

New Year's Past and Present



The celebration of the new year is one of the oldest holidays. Many believe it was first observed in ancient Babylon about 4000 years ago it marked the first New Moon after the Vernal Equinox. The Babylonian new year celebration lasted for eleven days. How did New Years Day move from the summer to the winter? A good question, especially since the spring is the season of rebirth, of planting new crops, and of blossoming. Today New years Day is January 1st.

The month of January was named for their god, Janus, who is pictured with two heads. One looks forward, the other back, symbolizing a break between the old and new. The Greeks paraded a baby in a basket to represent the spirit of fertility. Christians adopted this symbol as the birth of the baby Jesus and continued what started as a pagan ritual. Today our New Year's symbols are a newborn baby starting the next year and an old man winding up the last year.

Not all countries celebrate New Year at the same time, or in the same way. This is because people in different parts of the world use different calendars. Long ago, people divided time into days, months, and years. Some calendars are based on the movement of the moon, others are based on the position of the sun, and others are based on both the sun and the moon. All over the world, there are special beliefs about New Year.

The Jewish New Year is called Rosh Hashanah. It is a holy time when people reflect on the things done wrong in the past, with a promise to do better in the future. Religious services are held in synagogues, and an instrument called a Shofar, which is made from a ram's horn, is played. Children are given new clothes, and New Year loaves are baked and fruit is eaten to remind people of harvest time.

The Chinese New Year is celebrated some time between January 17 and February 19, at the time of the new moon, and it is called Yuan Tan. It is celebrated by Chinese people all over the world, and street parades are an exciting part of their New Year. At the Festival of Lanterns thousands of lanterns are used to light the way for the New Year. The Chinese people believe that there are evil spirits around at New Year, so they let off firecrackers to frighten the spirits away. Sometimes they seal their windows and doors with paper to keep the evil spirits out.

The traditions of the season include the making of New Year's resolutions. Making resolutions to change some part of one's life also dates back to the early Babylonians. Today most people promise to lose weight or quit smoking.

Our ancestors thought that one could affect the luck they would have throughout the coming year by what they did or ate on the first day of the year. It has become common for folks to celebrate the first few minutes of a brand new year in the company of family and friends.

New Year foods are also thought to bring luck. Many cultures believe that anything in the shape of a ring is good luck, because it symbolizes "coming full circle," completing a year's cycle. Some put coins in black-eyed peas and the person who gets the coin in their meal will be prosperous in the coming year.

newyearsday.com

As we celebrate the beginning of 2012, let us all remember the lessons of our advent message series:

- Break the chains of Christmas past by letting God transform us.
- Choose to make memories that rekindle the joy of Christmas in our hearts.
- Give of yourself like God did for you.
- Remember the hope of Christmas is that God can change us.
- Don't give up the joy of Christmas and remember the keys to "getting a life".
- See beyond the regrets of the past and look to the hope that awaits us in Christ.

and keep the "Hallelujah" of Christmas in your life each and every day of this new year!



Nurture & Care

The Nurture & Care committee of this church is here to help and care for our congregation. This committee is your "First Call for Help". We are a group of people who are concerned with the welfare of our members. This commission leads us to offer "help" services where we can, and to keep track of other community services that may be available when the need is beyond what we can do. The co-chairpersons of this committee are Sherry Dangremond (440-522-1644) and Linda Knapp (440-667-7056).

Are you facing a crisis? Is your loved one sick? Has someone close to you died? Do you need someone to listen? Or do you need help finding other community services that may be available?



**3 SIMPLE RULES
DO GOOD
DO NO HARM
STAY IN LOVE
WITH GOD**

Specific Help Available

For visitation, rides to the Doctor, assistance for shut-ins, or help finding other community services that may not be available through the church, call one of your Nurture & Care Chairpersons.

Lay counseling support call Ginnie Baillie, Lay Counseling Minister, at 440-365-7391.

If you need help with meals (short-term), call Sue Short at 440-365-8184..

For funeral dinners, call Alberta Haas at 440-365-5326.

If you are a widow, widower, or a senior citizen and you need help with tasks that are too much for you to handle on your own, then you need to contact the DOERS. Call Adam Baillie at 440-365-3200

Who Should You Call?

