

TOWER NOTES - JANUARY 2024

Prospect Street - A United Methodist Congregation

Volume 17, Issue 1



Probably by the time you read this newsletter article, Epiphany Sunday may have already taken place. The Sunday of Epiphany, also known as the Sunday in which we recognize the kings or wise men or magi depending on what you like to call them. The word epiphany to me has always meant something like an “ah hah” moment, or when you say, “Wow, now I get it.” We see from the wise men's journey from the East, that this Jesus was no ordinary king. He would impact not just His people but other nations as well. It is not far from the Sunday of Epiphany that we then recognize Jesus' baptism. And it is of course in Jesus' baptism that we see this is not just the King of kings, this is God's Son. He is divine Himself. What a revelation! What an epiphany!

But in this newsletter article, I want to focus not on this word **epiphany** but rather on the word **treasure**. The wise men brought their treasures to Jesus in Matthew; and then in Luke we read after taking everything in Mary treasures the experience in her heart. A treasure is something very important and very valuable. To treasure something is to place high value on it. To treasure something is to treat it in a way that reminds you and tells others just how important this thing is. I define treasure this way because I don't believe with every treasure that you keep it safe and sound. That you bury it somewhere only you know. This is just one way to treasure something. I believe Mary treasured that night Jesus was born by burning it into her memory banks. Though I am not sure how you couldn't help but do such a thing. I mean, we are talking about angels and kings. Fast forward to Jesus' baptism, another moment to be treasured. In Jesus' birth and then His baptism, we go from Mary recognizing the importance of taking care of Jesus the babe to Jesus the adult knowing he now must take care of us. *You and I. The world.*

You know that God treasured God's son Jesus, but God didn't treasure Jesus in a way that kept Him hidden and safe. God gave up and gave away the treasure of Jesus because God knew that treasure would end up saving creation. I believe the Wise Men must have known this as well. Remember, they didn't just give Jesus any old gift. They didn't just give Jesus something expensive. They gave Jesus that which they also treasured. Giving up what they valued most because they trusted more in the treasure they saw before them. Jesus, the son of God! May we remember, in this month of January, as we start off this new year, that we have been claimed by Christ as His own. In remembering this, may we treasure it by claiming Him as our Savior and living with Him as our King.

Rev. Josh Freshour

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Josh Freshour", written over a light yellow rectangular background.



- 2 Reed Wilson, Anna Kear
- 3 Richard Minner
- 4 Jill Hecker, Jeff Beveridge, Janet McCrery
- 5 Gretchen Lewis
- 6 Margo Seckel
- 7 Jared Haas, Kenneth Rider, Andrea Shuck
- 8 Amanda Holsinger
- 10 Ralph Craig
- 13 Nancy Holsinger
- 14 Bowen Kear
- 16 Mary Flach, Rev. Kenneth Jenkins
- 17 Hannah White, Gabe Freshour
- 21 Mary Criswell, Merle Reed
- 23 Louis Hughes, April Taylor
- 25 Robert Taylor, Brayden Boyd
- 27 Anita Baker
- 29 Shawn Hastings
- 30 Kenneth Norris, Colin Boyd
- 31 Ann Huff

*May God bless you with His boundless love, calming peace,
and heavenly joy throughout the coming year!*

Attendance

| Date | Sunday School | 8:30 a.m. | 10:30 a.m. |
|-------------|---------------|-----------|------------|
| December 3 | 21 | 30 | 86 |
| December 10 | 21 | 26 | 92 |
| December 17 | 32 | 19 | 165 |

Please pray for our Shut-In Members: Darlene Beveridge, Jeff Beveridge, Bob Bish, Virginia Chaney, Nettie Criswell, Ernest & Norma Denney, Lois Fulton, Betty Hampton, Dorothy Houser, Louis & Betty Hughes, Barbara Jones, Bob Lucas, Doris Mosher, Brenda Rider, and Trent Standley.

