



DAVID'S UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Annual Meeting - January 25 - 11:15am

Please plan to attend the Annual Meeting of David's Church! We will celebrate the accomplishments of the past year, all members will vote on the budget for 2026, and all can share hopes, dreams, goals, and concerns.

Important Office Information

January 1- Office Closed

January 11-24- Pastor Emily Out of the Office

January 19- Office Closed

The staff of David's would like to thank ALL OF YOU for the wonderful offerings of love, gifts, baked good, treats, and kind words! We are so thankful for you!

From the Desk of Rev. Joanna...

See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it?

I am making a way in the wilderness and streams in the wasteland.

Isaiah 43:18-19

In recent days, as I have been looking over our church calendar for January, reviewing our lectionary readings for the coming month (according to the Revised Common Lectionary), and giving thought to the worship themes and sermon titles for the next few weeks, a childhood memory came to mind ...

Every year, on New Year's Eve, two of my brothers, John and George, and I would stay up as late as we possibly could, to listen to the annual Billboard Hot 100 hits on the radio while we wrote down each song title and musician as Casey Kasem announced them, one by one. All the while, we compared them to our own predictions and respective lists of the best songs of the past year. While it was always a fun and lively debate with my brothers about the hottest hits of the previous twelve months, we all usually fell asleep long before the top ten songs were even announced!

What are your New Year's memories and traditions? Do you make resolutions each year at this time? Have you made predictions about what is yet to be? Do you come up with a wish list or, perhaps, a to-do list for the next twelve months? What are some of the ways in which you are planning to ring in 2026 during these early days of the new year? And what are your prayers for our world today and for the future?

The above words of Scripture from the prophet Isaiah are words of promise. At the time that they were written, they offered a message of hope, healing and restoration for the people of Israel who had been suffering under the Babylonian rule in the late sixth century BCE. Some of the people had been taken into captivity in Babylon while others remained in the land, but both groups experienced the devastating effects that came with being a conquered people. However, the prophet's words, here, in the Book of Isaiah, assured Israel that God had not forgotten them but instead had plans for them to prosper, flourish and thrive – and to live in community as one people – once again.

During these past five months that I have been journeying with all of you, here, at David's United Church of Christ, I have been absolutely amazed and inspired by your deep faith, resilience and active participation in the life of the church. As you may have heard me say previously, you have defied the conventional wisdom about interim times in most congregations. Rather than drifting away from the church during these "in-between" times, you have leaned in and remained actively engaged in the mission and the numerous ministries within our congregation and throughout the wider community.

As most of you may know by now, a special congregational meeting will be held following worship on Sunday, January 18, to vote on calling the Rev. Tony Minear to serve as your next settled senior pastor. Your vote and your participation in this meeting is of utmost importance. Meanwhile, if you have any questions about this upcoming meeting, you may contact our moderator, Sue Walters.

Indeed, all of you as a congregation are standing at a threshold place of all that has been and all that is yet to be. It is in these holy and profound moments of your life together as David's U.C.C. that God offers inspiration, wisdom and clarity as you open yourselves up to the "new thing" that God is doing through you and for you.

Thanks be to God!

See you in worship!

Rev. Joanna Samuelson

Interim Lead Pastor

jsamuelson@davidsucc.org

Gateway

food drop-off

SATURDAY JANUARY 31 IS OUR NEXT DROP-OFF AT THE NARTHEX DOORS!

Wouldn't it be great to carry our Christmas Spirit to our Gateway meals this month? We have yet to have full sign ups for 40 Sloppy Joe casseroles so I think a wonderful to meet that goal for the women and children who are living at St Vincents. And if you're already making a pan, perhaps you'd consider making two! It's really very little additional work to have two pots going at once! David's is the epitome of a giving church. Can you help us give just a little more this time of year? Questions? Call or text Anne Brown at 937-219-9639

Joyce Lee

giving tree

Thank you to everyone who participated in the Joyce Lee Giving Tree this holiday season. I truly appreciate everyone's flexibility due to the crazy weather and making sure the gifts were delivered regardless of what Mother Nature was throwing at us. Once again, Head Start was blown away by the generosity of this church - so thank you! This year, I was also able to purchase \$1200 in very much needed socks and underwear. These will be distributed to Head Start classrooms and used by all children who are enrolled in the program. So here's to another successful year - but get ready for 2026 - it'll be here before we know it! Anne Jones

St. Paul

missions

Please remember as you clean out your closets to make room for all of those new Christmas gifts, our friends in need at St. Paul's. They are in need of clothing items, food, and household supplies. For a complete list, please see the information in the Narthex!

