

DAVID'S UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST



Interested in making Pocket Hugs? They don't require a lot of sewing skills but can make a big impact for local school children. Check out more inside...

Thank you so much, Rev. Joanna, for investing in our congregation. We are so appreciative of your compassion, wisdom, and guidance as we journeyed through these past months. Best wishes for your future...our prayers are with you!



From the Desk of Rev. Joanna...

“Turning the Page”

To everything, there is a season and a time for every matter under heaven.

Ecclesiastes 3:1

Dear Friends in Christ,

It is hard for me to believe that we have been journeying together for seven months now, here, at David's United Church of Christ. Where did the time go? It seems like just yesterday that Shane and I arrived at David's for our first worship service with all of you (on July 27), and then, I officially stepped into my role as your interim lead pastor on August 1.

However, it was almost a year ago when I made my first trip to Kettering to meet with the interim minister search committee on Saturday, April 5, 2025. I will always remember that introduction to David's because it was through that experience that I was deeply touched by your “extravagant welcome” as we often say in the United Church of Christ.

During that first meeting, we gathered in the sitting area of the narthex to become acquainted with one another and, immediately, I experienced the warmth and compassion of those gathered as the interview took on the form of a heartfelt conversation rather than a traditional interview format. And as we were meeting, several other church members (who happened to be at church that morning), also stopped by and joined us in that time of listening and sharing personal stories about why they chose David's as their church home. We kept pulling up more chairs in order to “draw the circle wide” (as sung in a hymn from my seminary days).

It was through that experience that I was especially moved, not just by your gracious welcome, but also by learning about how you live into your faith as a congregation. During that group conversation, I was touched by the depth of your commitment to one another as well as your care for the wider community in addition to your care for Creation.

There was something else that I realized about David's U.C.C. that morning which I have continued to notice throughout these past several months. That is, you have been an especially adaptive and collaborative congregation while you have been navigating these last couple of years of profound loss and disappointments as well as several changes in the pastoral leadership at church. Furthermore, you have opened yourselves up to accept different styles of leadership while also continuing to trust the vision and the guidance of our church council, staff members and lay leaders as well as our dedicated search committee.

And now, here you are, ready to turn the page, once again, to the next chapter of shared ministry as you prepare to welcome Rev. Tony Minear and Janelle who will arrive in early March.

My heart is filled with deep gratitude for this time that we have ministered together along this leg of the journey. I will always hold in my heart the precious memories as well as the gracious and generous spirit of David's that is made known through all of you!

With deep gratitude,
Pastor Joanna
jsamuels@davidsucc.org



MISSIONS

NEXT GATEWAY SATURDAY MARCH 7

Next Gateway drop-off is Saturday, March 7, 10:00 am at the Narthex doors. David's is the epitome of a giving church. Can you help us give just a little more this time of year? Questions? Call or text Anne Brown at 937-219-9639.

Lesotho nutrition initiative

David's Church Mission Opportunity:
Pack Several Thousand Meals for Lesotho Nutrition Initiative
Right Here At David's!
You don't have to travel far

to participate in a ministry that will reach around the world!

On Saturday, April 11 from 9 a.m. to Noon, Lesotho Nutrition Initiative (LNI) will be in David's Church Fellowship Hall providing an opportunity for Family and Friends to pack several thousand meals which will be sent to Lesotho to combat childhood malnutrition.

Lesotho is one of the thirty poorest countries in the world, with an HIV prevalence rate of 23.9% and the highest per capita death rate from HIV in the world. The HIV/AIDS pandemic has produced 360,000 orphans, almost a fifth of the 2.1 million inhabitants of the mountain kingdom. Additionally, due to poor soil and climatic conditions, Lesotho is only able to produce about 10% of its own food.

LNI provides meals containing nutritional supplements to children in Lesotho who have been diagnosed as suffering from severe/chronic malnutrition and stunting, also known as wasting. The meals LNI provides are proven not only to halt malnutrition, but to also reverse the long-term effect. All David's Church needs to do is show up on Saturday, April 11 with a heart for service. LNI provides everything else and easy instructions for packing these vital meals.

