Our Mission is to Make Disciples of Jesus Christ and to Serve God by Sharing Compassion Hope and Love

E-Mail: secretary@cumcalliance.org      Web Page: www.cumcalliance.org
Rediscover Church

Being around small children as they discover the world helps us to see the world the way that they see it, to set aside our skeptical, world weary cynicism and rediscover… wonder. After a few dozen laps around the sun, it’s easy to forget how amazing our world really is. But in the company of a child that is seeing the world for the first time, we rediscover how amazing butterflies are, or a weed fighting for survival in the crack of a sidewalk, a chick hatching from an egg, or a million other things. When they see it, point to it, and marvel at it, we suddenly remember how amazing those things really are as well.

And thanks to last month’s stewardship campaign, the people of Christ Church were able to do something that was very similar. As a part of learning about Extravagant Generosity, everyone was asked to return cards asking them to “name a person who made a spiritual difference in your life,” or “What do you love about your church,” or “What is God asking you to do?”, or “Name one hope for our church in the future.” And, while not everyone participated, the answers helped all of us to see our church through the eyes of others. After years, or dozens of years, of membership, it’s easy to fall into a routine and see the church as the “same old – same old.” But reading the answers, and seeing the things for which others were grateful, helped all of us to rediscover church that otherwise seemed so familiar. In a way, all of us were able to rediscover church.

We remembered how extraordinary our worship services are, how much we love our Sunday school classes, Sunday sermons, small groups, being surrounded by people of faith, the encouragement of others, the friendships that we’ve made, the spirit of service that infuses everything, the way that our friends have become family to us, and even the opportunities that we have to work together making peanut brittle, working on Habitat projects, and other things.

One week we were asked to think about what God was asking us to do. That was harder. We had a more difficult time thinking about, and answering that question, and fewer people did. But the answers that came showed that God was, and is, at work here and calls us to a renewed commitment to help others, serve others, give of our time, our talents, and our presence, and to be in tune with the needs of others.

And finally, we were asked to name one hope that we had for the future of our church. Not surprisingly, some of us hoped that we would see better attendance, more members, more youth, more children, but we also hoped for more opportunities to pray, to do good in our neighborhood, and to be of service to others.

First, I want to thank everyone for having the courage to think about, and write down, their answers to these questions each week. But also, I want to thank you for helping me, and for helping each other, to rediscover church. We hope that more people would find faith in Jesus, and we hope that more children, youth, and adults would come here. But why wouldn’t they? Why wouldn’t anyone want to come here? There are so many things that make our church special, vital, and important that many of the people that we know would love to be a part of it, and would undoubtedly be blessed, strengthened, and encouraged by it. Of course, Christ church would be a blessing to the lives of others. If only they knew what they were missing.

So, why don’t we invite them?

As we have rediscovered the gifts and blessings that our presence at Christ church is to us, it seems more obvious than ever that we would be selfish to keep it to ourselves. People need what we have. Many of the people we know are desperately searching for the sense of belonging, the purpose, the
family, and the other blessings that we found at Christ church. What we have is so good, and so important, that we have an obligation to share what we have with the people around us. You’ve show us how much you love our church, you’ve told us.

Now go and tell your neighbors, your friends, and the people around you.

We have here is far too good to keep to ourselves.

People need what we have.

We need to share it.

Blessings,
Pastor John

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**Needed: Fresh Volunteers**

**Act as Host for Tuesday Neighborhood Dinners**

Two of our ‘acting hosts’ have been hosting one Tuesday per month for over a year (as COVID related replacements).

Four local churches are preparing and serving a ‘Tuesday Dinner’ each month. The ‘Host volunteer’ we are seeking is a CUMC volunteer to provide ‘local knowledge’ and ‘expertise.’ (One time in training will make you an ‘Expert.’)

This Neighborhood Dinner started at the Neighborhood Center on Linden Avenue more that 15 years ago. It transferred location to CUMC about the same time that the Alliance of Churches, Habitat for Humanity and Men’s Challenge started using the basement of our Education Building for their offices and operations.

