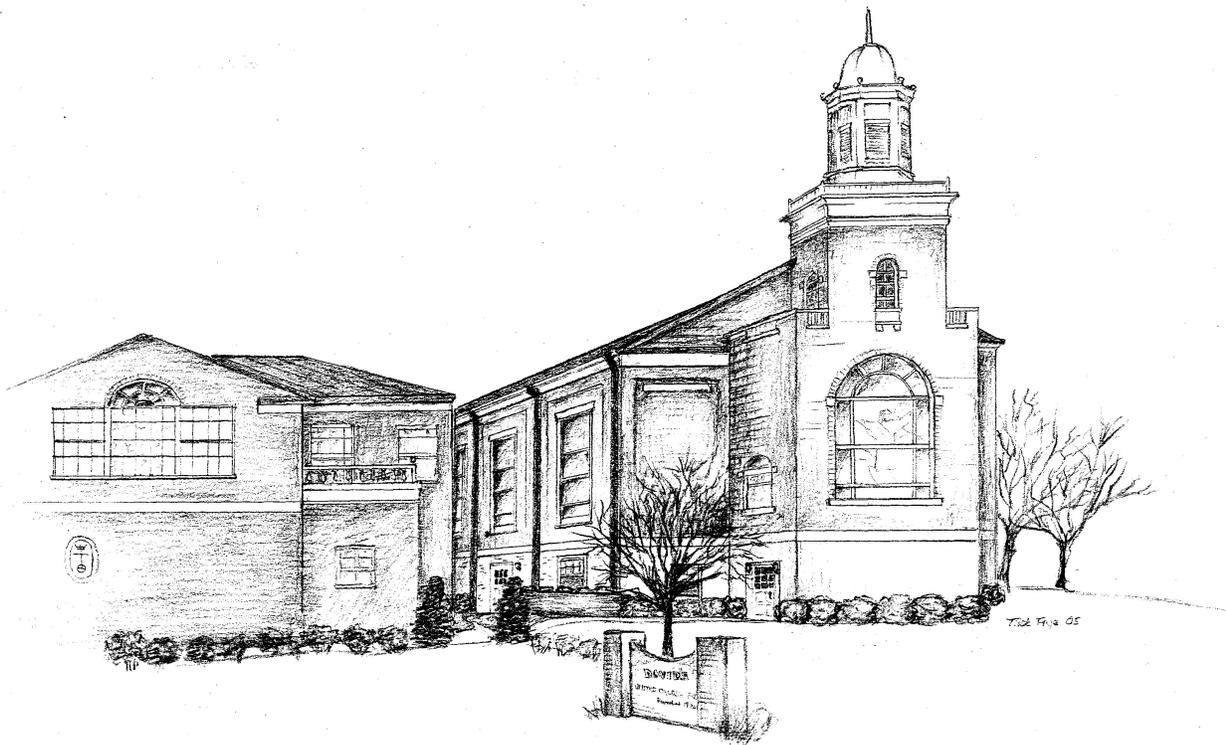


# 2025 ANNUAL REPORT



DAVID'S UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST  
170 W. DAVID ROAD  
KETTERING, OH 45429-1806

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING  
FEBRUARY 8, 2026  
(RESCHEDULE DUE TO SNOW FROM JAN 25)

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**DAVID'S UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST**

**ANNUAL MEETING AGENDA**

**JANUARY 25, 2026**

- I. Opening Prayer
- II. Approval of Agenda
- III. Approval of Minutes- January 26, 2025
- IV. Treasurer's Report- Brian Dalton
- V. Pastor Joanna Samuelson Report
- VI. Pastor Emily Phillips Report
- VII. Congregational Concerns
- VIII. Questions Referring to Board Reports
  - Elders
  - Deacons
  - Mission
  - Faith Formation/Christian Ed
  - Fellowship & Hospitality
  - Trustees
- IX. Old Business
- X. New Business
  - Adoption of 2026 Budget
  - Nominees to Boards
  - Nominees to Council
  - Recognition of Retiring Members of Boards & Council
  - The Grove
- XI. Report of Council
- XII. Closing Prayer
  - Adjournment

**David's United Church of Christ  
Minutes of the Annual Meeting  
January 26, 2025**

Council President Gen Cook opened the meeting at 11:05 a.m.

She announced that a quorum of at least 50 percent of the congregation was present.

Pastor Emily Phillips, Director of Faith Formation and Family Life, offered the opening prayer.

Gen asked if there were any questions regarding the agenda. There were none.

Nedral Dalton moved, seconded by Petra Steinberger, to approve the minutes of the January, 2024 Annual Meeting. Approved.

**Treasurer's report:** Treasurer Brian Dalton introduced himself and said he has met many members of the congregation. He said he has learned a lot as he moved into the job of treasurer, and thanked Dan Dietz, Dick DeLon, Sue Walters, and Andy Storar for their assistance. Brian said he had made an adjustment to his report in the amount of funds set aside for Our Church's Wider Mission for our mission partners because expenses had changed, and he apologized for the error.

He reported that the church's budget is in the black. The November donations had been very good, "way exceeding any of my expectations."

Brian said he had moved the church's investment portfolio to Edward Jones because of the lack of communication with the firm that previously held the account, Cardinal Investments. He said he had withdrawn \$25,000 from the capital funds to pay for the renovation of the elevator, and he would have to ask for more for capital improvements.

He also said he planned to purchase new computers for the staff with funds from the Rummage Sale.

There were no questions from the congregation. Maggie Weisman moved, Howard Winthrop seconded, to accept the Treasurer's report. Approved.

**Pastor's Report:** Pastor Emily thanked the Rev. Dave Evans for his work as temporary pastor, and thanked the congregation for their support during Pastor Brian Newcomb's illness. She said she is beginning her final year at Eden Seminary and she hopes to be fully ordained just about the time David's celebrates its 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

There were no questions for Pastor Emily.

**Congregational Concerns:** Kurt Olt asked about church improvements and safety improvements in the last five years at David's. He asked "Where is the church going? What can we do to open up our space for the community? The Grove is under-utilized. We're in an enviable position." Kat Hartbajer said she had come to David's from England. She praised the architecture as being the same as when her early family members attended here.

## **Board reports:**

*Elders:* No report other than the items printed in the Annual Report. There were no questions for the Elders.

*Deacons:* Janice Kinghorn reported that renovations to the elevator are planned in effort to make the church facilities more open. The question was how to finance the work, and so the Deacons want a capital campaign to pay for modernizing the elevator and updating the building. They request a vote on a \$100,000 campaign.

Nedral said she is chair of the Warm Wishes group, and their work would be more difficult if they didn't have an elevator to move the things they need.

Sue Krichbaum asked what maintenance is needed. Jim Williams said there is a constant need for upkeep throughout the buildings. An air compressor on the roof of the main building is needed; there are plumbing issues; the Grove has things that may need to be addressed. Ann Brown asked if the budget is going to include all the things mentioned. Treasurer Brian said the funds currently allotted have not included The Grove, but the church will need \$30-40,000, plus more for the compressors. Gen asked for a cost-benefit analysis, and Andy Storar replied that Council had voted to consult with an attorney on what can and cannot be done to The Grove legally. Kurt Olt said long-term planning is needed.

Ed Webb moved, seconded by Mary Foster, to accept the Deacons' report. Approved.

*Mission:* Jeff Baldwin reported that David's assistance at Gateway is continuing for several more months.

*Christian Education:* There were no questions.

*Fellowship & Hospitality:* There were no questions.

*Trustees:* Neil Jones asked the Trustees for the estimated total cost for the elevator. Jim Williams replied it will cost an estimated \$100,000.

## **Old Business**

There was no Old Business.

## **New Business**

Treasurer Brian Dalton presented the proposed budget for 2025. He said it is a faith-based budget, which has been demonstrated to be successful.

Updates: The budget reflects expenses dealing with the senior pastor's health insurance. Dan Dietz has alerted us that there were costs related to insurance for the wife of the temporary pastor, Carl Robinson. This caused the budget to be in the red, but the budget for the Deacons included \$1,000 that can be applied to the deficit.

Brian said the amounts listed as receipts are from pledges on the pledge cards, plus funds that were not included as pledges.

Brian reported that the budgets for Mission and SONKA will remain the same; he discovered Christian Education is using technology more, so we need a technology budget and a line item for a person to maintain the system. Brian also asked who is charged for paper plates, because that cost is a line item.

Brian said he has created a fund for the 200 Anniversary celebrations, and set aside funds for continued pastoral education.

In total, Brian said, the budget includes \$571,000 in anticipated income, and \$570,000 in expenses.

He commented that he is available any time for discussion. Kaytee Yantis-Houser said the document is a complicated budget, and asked what software was used to devise it. Brian said he used Church Windows, which is not a Windows program, although the name implies that it is. He added that he is looking for a true Windows-based system.

Mike Morton moved to accept the budget, and Terry Foster seconded. The budget was approved.

Jeff Baldwin, as Council vice president, presented the slate of new and retiring members of the boards. Nedral moved to accept the list, seconded by Mary Foster. Andy Storar suggested some changes in the nominating process, and moved to accept the changes, seconded by Ben Worsowicz. Approved.

Jeff said moving onto the Council will be Linda Ford, Elvis Nail, Jennifer Kain, and Beth Tabor. John Keyes moved to accept the list, seconded by Anne Brown. Approved.

Gen Cook, chair of the Council, ended the agenda by saying she has a dream of the next 200 years at David's. We are financially secure, she commented. "I have been honored to serve you all," she said.

Pastor Emily offered a prayer to close out the Annual Meeting.

Gen adjourned the meeting at 12:12 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Jeff John  
Council Secretary

**DAVID'S UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST  
MEMBERSHIP STATISTICS FOR 2025**

**Received into Membership by:**

Confirmation	4
Transfer/Reaffirmation	10
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>14</b>

**Removed from Membership by:**

Death	7
Removal via inactivity	0
Transfer	7
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>14</b>

**Membership – December 31, 2025**

**307**

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**2025 Baptisms**

Child Baptism	6
Adult Baptism	0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>6</b>

**2025 Marriages**

Pastor Emily Phillips	0
Rev. Joanna Samuelson	0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>0</b>

## Treasurer Annual Report 2025

Brian Dalton

Welcome to fiscal 2025. We started off the year with an update to the Church's computer system. This required a lot of teamwork on tracking down the computers that would work best for the staff while staying within a budget worked out by the office staff and the Deacons. This project was funded by the Rummage Sale, as are so many necessary but unbudgeted projects of the Church.

