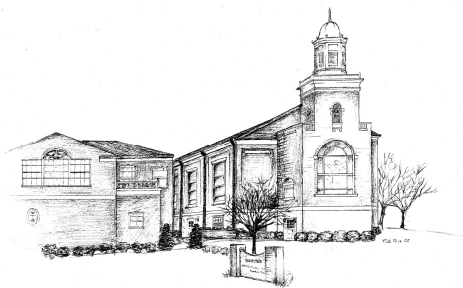


# September 2023 Dateline



## Church Office

Hours: Monday – Friday, 9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Phone: 937-434-2131, Fax: 937-434-1913

[www.davidsucc.org](http://www.davidsucc.org)

*Ministers of David's Church - All David's People*

**Senior Pastor Brian Q. Newcomb**

**Pastor of Faith Formation and Family Life-**

**Emily Phillips**



September 2	Jim Williams, Jim Amon, Alex Wysong, Scotty Blackburn
September 3	Amanda Veatch, Bill Dieruf
September 8	Lilah Worsowicz
September 9	Gabriel Wysong
September 10	Mary Foster
September 11	Sophie Dhanraj, Lynn Brouse, Jake Schairbaum
September 12	Paul Hamm
September 13	Valerie Doudican
September 14	Lauren Pickrel
September 15	Michael Hunter, Tom Rodberg, Emy Aiello
September 16	Criag Chabut, Ronald Lafayette
September 20	Ann Heaton
September 21	Jessie Blumberg
September 22	Barbara Pelfrey
September 25	Mick Morgan, Karina Czeiszperger
September 27	AJ Wright, Gary Burnett
September 28	Sydney Pence
September 29	Lauren Walker, Nancy Angel, Andy Blumberg

## David's United Church of Christ UPCOMING EVENTS

### SEPTEMBER 1, 4

Office closed for Labor Day Weekend

### SEPTEMBER 2

Gateway Food Drop-off

### SEPTEMBER 9

Anti-Racism Book Study

### SEPTEMBER 10

Pastor Emily's Installation

Blessing of the Backpacks

Fall Kickoff Picnic

SIGNS First Meeting

### SEPTEMBER 13, 20

Gospel of Luke Study

### SEPTEMBER 16

Men's Breakfast

### SEPTEMBER 17

Sustainability Sunday

Faith and Pride Movie

### SEPTEMBER 18

Marion's Piazza Dine-to-Donate

### SEPTEMBER 20-22

Fabric Sale

### SEPTEMBER 22

Game Night

### SEPTEMBER 24

St. Therese Brass Performance

### SEPTEMBER 26

WHO Dinner

## FROM THE DESK OF PASTOR BRIAN...

History matters! That's something I used to think we all agreed about. The story I heard again and again growing up, as I was encouraged to learn about the history of the Revolutionary War, the great western expansion across the continent of North America, from sea to shining sea, of Western Civilization and the world, was that we learned history to honor the values and heroic acts of our ancestors, and to better understand our current situation. We often heard some variation on the quote from George Santayana, that "those who cannot remember history are condemned to repeat it."

But something we also heard from our teachers and philosophers was that "history is written by the winners." Which makes sense at a very basic level, of course those who overcome obstacles and rise to power are the that have the ability and resources are the ones who get to tell their story, which means that more often than not the stories we are told as history are at times actually little more than mythic storytelling, if not actual propaganda.

For instance, I was told that George Washington could not tell a lie, that he admitted to cutting down the cherry tree when asked, that he also had wooden teeth, and as a successful Virginia colonist he rose naturally to be General of the Revolutionary Army and was naturally the obvious choice as the first President of our new nation. Somehow it never came up that the success of his plantation and the source of his wealth came from the over 300 enslaved persons that George and his wife Martha owned together. I've read that at his death George freed those slaves owned by him, but it's curious that he kept them throughout his entire life, benefitting from their unpaid labor and suffering. Oh, and those dentures were made from the teeth of slaves.

Ben Franklin, we've learned had slaves early on, but later in life he divested himself of them, and would go on to be the head of the Pennsylvania Abolition Society, which opposed slavery. And we've all learned about the conflicted emotions and hypocrisy of Thomas Jefferson who would write those powerful words of enlightenment thinking that "we hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable rights, (to) life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness." We now realize that Jefferson didn't include women, and actually only meant land-owning men of English heritage with education and wealth when it came to voting, holding office, or sharing equal rights in the new nation he envisioned. And as high and lofty as his language about "unalienable rights," the revealed history of his relationship with Sally Hemmings, his slave, and the numerous illegitimate children suggests a significant personal discrepancy between ideals and actions.

When our Anti-Racism Book Study read "The 1619 Project," one common experience was how often we were exposed to information for the first time, learning about events and facts in our history that had been hidden from us. For instance, Susan's mother Marian grew up and was educated in Oklahoma, yet she was learning for the first time along with the rest of us the story of the Tulsa Race Massacre in 1921, when mobs of White citizens, some appointed as deputies and armed by city officials attacked and burned the African American community of the Greenwood District, a prosperous area also known as Black Wall St. Last summer, as we were wrapping up my sabbatical time, Susie and I drove Marian back to visit her brother where they grew up in Oklahoma, and in addition we made sure we had an extra day in Tulsa to visit the Greenwood Rising-Black Wall St. History Center, and a garden memorial honoring those who died in that tragic event of human hatred and violence of neighbor against neighbor.