Top on their list right now of NEEDS:

Spaghetti Sauce, Canned Soups, Boxed Potatoes, Pasta, Noodles, Crackers, Mac & Cheese, Shelf Milk, Boxed Stuffing, Jelly

Warm Wishes

ministry

Warm Wishes will be meeting on their regular schedule starting Monday, January 5 beginning at 9:30am. If you want to join an amazing group of mission-focused cutters and sewers, please consider joining! If mornings don't work for you, there is also a Warm Wishes 2 Group that will meet January 26 at 6pm. Questions? Contact Nedra Dalton for more information.



FAITH FORMATION

ACOLYTES WANTED!

We are so excited so many kids in the Acolyte program at David's! Acolytes have a special role, they bring the candlelight into the Sanctuary to signify the start of worship, symbolically bring the Light of Christ into our presence. To sign up for a spot in the new year please go

to: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C084FA8A82AAAFAC52-60382603-2026#/> If desired, Pastor Emily will meet with the Acolyte each week for a quick review prior to the start of the service.

2ND HOUR PRESENTATION

History of David's Church Stained Glass Windows

Karen Hendricks will repeat the presentation for David's stained glass windows, on Sun., January 11, from 11:15 am to 12:30, in the sanctuary.

The presentation will cover the subjects of the windows, the people who dedicated the windows, and their repairs and maintenance. Join us!



MARTIN LUTHER KING DAY

JOIN US FOR THE MARTIN LUTHER KING MARCH MONDAY JANUARY 19

Martin Luther King Jr. March Join us for the MLK Memorial March on Monday, January 19, 2026 Location: Assemble at 1323 W. Third St., Dayton, OH 45402 (Near Drew Health Center) at 9:00AM. The March will end at Sinclair Community College inside Building 12 (around 10:00AM). RTA Shuttle service will be running between Drew Health Center and Sinclair until Noon. Please RSVP to the office so we know how many people are interested and if carpooling will be an option.

CHURCH EVENTS

Special Council Meeting

Attention members of our Church Council: Please plan to attend a Special Council Meeting: Sunday January 4, 2026 following worship in the conference room.

Grove Information Meetings

Grove Tour- Rescheduled for Sunday, January 4th, from 9:00-9:30 and 11:15-11:45. Mike Morton will open the grove for any who would like to take a tour of the house at The Grove.

At our Annual Meeting in late January, the Grove will be discussed with a vote to Keep The Grove or to Sell The Grove. To keep the property would mean forming a new Grove Committee who would pursue development of the property in accordance with the city of Kettering. We need to hear from you. Please plan to attend the informational meeting to discuss your concerns, hear your questions and provide answers. It will be held in the sanctuary Saturday January 17th at 10:00.

Sue Walters, Council President

If you are interested in reading more about the history of The Grove, check out this document put together by Karen Hendricks: [Grove History Link](#) or go to <https://files.constantcontact.com/b99d98d3101/bc9e91a6-7357-4b19-bd6c-b72bc7186112.pdf>

New Member Information

Are you interested in becoming a New Member of David's UCC? Please come to our New Member Orientation Meeting- January 11, 2026 following worship in the conference room (downstairs in the office). You will learn more about our church, what we believe, and all of the opportunities we have for you to get involved. New members will be received on Sunday, January 25th, enabling them to vote at the annual meeting!

Young Families

Please join the young families group on January 9th in the fellowship hall from 6:30-8:30 for some food and fellowship. Please bring a snack or drink to share with the group. Any questions please call or text Amanda at 614-579-2643

Green Team Meeting

Do you have a passion for the environment and working to make our world more sustainable? Consider joining us! Our next meeting is Tuesday, January 13th at 6:00pm on Zoom. The zoom link is below.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/3370481150?omn=86108490497>

Any questions, contact Becca Karason at karason@yahoo.com

Game Night in Fellowship Hall

Attention all Gamers! Join us 7-9pm JANUARY 16 in the Office Conference Room for GAME NIGHT! Bring a favorite game; BYOB and a snack to share. Be prepared to have fun playing euchre, pinochle, Mexican train, Scrabble. Any questions contact Kevin Craig at imkevbo@gmail.com

News from the Pastoral Search Committee

Please join the Search Committee in welcoming Rev. Tony Minear for his candidacy weekend on January 17 and 18. There will be a meet and greet on Saturday, Jan. 17th from 1-3 in the Fellowship Hall. All are welcome and encouraged to come and meet Rev. Tony and his partner, Janelle. On Sunday, January 18th, Rev. Tony will preach at our service, with a congregational meeting to follow. Please make time in your weekend for this exciting and important opportunity. Together we can make 2026 and David's future inspiring and fulfilling!

