

# Connections

Love God. Love People. Change the World.

Wayne Street United Methodist Church

130 N. Wayne St., St. Marys, OH 45885

Phone 419-394-3615

[www.waynestreetumc.org](http://www.waynestreetumc.org)

January – February – March – April 2022

## A Note from Pastor Tim

It doesn't hardly seem possible that I am writing an article about Lent and Easter already, but that is the world we live in now. January is almost over and if you are anything like me, I am already looking forward to spring.

In the pages of this newsletter, you are going to read about some of the special events we are going to be having during the Lenten season. We will be observing a call to prayer and fasting, which will begin with Ash Wednesday on March 2. We will have a special service that night at 7:30 where we will have communion and share the ashes. That is when we will begin the journey toward Easter. We will observe Maundy Thursday, Good Friday and Easter Sunday. Lent is going to be a special time this year.

During Lent, we will be having a few special things happening, not the least of which include our weekly meetings on Wednesday night. Christianity 101, youth group, and children's ministry will all begin with supper at 5:30 and groups starting at 6:00. It will be a time to deepen our faith through study to go along with your prayer and fasting. As Lent should be, it will be a time to turn our hearts and our lives back toward God.

Lent has been designated as a season of preparation for Easter. You already know that the things in life that you have gotten the most out of are the things you put the most preparation into. If you want Easter to be more than just a big church service, Easter Egg hunt and a dinner with your family, then you will have to put forth the effort to make it more than that. Take Lenten disciplines seriously as a way to be aware of our own depravity. We are sinful, broken and fallen people. We have been that way since literally the beginning. What we celebrate on Easter Sunday is God has provided for us the Grace that we will need to change our future. But just a like a spoiled child, we will have no concept of what that gift means if we don't put forth the effort to identify our own Sinfulness. We can develop tremendous appreciation of what the Good Lord has done for us but only if we recognize just what our redemption cost.

That is why we take the season of Lent to prepare. Lent is a few weeks longer than Advent, the preparation for the celebration of Christmas. It is because during this season, we are not so much preparing for the arrival of the Messiah like we are in Advent, we are preparing for the celebration of redemption itself. A big part of this preparation is the recognition of our own brokenness. That is why Advent is usually celebrated with feasting and lots of Christmas songs where Lent is the season of fasting and quiet. Where in Advent we are looking to the heavens with hope of the Messiah, in Lent we bow our heads in repentance.

It is in recognizing that we are not worthy that we have the chance to really comprehend the awesomeness of Easter. We go from the pit of despair because of our Sin to the heights of celebration when the tomb is empty on Easter Sunday morning. It is the message of life eternal, a message that can be proclaimed in the name of no one other than Jesus Christ the Lord.

I hope that you will make an effort not only to observe Lent in your own life, but also be present with us during the celebrations of this season. It will make the victory of Easter Sunday so much greater if we experience the journey it took to get there.



# CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

I pray the holidays have brought you so much JOY and many memories. 2022 is going to be an amazing year and I am excited for the fun adventures the children will be participating in. Thank you so much for your support during the Christmas Play. We look forward to sharing another play around Easter. We will be doing more family events, some fun plays, and lots of new songs. I wanted to share why Sunday School and Wednesday evenings are very important for the children:

- 1) Kids learn that church is a fun and safe place.
- 2) Children develop relationships with other trusted Christian adults.
- 3) Kids connect with other Christian kids.
- 4) Kids can learn from others' creativity and perspective.



I hope that you will encourage your children (potty trained to fourth grade) to come to **Sunday School** on Sunday mornings at 9:30 a.m. then stay for **W.O.W.** or come to **C.O.O.L kids** on Wednesdays from 6 pm to 7:30 p.m. I would love to have more volunteers. Not only does it allow you to spend time with your children and the others, but also I pray that maybe your faith deepens by serving your church. If you have any questions please email, call, or text me. I am usually in the office a few evenings during the week and all day on Wednesdays.



