

David's United Church of Christ

August 2025

www.davidsucc.org

Dateline



From the Desk of Pastor Emily

It is hard to believe it is already August and we are rapidly approaching our Fall Kick-Off Sunday! We have had such an incredible (and BUSY) summer here at David's and we are looking forward to everything that will be happening this fall!

I was blessed to spend almost a full week with 4 of our Confirmation students and Jenni Thompson on our Pilgrimage trip to St. Louis. You may recall in a previous Dateline I wrote about feeling unsettled. My time in St Louis with this amazing group settled my soul. The four students worked hard, had so much fun, and showed each other- and everyone we encountered- God's unconditional love and unending grace. Because of my time with that group, I felt revived. I was reminded of the importance of ministry, and my heart has felt more settled.

It can be easy to think of the summer as a slower time around the church, and in some ways that is true. Yet even though our Boards do not hold meetings during the summer, our chancel and children's choirs take well-deserved breaks, and Rev. Dave and I were both able to schedule some vacation time, this congregation continued to do the work to BE THE CHURCH.

The Warm Wishes and Quilting Groups continued to work on their projects for their respective ministries. The Mission Board operated a hugely successful week for the Kettering Lunch Program. We celebrated Pride month. Our Rummage Sale achieved record sales. We have made great strides in improving our sound system and livestreaming abilities while developing a 3-year plan to keep us moving forward in this area. Our Personnel Committee and Elders extended the call to Rev. Joanna Samuelson and agreed upon terms for her acceptance of our call to be our Interim Lead Pastor for at least the next year! Our Faith Formation Board has been hard at work expanding our Sunday School program to 3 classrooms to better serve our youngest kids. Our Trustees have continued the hard work of maintaining an ever-aging facility, coordinating repairs, estimates, etc. for work on our roof, air conditioning system, and plumbing – all while having thoughtful, prayerful conversations about what our options are with The Grove. The Deacons have guided us through our Capital Campaign to replenish the funds we spent on refurbishing and updating our elevator. We welcomed a number of guest preachers to offer thoughtful and thought-provoking sermons to supplement Rev. Dave and my sermons. On Sunday, July 27 we thanked Rev. Dave and Jill for their commitment over the last 18 months as Rev. Dave helped to steady the ship. We officially released Dave from his role of Associate Pastor and look forward to seeing where he will devote his energy as a lay leader of our congregation. As he mentioned during his remarks on Sunday, we know he will be back on the Mowing Team!

As we enter August, we see the end of summer on the horizon. We look forward to our Fall Kick-Off on Sunday, September 14, when we return to our regular schedules and events, we welcome back our summer travelers, and we also kickoff of a year-long celebration commemorating our 200 years as a faith community!

Today, as we continue to do the work and be the church, I invite each of you to take a moment to breathe and reflect on all you have done, all we have done, in the last year. In the next year, led by

Pastor Joanna, we will be asked to listen for God’s voice; we will be asked to discern what we are called to do now, and in the future. I encourage you to start your discernment today. Close your eyes: What losses are you mourning? What joys are you celebrating? What was your greatest achievement this summer? What fed your soul? What has allowed your heart to feel settled? Where will you invest your energy this fall and beyond? While you celebrate our 200 years of history, what do you imagine for our future? Why are you part of this faith community?

I look forward to our continued journey of discernment, together.

With love and gratitude,
Pastor Emily



Gateway meals

Our Gateway program is continuing with one major exciting change. The shelter will now provide us with the beef for the sloppy joe casseroles! We understand how the expense of the meat may have acted as a deterrent in the past for many people so we are really happy to be able to share this news with you. The meat will be stored in the church freezer in 1.5 lb packages so you will need to pick up three packages to make your sloppy joes. Hopefully this change will help us reach our goal of providing 40 sloppy joe casseroles each month in addition to the other items we bring: fruit, rolls and cookies. Thank you for all you do for David’s Church to continue this important outreach.

Dropoff for meal items for August will be on Saturday, August 2 at 10am. Please consider signing up to contribute for the September meals! Information is on the board in the Narthex.

Shirley Johnson school supply drive

Shirley Johnson was an active member of the Rummage Sale with a big heart for children having the supplies they need to succeed in school. The Rummage Sale has named this School Supply Drive in her honor and invites you to participate as well. For several years we have partnered with J.F. Kennedy Elementary School in Kettering and for the second year we’ve added Bauer K-2 School in Miamisburg where John Gramann is a building substitute and Miamisburg Middle School where Kevin Craig is an intervention specialist.

