

# State of the Church

Pastor Kenneth will take a look back at 2015 and move us into 2016. Friends, this is a most important day in the life of the church. Each of us is an ambassador for Christ and together we are the Body of Christ. We are the only place in society that offers hope and grace when all seems lost. Your presence, participation, and desire to move forward together are most important. Start your new year in ministry by joining us!

Join us for combined worship and a banquet following. Bring salad, vegetable, or dessert to share.



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# January

 **GREENE STREET**  
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

415 W. Greene St.  
Piqua, Ohio 45356  
(937) 773-5313  
Fax (937) 773-5397  
office@greenestreetumc.org  
www.greenestreetumc.org  
Rev. Kenneth A. Stewart



**PANCAKES!  
PANCAKES!  
PANCAKES!**

The Dick Sword Memorial Pancake & Sausage Breakfast is being held Saturday, January 30, 2016 at Greene Street United Methodist Church. The church is located at 415 West Greene Street, Piqua, Ohio. Cost for adults is \$6.50. Children (ages 5-10) are \$2.50. Children under 5 eat free. Hours will be 7:00-11:30 a.m.

The Greene Street United Methodist Men are hosting the event. If you have questions please call the church office at 937-773-5313.

## Message from the Pastor

### Like the Gingerbread Man

One of my favorite books from childhood is a tale about an older couple who baked a delicious gingerbread cookie. When the gingerbread man was baked, he suddenly came to life and ran out of the house. During his escape, he encountered many adventures along the way. His mantra was simple and memorable to all who sought to capture him: **Run, run as fast as you can. You can't catch me, I'm the gingerbread man.**

Through the month of January, we will be "hitting the ground running" with our **State of the Church combined worship and banquet January 10.** I'm excited to share crucial ministry updates and establish goals for 2016 with you!

I hope you'll plan to attend as we discover our unique role in God's redemptive story at Greene Street. If you have questions about what we've done and what's in store, this is an event you will surely not want to miss.

Beginning January 17, we'll launch a new worship series called "Ran Ragged." Our culture tells us to run and never slow down. Our society pushes us for more results, more commitments, more effort, more, more, more! But God has a different design and plan for our lives that involves weekly worship, rest and reflection; a design called "Sabbath." **Sabbath is not only a suggestion, but a command** that can be pushed beneath the crushing weight of burdensome schedules and overwhelming expectations.

At the end of the book about the gingerbread man, he finally gets eaten, outwitted by a fox who cleverly gets the gingerbread man to leap onto his nose. The longer the gingerbread man runs, the less perspective he possesses. He becomes more prideful. He loses his edge and he is unable to properly discern his situation. We need not share the gingerbread man's fate! We need not succumb to the inordinate pressures of our world. **We need not be all things to all people at all times.** Not even Jesus submitted to this kind of lifestyle.

Sometimes the answers we seek do not reside with doing more, but with doing less. I hope you'll join us each Sunday as we discover the kind of life rhythm God intended from the beginning.

Together with you in Christ,



Rev. Kenneth A. Stewart



# Building Improvement Project Updates

## Building Improvement Updates:

Your Building Improvement Team has been working diligently for several months on a variety of projects, and we'd like to update you on our progress! As a reminder, our team of gifted individuals is committed to assess our facilities and consider possible changes which would help us better reach our community with the life-changing message of the gospel. Our motivation is rooted in hospitality to have a welcoming, safe, and beautiful facility that says to the unreached, You are welcome here! The original mission of the team focused on renovating the narthex, but the project blossomed to encompass the whole church property.

On August 23, we distributed surveys to everyone in worship. You responded in wonderful ways, providing critical feedback that has given direction for our team (copies of survey results are available in the church office, and you are welcome to have a copy). Most of you expressed a desire to designate a main entrance, refinish/replace exterior doors, posting additional interior signage, additional landscaping, lighting, and improving our overall appearance. Along with these new initiatives, we also desire to provide critical maintenance to

preserve the facility's structural integrity.

The narthex is an area of priority where we are exploring ways to increase the fellowship space for people to connect. At the same time, we want to address concerns about the noise that exists in between Sunday morning worship gatherings. We are also in conversation about adding restrooms on the sanctuary level.

We have received quotes to replace the Greene Street exterior doors and refinish the Caldwell Street entrances. We have received quotes that would provide canopy coverage for each of these entrances as well, which would serve as a physical indication of our reach toward the community. Canopies would simultaneously provide protection from the elements for all people, and especially for our daycare and preschool students. We have also received quotes for new exterior signage.

