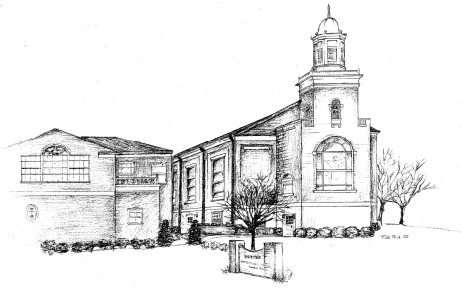


August 2023 Dateline



Church Office

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

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

www.davidsucc.org

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

Senior Pastor Brian Q. Newcomb

Pastor of Faith Formation and Family Life-
Emily Phillips



August 1	Julia Sizek, Evvie Thompson
August 2	Bobby Hughes, Margaret Walker, Chris Wood
August 3	William Stolz, KC Harmer
August 4	Samuel Stanley
August 5	Samuel Dowse, Judy Lambright
August 6	Jason Wyson, Ted Eltzroth
August 7	McKay King
August 8	Layla Stolz, Emily Phillips
August 10	Mary Bayman, Lily Meehan, Joan Raine
August 11	Davina Mukes, Andy Storar
August 12	Diane Herbst
August 13	Gerri Creel
August 14	Curt Heaton
August 15	Katie Lathrop, Michele Hutchinson, Bob Stone
August 16	Emily Angel, Kellie Hughes
August 17	Don Porter
August 18	Margie Heffner, Zachary Angel, Morgan Bartshe
August 21	Rosabel Thompson
August 22	David Blumberg
August 23	Amy Thompson
August 24	Julia Gayler, Brett Doudican, Ed Webb, Bert Jones, Linda Ford
August 26	Ian Jones
August 27	Andrew Lewis, Else Schiller
August 28	Dick DeLon
August 29	Nikki Cantrell, Jeff Baldwin, Lenita Haynes
August 30	Alix VanHouten
August 31	Grant Hutchison, Janice Kinghorn

David's United Church of Christ UPCOMING EVENTS

AUGUST 5

Gateway Drop-off

AUGUST 6

School Supplies Due

AUGUST 7, 14, 21, 28

Book Study with Pastor Brian

AUGUST 7-11

Kettering Summer Food Program

AUGUST 12

Anti-racism Book Study

AUGUST 16

Picnic at Lynn Bender's House

AUGUST 19

Men's Breakfast

AUGUST 20

OWL Informational Meeting

AUGUST 22

WHO Dinner

AUGUST 27

Confirmation Informational Meeting
SIGNS Bonfire

*To Our Beloved David's Church Family,
We are so thankful for the outpouring of love
and support during this very difficult time.
Your kindness and fellowship are much
appreciated at this time. With love, Beth
Castele and Family*

FROM THE DESK OF PASTOR BRIAN...

By now, you're used to me saying each Sunday as we move toward the Mission Moment and Offering how proud I am of our church and of our reputation as a congregation for offering an 'extravagant welcome' to newcomers and visitors, as well as the success of our various mission efforts year in and year out, whether it's Warm Wishes, the Quilting ministry or the community work projects of our Confirmands while in St. Louis on Pilgrimage or the recent work of the Faith & Pride group down at David's Place at Daybreak, a safe place for homeless and vulnerable youth in downtown Dayton. That's often the story we share about David's Church, and believe it to be LGBTQ is a very true expression of what we believe, say, and do as a congregation.

So, I was surprised when I was at a David's Dinner, and one of the people who had joined our church a year or so ago shared that when they had begun attending, during the height of the pandemic, that she had not experienced David's as the warm, friendly and inviting place we often describe. No doubt she was describing that period when we had just begun to return to holding in-person services, and we were in an uncertain time, not sure how best to be together and still not spread the virus. Many of us had gotten vaccinated, but a lot of us were still wearing masks for good reason, we no longer felt comfortable having greeters at the door to shake everyone's hands, even the folk who self-identify as huggers in our congregation were tapping elbows and nodding their heads instead of their usual open armed greetings, and we didn't even pass the peace of Christ during the worship service. We were singing less, our choir had special masks, and generally the health protocols and the uncertainty created by the hope that each of us would "do no harm," meant that we were probably not as warm and friendly toward one another as we have been historically, or as we think we are much of the time.