God Bless,

*Jessica Skinner*

*Director of Children's Ministry*

## YOUTH NEWS

Youth Group continues to hum along on Wednesday nights averaging between 25 and 30 students per week. We continue to see new students showing up as friends and guests of others, which is a positive sign. Many of our students are not "churched", and many of our lessons thus far have been focused on practical, how-to-live-life-as-a-Christian type stuff.

Over the next few months, we will begin to take a look at Christianity 101-level stuff (not the same class as what Pastor Tim and Parker are doing with the adults) that will be mixed in with the practical consequences of what they are learning. For example, one lesson will be about who Jesus is. We all *think* we know who He is. We all see what society *thinks* Jesus is. But who is He really? And even if we have a biblical understanding of who Jesus is, what does that have to do with my life? Does it change anything? *Should* it change anything? Or even, why should I care? Those are the questions that we will be looking at for multiple core questions of our faith.

Confirmation Class continues to be led by Parker and Doug. They are leading a class of Christian newbies that are full of questions. While they spend Sunday mornings grinding away at learning the basics of their faith and the characteristics of the Methodist tradition, the class will be involved in a couple service projects as well. We want our students to be well rounded and grow up to live out their love of Jesus through both faith and works.

Finally, we are working on a complete renovation of the Youth Room area. The walls have already been painted, a new epoxy floor is coming, new furniture has been ordered, game tables are ready to go up, and the whole atmosphere of the third floor will be changed. The Youth Room will be an up-to-date area for students to hang out in, feel comfortable, and have fun together. The goal is that all of this will lead to opportunities to share Jesus with people that desperately need Him. A long-term vision is that once the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor is done, we will be able to host after-school programs from time to time (obviously depending on the help we receive).

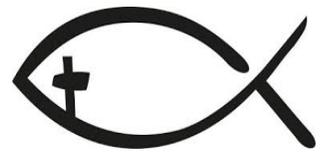
I am excited about where we currently are but I believe that we can do so much more. I simply ask that you will pray for our Youth Group, our students, and our leaders.



*Don Renninger*  
Youth Pastor

May – June – July – August 2022

# Small Groups and More



## 2nd Sundays:

- Fellowship Meal

On Wednesday nights, we have a meal offered to anyone that comes. Joyce Koenig makes this great tasting meal and she would love you to enjoy it. The meal starts at 5:45 and will be served until we run out.

- Christianity 101

We have our first month down for “Christianity 101.” This group is all about understanding the foundations of the Christian faith. With topics from, “What do the candles in the church represent?” to understanding the words of Jesus, we have plenty of interesting topics. This class takes place on Wednesday nights from 6:00 – 7:00. You can also check YouTube for previous classes.

### We Need You!!!

Currently we are only offering the “Christianity 101” group. However, we would like to get more groups in the future. If you or someone you know would like to lead a small group please contact Parker Miley at [parker.miley.wsumc@gmail.com](mailto:parker.miley.wsumc@gmail.com).

## Prayer Group/Open Sanctuary:

Every Tuesday from 8:30-9:00 PM and Thursday from 12:30-1:00 PM we have an Open Sanctuary time. This is a time for people to come into the church and leave all the struggles of this fast-paced life.

## Rage Podcast:

Tim and Parker post an episode nearly every week discussing current events, and how to live in this crazy world as a Christian. You can find the RAGE Podcast at our YouTube channel “Wayne Street UMC.”

*Dear Wayne Streeter,*

*I encourage you to try to make it to any of these listed events. I want to see our churches spiritual health grow and my way of tackling that is by offering small groups, classes, and events open to the entire congregation. Being a member of a church is good, but being an active member is one better. I wish you nothing but the best over these next few months.*

*Sincerely,  
Parker Miley*

*“And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near.”*

*Hebrews 10:24 – 25*

## Love God, Love People, Change the World

We are looking for volunteers to serve and prep communion on the first Sunday of each month. There is a sign-up sheet located in the Fellowship Hall. Pick the month you are available.

