

Happy New Year!!! At the beginning of this New Year, I would like to briefly share a couple of things with you. First, some reflection upon the year just ended:

Any reflecting back on 2016 must include thoughts about the Carrollton First UMC Bicentennial! It was a glorious celebration of the church's history, our ministry together in the present, and a great way to anticipate what the next 200 years might look like.

I want to say "thank you" to the many who made it such a memorable and blessed celebration all year long. Do you remember...

...the Wesley Covenant Renewal Service that began the year?

...John Wesley (Rev. Paul White) coming to preach on a cold January Sunday?

...Bicentennial Moments?

...the May 22 day-long celebration (for me, the high point of the year)?

...the Memory Book and Prayer Book?

...the wooden and ceramic commemorative ornaments?

...and so much more?!

2016 also saw the completion of a project that now houses "The Gathering Place." It has been such a blessing to see so many stopping by after the 8:15 Service and others coming early to the 10:45 Service to avail themselves of the fellowship and hospitality this ministry affords us.

And, we just finished a beautiful Advent and Christmas Season that included offering Gifts to the Future Church, and a wonderful Christmas Surprise. Truly 2016 was a remarkable year. The Lord's Blessings have been evident in so many ways!

Secondly, I want to invite you to pray for the sermon series, *Vision 20/20*, that will propel us into 2017. Pastor Kimberly and I have been praying for the messages in this series we each will be sharing at Yellow Brick Church and at the Bridge, because of the importance of seeking and carrying out God's vision for our church. Our hope is that these six weeks will help launch us, as individually and corporately we seek God's vision for the short-term (the next one to two years), as well as for the long-term future of our church up to the year 2020 and beyond.

I consider it such a high privilege that God has called me to serve in this place at this time in doing kingdom work with you. Thank you for your partnership in the gospel! I look forward to walking with you into the exciting, hope-filled future God has in store for us!

Rev. Dan Loomis

Mark Your Calendars!!!

We are excited to announce that Kim Griffith (Griffith Coaching) who has been working with Pastor Kimberly since July 2014 to get The Bridge up and running will be joining us at Carrollton First/The Bridge for a weekend of learning and stretching. Kim will be working with our new Vision 20/20 Team on Friday March 3 and Sunday March 5 and would like to spend Saturday March 4 with all of you! This will be a great day of learning on several topics including: Reaching New People; Holding Elbow and Splash Events and Generating Excitement with Current and New Programs.

Please mark your calendars and plan to join us on Saturday March 4. More information will be coming as details are finalized.

Blessings,
Pastor Dan and Pastor Kimberly

Vision 20/20 Team Announced

“I will make them strong in the Lord, and they shall walk in His name,” declares the Lord.’

Zechariah 10:12

Zechariah is only one of the many prophets who envisioned a glorious future for God’s people. Using imagery of Israel’s restoration, expansion and prosperity, the prophet looked ahead to a day of salvation—the day of Christ’s coming— and prophesied about what God intended to do in and through His people. His purpose, as the passage makes clear, is to create a strong and holy people who will fill the earth with knowledge of God’s glory.

And now, 2000 years after Christ’s coming and the establishment of Christ’s Church, the Lord is still calling His people to aspire to greatness in His name. God still intends for His people to seek His vision. So, can we become stronger in the Lord and carry on His work for another 200 years? In a word – YES!

At the October 2016 Administrative Council meeting, church leaders adopted goals for the coming year. In addition to continuing to improve our Discipleship Pathway and continue to grow the ministry at the Bridge, Pastor Dan and Pastor Kimberly asked the leaders to empower the pastors to appoint a Ministry Strategy Team, which would look at developing and implementing a strategy for moving our church forward into the short-term and long-term future.