Your feedback has motivated us to beautify, update, organize, and clean areas of the church that have been previously neglected. In fact, the library space, the vault room, and other closet spaces have been cleaned, cleared, and given purpose so they do not collect unnecessary items. Feel free to take a look at places in the facility to which you have not yet explored,

and tell us what you think!

We plan to provide additional details about our activity at the January 10, 2016 State of the Church Banquet. We will invite your questions and feedback regarding our progress, and will have the opportunity to discuss the way forward during our time together. I would like to thank the members of our team who have invested much time, talent and effort to this process, sharing their gifts with the church so the world might know of God's goodness through our work: Scott Little (who has since moved to Iowa), Don Brown (Chairperson), Beverly Brown, Chuck Alexander (Trustees Representative), Gary Harbison (Finance Representative), Steve and Debbie Frazier (Hospitality and Child Care Representatives), Adele Penrod, Kara Hare, and Kris Stewart.

We look forward to all God has in store for us at Greene Street, and are excited to live into the adventure of his great and wondrous plans!

Together with you in Christ,



Rev. Kenneth A. Stewart

# Ministries for Children

For a service project during November and December, the children generously contributed soap, kleenex, toothbrushes and toothpaste to create Blessing Bags. These gifts were specially packaged by the children, along with a blessing card, and donated to our food pantry.



Cohen Brown  
Tristyn Frazier  
Hayden Hare  
Hudson Hare

Christmas Around the World, the children's musical, was a huge success! The children were wonderful, and with their joyful singing it was evident they are truly learning and celebrating that the baby Jesus was sent by God to save us! Phil and Beth Reimer along with Kara Hare provided musical and theatrical leadership, and Nicholas Heath was our behind the scenes assistant. The cast included:

Jack McMaken  
Preston McMaken  
Haylee Meckstroth  
Payton Meckstroth

Richard Price  
Bella Reimer  
Griffin Reimer  
Jocelyn Reimer



Kiara Reimer  
Quinten Reimer  
Zachary Reimer  
Anna Tauber



After worship on December 13th, 25 children and their families gathered for a birthday party for Jesus. The children completed our blessing bag project, read the Christmas story from the Bible, sang happy birthday, thanked God for sending us the greatest gift ever, then enjoyed pizza and cake for lunch. The grand finale to a special event was a piñata, which was knocked down by one of our youngest and enjoyed by a      1      1      :

Wednesday Night Alive will continue in January, on Wednesdays from 6:30-7:30, for children ages 5 through sixth grade. Please bring your children into the Narthex, and if school is cancelled for bad weather, we will also cancel WNA.



# Upcoming Events

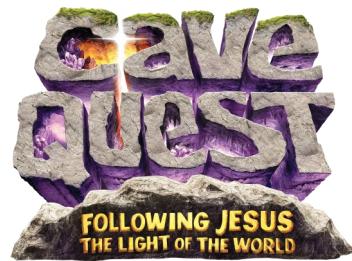


## C R A Z Y   A B O U T CONFIRMATION!

Confirmation is a class offered every other year to provide an opportunity for students 6th grade and older to make an informed decision about their personal faith in Christ. With many of us receiving baptism in infancy, Confirmation provides a way for us recognize and respond to God's grace for ourselves. I plan to offer this class on Sundays from 4 - 5:30 PM, beginning February 21 and ending May 1 (with the exception of Easter Sunday, March 27). Confirmands will then enjoy a time of recognition during both worship gatherings Sunday, May 15, 2016 (Pentecost Sunday), along with the opportunity to articulate their own understanding of Christian faith. This class is offered to all students 6th grade and older. If you would like to attend, please contact Jennifer in the church office, either by phone (773-5313) or email ([jennifer@greenestreetumc.org](mailto:jennifer@greenestreetumc.org)). I cannot wait to begin the adventure!

With thanks,

Rev. Kenneth A. Stewart



## VBS Planning Meeting

If you are interesting in planning or helping with this years VBS, please contact Jenny Sweetman (773-5313 or [jennifer@greenestreetumc.org](mailto:jennifer@greenestreetumc.org)) or come to the planning meeting held on January 7, at 6:30 p.m.

Holy Hoagie sale coming soon! Look for more information mid-January.