We appreciate your involvement with the church.



*“The bread is the body of Christ broken for you.”  
“The cup is the blood of Christ shed for you.”*



## January Birthdays:

## February Birthdays:

## March Birthdays:

## April Birthdays:

04 Frances Armstrong  
 05 Audra Sutton  
 06 Beth Skelding  
 07 Rev. Tim Benjamin  
 08 Linda Horn  
 09 Joe Ginter  
 Bradyn Overley  
 10 Phyllis Hehr  
 11 Timothy Dicke  
 12 Mark Knous  
 13 Jean Vossler  
 16 Carter Ballweg  
 17 Harold Wolfe  
 Jeff Yahl  
 18 Brandon Kill  
 19 Allison Boley  
 20 Lee Sudman  
 21 Michael Boley  
 Brennan Syndram  
 22 Lucas Stroud  
 Cheryl Broyles  
 23 Brenda Jones  
 26 Gerald Freewalt  
 Robert Stolzenburg  
 28 Sandy Freewalt  
 Marcy Keith  
 29 Angela Howell  
 30 Kass Gilbert  
 31 Dennis Bailey  
 Richard Haines, Jr.

02 Paul Wibbeler  
 03 Carol Brown  
 Bill Harr III  
 06 Lucus Slife  
 07 Ethan Freewalt  
 Mabeline McCollister  
 Toby Hertenstein  
 Kim Kill  
 08 Jay Kuck  
 10 Angela Boley  
 11 Mark Wendel  
 Kirk Greber  
 12 Trena Chiles  
 Nicole Keating  
 Nora MacWhinney  
 Quin Ginter  
 16 Paula Yahl  
 Dee Hertenstein  
 Bill Schwendeman  
 17 Jerry Campbell  
 Rick Haines III  
 Kelsey Greber  
 18 Jace Kuck  
 19 Amanda Cisco  
 Amber Lutterbeck  
 Carolynn Sidey  
 21 Glenda Kuck  
 22 Drew Chiles  
 Anna Stolzenburg  
 Brian Deschaine  
 24 Beverly Zeigler  
 26 Jean Bower  
 Eric Germann  
 27 Donna Foor  
 Sherri Lauth

01 Jim Myers  
 Dale Barrett  
 02 Lorelei McCollister  
 03 Denise Cisco  
 Kristina Frye  
 Mike Durkee  
 Janelle Seitz  
 04 Alexandra Overley  
 05 Don Johnson  
 08 Marcia Bowman  
 Keith Jacobs  
 09 Susan Paul  
 Josh Barnes  
 Jacob Barrett  
 10 Tim Kohlhorst  
 Michael Grothause  
 12 Matt Wibbeler  
 13 Judy Gray  
 Marcie Taylor  
 14 John Woesner  
 Pam Wendel  
 15 Carol Hays  
 Lynn Persinger  
 Xander Spees  
 16 Patton MacWhinney  
 19 Tom Yingling  
 20 Jocelyn Johns  
 21 Miriam Lynch  
 Greg Snyder  
 Alyvia Keith  
 22 Kelsey Grieshop  
 23 Bev Hurlburt  
 24 Robert Rasmussen  
 25 Deborah Smith  
 Gracie Jacobs  
 27 Dennis Stienecker  
 Mark Slife  
 28 Deb Stienecker  
 Lacie Knous  
 29 Jerry Wesner  
 30 Geoffrey Lee  
 Faye Frye  
 Brendon Greber  
 31 Frieda Hay  
 Anne Kite

