
THE FOHLWIND NEWSLETTER

Issue 196

Fohl Memorial United Methodist Church

December 2017

From the Pastor...

It's That Time Again

Every year I have to fight the urge to just ignore that day of the year when the birth of Jesus is celebrated. Why? The world around me has made such a worldly thing about it, that the heart of what Christmas is about is swept under the rug. That really bothers me. Little, if any attention is focused on Jesus Christ.

Christmas is more than a day of traditionalism, commercialism, materialism and indulgence. Christmas revolves around a person, the Lord Jesus Christ. Christmas is a time to exalt Him and what He has done for the world. Christ is what makes Christmas special!

Christmas in this day has come to include Christ, at least in some measure, despite those who would try to isolate Him from it. The world is at least aware of Christ. Millions sing Philips Brooks' lovely verses, "O little town of Bethlehem... O come to us, be born in us, our Lord Immanuel." Millions more will repeat, "unto us a child is born. Unto us a son is given. And His name shall be called WONDERFUL..."

So, like me we cannot abandon Christmas. We can't be overcome with the evils of its abuse, rather overcome the evils with good (Romans 12:21). Look at Christmas as an opportunity to EXALT CHRIST. I am reminded of Paul's letter to the Roman believers dealing with "special days --Romans 14:5 - "One man respects one day above another: another respects

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CHURCH HAPPENINGS...



Christmas Activities.....

The Holy Family Parish is having their Advent Celebration on Sunday, December 10th at 4:00 p.m. Once again, the community choirs have joined together to bring an evening of Christmas music to the community. There will be a free dinner following the concert at 5:00 p.m.

Fohl Christmas Caroling

Bring the children and come and join us for our annual Christmas Caroling. We will meet in the church parking lot at 6:00 p.m. and carol around to Fohl's shut-ins. We will have hot chocolate and donuts in Nydegger Hall at the end of the caroling.

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

Fohl's Christmas Eve Candlelight Service will be held at 7:00 p.m. on December 24th. We will have special music and celebrate Holy Communion. Bring your families and come celebrate the Reason for the Season....the birth of Jesus Christ!

Fairless Families Christmas

We are helping a couple of families again from the community with their Christmas. We are only collecting Gift Cards this year. Some ideas would be: Visa Gift Cards, Walmart, Marshalls, Giant Eagle and any stores in the mall where a teen would like to shop. Please have the gift cards to the office or Jessica Pavlik by December 20th. Thank you!

every day alike. Let every man be fully persuaded in his own mind.” It is not the day that is important, nor the customs that are observed. What IS IMPORTANT is revealed in the next verse, “He that regards the day, regards it unto the Lord; and he that regards not the day, to the Lord he doth not regard it...” Romans 14:6 If we are going to celebrate Christmas, we are to celebrate it in a Christ honoring way! This is what has happened much of the time concerning Christmas. When the Gospel of Christ reached pagan people, they "Christianized" their traditions and redirected them to point to Christ. I do not necessarily agree with the reemphasis in some cases, but I do know Christ is to be lifted up, magnified and exalted. Today we need to do the same...put Christ in first place. Make Him pre-eminent because He is what makes Christmas important.

Pastor Dave

Dear Fohl,
By the time you receive this message, we will have celebrated Thanksgiving, and we will have decorated the church for the season of Advent. This is the time of preparing, once again, for the coming of the Christ Child.

We begin with Hope, Anticipation and Expectation. Yes, with the Hope that all the prophecy of Isaiah and the other prophets will break through into our chaotic world. There is nothing more solid than Jesus, who is our Hope for years to come. So the true meaning of Advent and Christmas is all about Jesus.

As we move on through this season, Dolores and I pray Christmas Blessings upon you so that you can know the Joy that comes through His love, and fills you with the Hope and Peace of His presence. For unto us a child is born! O Come, let us adore Him!

Rev. Paul & Dolores Gerycz

Swiss Steak Dinner

Join us for our Swiss Steak Dinner! The next one will be held on Saturday, January 13th from 4:30 – 6:30 p.m. in Smith Hall. The cost of the meals are \$9.00 per adult. If you can help serve, please contact Laurie Neumann.

