

Presbyterian Press



December 2022



A Note From The Pastor...

Dear Members, and Friends of 1st UPC,

As we observe Advent, celebrate Christmas, and finish out this calendar year: there is much to be grateful for and many challenges that can provide great opportunities. There are also many special programs going on this month, which you can read about in this Newsletter.

From the bottom of my heart I wish everyone reading this a blessed holiday season, and I wish for you all to find meaningful moments of peace and solace amidst all the hectic business of this season. Have a meaning-filled Advent, and very Merry Christmas, and an introspective New Years.

In Christ,

Pastor Steve

The new DayOne service
this Sunday, December 4th
at 8:30 am
in the Chapel at
1st United Presbyterian

Join us for this casual worship gathering



December 21, 7 PM

@ 1st United Methodist Church

The 4 Downtown Churches and their Pastors are joining together for this very special worship service.

"...It is important to remember that not everyone is surrounded by large wonderful families. Some of us have problems during the holidays and some of us are overcome with great sadness when we remember the loved ones who are not with us. And many people have no one to spend these times with and are besieged by loneliness. We all need caring, loving thoughts right now."

The Blue Christmas Worship service is a contemplative and solemn celebration of Christmas for **anyone** who may not be feeling the exuberant joy of the season this year.

THIS SUNDAY, DECEMBER 4TH
CHURCH FAMILY DINNER & VARIETY SHOW!!
APPETIZERS - 5:00PM
DINNER - 5:30PM
VARIETY SHOW - 6:30PM

Join us for a festive meal in our Gym, followed by a special program. Children, youth, and adults sharing their talents in a gathering of celebration, laughter, and wonder!

Advent & Christmas 2022

3 of the 7 Weeks of Advent / Out of the Blue

December 4—Where is God inviting us to join God's work?

December 11—What signs of hope are all around?

December 18—What are your what ifs?

out of the

BLUE

Christmas Schedule

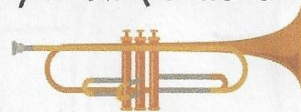
December 2—First Friday: Tour of Churches: 4:30–6:00 PM

December 4—Christmas Dinner & Variety Show

5:00 PM Fellowship & Finger Food

5:30 PM Christmas Dinner

6:30 PM Special Christmas Variety show (Children & Youth sharing their musical Talents)



December 17—Christmas Baskets

December 21—Downtown Church's Blue Christmas Worship

7:00 PM @ 1st United Methodist Church. A Special service of comfort and hope for those mourning a loss or other setback. All four downtown Churches involved as well as anyone from the community invited.



December 24—Christmas Eve Worship & Nativity @ 7:00 PM

December 25—Christmas Worship

10:00 AM—Children invited to come in their Christmas
Adults in comfortable clothes. No Sunday School



January 1—New Years Day Worship

10:00 AM—Everyone is invited to come in comfortable clothes. No Sunday School





DID YOU KNOW?



February 1930, Bellefontaine Examiner.

Announcement that the gift of tower chimes to the First Presbyterian church of this city by H.K. Hubbard and Miss Ada Hubbard has been materially increased, was made to members of that congregation Sunday morning by Judge John C. Hover, member of the chimes committee, selected by the donors to have charge of the installation of the tower chimes.... Judge Hover, Fred C. Spittle and Charles Hockett are the committee who are acting on behalf of Mr. Hubbard and his sister.

Judge Hover was quoted as saying, "Our church never had a bell, at least if it did have, it was before my time."

Imagine a church not having a bell! Don't we all think of it as being a long rope that must be pulled with the operator hanging on for dear life as he flies up and down with the flowing sound? What fun!!

These chimes were revolutionary for Bellefontaine! What began as a dream of music among families in the church became a reality when a contract was signed to install a set of 10 chimes in the bell tower.

Upon investigation, the committee learned that only 10 chimes were of limited range musically and could not produce all hymns and national airs of the time.

With further inquiry, it was established (he stressed with no pressure from the company) "a set of 16 chimes, costing considerably more, covers a greater range of music, taking in nearly all of the hymns as they are known and played on the pipe organ and other instruments as well as essentially all of the national airs."

