

THE COLUMNS

December 2018



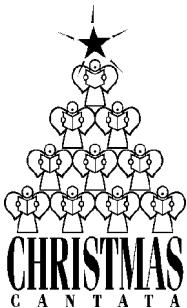
Advent Workshop



*Join us on Sunday, December 2,
for our annual Advent Workshop & Luncheon*

Lunch, provided by the Christian Education Board, begins following the 10:15 service. After lunch, the Fellowship Hall will be transformed into a craft workshop. This is a favorite RUCC tradition and we encourage you to bring your family and grandchildren and join the fun.

Our Christmas Cantata



The journey from Advent to Christmas is filled with vivid images of beloved traditions: the lighting of candles; Christmas trees representing the light of Christ; decorations of evergreens, symbols of the promise of rebirth; the emergence of stars atop the trees to guide the pilgrim journey; and the presentation of gifts in celebration of God's great gift to us all. Throughout the centuries, believers have sung carols that celebrate these traditions.

In celebration of our congregation's 200th birthday, the RUCC choir has again created its own Christmas cantata, selecting favorite songs, carols and hymns from cantatas performed in the past. The music is from seven different cantatas and tells the timeless Christmas story of Christ from prophecy to birth.

Please join the RUCC choir, narrators, soloists, bell choir and instrumentalists for this inspiring performance on Sunday, December 9, at the 10:15 service.

December 24 Services

Christmas Eve Candlelight Services
4:00 pm and 10:00 pm





Our New Name - Living Water Association

We used to belong to the Western Reserve Association (WRA). A few years ago, the WRA and Eastern Ohio Association

We have a new name for our association. What's an association? This little graphic is one way to visualize how the association fits into the structure of the United Church of Christ (UCC).

(EOA) began to pool resources together. Eventually they decided that it was time to merge the two associations into one single association. For a while, they were known as the EOA/WRA

associations. But that alphabet soup was just too difficult. So, at the Associations Annual Meeting at the end of October a resolution was passed. It reads, in part:

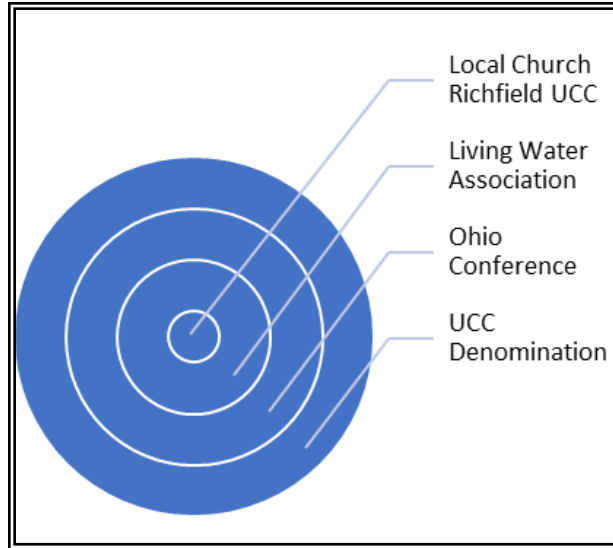
Each person in our church is part of a LOCAL CHURCH: *The Richfield United Church of Christ*. The local church is the basic unit of the life and organization of the UCC.

Each local church is part of an ASSOCIATION – the name of that association just changed.

Our Association is part of a CONFERENCE, called the *Ohio Conference*. It organizes all the associations in the area.

Covenanted together, the local congregations, associations and conferences are all expressions of a DENOMINATION, known at the United Church of Christ – one of the largest Christian denominations in the U.S.A.

OK – I know that part was a little dry. But it's important to understand what comes next. Our Association has a new name: the "Living Water Association." You'll be hearing a lot from them in the future, so I just wanted to make sure you knew what was going on.



"The Western Reserve and Eastern Ohio Associations of

the Ohio Conference UCC shall be known as one Association.