Men’s Breakfast

The next Men’s Breakfast will be held on Saturday, January 6th at 8:00 a.m. in Nydegger Hall. These breakfasts are open to all men of the church and their friends. Come and join us for a great time of fellowship and food.

Graduation Party

You are invited to celebrate **Dylan Lautt’s** graduation from Kent State University with a bachelor’s degree in English. Join us for an Open House on Saturday, December 16 from 1 – 5 p.m. at the Wanake Dining Hall, located in the lower level of the large white barn. The address is 9463 Manchester Ave SW Beach City, OH 44608

Tuscarawas District Christmas Gathering

Come join the Tuscarawas District of the UMC and New Phila First UMC for a spirit-filled evening of fellowship and joyous Christmas music featuring the sounds of MajesticVoice Chorus. There is no cost to attend. The concert is Saturday, December 16 at 7:00 p.m. There will be hors d’oevres served from 5:30-6:30 p.m. This event is held at the New Phila First UMC at 201 West High Street, New Phila. For more information go online to www.majesticvoice.org.



Discipleship Class

There are still openings for men who might want to start going through our Discipleship Program in 2018. There is a waiting list for women, but if you are interested also, please let Pastor Dave know.

SERVING FOHL CHURCH...

December Ushers are Tim Bednar, Dave Denney, David Denney, John Jogerst.

December Greeters are Jessica Bender, Laurie Neumann, John Jogerst

Preschool During Worship

Nursery During Worship

December Media Technicians

12/3 Tyler Lautzenheiser 12/10 Jason Edinger
12/17 Jason Everhart 12/24 Tyler Lautzenheiser
12/31 Ben Everhart

December Liturgists

12/3 Dave Denney 12/10 Julie Weyandt
12/17 Phil Lautzenheiser 12/24 Shirley Sponsler
12/31 Bob Smith

December Camera Operators

12/3 Emma Edinger 12/10 Ella Pumneo
12/17 Nyana Pumneo 12/24 Madison Stangelo
12/31 Emma Edinger

December Pre-Service Bell Ringer

12/3 Courtney Newtz 12/10 Kaleb Robinson
12/17 Landon Kling 12/24 Gaije Freed
12/31

December Prayer Before Offering

12/3 Robin Keith 12/10 Rosi Jones
12/17 Dave Denney 12/24 Phil Lautzenheiser
12/31 Tim Mihal

Card Ministry volunteer is MaryBeth Pumneo.

Thanks to Elden Surbey for the DVD Ministry each week. Weekly Sermons can also be accessed on our church website. Thanks to Lindsie Newtz and Dave Kennat for keeping the website updated each week!

Fohl UMC's Goals for 2017 (as set at our Annual Church Conference in November)

1. Continue our efforts to increase Worship attendance
2. Focus on ways to help the congregation grow in their commitment to Christ (discipleship)
3. Strengthen Membership Care Ministries
4. Strengthen Mission Outreaches
5. Strengthen Community Outreaches
6. Strengthen Fellowship & Volunteer Opportunities

Stewardship Report...

Attendance	11/5/17	Attendance	11/12/17
Worship	145	Worship	183
Offering	\$5,196	Offering	\$5,914

Attendance	11/19/17	Attendance	11/26/17
Worship	173	Worship	190
Offering	\$3,190	Offering	\$4,509

Total Operating Expenses: \$215,681.00
Finances Needed Per Week: \$ 4,389.00

We are currently at 98% of our budget for the 2017 year.

Membership Care Notes...

Thank you...

Thank you to all those who donated candy for our Trunk or Treat in October. We had a great turnout, even though the weather was rainy and we had to move into Smith Hall – we still had over 100 children participate! Cathy Hostetler

Matthew 11:28 "Come to me, all of you who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest."

I want to take this time to thank God, Pastor Dave and Fohl Memorial UMC for giving me the opportunity and the privilege to serve as your Minister of Visitation. This ministry has always been a priority throughout my call of serving my Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. He set the greatest example of caring for people and calls us to follow in his footsteps.