Currently, meals served each Tuesday are ‘pick-up only.’ On average, 120 to 130 meals are distributed ‘free of charge’ each week.

Please consider joining the CUMC team of ‘Host Volunteers’ one Tuesday per month (@ 4:00 to 6:30 pm). Contact the Church office (330-823-7136) or make your wishes known to any member of the Christian Outreach Committee.

Thank you

P. S. If you are not able to volunteer for ‘every month,’ find a partner to share the commitment with you (every other month?), or volunteer to fill in as a substitute!
Dearest UMW Ladies,

Here we are looking out over a brand new, fresh, clean, crisp year. Well, maybe there are a few things littering the 2022 landscape, but a positive outlook will surely help us avoid any pitfalls. UMW is known for the good things we make happen. My little Circle, our small Unit – we belong to a district, a conference, a jurisdictional and national and world organization. So the things we help make happen in our neighborhoods are repeated across Ohio, the United States and the World. How awesome is that – that we can make a difference to women and children all over the world?

To get started in this brand new 2022 – some UMW UPDATES:

– No January Unit Meeting is scheduled to allow for a low-key beginning to the new year.

-- January Circle Meetings may be held at the Circle’s preference – in-person or via Zoom. Watch for details. *Circles who would like to meet via Zoom may contact Nancy Prueter to set up their meeting, using the church’s account.

-- Winter Soup Sale will feature Chicken Noodle Soup in January. Pick-up date will be Sunday, January 30.

-- Remember your Prayer Buddy – we will reveal ourselves on February 14 when the project will end.

-- New UMW program books are in the works. Please report to Pat Helsel if your circle has changes of address, email, phone numbers or members to report.

-- "We’re back" and asking for prayers. In December we delivered craft kits and homemade cookies as part of our Prison Ministry. While we can’t go in-person at this time, a crafty trustee offered to help the ladies complete their projects. Won’t YOU help us fulfill our promise to pray for each incarcerated woman and staff person at the Stark Regional Community Correction Center throughout the new year?

-- Thanks to your generosity to the Catholic Worker House. Because of the items donated at the December Unit Meeting, and the local outreach funds that were approved at that meeting, Jill and I delivered a huge load of paper goods and cleaning supplies. These great volunteers are still not feeding folks “inside” their building, but are distributing carry-out meals to all who ask. This mission and the faithful workers there are a blessing to our community.

______________________________

UMW SOUP ORDER FORM

Please fill out this form to order your soup.

NAME ___________________________ Chicken Noodle Soup $6 per quart ___

CHICKEN NOODLE SOUP: Place your order by January 23rd. Pickup will be on January 30th.

Soup will be frozen. You may pay for your soup when you pick it up. Thank you for your support!
The following is an update on the financial status of our church for 2021 and the results of our Stewardship Campaign for 2022.

You may remember that, this past summer, you received a letter reporting that we were projecting a budget shortfall of approximately $50,000 and that we anticipated that we might need to rely on a contribution from the Trustees’ funds to cover this deficit. At that time, we also asked all committees to be frugal with their expenditures, while still carrying out the missions of our church.

Thanks to some belt tightening and the generosity of so many of you, we were able to pay all of our operating expenses and 100% of our apportionments, without asking the Trustees for any assistance. Thank you for your extra efforts in supporting CUMC in 2021.

I also have good news from our recent Stewardship Campaign. To date, we have 51 pledges for 2022 totaling $169,385. Of these pledges, 23 were increased from the previous year and 8 were new pledges. A special thanks is owed to Pat Helsel and Jill Greiner for a job well done in spear-heading this year’s campaign.

I’m sure 2022 will be as challenging as the last couple of years, but I want to thank everyone for your continued financial support of our church.

As you know, CUMC not only serves the Alliance area, but also reaches out to support missions outside of our local area. There are GREAT things happening at CUMC and I am sure, through your Extravagant Generosity, 2022 will be a great year for our church.

