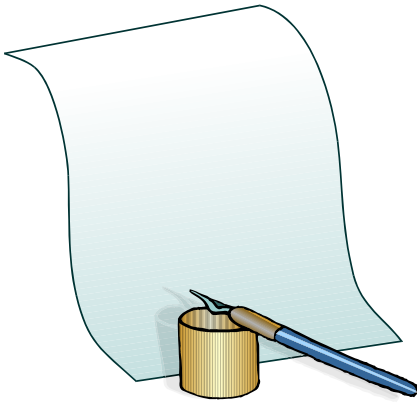


† Finley's Newsletter †

VOLUME 2, ISSUE 1

FINLEY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

FEBRUARY/MARCH 2012



FROM OUR PASTOR

February/March 2012

Dear Finley Church Family,

We have been focusing on the *Mission of Finley Church* this first month of a new year. Our "Leadership Day" was time well spent looking at the "Five Practices of Fruitful Congregations" on Saturday, January 28, 2012. You have heard much from the pulpit of what we are trying to accomplish and focus on as a Church Body here at Finley. In order for us to have the power to do this, as your Pastor, I have also tried to teach on prayer and why this is so essential for a movement of God to truly happen within God's Church here at Finley.

As I am writing this article, we are having a prayer emphasis week from January 30th-February 4th each day (9:00 A.M. to 9:00 P.M.). It is beautiful to see God's people, one by one, come into the sanctuary to meet with their Savior in prayer. People are praying for their children to become Christians, for our church to be effective, for our community and our nation to return to God. People are counting on us to get on our knees before Jesus Christ and "Pray the Price." God moves when His people need Him and are calling out to Him.

As your pastor, I may not know everything there is to know in life, but one thing I do know is this: When a church prays God is going to anoint and use it for His purposes. I challenge you to not only pray when we have these types of spiritual times of refreshing, but to continue to pray each day of this year. Pray for your leaders. Pray for your pastor. Pray for God to lead us to become what He wants us to be and to accomplish. Pray for changed lives and for God to move where man

has no answers.

My goal is for Jesus to take over His Church and lead us! When we humble ourselves and pray and desire God to change us, we are on a pretty good path for seeing the Lord accomplish His Will through the godly people of Finley Church. Let's put our hearts and minds in a position for Jesus Christ to bless us and move Finley for His Kingdom's purpose.

Jeremiah 29:13 says, "*You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart.*"

Jesus proclaims in Mark 11:17, "*Is it not written, 'My house shall be called a house of prayer for all nations'?*"

Jesus says in Matthew 17:21 concerning demonic influences, "*However, this kind does not go out except by prayer and fasting.*"

In Christ's love,
Pastor Jerry Ernst

SUNDAY EVENING SERVICES

FEBRUARY 5
PASTOR JERRY

FEBRUARY 12
MOVIE
"NO GREATER LOVE"

FEBRUARY 19
MARY ELLEN DUNLAP

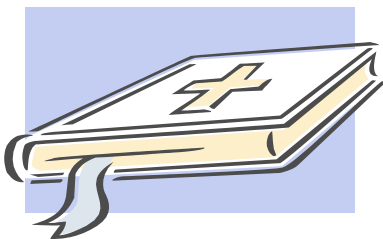
FEBRUARY 26
PASTOR JERRY

MARCH 4
PASTOR LASH

MARCH 11
PASTOR JERRY

MARCH 18
PASTOR JERRY

MARCH 25
PASTOR JERRY



Birthdays

February 16
Sam Yuricic
c/o Ville Vista – Room 516
1800 Sinclair Avenue
Steubenville, OH 43952

February 21
Margaret Achhammer
493 Dresden Avenue
Steubenville, OH 43952

March 10
Wanda Whanger
138 Sunshine Park
Steubenville, OH 43952

SYMPATHY & PRAYER

Our deepest sympathies and prayers go out to:

Joy Amick and Betty Dixon and their Families in the death of their brother, William "Bill" Peckins, November 25, 2011

Jeffrey Hanlin & Family in the death of his grandmother, Ida Mills, November 25, 2011

Pam Granatir & Family in the death of her great-aunt Ina Green, November 29, 2011