When this came up at the Dinner, we discussed how that year of no in-person services and then the slow evolutionary process back to what we think of as "business as usual" at David's Church meant that our new friend and perhaps many others like her might have visited our church and not felt that warm, inclusive welcome that we so easily speak of as descriptive of our congregation. And as often comes up among those who've been around David's for a decade or so, someone mentioned Ruth Widman and her happy Buckeye Brigade of helpers that included Marilyn Lemons, who took up the task of recognizing who was visiting us each Sunday, and making sure they were greeted with a purple bag that included info about our church and a small box of those homemade sweet delights of peanut butter dipped in chocolate that look like the buckeyes that fall from trees.

For many of our members, Ruth Widman embodied that quality of extending a warm welcome to any and all newcomers who were visiting our congregation for worship. And, if people came back for a second or third Sunday, she often remembered people's names, as well as things she had learned about them and would often introduce them to other members of the church that shared an interest or occupation, she created organic networks and built community in the most natural and gracious way. And often in the early years of my time at David's, when Ruth was present most Sundays and on the job with her hearty band of volunteers, many of the people who came to join as new members at the time often reported it was Ruth's gracious ways, her gentle insistence and those sweet buckeyes that kept them coming back.

But of course, in the natural passage of time, Ruth's husband Jim died, and she moved to live into an assisted living community, eventually stopped driving, and became less and less able to provide that Sunday morning welcoming service that came so naturally to her. And in time, Marilyn and then Ruth also died. Long before their passing, I remember numerous conversations with lots of different folk who asked in one way or another "who would take over those duties of welcoming people when Ruth was not able to do it any longer?" and some who just owned that Ruth's presence would be irreplaceable.

I have so much love and respect for the Matriarchs and Patriarchs of David's Church who came long before many of us were born. As this congregation is coming close to our 200th Anniversary in 2026, we want to express our gratitude for all that took place here before we ever arrived on the scene. According to the headstone that is above doors into our sanctuary, David's was a "Reformed Lutheran" congregation started by David Winters in 1826 among the German immigrants settling in what would become Kettering. When the

church building was completed there were separate doors for women and men to enter and sit on their own sides during the services. We've come a long way from those segregated days, likely joined with the Evangelical Synod, a newer group of German immigrants to form the Evangelical & Reformed Church in 1934, and again with the Congregational Christian Churches in 1957 to form the United Church of Christ.

At each union, and at many other moments of cultural change along the way, the congregation no doubt evolved to serve the spiritual needs and longings of new generations of believers, and to respond to the needs they encountered in the world around the building where they met for worship. Perhaps the most impactful reframing in recent years was when David's Church voted to become Open & Affirming, stating in the clearest of terms that "all are welcome" is not merely a dreamy slogan or a motto we hang on the wall but rarely think about, but through prayerful study and dialogue we voted to act and live together inclusively, welcoming folk of every race and ethnicity, age and class, and to make a special effort to engage folk who identified as lesbian and gay, bisexual or transgender, and wherever folk found themselves on the sexual spectrum on their journey to fulfillment in this life. I remember when Ruth came to me shortly after the vote and asked me honestly what she could do differently to make sure that every "homosexual," and she pronounced every syllable of that word carefully, would know they were welcome and included in David's Church. I assured her that she didn't need to change a thing, I knew that her sincere interest, her kind welcoming gestures, and practice of seeing each person she met as a child of God would have the same impact on someone from the LGBTQ+ community as it did the average straight person. They would feel appreciated, would know that they had been seen, and they would feel the warm kindness that flowed from her so very naturally.

And sure enough, there are numerous members of our congregation who have stepped up to fill the big shoes left behind by the likes of Ruth and Marilyn. Each Sunday, I see folk in the back as service ends with those purple bags or a replacement, seeking out folk wearing that red rose applique or anyone whom they don't recognize from previous visits. The spirit of Ruth lives on in the efforts of these other folk who've stepped up to help meet this valued goal of offering an 'extravagant welcome.' This last Sunday, as we welcomed in 7 new members, when we announced the time to Pass the Peace of Christ our sanctuary was so full of noisy people welcoming one another with warm gestures that you'd think people were just happy to be there, happy to be in church with each other, together.