8:30 a.m. Greeters, Nursery Attendants, & Sound Board Slides Schedule

Greeters – 8:30 Worship

January 7 – Ralph & Ruth Ann Craig
January 14 – Gary & Sandy Redd
January 21 – Pete & Judy Stambazze
January 28 – Lynn & Velma Clabaugh

Jr. Worship – 8:30 Worship

1st Sunday – Kids remain in sanctuary
2nd Sunday – Pam Larkin
3rd Sunday – Sandy Redd
4th Sunday – Tracey Rector
5th Sunday – Tracey Rector

10:30 a.m. Liturgist, Greeters & Acolytes, Nursery Attendants

Liturgist – 10:30 Worship

January 7 – Sara McKenney
January 14 – Faye Roszman
January 21 -
January 28 – Lynette Burris

Greeters & Acolytes – 10:30 Worship

January 7 – Shawn Hastings
January 14 -
January 21 – Mike & Linda Mills
January 28 – Shawn Hastings

Nursery Attendants – 10:30 Worship

January 7 – Sara McKenney
January 14 – The Criswell Family
January 21 – Sara McKenney
January 28 – The Criswell Family

Jr. Worship – 10:30 Worship

Teachers rotate each Sunday

Hospitality Center

1st Sunday – Guiding Light Circle
2nd Sunday – TBA
3rd Sunday – Serendipity Sunday School Class
4th Sunday – Martha Horne Circle
5th Sunday – Linda Mills and Helpers

Sympathy Notes

Our deepest sympathy to the family and friends of Larry Brumfield. Larry was called to his heavenly home November 5, 2023.

Welcome to our New Members

Keith & Barbara Sanderson, 5879 Seiter Road, New Bloomington, OH 43341. They joined PSUMC on Sunday, December 3, 2023.

Team Meetings

The Board of Trustees will meet on Tuesday, January 2nd, at 6 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall
The Prayer Team will meet on Sunday, January 7th, at 2 p.m.
The Staff-Pastor-Parish-Relations Team will meet on Monday, January 8th, at 6 p.m. in the Upper Room
The Finance Team will meet on Thursday, January 11th, at 7 p.m. in the Upper Room
The Leadership Team will meet on Thursday, January 18th, at 5 p.m. in the Upper Room

The ***Sacrament of Holy Communion*** will be served at both services on Sunday, January 7th.

Human Relations Day Offering – Sunday, January 14th.

Neighborhood Supper will be Friday, January 19th, from 5 – 6 p.m. as a Carry-Out Meal.

Newsletter Deadline will be Friday, January 19th, for our February 2024 Tower Notes!

Men's Prayer Breakfast will be held on Saturday, January 20th, at 8 a.m. There will be good food, devotions and fellowship! Please join this amazing group of men!

SUPER BOWL SUB SALE - The Volunteers in Mission Team will be taking orders for subs again starting January 21st and will end on January 28th. These subs will be ready just in time for the Game, February 11th. The cost of the subs will be \$5.00 each.

Pick-up times will be Thursday, Feb. 8th, 5:00-7:00 PM, Friday, Feb. 9th, 5:30-6:30 PM, Saturday, Feb. 10th, 10:00-11:00 AM, or after both services on Feb. 11th.

If anyone has an interest in joining us on a future V.I.M. trip, helping to sell and make subs is a good way to help pay for part of your trip. Please see Pete or Judy Stambazze on what is needed.

If you're not interested in serving on a team right now, but would like to join us on Tuesday Feb. 6th at 5:00pm to help slice and stack the meat and cheese or Thursday Feb. 8th at 5:00pm to make the subs, it would be greatly appreciated. In the past, we've received help from some of our church members who didn't go on our trips, but just wanted to help us out. It really is a lot of fun making the subs and enjoying fellowship at the same time.

The **Monday Morning Bible Study** will not meet again until Monday, January 22nd.

Free Community Breakfast will be held again on Saturday, January 27th, from 8:30 – 10:30 a.m. This community outreach is sponsored by the Men's Prayer Breakfast group and the S.K.I. Group. This breakfast is free and open to all (donations will be accepted). This will be a wonderful opportunity to get involved and support this effort to reach out into our community and build relationships with our neighbors and be fulfilled in sharing the love and grace of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Come one, come all to help, support or just have breakfast and fellowship. If you have questions, please contact Bill Bess at 740-360-3965. Hope to see you there.