## More Advent Pictures



# Updates

West Ohio Conference-UMC  
32 Wesley Boulevard • Worthington, OH 43085-3585  
(614) 844-6200 • (800) 437-0028  
Apportionment Form

Church # 676021  
Piqua Greene St UMC

Sherry Heath Treasurer  
415 W Greene St  
Piqua, OH 45356

December 17, 2015

Pension and Health Benefits Apportionment

Apportioned	YTD Paid	Remaining	Fund
\$ 3,078.00	\$ 3,078.00		3

Retiree Health & Clergy Benefits

Conference Apportionments

Apportioned	YTD Paid	Remaining	Fund
\$ 8,750.00	\$ 9,750.00		2
\$ 6,671.00	\$ 6,671.00		4

Administration & Ministerial Support

Connectional & Missional Ministries

General Church Apportionments

Apportioned	YTD Paid	Remaining	Fund
\$ 5,619.00	\$ 5,619.00		5
\$ 105.00	\$ 105.00		6
\$ 1,929.00	\$ 1,929.00		7
\$ 769.00	\$ 769.00		8
\$ 172.00	\$ 172.00		9
\$ 678.00	\$ 678.00		10
\$ 1,685.00	\$ 1,685.00		11
\$ 151.00	\$ 151.00		12
\$ 105.00	\$ 105.00		13

Totals      \$ 31,312.00      \$ 31,312.00      \$ 0.00

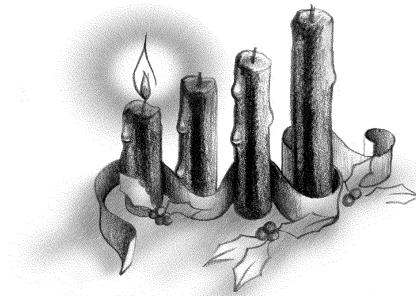
Special Sunday Offerings/Other Benovolences

YTD Paid	Fund
	14
	15
	16
	17
	18
	19
	20
	21

One Great Hour of Sharing  
World Communion  
Student Day  
Human Relations Day  
Peace with Justice  
Native American Awareness  
Other Benovolences-Churches  
Other Benovolences - Misc

## Apportionments Paid In Full

For the first time since Sherry Heath has been employed at Greene Street, all the apportionments (both district and conference) were paid in full before December 1. We are grateful to the generosity of Greene Streeters, especially since the Easter, Thanksgiving and Christmas Offerings were not used as income for the church, but for outreach to others. It is a new day at Greene Street. Thanks be to God!



Oh, Holy Night



# Group Updates

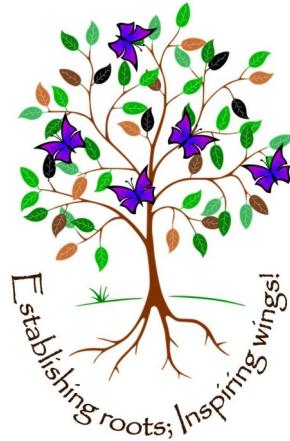


The Basement Class provided Thanksgiving dinners for two families from Springcreek Primary School. Both families were appreciative of our efforts, but perhaps even more so for our concerns about their inability to provide a traditional Thanksgiving meal for themselves. They were pleased to be remembered and were themselves, thankful.

Our intent for these meals is to give the families good meals **with leftovers**. We provided turkey, dressing, potatoes, gravy, green bean casserole ingredients, corn, sweet potatoes, rolls, bread, butter, milk, pies, and whipped cream topping. We hope this will help provide sustenance also for the days beyond Thanksgiving when children are not in school

and able to get meals there. It's all about helping families hold it together!

On December 7, twenty-one Springcreek third-graders and their chaperones came to Greene Street to help with cleaning and organizing in different areas of the church. Representatives from our Board of Trustees and Building Improvement Project Committee worked with the children. Throughout the year there will be other scheduled activities where the K-Kids will help Greene Street with projects as a way of helping the children better understand what it means to serve others.



## From the Directors Desk:

I am excited to say that after many years the Daycare/Preschool has taken on a new Mission Statement. The staff as a team came up with this new look. God has blessed us with this wonderful church family who supports us and allows us to establish roots for the next generations to come, giving them wings to lead us into the future.

We have also added a new way to pay your bill. You can now pay on-line. All you have to do is fill out a form and return it to the office and we will get you set up with on-line payments.

## From the Pantry

The Food Pantry has benefited from the generosity of several organizations in the area during this holiday season - starting with our own church family. We are grateful for your willingness to share with others who are less fortunate.

Coming in January.... Our annual Chili Cookoff and dessert auction. Details coming in the next couple of weeks. We are looking forward to this fun event and hope you plan to join us.

**Highlighted Food Item - Breakfast foods (i.e. cereals - both hot and cold, breakfast bars, breakfast sandwiches, etc.).** For those who are hungry, a nice hot start to their morning, especially, during the winter months, will be very much appreciated.

On behalf of the Food and Hunger Team: We wish you a most joyous and Merry Christmas!

