Some of you may have noticed that in the bulletin beside my name (Rev. Jane E. Madden) it says Pastoral Care & Visitation. You’ve seen me in the church doing a variety of things like playing for the Men’s Choir, playing the organ, doing announcements and praying for our joys, concerns, and offering. Some of you are aware that I assist the Communion Stewards and Servers and teach a Bible Study. All of those things that you see me do may leave you wondering “Are those things I see Jane do Pastoral Care and Visitation”? No, they are “things” I do out of my love for God and for the people of God.

Here at Sidney First UMC Pastoral Care is a system developed to provide spiritual guidance and the love of Jesus to individuals and families. It is a means of connecting the person(s) to God and to the community of faith during periods of crisis, transition, and a multitude of other difficult situations of life.

I visit with people in their homes, the hospital, rehab facilities, and nursing homes. I listen to their needs and pray with and for them that those needs will be heard by our Heavenly Father and they will be comforted by feeling the Holy Presence of God in their situation.

I also visit with people in my office (the door at the right front of the Chapel) as they express a desire to be closer to God, describe how they feel God is leading them into an area of ministry, or what is the cry of their heart. We are serious together, cry together, laugh together, and pray together.

Visiting with people wherever I meet them is such a joy in my life. I pray that my love of Jesus shines through me to let them know that I see them as a Beloved Child of God, also. Particularly on Sunday mornings, I am at times guilty of placing too much focus on “my agenda” that I feel must be taken care of before the service begins and not enough focus on God’s children who need to share with me something that is important to them. I pray for forgiveness.

One of the blessings that I receive as a Pastoral Care Pastor is being able to facilitate a class for those who have experienced a loss in their lives. This group meets on the 2nd and 4th Saturday mornings at 9 am in our library. All of us face losses at one time or another. “Some of them are life changing, such as leaving home, the effects of natural disasters or war, the death of a loved one or divorce.

What’s Inside:

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Others are subtle, like changing jobs, moving, or a broken friendship.” (H. Norman Wright)

Regardless of the situation that resulted in our loss, it is such a blessing to meet with and receive spiritual support from scripture and from others. As we pray together each is strengthened in their faith and encouraged by having others walking with us on the journey of healing. We extend an invitation to those in need of mutual relief from sadness of spirit to join us. As in all Pastoral Care situations, all conversations are regarded with strictest confidentiality.

I am blessed to have a marvelous team of servants who help me with the visitations. With nearly 2,700 people in our database I would be amiss to think I was able to tend to the needs of all by myself. The members of the Outreach Team visit with our shut-ins each month. They listen to, share news of our church family, take devotionals to them, and pray with them. They serve a vital link between the precious ones they visit and our congregation. If you are a compassionate person and you wonder if God would be able to utilize your listening ears as a member of this team, please get in touch with me.

If you know someone who needs to be loved on, prayed for, or who needs a listening ear or shoulder to cry on, please let me know. Contact me yourself or give them my contact information. I would rather be told by many people that someone needs my attention than not be told at all. At times I feel extremely inadequate when I hear that someone was in the hospital or a congregation member has lost a loved one, and I didn’t know and so wasn’t able to respond and be present with them. I missed an opportunity to share the love of Jesus with them and pray with them. I need your help to be able to do Pastoral Care for our community of faith.

May the Lord bless you and keep you, the Lord lift his countenance upon you; and give you peace, the Lord make His face to shine upon you, and be gracious unto you. Amen.

Jane Madden
Pastoral Care and Visitation
jmadden@sidneyfirst.com
937.492.9136

Sidney First currently offers the following services:

→ Our traditional service begins at 9:00 AM every Sunday.

→ Our contemporary service begins at 11:00 AM every Sunday.

→ We also have JOY Church at the Alpha Center every Sunday at 9:00 AM with breakfast served at 8:30 AM.

"I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in Me, though he may die, he shall live. And whoever lives and believes in Me shall never die,"

—John 11:25-26
How do people get elected to leadership positions in the church? This has been a frequently asked question by new people and old alike when it comes to understanding our church structure. Since we are making several changes to the process of nominating and electing officers, I thought I would try to help us understand the process.

