

# St. Mark's United Methodist Church

1110 N. Metcalf Street

VOLUME 1 ISSUE 12

DECEMBER 2018



Dear friends,

In our advent Bible Study "Because of Bethlehem", Max Lucado reminded us that we all worship something and that the time we spend worshipping the *wrong* thing is time we never get back to worship the *right* thing.

Worshipping the wrong thing doesn't mean that the thing is bad, but rather it has taken a position of authority in our lives (a substitute god) that is in a priority position over Jesus. So what is the *wrong* thing that you are worshipping this Advent? Could it be achievement/success, power/influence, belonging/affirmation, lifestyle, religion, appearance, finances, possessions, family or health? These are all good things that we can enjoy and aspire to, but they should not be things that take a priority position in our lives over God and what He has called us to do and be.

When we make a good thing a priority in our lives we are setting ourselves up for eventual disappointment. These good things will never sustain us or provide us with ultimate comfort and assurance when life provides us with its challenges.

In the Christmas Story the shepherds went to worship the *right* thing, the multitude of angels worshiped the *right* thing and the Magi went to worship the *right* thing. They all worshiped the birth of our Savior Jesus the Messiah (God with us).

This Advent season I encourage you to ask yourself, what is the thing that I am worshipping that is keeping me from focusing my worship on the right thing, Jesus. Jesus deserves our worship, He deserves to have the priority position in our life.

As David recorded in Psalm 103:1

*Praise the LORD, O my soul! With all that is within me,  
praise his holy name!*

Merry Christmas!

*Pastor Ted*



Blue Christmas service Friday, December 21 , which is the longest night. It will be at 7pm. A chance to reflect on the season and those we have lost and won't be with us.

*THE CHRISTMAS GIFT  
(A BALLAD)*

*Written by Mae Stein: 12-3-12*

*Christmas is the day of love, Thank you Lord  
The gift you gave, baby Jesus the king  
Where wise men came and the angels would sing  
A feeling of hope where tears of joy poured*

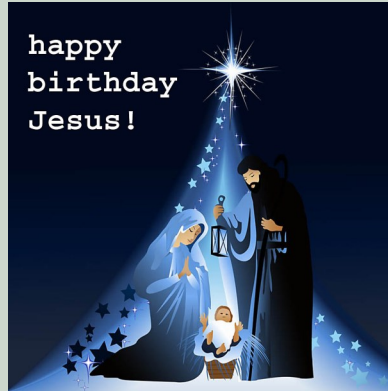
*Giving our pleasures, our hearts so afford  
Let love and freedom of happiness ring  
With gifts of the babe and its happiness bring  
Flying angels blessed the babe, as wings soared*

*It was a miracle of spoken prayers  
The divine gift to the world that God gave  
His begotten son Jesus, God gave earth  
With the babe's love to protect us and save  
Knowing the Lord our God really cares  
He gave us this gift of the Savior's birth*



## HAPPY BIRTHDAY, JESUS

The Church Christmas Party on December 9th from 4-7 pm. The theme will be "HAPPY BIRTHDAY JESUS".



Thank You! Thank You!  
The Stewardship Campaign was a success!  
Thank you for all your pledges for the 2019 budget. If you missed Stewardship Sunday you can still hand in a pledge.  
Through interviews on Sunday with Pastor Ted we heard how we are changing lives and we plan to continue to reach out to help others, show our love and make disciples.  
Thanks again!

The Finance Team: Holly, Ed, Ken, Diane & Greg





## December 2018 Newsletter

As 2018 comes to an end I want to personally thank the congregants of St. Mark's United Methodist Church. Your support for the Resource Center, the programs from the Resource Center and Ruth's Closet has been phenomenal. Whenever we asked for something you came through.

I wish I could say that the need in the community has decreased. However, our numbers show that they are only increasing as the winter weather comes upon us so, please think of those less fortunate this holiday season. You might consider visiting someone in a nursing home who doesn't get visitors or pick up a present for a child whose parent is incarcerated. Maybe you buy food for the food pantry or bake cookies for a neighbor. Those of us from the Resource Center challenge you this holiday season to step out of your comfort zone and do something special for someone who could never repay you.