# Because We Are Family

Hospitalized Since Last Month: Joyce Ellerman and Ron Cooper

**Greene Street Church Family** - Jim Whetstone, Hubert Bateman, Ron Cooper, Robyn Cooper, Irene Clark, Ben Hiser, Judy Elliott, Harold Pummill, Jeff Elliott, Joyce Ellerman, Miriam Robinson, Paul Rice

**Friends and Family of Greene Street** - Carol and Mike Jess, Joanne Kress, Janet Hartley (Stilwell), Carol Wick (Harbison), Jeni Alderman (Hardman), Angie Winstler (Community), Christina Mullikin (Mullikin), Jeff Meckstroth (Meckstroth), David Shellenberg (Shellenberg), Kevin & Rick Callison (Callison), Cade Rogers (Reimer), John McCoy (Daycare)

**Military** - Ron Cooper, Jed Cooper, Andy Pearson (Carter), Brian Pummill, Dasch Underwood, Clark Cripe (Elliott), Joseph Sherman (Shellenberg), Brent Efaw (Frazier), Ben Datu (Mullikin), Kris Palsgrove

**Care Facilities** - **Brookdale**: Howard Reed; **Piqua Manor**: Dick Callison; **Caldwell House**: Virginia Gross; **Heartland**: Jane Flitcraft; **Garbry Ridge**: Barbara Minton; **Spring Meade**: Martha Fraley; **Lincoln Park Manor**: Margie Trimmer; **Dorothy Love**: Ruth Brush, John Phillips, Gladys Mullen

## **OUR SYMPATHY IS EXTENDED TO:**

- family and friends of Maxine Zimmerman, who passed away on Friday, November 27, 2015.

## ***Birthdays***

8	Tom Ringer
10	Jane Salisbury
11	Reynna Lavey Ryan Staley
12	Kim Calland Gladys Mullen Lee Pettit
14	Lauryn Thomas
19	Ann Elliott
20	Helen Enos Cornelia Tinkler
21	Anna Agee Megan McBee
24	Ed Ellis
26	Lois Erbes Krystal Lawson
29	Jane Hiser
30	Kris Brown Tere Hogston Holly Trombley
31	Jeanne Hale Gail Staley

## ***Anniversaries***

7	Jeff & Susan Erbes
27	Al & Lois Erbes



January

## **Thank you -**

Greene Street,

We want to thank you for our generous gift for our son Beckett. The blanket is perfect for the winter months ahead! Thank you so much we greatly appreciate it!

- Ryan & Kelsey Klopp

## **Thank you -**

Dear Greene Street family,

The Cooper family (Ron, Robyn, Cathy, Jed, Megan, Ronnie, Erika, & grandkids) send our Thanks for your prayers, hugs, monetary gifts, and support through the illness of Ron Cooper. He is healing everyday.

God is good! We are strong because we are a family. Thank you again,

Ron & Robyn Cooper & Family

# January

Unless otherwise stated...

## Sunday Schedules

9 a.m. Liturgical Worship  
10:30 a.m. Unveiled Worship  
5 p.m. TEEM  
6 p.m. Ch. 5 Rebroadcast

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
					6 p Girl Scouts	6 p Girl Scouts
3 6 p TEEM Parent Meeting	4 7 p Melody Men Leader Meeting	5 3:45 p Building Improv. Proj. 6 p Melody Men 7 p Worship Committee	6 1 p Disciple Group 6 p Girl Scouts 6:30 p WMA 6:30 p Praise Team	7 6:30 p VBS Planning Meeting	8 6 p Girls Chrysalis Team	9 8 a Girls & Boys Chrysalis Team 8 a UMM Breakfast
10	11 7 p Girl Scout Leader Meeting	12 6 p Melody Men	13 1 p Disciple Group 6:30 p WMA 6:30 p Praise Team	14 6 p Girl Scouts	15	16 Girls Chrysalis Weekend #61
17 Girls Chrysalis Weekend #61	18 Girls Chrysalis Weekend #61	19 6 p Melody Men	20 1 p Disciple Group 6 p Girl Scouts 6:30 p WMA 6:30 p Praise Team	21	22 6 p Boys Chrysalis Team	23 8 a Boys Chrysalis Team
24	25 6 p Melody Men 7 p Food & Hunger Team	26	27 1 p Disciple Group 6:30 p WMA 6:30 p Praise Team	28 6 p Girl Scouts	29	30 7-11:30 a Dick Sword's Sausage & Pancake Breakfast 9 a Boys Chrysalis Team
31						



Greene Street  
United Methodist Church  
415 W. Greene Street  
Piqua, Ohio 45356-2198

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**Methodist Church**

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