Clara Pierce & Family in the death of her mom, Clara Saffle, December 5, 2011

Jim Wright & Family in the death of his sister, Melissa Denney, December 8, 2011

Madeline Sperry & Family in the death of her son, Rev. David Sperry, December 18, 2011

Brenda Anderson & Family in the death of her grandmother, Ruthora Kirkpatrick, December 16, 2011

Angela VanKirk & Family in the death of her dad, Art Taverne, December 20, 2011

Chuck Cook's Family in the death of his dad, Charles Cook, December 21, 2011

The O'Dell & Haering Families in the death of Ruth Haering, December 24, 2011

Brenda Cook & Family in the death of her husband, Charles "Chuck" "Cookie" Cook Jr., December 31, 2011

Gary and Becky Delaney and Families in the death of his sister and her aunt, Betty Gault, January 21, 2011

Joy Clements & Family in the death of her aunt, Mary Grafton, January 29, 2012

Virginia (Carson) Johnson & Family in the death of her husband, Bob Johnson, January 30, 2012



Youth Happenings

Happy New Year from your Finley Youth!

Well, January's almost over, but this is our first newsletter for the new year of 2012. I thank God for each youth who's been a part of our group this past year. I read a post on facebook recently from a Christian friend. She wrote: "Live in the present, look to the future and praise God for what He has brought us through." I know that wasn't originally from her or scriptural, but well said. I think of the kids who've come & gone & hope that God used something that was said or done in their time spent with us at youth. Whether in a Bible lesson, prayer or fellowship time, I pray God continues to speak to their hearts & hopefully, urges them to return to our group. Pray for us, as we interact with each of the kids, that we show God's love & help lead them to Jesus! I'm thankful for our core group of kids who value the importance of being involved with our group.

We are currently studying a series entitled: "Conflict-Overcoming Stress In Your Relationships". It's led by Doug Fields, Teaching Pastor of the Saddleback Church & Author of Purpose Driven Youth Ministry. It's a series of 4 dvd's dealing with how the bible teaches us to react to conflict: whether with family, friends, authority or with God. Following the videos, we have discussions on the topics. Captain John Young, a

member of the Steubenville Police Dept. & a member of Finley will be our guest speaker this Wednesday night with his topic: bullying, another type of conflict. Pray that God uses this time of teaching to reach someone who might be experiencing a conflict: that they'd be willing to hear from God & want to please Him in their reaction to the conflict.

Some of our youth spent the day at the Urban Mission helping with shopping for toys a few days before Christmas. We plan to go again soon to help with the food distribution.

We celebrated the 7th birthday of Isabyre Marvin with a birthday cake this past Wednesday night. He is the young boy who we continue to support monthly from Compassion International.

We enjoyed a night of ice skating at Wheeling Park this past Saturday. Most of the kids had been on ice skates before, but a few spent some time hanging on to the wall around the rink trying not to fall. Check out the pictures on our Youth Facebook group page. They're already asking when we can go again.

We are about to begin practicing for our Easter play to be presented on Sunday evening, April 15th. The play is entitled: "A Cricket County City Easter". We may need some help from some of our Finley adults, so I may be approaching you to volunteer! (You may remember our last

Cricket County performance! Same family, different play.)

We have a couple retreats coming up soon for our youth; one in February & another in March, so we hope to send some of the kids at no cost to them. One is at Camp Aldersgate, the other in Louisville, OH at Christ United Methodist Church. Getting away for a few days, spending time with other Christian teens is a great way for our youth to grow spiritually. If you'd like to be a part in helping send one or more of the kids to one of these retreats, talk to me, Jeff or Pam Granatir about it.

A reminder to step up with the pop tab collecting, so that we'll break last year's count! We'll take our yearly trip to the Ronald McDonald House to deliver them in March or early April.

Don't forget to recycle your paper & cardboard by putting it in the bin between the church & Nelson Fine Arts & Gifts buildings. Our youth receive a portion of the proceeds!

Thanks to all who help with our youth. Continue to pray for us & especially them. God is still in control & He loves every one of the lives He's given us to touch!

"May the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be pleasing in Your sight, O Lord." Psalm 19:14.