There are a lot of lonely people in the world, not just "Eleanor Rigby" and anyone else you might know who longs for a place where they would be welcomed, included, and valued for the unique person they are and gifts that they have to share. I remember another long-time member of our congregation who got used to watching the service online rather than attending in person, so that even though many had returned to Sunday morning attendance they'd continued watching online. But then they came to a service after being away physically for a couple of years and were surprised at how moved they were to sing hymns together with others, read out loud during the responsive prayers and liturgies, to be a participant in the room and not just a spectator watching the screen.

Now, I do not suggest any kind of guilt or shame for those who are more than comfortable engaging in online worship, perhaps in their jammies with coffee and toast as a substitute for bread and juice during communion. I'm very grateful that folk who for whatever reason cannot be with us in person are able to join us online during the service time, or to view the recording at a more convenient time during the week. But I do think about that person who arrived for the first time, and our numbers were down because not everyone felt safe returning, many of us wore masks, and we tended to nod our heads in greeting rather than extend our hands and open our arms. We felt like we were still a friendly church because we had always been just that, but when this person arrived, it didn't feel that way to her.

We have enthusiastically taken in more than 30 new members in the years of the pandemic up to now. Since we've returned our average weekly attendance is approximately 125 people. Before the pandemic, we had two services... the first a small group of only a dozen people or two, and then often around 160 to 185 more at our main service. Again, I think the value that is added to our lives, and the warmth that we experience when we gather together for worship is the reason we should strive to come together. I'm not interested in using guilt or shame as a motivator, that nonsense sends people running for the exits, and I don't blame them.

I'm sharing this with you all here in this Dateline to make the point that the effort to be the friendly, open & affirming, extravagantly welcoming congregation we believe ourselves to embody only becomes a reality when we are here together living out those values with our actions. I believe David's UCC is a strong, generous, mission-minded church that welcomes all God's children with warmth and compassion, that is a legacy I hope to nurture and continue for future generations. When I'm here each Sunday I make every effort to be the thing I believe we are, I want to make that idea an actual experience for some new person visiting our church for the first time. And I'd love for all of us to join together in being that very church that we long for, together, whether in person or online.

Your Pastor & friend,

Brian Q. Newcomb

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND INFORMATION



David's UCC Welcomes Emily Phillips to serve as our Pastor of Faith Formation & Family Life

By now, if you've been paying attention, you know that David's Church following the lead of our Search Team, commissioned to help us replace our former Associate Pastor, Michelle Wilkey, decided that the best option available for this time in the life of our congregation was to bring on board one of our own, Emily Phillips. In recent years, Emily has not only volunteered around our Christian Ed board, providing Sunday School for children and co-leading the Confirmation Class, but she started taking seminary courses in the hopes of eventually earning her Master of Divinity degree as part of her path toward full ordination, with the goal of professional ministry in the United Church of Christ. Given the low level of interest in our position, looking at current budgetary challenges, and our desire to maintain the high level of commitment to provide a quality Christian Ed program for all ages in the life of our congregation, as

well as intergenerational activities that support our goal to be a progressive Christian community where Faith comes to Life, the Search Team began to feel the leading of the Spirit toward a mutually supportive and collaborative relationship with Emily, and our Church Council.

The congregation has hired Emily as a three quarters' time employee, which will work out to an average of 30 or so hours each week, which will allow her to continue her theological studies at Eden Seminary full-time this Fall, where she is about 2.5 years from completing her M.Div. degree, a major requirement for ordination in the UCC. As part of our agreement, David's agreed to work with Emily to be Licensed to provide authorized ministry through the Committee on Ministry of the Southwest Ohio Northern Kentucky Association of the UCC, while becoming an official Member in Discernment, the path for folk prior to ordination, as they prepare for fully authorized professional ministry down the road.