Yet, the churches of Tulsa continued to meet, life returned to normal for those who'd not lost loved ones, homes, and businesses. But the history was buried, hidden from public view. Even a girl raised an hour or two from Tulsa, born a dozen years after that event, didn't learn about it until she was in her 80s. On the wall outside the History Center is a telling quote from African American/LGBTQ civil rights voice and author, James Baldwin: "Not everything that is faced can be changed, but nothing can be changed until it is faced."

On Monday night, Susan and I shook our heads in wonder as we watched the Rachel Maddow show, where she described violent White Supremacist riot in Jacksonville, FL, when 500 KKK members attacked Black civil rights protestors with baseball bats and axe handles 63 years ago to the day, but the violence boiled over for

days, and they beat and injured Black families, students, women and children. Again, another horrific event relatively unspoken of in history books. The current reference was the mass shooting of 3 innocent Black people at a store by a White Supremacist with an assault rifle, also in Jacksonville, something that shares an anniversary with the March on Washington, and Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King's "I Have a Dream" speech. These stories are heartbreaking, and they are piling up.

And of course, the church – as committed as we claim to be to the ethic of Jesus to love our neighbor as ourselves, where we honor his teaching that "the truth will set us free" – hasn't always acted faithfully. Often we have conveniently forgotten our mistakes and missteps. The Crusades. Burning heretics and scientists at the stake. Wars and rumors of wars, you name it the Christian church throughout time has been up to our neck in it. And more directly in our United Church of Christ, one aspect of our history involving Afro-Christians in the early creation of our denomination in 1957 has been overlooked. For 66 years the UCC has been described as the union of four theological streams and religious bodies: The Congregationalists (arising from English Puritans), The Christian Churches (from a variety of post-Awakening congregations loosely united in the north, southeast and Midwest), The Evangelical Church (later German Protestant immigrants), and The Reformed Church (early German immigrants closely related to Lutheranism).

At the UCC General Synod in Indianapolis this summer, a fifth historic theological and racial stream was acknowledged, guided by the deep historic research of African American clergy-woman, community organizer, and civil rights activist Rev. Yvonne Delk in her latest book, "Afro-Christian Convention; The Fifth Stream of the United Church of Christ." Delk's research follows the Afro-Christian tradition from 1619 to the 1950s, and into the present context. It was Delk's work which brought this hidden history into the light, and led to a public apology from the stage of Synod by our then General Minister & President of the denomination, Rev. Dr. John C. Dorhauer, who said: "On behalf of the United Church of Christ, and to the leaders active in and descended from the Afro-Christian stream of our beloved faith, and in recognition of the sin of centering whiteness, I hereby issue an apology for my and our complicity in and with the manifestations of white privilege that motivated some of us to set this table without you."

Dorhauer went on to say that "without the fifth stream, we can't be the UCC." He offered a full apology for the UCC "cutting off one of its limbs," and "for making you wait this long for this." As John spoke all this at Synod I was reminded of how a similar realization brought on an apology to the people of Hawaii, for the earlier complicity in the colonization, displacement of native peoples, and vicarious participation and support of the overthrow of the Hawaiian monarch, Queen Lili'uokalani. In 1993, Rev. Paul Sherry traveled to Kuamakapili UCC to apologize, and the National Church followed up with signs of reconciliation that redressed those historic injustices through financial grants and services to the people of Hawaii through the UCC's Homeland and World ministry boards. Eleven months after the UCC apology, the US government offered a similar statement of apology for similar acts and worse.

As Maya Angelou once said, "when you know better, you do better." States like Florida and Arkansas are actively trying to remove the history of slavery, Jim Crow, and the resistance to segregation from the history books where American children will learn about the world we leave to them. And not learning about our nation's mistakes and missteps means they will be ill-informed and unprepared to push back against the racist ideology of White Supremacy, and the kind of Christian Nationalism that led many German Christians to go along with the Nazis in the 1930s. Not understanding the actual truth and facts of history, our nation will be doomed to repeat them. And I say all this not as a political or partisan matter, but as a moral, Christian, and spiritual matter. The heart and soul of our democracy is currently under attack by some who seem willing to sacrifice the values of our democracy, and the hope for a more perfect union that offers to all our citizens and the world the hope of "life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness, for the sake of their own power."

As Christian people in these uniquely challenging times, I believe more than ever we need to hold onto the truth, tell the whole story of our past and how we got here, as well as listen to the perspectives and insights of those very different from us in race, religion and culture, so that we fully understand our history, and are set free from the specter of reliving the sins and violence of the past.

Your Pastor & friend, Brian Q. Newcomb

## A MESSAGE FROM PASTOR EMILY...

I really enjoy this time of year in the life of our church! We start seeing familiar faces return whom we have missed during the summer months, we start planning for the return of our beloved choir, and we start getting our Christian Education program geared up to return to full-strength! We celebrate our students of all ages returning to school, our members who are teachers and support staff getting back in the school buildings, and I certainly celebrate the cooler weather we will start experiencing soon (I hope).