Once we had computers up and running in the office, I was able to work on tackling the finances. I am not going to lie; I was not sure how this year was going to end up looking. We have a Faith Based budget in place and this year really demonstrated how this is enacted in a real-life scenario. Let's look at some numbers from this past year:

We budgeted to receive \$489,975 as our General Operating donations and we brought in \$530,361. In addition to this we will have given SONKA \$37,419 and our Mission Board \$20,149. As always, David's Congregation continues to astound me with the amount of support given to our four walls and the world. In addition, we asked all of you to Fund an Elevator Update and a Capital Improvement campaign and raised \$100,00 to fulfil this need. Even though we have brought in a lot of contributions this year, the leaders of the Church have proven to be good stewards of this money. Our yearly expenses were budgeted to be \$513,920 and all the boards kept these expenses to a total of \$474,727. This left us \$75,090 in the black regarding our operating income vs our operating expenses. Let's look at some of the expenses that the Church had this year:

David's Building and Grounds	\$80,042 vs a budget of \$94,645
The Grove	\$9,245 vs a budget of \$8,790
Faith Formation/Christian Education	\$6,291 vs a budget of \$4800
Church Operations and Admin	\$52,293 vs a budget of \$65,250
Personnel Expenses	\$310,802 vs a budget of \$325,123

Our investments and savings also had a very good year. We started this year utilizing Cardinal Investment Group to manage our portfolio and transitioned to Edward Jones because we did not feel as if we were getting adequate growth on our investments and a lack of communication. We started a short-term savings CD this year with \$99,521 and it grew to \$103,584 for a return of 4.6%. Our investment portfolio started with \$1,510,223 and ended with \$1,818,952. This did include the transfer of almost \$100,000 for the Capital Improvement Campaign but ended with a growth of 13.51% overall.

As we finish out 2025, I am very excited to be updating our accounting system from Church Windows to a new windows-based program called IconCMO. This software is designed to primarily be used by churches and other nonprofit organizations. It is a much easier system to use and allows for a more integrated setup with our bank and Vanco, the online banking system that we use. In addition to our financial needs this software will provide us with an online directory, ability to utilize a church calendar online, and set us up with group texting for the entire congregation.

In closing, I would like to thank all of you for the opportunity to serve as your treasurer. It is a pleasure to come to work every day and constantly be surrounded by goodness and caring for all. Moving forward I will continue to try and be as accessible to all of you as I can and provide you with my straightforward answers to any questions you might present.

With deepest respect,

Brian Dalton

Treasurer

David's UCC

Income Expense	Account	Title	2025 Budget	2025 Actual	2026 Budget	Fund	Narrative Budget Category
Income	4005	90% Pledge Receipts (10% to OCV	489,975	530,361	508,000	*Operating Fund	OH%
Income	4006	Pledge Receipts - Restricted				*Operating Fund	OH%
Income	4015	Fundraising - Shrimp, Spag, Dining	4,000	3,810	4,000	*Operating Fund	OH%
Income	4016	Adult Ed Book Study	500		-	*Operating Fund	Christian Education
Income	4020	Other Svcs - Ash, Easter, Christma	3,500	1,742	3,500	*Operating Fund	OH%
Income	4021	Misc - Copier, Dragons, etc.	500	434	500	*Operating Fund	OH%
Income	4080	Wedding Income			-	*Operating Fund	Fellowship/Worship
Income	4081	Funeral Income	1,600	3,100		*Operating Fund	Fellowship/Worship
Income	4082	Rental Income	50	642	300	*Operating Fund	OH%
Income	4085	CE/Sunday School Income		100	100	*Operating Fund	Christian Education
Income	4500	Flower Donations	400	619	400	*Operating Fund	Fellowship/Worship
Income	4501	Flower Receipts	650	1,070	600	*Operating Fund	Fellowship/Worship
Income	4641	Love Offering Receipts	5,000	5,687	5,000	*Operating Fund	OH%
Income	4654	Gifts Ordination	-		-	*Operating Fund	OH%
Income	4805	Int. & Div. - Operating	-	401	-	*Operating Fund	OH%
Income	4806	Inc/Decrease in Value - Operating	-	1,850	-	*Operating Fund	OH%
Operating Income				549,816			
Income	4065	Mission - OCWM 6.5%	31,848	37,420	33,020	Benevolence Fund	Mission
Income	4700	O.G.H.S.	-	2,895	-	Benevolence Fund	Mission
Income	4702	Strengthen Church	-	3,957	-	Benevolence Fund	Mission
Income	4703	CUE Seminaries Inc.	-	-	-	Benevolence Fund	Mission
Income	4704	Neighbors in Need Donations	-	1,840	-	Benevolence Fund	Mission
Income	4707	UCC Colleges	-		-	Benevolence Fund	Mission
Income	4708	Christmas Eve Revenues	-	6,481	-	Benevolence Fund	Mission
Income	4060	Mission Board - Pledge Rec.3.5 %	17,149	20,149	17,780	Benevolence Fund	Mission
Income	4070	Benevolence - Restricted	2,000		2,000	Benevolence Fund	Mission
Income	4640	House of Bread Donations	-		-	Benevolence Fund	Mission
Income	4706	Holiday Baskets	-	3,034	-	Benevolence Fund	Mission
Income	4713	Peanut Butter/Back Pack Rev.	-	1,655	-	Benevolence Fund	Mission
Income	4720	Gateway	-	1,792	-	Benevolence Fund	Mission
Income	4730	Pack Away Hunger/Lesotho Donat	-	2,534	-	Benevolence Fund	Mission
Income	4740	Summer Food Program Donation	-	1,137	-	Benevolence Fund	Mission
Income	4790	Non Budget Misc.	-	3,994	-	Benevolence Fund	Mission
Total Mission Income				86,888			
Income	4200	Remembrance Fund Receipts		6,681	-	Remembrance Fund	OH%
Income	4210	Pastor's Fund Receipts	-	3,663	5,000	Pastor's Fund	OH%
Income	4235	SIGN Fund Receipts	-			SIGNS Fund	OH%
Income	4310	Park & Play Donations	1,100	200	500	Park & Play Fund	Facilities
Income	4555	Joyce Lee Giving Tree Donations	-	200	-	*Joyce Lee Giving Tree Fund	Mission
Income	4645	Meijer and DLM Rewards - Missio	-		-	Benevolence Fund	Mission
Income	4657	Camp Fund Receipts	-		-	Camp Fund	Fellowship/Worship
Income	4665	Confirmation Fund Receipts	-	990	-	Confirmation Fund	Christian Education
Income	4666	Youth Pilgrimage Stock	-	1,610	-	Confirmation Fund	Christian Education
Income	4680	Rummage Sale Receipts	-	21,817	-	Rummage Sale Fund	Mission
Income	4681	Warm Wishes Receipts	-	-	-	Warm Wishes Fund	Mission
Income	4682	Warm Wishes Donations	-	6,666	-	Warm Wishes Fund	Mission
Income	4685	Deacons Fund Receipts	8,000	9,238	8,500	Deacons Fund	Fellowship/Worship
Income	4690	Miscellaneous Fund Receipts	-		-	Miscellaneous Fund	OH%

Income	4691	Quilting Fund Donations	-	231	-	Quilting Fund	Mission
Income	4692	Quilting Fund Receipts	-	23,519	-	Quilting Fund	Mission
Income	4750	Music Fund Donations	-	399	-	Music Fund	Fellowship/Worship
Income	4900	Pike Lake Income	-	4,202	-	Pike Lake	Fellowship/Worship
Miscellaneous Income				79,416			
Income	4816	Scholarship Fund Interest	-	-	-	**Scholarship Fund	OH%
Income	4817	Music Endowment Interest	-	-	-	**Music Endowment Fund	Fellowship/Worship
Income	4820	Joyce Lee Giving Tree Fund Intere	-	-	-	*Joyce Lee Giving Tree Fund	Mission
Income	4835	Capital Improvements Interest	-	-	-	**Capital Improvements Fund	Facilities
Income	4845	SALT Endowment Interest	-	-	-	**SALT Endowment Fund	OH%
Income	4850	Endowment Fund Interest	-	-	-	**General Endowment Fund	OH%
Income	4851	Zimmerman Fund Interest	-	-	-	**Zimmerman Estate Fund	OH%
Income	4852	Dick Eichel Fund Interest	-	-	-	**Dick Eichel Fund	OH%
Income	4910	Incr/Decrease in Value, Music Endc	-	-	-	**Music Endowment Fund	OH%
Income	4911	Inc/Decrease in Value, J Lee Givin	-	-	-	*Joyce Lee Giving Tree Fund	OH%
Income	4915	Inc/Decrease in Value, Endowmer	-	-	-	**General Endowment Fund	OH%
Income	4916	Inc/Decrease in Value, Zimmerma	-	-	-	**Zimmerman Estate Fund	OH%
Income	4917	Inc/Decrease in Value - Eichel Fun	-	-	-	**Dick Eichel Fund	OH%
Income	4930	Inc/Decrease in Value, Scholarship	-	-	-	**Scholarship Fund	OH%
Income	4935	Inc/Decrease in Value - Cap Impoi	-	-	-	**Capital Improvements Fund	Facilities
Income	4945	Inc/Decrease in Value - SALT Endc	-	-	-	**SALT Endowment Fund	OH%
			66,272	589,200			
Expense	5000	Senior Pastor	63,500	75,698	59,472	*Operating Fund	OH%
	5001	Interim Pastor		-	16,942	*Operating Fund	OH%
Expense	5005	Associate Pastor	40,560	40,560	47,046	*Operating Fund	OH%
Expense	5006	Sabbatical Expense	-	-	-	*Operating Fund	OH%
Expense		Pastorial Education	10,000	837	2,500	*Operating Fund	OH%
Expense		Staff Payroll	27,381	128,597	159,006	*Operating Fund	Fellowship/Worship
Expense	5070	Guest Org. & Other Staff	2,000	3,250	1,000	*Operating Fund	Fellowship/Worship
Expense	5089	Pass-Thru Fees	500	-	-	*Operating Fund	Fellowship/Worship
Expense	5099	Love Offering	5,000	5,587	5,000	*Operating Fund	OH%
Expense	5100	Senior Min. Housing	15,000	-	16,228	*Operating Fund	OH%
	5101	Interim Pastor Housing		-	5,082	*Operating Fund	OH%
Expense	5103	Health/Dental Ins - Sr Pastor	33,754	19,484	29,170	*Operating Fund	OH%
	5104	Health/Dental Ins - In Pastor		-	4,749	*Operating Fund	OH%
Expense	5106	Pension/Life/AD&D - Sr Pastor	9,028	6,863	10,899	*Operating Fund	OH%
	5107	Pension/Life/AD&D - In Pastor		-	3,083	*Operating Fund	OH%
Expense	5108	Sr Pastor -125 Health Savings	-	-	-	*Operating Fund	OH%
Expense	5110	Assoc. Housing Allow.	-	-	-	*Operating Fund	OH%
Expense	5113	Assoc. Health, Dental Ins	1,500	2,927	4,932	*Operating Fund	OH%
Expense	5114	Assoc Pastor Flexible Spending Acct ( )		-	-	*Operating Fund	OH%
Expense	5116	Pension Life AD&D Assoc Pastor	3,900	3,900	3,900	*Operating Fund	OH%
Expense	5117	TSA - Assoc Pastor Retirement		-	-	*Operating Fund	OH%
Expense	5175	F.I.C.A.	20,000	17,212	18,000	*Operating Fund	OH%
Expense	5180	Workers' Compensation	3,000	3,552	4,000	*Operating Fund	OH%
Expense	5350	Children's Education / Sunday Sch	800	1,428	2,000	*Operating Fund	Christian Education
Expense	5355	Adult Education	500	169	500	*Operating Fund	Christian Education
Expense		Speaker Expense	200	-	200	*Operating Fund	Christian Education
Expense	5365	Confirmation & Youth	3,500	4,695	3,500	*Operating Fund	Christian Education
Expense	5109	Clergy Exp. Senior Pastor	4,800	2,428	3,500	*Operating Fund	OH%

