
THE BEACON

January 2023 A Publication of the Union Hill Church of Sugarcreek



"God is faithful; by him [we] were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord"
(1 Corinthians 1:9, NRSV).



Pursue Jesus — and your passions

If you struggle with making and keeping resolutions, you're not alone. It can be discouraging to focus on what you're doing "wrong" and all the difficult changes in store. Yet January offers great opportunities to listen to God's direction. After all, Jesus came to give us abundant life and wants us to pursue him.

As you review the previous year, ask: What brought me joy? How did I grow? How did I help others? What did I do that no one else could have done? Whether your list includes spending time outside, mentoring or coaching young people or making crafts to give away or sell, continue doing what brings you joy. God gives us each unique gifts and circumstances, so live passionately for him this year. —Janna Firestone



Leave the light on

"We'll leave the light on for you," a motel chain once promised. In other words, they were expecting you and looking forward to your stay.

During the time of the high priest Eli, "the lamp of God had not yet gone out" (1 Samuel 3:3). Eli oversaw the tabernacle, so some people say this refers to an actual lamp. But the passage could have a deeper meaning. Although Eli had turned a blind eye to his sons' sins and neglected his duties, God knew that Eli could still be a divine instrument. God knew not to turn off Eli's light. God was expecting Eli to still shine brightly for him, and eventually Eli figured out that Samuel, his young charge, was hearing God's voice.

So if your light seems dim or even burned out, be assured that your pilot light remains on! God has left the light on not just *for* you but also *in* you. —Julie Lee



Lord Speak

My prayer this year is "Lord, speak, for your servant is listening."

As we enter the new year, let us listen to what the Lord is telling us through the Word. In the story of Eli, Eli was told of the troubling things that were happening under his watch. As I look around, I see many troubling things under our watch. Will we repent? Will we turn from our own sinful desires and seek the Lord? As I read the book of Ecclesiastes, Solomon says thirty-eight times everything we do is vanity apart from God.

But I wonder sometimes how much of a servant he really was. It took Solomon seven years to build the temple (1 Kings 6:38). What a great accomplishment, right? Then I read it took him thirteen years to build his own palace. Then Solomon built a massive mansion for the daughter of the Pharaoh. (1 Kings 7:1-12) Something seems out of place here, right? Whose kingdom are we building?

Are we subject to our desires and to sin? Or are we like Solomon, who had an opportunity to be put right there with Abraham and his father, David, as a patriarch of the faith. But he threw it away.

I know God warned Eli. God certainly warned Solomon also. Is God warning each of us here today?

The wisest man alive ends this book by stating, "Hear the conclusion of the matter: Fear God and keep his commandments, for this is the whole duty of everyone." (Ecclesiastes 12:13) The Lord Jesus has spoken: "Love the Lord... and love others as yourself." If we honestly want to hear from the Lord and be a servant, this is where we start and finish.

Grace Abounds,

Pastor Jeff

HOLIDAY BAZAAR SUMMARY

God has rained blessings on the Holiday Bazaar at Union Hill Church! He provided workers with ideas and talents.

Together we had: Popcorn and cider opening night, Soup/Sandwich Luncheon, Candy/Bake Sale, and Created/Hand-made Gifts/Home Décor.

Then came guests from the community, area visitors, adventure seekers, travelers, and church members. Just the right group to find their treasure.

We shared stories, laughed together, prayed and thanked God for getting us together.

At the end, we had \$5,526. This will be given to: Union Hill Church Tithe (\$527) Community Ministry, Release Time Program of Garaway Schools (\$1500) Union Hill Disaffiliation Fund (\$3,000) Union Hill Church Future Bazaar Start Up Fund (\$499)

Thank you all! Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

God bless you,
Glen, Charlotte, Linda H., Wanda



BULLETIN PRAYER LIST

A new prayer list is beginning in the bulletin on Sunday mornings. If you placed a name on the list and would like for it to remain, please let Lynette know. Each week we will also be listing the names of those who were placed on the prayer chain during the week and those given during the worship service the week before.

The list will be updated quarterly.

PRAYER
list

READY, SET, GO!



A NEW SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASS

A new Sunday School class will begin on Sunday, January 8th for all those who are new to the faith or new to our congregation and would like to learn more about the steps of Discipleship. The class will be led by Pastor Jeff and will meet in the HIS classroom – at the end of the hall downstairs, next to the Livits.