As we return to the Sunday School classroom, we are always reminded our volunteers are invaluable! We also realize we can always use more adults to volunteer. We are always looking for Sunday School teachers and helpers, Confirmation Mentors, folks to lead the Childrens' Moments during the worship service... if you want to help, we will find you a job! We have such a great group of kids, and one easy way to show them how much we love them is to participate in the CE programming we offer.

Confirmation Classes will start on September 17<sup>th</sup>, we have 5 students returning to complete the second year of the program and 3 new students joining for their first year! That evening, Faith & Pride will be participating in a movie night at The Neon (Downtown Dayton) to watch an incredible movie: "1946: THE MISTRANSLATION THAT SHIFTED CULTURE" which examines how a mistranslation of the Bible fueled the anti-gay movement in Christianity.

At the end of the month, I will be attending the Heartland Conference Annual Gathering. Our newly elected President and General Minister, Rev. Dr. Karen Georgia Thompson will be the Keynote Speaker, and I am so excited to meet her and hear her speak!

Of course, this year will look different for me, personally. I am settling into my new role as Pastor of Faith Formation and Family life. I started my online classes through Eden Theological Seminary on Monday August 28<sup>th</sup>, taking a full load of 4 classes! I am excited to be able to do this, but also extremely nervous about the full-time commitment of four courses instead of the part-time status I had in my previous semesters at United Theological Seminary. I already feel the encouragement of the congregation, the loving reminders offered by members to focus on school, and of course the financial support offered by the Scholarship Committee is invaluable. The possibility of completing my seminary education in 2 ½ or 3 more years by attending full-time rather than 5 more years of part-time studies still seems like a dream.

Because of my class schedule, my office hours will usually be the following (unless otherwise posted): Mondays 9am – 1pm, Tuesdays & Wednesdays 9am – 3pm, Thursdays out of office, Fridays 9am – 5pm.

Once again, I thank the people of David's for this amazing opportunity to work at my "home church" while pursuing my seminary education. I have wanted to pinch myself more than once over the past few months to assure myself that this is all really happening! And of course, I can't wait to see what the coming year brings for our CE programs and the life of our church!

With love & gratitude,

Pastor Emily

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS AND INFORMATION**



### **St. Therese Brass Concert- Sept. 24 at David's Grove**

Come join the St. Therese Brass for their annual outdoor concert at the Grove on Sunday, September 24 from 2-4pm! Cincinnati's only 8-member quintet will perform a variety of jazz, classical and pop songs. A free will donation will be collected for David's general operating fund, so bring a chair and we'll see you there!



## Thoughts from your council president –

If you are reading this, it is probably September. September is the time when summer (my favorite season) comes to an end. I look forward to the beautiful fall colors, but cold weather and snow not so much.

During July the church council took a break from meeting, but the church kept moving forward. Meetings began again in August, but mission carried on with feeding of the folk at Gateway and the Kettering Children's summer food program without missing a beat. Also there was a very successful rummage sale. The trustees kept the grounds at the church and the Grove looking great. Sunday school was a one room school with

teacher volunteers. F&H provided coffee and cookies after most services. Buckeyes were made for the Welcome Bags given to those who visited Sunday services. There were funeral receptions and a summer picnic. Book studies moved right along with interesting topics covered at each. Money counters, quilters and Warm Wishes creators all kept up the good work. WHAT A RELAXING TIME IT HAS BEEN!!!

Now we move into the fall and winter months with plans being made for those activities. If you missed out this summer or you enjoyed the fun you had helping this summer you have new opportunities to help coming up. Be sure to check the sign-in sheets in the narthex or look online for things ahead.

We will need volunteers to usher and be greeters every Sunday. Fall Kick Off will be September 10. A fund raiser at the Town & Country Marion's Piazza on Monday, September 18 will be great fun. Mark your calendar to celebrate Pastor Brian's 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of ordination on November 19. A committee will be formed this fall to make plans for the 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the formation of David's Church which will take place in 2026.

Thank you to our volunteers and staff for all that you have done and for all that you will do.

Peace and love,  
Nedra Dalton

## WHO (Women Hanging Out)

**DINNER IN SEPTEMBER- September 26 at 5:30pm**

We will be returning to the community of Kettering when we dine at Meadowlark Restaurant at 5531 Far Hills near the intersection of Rahn Road. More precisely you will find Meadowlark in the Lamplighter Square Shopping Center just a short distance from Rahn Road. Traveling south on Far Hills it will be on your right....top of the hill.

We will meet at our usual 5:30 time and the reservation is under the name of JUDY FEHR in our own private dining area. We will have an extensive menu to choose from so there should be something there for everyone to enjoy.

As you receive your bill at the end of the meal you will notice a 3% charge has been added for those who wish to make payment using a credit card. An additional 20% will also be added because of the size of our group.

