

From the Pastor's Desk...

Greetings Friends! In this newsletter issue I want to briefly cover three different matters of great importance...

Worship during the coming Advent/Christmas Season

Our theme this year will be Comfort and Joy, with various Scriptures from the Prophet Isaiah serving to guide us. In fact, Isaiah, himself, will be joining us in worship during the entire Advent Season! For the four weeks of Advent, we will specifically look toward the Peace of Christ, the Pardon of Christ, the Presence of Christ, and the Power of Christ.

Music is always an important part of this special time of year. So, along with singing many of your favorite Christmas carols, our choirs will all be involved in various ways throughout the season, culminating with the Chancel Choir's Christmas program on December 21!

Christmas Eve will feature two services. A joyous family celebration of the Birth of Jesus will be held at 7:00 p.m., and will feature glow sticks so all the children can safely participate in "candle lighting." The 11:00 p.m. service will be more contemplative, culminating with the beauty of the Light of Christ being passed to the singing of "Silent Night." Come to one, or both, and worship the Christ who will be born into our lives this Christmas!

On the Sunday after Christmas, December 28, we will again hold our Come As You Are Sunday worship. Come worship wearing something less formal, perhaps something new received this Christmas. And we promise that worship will last no more than 45 minutes!

Worship as we move into 2015

The Family Portrait is the title of a six-week series of sermons that will feature snapshots of some of the issues facing families today, with Biblical teaching to assist families looking to God for answers to solving those issues. To coincide with this series we will be using curriculum from The Family Project by the folks from Focus on the Family, offering small group studies that you will want to be a part of. Watch your Sunday bulletins for more information and dates for small group possibilities.

Goals for 2015

It seems impossible, but we will soon be moving into a New Year! With that in mind, I want to share three very important goals adopted by your church's leadership at our October Administrative Council meeting, and reaffirmed by the Charge Conference which met on November 5. The first goal is to renew our focus on a Discipleship Pathway. Beginning in 2009 First UMC launched this program aimed at intentional growth in discipleship, which flourished at the outset and has lost energy in recent times, which describes a natural programmatic ebb and flow in churches everywhere. To re-invigorate the zeal for continuing to mature in Christ, Pastor Kimberly and I will be planning and leading a leadership retreat early in the spring of 2015. I pray that the result of that retreat will be to rekindle in all of us a desire for growing in spiritual maturity.

The second goal for our church in 2015 is to continue to work to launch *the bridge* as a third worship service of First UMC.

The third goal is to spend time in 2015 preparing for our church's bicentennial celebration in 2016. We will, of course, want to do some of the traditional bicentennial things like recalling our history, inviting people to come back and visit, looking at old pictures, remembering those who came before us, collecting memories, etc. We will also spend time looking forward to ways to celebrate the joy and the responsibility of passing on the legacy, the heritage of our Christian faith to those who will follow us in the next 200 years.

In His Love,
Rev. Dan Loomis



Most of you are aware our third worship service, or satellite campus as some may call it, now has an official name, *the bridge*. We are so excited for the direction God has been leading us. Officially we have worshipped together twice (Oct 26 & Nov 15) with over 100 in attendance both times.

The response and support has been wonderful. We will continue to hold monthly preview services until we reach our critical mass number and are officially ready to launch and hold weekly services.

The only way for us to grow and be able to launch into weekly services is by inviting and encouraging people to come. Please be in prayer for our community that we will reach those who need to hear the word of Jesus. It is the goal of *the bridge* to be a mission outpost reaching the unchurched in our community.

I know many people have asked where are we going to meet; when are we going to meet; how is this all going to come together? Well, we are still working and allowing God to lead us through some of those things, but it will come. We must be sure not to get ahead of God and allow Him to work. These questions will all be answered in time, and as we gather those answers we will pass them on to you.

On behalf of *the bridge* I ask for your prayers,
Pastor Kimberly

“Therefore the Lord Himself shall give you a sign; behold, a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall call His name Immanuel.” Isaiah 7:14 KJV

Youth News

The Carrollton First Youth have been busy getting reorganized over the past several months. Everyone is having a great time building their relationship with God while enjoying fellowship together. The Youth Group is open to anyone in grades 7-12 and we meet on Sundays from 6-8 p.m. at Carrollton First UMC.

Currently the youth are doing a study on the movie “God’s Not Dead” and we have plenty of books left if someone new would like to join us. We are also planning to go to the Urban Mission on December 13th to help them prepare for Christmas. For more information please see Pastor Kimberly.