We are excited to announce that after much prayer on our part, God laid it on our hearts to appoint a team to work alongside us, whom we have chosen from a cross-section of our worshiping community, with representation from each of our three worship services. They have met once, on November 30, for an organizational meeting, and have chosen to call themselves the *Vision 20/20 Team*. The team’s 12 members are:

Rev. Dan Loomis	Bob Galbraith	Bob McCort
Rev. Kimberly Arbaugh	Rick Hannon	Monte Shaver
Bill Abrahims	Bill Krills	Gary Sterrett
Wendy Davis	Tom Longbons	Rod Yoder

(Note: At the Pastors’ request, Cindy Carrothers has agreed to serve as secretary. Also, a coach, Kim Griffith, of Griffith Coaching, has been hired to assist your Pastors along the way, with her services being paid through the East Ohio Conference Board of Congregational Vitality.)

In his book *Courageous Leadership*, Bill Hybels says, “**Vision is a picture of the future that produces passion.**” Hybels calls vision “a leader’s most potent weapon,” saying it’s “at the very core of leadership.” We desire that our church be full of passionate leaders; and in turn passionate disciples and passionate Christians.

We are not sure how long this entire process will take and exactly where we will end up. But, we want to assure you that we desire to go wherever God leads us. Please know our intent is to keep the entire congregation well informed along the way. Information may be withheld because it is incomplete, and then shared the moment it is completed, because of our desire that information shared be correct and uniform. So, please pray for the Vision 20/20 Team. Pray for each person individually and the team as a whole, that the Lord will reveal God’s Vision for our church. Working alongside you, with a desire to bring honor and glory to God, we are...

Pastor Dan and Pastor Kimberly

“For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the LORD, “plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future. Then you will call on Me and come and pray to Me, and I will listen to you. You will seek Me and find Me when you seek Me with all Your heart. I will be found by You,” declares the LORD, “and will bring you back from captivity.” Jer 29:11-14

BASIC YOUTH

Basic Youth started the year with a group-building study to help the youth get better connected with one another. After that we moved on to a curriculum that Olivia wrote entitled Loving Yourself. This curriculum helps the youth begin to understand that it is ok to love yourself as well as why it is important and how to work on loving yourself more. After the curriculum was over we moved on to a lesson on thankfulness, followed by an advent curriculum entitled Down to Earth written by Mark Slaughter, and Rachel Billups. This was the same curriculum used by the Youth Sunday School class.

Our next study will begin on January 11th. This study will talk about how to love others and why it is important to love others. This curriculum will last till Lent. We will be getting the youth involved through different service activities. The first one will take place on January 16th when we will be volunteering at Loaves and Fishes. We need someone to help transport the youth from the One way center to Loaves and Fishes, and then back to the center. We will also be having them do a service project at Camp Aldersgate during our retreat there on February 17th-19th. We are in need of at least two male and one female volunteer for the weekend to help with the retreat.

Our next service project will take place during our next lock-in on March 17th-18th. We will be raising money for World Vision. During this lock-in we will not be eating for 30 hours, to help know what it is like to go without food. The Youth will begin collecting money for this on February 16th. Besides giving money you can help chaperone the lock-in. The final planned mission project will take place in April (more details to come).

Other upcoming events include a Winter Jam concert on January 20th where we will hear 10 popular Christian artists including the Newsboys, Obb, and Switch Foot. On January 21st, we are holding a Middle School game night from 7-9 pm. We need volunteers to make snacks and help chaperone and play games. On February 12th we will be having an all you can eat spaghetti dinner fundraiser at the Yellow Brick church. Tickets will go on sale January 18th for \$8 per person. If you would like to help with any of these, please contact Olivia at 330-627-7751 or email: director@oneway-youth.org

HABITAT CARROLL COUNTY FAITH BUILD

Ready, Set, Build

For the second time in the last few years, our church family is involved in a Carroll County Habitat Build. What an exciting time for Quin Hill, her daughter Faith (10) and son Aden (8), as they will be moving into their new home in Sherrodsville, Ohio by the end of January, 2017!