As Mr. Hubbard and sister had relocated to Florida, a letter was prepared and forwarded explaining the difference. To the great pleasure of the committee, a contract for a set of 16 chimes came back, signed and ready to deliver to the company.

The difference between bells and chimes is in the casting. Where bells are formed as a bell would be, these chimes are formed as tubes or pipes. (Think a concert band set of chimes which are suspended by thin cable.)

The pipes are able to be played directly from the pipe organ or from a separate smaller keyboard. Player Piano-like rolls of music deliver melodies automatically by attachment to a timer. A generator is used to move the chimes up and down to strike the musical tones.

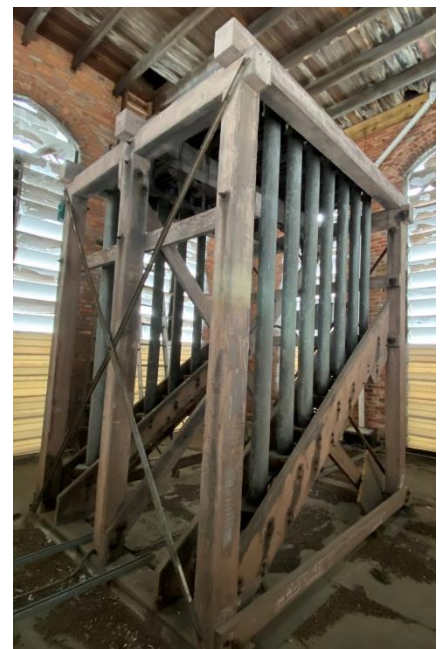
When our chimes ceased to ring, efforts to restore them were postponed as much research needed to be done to find out what was required for repair. Who would have thought that one of the few technicians for such an instrument could be located in Galion Ohio when most others live west of the Mississippi!

With a gracious contribution from **Joanne Ritter**, in memory of her beloved husband **Jerry**, the generator was repaired. The Property Committee then contacted Mr. Joe Manley for a consultation for moving ahead. Mr. Manley deemed the chimes in good shape with thoughts on some minor issues that our property guys were able to take care of.

And so, we have music. Music to ring out from our beautiful Gothic Tower. Music to ring out for all of the City to hear. Music to ring out to honor our Father and Savior.

Not bad for being nearly 100 years old! Here's to nearly 100 years more!!

(If you would like a tour of the chimes, please contact Karl Kennedy!!)





GOOD NEWS!



THE 2ND ANNUAL TOUR OF CHURCHES!! FRIDAY DECEMBER 2ND!!

Please join us on Friday evening, December 2nd during the First Friday activities for a tour of the downtown churches!!

The First United Presbyterian Church, in conjunction with the 1st Methodist Church, the 1st Lutheran Church and the 1st Christian Church, will again be hosting a tour of our lovely churches during the Advent Season!

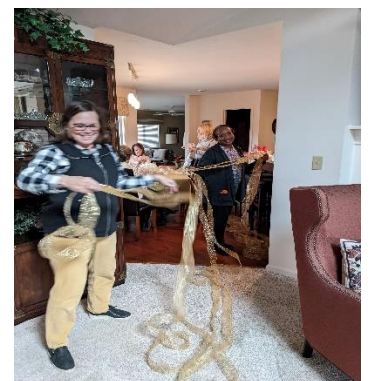
At 1st UPC, you can enjoy the delightful, melodious carols being played by Tom Boone, and have a tour of our lovely sanctuary. Learn some history of this stunning building as we draw closer to our 200th Anniversary in 2028!! Savor some cookies and punch provided by the Church Elves before you head out to tour and appreciate the beauty of the other three churches!!

Many thanks to **Vicky Shields** for putting this wonderful tour together with the pastors of each church!!