Our name: *LIVING WATER ASSOCIATION*

Our purpose: *To be a resource and support for the health and wellbeing of our congregations that we may grow into communities of healing and grace.*

***Refreshing our souls, hearts and lives;
Renewing our congregations and communities;
Restoring the world to what God intended it to be.***

This name evokes the great lake and many rivers that are in our region. And it is biblical. In John 4, Jesus tells the Samaritan woman at the well to drink

December Scriptures

December 2: Scriptures: James 5:7-11 Luke 21:25-36

Sermon: "*The Farmer Waits*"

December 9: Scriptures: Isaiah 40:1-5 Luke 3:1-6

Sermon: "*Roadwork Ahead*"

December 16: Scriptures: Philippians 4:4-9 Luke 1:39-56

Sermon: "*Looking Forward*"

December 23: Scriptures: Isaiah 11:1-10 Luke 1:26-38

Sermon: "*Do Not Fear*"

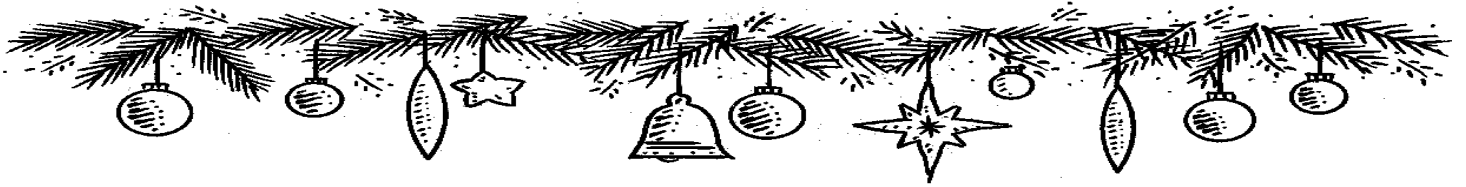
December 24: Scriptures: Isaiah 9:2-7 Luke 2:1-14

Sermon: "*Christmas Peace*"

December 30: Scriptures: Colossians 3:12-17 Luke 2:40-52

Sermon: "*Growing in Wisdom*"





Homemade Chocolate Sale

The Christian Education Board is sponsoring a homemade chocolate sale to benefit the Barb Simmons Scholarship Fund. The chocolate bark is a perfect Christmas gift for teachers, family and friends. Cost is \$5 a bag and can be purchased on Sunday, December 9, 16 and 23.



OPEN M Christmas For the Love of Children

The WPM Board would like to thank you for helping to put a smile on a child's face this Christmas and show our RUCC love through the OPEN M Christmas For the Love of Children project. **Gifts for this project should be turned in to the church office by December 2.**

United Church of Christ The Christmas Fund

*For the Veterans of the Cross
and the Emergency Fund:
Remembering Those Who
Serve Our Church*



Your donations to this special United Church of Christ offering help provide pension and health premium supplementation to lower-income retired church workers, emergency assistance to clergy or lay church employees in need, and Christmas "Thank You" gift checks to hundreds of annuitants. The purple giving envelopes will be in your Sunday bulletins and the pew pockets during December.

Christmas Cookies



Greenleaf Family Center Cookie Project

*Our 48th year of participating
in this project*

One of the most enjoyable evenings during the Christmas season is when we pack boxes

and boxes of cookies, donated by you, for the Greenleaf Family Center. Join us on Monday, December 3, in the Gathering Room for this annual project. Cookie packing begins at 7:00 pm.