Bill Prueter
Chairman
Finance/Stewardship Committee
2021 Peanut Brittle

This was the 55th year (since 1967) of making peanut brittle (71,939 cans-to-date). The Friendship II Sunday School class, the UMYF and the Explorers Class continued the peanut brittle making tradition this year.

Thanks to the thirty-four different cooks and the many, many sellers and buyers, both members of the SS classes and friends of the project.

Production Report

<table>
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<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Friendship II</th>
<th>Youth</th>
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<td>2011-2020</td>
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<td>2021</td>
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<td>81</td>
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<td>Total</td>
<td>34,465</td>
<td>5,532</td>
<td>664</td>
<td>21,812</td>
<td>9,466</td>
<td>71,939</td>
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Please start saving metal one pound coffee cans now, and bring them to the church for next year.

Dick Diser
12/06/2021
Looking Back at Thanksgiving – Delivering Meals and Neighborly Kindness

My aptitude is logistics: I have spreadsheets for computing the portion size and cost of each ingredient for each meal, for tallying volunteers and donors, and for assigning every delivery to a grid on the map and to a driver to create balanced and efficient routes. I can plan the program, but it is our volunteers and staff who make this happen.

Besides our invaluable office secretary Dolores Lawrence who takes hundreds of orders, corresponds with other organizations, and generally is my eyes and ears leading up to Thanksgiving Day, and Moddie who helps to prepare Fellowship Hall, we have a dedicated group of volunteers who do everything from putting dinner rolls in individual ziplock bags to preparing industrial size pans of mashed potatoes and stuffing. No matter how we plan, Thanksgiving morning is unpredictable. This year, the efficiency and sensibilities of our volunteers meant that no driver had to wait for meals to come out of the kitchen. Thank you all!

Every year I fear that somehow we missed a household that was expecting a delivery from us. Imagine the feeling; it’s as if Santa Claus skipped your home. This year, the church got a phone call as we were cleaning up. “Your delivery hasn’t come yet? Hmm, you’re not on our list. How many do you need? Yes, we can bring you six meals.” I would make this delivery myself.

It was drizzling. My GPS directed me to the house, a house like many others in Alliance. As I pulled in the driveway, the homeowner opened the front door to greet me. There was no tension from him due to the late delivery. As I brought the box of meals to him, I didn’t see anyone else in the home, but I could see the dining room. A Norman Rockwell scene: a traditional dining room table and six chairs, set with placemats and silverware… but no plates and no food.
I don’t know why they asked for our humble meals instead of cooking their own. People can have difficulties that we don’t see, or they could be saving their money for something more important. I just know that our gift was appreciated and needed that day.

Together with First Christian Church, we provided 850 meals this Thanksgiving. We spent about $2.50 in food and packaging per meal. But to each recipient, the worth of their one meal was far greater.

Victor Lee

CHRISTMAS AT CHRIST CHURCH
# WORSHIP PARTICIPANTS FOR JANUARY

## USHERS - Team #1
- Dick Diser – Captain
- Denise Aeling
- Dan Feess
- Todd Skivolocki
- Boyd Webster

## LITURGISTS
- 2  Victor Lee
- 9  Shannon Sampson
- 16 Jim Greiner
- 23 Rhys Sampson
- 30 Susan Haddox

## WELCOME CENTER GREETERS
- 2 Carolyn Miller
- 9 Nancy Castellucci
- 16 Pat Stone
- 23 Andy Magda
- 30 Connie Pyers

## SANCTUARY GREETERS
- 2 Dolores Lawrence
- 9 Ellen Sol
- 16 Bill Sol
- 23 Ellen Sol
- 30 Bill Sol

## JANUARY TELLERS
- 2 Schedule for the year will be given to all tellers.
- 9
- 16
- 23
- 30

## VISITATION MEMBERS
- 2 Norma Wasson, Minerva
- 9 Mary Aufrance, Conneaut
- 16 Lois Bush, Alliance
- 23 Ginny Robart, Alliance
- 30 Billie Pat Reynolds