Other ways David's Family and Friends can help is make a contribution (check payable to David's Church - Lesotho Nutrition Initiative on Memo Line OR online),

In past years, we have packed over 15,000 meals in one morning! Any amount is greatly appreciated knowing for as little as \$5, 20 meals are provided. So to package 15,000 meals, it costs about \$3,750! And, best of all, your contribution goes even farther because for every \$1 contributed, the Rummage Sale will match it up to \$1,000! Pretty amazing what can be done if we all work together to feed the children of Lesotho!

David's Mission Board hopes you'll be generous in sharing your time on April 11 as well as contributing a monetary gift!

Pocket hugs

Thank you to all who have participated in and continue to participate in the Pocket Hug project. A very special thank you to the women of Laureate Delta chapter of Beta Sigma Phi for putting a lot of hours into creating Pocket Hugs. This project is a spinoff from Warm Wishes. This is a "no cost" project as it is made from leftover pieces of fleece. On February 18th 289 Pocket Hugs were delivered to Crayons to Classrooms. These are given to teachers who in turn give to students who need help with focusing and paying attention in class without distracting other students. If you would like to use your time and creative skills please talk to any Warm Wishes member or contact Nedra Dalton who will gladly discuss the project with you.

Easter feasts

PLEASE HELP US CONTINUE OUR MINISTRY TO THE HUNGRY

Easter is right around the corner, and David's Mission Board invites you to help create Easter Feasts for 50 Head Start Families. You can support this Ministry in several ways.

Monetary Donations – Please put "Easter Feast" on the memo line of your check or donate via the church website.

Purchase Food Items from the list below to create a feast for each family. Along with a ham (purchased by Mission Board), each feast will consist of:

- 2 – 4-5 oz. Boxes of Scalloped Potatoes
- 2 – Boxes of Mac & Cheese
- 2 – 16 oz. Cans of Vegetables – Corn &/or Green Beans
- 1 – 14-20 oz. Boxed Muffin Mix
- 1 – 16 oz. Peanut Butter
- 1 – 16 oz. Jam or Jelly
- 1 – 13-15 oz. Boxed Cake Mix – Strawberry Flavor
- 1- 12-16 oz can of frosting, strawberry or vanilla

A favorite spring treat of your
CHOICE, such as:

- Oreo Spring Cookies
- Chocolate Eggs
- Peeps
- Jelly Beans
- Peanut Butter Eggs
- 1 – Large Reusable Shopping Bag

Mission Board appreciates your support of David's Ministry to the Hungry. There will be shopping lists available in the Narthex, some helpful hints to keep in mind while shopping, and a sample of the food items for the Easter Feast. You may place your donations in the tubs (marked Easter Feast) in the Narthex or by the elevator / parking lot doors. The last day to donate food items is SUNDAY, MARCH 22nd. We will assemble the bags on Sunday, March 29th in Fellowship Hall, and all are welcome to help! Thank you for your generous support!

Menstrual Supply collection

Did you know that a recent study of low-income adult women found 64% could not afford period products at least once in the past year, and 21% could not afford them every month? The same study found that 36% of full- or part-time employed women missed one or more days of work each month due to lack of menstrual products. Unfortunately, these much-needed supplies are not typically supplied by food pantries or shelters and not covered by Food Assistance programs.