You can see videos of Rev. Tony's sermons at <https://fcc-houston.org/video-gallery/>

Special Congregational Meeting

Attention Members!!

Please plan to attend the Special Congregational Meeting on Sunday, January 18, 2026- We will vote to call Rev. Tony Minear to be David's next Senior Pastor.

Women Hanging Out (WHO)

JANUARY 27 IS OUR NEXT GATHERING!

In just a few short weeks WHO can boast that we visited many fine eateries in this calendar year. We will continue that trend in 2026 when we dine at one of Miami Valley's newest establishments, the Rum Runner, located at 2318 East Dorothy Lane. Many may recognize this address as the former location of Christophers which had been on the dining scene for 30 years, Rum Runner boasts an extensive menu of sandwiches, chicken wings, signature meals and accommodations for around \$10 to \$20 which are sure to please the dining public. The Rum Runner is located in the Woodlane Shopping Center at the corner of Woodman Drive and East Dorothy Lane. We will meet at our usual 5:30 p.m. time slot on Tuesday, January 27 with accommodation for 25 guests. You can place your name on the reservation list by contacting Judy Hudson via e-mail or by text or phone at 937-329-2588 or by seeing her at church on Sunday morning. Please be sure to add your name to the list of attendees to try out this new eatery just a short distance from the church.

COMMUNITY OF FAITH

UN- Hanging of the Greens

HANGING OF THE GREENS JANUARY 3

The Elders will be hosting the Annual UN-Hanging of the Greens on Sat, January 3 at 10:00 am in the Narthex. We will remove all of the decorations our church had for the Christmas season and with our many helpers, we accomplish this in about an hour! Anyone is welcome to help with this! Hope to see you then!

Be A Communion Wafer Baker

-Recipe is provided and you can bake in your home at your convenience. -You will need to bake only a few times a year. If you have questions or would like to volunteer, please call/text Roselyn Faulkner at 937-974-3753.

January Birthdays

January 3- Judy Jones

January 4- Scott Carter

January 6- Susan Newcomb

January 8- Jill Chabut, Jenni Pence

January 12- Kathy Randall, Chris Roberts-Bethel, Darlene Rogers, Abigail Vest

January 14- Julie Pickrel, Petra Steinberger

January 16- Chris Walther

January 17- Patrice Schottelkotte

January 19- Heather Greene, Louis Wright

January 20- Faye Phillips

January 22- Howard Sizek, Dominic Worsowicz, Marshall Worsowicz

January 23- Bonnie McNabb

January 24- Marty Bethel

January 25- Kirsten Sherk

January 26- Del Faulkner

January 30- Debbie Barrett, Erin Dunn, Lisa Susner

January 31- Parker Yantis-Houser



JANUARY 2026

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
						
4 Grove Tours- 9am, 11:15am Worship- 9:50am Children's Choir, Confirmation, Special Council Mtg	5 Warm Wishes- 9:30am	6 Quilting- 10am Elders' Mtg- 6:30pm	7	8 Handbell Practice-6pm Sanctuary Choir Practice- 7pm	9 Young Family Night- 6:30pm	10 Trustee Mtg- 8:30am
11 Worship- 9:50am Children's Choir Confirmation, 2nd Hour, New Member Class	12 Warm Wishes- 9:30am	13 Quilting- 10am Faith Formation Mtg, Green Team Mtg- 6pm ZOOM Mission Mtg-7pm	14 F&H Mtg- 9:30am	15 Handbell Practice-6pm Sanctuary Choir Practice- 7pm	16 Game Night- 7pm	17 Men's Breakfast- 8:30am Grove Info Mtg- 10am Rev. Tony Meet and Greet- 2pm Parent's Night Out- 5- 8pm
18 Worship- 9:50am Children's Choir. Special Cong. Vote, Second Hour	19 Warm Wishes- 9:30am OFFICE CLOSED FOR MLK DAY!	20 Quilting- 10am Council Meeting 7pm	21	22 Handbell Practice-6pm Sanctuary Choir Practice- 7pm	23	24
25 Worship- 9:50am Annual Meeting 11:15am	26 Warm Wishes- 9:30am Warm Wishes 2- 6pm	27 Quilting- 10am WHO Dinner- 5:30pm	28	29 Handbell Practice-6pm Sanctuary Choir Practice- 7pm	30	31

Pastor Emily will be out of the office January 11- January 24