

From The Pastor

What does the New Year mean to you? Besides the resolutions we make to commit to new ways of living, what's on your mind? For myself, I feel the theme of children has resonated strongly. I found myself preparing for the Candle Light Vigil for deceased children (December 9th) in Marion, started by Mary Brady and Compassionate Friends, and came to realize how truly blessed we are to have our children. Then the Newtown, Connecticut event (December 14th) drove the point straight to the heart, breaking it. What is God trying to tell us?

In our effort to come to terms with God's Will for us, I have come to realize that we must make children and our ministries to them a priority. Let January be the brainstorming month for children's ministries that we can realistically undertake. Let 2013 be the year in which we completely turn around our record of recent years, and become useful stewards to our children, the children of Marion, and also find ways of connecting with children way beyond.

We have to be humble in our approach. This is God's Will that we seek and it will depend upon listening through prayer. Let me know what your thoughts, ideas, and inspiration are. Pay attention to your dreams as well. Listen hard. Watch for signs. Speak out your thoughts to as many people as possible. We are a called people. We are a blessed people.

Let us be thankful!

Wishing you a healthy and joyously blessed year ahead!

Pastor Merlyn Winters

Sunday, January 6, 2013
Season of Epiphany Begins



VALET PARKING is offered by Kathie Sizemore at 8:30 a.m.

COFFEE HOUR starts at 8:30 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall on the first, second and third of this month. A free community lunch is offered at 11:30 a.m. until 12:30 p.m. on the third Sunday of this month. At 8:00 a.m. a community breakfast is offered the last Sunday of this month. "Message for the Young At Heart" is during the 9:30 a.m. worship.

FOOD PANTRY - offers a chance for you to help feed the area's hungry. Please bring food staples to help us continue our support of this community-at-large ministry.



Ruth Group

Thursday, January 3; 1:30 p.m. in the Social Room
Study leader: Gen Seckel
Hostesses: Arlue Holiday and Eva Reiff
All women of the church are invited.

Gazette Deadline

Tuesday, January 15; 11 a.m.
Anything received in the office AFTER this deadline will be included in the NEXT month's newsletter.

Prayer Concerns Lists

On February 1, 2013 all names will be removed from our prayer concerns lists and will begin again. If you would like to keep your name or the name of someone else on the list, all you have to do is notify the church office by January 15, 2013.

CMF Breakfast

Saturday, January 19; 7:30 a.m. at the Marion Diner

CHRISTMAS CARDS & LETTERS:

Posted on the Sanctuary Bulletin Board

Rev. Dr. & Mrs. Perry Mattern Roger & Esther Kingsley
Dorothy Besch Thelma Knapp



Epiphany

The season of Epiphany approaches us during which we take time to celebrate the manifestation of the identity of Jesus as Son of God to the whole world. For five weeks, beginning January 6th, we can allow the presence of Jesus to gain greater influence in our lives. After Epiphany Sunday we will celebrate the Baptism of Jesus by John and then three more weeks of Epiphany, leading to the Transfiguration of Jesus. Our role is to allow Jesus to be who he was sent to be. How will you find yourself changing as you gain greater insights into the identity of Jesus as Son of God to the whole world? _____

Reminder

Hospitals, nursing homes, Hospices do not notify churches or pastors when a person is admitted to their care. It is up to you or a family member to contact the church if you wish a visit or ongoing care from the church. These policies are the results of HIPAA (Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act). Your church wants to provide the spiritual care you or your loved ones need, but we must know when admission to one of these facilities or programs has taken place.

Prayer and Announcement Cards

These cards are on the message center located beside the sanctuary entrance doors in the Fellowship Hall. When you have a prayer request on Sunday morning, complete a prayer request card and give it to the pastor prior to the service. When you have an announcement not printed in the bulletin, complete an announcement card and give it to the worship leader.

UCC Care Closet

We are asking for donations for the monthly Care Closet that UCC supports. People are referred by Job and Family Services, Turning Point, or any church. These donations provide products they are unable to purchase with food stamps. Items such as toothpaste, bar soap, shampoo, deodorant, tissues, paper towel, toilet paper, cleaning supplies, and laundry items are needed. Donations may be placed in the marked box underneath the Information Station table in the Fellowship Hall.

Campbell Soup Labels

Please keep saving Campbell soup labels. Place soup labels in the marked basket on the Information Station table in the Fellowship Hall. This is sponsored by the Ruth Group.

Postcard Ministry

Don't forget about the Postcard Ministry! Stamped postcards are available in a basket on the small table underneath the Narthex Bulletin Board in the back of the church. Send a postcard to someone from our congregation who you may not have seen in church for a while. You may mail the postcard from your home or put the completed postcard back in the basket and we will mail it for you!

