

THE CHIMES

JANUARY 2018



CHURCH of
the SAVIOUR
United Methodist



From the Lead Pastor

The New Year is soon to be upon us. Depending on the timing of your reading this, it may already have arrived. A new year marks the beginning of a new calendar and the need to remember to write "2018" on dates and forms and checks.

A new year also can be an opportunity for a fresh start. Many of us make new year's resolutions, determining to be healthier or more balanced or more committed to things that matter most.

A new beginning is the drumbeat of the life of the church this month. The Watch Night Service on New Year's Eve invites us to renew our commitment to Christ in Wesleyan Covenant Renewal. New leaders will gather with teams and committees to advance Christ's work in the church. Our Myers Lecture series will restart with Rev. Junius Dotson from United Methodist Discipleship encouraging us to be disciples who "see all the people."

Our sermon series for the rest of the month is also an opportunity to get a fresh start, though perhaps in an unexpected way. We will explore how our lives are far from perfect and what it means to be faithful in the midst of our messy lives. The Good News is that we have a Savior who came into a messy world to redeem messy people.

What if one of our resolutions this new year were to be less perfect and more transparent about our messiness? What if we commit ourselves to walking with each other through the mess and helping one another to find signs of hope along the way?

- Rev. Andy Call

MYERS LECTURE RETURNS

The Myers Series is a (mostly) annual Church of the Saviour tradition which began in 1955 thanks to sponsorship from the Blanche A. Myers fund held at the Church of the Saviour Foundation. After a several year long hiatus, the Myers Lecture will return on January 6 with a discipleship theme which reflects our church-wide focus this year. The featured speaker will be Rev. Junius Dotson, General Secretary of Discipleship Ministries of the United Methodist Church.



#SEEALLTHEPEOPLE
People Focused Discipleship

Saturday, January 6
9am - 1pm
Myers Lecture
breakouts, refreshments

Sunday, January 7
8:30, 9:30 & 11am
sermon

featured speaker
Rev. Junius B. Dotson

The lecture will be a time to reflect on the question, "Are you called to be in relationship in community?" All are invited to join us as we delve deep into discipleship with Rev. Dotson and explore what it means to #seeallthepeople! Discipleship begins with relationship so we will explore how churches and individuals can develop people-focused discipleship. Discipleship is not something we do, it is who we are. What does it mean to you to #see all the people? Come, share and explore together. Registration information is available in the weekly eChimes, the COTS webpage or by contacting the church office.

It is hoped that the lecture will reach many COTS community members but the focus of the Myers Lecture is not just inward. Invitations to this year's lecture have gone out to faith leaders throughout the Heights as well as to our fellow churches within the East Ohio Conference.

STEWARDSHIP IN 2018: A CAMPAIGN OF FAITH

Our fall stewardship campaign has historically had a strong budget orientation, in which we forecasted costs in order to determine what pledge income was needed. We then sought to reach a revenue target through securing documented pledges. Pledges were recorded by the church office and payments against pledges were tracked.

Unintentionally, we may have been clouding the true focus of stewardship, namely what are we doing with the gifts that God has given us. As C.S. Lewis put it: "every faculty you have... is given to you by God. If you devoted every moment of your whole life exclusively to His service, you could not give Him anything that was not in a sense His own already."

Your finance committee, after much discussion, decided to take a different approach to stewardship this year – a Campaign of Faith. Rather than start from a budget perspective, we want to start with each person's stewardship calling. We ask all parishioners to prayerfully consider the call to stewardship and make our private commitment to God. There are still pledge cards to help each of us seriously and prayerfully consider our stewardship call and document our intention. However, unlike prior years, these pledge cards will be kept sealed in envelopes and returned to us, unopened, in 2018. The amounts of pledges will not be recorded by the church. This is an offering decision between each of us and God.

This approach changes how the finance committee does its work. No longer can we forecast expected revenue based on recorded pledges. Instead, we will rely on history and the actual offerings each month. We will manage the church's expenses based on balancing our missional calling and being good stewards of the resources provided by the congregation. This faith-based financial management will require frequent communication with the congregation.

While we are still finalizing the 2018 budget (details later in January), we are working hard to set a balanced budget which: a) meets our obligations to the broader United Methodist church, b) cares for the long-term health of our church, c) seeks greater efficiency in operations and d) funds our outreach and mission imperatives (our church's total giving towards missions represents roughly 15% of our operating budget).