Expense	5119	Clergy Exp. Assoc.	3,000	1,217	2,500	*Operating Fund	OH%
Expense	5120	Pastoral Care	500	5	500	*Operating Fund	Fellowship/Worship
Expense	5185	Cont. Ed.-All	2,000	350	-	*Operating Fund	Christian Education
Expense	5190	Staff Search/Reviews Expenses	1,000	2,567	12,000	*Operating Fund	OH%
Expense	5255	Office Equipment Leasing	10,500	5,336	6,000	*Operating Fund	OH%
Expense	5270	Office Supplies Expense	6,000	2,612	4,000	*Operating Fund	OH%
Expense		Technology	3,000	10,240	3,000	*Operating Fund	OH%
Expense		Computers	6,000	4,222	1,000	*Operating Fund	OH%
Expense	5272	Bank Fees	4,300	2,817	2,800	*Operating Fund	OH%
Expense	5274	Audio Video (AV)	2,000	4,120	3,800	*Operating Fund	Fellowship/Worship
Expense	5275	Worship Supplies	2,500	862	3,400	*Operating Fund	Fellowship/Worship
Expense	5277	Funeral Expenses	1,000	859		*Operating Fund	Fellowship/Worship
Expense	5280	Printing	500	2,353	1,000	*Operating Fund	OH%
Expense	5285	Postage	1,600	1,380	1,500	*Operating Fund	OH%
Expense	5287	Payroll Service Fees	4,500	4,995	4,500	*Operating Fund	OH%
Expense	5295	Flowers & Decorations	1,400	1,505	1,400	*Operating Fund	Fellowship/Worship
Expense	5300	Music	5,800	4,195	8,000	*Operating Fund	Fellowship/Worship
Expense	5310	Music - Special Events	3,200	3,833	-	*Operating Fund	Fellowship/Worship
Expense	5401	Fundraising Exp	1,500	879	1,200	*Operating Fund	OH%
Expense	5405	Fellowship & Hospitality Board	1,800	600	3,500	*Operating Fund	Fellowship/Worship
		Paper Supplies	700	1,015	1,000	*Operating Fund	Fellowship/Worship
Expense	5415	Church Functions - Fall kickoff, ne	1,000	374	1,000	*Operating Fund	Fellowship/Worship
Expense	5445	Advertising/Marketing	1,000	1,524	1,200	*Operating Fund	OH%
Expense	5450	Gift Expense	250	451	400	*Operating Fund	OH%
Expense	5499	Background Checks & Legal Exp	300	740	300	*Operating Fund	OH%
Expense	5205	Telephone/Internet	4,645	4,294	4,700	*Operating Fund	Facilities
Expense	5210	Heat & Light	21,500	20,698	21,500	*Operating Fund	Facilities
Expense	5215	Water	2,200	2,769	2,400	*Operating Fund	Facilities
Expense	5225	Waste Disposal	3,100	3,481	3,200	*Operating Fund	Facilities
Expense	5220	Cleaning/Custodial Supplies	1,500	1,174	1,200	*Operating Fund	Facilities
Expense	5228	Janitorial Services	-	107		*Operating Fund	Facilities
Expense	5235	Building Repair/Maintenance	45,000	35,477	45,000	*Operating Fund	Facilities
Expense	5240	Building Supplies	2,500	1,169	2,500	*Operating Fund	Facilities
Expense	5230	Grounds Repair/Maintenance	6,500	10,863	6,500	*Operating Fund	Facilities
Expense	5231	Grounds Supplies	700	12	700	*Operating Fund	Facilities
Expense	5206	Telephone/Internet - The Grove	1,370	1,200	600	*Operating Fund	Facilities
Expense	5211	Heat & Light - The Grove	1,500	2,291	2,100	*Operating Fund	Facilities
Expense	5216	Water - The Grove	420	199	250	*Operating Fund	Facilities
Expense	5236	Repairs and Replacements - The G	5,000	5,348	4,000	*Operating Fund	Facilities
Expense	5245	Other Exp - The Grove	500	207	400	*Operating Fund	Facilities
Expense	5200	Church Insurance	20,112	22,344	23,008	*Operating Fund	Facilities
		Green Team		-	500	*Operating Fund	
Operating Expenses				487,870			
Expense	5500	OCWM		50,815	-	Benevolence Fund	Mission
Expense	5501	One Great Hour of Sharing		2,017		Benevolence Fund	Mission
Expense	5502	Neighbors in Need		820		Benevolence Fund	Mission
Expense	5503	Strengthen the Church		3,857		Benevolence Fund	Mission
Expense	5504	Veteran Pastors of the Cross				Benevolence Fund	Mission
Expense	5505	Crossroad Ft. Wayne Children's				Benevolence Fund	Mission
Expense	5507	UCH - Trinity Community,				Benevolence Fund	Mission
Expense	5511	CUE				Benevolence Fund	Mission

Expense	5512	Defiance Colleges (UCC)				Benevolence Fund	Mission
Expense	5514	Trinity Hill Family Svcs Cincinnati				Benevolence Fund	Mission
Expense	5515	Camp: Heartland Conf				Benevolence Fund	Mission
Expense	5524	Christmas Eve				Benevolence Fund	Mission
Expense	5525	Prior Year Amt. Paid				Benevolence Fund	Mission
Expense	5550	BOGG Ministry	-	3,375		Benevolence Fund	Mission
Expense	5551	Food for the Journey	-	2,000		Benevolence Fund	Mission
Expense	5552	Food Bank	-	2,000		Benevolence Fund	Mission
Expense	5553	Gateway Exp	-	81		Benevolence Fund	Mission
Expense	5555	Have A Gay Day Exp	-	1,375		Benevolence Fund	Mission
Expense	5556	House of Bread Exp	-	4,000		Benevolence Fund	Mission
Expense	5561	Oak Tree Corner Exp	-	2,500		Benevolence Fund	Mission
Expense	5562	Pack Away Hungr	-			Benevolence Fund	Mission
Expense	5563	Peanut Butter - Backpacks	-	1,000		Benevolence Fund	Mission
Expense	5566	St. Paul's Parish Outreach	-	2,701		Benevolence Fund	Mission
Expense	5567	Holiday Baskets Exp	-	4,375		Benevolence Fund	Mission
Expense	5568	Threads Exp	-	1,533		Benevolence Fund	Mission
Expense	5569	Warm Wishes Mission Exp.	-	2,796		Benevolence Fund	Mission
Expense	5571	Summer Food Program	-	664		Benevolence Fund	Mission
Expense	5575	Discretionary	-	650		Benevolence Fund	Mission
Expense	5680	David's Grove Capital Exps	-			**Capital Improvements Fund	Facilities
Expense	5687	Park & Play Fund Exps	-	279		Park & Play Fund	Facilities
Expense	5690	Zimmerman Fund Expenditures	-			**Zimmerman Estate Fund	OH%
Expense	5720	SALT Endowment Fund	-			**SALT Endowment Fund	Christian Education
	5725	Mission Fund Disbursements				Benevolence Fund	Mission
Expense	5730	Pastor's Fd. Disbursements	-			Pastor's Fund	Fellowship/Worship
Expense	5740	Joyce Lee Giving Tree	-			*Joyce Lee Giving Tree Fund	Mission
Expense	5750	Music Fund Expenses	-		-	Music Fund	Fellowship/Worship
Expense	5770	Capital Imp Disbursements	-			**Capital Improvements Fund	Facilities
Expense	5800	Remembrance Fund Disb.	-			Remembrance Fund	Facilities
Expense	5815	Scholarship Fund Disbursements				**Scholarship Fund	Christian Education
Expense	5850	Endowment Disbursements.	-			**General Endowment Fund	OH%
Expense	5860	Music Fund Endowment Disb,	-			**Music Endowment Fund	Fellowship/Worship
Expense	5865	SIGN Fund Disbursements	-			SIGNS Fund	Christian Education
Expense	5870	Dick Eichel Fund Disbursements	-			**Dick Eichel Fund	OH%
Expense	5871	Camp Fund Disbursements	-			Camp Fund	Fellowship/Worship
Expense	5872	Confirmation Fund Disbursement				Confirmation Fund	Christian Education
Expense	5876	Quilting Disbursements	-			Quilting Fund	Mission
Expense	5878	Deacons Fund Disbursements	-			Deacons Fund	Fellowship/Worship
Expense	5879	Rummage Sale Disbursements	-			Rummage Sale Fund	Mission
Expense	5881	Warm Wishes Disbursements	-			Warm Wishes Fund	Mission
Expense	5900	Pike Lake Payments	-			Pike Lake	Fellowship/Worship
			526,820	583,267			
		Budget Total +/-			5,933		
Operating Income was \$549,816 and Operating Expenses were \$487,870							

## NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT

The Nominating Committee presents the following nominees for the 2028 class. The 2026 and 2027 classes are also shown to indicate total membership of the boards. The term is for 3 years. It begins in February and ends the following January.