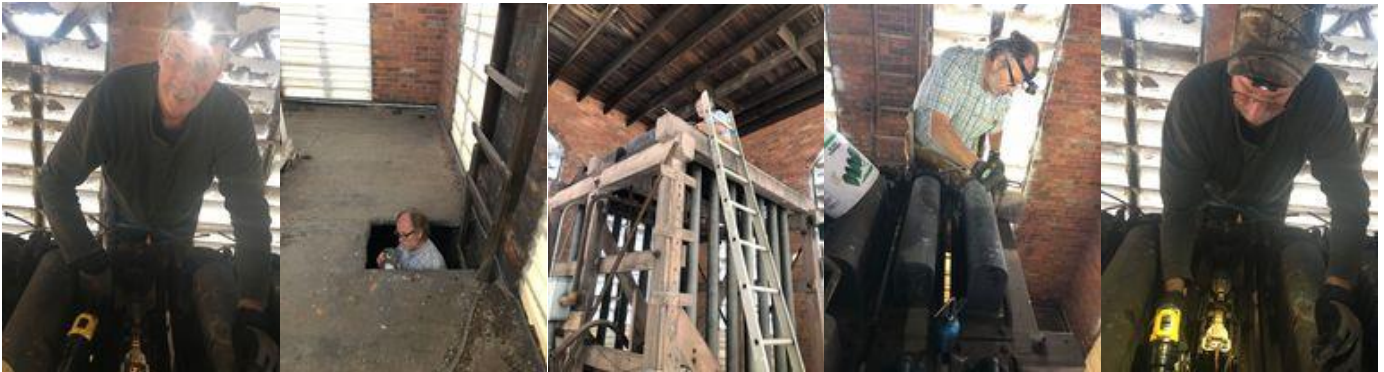


The **Day One Worship Service** meets Sunday December 4, 8:30am in the Chapel. This is a new service with contemporary music and a bit of a different structure!

Please join us for worship, this might be just what you are looking for!!



Members of the **PWA** converged on the home of Ruth Bowden to construct some new bows to hang with the greenery of the church during the Christmas season! It appears there was a good time had by all, particularly **Nancy Wisse** who is bringing her own fashion of the Ribbon Hat!! Thank you, ladies! These beautiful bows will make our Christmas display all the more beautiful!



Art Lloyd, Karl Kennedy, Scott Costin and the Property Committee have been instrumental in the revitalization and repair of the Tower Chimes. Scott was camera shy, but we did get some good shots that give you an idea of the magnitude of the tower and how tall those chimes are!! Great work guys!!

Bellefontaine City Schools **TRIBE MEMBER OF THE WEEK!!**



Alicia Dinovo, granddaughter of **Sue and John Dearwester**, has been named a BCS Tribe Member of the Week! She is a first grade teacher with 14 years of experience with the Bellefontaine City School District.

When asked why she loved being a Chieftain, Alicia says "I have been a Chieftain since I was 6 years old and always felt supported and cared for by my teachers and fellow classmates. That support and belonging to the Chieftain community is something I try to pay forward to my former, current and future students to help them feel the pride of being a Chieftain."

Her classroom motto is: "Be kind and work hard."

Outside of the teaching world, Alicia enjoys spending time with family and friends, playing board games or card games, listening to music or books and most importantly vacations at the beach when possible!

Also named a Tribe Member of the Week is **Joliece Reed**, who is a seventh grade English Language Arts teacher with eleven years experience with the Bellefontaine City School District.

Also asked as to why she loves being a Chieftain, Joliece answers "I love the pride our school and community have for staff and students. I think our schools do a wonderful job in supporting our students through athletics, clubs, and student-led committees. I'm a BHS alum and it's important for me in my role as a teacher to keep instilling the positive atmosphere I had when I was a student here."

Her classroom quote to live by is: "My mission in life is not merely to survive, but to thrive and to do so with some passion, some compassion, some humor and some style." -Maya Angelou

Away from her classroom, one of the favorite things Joliece likes to do is planning trips with her family. Whether it's a quick trip to watch a college football game on a Saturday or planning a multi-state adventure enjoying new places and becoming acquainted with new cities together with her husband and children.





November was a wonderful month for **Judy Oldiges** and family! Not only was grandson, Aiden, named as Student of the Month in the Indian Lake Local Schools, daughter-in-law and Aiden's mom, Krista was named as the new Superintendent of the Logan County Board of Developmental Disabilities!



Tri-M® Music
HONOR SOCIETY

CONGRATULATIONS to **Kelley Forsythe**, daughter of Joe and Kim Forsythe, who was recently inducted into the Benjamin Logan High School Tri-M Music Honor Society!! Tri-M is an honorary music organization. A student is nominated after completing three semesters of music courses, competing in Solo and Ensemble contests and has a 4.0 GPA in music/ 3.0 GPA academically! Great job Kelley!!



