumph, for God sees you as his precious one no matter if you feast with kings, or sup with paupers.

Happy Thanksgiving, and thanks be to God for being our anchor in the sea of life!

Pastor Paul

“Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever” (Hebrews 13: 8 NRSV).

Prayer List

Homebound: Betty Smith, Aunt Naoma, Ruth Lent, Cora Brinker, Pat Coon, Patricia Ayers, Alice Burge, Adam Barwinski, Kathy Purcell, Alice Hawes

The Elms: Terri K. Titus, Cristine Steffee, Molly Wiles

Other care facilities: Jamie Haught (WV), Mona DeRuyter, Pat Gnagy

Health & Other Concerns: Liz Barnhouse, Kim & Shelley, Sandy Caldwell, Debbie Coon, Scott & Dawn Purdin, Sue McHenry, Hannah Caloway, Landry Cole, John Chislow, Perlina Botson, Barb Irish, Betty Chislow's daughter, John Martins, Betty Storrow, Daniel Mendez & Dennis Shroeder, Donna Fahler, Vickie, Lottie, Scott H, Linda's Aunt LaVerne, Dick Clifford, Devin, Kyle Delligato, Sarah West, Dawn, Tim Stawicki, Sandy Sorg, Bob Carpenter, Kelsy Butti, Sharon

Serving in the Military:

Matthew Anderson, Darren Geen (deployed), Kenny Van Hook, Ashley Martin Hovatter, Nick Martin, Justin Geen (deployed), David, Brandon, Chris Coker, Sabrina Williams, Stephan Stanfield, Andrew Veres, Nathaniel Harris

If you are interested in being a Prayer Partner, contact the church office to be added to the email Prayer Chain.



November Birthdays and Anniversaries

2	Dave Zenda	
5	Idell Brinker	Nelson & Regina Coon 11/4
8	Bob Dobush	
9	Kim Quinn, Joan Whitney, Allison Zander, Jarith Geen	Scott & Peggy Loudin 11/7
11	Karson Bacho	Dan & Heather Cole 11/19
12	Daniel Butti, Jim Hollingsworth	
13	Nelson Coon	
14	Marvelle Storrow	
16	Mike Fahler	
18	Rachael Welch, Abby Lemke	
19	Tori Woods	
20	Dick Geen	
25	Finley Eastman	
29	Lauren McConnell	
30	Cora Brinker	

To have your special day included, please contact the church office.

Poinsettia Order Form

Name _____ Phone _____

In memory of or Dedicated to:

plants _____ x \$5.00/plant

Checks payable to First UMC

Deadline to order poinsettias: November 26, 2017

2018 Stewardship/Finance Campaign

As chairman of the Finance committee, I get to see the finance side of stewardship. The church's annual budget is approximately \$275,000 or \$5250 per week. Each year we witness a 2-4% increase in expenses. These expenses include salaries for our pastor, youth pastor, organist, choir director, custodian, treasurer, church secretary and education director; pension benefits, travel expenses, and health insurance for the pastor; health insurance for our youth pastor; as well as insurance, utilities, building maintenance, parsonage mortgage plus conference expenses and apportionments. Some of our expenses are paid with restricted funds donated with a specific purpose. The general fund income has been declining since November 2013 when we had a cash balance of a little over \$70,000. Our current cash balance as of the end of September was \$24,000. This is a little over a one month reserve if donations stopped tomorrow.

Unlike Brighton Methodist Church or Grafton Church, we do not have a food booth at the Lorain County Fair to raise money nor do we host a Swiss steak supper. We depend on members of our church family to fund our programs. We have been reaching out into the community through our youth programs, Messy Church, Monday night Community dinners, Well Help, Grafton Prison, Vacation Bible School, etc.

Soon you will be receiving a pledge card for 2018. Please take the time to complete and return it to the church. Not everyone will turn in a pledge card, and I understand that. I did not turn one in for many years. If we are going to continue to reach out to the church membership and the Wellington community, finances are part of the equation. The finance committee and administrative board will use the pledges to help determine the 2018 budget.

If you wish to donate appreciated stock - the church can accept stock. It's a win-win situation for you and the church. You avoid taxes on your gain and you get a tax write-off for the appreciated value.

This coming summer Wellington Village will be celebrating it's bi-centennial - 200 years. First United Methodist Church has been here almost from day 1. As stewards of First United Methodist Church, it is our privilege and challenge to see that this church, the one we love and care for deeply, remains strong for another 200 years.

Lad Harrison, Finance Chair



Looking Ahead

Christmas in the Village: December 2 (10a-4p)

Craft Bazaars and Christmas Parade. We will be marching in the Parade to spread the word about Messy Church. Children grades 1-6 are invited to be part of the parade dressed as elves. Please let your Sunday School teacher know if you would like to be an elf so we have enough outfits. Participants need to be at the church by 12:30p to get suited up.

Advent Devotional booklets

from Society of St. Andrew available for personal use. In addition there is an offering box if you would like to support the organization. Their ministry is gleaning America's fields, feeding America's hungry.

Christmas Programs - Sunday, December 17

Sunday School Children will present "The Christmas Story" during worship. The Annual Choir Concert will be Sunday evening, December 17 at 7pm.

First United Methodist Church

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November 2017

US Postage
required
First Class

Join us on Sunday...

Sunday School, 9:30a
Worship, 10:45a
Messy Church, 4-6p (First Sunday)

FREE Community Meals are served
the last Monday of the month. 5-6p

Community Thanksgiving Service

Sunday, November 19 - 7:00 pm

All are welcome to attend