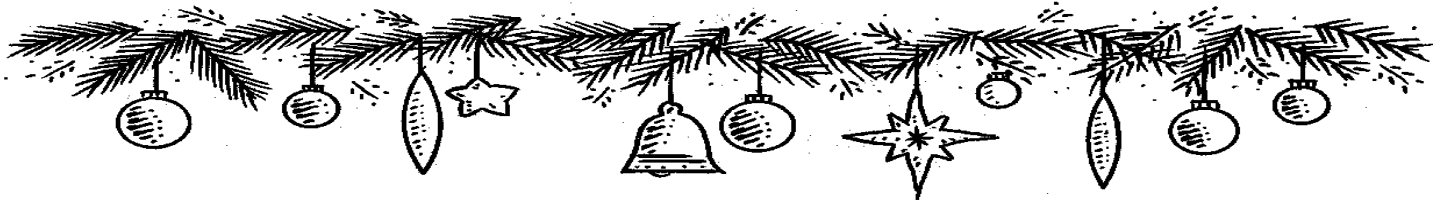
**Homemade or store-bought cookies
for this giving project
can be brought to the church office.**

Our 2019 Pledge Drive

*PROVIDE for the Future
SERVE the Present
HONOR the Past*

There is still time to turn in your 2019 pledge cards and add your pledge leaf to the Giving Tree for our 2019 pledge drive. We have received 65 pledges at this time. By making a pledge for next year, we give our treasurer, Gary Obenauer, a clearer picture of what the budget will look like.

Thank you all for your continued support of our church. The seeds planted 200 years ago have grown into what you see today. Let's keep this church blossoming year after year by giving it the nurturing it needs. If you have any questions about the pledge drive or how to give electronically, please contact either Gary, Reverend King, or any member of the S&A Board.



December Youth Activities

Sunday, December 2: Greet and usher at the 10:15 service. Bring a dessert and help serve lunch at the Advent Workshop luncheon.

Saturday, December 8 9:30—1:30
Cookie baking at RUCC, followed by our Youth Group Christmas party, which includes pizza, games and a white elephant gift exchange.



Sunday, December 9

Meet at the church at 2:15 for caroling and delivering our cookies to the residents of Blue Stream Rehab & Nursing (the former Pine Valley care center).

Looking ahead

Martin Luther King Jr. Lock-In

January 20 -21

9-12th graders from all over Ohio will meet at the First Federated Life Center in Chagrin Falls for a overnight Lock-in. Program, games and food. Contact Marilyn if you are interested in attending.

November Giving Collection

We surpassed our goal of 210 boxes of individually packaged hot chocolate mix with a competition between the piano-side pews and the organ-side pews. The boxes of hot chocolate will be placed in OPEN M Christmas baskets this year. The final count was 286 boxes and coffee hour treats will be provided on December 23 by the losing side.



Sunday School Teacher Sign Up

The Christian Education Board has posted a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board in the Fellowship Hall for teaching the preschool—5th grade classes at either the 9:15 class or the class that meets after Children's Time at the 10:15 service.

Children's Special Program Director

Sarah Luther will be stepping down as the director of Children's Special Programs at the end of the year. The Christian Education Board is now taking applications for this paid position. Applications are in the church office.



Ushers for December

December 2: Youth Group

Mark Mitchell Mary Patrick

Jeff Braun Barb Luther

If you would like to be part of the monthly usher teams, contact Lew Monegan.