All officers of the church are elected at what is called a Church Conference. The Church Conference is held annually. This last year, it was held in September. At the Church Conference a slate of officers to be elected is offered to the members of the church present at the conference. The presiding Elder, assigned to the conference by the District Superintendent, calls for a vote and the slate of officers is elected. That is the simple answer to how people get elected but what goes on to create the slate of names that is presented and elected at Church Conference?

The creation of the slate of officers belongs to a team of people called Nominations and Leadership Development. It is the responsibility of this committee to assist the church in the recruitment, development and training of Spiritual leaders for the needs of the mission and ministries of the church. Through prayerful discernment this group examines the work of the church and recommends to the Church Conference the names of the people to serve as officers and leaders. Since their election in September, this team has been working at several changes in hope of improving many things about our church leadership. As their title suggests, some of their work has centered on training and leadership development. They are working at a quarterly training schedule for all the volunteers of the church. They are also working with a program called Volunteer Rocket to improve and enhance the work of all our volunteers and create simple paths so people who are new to the church’s many ministries can get involved.

The most interesting changes Nominations and Leadership Development is making is in the area of new leaders for Church Council. Church Council is the ruling body of the church and has thirteen members. Nominations and Leadership Development has developed a process, including training for the nominees for the Council in an attempt to find and prepare the best candidates for leadership. This is all new as a process and has required hard work at several levels. Some suggested that we may scare people away from accepting the nomination if we make it too hard. However, nothing is more important than being sure the leaders on the Council are the best leaders in the church. The hope is the process will bring confidence to the church membership that the very best individuals have been nominated to the Church Conference.

Along with Church Council, Nominations and Leadership Development will nominate members to the Buildings and Grounds, Finance, Stewardship, Foundation Trustees, Pastor Parish Relations and even to their own committee of Nominations and Leadership Development. They establish policy around term limits and seek to nominate leadership that reflects the diversity of the congregation.

Pray for this work of Nominations and Leadership Development as the process has begun already to fill the slate by the fall. Thank you!

David Chivington
Lead Pastor
dchivington@sidneyfirst.com
937.492.9136
Over the last decade, Jeremy has had the privilege of gaining valuable experience while working as a State Trooper with The Ohio State Highway Patrol. He has had the honor of meeting many of new people throughout his career and has been able to meet hundreds of people who suffer from chemical dependencies. This continues to be an area of concern as it is growing at an alarming rate and affecting numerous members of our community. Jeremy comes from a strong Christian background and belief that with his faith, education and experience he can help individuals affected by substance abuse overcome their addictions and help lead them into whole life recovery at Samaritan Works, Inc.

Jeremy lives in Brookville, Ohio, and is married to Lauren, who is Chief Financial Officer and School Treasurer with Valley View Local School District, and they have two beautiful daughters—Allison and Hannah.

Jeremy is a 1999 graduate of Fairlawn High School. He graduated from Sinclair Community College with a Associate’s Degree in Law Enforcement and graduated from The Ohio State University with a Bachelor's Degree in Criminal Justice.

He was previously employed with The Ohio State Highway Patrol as a State Trooper for 10 years, Detective with The Office of Investigative Services and K-9 Handler with The Criminal Interdiction Team. In addition, he possess over 15 years of professional experience in dealing with people and families in crisis. Furthermore, Jeremy possesses advance knowledge and studies in human behavior, chemical dependency abuse, and substance abuse withdrawal.

Jeremy has over 15 years of professional experience in seeing people through their court-related matters and building relationships with the law enforcement community.

Sidney First and Samaritan Works is excited to welcome Jeremy!

Jeremy Morris
Executive Director
jmorris@sidneyfirst.com
937.492.9136

Samaritan Works, Inc. Welcome Reception Dinner:
April 9, 2015, from 5:00 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.
The Brew Nation in Sidney, Ohio
Calling all gardeners, green thumb enthusiasts and anyone willing to get their hands dirty. Our church is reaching out in the community by helping the City of Sidney Parks Dept. maintain two small parks, Schultz Park and Columbia Park located on 25A South of town by “The Bridge”.