### 2026 Continuing Class

#### **ELDERS**

Jill Chabut  
Kim Vogel\*\*\*  
Ben Worsowicz\*\*\*

#### **DEACONS**

Sue Walters  
Elvis Nail\*  
Dennis Peyton\*  
Dave Evans\*\*\*

#### **MISSION**

Anne Brown  
Jill Evans  
Chris Roberts-Bethel\*\*\*  
Youth- Dominic Worsowicz\*

#### **FAITH FORMATION**

Lisa Susner  
Emily Yantis-Houser\*\*\*  
Ernie Dalton

#### **TRUSTEES**

Jim Williams\*\*  
Neil Jones\*\*\*  
Howard Sizek  
Youth- Marshall Worsowicz\*

#### **FELLOWSHIP & HOSPITALITY**

Alice Stone\*\*  
Carolyn Brethen\*\*\*  
Dave Brown\*\*\*

### 2027 Continuing Class

#### **ELDERS**

Irene Gilliland\*  
Linda Ford\*\*  
Michele Gramann

#### **DEACONS**

Michael Susner  
Kaytee Yantis-Houser

#### **MISSION**

Debbie McCoy  
Jennifer Kane\*\*  
Caleb Cook\*\*

#### **FAITH FORMATION**

Kristen Gaylor  
Nico Schrenk\*\*\*  
Wyatt Lindner

#### **TRUSTEES**

Paul Brown\*  
Chris Fles\*\*\*  
Mike Morton\*

#### **FELLOWSHIP & HOSPITALITY**

Dave Herick  
Sherill Weinberg\*  
Dagmar Michel\*

### 2028 Class Nominees

#### **ELDERS**

Tom Hughes\*\*  
Diane Herbst  
Dan Deitz  
Scotty Blackburn

#### **DEACONS**

Janice Kinghorn\*

#### **MISSION**

Lenita Haynes\*  
Travis Roberts-Bethel\*\*  
Valerie Doudican

#### **FAITH FORMATION**

Amanda Worsowicz\*  
John Gramann\*  
Scott Stanforth

#### **TRUSTEES**

Rebecca Karason  
Jason Wysong  
Steve Dean

#### **FELLOWSHIP & HOSPITALITY**

Gen Cook\*\*  
Judy Fehr\*  
Kim Stanforth

\* Second term

\*\* First full term, had been filling an unexpired term

\*\*\* Filling unexpired term

# NOMINEES FOR CHURCH COUNCIL

The Church Boards have nominated persons in the Class of 2027.  
The 2026 Continuing Class is presented to show total Council membership.

## 2026 Continuing Class

### ELDERS

### DEACONS

Elvis Nail

### MISSION

Jennifer Kane  
Caleb Cook\*\*\*

### CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

John Gramann  
Amanda Worsowicz\*\*\*

### TRUSTEES

Jim Williams\*\*\*

### FELLOWSHIP & HOSPITALITY

Dave Herick  
Kim Stanforth\*\*\*

## 2027 Class of Nominees

### ELDERS

Kim Vogel\*\*  
Jill Chabut\*\*  
Ben Worsowicz

### DEACONS

Sue Walters\*  
Kaytee Yantis-Houser

### MISSION

Debbie McCoy\*\*

### CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

### TRUSTEES

Neil Jones  
Paul Brown\*\*

### FELLOWSHIP & HOSPITALITY

- \* Second term
- \*\* First full term - had been filling an unexpired term
- \*\*\* Unexpired term

Council shall be composed of voting member representatives from each of the six (6) Boards. Boards shall have no less than two (2) or no more than three (3) representatives.

## PASTORS' REPORTS

### From Rev. Joanna Samuelson – Interim Lead Pastor

*For as in one body, we have many members and not all the members have the same function, so we, who are many, are one body in Christ and individually, we are members of one another.*

Romans 12:4-5

During these past six months that I have been journeying with all of you, here, at David's United Church of Christ, I have been inspired by your deep faith, strong commitment and adaptability as you continue to navigate these transitional times in the life of the congregation – together.

In my role as the lead interim pastor, one of my primary responsibilities has been to plan and lead worship. It has been a joy to collaborate with Pastor Emily Phillips, Tim Williams and Lyn Morton in their respective leadership roles. Every two months, the four of us meet to discuss and select the hymns for the upcoming worship services.

David's is also blessed by the deep commitment of our office staff, Kathy Goodpaster and Gwen Crutchleo, who do so much behind the scenes to make sure that things run smoothly throughout the week and in preparation for our worship services. I also want to acknowledge the significant and meaningful contributions of both Brian Dalton, our treasurer, and Paulette Jackson, our custodian.

Our congregation is also blessed by the dedication and technical expertise of Ed Webb, Jason Vogel and the other members of our livestream team as they continue to adapt and improve the online experience for our members and friends who worship with us from home.

Since September, I have been scheduling and facilitating regular staff meetings so that we can review the church calendar together and update one another on the plans and commitments in our respective roles.

Pastoral visitation and serving home communion remain a priority for Pastor Emily and me. During these past six months, I also have met with several members and visitors during my office hours at church. On December 16, I officiated the memorial service of Margaret I. Walker who had been an active member at David's several years ago.

In October, I planned and led several "Connection Circles" at church which provided our members with the opportunity to engage in small group conversation in the midst of significant change and transition at David's. During Advent, I also facilitated a three-week book group inspired by Walter Brueggemann's book, [Names for the Messiah](#).

I regularly meet with my Pastoral Relations Committee which is comprised of Anne Brown, Nedra Dalton and Diane Herbst. I also participate in a monthly Clergy Best Practice Group which is a requirement of my association, the Central Southeast Ohio Association of the U.C.C. In addition, I

meet individually with a spiritual director for spiritual and emotional support which is my part of my commitment to self-care as a pastor.

On a personal note, I am deeply grateful for the outpouring of love and support as my family and I continue to grieve the recent loss of my mother, Deborah Arner, on January 5, 2026.

It is truly a joy to serve as your interim lead pastor, here at David's, in this season of anticipation, transition and new beginnings.

Respectfully submitted,  
Rev. Joanna Samuelson

### **From Emily S. Phillips – Pastor of Faith Formation and Family Life**

Once again, I was blessed to work with Rev. Dave Evans after we invited him to return to our staff in February 2025. Rev. Dave took on the bulk of planning and leading our worship services as I focused my attentions on Faith Formation, Confirmation, and completing my coursework at Eden Theological Seminary.

In July, I completed my academic requirements for my Master of Divinity from Eden. My degree was conferred in December, and I am planning to walk in the Commencement ceremony in May 2026. This milestone could not have been achieved without the steadfast support of this congregation. "Thank you" is an insufficient response to the love and support you have offered to me since I began my seminary journey in 2019.

Please keep in mind, although I am now done with seminary, I still have a lot of work to do before I can apply for ordination! I still have the following steps to complete:

- Complete online UCC History & Polity course to satisfy UCC/SONKA ordination requirement.
- Complete UCC ordination requirements as part of SONKA's Member in Discernment (MiD) program. I have completed four of the eight steps.
- Complete one unit of Clinical Pastoral Education (CPE also referred to as: chaplaincy experience) during the Summer 2026 (8-10 weeks, ~20 hours per week).
- Write my ordination paper and present/defend the paper to SONKA's Ecclesiastical Council.

I offer this information to emphasize that in spite of my degree conferral in December, I still have more to accomplish before I can be ordained by the United Church of Christ. I will continue to serve in my 3/4-time position as your Associate Pastor of Faith Formation and Family Life. This is a role I cherish and do not take lightly. It is an honor to serve my home congregation in this manner.

I was delighted to spend almost a full week with four of our Confirmation students and Jenni Thompson on our Pilgrimage trip to St. Louis in June. Our time in St Louis fed my soul. The four students worked hard, had so much fun, and showed each other (and everyone we encountered) God's unconditional love. Because of my time with that group, I was reminded of the importance of my ministry. The Confirmation Class continues to meet regularly and took over their responsibility of packing peanut butter for the Kettering Backpack program after SIGNS (the ecumenical youth group with which we were affiliated) paused their ministry this year.

In July, we thanked Rev. Dave and Jill Evans for their commitment and dedication and officially released Dave from his role of Associate Pastor. The following week, we welcomed Rev. Joanna Samuelson on staff as our full-time, Interim Lead Pastor. Rev. Joanna has worked hard in the ensuing months to provide leadership, pastoral care, and thoughtful worship services to all of us here at David's Church. It is a gift to work with Rev. Joanna and get to know her better.

Our Children's Sunday School program continues to grow and change so we can adapt to the needs of our kids and serve them to the best of our abilities. We have expanded to three classrooms and hired two Sunday School support staff! The Faith Formation Board is continually evaluating our curriculum, the class sizes, and ways to improve our offerings to the kids, and discussing what is working and what isn't working anymore. We often hear that the children are the future of the church, but a colleague recently suggested to me children are the *present* of the church – we must minister to them now, *in the present*, or there will be no church in the future.

This fall, I started spending one week per month (4<sup>th</sup> Sunday) downstairs in the young children's Sunday School classrooms during worship. I have three primary goals for this practice:

- Demonstrate our congregation's commitment to Faith Formation of all ages by designating a portion of my regular schedule to being in the younger kids' classrooms.
- Establish and grow relationships with the younger kids of the congregation, in addition to the time I currently devote to the Confirmation Program and our older youth members.
- Be directly involved in the programming & curriculum and see what is working and what is not working with our current models.