In honor of our 200th Anniversary, we would like to collect 200 packages of menstrual supplies that will be organized and assembled into "Period Packs" and distributed around our area to food pantries, shelters, and local organizations. Please consider adding an item or two to your shopping list and placing them in the collection bin in the Narthex. You can also arrange to have an Amazon delivery drop off items to the office! We are asking for: Tampons of all sizes, thin pads, pantliners, and individually wrapped sanitary wipes. If you need guidance, check out this [Amazon list](https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/lr/3NGL3O6GQV53G?ref_=wl_share):

https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/lr/3NGL3O6GQV53G?ref_=wl_share
Questions? Please contact Gwen in the office or email gwen@davidsucc.org

Afternoon tea

You are cordially invited to enjoy an afternoon of sweets, savories, tea, and conversation on March 21 from 2-4 in the afternoon. Following these tasty delights, we will be assembling menstrual packs for local shelters. All are welcome and encouraged to come however they wish- both jeans and ball gowns and everything in between! There will be opportunities to take fun photos with friends AND make a difference for those in our community!

Please RSVP in the Narthex or email gwen@davidsucc.org.



**YOU ARE INVITED TO A
PEOPLE WHO CARE- PERIOD.**

afternoon tea

MARCH 21 2:00PM

Enjoy sweets, savories, tea, and lemonade while we visit with each other. Following our treats we will assemble menstrual packs for local shelters.

All are welcome and encouraged to come however they wish- both ball gowns and jeans are welcome!

Please RSVP to gwen@davidsucc.org or sign up in the Narthex



FAITH FORMATION

2nd Hour Presentation

Join us as we welcome Nico Schrenk March 8 for a powerful and timely Second Hour presentation titled Beyond Conversion. Nico will share a survivor's account of conversion therapy, weaving together personal lived experience with evidence-based research on the impact of conversion therapy on survivors across the United States. This thoughtful and compassionate presentation invites us to look beyond the harm, deepen our understanding, and explore how faith communities like ours can actively support



CHURCH EVENTS

Young Families

The Young families group will be gathering on March 13 at 6:30pm. We will be making leprechaun traps! Please bring a dish to share and a box, if you have it! Call Amanda Worsowicz for more information.

David's Dinners

David's Dinners are a wonderful opportunity for Church families to come together for food, fun, and fellowship. There is a sign-up sheet in the Narthex to host or to attend. Please sign up by Sunday March 8th. The host will indicate how many people they can accommodate in their home and will provide the main dish. Attendees will be assigned to hosts by Steve Roark and Jeff Baldwin. The host will then reach out to attendees to coordinate accompanying dishes. This is a wonderful opportunity to get to know your fellow parishioners and to build strong relationships within our Church community. If you should have any questions, please feel free to contact Steve Roark or Jeff Baldwin @ sroark293@gmail.com or call 937-602-0130.

Green Team Meeting

Do you have a passion for the environment and working to make our world more sustainable? Consider joining us! Our next meetings is Tuesday, March 24 at 6:00p. Any questions, contact Becca Karason at rkarason@yahoo.com.

Game Night in Fellowship Hall

Attention all Gamers! Join us 7-9pm MARCH 21 for GAME NIGHT! Bring a favorite game; BYOB and a snack to share. Be prepared to have fun playing euchre, pinochle, Mexican train, Scrabble. Any questions contact Kevin Craig at imkevbo@gmail.com

Women Hanging Out (WHO)

JOIN THE WHO LADIES, TUESDAY MARCH 24

We are returning to the Brunch Pub at 101 W. Franklin Street in Centerville on Tuesday, March 24, 2026 at 5:30 p.m. They serve scratch-made farm-to-table entrees that are sure to please your palate. You may call in your reservations to Judy Hudson at 937-329-2588 (by text or phone) or e-mail her at cruisewriter937@aol.com or see her at church where you can place your name on the clipboard that she carries with her. Let us gather at the fireplace and raise our glasses in a toast that winter is behind us.

COMMUNITY OF FAITH

David's Scholarships

David's has an incredible opportunity for those seeking a higher education! If you or someone you love fits this description, keep reading! David's scholarships are intended for students who are members and/or have a strong affiliation with David's UCC and are pursuing higher education at an accredited institution to undertake professional activities consistent with the mission and values of David's UCC. David's church may award scholarships of not more than \$5000 per recipient each year. Recipients may reapply for funds in multiple years, so even if you were awarded a scholarship last year, you may reapply this year! Interested please contact the church office for an application or fill it out online [here](#). Applications are due by April 26, applicants will be notified in mid-May. If you need any additional information, contact Gwen in the office or by emailing gwen@davidsucc.org.

