

DAYTON UNITED METHODIST

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JANUARY 2016



Wednesday Night Live Meals resume January 20th

Eat at 6:00 p.m. Invite someone!

“Prayer is not a spare tire that you pull out when in trouble;
it is a steering wheel that directs us in the right path throughout life.”

Anonymous

This edition of the newsletter is different in that it has a theme - PRAYER. Inside you'll find an article from Pastor Steve about his trip to Korea, information about prayer groups at DUMC and we lift up some folks that we all need to keep in prayer. It will also introduce a new monthly “prayer focus” feature for 2016. Thanks for reading.

The Prayer Shawl

A few years ago, a group of handcrafting folks at DUMC began the “Prayer Shawl Ministry.” Together they shared a passion to bring comfort to folks who were hurting, lonely, ill, or troubled. They created knitted shawls, praying for the persons receiving them. (*Editor's note:* we received one when my mother-in-law collapsed five years ago and it was a physical reminder that she was blanketed with prayer. It provided both peace and power.)

The Prayer Shawl Ministry is still active though they don't meet regularly as a group. Persons in need of prayer are lifted up during the Wednesday morning prayer meeting and someone delivers the shawl later. Their handiwork has grown to include prayer squares (when a shawl is too large) and baby blankets (better for little ones).



Do you like to knit, crochet, or sew? Then become part of this special ministry that has distributed over 250 shawls, baby blankets and numerous squares. There is always a need. Contact Nancy Bird (879-2301) or Ann Will (879-9568) for patterns and more information.



Look for a basket of squares in the back of the sanctuary. Take and share.

As followers of Christ, we are called to lift one another up in prayer.

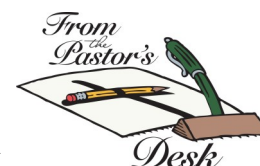
Requests for prayer can be made several ways:

- ~ Write it on the slips of paper provided in the pew and place it in the offering plate or on the secretary's desk;
- ~ Contact the church office by email — daytonumc@comcast.net — or call the church office at 540-879-2102;
- ~ Contact Pastor Steve by telephone at 540-383-7435.

Please indicate if you want the request shared with other church folks who volunteer to be intercessors, if you want the request printed in the church bulletin, or if you want only the pastor to know of your need.



Week of Prayer for Christian Unity
January 18 to 24



Sally asked me to write about my Korean trip for this month's newsletter. Later on this month I will be sharing some pictures of my trip with those who would like to see and hear about it in more detail.

Have you ever spent a half hour in prayer? The Koreans do it every morning at 5 a.m. 365 days a year! What leads them to start their day with corporate prayer?

I travelled to Korea with 33 others from our Conference in October. I had never thought about going to Korea - it was not on my bucket list. But our Bishop's commitment to prayer led me to wonder what the Koreans know about the power of prayer. I had heard about their early morning prayer sessions and I wanted to experience that for myself.

As you know, Bishop Cho has challenged all of us to spend at least one half hour a day with our Lord in prayer. The Korean churches (Methodist and others) practice this spiritual discipline. He believes spending time with the Lord will revitalize our faith and our faith communities.

Our host church was Bupyeong Methodist Church, a 7,000 member church about 45 minutes outside of Seoul, Korea. We stayed on the 4th floor of their building in rooms that resemble a motel room. The church provided all of our meals and our transportation. Their hospitality was deep and gracious, and we often felt very humbled.

On our arrival they greeted us with a line of cheering congregation members who presented us with flowers and offered us tea as we were welcomed by their senior pastor.

Every morning we had a wonderful breakfast buffet and then left on their bus to travel around the county to see other Methodist Churches, the DMZ and the palace in Seoul.

During the day our rooms were cleaned, our sheets washed and ironed! At night we had Korean snacks in our room. Seventy people worked behind the scenes to attend to our every need. All of these people were volunteers. These people did everything with a sense of joy.

The Bupyeong Church believes God has called them to host international visitors. They discerned that call from their time in prayer. They host between 25 to 30 groups a year from all over the world. The week after we left they were going to host Japanese Christians. If you know anything about the difficult relations between Korea and Japan you know that is a witness in itself. Hospitality was their gift.

Every church we visited shared with us about their mission and what they thought God's vision was for them. They discerned God's call through prayer. Each church had one particular emphasis that seemed to be growing and giving them a sense of identity.

We had the opportunity to experience their early morning prayer service at 5:00 a.m. with singing and preaching. At 5:30 the service comes to a close, and the entire congregation shouts out loud three times: "Lord, Lord, Lord" and the praying begins. Everyone prays at once out-loud - music is played in the background so your prayers cannot be heard by others. They call this type of prayer "loud prayer."