I continue to serve as a member of Southwest Ohio Northern Kentucky Association's (SONKA) Faith Formation Network. In addition to the regular meetings of the team, I led weekly sessions in October focusing on the importance of Interfaith Connections as Christians. I used the connections made through the Ladies' Interfaith Luncheons, SONKA, and through our Confirmation program's worship visits to invite speakers who represented Judaism, Buddhism, Islam, and Unitarian Universalism. I also worked with SONKA's Faith Formation team to compile a list of family-friendly Advent & Epiphany activities. The packet was made available to all SONKA congregations. We look forward to feedback from those who utilized the packet so we can improve and expand our plan to do this again in 2026.

We have faced many changes over the last few years since I came on staff. As we enter 2026, I look forward to our continued journey of discipleship & discernment, together and yet we are faced with more change for our congregation. We are making a big decision about how to be the best stewards of The Grove property. We are inviting Lead Pastor candidate, Rev. Tony Minear, PhD. to preach on January 18, and then we will vote on whether to extend a call to him. We are celebrating our 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary as a formal congregation. As always, we have a lot to celebrate, and a lot to grieve as we acknowledge the loss of beloved members, changes in our personal lives, and our divided social, economic, and political culture. Yet, I try to hold on to the hope found in God's presence. As I have often (jokingly) told Confirmation students, God loves you whether you like it or not. In all seriousness, God loves us unflinchingly, God is with us always. I find hope in those assurances, I pray you do as well. Respectfully submitted,

Pastor Emily

*"Now faith is confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see." – Hebrews 11:*

## MUSIC MINISTRY

Our choirs, consisting of children's choir, handbell choir, and sanctuary choir, continue to grow. By their participation, each of the members contributes to the worship life here at David's Church. Our handbell ringers play on the second Sunday of each month from September to June. We usually recess after Church Music Sunday in late May or early June. The children's choir usually sings on the third Sunday of each month. The sanctuary choir sings every week except when handbells are ringing.

The Lenten and Easter seasons are observed at our church. We begin the season by focusing inward, trying to become the best versions of ourselves. Our Easter service is a victory celebration ending with "The Hallelujah Chorus" sung by our choir and anyone from the congregation that wants to participate. It is a sound that is unmistakable. Thankfully, we have Lyn Morton, our amazing organist, at the bench.

Church Music Sunday, held on June 1<sup>st</sup> this year, combined handbells, keyboard, brass, and the sanctuary choir on "When In Our Music God is Glorified." The hymn stresses that the purpose of our music making is to bring glory to God, not ourselves. The anthem that we sang that resonated with so many was "The Prayer of the Children" by Andrea Klouse. It is an a cappella anthem about children who end up in war zones and the lives that war shatters. Another song that we sang was "The Living Years" with a solo section sung by Keven Craig. It was about a child's regret that he didn't express the love he felt for his father while he was alive. The haunting "I Believe," an anthem written from the perspective of a Jewish person during the holocaust, was moving with Kristen Allen-Vogel sharing the solo section. "Love Grows Here" involved the children's choir and sanctuary choir. What a positive message to close the service!

The annual "Pearly Gates" concert had to be rescheduled due to a snowstorm. Despite that, it was well attended. When the children's choir was singing "Nuttin' for Christmas," my heart just swelled with love for them. They had so much fun singing it. Lyn sang the Mariah Carey hit, "All I Want for Christmas is You," rocking out on the piano. I barely made it through "Til the Season Comes Round Again," because the words remind us of those who have gone before us as well as the blessing it is to share our journeys with friends and family. The love we felt was overwhelming.

The annual Christmas cantata this year was "The Glory of Christmas," by Lloyd Larson. The church accommodated as many musicians as we could physically hold. We had 28 voices in the sanctuary choir, 20 members in the orchestra, 14 in our children's choir, two narrators, and a resounding congregation when invited to sing along.

The cantata includes scripture and anthems from the liturgical seasons of Advent through Epiphany. The styles of the pieces included in the work were quite varied. There were two places where I was beaming from ear to ear with the sound of the orchestra. The list of musicians was composed of some familiar faces and some new faces. Kevin Williams, playing tuba, Noah Fles, playing bassoon and Lyn Morton on keyboards are all members of our own congregation. It makes me overjoyed that we have so many gifted people in our community called David's Church.

My friend and former student, Lance Korte, played the exciting flute part. It does a soul good to watch former students go on to succeed. He was a student in my gifted class for several years, and to

be in touch with him now, as he is pursuing his music degree at OSU, is such a blessing. Blessings abound! So many people are involved in the process of making a cantata that hopefully moves the spirits of others. We all pull together to share the joy on one special day!

When the children began singing boldly, "Jesus is born tonight," I looked heavenward to thank God for these young people who bring joy in to the lives they touch. What a blessing it was to have all the musicians come together so quickly. The choir had one rehearsal with the orchestra before we performed our cantata. God had a hand in all of this, as our cantata about the birth of Jesus, helped spread the light and love found here at David's Church to others.

Our handbell choir meets on Thursday evenings at 6:00 p.m. in the lower level of the church. We have five octaves of handbells and several octaves of hand chimes. Sometimes we play music for three or four octaves when some members are unable to be at the performance. The camaraderie amongst our ringers is just good-natured fun. I have a sign in the room that says, "Let the shenanigans begin." They take that seriously. Let's just say that there is a lot accomplished with pleantry involved. We strive to play the most beautifully we can, knowing that our peals are going to God. We also know that God accepts our mistakes with a loving heart.

We are so blessed to have so many talented musicians in the sanctuary choir. They are a hard-working, dedicated group of singers, meeting weekly to prepare introits, anthems, and benediction responses. We meet in the sanctuary on Thursday evenings at 7:00, and are usually finished by 8:30. On occasion, we have been known to go over that time-period, especially when preparing for the annual cantata or on Music Sunday. Preparing music that speak to congregants is our primary goal. Just being together, making music, talking, laughing, and sharing is a bonus for all involved.

We strive to sing a variety of music, but of utmost importance are the lyrics we are singing. Internalizing those lyrics helps us connect to the music we are expressing. Another way of saying it is singing from the heart or giving to God what was first given to us. We welcome new members and new ideas! We ask for joys and concerns at the end of practices, and often we have people express them. It helps to know we have brothers and sisters praying for us, thus, connecting us. It helps to lighten any load we might be carrying.

Children's choir brings me joy. We have a lot of fun together, and the children are so respectful of each other and me. The love that I feel from them is one of my greatest blessings. When they were singing "Nuttin' for Christmas," for the Peals of Joy Concert this year, my heart would just swell with love for them. They had so much fun singing it. I was just told this morning that the song, "The Friendly Beasts," that the children sang at the first service of the cantata and again, at the early Christmas Eve service, made them reminisce to when she was a young lady at this church, and she sang the same song that they sang. She was the donkey shaggy and brown.

It takes time to get to know each other, but we are chipping away at it. We had a Halloween party at my house and the kids really enjoyed themselves. I am planning a party for them for Valentine's Day. We have so much fun together. We meet on Sundays after church in the lower level.

I have expressed to them the importance of the lyrics they are singing. We know that when we are lifting our voices in song, the song is for God. Our words from our lips are an expression of our gratitude. The children are our hope for the future which looks quite bright from my perspective.

We are fortunate to have the St. Therese Brass play for services. Brass groups are not usually found in smaller churches like ours. Lead by Andy Randall, they play with enthusiasm and joy. Thank you for sharing your gifts.

Thank you to everyone who contributed to our Love Offering. You are all very generous, and it was much appreciated. If you know of a piece that you have not heard us do and would like us to include it, please send me a text or email. I will try to make sure to include it as quickly as the lectionary allows. I usually base my choices on the Lectionary if possible. making the music complementary to the gospel reading assigned for the day.

My sincere wish for each of you reading this is a New Year that is blessed with good news. There is so much to distract us on our individual journeys that we sometimes forget how truly blessed we are to have each other as a church family.

## **CHURCH COUNCIL**

The church Council is the governing body of David's Church. The Council is made up of representatives from the six boards of the church: Trustees, Elders, Deacons, Fellowship and Hospitality, Faith Formation/Christian Education, and Mission. At monthly meetings, board minutes are distributed to the group, along with reports from the pastors and treasurer. In this manner, David's Church leaders are able to share their ongoing activities and ensure items that impact multiple groups are discussed.

David's Council started the year with a rough patch, as we made the tough decision to terminate the contract with our Interim Pastor, Carl Robinson, who had started at David's the previous November. I know this was difficult for the Congregation and David's Church family. I thank you all for your faith in your collective church leadership during that time.

In April we were fortunate to meet a promising candidate for David's open interim senior pastor position in Pastor Joanna Samuelson. The Council thought her experience and training were a good fit for David's during our time of transition. Kudos to the Elders for all the work they did to bring her on board this summer.

The work of the Church continued without a hiccup, which is a testament to the resiliency and steadfastness of this Congregation and our amazing staff. Even after being at David's for several years, I still find myself in awe of the great things YOU do.

In June, I stepped down from my duties as David's President to focus on family responsibilities. The Council chose Sue Walters to finish my term. I am so thankful for her capable and faithful leadership, as I know David's is in excellent hands.

Paul wrote the following, in his first letter to the Corinthians (16:13-14): “Stand firm in the faith; be courageous; be strong. Do everything in love.”

David’s community is a safe place for ALL because we love one another, all of God’s people, and all of Creation. I pray that we will stand firm with courage so that we can continue to be such a place for the next 200 years.

Gen Cook, President of Council, January to June 2025

Council met each month discussing the business of the church and working on closing open agenda items. Each month, reports from the Pastors and Boards were heard. It became very busy toward the end of the year as we discussed the Grove being an item on the Annual Meeting agenda and then voting to invite Rev. Tony Minear to preach a trial sermon on January 18<sup>th</sup> followed by a special congregational meeting. Two congregational meetings back- to- back in January- a first for David’s Church most likely in 200 years. I thank Pastor Joanna and Pastor Emily for their support and spiritual guidance at our meetings. Thank you, Dave Herick, our Vice- President for all the work you did and the support you gave to me. And thanks to members of council for your dedication. I am grateful to the members and friends of David’s Church for your support. This church now in the year of our 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary will sail on into the future for another 200 years.