Youth Calendar

Dec 7 Youth 6-8 p.m. @ Carrollton First

Dec 14 Birthday Party for Jesus

Dec 21 Preview service for *the bridge* on the Square (Come worship with us!)

NO youth over Christmas Break in our regular format.

(We are hoping to plan some fun activities instead of our regular Sunday meetings.)

“And she will bring forth a Son, and you shall call His name JESUS.”
Matthew 1:21 NKJV

Advent Theme/Christmas Eve Schedule

Nov 30	Peace of Christ
Dec 7	Pardon of Christ
Dec 14	Presence of Christ
Dec 21	Power of Christ
Dec 24	Worship Services at 7 & 11 p.m.
Dec 28	Come As You Are

the bridge

Friends of *the bridge* will be in the Christmas Parade on November 29; if you want to be involved see Pastor Kimberly. Please pray and invite! Our next service will be a Candlelight Service on the square, December 21 at 6:00 PM.

CHRISTMAS CARD BOXES

Beginning, Sunday, November 30, the Christmas Card boxes will be located outside of the Finance office. Please be sure to check each week for Holiday Greetings sent by your friends and family at Carrollton First. Please consider a donation to First UMC Youth Group in lieu of postage.

“For He will save His people from their sins.” Mt 1:21 NKJV

Keep in Touch Ministry Christmas Card/Gift Bag

From November 30 through December 18, we'd like to gather Christmas cards for our shut-ins. Please check the list of names and then simply drop a note, card and/or a small gift (no food, please) into the appropriate bag. We will be making deliveries of the cards the week before Christmas along with a poinsettia from the Carrollton First UMC family. ***Thank you for sharing the love of Jesus with others.***

"He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High." Luke 1:32 ESV

"Women of Christmas"

The Sisters Bible Study will start back up on Tuesday, December 2 at 1:00 PM with a new book Women of Christmas by Liz Curtis Higgs. All ladies are invited to the study to discover how Elizabeth, Mary, and Anna each welcome the greatest, perfect gift.

From the Missions Team:

Even as the Operation Christmas Child boxes (thank you Bob and Martha McCort, and Ellyn Dunlap) are on their way, the **Community Christmas Program** tags are disappearing from the tree. Please bag and tag your unwrapped gifts, returning them to the church by December 4th. We have fifty tags. Please take one if you can.

On December 7th we will welcome missionary, **LeeAnn Eyeran**. She will speak briefly during Worship then at a reception in the fellowship hall during the Sunday school hour. Please be among those who welcome her, learning more about her work and the people she serves.

Finally, if you feel led, the **elementary school** is asking for children's undergarments and size small or medium black sweatpants.

From the Mission Team, a very sincere, "Thank you" for all that you have done and are doing, sharing and loving in Jesus' name.

Community Christmas "Angel" Tree

Please take a tag from the "Angel" Tree located outside the sanctuary. The tag suggests gift ideas for local children in need. Please put your name & phone number on the list by your tag number. Return the gifts **UNWRAPPED** with the tag visible on the outside of the gift **by Thursday, December 4**. Make a little boy or girl in the community very happy this Christmas. Anyone interested in providing financial assistance should send donations to: Community Christmas, PO Box 14, Carrollton, OH 44615.

Christmas VBS

The Education Committee is sponsoring a one day Christmas VBS and babysitting day on **Saturday, December 6** to help ease parents' stress and give kids an opportunity to learn about and celebrate the birth of Christ. Parents can spend the day finishing up their shopping, wrapping, or just relaxing while we give kids a day of Christmas fun. **Open to youth of all ages**. Older youth can help with younger groups and/or participate in age appropriate activities and movies such as 'God's Not Dead.' Children will take part in singing, crafts, games, movies and other activities focusing on the real reason for the season. (We will also have breakfast, lunch and snacks.) Pajamas are acceptable attire and kids should bring their favorite pillow/blanket for movie time. Christmas VBS will be held from **9am to 4pm** and kids can come for all or just part of the day. All age groups will be led by an adult who has completed Child Protection Training and has had a background check. Contact Amy Adam at amyadamrealtor@gmail.com or 330-324-1404 about volunteering or with questions.