On Monday, July 24, Emily, Pastor Brian, and our Council President Nedra Dalton along with her partner Ernie, The First Husband, met with the SONKA Comm. on Ministry and Assoc. Minister, Rev. Carl Robinson, where Emily presented a prepared paper on one of the Marks of Ministry found in the UCC Manual on Ministry, and responded to questions from the committee. After a healthy conversation, including our support for Emily's petition, the committee voted unanimously to offer her Licensure for authorized ministry here at David's UCC. As a licensed minister of the United Church of Christ, Emily will be authorized to preach and pastor, to provide communion and baptism when called upon, as well as officiate at marriages and funerals as requested. Unlike ordination, which is for a person's lifetime, licensure for ministry in the UCC is for a certain time and place and needs to be renewed each year, and while she continues to work toward ordination and the title of "Reverend," it is now fitting and proper to refer to her as Pastor Emily.

As part of our hiring agreement, in addition to hiring Emily, David's will be covering her health care expenses and contributions to her 401K, and we will pursue supporting her education goals through funds in our Stewardship Fund. We anticipate that she'll be taking a full load this fall, that's three classes at Eden Seminary online, and working with us here at David's for 30 hours on average, each week. That said, she's not going to be as available to us as Pastor Michelle was in her full-time position, but we are confident that Emily, together with the support of the CE Board, and other Sunday School volunteers will be a great addition to our ministry staff. When Pastor Brian is on vacation (coming up in late September and early October, Emily will be preaching), and she will be helping lead worship regularly. We are so happy that it has worked out for Emily Phillips to serve as our Pastor of Faith Formation & Family Life. We pray for Pastor Emily as she continues her academic studies, her preparation for ordination, and her ministry here in our congregation, we anticipate it being mutually beneficial and productive. – Brian Q. Newcomb

Honor your loved ones with Altar Flowers!

Do you want to thank someone who reached out to you during a difficult time? Honor a loved one for a birthday or anniversary? Recognize a fantastic volunteer? Consider purchasing altar flowers! Your personal message will be included in the Sunday bulletin for all to see, and the whole congregation will benefit from the beauty of the flowers. Arrangements can be purchased for \$23 each, and you can buy both or just one. Please call the office to purchase or email kathygoodpaster@davidsucc.org.



Thoughts from your council president –



I hope you are enjoying your summer. I know some of you have traveled far and had a great time. It is always good to go on trips and better yet to come home to your own bed feeling rested and appreciate the comfort of your own place. I feel very lucky to be where I am and living the life I live most days. We all have lousy days, but it makes us appreciate the good days even more. I think my travels give me empathy for those who do not have a place to call home. I am so proud of the many folk here at David's who supply some of the needs of the homeless and under served in the greater Dayton area as well as around the world through mission. As you have already heard the Rummage Sale shares the items that do not sell to area charities that will give them to the homeless and others that have a great need. It is not just about the money we earn, but the outreach we are

able to provide.

Feeding of the Kettering children is happening in August. This is a rewarding experience if you have the time during the day to help. Council took a needed break in July, but will be back to work the third Tuesday in August. We welcome Pastor Emily as she will become a part of the Council meetings. I look forward to her contributions to the meetings. It was rewarding for me to play a small role in the hiring process of our new pastor. I hope you will enjoy your new position, Emily. Congratulations and welcome aboard!

Enjoy the rest of your summer and as the song says "I'll see you in September".

Blessings & Peace,
Nedra Dalton

DAVID'S MEN'S BREAKFAST- August 19 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.

CHURCH PICNIC AUGUST 16 AT LYNN BENDER'S HOUSE

Lynn Bender is hosting a church picnic on August 16 (10300 Stationview Ct; Dayton 45458). Mark your calendars for this fun afternoon. Main dish and beverages will be provided, all you need to bring is a chair and a side dish to share! Arrive around 5:30 and we will eat at 6:00. Any questions, contact Lyn Bender.

WHO (Women Hanging Out) DINNER IN AUGUST- August 22 at 5:30pm

There is currently still plenty of daylight in the evening hours, which means you can be on the road without headlights as WHO will be traveling to Springboro, namely, Heather's Cafe on Tuesday, August 22. Weather in the Miami Valley is so nice this time of year that Heather's seats all their diners in the large tent area outside. They still offer a full menu to choose from, as well as an extensive list of cleverly-named cocktails and wine for those whose ears perk up with this info. On Tuesday evening, BINGO is also offered under the tent and our WHO group has been invited to join in this event which starts about an hour after our arrival. We will again be seated at 5:30 p.m. with time to visit and chat before our meals arrive. NO, we DO NOT have a private dining room, but she has moved us to our own "space" in the tent.