01 Grace Tebbe  
 Ben Wise  
 02 Helen Rempe  
 Daryl Lauth  
 03 Henry Adams  
 Madeline Jones  
 Dennis Chiles  
 05 Suzy Hosek  
 06 Madison Miley  
 Chris Noble  
 08 Cheryl Harr  
 10 Amy Jessen  
 Linda Johnson  
 11 Austin Boley  
 Jerry Klosterman  
 Katie Wirwille  
 David Syndram  
 12 Kraig Noble  
 15 Kaitlyn Manbeck  
 19 Jared Deubler  
 Joe Bowman  
 22 Bobby Smith  
 23 Abbi Hertenstein  
 Katelyn Miley  
 Edna Whitling  
 24 Allison Angstmann  
 26 Jennifer Douglas  
 Jarrett Taylor  
 28 Lynn Huffman  
 29 Harry Schipper  
 Aidyn Johns  
 30 Jody Poff  
 Ed Broyles

## January

### Anniversaries:

01 Carl & Linda Horn  
 02 Donovan & Carol Widney  
 05 James and Marilyn Lauth  
 10 Jane and Emery Rogers  
 19 John & Ruth Ann Woesner  
 20 Joseph and Audra Sutton  
 21 Joe and Marcia Bowman  
 28 Tom and Elaine Slife



## February

### Anniversaries:

03 Samuel and Mary Howell  
 05 Roy and Judy McGinnis  
 06 Jon and Julie Kraner  
 11 Brad & Cassandra Fowler  
 14 Keith and Nicole Perin  
 15 Ron and Aimee Wicker  
 23 Mark and Maria Slife



## March

### Anniversaries:

15 Kendra and Kevin Niekamp  
 19 Seth and Abby Brigham  
 22 Fred and Jackie Hullinger  
 23 Dale and Julie Barrett



## April

### Anniversaries:

02 Lynn and Dee Persinger  
 04 Luther and Marilyn Gibbens  
 05 Ralph and Dorothy Dennings  
 10 Craig and Johanna Cisco  
 13 Nick and Karen Evans  
 20 Jay and Nikki Shannon  
 28 Kevin and Cindy Moran

## CHANGES AT WAYNE STREET

2021 has brought many changes to our staff here at Wayne Street. We would like to say farewell to Bill Martin, Angie Myers, and Josh Barnes. Bill Martin has resigned from his position as Director of Extravagant Generosity on the BLT and moved to Dublin, OH. Angie Myers retired from the office as Financial Controller in November. Josh Barnes has stepped down as the Awaken worship leader in December to enjoy attending church together with his family. We wish all of them the very best in the next chapter of their lives. Thank you for your dedicated service to Wayne Street UMC.

We would like to welcome to our staff John Bubp, Jeff Davis and Luke Yahl. John Bubp has volunteered to take over Bill Martins position on the BLT. Luke Yahl has stepped up as our new Awaken worship leader on Sunday mornings. A new face you may see around the church is our new Financial Controller, Jeff Davis of Wapak. He has been in finances for over 40 years so we are excited to have him with us. Feel free to stop by the office sometime and introduce yourself. Welcome to the Wayne Street family!



## 2021 GIVING STATEMENTS

Giving Statements for 2021 have been sent!

**Check your email and your mailbox.**

This year most statements were sent through email. However, some were still mailed out through the post office. If you have not yet received yours, please contact Jeff Davis at the office 419-394-3615.

If you would like to receive future statements via email, contact the office with an up-to-date email address.

## WSUMC MISSION TEAM 2021 IN REVIEW

Helping Hands \$1,700

Grace UMC Wednesday Meals \$2,004

Family Life Center \$4,896

The Roc \$2,700

Victor House \$2,700

Agape Feeding Program \$2,004

Wayne Street Helpers \$500

St. Marys School fees \$1,000

Blessing Box: purchased food and supplies for initial filling

Senior meals: sponsored 1 meal a month for senior citizens in St. Marys

C.A.L.L Ministry \$2,500

Christmas blanket drive: 13 blankets

House of Hope \$2,500

Do Good Ministry \$2,500

Liz Sampson Campus Crusader \$2,796

Henderson Settlement \$3,700

Destiny Rescue \$1,000

Haiti-His Home \$1,800

Wine to Water \$3,500 for one well

Thanksgiving offering: \$335 for Community Give Thanks meal

Christmas offering: \$5,117 for 68 clean water filtration systems

OCC The Greatest Journey \$1,000

OCC Shoebox Program \$800

Shoeboxes filled: 489 shoeboxes

Mission Trip Projects \$3,400

Amani Children's Choir \$1,000

Mission Family Ministry \$2,000

Emergency Disaster Relief \$2,000

UMCOR and Samaritan's Purse to assist with Kentucky Tornado Relief: \$4,400

Sponsored Family Pool Party.