In a very short time, I have had the opportunity to meet many who can no longer be here on Sunday morning. We, as a church, must do all we can to reach those who have been faithful-dedicated members of Fohl. It is very important that they are not shut out from the church they love and served.

We are slowly beginning to meet and greet others of you as we worship together. Visiting with people who are listed as shut-ins, is a time of joyful reunion as they share their stories of the church and their relationships with many of you. Please continue to keep them in your thoughts and prayers.
Pastor Paul & Dolores Gerycz

In Sympathy...

Our sympathies are extended to the family of Tracy Lutz, who passed away in November.

Our sympathies are extended to the family of Shirlee Bradley, who also passed away in November.



Mission Committee

Thank you to all who packed or sponsored an **Operation Christmas Child** gift box this year. Special thanks to Jennifer Troyer for purchasing gifts and packing the gift boxes that were payed for by donations. Fohl donated 181 gift boxes, the most we have donated ever. Please keep in prayer the 181 children who will be receiving these gifts and the Bible study they will also receive teaching them of God's love for them. Also keep in prayer the pastors, church leaders, and missionaries who will deliver the gifts and teach them the Christmas message.

Thank you for your continued support of the **Fairless Food Cupboard**. The Food Cupboard is asking for donations of Homestyle Bakes Complete Meals, pasta and spaghetti sauce. Any and all nonperishable food items, personal hygiene products, cleaning supplies and paper products are gladly accepted each month. The Food Cupboard is still looking for volunteers to help carry out groceries for the clients.

The **St Pauly** used clothing shed is opened 24/7 for donations. We accept all clothing, shoes, belts, purses, blankets, sheets, pillow cases, drapes and stuffed toys. Please tell your family, friends, and coworkers of this easy way to keep clothing out of landfills and put into the hands of those in need.

Thank you for supporting Missions in 2017. Here are the Top 10 Reasons Why You and Your Church Should Support Missions:

1. We are commanded.

Not every one of us can go ourselves to spread the word but we should be obedient to support missions in some capacity. Jesus called us to participate in making disciples of all nations, baptizing them, and teaching them to keep His commandments (Matthew 28: 18-20).

2. How else will they hear?

The fact that so many still have not been told about the hope that is found in Jesus should be compelling enough. Mercy has been extended to us, and mercy is required of us. In Romans 10:14-15 the Apostle Paul says, *How then shall they call on Him in whom they have not believed? And how shall they believe in Him of whom they have not heard? And how shall they hear without a preacher? And how shall they preach unless they are sent?* We must be involved in this effort.

3. Workers are few

Jesus said, "The harvest truly is plentiful, but the laborers are few. Therefore pray the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into His harvest." (Matt 9:37-38). We are ALL called to play a part in the process of planting, watering, and reaping the harvest. 1 Corinthians 3:9 says, that "we are the laborers together with God."

4. Missionaries depend on churches

We are told in scripture to pray and provide support to those who give of themselves in taking the gospel to various parts of the earth. Paul asked the church to pray "that the word of the Lord may run swiftly and be glorified...and that we may be delivered from unreasonable and wicked men; for not all have faith. (II Thessalonians 3:3). Paul thanked the Philippian church for their contribution to his care (Philippians 4:10-18). Fulltime missionaries depend on prayer, encouragement and financial support to meet spiritual, emotional and physical needs, so that they can give themselves fully to the work of spreading the gospel.

5. We have been blessed for a reason.

"To whom much is given, much is required" (Luke 12:48). We have been given so much – freedom to study the Word of God, and many of us have health and enjoy a level of prosperity not seen in other parts of the world. Are we fulfilling our responsibility as good stewards of all that God has given us? It is yet another reason to labor in love.

6. Safe investment

It's very easy to let ourselves be burdened with the cares of this world and worry about money. The remedy for the anxiety caused by uncertain investments, distress and cupidity, is to seek first God's Kingdom (Matthew 6:33). Giving to the cause of the gospel is a way to store treasures in heaven that will never fade or fail (Matthew 6:20).