Please contact Judy Hudson at either cruisewriter937@aol.com or 937-329-2588 to place your name on the reservation list. Yes, it is possible to have BINGO and diners in the tent at the same time - they do not conflict with each other. If you do want to partake of BINGO, cards are \$2.00 each.

Heather's is located at 505 S. Main Street in Springboro and you can find it by continuing north on Route 741 and crossing over Route 73. The cafe is a couple of blocks further in an historic house and will be on the right.



OUTREACH AND SERVICE

2023 KETTERING SUMMER FOOD PROGRAM

David's turn at the Kettering Summer Food Program is quickly approaching - August 7-11! David's Mission Board met this past Tuesday to make final plans for the food needed for this week where we expect to serve about 100 children every day!!! We're hopeful David's Church Family will step up to help us meet some of the basics we need to provide lunch for the children who also receive our jars of Peanut Butter during the school year. Items needed:

25 - 1 Dozen Fruit/Applesauce Cups

10 - 3 Dozen Cookies

10 - 24 ct. 16 oz. Bottled Water

8 - 32 count 6 oz. Juice Boxes

Please bring your donations to church this coming **Sunday, July 30**, marked for the Summer Food Program and place in the church kitchen or during the Gateway Food Drop Off on **Saturday, August 5 from 10 to 11 a.m.**

To successfully serve all these children during August 7 through 11, **we need people** to be at The Trails on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday and at Van Buren Park on Tuesday and Thursday for only about **1 1/2 hours from Noon to 1:30 daily.**

You can sign up in the Narthex OR contact Debbie McCoy at 937-689-4224 or kdam4300@gmail.com OR Jeff Baldwin at 513-855-1180 or baldwif@gmail.com.

Your support of this ministry where we can help children with food insecurity in our own backyard will be very much appreciated.



DAVID'S UCC IS THE PEANUT BUTTER CHURCH!

Kettering Backpack Program (KBP) was established in 2006 to fight childhood hunger and to provide at-risk students with nutrition over the weekend, when school breakfasts and lunches are not available. Originally starting with 15 children, KBP has grown to an average of 600 students, who take a bag of food home EVERY Friday throughout the school year. The goal is to sustain the nutritional needs of these children over the weekend, so when they arrive to school on Monday morning, they are fueled and ready to learn.



KBP solicits food items and monetary donations for the “backpacks” being sent home each Friday. Food Drive Donation Barrels are often seen throughout Kettering, where business associates and residents can donate items such as Mac & Cheese, fruit cups, oatmeal, trail mix, cereal cups and more.

One time per month, a 16 oz. jar of peanut butter is included in the Friday food “backpacks”. The vast majority of the peanut butter collected/donated is from the David’s UCC congregation! Although KBP receives many jars in the Food Drive Donation Barrels, and because of David’s on-going commitment to this mission partner, KBP relies on our monthly contribution and does not actively solicit peanut butter donations from any other organization. We are known as the peanut butter church!

“David’s is a huge benefit to the Kettering Backpack Program and we are grateful for your continued support,” says Bonnie Pittl, Kettering Backpack Program Interim Executive Director.

David’s collects and donates approximately 500 jars of peanut butter to the Kettering Backpack Program each month, totally approximately 5,000 jars each school year! The need for peanut butter is on-going, and the Mission Board looks to our members for support of this program. Jars (16 ounces) of peanut butter may be dropped off to the church anytime throughout the week or on Sunday mornings. Monetary donations are always welcome...and we’ll do the shopping for you! Checks, payable to David’s UCC, with “KBP Peanut Butter” written on the memo line, may be included in the offering envelopes or taken/mailed to the church office.

Thank you for supporting this important program in our community and...Keep Those Peanut Butter Jars Coming!

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

August 4, 5, 6 is Tax Free Weekend so any purchases you make and contribute on **Sunday, August 6** will go a long way to helping children get a good start for the school year with the supplies they need.