If your calendar is free on Tuesday September 26th we would love to have you join us at Meadowlark as WHO enjoys another night out visiting and chatting with each other. Just contact Judy Hudson at [Cruisewriter937@aol.com](mailto:Cruisewriter937@aol.com) or 937-329-2588 to place your reservation for our September Gathering.

We always have a great time.



## DAVID'S MEN'S BREAKFAST- September 16 at 8:30am

Join the men of David's for breakfast on the third Saturday of each month at Bob Evans- 7115 Far Hills Ave. There is no agenda, just fellowship! All ages welcome, we can get a bigger table if needed. Questions? Please reach out to Dick DeLon or Neil Jones.



## FALL KICKOFF!- September 10



### BACK TO SCHOOL BLESSING OF THE BACKPACKS

During worship, on Sunday, September 10, we want to take a moment and offer a prayer of blessing over all those who are returning to school and the tools of their education. So, we invite all those who will be attending school in the Fall—pre-school, grades K thru 12, college and grad school, and TEACHERS and administrators—to bring their backpacks/symbol for learning and teaching and place them on the altar around our communion table prior to the service. During the Children's Moment, we will say a prayer of blessing upon all those backpacks and upon all those going back to school.

### PASTOR EMILY'S INSTALLATION

Come together with members and loved ones as we install Emily Phillips as our Associate Pastor of Faith Formation and Family Life. David's Church is excited to make Emily an official part of our Pastoral Staff!

### PICNIC

**Join us** for our fall church picnic after the church service on **Sunday, September 10, in Fellowship Hall!** **Sign-up** sheets are in the Narthex. Please sign up for the food items you will bring and so we know the number of attendees.

**Drinks and chicken will be provided.** This is always a fun way to celebrate the new school/church year!!!

### DIRECTORY NEWS!



**Instant Church Directory™** Do you need an updated picture for the directory? Do you want to see how the directory looks online? Or looks on your phone? Want to download the app, but aren't sure how? Have questions about setting up your password?

All these questions and more can be answered at the *Directory Show and Tell*. Elders will be available after church in Fellowship Hall on Sept. 10 and again on Sept. 17 to answer questions. Del Faulkner will be there to take photos. Make sure your information is updated soon! Call the office and talk to Gwen or email Kathi Herick at [herickhome@gmail.com](mailto:herickhome@gmail.com) for questions or information. Thank you for your help!

### DAVID'S UCC GREEN TEAM MEETING- SEPTEMBER 11 CONFERENCE ROOM

If you're passionate about the environment, join David's UCC Green Team! The Green Team seeks to provide opportunities for its members to live more sustainable lives and make a meaningful difference in their communities. The goal of the Green Team is to promote environmentally friendly practices at David's UCC and encourage members to find ways to reduce environmental impacts in their daily lives. **Our next meeting is Monday, September 11 at 5:30 PM in the conference room at the church office. To become a member of David's UCC Green Team contact Becca Karason at [rkarason@yahoo.com](mailto:rkarason@yahoo.com).**

### September 17 is "Sustainability Sunday."

**Pastor Brian will be preaching about the Climate Crisis and Environmental Stability**

## Faith & Pride Is Going to the Movies- Sunday Sept. 17 at 5pm

The Faith and Pride group will be viewing the film *1946* at the Neon on September 17. Cost for each ticket is \$4. There are eleven tickets still available, so please let Michael Roediger ([mroediger@daytonart.org](mailto:mroediger@daytonart.org)) know ASAP if you would like to attend. All are welcome! More information is below:



### 1946

Documentary · 1 hr 30 min

**ENCORE SCREENING** - "1946: THE MISTRANSLATION THAT SHIFTED CULTURE is a feature documentary that follows the story of tireless researchers who trace the origins of the anti-gay movement among Christians to a grave mistranslation of the Bible in 1946. It chronicles the discovery of never-before-seen archives at Yale University which unveil astonishing new revelations, and casts significant doubt on any biblical basis for LGBTQIA+ prejudice. Featuring commentary from prominent scholars as well as opposing pastors, including the personal stories of the film's creators, 1946 is at once challenging, enlightening, and inspiring.

While other documentaries have been successful in their attempt to treat the symptom of homophobia in the church, 1946 is working to diagnose and treat the disease - Biblical Literalism." This film is being sponsored by The Welcoming Place: Counseling and Coaching, LLC - Owner/Counselor: Charles A. Roberts, LPCC-S.

With this sponsorship in place, tickets are only \$3 each (plus a pressing fee of \$1)! (This screening will be general admission - no assigned seats.) Director Kurt Maetzig, Max Jaap



Town and Country  
location only!

**MONDAY,  
SEPTEMBER 18  
5:00PM TO 8:00PM**



**DINE TO DONATE**

David's UCC  
will receive  
20%

**PIZZA, SANDWICHES, AND  
SPAGHETTI, AND SALAD**

**MUST PRINT AND  
PRESENT THIS  
COUPON!**

## DINE TO DONATE AT MARION'S PIAZZA SEPTEMBER 18

Join us **Monday, September 18 from 5:00-8:00 pm** at Marion's in **Kettering** (50 E. Stroop Road) and 20% of your purchase of pizza, sandwiches, or spaghetti will be donated directly to David's UCC. Eat-in or Carry-out. Clip the coupon on the left and make sure you take it with you! They are also available in the Narthex and the office. Valid on dine-in or carry-out. Tell your friends! Plan a date! Bring the kids' soccer team! See ya there!