Parsonage Open House

Dear Friends,

We would like to extend an invitation to one and all to join us for a Holiday Open House at the parsonage on **Sunday, December 7 from 12:00-4:00 p.m.** The parsonage will be decorated for Christmas and light refreshments will be served as a way for us to express our appreciation for all you have done for us. Stop by for an informal time to visit with us. Fellowship with other friends from our church will be an added bonus!

Rev. Dan & Barb Loomis

"For nothing will be impossible with God." Luke 1:37 ESV

Happy Birthday Jesus!

Start making plans to come to "Jesus' Birthday Celebration" with your church family on **Sunday, December 14 at 4 PM.** We are seeking spoken pieces—skits, poems, stories, as well as vocal and instrumental contributions—you name it we want to hear it! We would love for you to take part either as an individual or with a group. Those interested can contact Molly Winters, our Worship Team Chairperson, or the church office. After the program, we will continue the celebration in the fellowship hall with birthday cupcakes and ice cream. We'll also decorate simple cupcake ornaments to take home. Because it is Jesus birthday, you are asked to bring a gift for Him. Since we can't give our gift directly to Jesus, you can bring a gift for someone else who might not be on your usual Christmas list.

Your gift could be a monetary gift to a specific local organization (Youth with a Purpose) or could be more general (Pastor's Discretionary Fund—Rev. Loomis will then take care of passing the gift on). It could be a gift to a specific person or family that you know is having a hard time. Or you could send the gift yourself before or after the party. Your gift could be time to perform a service for someone who needs help just a visit. Or you could give special prayer time for a specific need.

You are asked to write down what your gift will be, put the paper in an envelope, and put the envelope in a collection box as part of the celebration. If you want your gift to be forwarded, write "OPEN" on the outside. If you don't write on the outside, no one else will know what is inside. The envelopes marked "OPEN" will be opened by the church financial secretary so that monetary gifts can be forwarded. Rev. Loomis will pray over all the gifts but does not read each one. There will be envelopes available that evening if you don't have one available. We look forward to seeing all of you and sharing the joy of a birthday celebration together as a church family.

Wild Wednesday Family Dinner and Christmas Program

All are welcome on December 17
Dinner at 6:00 p.m.
Program at 6:30 p.m.



"Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, goodwill toward men!" Luke 2:14 NKJV

“For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord.” Luke 2:11 ESV

Re-Organ-ized Cooking

Searching for a wonderful gift for your new neighbor, in-law or co-worker? Look no further! Carrollton First UMC’s updated **Re-Organ-ized Cooking** Cookbook has over 700 recipes and would make a great addition to any cook’s collection. Cost per book is \$18.00 or you can purchase an electronic version for Kindle at the Amazon store for \$9.99.

Elementary School Request

The staff at Carrollton Elementary are grateful for the many hats and gloves that have been donated in the past. This year they are seeking donations of black sweatpants (in children’s sizes small or medium) as well as socks and various sizes of underwear for boys and girls. Please “load the box” with your generous contributions.

As of December 31, Diane Wingerter
will retire as Church Treasurer.
Thank you, Diane, for your 16 years of
dedicated service to Carrollton First!

Poinsettias

Poinsettia Orders are being taken through November 30. Cost: \$8.00 ea.



Please fill out this form and place it in the offering plate along with your money.

(If paying by check please write “poinsettia” on the memo line.)

Name (as it is to appear in bulletin insert): _____

of Poinsettias: _____ Contact Info. _____

In Honor of: _____ In Memory of: _____

Circle one: Pick-up or Donate

“Eternal life is in Him, and this life gives light to all mankind.” John 1:4 TLB

Ministry Opportunities

Keep in Touch: Please be a part of this outreach opportunity. Keep In Touch is about letting our special friends know that we care and that we haven't forgotten them. The KIT team visits or makes phone calls to stay connected. For more information or for any questions, contact Penny Sterrett.

Acolytes: The new acolyte schedule is being planned. Sign-up to help in this ministry at either the 8:15 or 10:45 AM worship service. To find out more contact Connie Budinsky.

Nursery Schedule: Marcy Borland is working on the nursery schedule for 2015. If you would be willing to be added to the schedule, please contact Marcy or the church office.

Radical Hospitality Greeters: Crys Burgett is always in need of smiling faces to greet our guests and church family. Please let us know your preference of 8:15 or 10:45.