Noisy Collection will be on Sunday, January 28th, for the Community Breakfast.

We will collect for the **Salvation Army Food Pantry** on Sunday, January 28th. Suggested donations: **Soups & Crackers**. They are also in need of paper products and feminine products. Put your donations in the shopping cart in the back of the sanctuary. Thank you!

Laundry Love Ministry will be Monday, January 29th, at 4:30 p.m. at the Southtown Cleaning Village, 355 S. Main Street in Marion. If you would like to help, please contact the church office.

The **Flower Calendar for 2024** is hanging up in the hallway. The price for fresh flowers is \$45.95. Silk flowers are still \$5.00. Select your date to remember a loved one or to honor a family member or friend. Make checks payable to Prospect Street United Methodist Church.

Peanut Butter and Jelly Food Drive - If you would like to continue supporting this mission, please drop off your donations in the Church kitchen. Then, they will be taken to their drop off location.

Prayer Team News

Hello from the Prayer Team! We are a group of people studying what prayer is, ways to pray, fasting and praying and most importantly, listening to God for answers to prayer.

Currently, we are meeting on the first Sunday afternoon of the month and are studying “Draw the Circle: The 40 Day prayer Journey” by Mark Batterson. This book is going to challenge us about the way we pray, what we pray for, and listening. We are very excited to study this book.

Please pray for the Prayer Team members - Norma Stump, Mary Flach, Bonnie Castle, Kathy Castle, Dave Starner, and John Paul Holsinger. Look for upcoming events from the Prayer Team to begin in the spring, including a Lenten Prayer Vigil, a Prayer Room, and the National Day of Prayer in May.

Please remember to keep praying!

Thank You Notes

Thank you to everyone who donated to our Mitten Tree this past Christmas. We collected the following items: 17 sets of hats and scarves, 5 sets of hats and mittens, 3 headbands, 34 pairs of socks, 47 pairs of gloves, 28 scarves, and 46 hats.

Prospect Street U.M. Church, thank you so much for the warm blankets for Ernie and myself. I’m sure they will come in handy on long, cold winter nights. Our Blessings to all, **Ernie & Norma Denney**

Thank you very much for your Christmas gift. I really appreciate it. Glad to be a part of this church. **Derrick Mulvey**

Thank you for all the gifts, cards, and the special love gift from the church. Merry Christmas! **Erika Meligan**

United Women in Faith

United Women in Faith Circle Meetings

The Hilda Weiss Circle and the Martha Horne Circle will not meet in January.

The Guiding Light Circle will meet on Tuesday, January 9th, at 1:30 p.m.

The S.K.I. Group will meet on Tuesday, January 16th, at 6:30 p.m.

The ***United Women In Faith Executive Board*** will meet Monday, January 29th, at 2 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall.

The ***UWIF*** appreciates all the support our church family continues to give our circles. That support could have been purchasing cinnamon candy, a cheese ball, a ham loaf, serving at the community breakfast with the S.K.I. Group, or being present and encouraging the circle members. Thanks to you our precious church family.

The ***Martha Horne Circle*** hosted/taught a fun filled wreath making session in December. It was a great time – laughter, patience, success! In addition to our wreaths, every person got a print and a framed print with their wreath. Fun memories! This project made \$362.00 “profit.” All of that was donated by the circle to the Stained Glass Window Fund.

The ***Guiding Light Circle*** decided to help Pete Stambazze finance his January Mission trip to Mexico. In addition, we are considering a couple of maintenance projects for church upkeep.

The ***S.K.I. Group*** is continuing to refurbish the 3rd floor youth area.

Sunday School Classes

Katherine Griffith is leading a **Sunday School Class** on the Book of Revelation in the Gathering Place.

The **Serendipity Sunday School Class** will finish our Advent Study in January. We are investigating several options for February and then our Lenten Study to begin in March. As always, find a Sunday School to enrich your spiritual walk!