Clip  
Me!!





## OUTREACH AND SERVICE

### ***Do You Have U.F.O.'s? !(Unfinished Objects)!***

Have a drawer, closet or room full of "I'll make and/or finish that someday!"?

Well, if you feel your someday will never come, the Quilting Ministry invites you to bring your U.F.O.'s to Church and add them to their Fabric & Craft Sale where other crafty people may find your good intentions and proudly complete that project! ***You can drop your items off on***

***Mondays from 9:30 a.m. to Noon OR Tuesdays from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Until Tuesday, September 12.***

To support the Quilting Ministry's creation of Quilts for the Veterans at Victory Ridge Hospice Unit!  
Questions? Contact Debbie McCoy at 937-689-4224

David's United Church of Christ \* 170 West David Road \* Kettering

**Fabric @ \$3/Yd, Quilts,  
Sewing & Craft Supplies**

**CASH or CHECK ONLY SALE CASH or CHECK ONLY**

**Wed. Sept. 20 - 7 p.m. to 9 p.m.  
Thurs, Sept. 21 - 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.  
Fri., Sept. 22 - 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.**

*You'll find Quilt, Apparel, Upholstery, Novelty  
Fabrics, Fabric Panels, Notions, Trims; Cross  
Stitch; Yarn; Quilt Tops, Quilts; Quilt & Craft  
Magazines, Patterns, Books & Supplies; Fabric  
on Bolts, Card Making and Scrapbooking,  
Vintage Wedding Gowns & \$5 Bag Deals!!!*

*All proceeds support David's Quilting Ministry  
who creates quilts for the Veteran's Victory Ridge Hospice Unit.  
Come see some of the quilts being dedicated November 12  
before they go to the Hospice Unit to comfort our Veterans.*

## **THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING THE SUMMER FOOD PROGRAM**

The Mission Board would like to say "thank you" to David's UCC members for supporting the *Summer Food Program* in Kettering. Throughout the week, we fed approximately 215 youth and family members at The Trails of Oak Creek and Van Buren Park locations. Our time on site was spent interacting with the youth, serving as positive adult role models, playing games, and having fun. Activities included football, cornhole toss, horseshoe



toss, sidewalk chalk drawings, bubble blowing, and face painting. We distributed new and used books to the children, in addition to welcoming the Montgomery County Library Mini-Book Mobile.

Our volunteers were fabulous! Thank you for donating food items, preparing the meals, transporting the foods and supplies to each location, setting up/tearing down, serving the youth and families, and interacting with the children! It's true...Many hands make light work!

In addition to David's UCC volunteers, Mission Board is grateful to the following organizations for their support and donations:

Kettering City Schools – Hot Dogs, Buns, Bananas & Condiments  
Partners For Healthy Youth – Hot Dogs, Buns, Bananas & Condiments  
Donato's Pizza – Cardboard Pizza Boxes  
Corner Cupboard – Used Books  
Montgomery County Library – New Books & Activities



***Please consider joining us next year...when we do this again!***

## **ONGOING GATEWAY MISSION**

David's Mission Board has been coordinating the GATEWAY FOOD DROP OFF for many years.

On the first Saturday of every month, David's Church Family drops the food listed below off at the David's Fellowship Hall Doors between 10 and 11 a.m. and is then delivered to St. Vincent's main kitchen where it can then be served as needed. St. Vincent coordinates the Women's/Children's Shelter as well as the men's shelter named Gateway. When David's began this ministry, we served the Gateway Shelter but since the Pandemic we have channeled our contributions to the main kitchen for both Shelters.

We continue to call it Gateway to avoid confusion. Each month we take:

**20 - 4 lb. Pans of Sloppy Joe**  
**20 - Pans of Cheesy Potatoes**  
**12 - 2 Dozen READY TO SERVE Dinner Rolls**  
**20 - 1 Dozen Fruit/Applesauce Cups**  
**12 - 3 Dozen Cookies**



St. Vincent's has developed the recipes for the Sloppy Joe and Cheesy Potatoes and David's Mission Board provides the pans for those dishes. You can support this ministry by signing up on the Narthex which is also where you can find the recipes and pans or contact Debbie McCoy at 937-689-4224 or [kdam4300@gmail.com](mailto:kdam4300@gmail.com) to sign up or ask any questions.

Thank You So Much, David's Church Family, for your consistent support of the important food ministry!

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## **MUSIC NOTES**

### **Greetings and Salutations from the desk of the Music Director!**

Part of our jobs as Music Director and organist at David's UCC is to provide preludes and a postlude each week for Sunday worship. The music we choose for the prelude is generally of a prayerful or contemplative nature and the postlude, while it tends to be more festive, certainly varies depending on the season or the particular Sunday in the church year. We've had the privilege over the past couple of years to discuss the role of the prelude and postlude in our worship with many congregants. For the most part it seems that none of us ever wish to go without the prelude or postlude, but ideas about the role of these musical moments in our worship vary distinctly.