Sincerely,
Kathy Gilkey, Youth Director



Finance Committee

The Finance Committee thanks ex-officio committee members Steve Anderson (former Administrative Board Chair) and Diane Sesto (former Trustees Treasurer and ex-officio member) for their past service and contributions to Finance. We welcome Kathy Thomas (new committee member) and Janet Amick (new Trustees Treasurer and ex-officio member). Pastor Jerry and the Committee on Lay Leadership will be working to fill two current vacancies on the Finance Committee, which are the Assistant Church Treasurer and the Assistant Financial Secretary. Preferred experience for these positions includes either financial background through work experience or education, and/or some computer expertise. Anyone interested in servicing on the Finance Committee in any of these positions is encourage to contact Pastor Ernst.

Our income in 2011 totaled \$268,919, which is the highest amount we've had for several years. The Finance Committee would like to thank our church members and regular attenders who made this possible. We would especially like to thank

those long-time members of Finley who have sacrificially tithed their income year after year and have sustained the various ministries of this church over an extended period of time. Biblical tithing is a necessary ingredient to further God's kingdom in our community and beyond. The amount collected to finance our budget was \$252,622. Our budget for 2012 is \$252,871. Continued faithful giving will be necessary again this year to finance the various ministries of our church.

This past year a number of members have lost track of their giving and have asked Finance to check whether we received their tithe in a certain month. The use of available technology can ensure your tithe is given every month. If you happen to have a computer and pay bills through your bank's on-line bill-pay system, this is an easy and convenient way to give to the church the same time every month. You can even show on the bank check where to apply your donation. A few members already use this convenient bill-pay service for their regular monthly tithe/offering.

The Trustees have initiated a fund-raiser for replacing the flat roof on the north side of the church building. The project will be completed sometime in

the spring when the weather breaks. The total cost of the project will be \$43,000. The Trustees are maintaining a light board that will be displayed on the sanctuary platform every Sunday. The board began with

43 red lights. As every \$1,000 in roof fund donations is received, a red light is replaced with a white one. The board will be lit with all white lights when the project is completely paid. The contractor has already been reimbursed \$7,000 for the early purchase of materials to avoid 2012 price increases. The Trustees paid \$2,000 from initial contributions to the roof fund and borrowed \$5,000 from Chase Bank through our line of credit. The remaining \$36,000 will be due the contractor when the work is performed, which will require further use of our line of credit. To donate to the roof fund, you can simply mark your tithing envelope "Roof" or "Roof Fund" and the amount. When you contribute to the roof fund, please do not take the amount from your normal tithe or offering. This would only make it difficult to meet our established budgeted expenses. Prayer and fasting will direct your individual stewardship, both in your service and your giving.

-Larry Sesto, Chairperson

PRAYER AND FASTING

WEEKEND

March 3rd & 4th

Please pray for the salvation of unsaved loved ones, salvation of our youth/children, overall growth in Finley church, an evangelistic mindset at Finley, 1 on 1 witnessing, outreach programs, visitors, revival.

Children



CHILDREN'S CHURCH MINISTRIES

As 2012 begins, I want to thank everyone who has volunteered to help with this ministry. My goal for 2012 is to improve communication with the church members, workers, parents, and children. If you have any suggestions, questions or complaints please contact me at church or call me at home. My number is 264-1122.

Every Sunday we provide a nursery at both the 10:45 and 6:30 services. These children can be taken to their room before or if needed during the service. Also during the 10:45 service we have Beginner's Church for children from Kindergarten to Second grade. These children can go directly to their rooms before the service so they don't miss their lesson and stay there for the entire service. For children from Third to Sixth grades we have Junior Church. These children remain in the sanctuary until they are dismissed right before the preaching service.

If you know of someone new to the church with children, please mention these services to them. If they are interested and you do not know where the Nursery or Beginner's rooms are ask an usher or Dee Whisman and they will help them. If they have any questions you can't answer, direct them to Dee Whisman, Kathy Thomas, Carol Canyock, Abbey Ernst, or Pam Edgar. Any one of these people should be able to answer their questions.

-Dee Whisman, Chairperson

NEWS



**FAMILY GAME NIGHT
FRIDAY,
FEBRUARY 24TH
6:30PM**

**EVERYONE NEEDS TO
BRING A GAME
AND A SNACK.
THERE WILL BE NO VAN.**



**"CANS FOR
KIDS FOR CAMP"**

The children of the church are saving aluminum cans to recycle and use the money for church camp in the summer. Please help them by bringing your cans to the church and placing them in the black rubbermaid container located just off the fellowship hall. The container is marked, "Cans for Kids for Camp."