Look for additional information forthcoming in our bulletin for dates and times. Bring your own yard tools and prepare to edge sidewalks, trim trees, clean flowerbeds and plant new flowers.

Here are pictures to enjoy of members helping on our last cleanup project!
Our third mission trip to serve our mission partner, Tijuana Christian Mission, will be completed by the time you read this. We completed several important projects including building on to the security wall at the Rosarito Orphanage. Plans are developing for a youth/adult trip to Tijuana Christian Mission in July. Prepare your hearts now, if you think that this is something that God is bugging you about.

Another March trip was to the Jackson Area Ministries in Ohio. Our partner there has used our talents to build wheelchair ramps and repair bathrooms, as well as to minister to people in the area. Another Jackson Area Ministry we promote is a seed ministry. We’ll be collecting packets of garden vegetable seeds to send to people so they can grow some of their own food. Watch for the collection points in the Gathering Place. Finally, watch for the annual Labor of Love mission trip over Labor Day to the Jackson Area. This group has been going for years, but they welcome new people every year.

We have another mission partner, Living Hope Mission, in Haiti. The children just collected coins to send down to help the children there. Very preliminary plans are in place to take a trip in January 2016. If you have an interest, let me know.

Many people tell me, “Gary, I’d love to help missions, but I just can’t make the trips.” That’s fine. Not everyone is called to travel. Some are called to pray. Please pray for our teams when they are on the road. Please pray for all our mission partners.

Another way we can all participate is through our offerings. Designating a financial gift to “mission trips” helps build a fund that will be used for projects—such as building the security wall at Rosarito—and for scholarships for those (especially youth) who would love to serve on a trip but just do not have sufficient financial resources.

Thank you for all your support. Remember our commission to go into the world making disciples—Here, There, Everywhere!

Gary Mintchell
Missions Coordinator
gmintchell@gmail.com
937.726.1798

Tijuana Christian Mission

Living Hope
Haiti Christian Mission
Mark Your Calendars

Every Wednesday Evening 5:00-8:00 pm—The first 90 minutes is an afterschool hangout with dinner and worship, message and small groups is from 6:30-8:00 pm.

April 1, 6-8 pm—Crossfire will meet at the Rolling Hills Skating and not at the church. The only money you need is to buy snacks/drinks at the concession stand. Drop off and pick up is at the skating rink.

April 25—Youth Fundraiser—Pulled pork dinners. Look for tickets to purchase in April!

May 17—Graduation Sunday—if you are graduating this year, please contact David if you would like to be recognized in this service.

May 20—End-of-School-Year Picnic from 6-8 pm. Park location to be determined.

June 25-27—Spirit Song! Cost is $100 for all 3 days. We have 15 tickets available for prime seats. First-come, first-serve but $30 deposit is needed to hold your ticket. Balance is due June 1. If you are unable to go, you will still be responsible for the balance unless you find someone to purchase your ticket. If we have more that want to go than we have tickets available, we can purchase more, but they will not be prime seats and will probably be further back from the stage.

July 6-11—Tijuana Mission Trip. We will begin building a team of youth and adults to go to Tijuana, Mexico. Cost expected to be $900-$1,000. Fundraisers will be done.

Summer Time—Watch for events throughout the summer—through our Facebook or Twitter at: www.facebook.com/sidneyfirstyouth or www.twitter.com/Sidney1stYouth

Would you like to help and volunteer? As the youth ministry grows, so is the need for volunteers! If you would like more information to join the Crossfire team, contact David at: dporath@sidneyfirst.com.

We currently have a need in these capacities:

- Junior High Small Group Leader
- Games Coordinator
- Host/Check-In Greeter
- Local Missions Coordinator
- Fundraising Coordinator

God’s grace and blessings.

David Porath
Youth Pastor
Sidney First UMC
937-492-9136
www.sidneyfirst.com
On February 15, we once again celebrated the hard work, dedication and confirmation of faith of 10 students at Sidney First UMC. With a wonderful combination of adult leaders and student leaders the students completed almost five months of classes that consisted of teaching, discussion, prayer and a mission trip to Nashville.