Every set of church staff is different with respect to its beliefs around the purpose of the prelude and postlude, just as each congregation differs with respect to the way that it treats preludes and postludes. I have attended several churches where it is customary to enter the worship space in silence, allowing the prelude to be the only sound that occupies the space, then sit quietly following the service until the completion of the postlude.

Our custom at David's is truly a mixed bag: many of us enter worship in a rather last-minute fashion, greeting our friends and family whole-heartedly with spirit-filled voices while others sit quietly in the pews for several minutes with downcast eyes or hearts lifted in prayer. These are both ways to prepare ourselves for worship; they're just vastly different ways to prepare. Where does the prelude enter each of these scenarios? For some it seems the prelude is background music that fills the space between greetings or provides a backdrop for an extended conversation. For others it fills space in the soul or the mind, maybe quieting the residue from a busy week and making room for the words and music of worship. The prelude is our form of worship.

The postlude, from our perspective, is really an exciting opportunity to lift up a musical offering to God but also an important moment to comment on a theme from the last hour's worship service or send the congregation out into the world with a message for the coming week. We tend to think carefully about this music and spend quite a lot of time preparing it. It's always a nice benefit for members of the congregation to share this moment with us!

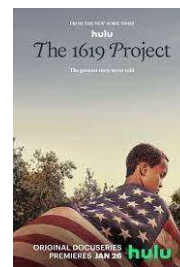
We had our first Sanctuary Choir practice last night and it was a great way to begin the season. We had several new additions, but are always welcoming more. We had over twenty in attendance last night which is above our usual opening practice. Thank you to everyone who came out. It is going to be a great year.

-Tim

## **EDUCATION AND SPIRITUAL GROWTH**

### **Anti-Racism Group- Saturday, September 9**

We will meet at 10 am on Saturday, September 9, and we will be viewing the episode of "The 1619 Project" on "Justice." Coffee and donuts will be provided.



### **Bible Study in the Gospel of Luke with Pastor Brian- Wednesdays at 7pm**

Books have been ordered and will be here soon! If you signed up, please mark your calendars (note the few weeks off for vacation and holidays). Here's the suggested class schedule for the Book Study, which will take place in the conference room.

September 13: Lesson 1 "Getting Started with Luke"  
September 20: Lesson 2 "God's Covenant Kept"  
October 11: Lesson 3 "Preparations for Ministry"  
October 18: Lesson 4 "Jesus Inaugurates the Kingdom of God"  
October 25: Lesson 5 "Ministry in Galilee Continues"  
November 1: Lesson 6 "Ministry in Galilee: 'Teaching'"  
November 8: Lesson 7 "The Journey to Jerusalem Begins"  
November 15: Lesson 8 "Warnings on the Journey"

November 29: Lesson 9 "Life in the Kingdom of God"  
(We'll break for the month of December)  
Jan. 3: Lesson 10 "The Journey to Jerus. Concludes"  
January 10: Lesson 11 "Jesus' Ministry in Jerusalem"  
January 17: Lesson 12 "The Passion Narrative (1)"  
January 24: Lesson 13 "The Passion Narrative (2)"  
January 31: Lesson 14 "The Resurrection"

Are you watching the service on Facebook? We LOVE that you can join us from home! Please give us a LIKE or COMMENT so we know you are watching! It helps us learn valuable information on how we are doing with our remote options. Like a sermon? Share the video on your page so we can reach more people! If you are in need of pastoral care or would like to speak with a pastor, please reach out. You are a valued member of our church community.



In 2023, the Neighbors in Need "BEHOLD!" theme continues. This year's focus is on environmental justice. Plastics, electronics, and other non-compostable wastes are being shipped across, and even tossed into, our waterways, launched into space, and buried in landfills. As people of faith, we believe these egregious acts are sinful and unholy. We must be better stewards of our planet!

Please join us as we collect the offering on October 1, as part of World Communion Sunday.



We of the Heartland Creation Care Network warmly invite you to join us for our very first retreat: Creation Care & Environmental Justice: From Curiosity and Commitment!

Join The Green Team from David's, who will be attending this event!

We invite everyone to come out and connect with like-minded people! You will receive an abundance of resources and information, spiritual nourishment, and opportunities for connection, collaboration, and networking, all happening in the gorgeous surroundings of Templed Hills Retreat Center. Come and be inspired as we take action together, for a more just and sustainable world!

- Anyone 17 years old and under attending, must be accompanied by their legal parent/guardian.
- Students 18-22 years old can receive a \$15 discount by indicating their status.
- Registration check-in for Saturday will be 8:30-9:15 am.
- The program will start promptly at 9:15 am. Please plan to arrive prior.

#### CONTACT E-MAIL

[jill@heartlanducc.org](mailto:jill@heartlanducc.org)

#### COST

\$25.00 per Adults

\$10.00 per Minor - 17 or younger

#### CANCELLATION POLICY

No refunds will be made after October 11, 2023.