Thank you for your support.



On Wednesday, February 8, the morning and evening Bible studies will begin a new study entitled "A Hunger for God". Topics include "The God Who Interrupts", "May My Words Please You, O God", "Warning: Temptation Ahead", and many more! Books are \$6.50 each and you may see Martha Sisler or Elaine Goble to sign up.

PLEASE MARK YOUR
CALENDARS TO HELP
WITH VACATION BIBLE
SCHOOL JULY 9-13TH
MONDAY - FRIDAY
6:00 TO 8:30PM.
MORE DETAILS TO
FOLLOW

Finley's Great Give Away!

Please over the next few months check your basements, garages, attics and cupboards for items you no longer use or need. Make a pile and save them back for our summer's block party. NO ADULT CLOTHES, please.

Thank you, Marlene Call.



*Esther: A Beth Moore
Women's Retreat
Friday-Sunday,
March 9-11, 2012
at Camp Wanake*

Join us to discover God's destiny for you as we study Esther: It's Tough Being A Woman. If you've ever felt inadequate, threatened, or pushed into situations that seem overpowering, this is the Bible study for you. Study, discussion, fun, worship, meeting new friends, and fellowship are all a part of the weekend as we explore the book of Esther. We'll begin Friday evening and conclude Sunday after lunch. Wanake will supply all the meals, materials and leadership. You bring your Bible, and, if you wish, a friend! Come ready to be challenged and return home renewed. Cost: \$109; Early Bird discount \$99 - Early Bird postmarked by February 17, 2012. You can register by calling Camp Wanake at 330-756-2333, online at www.CampWanake.org. Wanake Camp & Retreat Center, 9463 Manchester Ave. SW, Beach City, OH 44608. Questions? contact Abbey Ernst @ 264-9980 or Debbie Griffith @ 266-6703.



UPCOMING EVENTS:

January 29 – February 4
9:00a.m.-9:00p.m. daily - Prayer
Emphasis Week

February 6
7:00p.m. Membership Class
7:00p.m. Choir Practice
8:00p.m. Easter Musical-Cantata
Practice

February 7
10:30a.m. Finley UMW Circle
meeting - Prayer & Self Denial

February 8, 15, 22, 29
11:00a.m. & 7:00p.m. "A Hunger
for God" Book Study & Prayer
5:00p.m. Kidmo
6:30p.m. Youth

February 9
N O Commissions/Committees
N O Administrative Council

February 13
10:30am. Prayer in Prayer Room
7:00p.m. Membership Class
7:00p.m. Choir Practice
8:00p.m. Easter Musical-Cantata
Practice

February 20
Office Closed for President's Day
10:30a.m. Prayer in Prayer Room
7:00p.m. Choir Practice
8:00p.m. Easter Musical-Cantata
Practice

February 24
6:30p.m. Game Night

February 27
10:30a.m. Prayer in Prayer Room
7:00p.m. Choir Practice
8:00p.m. Easter Musical-Cantata
Practice

February 28
10:30a.m. Senior Friends

March 5, 12, 19, 26
10:30a.m. Prayer in Prayer Room
7:00p.m. Choir Practice
8:00p.m. Easter Musical-Cantata
Practice

March 6
Election Day
10:30a.m. Finley UMW Circle
6:30p.m. Marguerite Circle
7:00p.m. Trustees

March 7, 14, 21, 28
11:00a.m. & 7:00p.m. "A Hunger
for God" Book Study & Prayer
5:00p.m. Kidmo
6:30p.m. Youth

March 8
6:00pm Staff Meeting
7:00pm Commissions/Committees
8:00pm Administrative Council

March 27
10:30a.m. Senior Friends



*Daylight savings time begins - turn
your clocks ahead one hour
Saturday, March 10*

*Articles for the April/May 2012
newsletter are due by March 25th.
Email to newsletter@finleyumc.org,
put in the newsletter mailbox or give
to Kathy in the church office.*

Finley's Newsletter

www.finleyumc.org

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Rev. Jerry Ernst, Pastor

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



February/March 2012



January 29 – February 4
9:00a.m. - 9:00p.m. daily
Prayer Emphasis Week