The **New Beginnings Sunday School Class**, taught by Dave McCartney, will begin a three-month study on the Book of Acts. This book includes both the growth and persecution of the early Church which results in the Gospel being spread to Gentiles as well as Jews and introduces the Apostle Paul whose story pretty well takes over the book from then on. If you've never studied Acts, or would just like to visit it again, we welcome you, especially if you're not currently in Sunday School. The class is located in the basement directly off the elevator.

From Your Lay Leader

Dear Friends,

Happy New Year! I pray that 2024 brings you good health, happiness, a closer walk with Jesus and much joy. I want to share with you some of my favorite Psalm verses:

Psalm 96

- 1 Sing to the Lord a new song; sing to the Lord, all the earth.
- 2 Sing to the Lord, praise his name; proclaim his salvation day after day.
- 3 Declare his glory among the nations, his marvelous deeds among all peoples.
- 4 For great is the Lord and most worthy of praise; he is to be feared above all gods.



We are called to "sing". What will be your song - one that will reminisce of past blessings from God? Will it be a song looking toward the future, or one that combines past, present and future? Will it simply be praises to the God who created all things and is with us every step of our life? Whatever it may be, shout it loud and proud, declaring his goodness, kindness and promise of salvation! Praise and bless God by extolling his mercy, might and compassion.

As we begin 2024, let's hold dear these questions with our own personal answers in mind - **Whom** do I worship? **Why** do I worship? **How** do I worship? Also, please keep in mind this quote that I read in an article by Rev. Nancy Koester - "There is **great variety** in how we worship, but **proclamation of God** is at the heart of it all."

Continue to thank and worship God in **all** that you do, in the varying jobs and activities of our lives and be blessed. ♥

Love through eternity, Lynette 🎵



Church Finances

E-Tithing is an automatic withdrawal from your checking account and is remitted automatically to the church. We can set it up so it will deduct from your checking account on the 1st and/or the 15th of each month. Contact the church office for more information!

Kroger Community Rewards – Please enroll in the Kroger Community Program. Go to www.krogercommunityrewards.com and all the details on creating an online account are there. Under Community Rewards make sure you search and select “Prospect St. United Meth. Chur” our Organization number is VF478. Thank you! If you have any questions, please call Erika.

General Fund Income YTD as of December 18, 2023: \$182,536.47

General Fund Expense YTD as of December 18, 2023: \$233,763.29

If you have any question or concerns, please call Erika
or see our Treasurer, Pete Stambazze.

Military Prayer List

Each Sunday a candle is lit for those in the military. Perhaps some of you are still using our military prayer list. I try to keep that updated. Here is the list I have now. If you know of others that should be deleted, or you would like to add someone, please let Norma Stump know. Her phone number is 1-267-387-1251.

| ARMY | NAVY | AIR FORCE |
|---|--|---|
| Brandon & Page Chaney Jeremy Conn John Bradley Fausnaugh Kelly McDowell Jonas Meligan (Ft. Campbell, KY) Drew Row Josh Stambaugh Waitman Kapaldo Luke Bushatz (National Guard, Alaska) | Michael Harbolt Brandon Littell Andrew Craig (Reserve in Nevada) Darren Mills (New Zealand) | David McGinnis (National Guard) Lydia Highfill (deployed to Washington, DC) |
| | MARINES | |
| | Willie Morris John Stertzer Jr. Michael Sullivan | |

January Prayer List

Please include these people and events in one of your prayer sessions each day.