Helped with expenses for the church Family Picnic.

Future Mission Projects \$2,000

## HELP UP BE THE HANDS & FEET OF CHRIST

\*\*\*Continue to give financially\*\*\*

\*\*\*Volunteer to help with Mission projects\*\*\*

\*\*\*Lead a community service project\*\*\*



ALL WOMEN ARE WELCOME

Tuesday, February 1 at 7:15 p.m. at the home of Joyce Koenig.

Tuesday, March 1 at 7:15 p.m. at the home of Joyce Koenig.

Tuesday, April 5 at 7:15 p.m. at the home of Barb Fitzgerald.

Contact Patsy at 419-733-5789 for more information.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR THE UPCOMING

## LADIES LUNCH BUNCH

**FEBRUARY 15<sup>th</sup>**

BRUNCH AT WINANS CHOCOLATES AND COFFEE AT 11 A.M.  
*MEET IN THE CHURCH PARKING LOT AT 10:30 TO CARPOOL*

**MARCH 15<sup>th</sup> TBD**

**APRIL 19<sup>th</sup> TBD**

## Susanna Wesley Group

**Meet for Devotions and Refreshments**

**MARCH 2<sup>nd</sup> at Otterbein at 1:00 p.m.**

**APRIL 6<sup>th</sup> at Otterbein at 1:00 p.m.**

## Lenten Breakfast



**March 15<sup>th</sup>, 2022**

**9:30 a.m.**

**Guest Speaker: Julie Jacobs**  
from Joint Township Memorial Hospital

Located in the Fellowship Hall  
*Everyone from the community is invited!*



## OPERATION EASTER BASKETS

*Delivers Hope and Cheer & Needs your help*

**FILL A BASKET AND FEEL THE LOVE**



**Operation Easter Baskets** seeks to bring joy and hope to children, youth and adults here in Auglaize County. These Easter baskets will be delivered to Agape for them to distribute to families.

- Mark your basket BOY or GIRL
- Age categories 0-2, 3-4, 5-7, 8-10, 11-13, 14-16, Adults Male, Adult Female
- Be creative in filling your basket
- Baskets can be buckets, shopping bags, or gift boxes



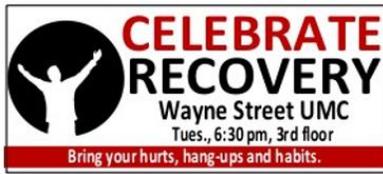
**Here are some suggestions:**

- Notepads, pens, pencils, crayons, coloring books, markers, hair brush, toothbrush, full size tooth paste, full size body washes, full size shampoos, clothing (socks, underwear), toys for appropriate age, books, Easter candy, stuffed animals, baby birds, diapers, clothes for appropriate age
- Also needed are baskets with cake mixes, icing, brownie mixes, bread mixes, oil, sprinkles

**Please have your filled baskets marked with AGE and GENDER  
to the church NO LATER THAN MARCH 20<sup>th</sup>**

Sponsored by United Methodist Women

May – June – July – August 2022



Celebrate Recovery is a biblical and balanced program that offers help for those struggling with hurts, hang-ups, and habits by showing them the loving power of Jesus Christ through a recovery process. **Celebrate Recovery** has helped thousands of struggling people worldwide!