The very first work day was October 1, 2016. Our team has worked three days doing roof sheeting, interior framing, siding and drywall. The final work day is January 17, 2017, when we do a thorough cleaning in preparation for the Hill family's long awaited move. The dedication of their new home, along with a number of others, is scheduled to take place Sunday, February 26, 2017 at the Habitat for Humanity offices, on Raff Road in Canton, Ohio. The exact time has not been set.

A special thanks to the 47 people from Carrollton 1st UMC & the Bridge who helped with organization & communication, prepared snacks & meals, and put heart and hands into every work day. May this outreach ministry bless others, bring glory to God, and encourage you in the many ways you are 'Following Jesus...Sharing His Love'.

Gary Sterrett

WILD WEDNESDAY

Wild Wednesday is up and running again after Christmas break. We will meet each Wednesday through March 29 with all families invited to attend a special program planned for the final evening. On March 1, we will hold a special Ash Wednesday service.

I would like to thank all those who help provide meals and all of my staff! We have a great time together every week because we are "Wild About Jesus"! Everyone ages 4 years through 8th grade is invited to join us!



Ellyn Dunlap

THE ONE WAY YOUTH CENTER

One Way began our second semester on January 3rd. We are averaging about 20 on a given day and the youth enjoy most of the menu. They are still getting used to having homemade mac and cheese compared to the box.

Our special Thursday's have been very well attended. We have had anywhere from Greek Mythology, to How to Take Care of Yourself Mentally to Lord of the Rings. We have had a lot of community involvement through this. Some of the people that have volunteered to cover these subjects have never even heard that we exist, so this is a great way to spread the news about what we do in our community.

We also do an art project twice a month on the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays. So far the youth have designed and made scare crows, learned to sew, made stuffed animals for charity, and made gifts for their parents. We are currently looking for volunteers who would be willing to teach a project (all supplies for the project can be provided if you would like).

During the basketball season we will be having 3 fifth quarters. The first one took place on December 16th. The next one will happen on January 13th. With the last one taking place on January 27th. If you would like to help with these they take place from the time the game ends (around 8pm) till 11pm.

Since the last newsletter, the youth have requested that we have a movie of the week. So far we have had Mulan, Hair Spray, Harry Potter, The Santa Clause, Lord of the Rings, and The Avengers. If you have any movies that you would like us to make the Movie of the Week please contact Olivia. If you are willing to help with any of these activities, or become a regular volunteer please contact Olivia at 330-627-7751. One Way is open to 6th through 12th graders, from 2:17-5:30 pm Monday through Friday.

KEEP IN TOUCH MINISTRY

Thank you to the congregation for the Christmas cards, love and prayers you sent to 12 special people in our church family. Also, a big thank you to the 14 people on the 'Keep in Touch' team who delivered the cards, small gifts and a poinsettia from us all. We also mailed cards to three individuals who live out of the area.

Updated lists with names, addresses and phone numbers will be on the bulletin board by the office. In the new year, let's continue to remember these friends in our prayers, send a card, or make a phone call or a visit. Thanks again and God bless you for the many ways you are 'Following Jesus...Sharing His Love'.

Penny Sterrett

UNITED METHODIST EXPLORATION CLASS/MEMBERSHIP TRANSFER

In late winter/early spring we will be offering a two-part class for new and transfer members or those just exploring the United Methodist Church.

Have you ever wanted to know more about the United Methodist Church/Faith? Part one of the class will help walk you through the basics of what we believe and why. After finishing the class you may choose to continue to the membership portion.

Are you already a member of a United Methodist Church and interested in transferring to Carrollton First/The Bridge? Part two of this class will walk you through this process and answer any questions you may have as well as explore the Discipleship Pathway at Carrollton First.

If you are interested in being a part in either or both of these classes, please contact the church office to register. More details to come soon on dates, times and place.

Blessings
Pastor Dan and Pastor Kimberly

“When I am afraid, I put my trust in You.” Psalm 56:3 NIV

WORSHIP TEAM

The Worship Team would like to thank everyone who helped during Advent and Christmas including pastors, ushers, musicians, wreath lighters and decorators. Since Christmas Eve and Christmas were on Saturday and Sunday, there were a total of 6 services in two days at our two locations which required a lot of music and other preparations!