Please feel welcome to talk with me or any member of the finance committee with any questions. And thank you for your prayers and support as we proceed with our 2018 Campaign of Faith.

Eric Pelander, Finance Committee Chair

TOWER LIGHTS

Were your eyes drawn to the Church of the Saviour bell tower washed in blue light in the night sky last month? Did you wonder how the Christmas lighting display came to be? The story of the 2017 Christmas lighting display at Church of the Saviour began more than a year ago. An outdoor Christmas lighting display has not been a part of the Church of the Saviour holiday planning for many, many years. In 2016, the Board of Trustees, under the leadership of chair, Chris Bartel, thought it was time to change that. Board member, Lauren Lanphear was asked to head up a small task force. Funding for the project was generously provided by The Church of the Saviour Foundation.

Although there was not time to design, construct and install an elaborate display in time for Christmas 2016, planning began for Christmas 2017. Lauren envisioned something simple in design but dramatic and inspirational in its effect, drawing one's eyes heavenward. The original concept involved a Star of Bethlehem atop the bell tower and the task force began to collaborate with Debbie George, a local holiday design expert who has been the designer of the National Christmas Tree, the holiday lighting on Cleveland's Public Square and the Nela Park holiday display. As collaboration began in earnest in October 2017, complications arose. It became apparent that the original plan would not be possible due to logistical hurdles. In addition, Ms. George was no longer able to work on our project following the announcement that the GE folks at Nela Park had decided to expand the display at Nela Park this year.

Undaunted, the task force moved forward. Terry McGowan contacted a friend at Vincent Lighting in Solon. Fortunately, they were excited about helping us light such a landmark building and bell tower. Vincent Lighting does most of the events and "spectaculars" in the Cleveland area including the Terminal Tower and Christmas concerts at Severance Hall. In early November an evening lighting test was conducted by Vincent Lighting and the final display design was decided, a deep blue light which invokes the drama and mystery of Christmas with the dramatic accent of a shaft of white light soaring toward the heavens. The installation was completed on December 4th and lit the night sky through the Christmas Season. It is unique Christmas lighting – there is nothing similar in the area – which accents a building with a Christmas message, the bells which chime that Christmas message to the community and perhaps a different way to see that message interpreted with light.



A more detailed account of the lighting of the tower can be found on the COTS website at:

<http://www.chsaviour.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/12/Church-of-the-Saviour-Christmas-Lighting-2017.pdf>

COTS CELEBRATES CHRISTMAS BY GIVING

Church of the Saviour embraced the spirit of Generosity in December. While "Waiting With Purpose" we spread the spirit of giving in our community in a variety of ways.

Through the Advent Festival we shared time with the community, bid on auction items, purchased fair trade goods, and supported some wonderful causes. Because of everyone who shopped, donated and organized, we were able to raise more than \$5700 for Flat Rock Homes, the Fairfield Children's Hospital in Zimbabwe, the Haiti Vision and Knitting Works Foundations, Hands4Others, and COTS Youth Missions.

We brightened the Christmas of 162 families by giving gifts to their children through the Angel Tree program. The gifts we collected were distributed by Cory Hunger Center, Heights Hunger Center, West Side Community House, A.J. Rickoff Elementary School and Family Promise.

We also collected and donated a variety of warm hats, mittens, scarves and socks to keep children in our community warm this winter. These items were distributed through the Salvation Army in East Cleveland and Fairfax Elementary School.

In a sometimes chaotic season, it was inspiring to see our church community focused on spreading the love of Christ locally and globally through the spirit of giving.

SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP SCHEDULE



January 7, Myers Lecture Sunday

Worship at 8:30 a.m. in Myers Chapel, 9:30 a.m. in the Great Hall and 11:00 a.m. in the Sanctuary, Rev. Junius B. Dotson preaching. Holy Communion at all three services.

January 14, Sermon Series: Messy

Worship at 8:30 a.m. in Myers Chapel, 9:30 a.m. in the Great Hall and 11:00 a.m. in the Sanctuary, Rev. Andy Call preaching "From the Dust". (Genesis 2:4b-9)

January 21, Sermon Series: Messy

Worship at 8:30 a.m. in Myers Chapel, 9:30 a.m. in the Great Hall and 11:00 a.m. in the Sanctuary, Rev. Gregory Kendrick Jr. preaching "Messy Community". (Mark 5:1-20)

January 28, Sermon Series: Messy

Worship at 8:30 a.m. in Myers Chapel, 9:30 a.m. in the Great Hall and 11:00 a.m. in the Sanctuary, Rev. Andy Call preaching "Into the Light". (1 John 1:5-9)



MINISTRY HIGHLIGHT—UPWARD BASKETBALL

The Great Hall will once again be ringing with the sounds of basketballs, coaches and players as our 9th season of Upward Basketball begins January 8. One might wonder what a children's basketball league has to do with our mission to make and mature disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. In fact, that mission is the heart of Upward. Our Upward program is in high demand in the Heights community because we build our players mentally, athletically, socially and spiritually.