As you can imagine this is a far cry from our individual style of quiet prayer! It took a while for me to get used to this, and I am not sure I ever did.

It indeed was encouraging to see so many people come together for prayer early in the morning before work (I would guess between 600 to 800 people attended the early morning prayer service at Bupyeong). The Koreans pour their hearts out before the Lord. The majority of people we saw were adults, at least on the weekdays. Weekends, the sanctuary was full with more young people and teenagers.

What do the Koreans know about the power of prayer that you and I still have to learn? Many things I believe. We have different perspectives.

One of the difference has to do with our history. Korea has had a difficult history with much suffering. There have been wars with Japan, and they still experience threats from North Korea. The Korean are very appreciative of the support from the United States.

We in the United States have been blessed with less suffering and good neighbors to the south and north. We have not had the deep suffering of living in a divided nation.

Also, the western or American spiritual experience is an individual one. Fellowship is almost an option for us and not seen as important. The Koreans gain strength from being with one another. In the fellowship of other believers they experience the grace and presence of the Lord and gain a vision for ministry. They have seen miracles and revivals come from their devotion to the Lord. That is indeed a good way to begin the day.

-Pastor Steve Bird

The Koreans spend a half hour in prayer every morning at 5:00 a.m. 365 days a year

Between 600 to 800 people attend the early morning prayer service.

Everyone prays at once... OUT LOUD.

prayer warrior *n.*

A Christian who prays a lot or who has a spiritual gift of prayer. A prayer warrior may also be called an intercessor. Intercessors stand in the gap for others and pray for them to God.

The term *prayer warrior* doesn't appear in the Bible, but the origin of the image is most likely Ephesians 6:10-18, in which Christian believers are exhorted to metaphorically don the trappings of a warrior—armor, belt, breastplate, shoes, shield, helmet, and sword—and then to be "praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit" (v. 18 KJV). Hence the image of a warrior who employs prayer.

Source: www.dictionarofchristianese.com

The Wednesday Morning Prayer Team

Have you heard the term "prayer warrior?" It is a descriptive term for a person that is faithful at intercessory prayer. We have such a group at DUMC.

Known as "The Prayer Team" they meet at 11:00 on Wednesday mornings for about one hour. Typically, about a half dozen people attend. Pastor Steve usually offers teachings on some theme related to faith and spiritual growth and strengthening. Then prayer concerns are shared.

A regular attendee reports, "Prayers are lifted up for the church/congregation, missions of DUMC, youth and children's programs, concerns and joys, the situations in the world, the military and government leaders, peace, etc. Not all topics are covered each week, for persons pray as they are led. For me, being a part of the prayer group has strengthened my prayer life and it is an opportunity to share faith and to grow from others' contributions to the conversation."

You are invited to join the team as often as you can. They gather weekly in the Choir Room across from the offices Wednesdays at 11:00 a.m.

Folks in Need of Care and Prayer

At Bridgewater Home

Reta Harold
Carla Phibbs
Olin Ritchie
Odessa Showalter
Margaret Showalter
Helen Hottel

At Brookdale:

Ima Warner

At Timberview Crossing:

Phoebe Long

At Journey's Crossing:

Helen Hoke

In a Private Retirement Home:

Naomi Showalter

At VMRC:

Janet Meyerhoeffer
Ester Sprinkle
Emory Thomas

Are Homebound:

Judy Estes
Donnie Callison
June Heatwole
Elsie Hyde
Juanita Wagner
Mary Frances Koontz

After the Holidays.....

Yesterday passed quickly,
Now, company is gone.
There's too much time to plan for -
Especially if alone.

But, friends, we're never lonely
When our thoughts are filled with love,
So, blessings on each one of you,
A gift from Heaven above.

-Anne Hill



Introducing: A Monthly Prayer Focus

For many, January is a dark time. The post-holiday period brings its own level of stress and/or loneliness. The cold temperatures, short daylight hours and threat of snow can cause anxiety or depression.

This month, keep in prayer folks who may suffer from "seasonal affective disorder" (SAD) and others who struggle emotionally during winter.



THANK YOU

FOR YOUR CHRISTMAS GENEROSITY

- ♦ Donations to the Love Light Tree totaled \$1,193 to be given to the Wounded Warriors Program;
- ♦ Donations of 84 pairs of mittens and 23 hats to be distributed by the West Rockingham Area Food Pantry;
- ♦ Donations of gifts to the children served by the Kingsway Apple Tree Project;
- ♦ Donations of time to ring the bell for the Salvation Army.
- ♦ And a special Thank You to everyone who helped in anyway with Open Doors.