Sue Walters  
President, Second Half of 2025

### **BOARD OF FAITH FORMATION/CHRISTIAN EDUCATION**

Board membership in 2025: Pastor Emily Phillips (non-voting member), Amanda Worsowicz, Dr. Emily Yantis-Houser, Ernie Dalton, Lisa Susner, Kristen Gaylor, Wyatt Linder, Beth Tabor and John Gramann. We currently have eight voting members. This next year will bring Beth Tabor resigning from the Board, plus the addition of Scott Stanforth and Nico Shrenk; we look forward to starting the new year with a complete board of nine voting members.

As the plans for revising and updating the constitution are continuing, we plan to continue with our petition for changing our name to Faith Formation.

We have continued our efforts in being a Creation Justice church, making sure we teach, reinforce, and provide opportunities for reuse, reduce and recycle education and practices.

Our partnership with Temple Beth Or again made it possible for the nursery/child attendants of each congregation to attend holiday services by providing childcare coverage for each other.

The following is a list of many of things the CE/FF board, and it's Sunday School, Confirmation, and Adult Education have been involved in: The CROP Walk, Youth Sunday, Lesotho initiative, Pilgrim Feast, Trunk-or-Treat, Breakfast with the Bunny, Nosh with St. Nick, Parents' Night Out, Rummage Sale, visiting worship services of other religions/denominations, 2nd hour sessions, Camp Kern retreat, Pride Parade, St. Louis Confirmation Trip and Pike Lake.

Adult Education 2nd Hour events continued to increase this year. Thanks to the hard work of Pastor Emily our 2nd hour has grown and continues to grow.

The nursery is running well. We have two employees that do a fantastic job, and our regular children love being with them. Recently, a new infant has started coming to the nursery and we look forward to more coming in the new year.

The Children's Moment continues to be a bright spot during our services. We have approximately 10 people participating. The group provides many different styles to keep things fresh. I also think it is important to note the addition of Julia Gaylor to our presenters. Julia is in her second year of our Confirmation class. I think it is great that she enjoyed the Children's Moments as a student and now wants to lead them.

The children's library is on hold until the summer of 2026. Some progress was made, but several times things had to be put on hold due to church events as well as the addition of a 3rd Sunday school classroom. It is slow going, but we will get there eventually.

Sunday School has been going very well. Our numbers have been increasing, and the decision was made to go to three classrooms. We started with the K-1<sup>st</sup> grade group, 2<sup>nd</sup>-3<sup>rd</sup> grade group and 4<sup>th</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> grade group. Because attendance numbers shifted, in January, we are moving to a 4<sup>th</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> grade group and two separate 2<sup>nd</sup>-3<sup>rd</sup> groups; with our one regularly attending K-1<sup>st</sup> student in one of the 2<sup>nd</sup>-3<sup>rd</sup> classes. We started out moving the 4<sup>th</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> class into the Confirmation room. However, we discovered that having two groups share a room wasn't ideal. We are in the process of moving the 4<sup>th</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> group into the former Gathering Room. We are continuing the 2nd year of the "Follow Me" curriculum. Karin Avila-John and Amanda Worsowicz continue to do a fantastic job of preparing lesson plans and setting up the classroom with all the supplies, copies, etc. needed for the lesson. The biggest news, however, is the hiring of 2 Sunday School teachers. This will provide consistency in our Sunday School classes, but in instruction and classroom management. It also decreases the need to constantly find volunteer coverage, while still providing an opportunity to those who wish to continue to volunteer and be a part of our Sunday School.

The Confirmation class graduated a few and added a few first-year students this fall. Our current group has five students. They have participated in many church activities throughout the year as they continue to learn and grow in their faith. On a sad note, the post-confirmation, ecumenical, high-school youth group SIGNS decided to suspend the program until a time when there are sufficient numbers interested in attending.

This past year was a successful year for our board, with many new and exciting happenings as we continue to grow - our youth, our congregation, our church, and our impact on the community.

Respectfully submitted,  
John C. Gramann

## **BOARD OF DEACONS**

Deacon Membership for 2025: Janice Kinghorn (Chair), Andy Randall, Nedra Dalton, Elvis Nail, Dennis Peyton, Sue Walters, Michael Susner (Mike), Dick DeLon, and Kaytee Yantis-Houser.

FY26 Budget: As of 31 December, David's Church's operating expenses were under budget by \$39,193. However, donations were above budget by \$43,441, resulting in a +\$82,634 overall financial standing over the course of the year.

- **Capital Campaign:** The Capital Improvement Fund campaign, which had a goal of \$100,000, was officially closed as of August 9, 2025, although funds continued to arrive afterward. The total capital raised by the campaign was \$101,673. A total of \$31,311 in 2024 and \$45,667 in 2025 for a total of \$76,978 was spent to modernize the church elevator.
- **Scholarship Program:** The Scholarship Committee, consisting of Ernie Dalton, Dick DeLon, and Kaytee Yantis-Houser, awarded \$2,750 to each of two candidates.
- **Financial Systems:** Treasurer Brian Dalton continued to explore and recommend a new Church Management System called Icon Systems to replace the current Church Windows program, with the goal of implementation by January 1, 2026. An audit of church finances was completed in July.

**Investments:** For 2025, our investment portfolio ended the year with growth of \$208,726. Our total balance was \$1,818,952.47. Our Short-Term Investment Account is at \$103,583.58. Deacons will continue to monitor our investment portfolio and make adjustments with the guidance and counsel of our Edward Jones advisor, Andy Randall.

**Fundraising:** Total for the year was \$3,810 from the spaghetti dinner, Kroger, and Marions.

**Stewardship:** The 2025 Stewardship Campaign kicked off in September and culminated on Consecration Sunday, November 16. As of 19 December, pledges received totaled \$444,705 which is comparable to what was pledged last year. Non-pledgers' giving is projected to be \$77,695 based on historical values. The total amount available from pledgers and non-pledgers to the General Operating budget after the 10% given to mission is \$522,400.

**FY26 Proposed Budget:** The Deacons propose \$589,200 for the total operating budget of 2026 including \$52,800 for the benevolence budget for Our Church's Wider Mission and for local mission partners. We expect to be close to a balanced budget, currently projecting to be in the black by \$5,933, which reflects David's Church's faith-based budget approach. Cash is available from our investment account to offset some or all our deficit if needed.

Property Valuation: The Main Church Building has a total valuation of \$7,507,383 (including land valuation) and the Grove's total valuation is \$487,661 (including land valuation) for a total of \$7,995,044. The future of The Grove will be discussed at the next annual congregation meeting. Trustees spent money on air conditioning repairs at The Grove, causing the Grove Budget to be over budget.

*The Deacons are proud to oversee the stewardship of David's Church's funds and will continue to do so in a structured and strategic manner so that the church can continue to grow and provide services and mission contributions to further our vision and the mission of the United Church of Christ.*

Respectfully submitted: Janice Kinghorn, Deacons Chair. 11 January 2026.

## **BOARD OF ELDERS**

The 2025 board of elders consisted of Chair, Connie Wade, Ben Worsowicz, Kim Vogel, Jill Chabut, Linda Ford, Tom Hughes, Michele Gramann, and Irene Gilleland.

The elders are primarily charged with seeing to worship and matters of personnel.

Our main task for the year was searching for an interim lead pastor. Until our search was complete, rev. Dave Evans stepped up and served our congregation in a gracious and willing manner as he and Pastor Emily carried our church family along seamlessly.

The interim call to Rev. Joanna Samuelson was extended and she began her time with us in August 2025. It was a pleasant call process and the UCC (Columbus) regional office was a helpful resource in many ways.

This year we conducted staff reviews in coordination with Pastor Emily Phillips, consulted with the deacons regarding numerous budget items and managed the recruiting of weekly greeters, ushers and communion servers. We arranged the chancel area with flowers for Lent and coordinated the hanging of the greens for advent.

Improving the sanctuary sound and streaming systems was a strong priority and we anticipate 2026 to be a year of smooth sound environment with the addition and training of two technicians.

We hosted a dinner for confirmation students, their parents and sponsors, and received ten new members who were welcomed with a cake delivered to them personally by an active elder.

We postponed the review and revision of David's constitution until 2026 when either our interim or settled lead pastor could be a resource to us as we coordinate with other boards and volunteers from the congregation.

It has been a pleasure to work with this board. Respectfully submitted,  
Connie Wade

## **FELLOWSHIP AND HOSPITALITY**

The Fellowship and Hospitality board members of 2025 consisted of Judy Fehr, David Herick, Gen Cook, Alice Stone, Carolyn Brethren, Sherill Weinberg, Bill Howard, Kathy Shellhaas and Dagmar Michel as chair.

We are sorry that Bill Howard and Kathy Shellhaas will not be on the board this next term but welcome Kim Stanforth and David Brown.

The purpose of Fellowship and Hospitality is to provide connection, fellowship and enjoyment of old and new friendships after church each Sunday. We serve coffee and many varieties of sweets that are generously given and appreciated by the committee and everyone else.

We also provide refreshments for various occasions and for special appreciation. The annual fall kickoff picnic is hosted by us and is always well attended.

It continues to be a joy to be the chair for this wonderful committee.

Respectfully submitted,  
Dagmar Michel

## **MISSION BOARD**

Another year has passed and 2025 like all previous years the David's Mission Board has continued to honor our four guiding principles; Vulnerable Populations, Food Insecurities, Local Impact, and Opportunities for David's to serve.

Our January and February meetings we made our budget discussions for 2025. The Mission Board budget is based on 3.5% of the pledged amounts from you, the congregation. We discussed and approved our 2025 quarterly distributions to our Mission Partners, BOGG Ministry, Food for the Journey, Food Bank, House of Bread, Oak Tree Corner, St. Paul's Parish Outreach, and Warm Wishes. It was through your generosity that we were able to add a new Mission Partner, RipplAffect, a non-profit group which distributes water filtration systems that provide clean safe cooking and drinking water to marginalized communities.

The month of March saw David's UCC participate in Lesotho Nutrition Initiative (Pack Away Hunger), where Dr. Rosenberg and his group from Wittenburg University set up the packing tables and materials in Fellowship Hall. The congregation packed over 15,000 meals that were sent to Lesotho, Africa. Combined with monetary donations from the congregation, the Rummage sale group, and the Mission Board, Dr. Rosenberg received \$4,000.00 to help with the cost of this outreach. Thank you to the congregation and to the Rummage Sale group for once again helping to support this outreach. This past year also saw changes in our delivery of food to Gateway. St. Vincent's requested that we provide only one of their chosen casseroles. Since David's was already providing both sloppy joes and cheesy

potatoes (and St. Vincents was no longer requesting cheesy potatoes), we decided to continue to provide only the sloppy joes. In addition to the sloppy joes, we continued to send apple sauce and fruit cups, cookies, and dinner rolls. This change did not disrupt this congregation's generosity in providing food for the women, children, and men of the Gateway shelters. This outreach is a great opportunity for those in our congregation to volunteer their time not only in providing the much-needed food items, but to help in drop-off and delivery. If you are interested, see one of the Mission Board members and we will be glad to provide details.