The food pantry item of the month is boxed dinners. Such as Hamburger, Chicken, or Tuna helper, Homestyle Bakes, Velveeta Skillets, and Complete Meals.

The All in Community prison ministry will be offering training in 2019. If you or someone you know is interested in this ministry please see Jessie for training days.

We still have four Angel tree angels that need adopted this year. They are hanging on the window outside the church office. We will be hosting the Angel Tree Christmas Party on Sunday December 16<sup>th</sup> from 2:00 – 4:00 pm. The children will take a picture, make a picture frame, eat and open presents. Anyone is welcome to attend.

## Emmaus/Chrysalis

Women's Walk  
February 7th @6:00 pm through  
February 10th @ 5:00 pm

## Gathering

The next monthly Emmaus Gathering  
will be Tuesday, December 18<sup>th</sup> from  
6:30 – 8:30 pm at St. Mark's UMC in  
Findlay  
800 S. Main St.



The Cantata will be previewed at St. Mark's  
on Sunday, December 16th at 7:00 p.m.

### Christmas Special Offering - UMCOR

Our Christmas Special Offering will go to support the work of The United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) which is the humanitarian relief and development arm of The United Methodist Church.

We most often think of UMCOR as being among the first relief agencies to respond to national and international disasters such as hurricanes, earthquakes, typhoons, and other situations calling for humanitarian and disaster relief.

Please give prayerful consideration as to how you can support this worthy organization.

Envelopes are enclosed for your convenience—send to St. Mark's office or put in the offering plate.

Thank you!



If you would like to receive an email regarding prayer concerns please notify the church office.



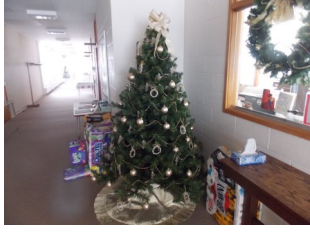
Lima Seniors Early Childhood Education Senior and Junior Classes are collecting school supplies for their upcoming Educators Rising competition. Every piece of the school supplies is going to the Lima City Schools Back to School Celebration in the upcoming fall, in the church will be a box with signs that say SUPER SUPPLIES with a Spartan Head. If you have any questions please feel free to contact Meaghan Hittle at (567) 242-8494 or by email at [meaghan.hittle@spartan.limacityschools.org](mailto:meaghan.hittle@spartan.limacityschools.org). The school supplies roundup will end January 25th, 2018 to make sure that everything is submitted to the competition by February 1st, 2019. Below is a list of the items we need to collect:

- 2pk of Highlighters      -Scissors
- 2pk of glue sticks      -3 Ring Binders (Sizes Vary)
- 2pk of erasers      -12pk colored Pencils
- 24pk of Crayons      -10pk of Markers
- Rulers      -Pack of Loose Leaf Paper
- 10-12pk of Pencils      -Spiral Notebook
- 10-12 pk of Pens      -Composition Notebook
- 2 pocket folders      -New Lunchbox
- New Bookbag

Thank You All So Much In Advance For Your Donations,

The Lima Senior Early Childhood Education Classes.

# Resource Center News





**Pop cans for  
Resource Center**



**Eye glasses for the Lion's Club**

**Chief receipts for Resource Center**



Reminder... Please let the church know should you be admitted to the hospital or are having surgery. The hospitals no longer call without you saying you want the church or pastor called.



### Birthdays

December

3 - Ken Simmers  
5 - Anna Marie Coulter  
5 - Larry Swords  
11 - Jean Oden  
12 - Gary Hadsell  
14 - Holly Koza  
14 - Roger Roark  
19 - Lucille Chapman  
24 - Carolyn Bridges  
31 - Sylvia Hadsell



Anniversaries

8 - Ed & Carol Klingler

31 - David & Erin Bowsher



# St. Mark's United Methodist Church

1110 N. Metcalf St.  
Lima OH 45801

Phone: 419-222-3601

E-mail: [limastmarks@gmail.com](mailto:limastmarks@gmail.com)

Website -[limastmarks.com](http://limastmarks.com)

Facebook -St Marks United Methodist



© 2013 Ian Dale Art & Design. Reproduction permitted for noncommercial use.