7. Reward

There is great reward in investing in the things that have eternal yield. A temporal inheritance can be squandered but an eternal inheritance is a reward that never goes away. "For God is not unjust so as to overlook your work and the love that you have shown for his name in serving the saints, as you still do." (Hebrews 6:10).

8. Loving our neighbor as ourselves

Scripture commands us to not only love the Lord God with all our heart, soul, mind and strength, but also to love our neighbor as ourselves. We are taught that the entire law sits on these two things. (Matthew 22:36-40). When you are hungry, tired, and cold you care for yourself enough to eat, sleep, and warm yourself; this verse asks us to take the extra step of seeking to cover the basic needs of our brothers and sisters, including those out in the field loving and caring for the lost.

9. Glorify God

Ascribing to God honor, dignity, praise and worship is our primary objective as redeemed members of His creation. By obeying Him and following His commands to love Him and love others we bring glory and honor to God.

10. Establish His kingdom on earth:

"Thy Kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven" (Matthew 6:10). Our prayer should be that the gospel of Christ will be advanced as we prepare for his imminent return. The urgent message to repent heralds the coming of the Messiah as it did with John the Baptist, but this time Jesus will return as King. We want him to find us alert and working hard to advance His Kingdom when he returns, not lethargic and apathetic.

Tim Mihal, Missions Chairperson



You are invited to a special “Town Hall Meeting” that will be held on Saturday, December 9th at 11:00 a.m. here at the church.

As you know, terrorism is no longer something that happens just in other countries, large cities, or large crowds. Nor is terrorism limited to certain ethnic or religious groups or fanatics. We are, and have been living in a time in history where mass killings are happening anywhere and at any place . . .including small town churches.

At this point in time, we have taken very little action in protecting our congregation from those who would inflict bodily harm to you and others who worship here at Fohl. However, the leaders of our church want to change that by being proactive in the fight to protect the people of our church. They want and desire your opinion.

On Saturday the 9th, we will be brain-storming ideas that we can implement into the life of our church; actions that will protect us and our brothers and sisters in Christ. Eventually, we will present some of the ideas discussed that morning to the Church Board.

It’s time to take action. We cannot wait until something tragic happens to our loved ones here at Fohl. Please consider being in attendance for this short gathering.

Christian Education News...

Blessings from Sunday School!

We are excited to announce the Food Drive has been extended to December 10th! Keep those donations of pop tarts, granola bars and packaged crackers coming in. The children of the community will be so grateful. Please pray about using this time to share the excitement of giving back to your own children too!

Matthew 25:40 reads “The King will reply, ‘Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.’”

The entire church would also like to extend our gratitude to Lisa Waechter, Betsy Harrison (Heavens from Betsy), Dylan Lauth and everyone else who has taken part in decorating our church with beautiful bulletin boards, chalkboard signs and hallway decorations including the wonderful mural that is taking place in our Christian Ed wing. It is so nice to come together in fellowship and see everyone’s ideas come to life!

If you have it on your heart to help in Sunday School, we are always looking for help! It is very heart-warming to be with the children and see them grow spiritually. You will only need to bring a heart for Jesus ♥ thank you to the amazing teachers who are currently leading our children.

Kathy Noftsinger-Swank - Highschool/College
Tanner Seese and Troy Stangelo- 6th-8th
Stacy Freed- 3rd-5th
Jessica Bender- K-2nd
Rachel Wilson- PreK and Nursery

There will be no Sunday School on December 24 and 31st. Our Annual **Bible Olympics** will begin on January 7th. JOY Club will resume on Tuesday, January 16th.