Glue Sticks

Pointed Scissors

24 Pack of Crayons

No. 2 Pencils

Supply Boxes

Solid Color 2 Pocket Folders with Prongs

Highlighters

Markers (Thick or Thin)

Dry Erase Markers – Black(Thick or Thin)

Colored Pencils

Small Plastic Pencil Sharpeners

Red Pens

Composition Notebooks – Wide Rule

5 Subject Notebooks – Wide Rule

3 Subject Notebooks – Wide Rule

1 Subject Notebooks – Wide Rule

Earbud Headphones

Please bring your items to Church with you on **Saturday, August 5** when you drop off your Gateway Food OR on **Sunday, August 6** so they can be included in the delivery to J.F. Kennedy Elementary School. Tubs will be in the Narthex and at Fellowship Hall Exterior Entrance.

GATEWAY- August’s food has been gathered/committed, but we still need September!

Gateway (the Men's Shelter) and St. Vincent's (the Women's and Children's Shelter) are both part of the St. Vincent's organization. The St. Vincent Kitchen (where we deliver our Monthly Food that you sign up to donate) serves 280 casseroles per week to around 400 Guests per day. If you're looking for a way to help others in 2023, please consider signing up to contribute food for David's Mission Board Gateway Food Drop Off on **Saturday, September 2 between 10 and 11 a.m.** where we collect the food you signed up for

at the Fellowship Hall Door Entrance (just pull up and we'll unload it from your car!).

Items needed:

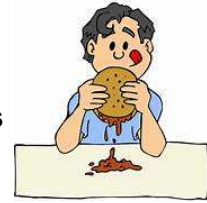
20 - 4 lb. Pans of Sloppy Joe

20 - Pans of Cheesy Potatoes

12 - 2 Dozen Packages of READY TO SERVE Dinner Rolls

20 - 1 Dozen Fruit/Applesauce Cups

12 - 3 Dozen Cookies



If you choose to make Sloppy Joe or Cheesy Potatoes, David's Mission Board furnishes the pan and recipes (per Gateway & St. Vincent's request). You can sign up in the Narthex where you can also pick up pans and recipes or contact Debbie McCoy at 937-689-4224 or kdam4300@gmail.com to sign up or ask any questions. David's Mission Board truly appreciates your generous support of this long standing ministry to the hungry!

MUSIC NOTES

Excitement is in the air! I can feel it everywhere! Choirs are getting ready to return, and the anticipation level is rising. Kick-off Sunday is September 10th and it will be a wonderful day for praising God and having fellowship. The Sanctuary choir is going to be singing "I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light" by Kathleen Thomerson. Mark Haye's setting calls for a trumpet soloist. It will be perfect as we will have the congregation sing along with us on the last verse affirming "I'm looking for the coming of Christ; I want to be with Jesus. When we have run with patience the race, we shall know the joy of Jesus." What a great affirmation for us all.

Practice for the Sanctuary Choir begins Thursday, August 24th at 7:00 in the sanctuary. We have three new members of the congregation who have expressed an interest in joining the choir. What blessings God bestows on us. The first Sunday we will be singing is September 10th for the fall kick off. The bells will be playing on the fourth Sunday of each month except when holidays dictate we must do something different.

Practice for the Children's Choir which immediately follows the service begins on August 27th. On the Sunday we sing we will not have practice afterwards. Instead, the children will be practicing before the service starts to prepare the anthem. More information on times to follow at a later date. Plan on the children singing the second Sunday of every month. There may be some exceptions, but you will get plenty of notice of changes. The first Sunday we sing is September 17th. I have already chosen the anthem – "Children's Song Medley," by Mark Hayes. It combines "Jesus Loves the Little Children" with "Jesus Wants Me for A Sunbeam," and "Praise Him! Praise Him." The accompaniment is awesome. We have purchased a new Kurzweil Digital Grand Piano for our rehearsal room. I am looking forward to seeing lots of its functions utilized.

Practice for handbells will begin as soon as we have received the handbells back from Pennsylvania where they are being refurbished. We practice on Thursday evenings at 6:00 in the Bell/Children's Choir Room. I will let you know when the bells have been received back. We will be playing on the fourth Sunday of each month. Hopefully, that will begin in September, depending on when the bells come in.