One Way: Did you know that on average over 70 kids from the community (6th grade-high school) regularly come to the One Way after school program? That's amazing! The One Way Youth Center is a great local place for you to volunteer. Not sure you want to make a weekly commitment? That's okay! We can use help any day from 2:00-4:30 PM. Contact Justin Garner or the church office for details. The Youth Center is always in need of snacks. The kids are hungry after school and with 70+ we go through a lot! We will be starting our new snack schedule soon, January – May 2015. Would you be willing to provide snacks? Please contact the church office.

Please take a moment and stay in touch with our **College Students** while they are away at school.
Send a note, a gift, a prayer their way:

Krysten Abel 1909 Pebble Rd SE Carrollton, OH 44615	Veronica Atkinson, Univ. of Mount Union, Box 59 1972 Clark Ave. Alliance, OH 44601	Kyle Baker 427 Allyn Street Akron, OH 44304
Luke Baker 427 Allyn Street Akron, OH 44304	Chelsea Bates 1966 Quarry Crest Dr. Columbus, OH 43204	Kayla Borland 3319 Ormond Ave, First Floor Cincinnati, OH 45220
Allyson (Lowdermilk) Clark 6316 Royal Tern Crossing Columbus, OH 43230	Megan Dowell 329 Woodridge Carrollton, OH 44615	Sam Dowell 329 Woodridge Carrollton, OH 44615
Alex Fuller 64 Apple Pie Ridge Rd West Liberty, WV 26064	Daniel Fuller 2360 Bramble Rd. SW Carrollton, OH 44615	Marci Folk 324 Fifth Street NW Carrollton, OH 44615
Megan Galliher Dunbar Prentice Centennial Box 697, 225 Midway Drive Kent, OH 44243	Jacob Husted 2871 Fox Ave SW Minerva, OH 44657	Peter Husted 1110 Forrest Ridge Rd. Dover, OH 44622
Wesley Jones 2756 Kenwood Blvd. Apt. 201 Toledo, OH 43606	Haley Keefer 2746700 Exchange ResHall Room 402B, PO Box 1350 Akron, OH 44309	Lauren Keefer 60 East Norwich Ave. Apt. #101 Columbus, OH 43201
Taylor Lowdermilk 53 S. Green Drive Adams Hall Room 265 Athens, OH 45701	Johnny Lowdermilk 225 Orchard Court Iowa City, IA 52240	Megan Perry 364 West Lane Ave. Unit 209 Columbus, OH 43201
Kelly Ross 255 53 rd Street SW Canton, OH 44706	Nicholas Ross 255 53 rd Street SW Canton, OH 44706	Tyler Timberlake 369 Foxbury Drive Carrollton, OH 44615
Dylan Titus 380 Buchtel Akron, OH 44304	Nicholas Torian 364 West Lane Ave. Unit 209 Columbus, OH 43201	Carrie Tuesday 3766 Cascades Blvd, Apt. 207 Kent, OH 44240
Matt Yoder 944 Jones Ave NW Carrollton OH 44615		

A GROWING IN GRACE MOMENT....

Peace on Earth... we hear a lot about peace this time of year. But what does it mean? In relation to war, peace refers to a time without conflict. The two sides at war are no longer warring. What about peace within? How is it possible for the human spirit to have no conflict? A time without battling within between the two sides of good and evil?

The apostle Paul understood inner conflict, *"our bodies had no rest, but we were troubled on every side. Outside were conflicts, inside were fears"* (2 Cor 7:5). He also knew the answer, *"Nevertheless God, who comforts the downcast, comforted us"* (7:6). When we find fear filling us up inside over what could be or what will be, God is our comfort. Comfort that can only be felt when our focus is on Him and not on all the distractions that so intimidatingly surround.

Jesus commanded, *"If anyone loves Me, he will keep My word (Jn 14:23)*. And Scripture, His Word, tells us to fear God and not evil, *"I will fear no evil; For You are with me"* (Ps 23:4). When we have the Spirit of Christ, we have the fruit of His Spirit, which include *"love, joy, peace"* (5:22). His love; His joy; His inner peace.

Not only during this special Christmas season of love, but during every season of life, may we find ourselves in the good habit of repeatedly resetting our focus back to Him.

"Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ... And not only that, but we also glory in tribulations, knowing that tribulation produces perseverance; and perseverance, character; and character, hope. Now hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out in our hearts by the Holy Spirit who was given to us" (Ro 5:1-5).