This past spring we asked you to help fill Easter Feasts baskets for 50 HeadStart families. You all stepped up and provided boxes of scalloped potatoes, boxes of macaroni and cheese, cans of corn, green beans, or carrots, jars of peanut butter, jams or jelly, and a reusable shopping bag as well as a sweet treat of choice-- chocolate eggs, jellybeans, peeps, etc. The monetary donations given were used by the Mission Board to purchase hams that completed the feast. On April 16<sup>th</sup>, the HeadStart caravan arrived and along with members of the Mission Board all 50 feasts were loaded to be distributed. La Kendra Moore, Assistant Director MVCDC Partnerships, expressed her heartfelt thanks for our generosity.

David's UCC continues to be the "peanut butter" church. Through your continued support of the Backpack program 4,000 jars were distributed to children in our community in 2025. With SIGNS no longer meeting a change came in how peanut butter was being packed. A grateful thank you to Pastor Emily and the confirmation class for stepping up to pack jars of peanut butter for pick up. The jars of peanut butter that are dropped off each Sunday or the first Saturday of each month during Gateway food drop off continues to show the generosity of this congregation and the Mission Board cannot thank you enough.

The summer brought our participation in the Kettering Summer Food Program June 16<sup>th</sup> to June 20<sup>th</sup>. David's UCC prepared, delivered, served, engaged/played with the children of The Trails of Oak Creek and Van Buren Park. We had numerous members of the congregation sign up to volunteer. This outreach could not have happened without your support both monetarily and giving of your time. Thank you.

The months of October and November were devoted to Thanksgiving Feasts for 50 HeadStart families. The Mission Board asked you the congregation to donate non-perishable food items, boxes of instant mashed potatoes, gravy, boxes of macaroni and cheese, green beans, cream of mushroom soup, French fried onions, stuffing mix, cranberry sauce, brownie mix, bread mix, peanut butter, jam or jelly, foil turkey pans, and a reusable shopping bag. The monetary donations given were used to purchase the 50 turkeys to complete the feasts. La Kendra Moore and her group from HeadStart thanked David's for their continued generosity.

The month of November found the Mission Board taking up the responsibility of continuing the long-standing tradition of the Pilgrim Feast. With the help of the Sunday School children, bread was made, baked by members of the congregation, and served at lunch after church on Sunday November 23<sup>rd</sup>. The Mission Board prepared homemade chicken noodle soup and with the help of Anne Jones and some of the confirmation class the seven-layer salad was prepared and set on the tables. Thank you to

the congregation that provided pies for desert and thank you to the Fellowship and Hospitality Board for cutting and arranging them. With the help of the confirmation class and other volunteers from the congregation, this event was a success.

The Mission Board is extremely grateful to this congregation for their continued support and honoring our four guiding principles. Your generosity of monetary donations and the giving of your time is greatly appreciated. With full hearts of gratitude your Mission Board thanks you. Peace, the Mission Board.

## **BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

This past year was a snooze of a year for the Trustees. Nothing major blew up, failed, or was a major disaster! Here's to a repeat in 2026! We continue to keep the church in working order. Big projects this year were the repaving of the parking lot, updating the elevator, repairing the sanctuary ceiling, and continued maintenance at the Grove.

Once again, we need to thank Lee Richardson for the constant diligence and love he gives the church grounds each week. The Trustees truly appreciate Lee and everything he does for our church.

## **AUDIO/VISUAL**

There have been big changes over the past year in the A/V department. We now have a team of six running audio and livestream: Ed Webb, Jason Vogel, Tom Hughes, Caleb Cook, Noah Fles and Cyra Crooms-Cobb. We would still like to add 3-4 more to our team. Just keep in mind, if old folks, middle-aged folks and youth can run the system...anyone can. Jason and I will hold training as necessary.

We have finished phase one of our audio/video updates including: six new hanging choir mics, all new sound wiring, new sound desk, additional wireless microphones, moving microphone receivers from front of church to new desk for better control, direct wire internet connection to livestream computer and system, complete program updates to sound and livestream systems and a complete rewiring to the main sound board.

Phase two for 2026 started a little early with the mixer for the Fellowship Hall sound system going bad. It has been replaced and we are installing two new microphones by January 17, 2026 to enhance the sound. Jason and I have determined that the amplifiers in both the church and the Fellowship Hall are still in good operating condition, we will not replace them until necessary. Instead, with a new lead pastor coming on board, we feel it would be best to use those approved funds to replace both pastor mics and move their current mics to the reserve mics to be use for guest speakers and choir soloist. The only repair still needed is installing new wiring to the classrooms, offices and Fellowship Hall. This will bring sound from the sanctuary to those areas.

The livestream via YouTube has been a great success. There is an average of 35 to 50+ viewers watching live each week with an additional 50 - 100 watching during the week. Currently, we do not have enough internet speed to run YouTube and Facebook Livestream at the same time. We are still waiting for fiber optic internet. Once it is available, it will be installed and greatly improve the output quality.

Peace and Blessings,

Ed Webb  
Audio/Video Team Lead

## QUILTING MINISTRY

To support our ministry of creating quilts for veterans at Victory Ridge Hospice Unit at the VA, we have the opportunity to serve sewers and crafters who must find a home for their beloved fabric and craft supplies when they can no longer use them. We accept their fabric and craft supplies, promising to make good use of it whether we use it in our veteran quilts, put it in our fabric sale or pass it on to other ministries.

- This year we passed eight Large Tubs of fabric on to "Our Brothers' Keepers" at Hawker United Church of Christ in Beavercreek who makes sleeping bags for the homeless.
- We passed yarn on to ladies at Maple Avenue Church of God in Fairborn who creates hats for Samaritan's Purse and Operation Christmas Child.
- Sister Trillium in Yellow Springs received ten Tubs of Fabric and Florals.
- A school in Oakwood and one in Tipp City received Scrapbook Papers and Ribbons.
- Craft Books were donated to The Book Loft.
- From donated fabric, we create Pet Beds that we and Warm Wishes fill and are then distributed to the Humane Society, various pet rescues and at Food for the Journey.

From donations of fleece and flannel we created and donated **292 Burp Pads, 7 Stuffed Animals, 42 Fidget Blankets** to Hannah's Treasure Chest, **46 Blankets** to Project Linus, **133 Blankets & 12 Pillows** to Food for the Journey, **76 Blankets** to Tennessee flood victims and **17 Quilts** to Brigid's Path.

On Memorial Day weekend, we dedicated and delivered **50 quilts** to Victory Ridge Hospice Unit and in November at Veterans Day, **76 quilts** were dedicated and delivered bringing our total quilts presented to Victory Ridge since we began our ministry in 2015 to **795 quilts!!!**

In June, we held a Quilt Sale which netted us	<b>26 Quilts for \$1,941.00</b>
We participated in David's Church Bazaar selling	<b>29 Quilts for \$2,137.00</b>
We sold quilts throughout the remainder of the year totaling	<b><u>42 Quilts for \$3,929.00</u></b>
<b>Giving us a Grand Total of</b>	<b>97 Quilts for \$8,007.00</b>

In September we held our best Fabric and Craft Sale with online and in person sales totaling over **\$21,000!!!** We met many people doing charity sewing of all kinds. What a wonderful experience to learn of others' ministries, help them to continue with reasonable prices and allow David's Quilting Ministry to continue to support themselves through the profits of this Sale! We continue to collect

Wedding Gowns for Angel Wings of Cincinnati who turns them into gowns and cocoons for babies who never get to come home from the hospital. We passed **15 Wedding Gowns** to them.

With the success of our Fabric Sale we presented:

**\$ 2,000 to Fisher House at WPAFB**

**\$ 2,000 to Fisher House at the VA**

**\$ 2,000 to USO**

**\$ 1,500 to Our Brothers' Keeper**

**\$ 1,000 to House of Bread**

**\$ 1,000 to Food For The Journey**

**\$ 1,000 to St. Paul's UMC**

**\$ 1,000 to Dayton Food Bank**

**\$ 500 to Bazaar Food Bank Donation**

**\$ 1,500 to Warm Wishes**

**\$ 1,718.67 to Purchase 10 – 8 Foot Tables for Fellowship Hall (Shared Expense w/Rummage Sale)**

**\$ 3,000 to David's Church Capital Campaign**

**\$18,218.67 TOTAL**

We continue our focus on mission and invite all to join us on Tuesdays from 10 to 3 in Fellowship Hall. Whether you quilt or want to make Blankets and Burp Pads, you are welcome. We have supplies for both!

Thank You, David's Church, for allowing us to meet weekly in this beautiful space and continue our ministry!

*Debbie McCoy*

## **WARM WISHES**

Wow! This past year 2,869 individuals have been served with a warm hat, a pair of mittens plus a scarf for the adults. The breakdown is 1,113 men, 862 women, and 894 children have benefited from the diligent work of 37 caring people who make up the Warm Wishes group. This could not have happened if David's Church had not provided the funds and space for the project. So a big thank you to each and every one of you.

Most Monday mornings Fellowship Hall is filled with busy workers either cutting up, sewing away, binding sets or running the elevator or stairs to get more supplies. It is a most rewarding experience which you are encouraged to drop by and have some fun with us.

There is a second group called Warm Wishes 2 that usually meets once a month from 6-8 PM on Mondays. These dates vary, so watch Dateline and weekly newsletters to see when those are happening. Again, stop by and see what you might be able to do to help.

In addition to the hats, scarves and mittens we make pillows which go to area pets and sometimes people who do not have a pillow. These pillow covers are put together by the quilting group with

some of their excess fabric donations which we stuff with fleece scraps that are too small for us to use otherwise.

Debbie McCoy uses the selvage edge pieces of fleece to create dog pull toys which she sells at various events. The money she raises goes into Warm Wishes funds to offset some of our expenses. Some of the toys are donated to worthy pet causes around town.