For more info, contact

LUKE YAHL [coolhand906@gmail.com](mailto:coolhand906@gmail.com); KASS GILBERT 419-305-9845

### ~ Worship with us each Sunday ~

8:30 a.m. Traditional Worship  
9:45 a.m. Sunday School  
10:45 a.m. Contemporary Worship  
and W.O.W Children's Worship

Nursery available  
for infants up to 3 years of age

Church Phone 419-394-3615  
[waynestreetoffice@gmail.com](mailto:waynestreetoffice@gmail.com)

Services are also available online on our YouTube channel - Wayne Street UMC

Go to our website for upcoming events and updates.

[www.waynestreetumc.org](http://www.waynestreetumc.org)

Check us out on Facebook too!

**OFFICE HOURS**

**Monday:** 11 – 5 p.m.  
**Tuesday:** 9 a.m. – 3 p.m.  
**Wednesday:** 9 a.m. – 3 p.m.  
**Thursday:** 9 a.m. – 3 p.m.  
**Friday:** Closed

Call the church office with updates on mailing addresses.

## WSUMC Staff

**TIM BENJAMIN**  
Pastor

419.394.3615  
(pastortimbenjamin@gmail.com)

**DON RENNINGER**  
Youth Pastor

567.644.3697  
(revduck@yahoo.com)

**JESSICA SKINNER**  
Director of Children's Discipleship  
419.394.3615 or cell 567.204.0312  
(jlskinl@hotmail.com)

**PARKER MILEY**  
Pastoral Intern

419.394.3615

**JEFF DAVIS**

Financial Controller  
419.394.3615, Ext. 1003  
(wsumcjeff@outlook.com)

**ALINA OLDING**  
Office Manager

419.394.3615, Ext. 1000  
(waynestreetoffice@gmail.com)

**LUKE YAHL**

AWAKEN Worship Leader 419-305-6755

**DARRYL SMITH**

FIRST LIGHT Worship Leader  
419.394.8446 or cell 419.953.2337

**PAM WENDEL**

Organist 419.394.2825 (kram@bright.net)

**KENDRA SYDRAM**

Nursery Coordinator 419.394.3615

**FRED HULLINGER**

Custodian 419.305.5117

**GARY WIBBELER**

Assistant Custodian 419.394.3615

### Your Leadership Team Members:



Joe Sutton

Jeremiah Smith

John Bubp

Angie Myers

Deepu Wayte

Candy Dicke

Toby Hertenstein

April Johns

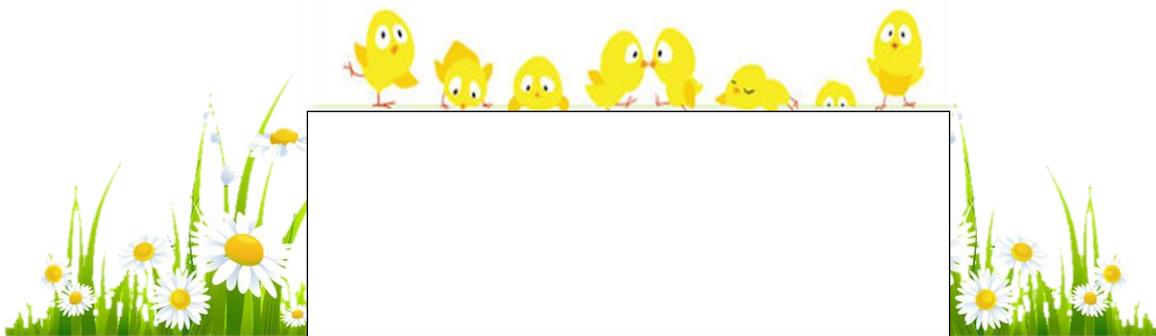
Jody Poff

Patsy Schwendeman

Wayne Street United Methodist Church

130 N. Wayne St.  
St. Marys, OH 45885

Non-Profit Org  
U.S. Postage Paid  
Permit # 21  
St. Marys, OH



*Jesus said to him, "I am the way, the truth, and the life.  
No one comes to the Father except through Me.*

*-John 14:6*

LENT

prayer • fasting • almsgiving