Please continue to pray for these programs and the individuals and families affected by war, crisis, and hard times.

A Special Note of Appreciation

"Thank You" to Katrina Eberly for organizing/ directing the Family Night Christmas program and to all the children & youth who shared their musical talents and participated in the nativity. Thanks, also, to all the adult helpers and parents. It was a fabulous celebration of the Baby Jesus!

U.M.
WOMEN
&
MEN
&
YOUTH

The United Methodist Women meet the first Saturday of each month at 9:00 a.m. in the Coffee Social Area (next meeting, Feb. 6). Recent activities include: Annual Christmas Party at Western State, led by Mary Jane McCoy. Members donated cookies and money to buy items for the party. They also served the Ruritans in December.

The United Methodist Men meet for breakfast on the first Sunday of each month at 7:30 in the Fellowship Hall. They also provide the coffee social on that Sunday. All men are invited to attend.

The Youth: Watch for information on upcoming events (some seriously exciting stuff is being planned!) And as an FYI, our Youth sponsored several families from the giving tree program at Brathwaite and purchased about \$1,500 worth of gifts for Christmas. Good work, kids!

Small Groups & Sunday School: Another Prayer Opportunity

Women's Bible Study will meet January 12th in the home of Anne Hill (145 West View Street) with Nancy Byrd serving as co-hostess. We will continue with the study "The Gospel According to Dr. Seuss" by looking at the stories *The Zax* and *How the Grinch Stole Christmas* and the faith lessons they teach. Any question, please call Connie Gilmer at 433-8071.

Sunday School – 10:05 to 10:50 every Sunday

- ~ Suter's Bible Class continues "The Grave Robber" by Mark Batterson;
- ~ On the Move meets in the conference room of the Fellowship Hall;
- ~ Cross Talk is discussion-based using "FaithLink";
- ~ The Fused Class uses "The Wired Word";
- ~ There are classes for children and youth plus music for them in the choir room from 10:00 to 10:15.

I wonder if fear is not our main obstacle to prayer. When we enter into the presence of God and start to sense the huge reservoir of fear inside us, we want to run away into the many distractions that our busy world offers so abundantly. But we shouldn't be afraid of our fears. We can confront them, give words to them, cry out to God and lead our fears into the presence of the One who says, "Don't be afraid. It is I."

—Henri J.M. Nouwen

Sent via email 1/6, so if you want 'in' call Jack or Mel right away!

On Saturday, January 23rd, the church bus will leave for Winchester during the afternoon to enjoy dinner at a nice restaurant & finish the evening listening to the "Army Concert Band" at Shenandoah University. There is no charge for the concert but tickets must be ordered at once. Please call Mel May (879-2378) or Jack Osborne (433-2094) to reserve a ticket now!



Finance

- ~ Please look for 2016 weekly offering envelopes in the narthex. Discard any unused 2015's.
- ~ 2015 Giving Statements will be mailed by January 31. Please check them immediately. It is much easier to correct an error now than in April. Thanks!

Treasurer's Report - as of Nov. 30, 2015	
Contributions	\$ 296,391.13
Expenditures	\$ 327,597.00
2015 Budget	\$ 359,372.00
Mortgage Report as of Nov. 30, 2015	
Loan Amount (2/1/2010)	\$ 1,500,000.00
Principal payments	\$260,795.73
Loan Balance	\$1,239,204.27
Extra payments on principal	\$ 22,694.62

NOW meeting:
Sunday, Jan. 17 immediately following the second worship service.

Sunday Schedule

8:40

Adult Choir warm up

9:00

Traditional worship in the Sanctuary

9:45

Coffee Social

10:00–10:15

Children's Choir practice
in Adult Choir Room

10:00

Sunday School for all ages

11:00

Contemporary worship in
the Fellowship Hall

Sunday Morning Volunteers

Nursery Workers (9:00)

3 Sally Parsley
10 Mary Helen Witt
17 Kim Guyer
24 Holly Harold
31 Tracy Simmers

Opening/Closing:
Don Huffman

Greeters (9:00)

3 Jim & Norma Snyder
10 Linda Covington & Stephanie Gardner
17 Doris Bowman & Susan Ingram
24 Sheryl Newkirk & Shelia Holsinger
31 Ed & Judy Powell

Coffee Social Providers (9:45—)

3 UM Men
10 On the Move
17 needed
24 needed
31 needed

Flowers

The 2016 calendar has been posted on the bulletin board in the main lobby. We thank everyone who shared flowers in 2015.