Another use for our fleece scraps is to create "Pocket Hugs". These are given to Crayons to Classrooms which provide those to schools for students that have anxiety issues. This is an easy project that you can do as you watch TV. Stay tuned on this one as more information is coming your way soon. Definitely a fun project which anyone can help with.

We pride ourselves on not putting anything into the trash. We try our best to be good stewards of the church's mission dollars.

Since Marilyn Cartwright and Dottie Bitzer started this program making 100 scarves that first year, 64,489 people in the greater Dayton area have benefited from this project. Thank you again, to all of David's people. May God bless you with your kindness and generosity.

Nedral Dalton on behalf of Warm Wishes

## **RUMMAGE SALE**

David's Church 39th Annual Rummage Sale opened on Thursday, July 17 with **\$510** in admission collected for Kettering Summer Food Program. The Sale continued Friday, July 18 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. with Blue Light Specials held in different departments offering 50% off throughout the day. The Sale continued Saturday, July 19 from 9 to Noon where customers received 50% off everything! Thanks to the generous donations of our congregation, the Rummage Sale raised **\$21,905** thanks to sales that continued through the end of 2025.

We had a large number of furniture pickups to make this year which made it necessary to rent a 26' Penske truck with a Lift Gate. This large intake of furniture caused us to EXPAND to the Double Sunday School Classroom in the lower level which also allowed us additional space to display Art Work in the hallway as well as trunks and other furniture.

We offer special thanks to all who spent countless hours picking up donated items, cleaning donations, polishing and repairing furniture, sorting, pricing and working the days of the Sale as well as helping to pack up the remaining treasures to help others at:

Mission Partner **St. Paul's Methodist Church** (12 Bags of Clothing)

**Goodwill/Salvation Army** received remaining Clothing & Office/Stationery

**David's Church Office** took some Office/Stationery items.

**The Book Loft**

Set School Supplies aside for the **Shirley Johnson School Supply Drive**

Maggie Weisman arranged for **The Corner Cupboard** to take Outdoor Stuff, Electronics, Tools, Pets, Lamps, Sporting Goods, Jewelry, Small Furniture, Small Appliances, Sleeping Bags, Health & Beauty. **Hannah's Treasure Chest** (Toys, Luggage).

**Compassion First** (Furniture)

De McMurry took Toys, Small Furniture, Lamps, Jewelry, most Housewares, Holiday, Art, Décor, Collectibles to **WPAFB Thrift Store**. De also took some items for **Airman's Attic**

**Oakwood Methodist Church** took a carload of Housewares.

Lyn Morton pulled children's clothing sizes 5 through 10 for **Kennedy Elementary & Bauer K-2**.

Lyn Morton took Clothing, Housewares, Linens to the **YWCA**

***Funds disbursed throughout the year:***

David's Church Capital Campaign	\$10,000.00
Microphone purchase & install above Choir Loft	\$ 1,650.00
Socks, Underwear, Hygiene Products for Boys & Girls Club	\$ 441.86
Purchase 10 – 8 Foot Tables For Fellowship Hall (Shared Expense w/Quilting Ministry)	\$ 1,718.67
AV Consultant Trouble Shooting	\$ 3,000.00
Carpet Cleaning Upper Level of Church	\$ 1,232.50
Lesotho Nutrition Initiative	\$ 1,000.00
Children's Underwear for J.F. Kennedy Elementary (February)	\$ 97.69
Clothing for J.F. Kennedy Elementary and Miamisburg Middle School, and Bauer K-2 Miamisburg	\$ 431.36
Shirley Johnson School Supply Drive	<u>\$ 99.90</u>
	<b>\$19,671 .98</b>

Thanks to all who supported the Rummage Sale as well! We'll begin receiving items on Sunday, July 5, 2026. The Preview Sale will be Thursday, July 16, 2026, from 6 to 9 p.m. with the Rummage Sale on Friday, July 17, 2026, from 9:00 to 4:00 and Saturday, July 18, 2026, from 9:00 to Noon. We're looking forward to another successful sale in 2026!!

*Debbie McCoy*

**BAZAAR**

On Nov, 1<sup>st</sup> 2025 David's Church held its 3<sup>rd</sup> annual "David's Bazaar and Handmade Arts & Crafts Show". We welcomed our congregation, neighbors and over 20 talented artists and craftspeople to share the joy of the Christmas season in the beautiful setting that is David's Church.

Thanks to the energy and effort of all involved in creating another successful and profitable event for our church and community:

- the muscle teams who cleared the rooms and set up tables for the event, and again tore those tables down at the end of the bazaar to be ready for services the next day
- the jolly elves who mingled with our visitors and made sure everyone was properly "Extravagantly Welcomed"
- the kitchen and dining room helpers for serving our hungry vendors and shoppers

-the members who prepared their heirloom recipes to make our bake sale tables overflow  
We had over 60 volunteers in all. Of course we couldn't do *anything* without the year-long support of Kathy and Gwen handling the PR throughout the year!

A special thanks to the incredible Bazaar Committee who put so much dedication, energy and love into everything they do to show God's unconditional love to our neighbors- Sue Walters, Jean Blum, Elvis and Dennis, Debbie and Kevin, Jeff and Steve, Dave and Kathi, ... it has truly been an honor to work with you.

In past years, the proceeds from the bazaars have been administrated by the Deacon's Discretionary Fund for unforeseen expenses and repairs to our church. In light of the immediate uncertainty of SNAP benefits being available due to government funding, before the doors even opened the day of the bazaar, our Committee agreed to request that all profits from this event be distributed to our local food banks. The Board of Deacons immediately approved this request, and the final net profit of **\$5,207** was transferred to the Mission Board for disbursement to food banks/projects to ease the burden of food insecurity in our communities. This figure includes a generous donation from David's Quilting Ministry which offered their beautiful quilts for the first time at this event.

Respectfully,  
Lenita Haynes

## **200th ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION COMMITTEE**

The year-long celebration for the David's Church 200<sup>th</sup> Anniversary successfully commenced in September 2025, with the announcement of the "200 Challenge". Each member and family of the Church was invited to create their own personal mission challenge for the year ahead, centered around completing 200 units of "something" that improved the local community. The "Green Team" environmental mission is planning to provide 200 local families with a home vegetable garden. One member is crafting 200 fabric "hugs" for children to reassure themselves that they are loved. A church book group is collecting 200 used books to donate to Project Read. Another member chose to donate \$200 to a special charity. A home baker set about baking 200 delicious cookies to donate. It has been a creative challenge to implement.

During the fall, we commissioned the creation of a special David's Church musical anthem by Pepper Choplin, a leading composer of church music, that will be unveiled during 2026.

Neil Jones started his weekly "One Minute of David's History" announcement for each Sunday's service. He has been imaginative in sharing nuggets of David's past history and traditions.

In October, we held a David's Church Homecoming celebration luncheon, inviting over 100 former members to join us to return to reminisce about events and friendships.

November brought the distribution of a 200th Anniversary gift to the Congregation, a set of 12 notecards with beautiful photographic images of the David's Church stained-glass windows.

December arrived and we placed an order for a Historical Marker, with the intention of unveiling the outdoor bronze marker at our forthcoming big Anniversary celebration in September 2026.

We are enjoying celebrating David's Church community, and its 199+ years sustaining this corner of Ohio.

Karen Hendricks

## **PASTORAL SEARCH COMMITTEE**

The Pastoral Search Committee was formed in late 2024 and first met in February of 2025. The members are Karin Avila-John, Jeff Baldwin, Dan Deitz, George Ford, Sharon Gratto, Kathi Herick (chair), Dave Ireton, Mike Morton, Sue Walters, Amanda Worsowicz, and Kaytee Yantis-Houser.

The committee first worked with the Personnel Board of the Elders to update the Senior Pastor Job Description and then spent several months completing the Local Church Profile. This profile is used by all UCC churches when searching for a new pastor. We worked closely with Rev. David Long Higgins, the Interim Association Minister of SONKA in the Heartland Conference and then with Rev. Mimi Chamberlain who was selected at the permanent Association Minister.

The committee conducted a survey of the congregation, asking for the qualities they felt were most important in a new minister. These were compiled and used to recreate a rubric, which is an objective scoring guide and assessment tool to assist us when evaluating candidates.

Issues with the implementation of a new portal at the national UCC level delayed our ability to post our position by a few months. Our position was finally posted on August 31, 2025.

In September, we started receiving applications from ministers interested in our position. These ministers' profiles were forwarded to us from Rev. Mimi, who vetted them; making certain that they were in good standing in their conference and had current a background check. Once received by the committee, we reviewed the applications. We watched sermons of each minister online. Of the applications received, two ministers stood out to us and we began the process of the first interviews via Zoom. One minister accepted another position before we could do the first interview. The ministers who did not meet our criteria were sent "thank you, but no thank you" letters. In early November the committee interviewed Rev. Tony Minear via Zoom, from the First Congregational Church of Houston. We found him a very exciting and qualified candidate. We conducted another zoom interview in mid-November and invited him to visit Dayton and David's during the first weekend of Dec. After this visit, we were very encouraged and felt that Rev. Tony was an excellent match for David's Church.

Members of the committee called the references that Rev. Tony had listed, called references he had not listed, and verified his education and degrees. Kathi Herick, representing the Search Committee, attended the December Council meeting recommending that we bring Rev. Tony to David's for a candidacy weekend. The Council approved this.

This January we will hear Rev. Tony preach a sermon at our service on Sunday, January 18<sup>th</sup>. There will be an informal Meet and Greet on Saturday, January 17<sup>th</sup> in the Fellowship Hall to give all members an opportunity to meet Rev. Tony and Janelle individually.

The congregation will vote to extend a call to Rev. Tony immediately following the service on January 18<sup>th</sup>. If the vote is in favor of this, the committee will meet with Rev. Tony to discuss the call agreement, financial arrangements and starting date.

If Rev. Tony becomes our new Senior Pastor, the Search Committee will remain active for a year, meeting with him and making his transition to David's as easy and positive as possible.

If Rev. Tony does not become our new Senior Pastor, the committee will remain active and continue to search for a qualified minister to lead David's into the future.

The Committee is humbled by the faith and trust the congregation has placed in us to recommend a new minister for David's church.