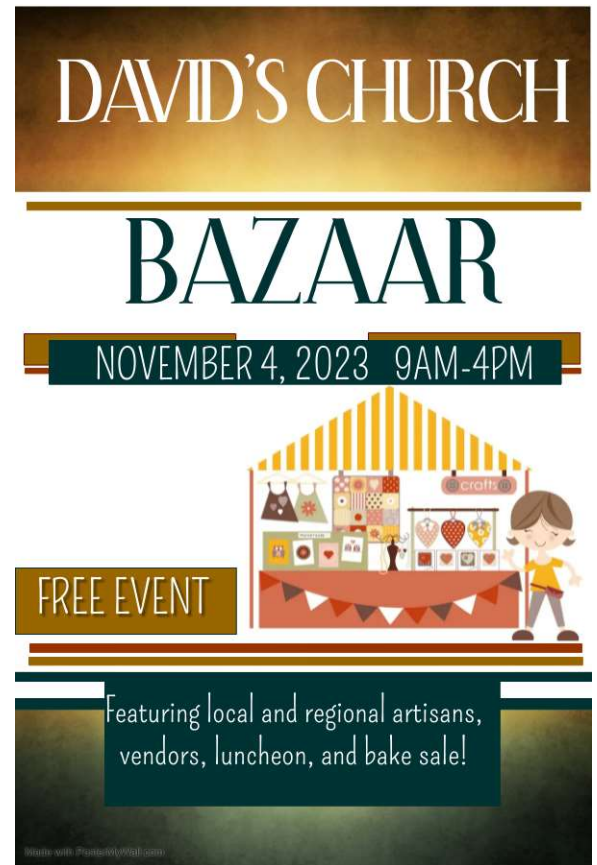
## **MARK YOUR CALENDARS!**

### **David's Bazaar Needs Your Help!**

David's Bazaar of the past began during a three-year period when the church was without a pastor. For morale, fellowship, and funds, the Bazaar began! It was a huge success and made money that was allocated to church needs outside the budget.

This year, Lenita Haynes volunteered to start up the Bazaar again. We will have a lunch, as we have had in the past, and baked goods provided by Lynn Bender and her committee. Lenita also invited outside vendors this year for variety.

We want to invite church members who wish to contribute craft items to reach out to Jean Blum (937-620-6781) or Judi McCoy (937-212-4086). If you would like to contribute baked items, Lyn Bender can be reached at (937)885-6220. We would love to have lots of people involved as we uphold the incredible reputation our Bazaar has in the area. ALL proceeds benefit David's!



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Please join Beth, Nicole, Megan and their families  
as we honor Robb Castele,  
our beloved Husband, Father, Pa, Uncle, Role Model, and Friend.  
in a Celebration of Life  
on Saturday, September 23rd from 1:00 - 3:00  
at Smith Memorial Gardens  
11 Walnut Lane, Oakwood, OH 45419  
There will be light refreshments and lots of memories shared.  
Please RSVP to Megan by texting or calling 865-385-6519  
so we have a count for food.  
The family requests Smith Gardens receive Memorial Gifts.

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*The Regional Meeting to learn more about the future of our Southwest Ohio Northern Kentucky Association will be hosted here at David's UCC on Sunday, September 17, at 2 pm in Fellowship Hall. We will have leaders with us from the UCC's Heartland Conference and SONKA, as we work together to gain a fuller understanding of how we will continue to function and do the necessary functions of the Association without the leadership of an Association Minister. This meeting for what the Association has called Region 8, basically the Greater Dayton area, and all interested parties from the area congregations – lay people as well as clergy – are invited to attend. There will be coffee, lemonade, and light refreshments served.*

## Anyone Interested in Joining an Interfaith Trip to Jerusalem Next Summer?

A few weeks ago, I shared during a Mission Moment how I had had coffee with the Rabbi of Beth Abraham Jewish community in Oakwood, and we'd discussed both our ministry's outreach programs. But Rav Aubrey Glazer surprised me with a unique and unexpected invitation for myself and members of David's to participate in an Abrahamic Interfaith Journey to Jerusalem on June 30 – July 2, 2024 – that's just 10 months from now. So, realizing this is short notice, and likely an expensive undertaking, I'm going to just throw out this invitation of you – our membership and friends – to test the waters to see if there are folk who are willing and able to undertake a once in a lifetime adventure to visit the Holy Land where Jesus and his earliest followers lived? He's only looking for 6 to a dozen minimum from each of the faiths that trace their roots back to Abraham – Jews, Christians and Muslims. He thought of David's Church and me primarily from a recommendation by Sam Dorf, a member of his congregation who worked with Susan at UD's Music Dept. and us as a congregation and our work when Sam invited me to speak at the Black Lives Matter rally at the Oakwood library, the year prior to our move to Centerville.