The BHS Academic Boosters hosted its annual fall academic awards ceremony in November! The Club recognizes Sophomores, Juniors and Seniors for earning a 3.0 GPA or higher last school year. Recipients this year include...

Seniors: **Sophie Adelsberger, Jordan Butler, and MeKenzie Flora**

Juniors: **Ellie Lloyd**

Sophomores: **Reagen Standley**



Congratulations to our Honor Roll Students! Riverside: **Hayden McCully, Rylee McCully**. Indian Lake: **Cole McClelland**. Benjamin Logan: **Kelley Forsythe, Hailey Kennedy, Lauren Kennedy**. Bellefontaine: **Zoe Jervis, Sophie Adelsberger, Jordan Butler, Kaeleigh Flora, Mekenzie Flora, Ellie Lloyd, Reagan Standley**.



Recently inducted into the National Honor Society of the Riverside Local Schools, was **Rylee McCully**, granddaughter of **Art and Betty Lloyd**. Congratulations Rylee!!



Seven BCS teachers have been awarded Mary Florence Sours Grants for this school year! The Sours Grant was established in 1990, in an effort to support innovative programs that enhance the quality of education in the Bellefontaine City Schools. The combined grants total \$8000 to fund creative projects.

Two of the recipients include our own **Lauren Burkhardt and Jennifer Jervis**. A huge thanks to these two fine educators as they strive to continue to excellence in teaching!!



Barista **Brenda Oda** served up some blends of coffee at the new ILHS Coffee Bar!! Students can espreso their own opinion for a "Cup Of Joe To Go" whether it be a traditional hot coffee or iced coffee. Flavors can be added to perk up the taste of each cup! What a way to start the day!!



Bellefontaine Elementary School was recently honored by Mayor **Ben Stahler**! Students in grades Kindergarten – 2nd were recognized for following the B-Blockpledge every day! The pledge is to be safe, be respectful, and be a learner! Mayor Stahler presented each recipient with their awards!



Nearly a dozen Bellefontaine Middle School 6th grade students were recognized for their excellent leadership skills!!

Among them are **Deacon Lloyd** and **Zoe Jervis** who each were presented with a star for outstanding leadership!

Great job you two!!! We're proud of you!!!



Kelley Forsythe and other Benjamin Logan High School students participated the Fall Rally which is a Key Club event.

Roadside trash pick-up and serving at Our Daily Bread are activities taken on by the Raider Outreach Club, which represents both the Key Club and the Interact Club.

Fantastic job Kelley and friends!! Keep up the good work!!



THANK YOU'S!!

Dear Friends,

I would like to thank all of you for the wonderful Care Poster, cards and text messages. It lifted my spirits hearing from all of my friends at Bellefontaine Presbyterian Church! My recovery will be slow, but with physical therapy, hopefully I will be like NEW!! Maybe by spring, Becky and I can come down and worship with you all. ~Thanks again and Blessings to all of you, Steve Mast

Dear Church Friends,

Thank you so much for the cheerful birthday poster! I just love the gnomes! It came on a cold, dreary day and was such a pleasant surprise. I hope to be back to church this Sunday and wish you all a Happy Thanksgiving. ~ In Christian Love, Dorothy Snapp

2 Corinthians 9:15, (Which I found to be quite fitting...) states: "Thanks be to God for his indescribable gift" as we were graciously blessed by you. You truly emulate Christ's love with your generosity and we are so grateful. We've never felt as stressed, chaotic and scared as we have in the last 10 weeks. It is so comforting to know our church family is praying for us and blessing us! Thank you for everything! ~Love, The Lentz Family



THOSE NEEDING OUR CONTINUED PRAYERS...

The Kyle and Becky Lentz Family
Joyce Core
The Amidons

Joan Smith
The Albanos

Jamie McClelland
Nancy Scouten
Mona Eichholtz

Paul Deardurff
Riley Suman
Makayla Brandyberry

Steve Mast
Michelle Suman



WITH US IN SPIRIT...