"The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God,
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. Amen." 2 Cor 13:14

—Emily J. Ulman



JOY TO THE WORLD

Joy to the world! The Lord is come, Let earth receive her King!
Let every heart prepare Him room, And heaven and nature sing
And heaven and nature sing, And heaven, and heaven and nature sing
Joy to the world! the Savior reigns, Let men their songs employ
While fields and floods, Rocks, hills and plains
Repeat the sounding joy, Repeat the sounding joy,
Repeat, repeat the sounding joy,

No more let sins and sorrows grow, Nor thorns infest the ground,
He comes to make His blessings flow, Far as the curse is found
Far as the curse is found, Far as, far as the curse is found
He rules the world with truth and grace, And makes the nations prove
The glories of His righteousness, And wonders of His love
And wonders of His love, And wonders and wonders of His love

SONGWRITERS: KORBEL, PETER / WATTS, ISSAC N

ADVENT 2014 CALENDAR

Nov 26 No Wild Wednesday
 Nov 27-28 Offices Closed for Thanksgiving
 Nov 29 Christmas Parade, 1 p.m.
 Nov 30 First Sunday Advent
 Nov 30 Holiday Greeting boxes out to "send" cards to church family
 Nov 30 Box out for sweatpants, socks and underwear for school children
 Nov 30 Special Sunday Collection: United Methodist Student Day
 Dec 2 Sisters Bible Study- "Women of Christmas" 1- 2:30 p.m.
 Dec 2 Trustee Meeting 6 p.m.
 Dec 2 Administrative Council 7 p.m.
 Dec 3 Cherub Choir 5:30 p.m.
 Dec 3 Wild Wed. 6 p.m.
 Dec 3 Chancel Choir 8:00 p.m.
 Dec 4 Gifts for Angel Giving Tree due back
 Dec 4 Youth Praise Team 4:30-5:30 p.m.
 Dec 6 Christmas Vacation Bible School 9 a.m. – 4 p.m.
 Dec 7 UMM breakfast, Fellowship Hall 7a
 Dec 7 Parsonage Open House 12- 4 p.m.
 Dec 9 Sisters Bible Study- "Women of Christmas" 1- 2:30 p.m.
 Dec 10 Ret. UMM breakfast at Airport Restaurant
 Dec 10 Cherub Choir 5:30 p.m.
 Dec 10 Wild Wed 6 p.m.
 Dec 10 Chancel Choir 8:00 p.m.
 Dec 13 Youth Group at Urban Mission
 Dec 14 Jesus' Birthday Party, 4 p.m.
 Dec 16 Sisters Bible Study- "Women of Christmas" 1- 2:30 p.m.
 Dec 17 Cherub Choir 5:30 p.m.

Dec 17 Wild Wed Christmas Pageant "Christmas by the Book"
 Dec 17 Chancel Choir 8:00 p.m.
 Dec 21 Chancel Choir Program, both services
 Dec 21 *the bridge* Candlelight Service on the square 6 p.m.
 Dec 24 Christmas Services: 7 p.m (family friendly with youth choirs) 11 p.m. (with Chancel Choir)
 Dec 25 –26 Offices closed
 Dec 28 Come As You Are Sunday
 Dec 28 Final day for year-end giving
 Jan 1-2 Offices closed
 Jan 4 Epiphany Sunday
 Jan 7 Wild Wed resumes
 Jan 8 Evangelism Team mtg, 6 p.m.

Events regularly held at Carrollton First:

Monday

Boy Scouts, 6 p.m.

Tuesday

Sisters Bible Study 1-2:30 p.m.

Wednesday

Cherub Choir Practice 5:30-6 p.m.

Wild Wednesday 6-7:30 p.m.

Chancel Choir Practice 8 p.m.

Thursday

Youth Praise Practice 4:30- 5:30 p.m.

TOPS 5:30-7:30 p.m.

Sunday

Youth Group (Jr. & Sr. High) at the church, 6-8 p.m.

Check out the website for updates



"Praise be to the Lord, the God of Israel, because He has come to His people and redeemed them."

Luke 1:68 NIV

WORSHIP SERVICES: 8:15 & 10:45 A.M. SUNDAY SCHOOL: 9:35 A.M.
Nursery and Jr. Church Provided

OFFICE: 330-627-7671 or office@yellowbrickchurch.org
REVEREND DANIEL LOOMIS—Senior Pastor
REVEREND KIMBERLY ARBAUGH—Associate Pastor

"Following Jesus...Sharing His Love"



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