December Lay Readers

December 2: Maggie Gerber

Jim Schilling

December Birthdays

12/4 Vernice Deuring

12/6 Rachel Luther

12/8 Laurel Luther

12/8 Marilyn Pay

12/9 Sherri Barker

12/9 Bart Benedict

12/9 Linda McKay

12/11 Kirsten Swan

12/14 Samantha Emilio

12/15 Ray Deuring

12/15 Josie Sobieraj

12/15 Patrick Bowman

12/15 Kathy Bumblis

12/16 Bethany Westphal

12/16 Jenny Shankland

12/18 James Holan

12/18 Tracey Hackworth

12/20 Nancy Hartman

12/21 Jay Carroll

12/22 Oliver Miller

12/25 Cindy Braun

12/31 Virginia Smith

December Anniversaries

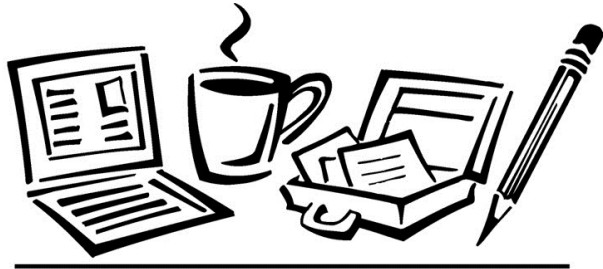
12/16 David & Kathy Hakos

12/19 Gary & Brenda Lindsey

12/21 Gary & Bonnie Obenauer

12/28 Pat & Sandy Norris

12/28 Jamie & Jessica Walters-Tuttle



December Boards and Council Meetings

Monday, December 10

The Stewardship and Administration, Christian Education and Worship and Parish Ministry boards will meet at 7:00 pm on December 10.

Church Council meets at 8:15 pm.

Book Club

Book Club will not meet during the month of December.

Men's Health Group

Men's Health Group will meet on Thursday, December 13, at 11:00 am in the Gathering Room. Please note the later starting time.

The Men's Discussion Group

The Men's Discussion Group has been meeting every Wednesday morning from 6:30 to 7:30 for 25 years! Join us for coffee and conversation.

Becoming a Welcoming Church

The next gathering of those who have read the book *Becoming a Welcoming Church* will be on Wednesday, December 5, at 7 pm in the Gathering Room. If you would like to join the discussion, but have not had a chance to read the book, copies can be found outside the church office.

In Loving Memory

Marjorie Ramp, longtime UCC member in Richfield and Oberlin, Ohio, and Boise, Idaho, passed from this life September 18, 2018.

Red Cross Blood Drive

Wednesday, December 12

1-6:00 pm at RUCC



Bicentennial Items for Sale

Commemorative Christmas Ornaments

Remember this year for years to come with a cast aluminum ornament designed by Sally Heston and crafted by Wendell August Forge. \$18

RUCC 200th anniversary history book

The story of our church's past is now available. Books can be purchased for \$15.

"God Be With You Till We Meet Again" note cards

Barbara Rosene has created a beautiful picture for these note cards. Package of 6 cards and envelopes, \$8.

RUCC coffee mugs, \$7; RUCC t-shirts, \$10/\$12

Northeast Ohio Sheltie Rescue

There is still time to participate in the Acme Community Cashback 2018 to help the Northeast Ohio Shetland Sheepdog Rescue. Acme receipts dated 8/9/18 through 12/29/18 can be dropped off in the church office or give Them to Linda and Tim Hnath.

Richfield United Church of Christ
4340 W. Streetsboro Rd.
Richfield, Ohio 44286

Non-Profit Org.
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GATHERING OF THE CHURCH FAMILY

EVERY SUNDAY
8:00 AM Early Worship Service
9:15 AM Sunday school
10:15 AM Worship Service

EVERY WEEK
MON 7:30 PM AA
WED 8:00 PM AA
SAT 8:30 PM AA

WEDNESDAY
6:30 AM MEN'S GROUP
THURSDAY
7:00 PM BELL CHOIR PRACTICE

Like us on Facebook
[Facebook.com/
TheRichfieldUCC](https://www.facebook.com/TheRichfieldUCC)

December Activities

December 2: Communion / Youth greet and usher / Advent lunch and workshop

December 3: Cookie packing for the Greenleaf Family Center at 7 pm

December 5: Becoming a Welcoming Church discussion group at 7 pm

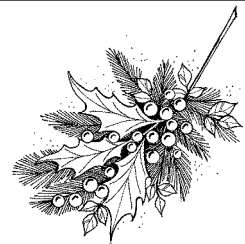
December 8: Christian Education Board candy making at 9 am

Youth Group cookie baking & Christmas Party 9:30-1:30

Cantata practice, 11:30-1:00

December 9: Our Christmas Cantata at the 10:15 service / Youth Group caroling at 2:15 pm

December 10: Church boards meet at 7 pm and Council meets at 8:15 pm



**Richfield United Church
of Christ**
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