The 2025 Sales Tax Holiday is Friday, August 1 till Thursday, August 14 so any purchases you make and contribute by **Sunday, August 10** will go a long way to helping children get a good start for the school year with the supplies they need.

- Red Pens
- No. 2 Pencils
- 24 Count Crayola Crayons
- 10 Count Markers (Thick or Thin)
- 12 Count Colored Pencils
- Dry Erase Markers – Black (Thick or Thin)
- Highlighters
- Glue Sticks
- Pointed Scissors

- Solid Color 2 Pocket Folders + / – Prongs
- Pencil Boxes
- Small Plastic Pencil Sharpeners
- Composition Notebooks – Wide Rule
- 5 Subject Notebooks – Wide Rule
- 3 Subject Notebooks – Wide Rule
- 1 Subject Notebooks – Wide Rule
- 1 & 2-inch Binders
- Earbud Headphones

Faith Formation

Second Hour **PRESENTATIONS**

We have several Second Hours this month- learn about the CROP Walk in Dayton August 3 and the ways this community event benefits our world.

August 10 we will have a representative from Equitas Health here to share about their services. They offer a healthcare experience that welcomes you as your whole self – your mind and your body, your sexual orientation and your gender identity, your race and your class, your previous experiences with healthcare and your hopes for the future.

On August 24, please join us to deepen your prayer life with this second hour on “Mindfulness and Christian Spirituality.” This is an extension of the Lenten Mindfulness series and it is an opportunity to slow down, reflect, turn inward, and listen to the Spirit within. Suitable for ages 12 and older. Please contact Mary Kay with questions or for more information: 513-739-4750.

Sunday School **REGISTRATION**

With back-to-school season almost upon us, it's also time for back-to-Sunday School! In order to ensure that all of our records are up-to-date, the Christian Education/Faith Formation Board asks all parents/guardians of Sunday School children to complete a Sunday School registration form for each child attending Sunday School (K to Grade 6), even if you've completed a registration form before.



Please scan the QR code to access a digital version of the form.

The CE/FF Board plans a soft opening of our new three-classroom system (K-1, 2-3, and 4-6) on August 17, with the official fall Sunday School Kick-off occurring on September 14.

We still need volunteers to serve as teachers and assistants in our Sunday School classrooms! If you can help in any capacity, please record your interest on the form linked below, and we will reach out! If you have any questions, please reach out to a member of the Christian Education/Faith Formation Board. We thank you for your support!



Young Family Group

Please join the Young Families Group on August 8th for some fun before the kiddos head back to school at Orchardly park from 6:30-8:30ish. The kids can play at the splash pad or the playground and we can bring snacks to share. If you have any questions please call or text Amanda Worsowicz at 614-579-2643

WHO Dinner

Back by popular demand is our dinner at Heather 's restaurant in Springboro, Ohio (505 S Main St). We went there perhaps two or three years ago and it received rave reviews. So we are returning on Tuesday, August 26 at 5:30 p.m. and we will again be seated on the patio (weather permitting). You may remember that Tuesday evening is also their BINGO night and we are invited to join in the fun if you wish to do so. The cards are just \$2 a piece but if you choose to not participate, we will be seated far enough away from the crowds that we can still enjoy our WHO ladies without a lot of disruption.

You may remember from our previous gathering that Heather's has an extensive menu from which to choose so you are sure to find something that treats your palate.

Please contact Judy Hudson to place your reservation for this fun evening by contacting Judy at cruisewriter937@aol.com or by text or phone at 937-329-2588. Or see her at church to place your reservation on her sign-up sheet.

Faith and Pride Upcoming Events

August 17 – COME BOWLING WITH FAITH AND PRIDE ON SUNDAY, AUGUST 17
EVERYONE is invited to go bowling with our Faith & Pride Group on Sunday August 17th at 2pm!
Faith & Pride is hosting a family bowling event at Poelking Lanes (3200 Woodman Lane, Kettering). \$10 per person gets you rental shoes and 1 1/2 hours of bowling! Please RSVP to Pastor Emily ephillips@davidsucc.org or the Church Office by Monday, August 11th.

September 5 – Pride Night at King's Island

October 19 – Annual Chili Cookoff – 5 pm Fellowship Hall

November 16 – Friendsgiving – 5 pm Fellowship Hall

December 14 – White Elephant Gift Exchange – 6:30 pm Fellowship Hall



In Our Church

Acolyte Volunteers

We are so excited to have acolytes starting our Sunday worship services each week! Acolytes bring the candlelight into the Sanctuary to signify the start of worship, symbolically bring the Light of Christ into our presence. We are looking for more kids (ages 6 years-6th grade) to sign up for Sundays in August and September! To sign up follow this link to the Sign-Up Genius page: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C084FA8A82AAAFAC52-57229908-acolyte> or call the Church Office. If your child has not been trained, please reach out to Pastor Emily to set up a mutually convenient time! ephillips@davidsucc.org.