Many Blessings,

Christian Education Department

<i>Sunday</i>	<i>Monday</i>	<i>Tuesday</i>	<i>Wednesday</i>	<i>Thursday</i>	<i>Friday</i>	<i>Saturday</i>
		B = Birthdays			1	2 B – Katelyn Black
3 8:30 Choir 9:30 Worship 10:45 SS 6:00 Ladies Study B – Lisa Larson	4 B – Rosi Jones	5	6 1:00 Ladies Bible Study 6:30 Bell Choir	7	8 B – Vicky Wilson, Kathy Noftsinger	9 10:00 Worship Committee Mtg 11:00 Town Hall Meeting Nydegger Hall Rented/Miller B – Bryan Majors
10 8:30 Choir 9:30 Worship Children Program 10:45 SS 4:00 Holy Family Parish/ Advent Concert/Dinner 6:00 Ladies Study B – Adam Denney	11 B – Don Hamner	12 9:30 FCA B – Susan Mihal	13 1:00 Ladies Bible Study 6:30 Bell Choir	14	15 Nydegger Hall Rented/Wuske	16 1-5 Graduation Party/Dylan Lantt 7:00 Majestic Voice Concert Nydegger Hall Rented/Wuske B – Lindsie Newtz
17 8:30 Choir 9:30 Worship 10:45 SS 6:00 Ladies Study 6:00 Christmas Caroling	18 B – Paul Kirby, Natalie Simmons, Theresa Dorkoff	19 B – Lily Askren	20 1:00 Ladies Bible Study B – Doris Arnold	21 B – Jessica Bender, Laurie Neumann	22	23 Nydegger Hall Rented/Freed B – Mike Kerby
24 8:30 Choir 9:30 Worship 7:00 Candlelight Service @ Fohl  Nydegger Rented/Miller B – Chad Craver, Alex Denney	25  B – Jon Neumann, Linda Baltzer	26 B – Mildred Whitmer	27 B – Kate Hess, Richard Noftsinger	28 B – Dave Kennat, Jenna McKelvey	29 B – Jason Everhart, Brannon Hughes	30
31						

Mission Statement
“The Cornerstones of our Purpose”

To Witness

*Pointing to Jesus in all we do

To Disciple

*Teaching how to apply Christ in everyday life

To Worship

*To glorify the Lord in all we do

To Serve

* To be a servant of the Lord and those He loves

Pastor: Rev. Dave West
Pastor of Visitation: Rev. Paul Gerycz
Youth Director:
Pianist & Choir Director: Cory Janson
Junior Church: Cathy Hostetler
Secretary: Lisa Glasgow
Christian Education Director : Jessica Bender
Custodian: Jim Tabler

You can find us on Facebook!

Church Website: www.fohlmemorialumc.org

Church Email address: fohlmemorialumc@att.net

(330) 879-2340 Office Hours: 8-1 Tuesday through Friday

Fohl Memorial U.M.C.
121 Basin St.
Navarre, OH 44662
December 2017





JOY Club

Today, as I sit here and think about JOY Club, I feel very blessed to be apart of a beautiful ministry that God has called Fohl Church to. I am so thankful to so many of you who so faithfully give of yourself to this ministry.

Thank you Rick & Cindy Godby and Cathy Hostetler for creating such a fun environment, not only for Joy Club, but for our Junior Church children. Thank you Randy Janson, Linda Young, Naomi Petroff, Mariah Glasgow, and Tim Mihal for telling the children about Jesus. No program would be complete without snacks, games, crafts and songs – thank you Cindy Godby, Jean Powell, Patsy Tabler, Laurie Neumann, Jackie Fetters, Cathy Hostetler, Beth Winkhart, Debbie Mead, Dylan Lutt, Cadyn McKelvey and Linda Bender. All of you are so important to these children and this ministry. They have so much fun eating, gluing, competing in games and singing praise songs to our Lord!

This fall, God laid it on Lisa Glasgow's heart to offer a meal to the teachers and the families of the children on JOY Club nights. She asked for volunteers to purchase, cook, serve and clean up a meal every Tuesday evening. Again, the Love of God was revealed in the hearts of many of you – and we had more than enough volunteers! Thank you Judy Michener, Lisa Glasgow, Betty & Don Lint, Mike & Naomi Petroff, Stacy Freed, Patsy Tabler, Barb & Jeff Define, Vicky & Rachel Wilson, Sharon & Jim Seese, Abbey Kling, Janelle McKelvey and Laurie Neumann!

Last, but not least, we thank Julie & Mike Kerby for the pizza party on the last night of JOY Club. The children really look forward to this every time.

Psalms 98:4 says, "Shout joyfully to the Lord, all the earth. Break forth and sing for joy and sing praises." Thank you Lord, we love you!

Helen Petscher