The Christmas Surprise on December 11 was very successful with about 140 attending. Everyone who was there took part in the Christmas story and received a handmade ornament. A light supper of pizza, cupcakes, and ice cream was shared afterward. Thanks to everyone who helped especially Carla and JD Hively who organized it all and made the ornaments. Christmas on the Square was held on December 18 with about 30 braving the cold to celebrate Christmas with a service that included a message by Pastor Kimberly, lighting candles, and enjoying cookies and hot chocolate.

The 6:00 pm Soup and Bread suppers will again be held during Lent on six Thursdays starting on March 9. Everyone is invited for a delicious meal and brief lesson followed by communion. Look for more information in the bulletin and a sign-up sheet if you wish to make soup or help with the meal.

Ushers are needed especially for first service at YBC. Anyone who is willing to be added to the schedule is asked to call the church office or Kenny Scott. This is a wonderful service opportunity for men, women, and youth.

A GROWING IN GRACE MOMENT....



Only Hope

The presents have all been opened. Family events attended. The Christmas season is done and all are exhausted. Upon arriving home on Christmas evening, I unpack boxes and find room for new treasures. A cozy sweater into a drawer. Soft new socks stacked in with old pairs. New fleece sheets and a plush blanket go directly into the washer. A pretty bracelet hangs on a hook. A new favorite mug is put into the dishwasher. A new pair of comfy slippers goes onto my feet and last year's pair go out with the trash full of wrapping paper and packaging. This is the Christmas wind-down and with it comes time for reflection.

The times together were nice and the gifts were nice, but the brightly lit trees with the colorful presents beneath didn't make up for a strongly felt lack of warmly lit hearts full of loving care for one another. My family struggles with this. Hurt feelings and hardened hearts through the years have led not to the closeness I long for but instead to frustration and a seeming sense of indifference. I know I have done my part to add to the problems. I have also made attempts at doing my part in mending them. To seemingly little avail. What I have not done enough of, however, hit me hard as I read verse 16 in the first chapter of Ephesians, "[I] do not cease to give thanks for you, making mention of you in my prayers". I have complained about others not caring enough, but have I cared enough to be in a constant state of prayer over this troubling matter? To be both thankful and prayerful, diligently. A line in the Max Lucado book I've been reading in my spare moments also spoke loudly to me, "They prayed as if prayer was their only hope, for indeed it was" (*Out Live Your Life*). This was referring to the church who was actively praying in diligence for Peter during his imprisonment (Acts 12:5). The imprisonment in my life is not that of the physical but that of the heart. I understand my Lord's use of these lines to step out and nudge my attention. Through them He is teaching me that though I cannot fix the problems creating tension and distance, He is able. I have not given this aching burden over to Him in prayer as if prayer was my only hope. Unceasingly being in gratitude for the family I was born into. (How many have grown up in a house bursting with five girls?) Making constant mention of them to our Father.

As I enter the new year, I now do so with a new priority. To pray with earnest, lifting my burden to Him, as if prayer were my only hope. My dear Lord, I am thankful for my family and for this timely and needed reminder of what this difficult situation is truly in need of. More of You.

"The effective, fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much." James 5:16

Mr. Lucado goes on to share the results of the church's earnest prayers for Peter. "The apostle, who once wondered how Christ could sleep in a storm, now snoozed through his own." He refers to Acts 12:5-8, "he was asleep, fastened with two chains between two soldiers. Others stood guard at the prison gate. Suddenly, there was a bright light in the cell, and an angel of the Lord stood before Peter. The angel struck him on the side to awaken him and said, 'Quick! Get up!' And the chains fell off his wrists."

Oh Lord, as chains were released from Peter, please enable chains to be released from tough hearts too. That these may become brightly lit with love for You and for each other. You are my Hope, in this and in all. I am humbled and grateful that I am encouraged through Your Word to bring my burdens to You. Thank You for being our example of how to love.