NEW AD. BOARD SCHEDULE

Beginning this month, the Administrative Board will begin meeting every second Tuesday of the month at 7:30pm. This is a new format that was voted on by the board to help alleviate the number of committee meetings that were held each month. There are no longer committee members – only committee chairpersons. All chairpersons are to attend the Board meeting every month. There is one exception: the Trustees will continue with a chairperson and committee members.

A new Leadership Guide is in the narthex with the listing of all the chairpersons. Please feel free to reach out and talk with them with any ideas for ministry or concerns.

TRUSTEES NOTICE!

With the disaffiliation process upon us, the Trustees have many decisions and tasks to get done. Beginning this month, the Trustees will be meeting the first Tuesday every month. So, those on the Trustees committee, mark your calendars for this Tuesday, January 3rd at 7:00 pm. And remember to mark the first Tuesday of every month in your calendars.

OFF TO ISRAEL!

Pastor Jeff will be traveling to Israel leaving on Tuesday, January 31st and returning on Saturday, February 11th. While he is gone, Pastor Wes George of Dover First will be covering for him with any emergencies or concerns from the congregation. Please contact Lynette while he is gone if you need to be in touch with Pastor George.

While he is gone, there will be Bible Study on Wednesdays at 10:00 am and 6:30 pm. Bob DeSeyn will be leading.

COFFEE CAKES AND PRAYER

The date for baking coffee cakes for our teachers and public servants is this coming Thursday, January 5th at 9:00 am. Packaging will be at 1:00 pm that day. Please sign up if you are willing to help by donating ingredients, baking, packaging, or delivering. Delivery will be on Friday, January 6th.

OCC ITEMS FOR JANUARY



HARBOR OF HOPE FOOD PANTRY

Paper Products





JANUARY Birthdays & Anniversaries

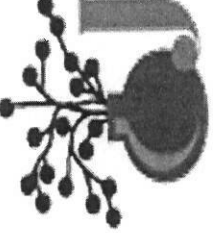
- January 1: Cindy Myers
Dave Leishman
- January 2: Delany Elmore
- January 4: Roxie Gerber
- January 9: Harper Dunn
- January 10: Dan Widder
- January 11: Molly Alexander
- January 16: Tyler Zimmerman
- January 17: Lynette Mahaffey
- January 18: Max Cooley
Buffy Hostetler
Erin Seward
- January 23: Donald Rufener, Jr.
- January 26: Olivia Andrews
Jim Lorenz
- January 27: Ida Wright
- January 29: Nancy Fisher
Andrew Kinsey

<3<3<3<3<3<3<3<3<3<3<3<3<3<3<3
January 11
Neil & Jennifer Deam



Church Directory
Pastor Jeff Calkins: 740-680-5605
pastorJC07@gmail.com
Secretary: Lynette Mahaffey
Office: 330.852.4449
Website: unionhillumc.com
email: unionhillumc7877@gmail.com
Church School: 9:30 am Worship: 10:30 am
Deadline for copy: third Monday of each month.

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 6pm - T A T C 	2 Office closed	3 7pm - Trustees	4 10am - Bible Study 6:30pm - Bible Study 7:45pm - Choir	5 9am - Coffee Cakes 1pm - Packaging	6 Deliver Coffee Cakes	7
8 6pm - T A T C	9 7pm - Ladies Small Group	10 2pm - History Committee 7:30pm - Ad. Board	11 10am - Bible Study 6:30pm - Bible Study 7:45pm - Choir	12 7pm - Dartball @ Sharon Men.	13	14
15 6pm - T A T C	16 Office closed 7pm - Ladies Small Group 	17 7pm - FH in private use	18 10am - Bible Study 6:30pm - Bible Study 7:45pm - Choir	19 12pm - SIS 7pm - Dartball - Newpointe	20	21
22 6pm - T A T C	23 Newsletter items due 7pm - Ladies Small Group	24	25 10am - Bible Study 6:30pm - Bible Study 7:45pm - Choir	26 7pm - Dartball - Sharon Men.	27	28
29 6pm - T A T C	30 7pm - Ladies Small Group	31				



January