1. Pray for yourself!
2. Anna, Ric, Rickki, and Bowen Kear
3. The service men/women in our newsletter
4. Jeff Beveridge and Jill Hecker birthdays
5. Gretchen & John Lewis, Dave & Renee Allen
6. Your neighbors
7. Kenneth & Brenda Rider, Ralph & Ruth Ann Craig
8. The Holsinger Family
9. Ruth Ann Snyder, Karen Hall, Norma Stump
10. The United Women in Faith Circles
11. For social justice within the UMC
12. Lucille Copus, Janice Nicolosi, Lois Fulton
13. Your best friend
14. Bill & Dee O'Neil
15. John Row and Lynette Burris as they deliver church DVD players
16. Mary, Gary, and Tom Flach
17. Our church choir as they practice this evening
18. Mark, Jesse, Faith, Aron Fausnaugh
19. The servants at our Neighborhood Supper
20. The men gathered for praise and worship at our church this morning
21. Merle Reed, Mary Criswell, Robert Lucas
22. For the scouts that meet at our church
23. Robert & April Taylor, Molly Lu Balis
24. Louis & Betty Hughes, Ernest & Norma Denney
25. The Women's Bible Study group that meets on Mondays
26. Anita Baker, Lucille Risch, Doris Mosher
27. The diners at our Community Breakfast
28. Betty Hampton, Trent Standley, Dorothy Houser
29. Shawn Hastings, David Starner, John Row
30. The children in our life
31. Ann Huff and the Worship Team

January

| SUNDAY | MONDAY | TUESDAY | WEDNESDAY | THURSDAY | FRIDAY | SATURDAY |
|---|--|--|---|--|--|---|
| | 1 | 2 6 p.m. Board of Trustees 5 p.m. & 6:30 p.m. TOPS Weigh-In & Meeting | 3 6 p.m. Children's Choir 7 p.m. Adult Choir | 4 | 5 | 6 1 – 3 p.m. Celebration of Life for Spark Alspach |
| 7 Holy Communion 8:30 a.m. Praise Celebration 9:30 a.m. Sunday School 10:30am Traditional Worship 2 p.m. Prayer Team | 8 6 p.m. Staff-Pastor-Parish Relations 6:30 p.m. BSA Scouts | 9 1:30 p.m. Guiding Light Circle 5 p.m. & 6:30 p.m. TOPS Weigh-In & Meeting | 10 6 p.m. Children's Choir 7 p.m. Adult Choir | 11 7 p.m. Finance Team | 12 | 13 |
| 14 8:30 a.m. Praise Celebration 9:30 a.m. Sunday School 10:30am Traditional Worship | 15 6:30 p.m. BSA Scouts | 16 5 p.m. & 6:30 p.m. TOPS Weigh-In & Meeting 6:30 p.m. S.K.I. Group | 17 6 p.m. Children's Choir 7 p.m. Adult Choir | 18 3:45 p.m. Mobile Meals 5 p.m. Leadership Team | 19 5 – 6 p.m. Neighborhood Supper Carry-Out Newsletter Deadline | 20 8 a.m. Men's Prayer Breakfast |
| 21 8:30 a.m. Praise Celebration 9:30 a.m. Sunday School 10:30am Traditional Worship | 22 9:30 a.m. Bible Study 6:30 p.m. BSA Scouts | 23 5 p.m. & 6:30 p.m. TOPS Weigh-In & Meeting | 24 6 p.m. Children's Choir 7 p.m. Adult Choir | 25 | 26 | 27 8:30 – 10:30 a.m. Community Breakfast Michelle Lewis & Lance Fassler Wedding |
| 28 8:30 a.m. Praise Celebration 9:30 a.m. Sunday School 10:30am Traditional Worship Salvation Army Food Pantry Collection Noisy Collection | 29 2 p.m. UWIF Exec. Board 4:30 p.m. Laundry Love 6:30 p.m. BSA Scouts | 30 5 p.m. TOPS Weigh-In 6:30 p.m. TOPS Meeting | 31 6 p.m. Children's Choir 7 p.m. Adult Choir | | | |



Prospect Street
A United Methodist Congregation
185 S. Prospect Street
Marion, OH 43302

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

SENT WITH A PRAYER AND A BLESSING TO:

Sunday Worship

8:30 a.m. Praise Celebration

9:30 a.m. Sunday School

10:30 a.m. Traditional Worship

Pastor: Joshua Freshour

Church Office Hours:

Monday - Friday from 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Church Phone: 740-382-6069

Web-site: www.prospectstreetumc.com

Pastor Josh: pastor@prospectstreetumc.com

Erika: secretary@prospectstreetumc.com

Fully wheelchair accessible!

Valet Parking!