"Cast all your anxiety on Him because He cares for you." 1 Pet 5:7 NIV

CALENDAR

January 2017



Jan 13 Fifth Quarter @ One Way 8-11p
(grades 6-12)

Jan 15 Human Relations
Special Sunday Offering

Jan 17 Habitat for Humanity Work Day

Jan 17 Education 7p

Jan 20 BASIC Youth@ Winter Jam in
Pittsburgh

Jan 21 BASIC Jr High Game Night 7-9p

Jan 25-Feb 9 Pastor Kimberly, Mission Trip to
Africa

Jan 26 Endowment 7:30p

Jan 27 Fifth Quarter @ One Way 8-11p
(grades 6-12)

Feb 5 UMM Breakfast 7a @ YBC

Feb 7 Sisters Bible Study 1-2:30p (start
new study) @YBC

Feb 7 Trustees 6p

Feb 7 Administrative Council 7p

Feb 8 Ret. UMM Breakfast 8a@ Airport
Restaurant

Feb 12 BASIC Fundraiser—all you can eat
spaghetti dinner

Feb 13 Confirmation Class 5:30-7:30p

Feb 17-19 Nehemiah Mission Trip

Feb 17-19 BASIC Retreat @ Camp Aldersgate

Feb 26 Habitat House dedication

Mar 1 Ash Wednesday Service 7:30-
8:15p @ YBC

Mar 5 UMM Breakfast 7a@ YBC

Mar 3-5 Kim Griffith –Vision 20/20, Save
the Date!

Mar 8 Ret. UMM Breakfast 8a @ Airport
Restaurant

Mar 9, 16, 23, 30, Apr 6, 13
Lenten Suppers 6-7p @ YBC

Mar 12 Daylight Saving Time begins—
Spring ahead!

Mar 17-18 BASIC Lock-in Service Project

Mar 26 One Great Hour of Sharing
Special Sunday

Mar 29 Wild Wednesday—Last Night!

Apr 9 Palm Sunday

Apr 16 Easter Sunday

ON GOING

Mon Boy Scouts 6-8p @ Yellow Brick Church

Wed Wild Wednesdays 6-7:30 (last day March
29) @ YBC
BASIC Youth Group 6-8:00p @ One Way;
grades 7-12
Chancel Choir 7:15-8:30p @ YBC

Thurs Youth Praise Team 4:30-5:30p @
YBC; grades 2-8
TOPS 5:15-7:30p @ YBC

*“Blessed is the man who
trusts in the Lord,
And whose hope is
the Lord.
For he shall be like a tree
planted by the waters,
Which spreads out its
roots by the river,
And will not fear when
heat comes;
But its leaf will be green,
And will not be anxious in
the year of drought,
Nor will cease from
yielding fruit.”
Jer 17:7-8*

**Hail, Thou all-inviting Savior!
Gentiles now their offerings bring;
In Thy temple seek Thy favor,
Jesus Christ, our Lord and King.
May we, body, soul, and spirit,
Live devoted to Thy praise,
Glorious realms of bliss inherit,
Grateful anthems ever raise!**



CARROLLTON FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
253 S LISBON ST
PO BOX 85
CARROLLTON OH 44615

NONPROFIT ORG
US POSTAGE PD
CARROLLTON OH 44615
PERMIT NO 25

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



We are
1 Church in
2 Locations offering
3 Worship Opportunities



"Following Jesus... Sharing His Love"
REVEREND DANIEL LOOMIS—Senior Pastor
REVEREND KIMBERLY ARBAUGH—Associate Pastor
OFFICE: 330-627-7671 or office@yellowbrickchurch.org
WORSHIP SERVICES: 8:15 & 10:45 A.M. SUNDAY SCHOOL: 9:35 A.M.
Nursery and Jr. Worship Provided
WORSHIP SERVICE AT THE BRIDGE: 10:00 A.M.

CARROLLTON FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH



THE CIRCUIT NEWS