Thanks to all who decorated the church for Advent and Christmas. The window candles, garlands, door wreaths, displays, trees and Chrismon tree were beautiful!

Pew Stewards

3 Mary Nieswander
10 Patty Bird
17 Ann Gerads
24 Stacie Jackson
31 Margaret Thornton



Lord, I give up all my own plans and purposes, all my own desires and hopes, and accept your will for my life. I give myself, my life, my all utterly to you, to be yours forever. Fill me and seal me with the Holy Spirit. Use me. Send me. Work your whole will in my life at any cost, now and forever. Amen.

-Betty Scott Stam (*paraphrased*)

Direct questions and submissions for this publication to:

Sally Smith, Editor

DUMCNews@comcast.net

I have a box in the

Coffee Social Room, too!

Next Deadline: Sunday, January 31

CONGREGATIONAL CARE



Sterling Rose Slayton, daughter of Stephani Chapman & Samuel Slayton was baptized on Dec. 6th. She was born Sept. 13, 2015.

1 Carolyn Ware
3 Sabrena Groseclose
5 Dick Jacobs
8 Tim Bocock
12 Joan Leffel
12 Linda Wine
16 Geneva Carr
17 Anne Hill
19 Jackson Bocock
19 Don Gault
22 Kathy Miller
24 Sonny Smiley
25 Whitney Huffman
25 Elsie Hyde
26 James Barnhart
27 Anna Simmons
28 Loretha Bland
29 Kay Coffman
29 Pat Ruminski



1 Charles & Nancy Harold
1 Dick & Linda Jacobs
2 Graham & Mary Helen Witt
4 Doug & Linda Wine
10 Bryan & Loretha Bland
19 Tim & Lori Bocock
22 Carl & Judy Estes
24 Larry & Elaine Heatwole
26 JB & Nancy Showalter

Staying Spiritually Fit

Prayer is like exercise: Neither is an end in itself. Just as exercise is intended to make us physically fit by strengthening our muscles so we can manage more activity, engaging in prayer leads to more prayer. The harder one works at exercise, the greater the results. But if we give up the routine, the results won't hold. The same goes for prayer.

Writes Rev. Kate Braestrup in *Beginner's Grace* (Atria Books), "There will be no moment — in this life, anyway — when I will be able to say, 'That's it! I've prayed, and the prayers have paid off: I'm a fully conscious, totally grateful, and unstintingly generous person. I can just start stuffing myself as soon as the plate hits the table.'"

Rather, she notes, "The more you give, the more you will be able to give; the more you receive, the more you will be willing to receive; and the more you pray, the more you can ... pray."

Dayton United Methodist Church

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Email: daytonumc@comcast.net

Website: www.daytonumc.net

Facebook: Dayton United Methodist Church

Pastor: Rev. Steve Bird daytonpastor@comcast.net

GUIDING LIGHT

Make this flashlight to remember that God, our light, always shows us the way.



What you need:

- Flashlight with handle strap
- Yarn (6 to 8 inches)
- Colorful pony beads
- Stickers (including foam letters)
- Batteries

What you do:

1. Tie the yarn through the flashlight's handle strap so two equal lengths hang down.
2. String the pony beads onto the two yarn lengths, and secure the ends with knots.
3. Decorate the flashlight with stickers. Use letters to spell "God is light."
4. Keep the flashlight by your bedside as a reminder of God's guidance. Use the flashlight to read a Bible verse before bed each night!

Unanswered prayer?

One day a little boy asked his pastor-mom why she always bowed her head for a moment before starting to preach. The mother, delighted that her son was so aware of what went on during worship, answered, "I pray for God to help me deliver a good sermon to the people."

Alas, her delight was short-lived and fizzled at the child's response: "So why doesn't God ever answer?"

PUZZLE

LET THERE BE LIGHT

In a world of darkness, God guides us so we can walk in his ways.

Directions: Write the name of each picture, subtracting and adding letters as indicated. Then fill in the blanks to complete 2 Samuel 22:29, NIV.

" Y O U , _____ , A R E

_____ -SW + L

_____ ; T H E

_____ -E-E + M _____ -ST + L

_____ M Y

_____ -B-A + L _____ -CH + T + S

_____ D + _____ + _____ - T + S

I N T O _____ .

2 SAMUEL 22:29, NIV

Answer: "You, LORD, are my lamp; the LORD turns my darkness into light." 2 Samuel 22:29, NIV