2013 DAILY BIBLE READING GUIDES are available on the message center located in the Fellowship Hall.



Utilities for November 2012

Columbia Gas	\$ 506.34
Ohio Edison	\$ 392.49
Frontier	\$ 194.66
Total	<u>\$1093.49</u>

READ in the NEW YEAR

with *Joy*

Start your New Year by opening a new book and get lost in its pages. You can escape into other places, other times, and the experiences of other persons just by opening one of these new books in our library:

THE LAST CHRISTIAN (David Gregory)...Missionary daughter Abigail Caldwell emerges from the jungle for the first time in her thirty-four years, the sole survivor of a mysterious disease that killed her village. Abby goes to America, only to discover a nation where Christianity has completely died out. A curious message from her grandfather assigns her a surprising mission: re-introduce the Christian faith in America, no matter how insurmountable the odds...In this fast-paced thriller, startling near-future science collides with thought-provoking religious themes to create a spell-binding "what if" novel. -from the back cover -

THE WONDER OF YOUR LOVE (Beth Wiseman)...Katie Ann is a widow raising her son in a small Amish Community in Canaan, Colorado. Eli, who has also lost his mate, comes to town for a wedding and the two meet. Is it God's plan for them to find new lives together?

JULIE ANDREWS TREASURY FOR ALL SEASONS: Poems and Songs to Celebrate the Year (Julie Andrews and Emma Walton Hamilton)...a treasury of poems and songs for every special moment of the year by well-known poets and song writers that will be enjoyed by all in the family. Paintings by Marjorie Priceman bring each page to life. (This book is in the Children's Library and well worth the walk upstairs to check it out and enjoy.)

THE GIFT OF GRIEF: Finding Peace, Transformation, and Renewed Life after Great Sorrow (Matthew D. Gewirtz)...the author explores the transformational role grief can play in our lives after suffering a life-changing event, such as the death of a family member, divorce, job loss, or illness.

THANKS YOU NOTES . . .

Many thanks to the congregation of Central Christian for their generous and joyful love gift. It was received with much delight, appreciation and love. Also, heartfelt thanks for the many greeting cards that were lovingly dropped off or mailed. May God Bless You All!

Thank You From Pastor!

Thank you so much for the “Staff Love Gift” and the many Christmas cards and gifts. Also, thank you to the Ruth Group for the delicious cookies. What kind and caring people you all are to me. May God Bless and Happy New Year!

In Christian Love, Marilyn Swartz

Thank you for the box of cookies - we deeply appreciated them. Also, thank you to Frank and Janice for all the beautiful cards this year - we loved each and every one. Thanks and Happy 2013.

Dora Hudson and Betty Leib

THANK YOU TO . . .

- **all those** who decorated the church.
- **all those** who participated in the Christmas Eve service.
- **all who** donated to the Mitten Tree.
- the Advent **candle lighters**.
- **Libby Davis, Patsy Krider** and **Diane Tidd** for working in the church office.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS . . .

Mickey Bloomfield, 791 Nelson Street, Marion, Ohio

Members

Dorothy Besch
Dorsel and Betty Denney
Paul & Olga Geissler
Roger & Esther Kingsley
Betty Leib
Gene Miller
Joel Reeve
Barb West
Millie Zug

Non-members

Paul Bender (Shirk)
Vickie Camm (Camm)
Brad Campbell (Miller)
Michelle Cole (Holliday)
Dave Doss (Tidd)
Ken Ellinwood (Tidd)
Rick Huddle (Schertzer)
Lori Hoover Hudson (Lusch)
Chuck Klingel (Tidd)
Merle Lashey (Schertzer)
Sheila Leibold (Snyder)
Linda Mahan (Middaugh)
Ruth Manier (Kingsley)
Debbie Melvin (Reish)
Jim and Christy Missler (Camm)
Paul Pezley (Schertzer)
Marcia Riggelman (Davis)
Elaine Scarlett (Reeve)
Helen Swinehart (Frye)
Donna Tomaziefski (Owen)
Jack Willis (Shirk)
Randi Woessner (Reish)

Military: Erin Kirk, Kevin Kirk, Jason Knotts, Isaac Ryan,
Sarah Sipe, Alex Sayre

**CCC CELEBRATES
JANUARY BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES**

Happy Birthday!

1	Alex Bushatz	17	Kathie Sizemore
2	Lisa Frye Burke	18	Libby Davis
3	Roger Kingsley	19	Don Ryan
7	Eileen Stephenson	20	Tyler Reeve
9	Brycelyn Deickert	21	Bill Schertzer
11	Mary Brady	22	Betty Jo Bernow
13	Matthew Sharrock		Verna Gilmore
14	Jean Frye		Nicholas Mayne
15	Michael Schertzer	23	Jordan Butler
	Tait Palm	26	Ben Acker
		28	Eugene Miller
		29	Lisa Camm

Happy Anniversary!

13	Paul & Olga Geissler
17	Tom & Cheryl Obenour
18	Tom & Raetta Maurer
20	Clyde & Beverly Cole

If you have a birthday and/or an anniversary in January and it does not appear in the list above, please call the church office immediately so it can be added in the future. Thanks for your help in keeping these lists as complete and accurate as possible!