Sue Albano 1409 Whispering Pines Lane Belleft. 43311
 Janet Brunke 4888 Co. Rd. #55 Belleft. 43311
 Barbara Bradford 221 School St. Belleft. 43311
 Lois Ashworth 209 E. Glen Belleft. 43311
 Anne Heinlen 741 E. Sandusky Ave. Belleft. 43311
 Nate Weber 608 Newford Dr. Belleft. 43311
 Paul Deardurff 204 S. Elizabeth St. Belle Center 43310
 Bob Carter 6559 US Rt 68 S Memory Unit W. Liberty 43357
 Jo Mustaine 2739 Co. Rd. #91 *326 Belleft. 43311
 Joyce Core 2450 Co. Rd. 118 Rushsylvania 43347



Send a Christmas card!!



CELEBRATING A BIRTHDAY...

December 3: Sara Stahler
 December 4: Carla Murdock, Laura Flora
 December 8: Anne Brienza
 December 11: Judy Oldiges
 December 12: Kim Forsythe
 December 17: Adam Wunderle
 December 18: Nora Lentz
 December 19: Jo Mustaine

December 20: Woody Amidon
 December 21: Billi Jo Kennedy
 December 22: Denny Lane
 December 24: Eric Caughenbaugh
 December 26: Sandi Chervenak
 Julie Pulfer
 December 27: Anne Heinlen
 December Calen McClelland



CELEBRATING A WEDDING ANNIVERSARY...

December 22: Michael & Kelly LeVan December 29: Bill & Mary Ann Patterson



Oh, there's gno place like gnome for the holidays!
 'Cause gno matter how far away you roam...
 If you want to be happy in a million ways,
 For the holidays, you can't beat gnome sweet gnome!



COMMITTEE CALENDAR...

ANNUAL REPORT

Committee Chairs and Moderators should have their details for the 2022 Annual Report turned into the Church Office no later than December 4. If you have any questions, please contact Holly in the church office at (937) 592-6611 or holly@bellefontainepres.com.



We are looking for technicians for our sound setup and our video setup! Training will be given, as these are simple tasks!! We are looking for people **of all ages** who will only need to commit one Sunday a month for these tasks of bringing our praises to God and to those watching at home! If you are available to learn, please contact Andrea Merrin.



The **Worship Committee** invites anyone to provide altar flowers in honor of or in memory of loved ones. If you would like to contribute to the beauty of the sanctuary with the gift of flowers, please call the church office at (937) 592-6611 or email 1stupc@bellefontainepres.com for available dates.



What is better than seeing the faces on our children each Sunday morning as they hear the Children's Message? You can be a part of that, bringing a short message or story and teaching them about the love of God. If you are available to offer a message to the kids, please contact any member of the **Worship Committee!**



The **Church Growth and Member Care Committee** needs your help in taking up the task of the monthly COFFEE HOUR!! If your committee or group would like to sponsor an hour of fellowship after the Worship Service, please contact the Church Office at 1stupc@bellefontainepres.com or (937) 592-6611.



For the year 2023 we will not be ordering the usual offering envelopes as they have become a bit expensive for no more than we are using. Of the one hundred boxes we have been required to order in the past, we generally have about thirty-six people using them.

We are able to make our own sets of envelopes! If you would like to have a set for 2023, please contact the Church Office at 937-592-6611 or holly@bellefontainepres.com. You can opt for a package of fifty-four envelopes for use every Sunday including an envelope for Christmas Eve and Per Capita, or you may request just a package of fourteen for monthly giving including an envelope for Christmas Eve and Per Capita.





MEETING IN DECEMBER...

- The **CE Committee** meets Thursday December 8, 4:45pm in the Chapel.
- The **PWA Leadership** meets Sunday December 11, 12:00pm in the Library.
- The **Stewardship and Finance Committee** meets Monday December 12, 12:00pm in the Library.
- The **Book Club** meets Tuesday December 13, 6:30pm in the home of Karen Brady.
- The **Mission Committee** meets Tuesday December 13, 7:00pm in the Library.
- The **Session** meets Thursday December 15, 7:00pm in the Chapel.
- The **Worship Committee** meets Tuesday December 20, 7:00pm in the Library.
- The **Church Growth Committee** meets Monday December 26, 5:30pm in the Lib



SERVING IN DECEMBER...