## BIRTHDAYS
- 1 Leann Austin
- 4 Jason Handy
- 6 Greg Ruff
- 6 Chris Helsel
- 8 Andrew Shuster
- 10 Jenni-Jo Kinser
- 14 Ben Shuster
- 16 Brandon Handy
- 18 David Feess
- 19 Cheri Rodefer

## ANNIVERSARIES
- 22 Jerry and Nancy Sandifer
# 2022 Local Church Officers

**Christ United Methodist - Alliance, Ohio**

## The Board of Trustees

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Class of 2022</th>
<th>Class of 2023</th>
<th>Class of 2024</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Jan Essick (Treasurer)</td>
<td>Muddie Carte (Custodian)</td>
<td>Bruce Helsel (Chair)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Larry Pyers</td>
<td>Donna Essick</td>
<td>Nancy Prueter, Secretary</td>
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<tr>
<td>Andy Magda</td>
<td>Mike Greiner</td>
<td>Rhys Sampson</td>
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<td>Bill Sol</td>
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## The Finance Committee and Stewardship Committee

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<th>Class of 2022</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Chuck Cline</td>
<td>Nancy Castellucci</td>
<td>Shannon Sampson</td>
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<tr>
<td>Marilyn Ruff</td>
<td>Bill Prueter (Chair)</td>
<td>Christian Shields</td>
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**Additional Committee Members - ex officio (by virtue of office)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Title</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ruth Williams (Treasurer)</td>
<td>Financial Secretary</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dick Diser (Ad. Council)</td>
<td>Sara Sherer (SPR)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Christian Shields (Stewardship)</td>
<td>Jan Essick (Trustees)</td>
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## Administrative Council

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Title</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Dick Diser (Chair)</td>
<td>John Partridge (Pastor)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pat Helsel (Secretary)</td>
<td>Susan Haddox (Lay Leader, Lay Delegate to Annual Conference)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ruth Williams (Church Treasurer)</td>
<td>Julie Greiner (Financial Secretary)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bruce Helsel (Trustees)</td>
<td>Bill Prueter (Finance)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sara Sherer (Staff Parish Relations)</td>
<td>Victor Lee (Christian Outreach)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ruth Williams (Christian Education)</td>
<td>Bill Sol (Congregational Care)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Susan Haddox (Worship Committee)</td>
<td>Dick Diser (Church History and Records)</td>
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<td>Dolores Lawrence (Membership Secretary)</td>
<td>Pat Helsel (United Methodist Women)</td>
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<th>Class of 2022</th>
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<tr>
<td>Susan Butler</td>
<td>Bill Prueter</td>
<td>Pat Helsel</td>
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<td>Dan Feese</td>
<td>Kathy Stroia</td>
<td>Betty Thorpe</td>
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<tr>
<td>Shannon Sampson</td>
<td>Jim Greiner</td>
<td>Ellen Sol</td>
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## Staff-Parish Relations Committee

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<tr>
<td>Patti Travis</td>
<td>John Christian</td>
<td>Mark Locke</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cindy Magda</td>
<td>Kathy Stroia</td>
<td>Sara Sherer (chair)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Susan Haddox</td>
<td>Treva Cline</td>
<td>Sue Burden</td>
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(Lay Leader, Lay Delegate to Annual Conference)

## Christian Outreach Committee

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<thead>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Victor Lee (Chair)</td>
<td>Jane Helwig</td>
<td>Dick Diser</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jamie Greiner</td>
<td>Ian Sherer</td>
<td>Jean Webster</td>
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<td>Carolyn Miller</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
## CHRISTIAN EDUCATION COMMITTEE
- Ruth Williams (Chair)
- Peggy Rodefer
- Jo Ann Springer
- Treva Cline
- Cindy Magda
- Mike and Jamie Greiner (Youth Leaders)
- Amy Starkey