We are so blessed to have so many people in our church who are willing to serve by using the musical gifts they have been given. Let the music making commence!!

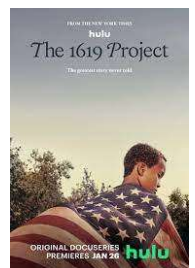
Shalom,

Tim Williams, Director of Music

EDUCATION AND SPIRITUAL GROWTH

Anti-Racism Group- Saturday, August 12

We will meet at 10 am on Saturday, August 12, and we will be viewing the episode of "The 1619 Project" on "Fear." Coffee and donuts will be provided.



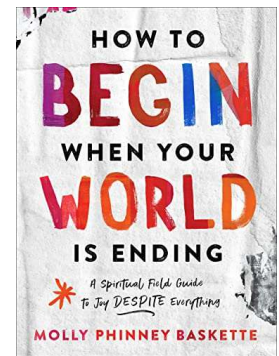
Our Whole Lives (OWL) – Fall 2023

Families, it is almost time for our first OWL course! All families of 5th and 6th grade students should have received an email with full details and the schedule this past Spring; if you did not or need another copy, please contact Beth Tabor at taborm33@gmail.com. The Parent Meeting is on 20 August after worship, with Student Orientation and the full course (September-November) to follow each Sunday morning. We need at least four students to hold the course, so we hope to see you there!

*****Don't forget to vote in the Special Election on Tuesday, August 8! We have another important election coming up in November!*****

LATE SUMMER BOOK READ with Pastor Brian

Early this year I bought and read “*How to Begin When Your World Is Ending: A Spiritual Field Guide to Joy DESPITE Everything*,” by UCC pastor Molly Phinney Baskette on Broadleaf Books, which is described on the top of the back cover as “Moving, witty, and probing, Molly Baskette’s practical and spiritual perspective serves as a remarkable companion for life’s hardest seasons. I was drawn to the book not only because Baskette is a well-known UCC colleague who preached at General Synod a few years back, but because she’s well known for her congregation’s groundbreaking celebrative drag show/dance fundraisers, and at a personal level she’s also been through cancer treatment. The book does not disappoint; Baskette writes with wit and charm, delves deeply into the spiritual questions that come from life’s ups and especially in its downs, but communicates spiritual insights and awareness in an accessible, down to earth manner—she’s so down-to-earth that occasionally she curses, as an FYI to any readers sensitive to graphic language.



So, how about we read it in the month of August and meet to discuss four chapters at a time on **Monday evenings; we'll talk about chapters 1 (“God Didn’t Send the Disaster (But She Will Use It”) thru 4 on August 7 at 7 pm in the Conference Room**, and so on... You can purchase the book on your own, a hard copy or a digital download version for your kindle or other device, but send Pastor Brian a note to say you plan to participate so he knows how many to expect (brian@davidsucc.org).

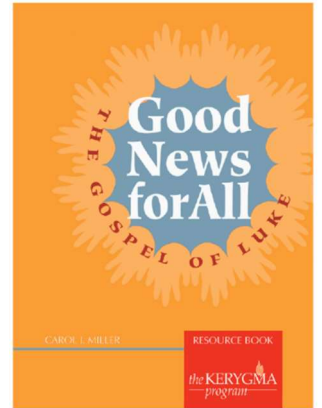
“You Asked For It” sermons

Pastor Brian has in year’s past set aside the month of August to offer sermons in response to questions and/or issues submitted from the congregation. This year, with the search for a new Pastor of Faith Formation & Family Life, and the hiring of Emily he didn’t get around to asking for questions... but we’re pretty sure you have some in mind. So if you have a burning desire to hear a sermon on some question, issue or topic, please contact Pastor Brian ASAP (Brian@davidsucc.org) and ask away, he’ll do his best to accommodate on the Sundays later in the month of August and Labor Day Sunday, Sept. 3. If no questions arise that can be dealt with in a 20 min. sermon, Brian will continue responding to the texts suggested by the Revised Common Lectionary as he does most weeks.