Worship Team: Bridget Hawkins, Cindy Jenkins, Holly VanBuskirk

Worship Leaders:

- December 4: Bridget Hawkins
- December 11: Brandon Standley
- December 18: Ruth Bowden
- December 25: Scott Costin



Our Daily Bread Bakers deliver desserts to Our Daily Bread on the 3rd Monday of each month between the hours of 8:30 am and 6:00 pm.

Our Daily Bread Bakers for **Monday, December 19:**

Karen Brady.....Ruth Bowden Lois McKenzie.....Celynn Taylor

Questions or concerns? Contact **Anne Brienza**



COMING SOON!



Our Daily Bread Bakers deliver desserts to Our Daily Bread on the 3rd Monday of each month between the hours of 8:30 am and 6:00 pm.

Our Daily Bread Bakers for **Monday, January 16:**

Judy Wical.....Mary Jane Lane Pat Ortli.....Wanda Stahler

Questions or concerns? Contact **Anne Brienza**



FINANCIAL FOCUS...

November 6, 2022

On-Line Attendance: 7	Day One Attendance: 31	
Sunday School Attendance: 29	Sunday School Offering: \$46.00	Needed Weekly: \$25.00
Worship Attendance: 57	Weekly Giving: \$7848.48	Needed Weekly: \$4871.00
Received To Date: \$182,636.76		Needed To Date: \$218,890.00
	-\$36,253.24	

November 13, 2022

On-Line Attendance: 10		
Sunday School Attendance: 31	Sunday School Offering: \$32.75	Needed Weekly: \$25.00
Worship Attendance: 58	Weekly Giving: \$2430.48	Needed Weekly: \$4871.00
Received To Date: \$ 185,067.24		Needed To Date: \$223,761.00
	-\$38,693.76	

November 20, 2022

On-Line Attendance: 17		
Sunday School Attendance: 32	Sunday School Offering: \$37.00	Needed Weekly: \$25.00
Worship Attendance: 68	Weekly Giving: \$3141.48	Needed Weekly: \$4871.00
Received To Date: \$188,208.72		Needed To Date: \$228,632.00
	-\$40,423.28	

November 27, 2022

On-Line Attendance: 13		
Sunday School Attendance: 35	Sunday School Offering: \$34.00	Needed Weekly: \$25.00
Worship Attendance: 63	Weekly Giving: \$4842.48	Needed Weekly: \$4871.00
Received To Date: \$193,051.20		Needed To Date: \$233,503.00
	-\$40,451.80	

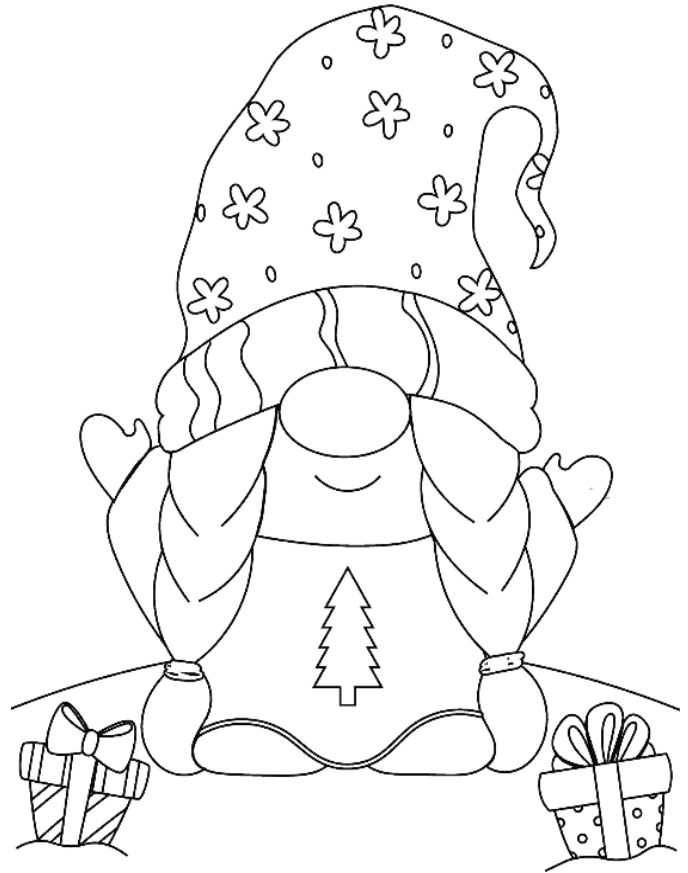
"Remember, George: no man is a failure who has friends." —*It's a Wonderful Life* (1947).