The classes dug into topics like faith, salvation, prayer, evangelism, missions, communion and baptism as well as core teaching and beliefs of the United Methodist Church.

In Nashville we were able to serve in a few different capacities such as serving dinner to the homeless as well as cleaning and visiting with elderly and physically challenged adults. This was definitely a bonding time for the whole team while serving others.

We had four faithful and hardworking leaders that made this year’s class a success. The adult leaders are Keith Brown and Kelli Skidmore. The student leaders are Nathan Day and Josiah Kramer. When you see them, please take the time to thank them for their hard work and commitment to developing disciples and future leaders of Christ’s church.

- Colin Freistuhler
- Brandon Hemsworth
- Brooke Hemsworth
- Jacob Hemsworth
- Caleb Johnson
- Isaiah Pleiman
- Noah Rioch
- Allie Skidmore
- Aidan Smith
- Isaac Stephenson

Mission Trip To Nashville
What’s Next? For April, May & June 2015

Children’s and Family Ministry

WANT TO GET PLUGGED IN?
We have a shadow program where you can come and check out what we do and see if serving children and families is for you!

What’s Next? For April, May & June 2015

Volunteer for VBS

Volunteer: If you did not sign up at the end of Weird Animals last year; don’t worry you still have a chance. Forms will go up in the gathering place and on the fifth floor. May 17th (if you have finished the 7th grade or older are all encouraged to serve).

Supplies: we will have supply slips on the bulletin board in the gathering place no later than May 31st. If you could take a slip or two purchase the supply and return it to the gathering place with slip attached.

Thank you for supporting VBS

Calendars & Newsletters!
On the first day of every month, there is a new calendar for all the upcoming events along with a parent newsletter with family ideas on deepening your faith and encouraging your children in their growth. On the wall by the elevator on the 5th!!!

Camp Union Dates to Remember!!
First Chance: July 13 & 14
Kindergarten and 1st Grade
Elementary 1: July 6-9
2nd–4th grade
Elementary 2: July 20-23
3rd–5th grade
Jr High Camp: June 22-26
6th-8th grade
Sr High Camp: June 15-19
9th–12th grade
College Age Retreat: July 31-Aug 2
HS Grad–23 yrs old
Annual 5K Benefit: August 1
1/2 mile fun run for younger friends

VBS—June 22nd thru 26th 9 am-12:15 pm
Join us as we embark on an icy expedition where kids overcome obstacles with God’s awesome power. All children from our community are invited to take part in this special week of Bible Expeditions, Meaningful Mission, Imagination Station, Mountaintop Treats, Kidvid Cinema, Glacier Games, and Celebration Summit -- all designed to help reinforce simple Bible truths.

These have nothing to do with what we’re about to tell you. (They’re making us hungry though.)

How can I help with VBS?
Volunteers: If you did not sign up at the end of Weird Animals last year; don’t worry you still have a chance. Forms will go up in the gathering place and on the fifth floor. May 17th (if you have finished the 7th grade or older are all encouraged to serve).

Supplies: we will have supply slips on the bulletin board in the gathering place no later than May 31st. If you could take a slip or two purchase the supply and return it to the gathering place with slip attached.

Thank you for supporting VBS

How do we really say an adequate thank you for those who week after week come and minister to the children of our church? Each week they spend an enormous amount of time and effort praying through and preparing a lesson that encourages boys and girls to form a personal relationship with Christ. Children ministry’s mission and vision are so very important to the growth of our community. Thank you for giving of your time, your gifts, and your talents to grow the next generation for life of our church.

Thank YOU!

Contact me anytime if there is anything I can help with: ehix@sidneyfirst.com, 937-492-9156 ext. 111
Watch for info on Facebook: Kidz First at Sidney First UMC
Our congregation is committed to ministering to the Sidney and Shelby County community. This needed space will anticipate the continued growth and aspirations of a body of believers that is 'Discovering Christ and Making Him Known'"  
Dr. Carl Wiley, Senior Pastor, Sidney First United Methodist Church, November, 1992.