March 1- Debbie McCoy
March 6- Doug Bishop, Rob Dunkle
March 8- August Denton, Kirsten Morris
March 11- Ryan Bender, Nora Doudican,
Bruce Michel, Jenny Miller, Sylvia Rodberg
March 12- Steve Dean, Barbara Zimmerman
March 13- Nirmala Abraham, Evan Dowse
March 16- Cindy Combs, Mike Young
March 17- Roselyn Faulkner
March 20- Wanda Nanna, Kim Vogel
March 22- Wendy Blumberg



March 23- Joey Schairbaum
March 24- Cameron Teeters
March 25- Amanda Fles, Chris Fles
March 26- Bob McCoy
March 27- Larry Phillips
March 29- Caitlin Chabut, Sue DeLon, Harriet
Fitzsimmons
March 30- Juliet Buscher
March 31- Matt Teeters

Checking in on members...

“A very simple action can make a big difference. Checking in on seniors, especially those aging in place, can support their mental and physical health.”

David's has a significant amount of seniors either home-bound or dependent upon others for rides, visits, and care. [This article](#) has some great insight on how we can help those beloved members. If you would be interested in volunteering to provide transportation, do visits, or tag along with a pastor for Home Communion, please call the office.

<https://www.seniorsguide.com/aging-in-place/checking-in-on-seniors-makes-a-difference/>


Grove Committee

THE GROVE COMMITTEE NEEDS YOUR INPUT!

The team is collecting input for future Grove planning efforts – please take a moment to fill out the following survey! <https://forms.gle/538yrCPmbZKl6fT99>



MARCH 2026

| SUN | MON | TUE | WED | THU | FRI | SAT |
|---|---------------------------------|---|--|---|---|--|
| 1 Worship- 9:50am 11:15am- Children's Choir, Confirmation, Faith Form. Mtg | 2 Warm Wishes 9:30am | 3 Quilting-10am Elders' Meeting- 6:30pm | 4 | 5 Handbell Practice-6pm Sanctuary Choir Practice- 7pm | 6 | 7 Gateway Food Drop-off- 10am |
| 8 Worship- 9:50am 11:15am- 2nd Hour, Youth Sunday Meeting Children's Choir, Deacons Mtg | 9 Warm Wishes 9:30am | 10 Quilting- 10am FF/CE Board Mtg- 6pm Mission Board Mtg- 7pm | 11 F&H Board Mtg- 9:30am | 12 Handbell Practice-6pm Sanctuary Choir Practice- 7pm | 13 Young Family Night- 6:30pm | 14 Trustee Mtg- 8:30am Stuart Wells Memorial Service- 11am |
| 15 Worship- 9:50am 11:15am- Children's Choir, Confirmation | 16 Warm Wishes 9:30am | 17 Quilting- 10am Council Meeting- 7pm | 18 | 19 Handbell Practice-6pm Sanctuary Choir Practice- 7pm | 20 Game Night- 7pm | 21 Men's Breakfast- 8:30am People Who Care Afternoon Tea- 2pm |
| 22 Worship- 9:50am 11:15am- Children's Choir, Faith Form. Mtg | 23 Warm Wishes 9:30am | 24 Quilting- 10am Green Team Mtg- 6pm | 25 | 26 Handbell Practice-6pm Sanctuary Choir Practice- 7pm | 27 | 28 Breakfast with the Bunny- 9am Grove Committee Mtg- 10am |
| 29 PALM SUNDAY Worship- 9:50am 11:15am- Children's Choir | 30 Warm Wishes 9:30am | 31 Quilting- 10am | HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE Maundy Thursday- April 2- 7:30pm Good Friday- April 3- 7:30pm EASTER SUNDAY- APRIL 5- 9:50AM | | | |
|  | | | | | | |