Through sport, we teach players life lessons that promote making wise decisions on and off the court, we also help each player improve their physical ability and, because part of growing as an athlete is connecting with teammates and building healthy relationships, we help develop those relationship skills as well.

Although these are worthwhile goals, it is the final goal of spiritual growth that makes our league missional. The mission of Upward basketball is to promote the discovery of Jesus through sports. Throughout the season our coaches lead weekly mid-practice devotional times and introduce life's true purpose through intentional character lessons which provide an introduction to the gospel in a relaxed setting. These character lessons are reinforced by all of our volunteers whether serving as referees, game day announcers, concession stand helpers or library ambassadors.

Nearly half of the 298 players registered this season do not have a church home. For those players and their families, it is our privilege to be the welcoming hands and faces of Christ. When we show love and respect to those who may not yet know God's love, we are truly living out our call. If you would like to know more about Upward or have an interest in joining this ministry, please join the game.

To find out more or to sign up to support the league, contact Jill Barr at upward-admin@yahoo.com.



WEBSITE AND PODCASTING chsaviour.org

MINISTRY TEAM

Andy Call, Lead Pastor

Gregory Kendrick, Jr., Pastor of Connections

Lois Annich, Pastoral Counselor

David Gilson, Director of Music

Brian Smart, 9:30 Worship Leader

Robert Day, Organist

Curt Campbell, Director of Youth Ministries

Lydia Stephens, Director of Children's Ministries

Penny Neisen, Properties Manager

Loretta Dahlstrom, Business Administrator

Cris Hicks, Administrative Assistant

Debbie Johnson, Administrative Assistant

Jill Barr, Newsletter Editor

Leslie Myers, Wedding Coordinator

Dr. Charles D. Yoost, Pastor Emeritus



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CHURCH of
the SAVIOUR

United Methodist

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OUR CHURCH FAMILY'S BULLETIN BOARD

Heartfelt condolences to the family and friends of longtime member **Marc Ziegler** who passed away on November 30, 2017 and to the family and friends of **Richard Seese** who passed away on December 4.

SAVE THE DATES

UMW Spiritual Growth: Thursday Jan 4 through 25 at 10 a.m. in Parlor.

Men's Breakfast: January 6 at 7:30 in Calvary Hall.

Myers Lecture: January 6 from 9 a.m. until 1 p.m.

COTS Leadership Training Workshop: January 13, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Theology in Film: January 21 at 2 p.m. in Room 122.

Administrative Board meeting: January 23 at 7 p.m. in Calvary Hall.

Breathe Respite: January 26 at 6 p.m. in the Great Hall.

UMW SPIRITUAL GROWTH STUDY

All women are invited to join in UMW's spiritual growth study based on the book, "Living As A Covenant Community". The study, facilitated by Thelma Tucker, examines major covenants throughout the Bible and what they reveal about God's character and eternal love for us. The four week study will take place Thursday mornings January 4 through 25. Gather for coffee and fellowship at 9:30 a.m. in the church parlor, the study will begin at 10 a.m. No reservations are necessary. Child care may be arranged by calling Debbie Jones at 216-382-5929.

NOTES

Did you know... Church of the Saviour mails over 600 hard copies of *The Chimes* every month. We would love to exercise good environmental and financial stewardship by reducing hard copy mailings. If you currently receive this in print and would be happy to receive it electronically instead, please send us an email at: chimes@chsaviour.org to let us know. Thank you!

WELCOMING NEW MEMBERS

The following individuals became members of Church of the Saviour on Sunday, December 10.

Raleigh & Robin Guice Their children are Zachary, Raleigh and Samantha

Christopher Hebert & Anita Misra-Hebert Their children are Ryan, Benjamin and Kiran

Donard & Michelle Idada

Nancy Isaacson

Joyce Miles

Emily Stott

Michiel Wackers & Jennifer March-Wackers Their children are Jacob and Evan