And so, the official announcement to the “world” that we would embark on a construction project to create a new education wing, fellowship hall and general office….the “new” building….which now is approaching the start of its 22nd year of service. Seven years earlier (1985), Eugene Elsass and Arlen McRill had arranged to have Freytag and Associates develop an architectural design for a new structure for SFUMC and a period of discernment and planning ensued that led to the November ’92 announcement. Earlier that same year on June 21st at a congregational meeting, a vote of approval was passed that began the project in earnest. Funds for the new addition had been growing for several years and a campaign for pledges had occurred with the intent of having half of the cost of the addition available with the remainder being addressed with a loan.

An Executive Building Committee was formed in March of 1992 with Gene Elsass as Chairman. Along with Gene, Jim Liggett served as Vice Chair, Cynthia McRill was Recording Secretary, and Bill Heath, Paul Soliday, Jinny Shreves and Phil Valentine rounded out the seven-member committee. Dr. Wiley also participated and Vernon Davis was the Honorary Chairman, as well as serving as the Executive Committee Treasurer. Bill Harlamert was appointed as the church's volunteer construction manager, as a liaison with the general contractor, H.A. Dorsten.

Over 75 executive committee meetings were held between March of 1992 and January of 1995. These meetings were held at 6:30 a.m. bi-weekly at the Holiday Inn in Sidney. May 25, 1993, was Dr. Wiley’s last meeting with the executive committee and in July, Rev. Heth Corl joined the church and the executive committee as Senior Pastor to carry on what Carl had been so instrumental in shepherding.

There were a number of sub-committees formed early in the process to get input from area experts on what would be required of the new building. Those included the kitchen task area, administrative office task area, mechanical, space allocation, education and nursery, sound, decorating and special gifts, to name several.

Construction began on the new structure in April, 1993. Gene Elsass addressed the congregation by letter and invited all to a “ground breaking” ceremony on April 25th. “The beginning of a new era at First United Methodist Church is upon us,” Gene stated. He continued, “Future generations will be touched by the insight demonstrated by this congregation which is committed to “Discovering Christ and Making Him Known.”

The disbursements for the new addition totaled just over $1,427,000. With cash and pledges, interest from the gifts given, and miscellaneous income, a loan of just under $750,000 was required to satisfy the construction contract. The loan was secured from a group of local banking
institutions including Mutual Federal, People’s, the former Bank One and the former Star Bank. The condition of the loan was a variable interest rate (initially 7.50%) to be satisfied in 15 years with a monthly payment of $6,952.

In the spring of 1994, the building came to life as various groups began their move into the new structure. Later that year, a time capsule was enshrined at the Miami Street entrance of the structure and was placed during a special ceremony on November 15, 1994 (2019 will be 25 years and 2044 will be 50 years).

Gene Elsass, along with a number of other church leaders, were instrumental in leading and managing a facilities expansion that to this day supports many ministries of Sidney First! . . .

“To know Christ intimately and to follow Him into the world to make disciples.”

Jim Liggett
Lay Leader

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**Newsletter Information**

The next edition of *The Image* will include the months of July, August, and September of 2015. Information for that mailing MUST BE received by the church office by May 20, 2015. The newsletter will be available early in July. If you would like to receive an electronic copy of *The Image*, please email bwindle@sidneyfirst.com; you can also download a copy from our church’s website at [www.sidneyfirst.com](http://www.sidneyfirst.com).

**Do You Know??????**

If you have any interesting stories or facts about the church, we would love to hear from you. Please send information to Brenda Windle at bwindle@sidneyfirst.com.
April
5 – Easter
♦ 7 am Sunrise Service at Tawawa Park Gazebo
♦ 9 am Traditional Service – Poplar St. Campus
♦ 11 am Contemporary Service – Sidney High School
Easter Egg Hunt following 11 am service
6 – Easter Monday – Church Office Closed
22 – Kiwanis Pancake Days – Fellowship Hall

May
10 – Mother’s Day
25 – Memorial Day – Church Office Closed

June
7-10 – Annual Conference at Lakeside, Ohio
14 – Flag Day
21 – Father’s Day
22-26 – Vacation Bible School