## CONGREGATIONAL CARE COMMITTEE
- Bill Sol (Chairman)
- Connie Pyers (Birthday Cards)
- John Partridge (Pastor)
- Betty-Jo Sutherin
- Sue Burden (Prayer Chain)
- Kathy Stroia (Flowers)
- L. Chris Martin (Minister of Visitation)
- Carolyn Miller
- Denise Aeling

## WORSHIP COMMITTEE
<table>
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<th>Class of 2022</th>
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<tr>
<td>Susan Haddox (Chair)</td>
<td>Don Kingan</td>
<td>Ellen Sol</td>
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<tr>
<td>Betty Sheetz</td>
<td>Patti Travis</td>
<td>Julie Greiner</td>
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<tr>
<td>Chris Martin</td>
<td>Aerien Starkey</td>
<td>Judy Kingan, Banners</td>
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### Additional Committee Members - Ex-Officio (by virtue of office)
- Reverend John Partridge (Pastor)
- Bill Prueter (Head Usher)

### Music Staff - Ex-officio
- Lewis Shields (Director of Music/Chancel Choir/Bell Choirs)
- Christian Shields (Director of Wesley Choir; Director of Youth Vocal Choir)
- Kimberly Handy (Director of Cherub Choir)
- Carolyn Wallace (Organist)

## LAY LEADERSHIP (NOMINATING) COMMITTEE
- Reverend John Partridge (Chair)
- Susan Haddox (Lay Leader)
<table>
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<th>Class of 2022</th>
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<tr>
<td>Mark Locke</td>
<td>Kim Handy</td>
<td>Ellen Sol</td>
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<td>Nancy Prueter</td>
<td>JoAnne Springer</td>
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<tr>
<td>Connie Pyers</td>
<td>Sharon Riddle</td>
<td>Jamie Greiner</td>
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## CHURCH HISTORY AND RECORDS COMMITTEE
- Dick Diser, Chair
- Susan Diser
- Jim Greiner
- Jill Greiner

## LIBRARY COMMITTEE
- Pat Stone
- Ellen Sol
- Sue Burden
- Betty Jo Sutherin
- Jessica Gard Conley

## MAHAN COMMITTEE
- Jim Greiner (Convenor)
- Chuck Cline
- Betty Sheetz
- Betty Thorpe
- Dave Williams
<table>
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<tr>
<th>Sunday</th>
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<tr>
<td>2 Epiphany Sunday</td>
<td>3 6:30p Scouts</td>
<td>4 5:00 Community Dinner</td>
<td>5 5:30 Halleluia Bells 6:30 Chancel Bells 7:30 Chancel Vocal</td>
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<td>1 New Year’s Eve</td>
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<tr>
<td>9 Baptism of the Lord</td>
<td>10 6:30p Scouts 7:00p Christian Outreach</td>
<td>11 5:00 Community Dinner 6:30p Finance 7:00p Adm. Council</td>
<td>12 5:30 Halleluia Bells 6:30 Chancel Bells 7:30 Chancel Vocal</td>
<td>13 11:00a Prayer Shawl</td>
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<td>17 6:30p Scouts Martin Luther King Day</td>
<td>18 5:00 Community Dinner 7:00 Susie Buckel Circle</td>
<td>19 5:30 Halleluia Bells 6:30 Chancel Bells 7:30 Chancel Vocal</td>
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<td>24 6:30p Scouts 7p UMW Exec Board</td>
<td>25 5:00 Community Dinner 6:30p Trustees</td>
<td>26 5:30 Halleluia Bells 6:30 Chancel Bells 7:30 Chancel Vocal</td>
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<td>30 4th Sunday after the Epiphany</td>
<td>31 6:30p Scouts</td>
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*Sunday Worship & Program
9-9:30 am Sunday School
10:15 am Worship service
7:00 P.M. United Methodist Youth Fellowship 1st & 3rd Sunday

*See Sunday Schedule