Music Ministry

Salutations, my friends! The summer seems to have been a long one for me. Maybe it is because of the temperatures and humidity making the air feel stagnant. I know that my flowers need to be tended to daily. Thankfully, all of that is slowing down once choirs begin. The following is a break-down of when each of the three choirs will commence rehearsals and the dates for performances.

Children's choir rehearsals will begin on Sunday, August 24th directly following the service in the basement of the church. We will NOT have practice on August 31st as that is Labor Day weekend. Beginning September 7th practices will be every Sunday unless otherwise stated. The first time the children's choir sing for the service is September 21st. They will be singing on the third Sunday of every month. Every year our choir seems to be getting larger which is a great sign. Let us make sure we keep the children a vital part of our ministry. We are looking for committed children and parents to make it a reality.

Sanctuary choir rehearsals will begin on August 28th, with our first performance scheduled for Kick-Off Sunday, September 14th. We meet in the sanctuary for rehearsals. The choir will be singing an Introit and Benediction response all Sundays except for the second Sunday of every month. September is the one Sunday that this does not apply. The week that the handbells play, the choir will NOT be in the choir loft. The Handbell ringers will be sitting in the loft. We are extremely blessed with singers who love to honor God with their voices.

Handbell choir rehearsals will begin on September 18th, playing the first time on October 12th. This year we are going to sit in the choir loft when we play and will be playing the Introit and Benediction Response as well as the anthem. Regular attendance is crucial, as we are dependent on all the ringers to make our music. We will play on the second Sunday of every month.

If you are interested in joining any of the singing choirs, please just show up for rehearsal. If you want to join the handbell choir, please let me know so that I can find a position for you to play. I am looking forward to a great season. 2026 will be the commemoration of 200 years for David's UCC. We have commissioned a choral work from Pepper Choplin, a well-known composer for the event. Blessings just seem to overflow.

In Christ's Service,

Tim Williams

David's T-shirts!

DAVID'S TSHIRTS FOR SALE!

Do you want to be one of the cool kids and wear a David's UCC t-shirt? Are you planning to volunteer at the Rummage Sale, walk in the PRIDE parade, or volunteer through David's this year or next? Well never fear, David's T-shirt are here! Visit the link below to order, pay, and arrange delivery to either your home (for a fee) or the office. Please go to the link below to check it out and purchase. Questions? Reach out to Gwen in the office.

<https://login.commonsku.com/shop/26f21b77-83e2-42b1-85b1-33de077b7a0f>

200th Anniversary

The first 200th Anniversary Year celebration event will kickoff on Sunday, September 14, with the David's Church 2025 Fall Kickoff. That day will also include the kickoff of "The David's Church 200th Challenge Event". We are not revealing this event until the kickoff, but we are hoping that it becomes a treasured memory of the Celebration Year.

During October of 2025, we plan to have a 200th Anniversary celebration event with a "Homecoming" theme. We hope to send special invitations to former David's pastors & staff and their families, former Confirmation class members, and former congregation members. These can be people who have moved away, or even local families who have found new church homes. On the "David's Homecoming" celebration Sunday we plan to invite these friends to join us and participate in a church service and potluck meal celebration. There is a box on the table in the back of the church to suggest names of former David's people and families that you would enjoy reconnecting and seeing again. Suggest the names, how you were connected with them, and any address information that you might know. An example of a suggestion might be something like: "Sean Yee, he was a SALT worker at David's and in my 1980's era confirmation class. I think he lives in South Carolina now. Suggested by _____." Or, "Beth Castelee, married to Robb Castelee, who has sadly passed away. Beth worked in the office, and was very active iat David's. We worked on xxx together. I think she lives in Tennessee now. Suggested by _____".

To recognize the importance of music to the David's Congregation, the Anniversary Celebration year will include the unveiling of a specially commissioned new anthem, that will be dedicated to the David's Church 200th Anniversary. More will be revealed during the year!

If you have interest, we are still looking for people to help coordinate these specific ideas: a) someone to help with contacting local governments to request proclamations (for example, Kettering Mayor, Montgomery County, state of Ohio Governor); b) a person(s) to help coordinate a "TBD" music event -- we have some ideas and time frames but nothing specific identified yet; c) a person who might have some knowledge or skills in graphic arts to help coordinate/design a potential Anniversary gift to the congregation member families.