"If you're worried and you can't sleep, count your blessings instead of sheep. Then you'll fall asleep counting your blessings." —*White Christmas* (1954)

"I never thought it was such a bad little tree. It's not bad at all, really. Maybe it just needs a little love." —*A Charlie Brown Christmas* (1965)



FULL OF FUN...



Holiday Tunes

- Away in a Manger
- Choir of the Bells
- Dominick the Donkey
- Frosty the Snowman
- Holly Jolly Christmas
- Jingle Bell Rock
- Jingle Bells
- Let it Snow
- Little Drummer Boy
- Little St Nick
- O Holy Night
- Rudolph
- Santa Baby
- Silent Nigh
- Silver Bells
- The Christmas Song
- The First Noel
- Winter Wonderland



S	G	R	D	A	M	A	F	C	I	F	Z	Z	X	F	K	U	H	J	X
W	A	W	A	Y	O	B	R	E	M	M	U	R	D	E	L	T	T	I	L
C	K	M	B	H	P	L	O	D	U	R	J	T	G	J	I	H	Z	N	O
Z	D	W	T	Z	E	D	S	Y	E	L	C	B	Y	R	T	G	C	G	K
G	N	O	S	S	A	M	T	S	I	R	H	C	E	H	T	I	J	L	D
Q	A	N	K	O	I	D	Y	A	L	F	D	G	I	R	L	N	B	E	D
X	L	S	O	X	Q	R	T	B	T	I	N	W	X	N	E	T	O	B	J
D	R	T	J	T	I	R	H	V	A	A	H	X	I	P	S	N	A	E	W
F	E	I	F	W	V	T	E	C	M	B	E	U	I	B	T	E	S	L	S
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B	N	E	V	X	E	G	N	X	I	L	M	T	R	I	I	I	Y	R	W
F	O	L	N	I	A	I	O	Z	T	K	L	I	N	X	C	S	J	O	U
B	W	V	E	S	Y	N	W	K	M	G	F	O	O	A	K	T	E	C	N
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M	E	Q	W	Q	O	L	A	O	H	K	P	I	T	Y	K	B	N	M	Q
G	T	A	P	U	I	O	N	T	S	L	L	E	B	E	L	G	N	I	J
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U	I	M	U	Y	F	C	J	H	B	X	B	V	R	U	M	Q	C	Y	B



HANDS & FEET

SERVING CHRIST | SERVING OTHERS



Each month, the **Board of Deacons** encourages you to help meet the needs of our 1st UPC family through your donation to our **2-Cents-of-Compassion Offering**. Your donation will support the Deacons in their effort to support those members of our church who are in need. Donate 2 cents (or more) for every compassionate thought you have had in the last month and place it in the "2 Cents of Compassion" envelope included in Sunday's bulletin.

Our Lord Jesus said, "I desire mercy, not sacrifice."

DINNER AT THE PRES! Our Daily Bread will need our help with serving on the last Tuesday of each month. Four or five volunteers are needed. If you are available to help, please contact Evelyn at 937-592-6325!



**God is not unjust; he will not forget your work
and the love you have shown him as you have helped his people
and continue to help them.**



Through the **Community Cash Program**, shop at Community Market (2 locations, North Main St. and East Sandusky Ave.), bring in your receipts and place them in the Donation Centers outside the sanctuary (Narthex) or in the Fellowship Hall. A portion of your sale will support 1st UPC's Sharing Fund, providing assistance to our church families as needed.

Use your Kroger Reward Card and support Youth Mission Trips!

To make an automatic donation with your Kroger Plus Card, go to krogercommunityrewards.com. Log in or set up a new account. Our "NPO" (non-profit organization) ID number is **HD313** and is listed as First (not 1st) United Presbyterian Church. Each year, 1st UPC folks who have named 1st UPC as their charity contribute \$800-\$1000 a year to support our youth mission trips.



It only takes a little on your part – but it sure helps our community a lot!

🌿 ★ MERRY CHRISTMAS ★ 🌿