Here's a brief summary of what Rav Aubrey hopes might happen for those who would travel to Jerusalem to experience the Holy City together, a sacred place for Jews, Christians, and Muslims. On day one we'd visit the Old City of Jerusalem, a tour of the Jerusalem Architectural Park, the Western Wall, the Cenacle (traditionally held to be the place of Jesus' Last Supper) on Mt. Zion, King David's Tomb, a Moslem Minaret, and finally a presentation by the spiritual leaders of the Elijah Foundation on Interfaith Activism in the Public Square. Day two would return to the Old City via the Jaffe Gate into the Christian Quarter including a section of the Via Dolorosa and a tour of the Church of the Holy Sepulcher. A Catholic Mass at Notre Dame de Jerusalem, where Gregorian Monks still chant Psalms. Dinner would be at Machane Yehuda, for an Iraqi home style meal. The third day would take us to the Temple Mount/Haram al Sharif to learn of Jerusalem's sanctity to Islam, followed by a discussion of the Geo-Politics of Jerusalem and meet with Israeli and Palestinian activists engaged in diplomatic dialog. He mentioned a trip to nearby Bethlehem and the Church of the Nativity as well, and once returning to Jerusalem further engagement with leaders from Elijah Institute, and dinner at a modern Israeli restaurant in the Artist Quarter, Eucalyptus, and finally a visit to an Interfaith Art Space, Synecdec's Session for an evening desert tour.

He envisions a lot in 3 short days, but maybe that's enough for some. If we have any real interest in the possibility of members of David's Church participating in such a venture, we might want to discuss the possibility of adding a 3 to 5 days in Israel to visit other important places known to us from the Gospels. Perhaps the group from David's could work with a tour company to arrange to be taken by bus to the Mt. of Olives, opposite Jerusalem where Jesus prayed and was arrested, and if perhaps getting to Bethlehem was not possible with the Interfaith Group a trip there to the Church of the Nativity. Also we might want to the Dead Sea where the ancient scrolls were found in caves, and on up to the Jordan River where John baptized Jesus, and even the Sea of Galilee near Nazareth, before we'd arrange to fly home. Once you've paid the major expense of airfare, it would be practically a sin to just stay for 3 days when there's so much more of the Holy Land to see and visit.

When Rav Aubrey put this out there as something less than a year out, I had all the questions you're having. How much is this going to cost? Is it safe to travel to Israel and the Holy Land at this time? But, wow!!! What a cool idea, right? As for safety, Aubrey spends a month in Jerusalem every summer, so having an experienced guide like him would certainly ease some of my concerns. Still, given all the unknowns and the costs involved, this may very likely not be possible for any of us. Fine. If no one responds to this with interest and a willingness to see if we could make it happen, I'll let the good Rabbi know that while we like the idea, it's just not doable, and we're not interested at this time. He can begin to look elsewhere for Christian participants.

But if some of you have the Holy Land and Jerusalem somewhere on your bucket list, and perhaps have some airline miles or money stashed away for a dream vacation and this stirs your spirit, reach out to me and I'll forward you the Rav's original document and schedule, and we can begin meeting, exploring costs, and the possibility of further tour options together. I visited Israel in 1976 with a Holy Land tour that stopped in Rome, Athens, and Cairo before we flew to Tel Aviv and took a bus to Jerusalem and spent over a week in Israel. I still remember those travels fondly, walking in places where Jesus walked. I've often wondered if and how it would be possible to go back, and this may be just that... or maybe not. If you think you'd be interested in learning more, we can begin to explore this idea together. So let me know soon.

Peace, Pastor Brian

Sunday

Monday

Tuesday

Wednesday

Thursday

Friday

Saturday



# September 2023



					1 <i>Office Closed</i>  Veteran Street Naming Ceremony- will use the parking lot	2 Gateway Food Drop-off-10am
3 Children's Choir Rehearsal- 11:15am	4 <i>Office Closed</i> Warm Wishes 9:30am <b>LABOR DAY</b>	5 Quilters 10am  <i>Elders Mtg; Mission Meeting- 7pm</i>	6	7 Bells Practice- 6pm Choir Practice-7pm	8	9 <i>Trustee Meeting- 8:30am</i>  -Anti-racism Study 10am
10 <i>Pastor Emily's Installation, Blessing of the Backpacks</i> Fall Kickoff Picnic- 11:30am  SIGNS- 7pm @ The Grove	11 Warm Wishes 9:30am  Green Team Mtg- 5:30pm Book Study- 7pm	12 Quilters 10am  <i>CE Board Mtg; F&amp;H Meeting- 7pm</i>	13 Gospel of Luke Study- 7pm	14 Bells Practice- 6pm Choir Practice-7pm	15	16 -David's Men's Breakfast 8:30am
17 <i>Communion, Sustainability Sunday</i> -Children's Choir Rehearsal- 11:15am -SONKA mtg- 2pm -F/P Movie - 5pm -SIGNS- 7pm @ The Grove	18 Warm Wishes 9:30am  Book Study- 7pm	19 Quilters 10am  <i>Council Meeting- 7pm</i>	20	21	22	23 Robb Castele's Celebration of Life- 1pm
24 <i>Bells Performance</i> -Children's Choir Rehearsal- 11:15am  -St. Therese Brass- 2pm at The Grove -SIGNS 7pm	25 Warm Wishes 9:30am	26 Quilters 10am  WHO Dinner- 5:30pm	27	28 Bells Practice- 6pm Choir Practice-7pm	29 Game Night- 7pm	30