Please contact Karen Hendricks, 200th Anniversary Committee Chair, cell/text 937-776-0006 if you have these interests in participating, or any questions or suggestions regarding the David's 200th Celebration Year.

Rummage Sale Wrap-up

David's Church 2025 Rummage Sale Reaches Record Sales!

Thanks to generous donations, incredible, hard working volunteers to handle all those donations and smart shoppers who found great bargains, David's 39th Annual Rummage Sale expanded into the hallway and double Sunday School room downstairs and raised \$21,627.00!!!

Additionally, remaining items were parceled out to:

Bauer K-2 School, Book Loft, Compassion First, The Corner Cupboard, Goodwill, Hannah's Treasure Chest, J.F. Kennedy Elementary School, Oakwood Methodist Church, Miamisburg Middle School, Salvation Army, St. Paul's Methodist Church, YWCA, Wright Patterson Air Force Base Thrift Store, Wright Patterson Air Force Base USO Airman's Attic

On Thursday night, the Mission Board collected \$510.00 in Preview Night Admission which went directly into supporting Mission Projects.

We invite the congregation to participate in the Shirley Johnson School Supply Drive for J.F. Kennedy Elementary School in Kettering, Bauer K-2 School and Miamisburg Middle School and look forward to putting our dollars to work for other worthy mission work.

Looking forward to another great sale in 2026 as we anticipate of our 40th! Thank You So Much for your support of this annual event!!!

(The pictures featured on the front of this Dateline issue are some of the many smiling faces around David's during Rummage Sale preparation)

SIGNS Reunion

After 25 incredible years filled with laughter, memories, and life-changing moments, we invite you to join us for one final celebration as we honor the legacy of SIGNS Youth Group. Whether you're a SIGNS alum, a parent, a supporter, or a friend, we'd love to see you there! Bring the whole family! Bounce House, Face Painting, Live Band, food & Fun! Let's celebrate the impact SIGNS has had on so many lives and say goodbye with joy and gratitude. Please RSVP so we can plan accordingly, jdbloomingdale@gmail.com. We can't wait to see you there! Saturday, August 9, 2025 4:00 PM - 8:00 PM ET @ The Grove.

August 1 Evvie Thompson
August 2 Scott Stanforth, Chris Wood
August 3 William Stolz
August 4 Samuel Stanley
August 5 Samuel Dowse, Judy Lambright
August 6 Ted Eltzroth, Jason Wysong
August 8 Emily Phillips, Layla Stolz
August 10 Joan Raine
August 11 Davina Mukes
August 12 Diane Herbst
August 13 Gerri Creel
August 15 Bob Stone, Susan Webeler

Happy
Birthday

August 16 Dave Evans
August 17 Don Porter
August 18 Zachary Angel, Morgan Bartshe
August 21 Elizabeth Thompson
August 22 David Blumberg
August 23 Amy Thompson
August 24 Brett Doudican, Linda Ford, Julia Gayler, Bert Jones, Ed Webb
August 26 Ian Jones
August 27 Else Schiller
August 28 Dick DeLon
August 29 Jeff Baldwin, Nikki Cantrell, Lenita Haynes
August 31 Janice Kinghorn, Tina Wingate

AUGUST 2025

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
					1	2 Gateway Food Drop-off- 10am
3 Worship- 9:50am 2 nd Hour- Crop Walk	4 Warm Wishes 9:30am	5 Quilting- 10am Elders Mtg- 6:30pm	6	7	8 Young Family Night- 6:30pm	9 Trustee Mtg- 8:30am Paul Hamm Memorial Service SIGNS Alumni Event- 4pm
10 Worship- 9:50am 2 nd Hour- Equitas Health Deacons Mtg- 11:30	11 Warm Wishes 9:30am	12 Quilting- 10am FF/CE Mtg- 6pm Mission Board Mtg- 7pm	13 F&H Board Mtg- 9:30am	14	15 Game Night- 6:30pm	16 Men's Breakfast 8:30am
17 Worship- 9:50am Communion Stockholder's Lunch- 11:30 F/P Bowling- 2pm	18 Warm Wishes 9:30am	19 Quilting- 10am Green Team Mtg- 6pm Council Mtg- 7pm	20	21	22	23 Board Chair Mtg- 9am
24 Worship- 9:50am 2 nd Hour- Mindfulness	25 Warm Wishes 9:30am	26 Quilting- 10am WHO Dinner- 5:30pm	27	28	29	30
31 Worship- 9:50am Confirmation Interest Meeting- 11:30am						