Bible Study in the Gospel of Luke with Pastor Brian this Fall- Wednesdays at 7pm

Pastor Brian would like to offer a Bible study in the Gospel of Luke for this Fall, meeting on Wednesday

evenings at 7 pm in the Conference Room. In addition to reading the entire Gospel of Luke, we'll use the Kerygma Program's resource book: "The Gospel of Luke; Good News for All." Kerygma writes that "Luke's Gospel is uniquely inclusive, involving all people. Good News is for the outcast and the establishment, for the religious and those searching. Luke speaks to women, to men, to the strong and healthy, to the weak and dispossessed. Its relevance today inspires faith, spirituality, and action." As the author of Luke continued by writing a second volume: The Acts of the Apostles, we will very likely continue with a study of that book in the New Year.



There will be some accommodations for planned vacation and holidays, so the 14 class sessions will be spread out, finishing the first 9 chapters before December and the busy holiday season, then making our way through the final 5 lesson plans in January. The price for the resource book is \$33, and we encourage partners to share when possible (and if anyone would like to participate but has trouble with the cost, please talk with Pastor Brian privately). To register for the class, please drop a check by the Church Office by **Monday, August 28**. Here's the suggested class schedule:

September 13: Lesson 1 "Getting Started with Luke"
September 20: Lesson 2 "God's Covenant Kept: Annunciations & Births"
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)
January 3: Lesson 10 "The Journey to Jerusalem 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"

Confirmation Program 2023-2024

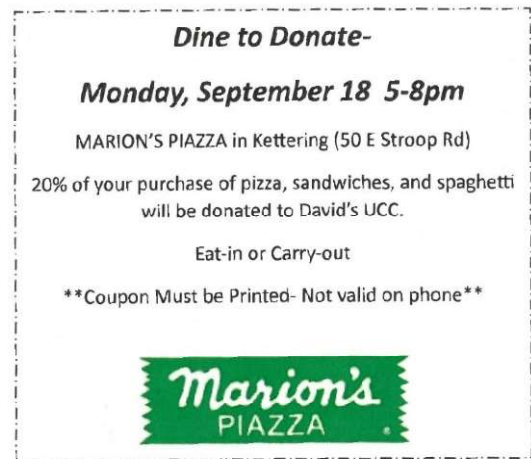
Do you have a child or children who will be entering into the 7th grade this fall? Would you like them to participate in our Confirmation Program? Please contact Emily Phillips (ephillips@davidsucc.org; 716-380-0237) or Kevin Craig (imkevbo@gmail.com; 513-850-0237). We are compiling our list of students who will join us this fall. There will be an **Informational Meeting after worship Sunday, August 27**.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!



Faith and Pride

Keep your eyes open for Faith & Pride's Family Bowling Event in August at Poelking Lanes! ALL FAMILIES WELCOME! Details to follow."



Sunday

Monday Tuesday

Wednesday

Thursday

Friday

Saturday



August 2023



		1 Quilters 10am 	2 <i>BUY SOME PEANUT BUTTER THIS WEEK FOR THE KETTERING BACKPACK PROGRAM!</i>	3	4 <div>Tax Free Weekend!</div>	5 Gateway Food Drop-off-10am
6 Shirley Johnson school supplies due today!	7 Warm Wishes 9:30am Warm Wishes 2- 6:30pm Book Study- 7pm	8 Quilters 10am - <i>Special Election</i> - 	9 <div>Kettering Summer Food Program</div>			12 - Anti-Racism Book Study- 10am
13	14 Warm Wishes 9:30am Book Study- 7pm	15 Quilters 10am Council Mtg. 7pm	16 Church Picnic at Lynn Bender's House- 5:30pm 	17	18	19 -David's Men's Breakfast 8:30am
20 <i>Communion</i> OWL Parent Meeting- 11:15am	21 Warm Wishes 9:30am Book Study- 7pm	22 Quilters 10am WHO Dinner- 5:30pm	23	24 Choir Practice-7pm	25	26
27 -Confirmation Informational Meeting- 11:15am -Children's Choir Rehearsal- 11:15am -SIGNS Bonfire 7pm @ The Grove	28 Warm Wishes 9:30am Book Study- 7pm <i>Book orders for Luke Study Due today!</i>	29 Quilters 10am	30	31 Choir Practice-7pm		