First, call Pastor Don at 365-8734. If you cannot reach Pastor Don, then call one of your Nurture & Care Chairperson's.

For information or questions about church activities or if you can't reach the people listed above, call the church office at 440-365-7391. Office hours are 8:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. M, T, W, F.
If the phone is not answered, please leave a message and your call will be returned as soon as we are back in the office.

C.U.M.C. Prayer Chain

Call Alberta Haas (365-5326) or send an E-mail to Candi Thompson at clthompson@eriecoast.com.

IN THE ARMED FORCES

Justin Berry Doug Blaner Jacob Brown Roy Cooper Amanda Gray Adam Mathews James Morrison, Jr. Jen Murphy	step-grandson of June Miller son of Bob & Carol Blaner nephew of Cora Campbell son of Chuck & Pat Burkey daughter of Becky Sklenar grandson of Gerry Brown son of one of our Food Pantry patrons daughter of Sandee Daggett	Tom Murphy Daniel Quigle Eddie R. Rivera Ryan Schaffer Matt Sharp Ben Sklenar Ché Stedman Jesse Tubb	son-in-law of Sandee Daggett grandson of Mary Hendershot friend of Becky Sklenar friend of the Leidenheimer's nephew of Sharon Moehle son of Becky Sklenar nephew of the Doebele's nephew of the Doebele's
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SHUT INS

Doris Ann Bingelli, Betty Burnworth, Jessie Carrick, Joanne Meschke, Evelyn Miller, Rev. Ronald Ober, William & Louise Rogers, Donna Roseborough, Dolores Turner

ONGOING ILLNESS

Leonard Burch, Cora Campbell, Wreatha Goforth, Diane Harbst

CONDOLENCES

To Pastor & Rosemary for her mother.

*Remember that nothing God can ever give is comparable to himself.
It is God we seek in prayer.
Everything else is secondary.*



If the Bible is our food, then prayer is our air. It's the way by which we draw in the atmosphere of God. Prayer is rich and varied. Sometimes we confess our sins in a prayer of penitence. Sometimes we praise God in worship and thanksgiving. Sometimes we ask God for help and grace to meet whatever comes our way. Sometimes we pray for other people. Sometimes we're quiet, knowing that when we stop clamoring and pleading our case, there comes a sense of God's reply, some intimation of his will, some message from him to us.

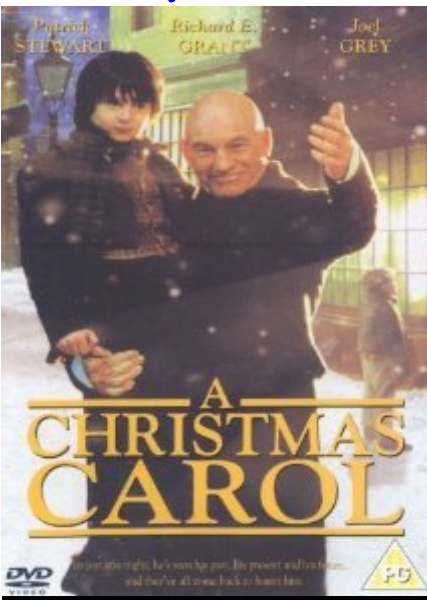


A BIG THANK YOU to everyone who participated in our Advent Season happenings. When I asked you to help, you said yes and gladly gave of your time and talents. The readers theatre dramas were very well done; the church was decorated by many hands in short time with beautiful results and the worship services were joyful and inspiring.

On behalf of the worship team, I extend sincere appreciation to Pastor Don for purchasing the "Humbug to Hallelujah" series. Your sermons have been very inspiring. You have led us through the Christmas Story with new insight. We are truly blessed by your ministry. We thank you for your dedication and hardwork as you teach us more about God's Word. Sincerely, Sandee Daggett

Merçi
Thank you
Danke schön
Gracias

Special Family Movie Night @ Community UMC



We will be privileged to see Charles Dickens' "A Christmas Carol", starring Patrick Stewart, in its entirety on Wednesday, December 28th. Admission is free. The doors will open at 6:30 p.m. and the movie will start in the Sanctuary at 7:00 p.m. We have seen snippets of the movie throughout the Advent season that go along with the sermon topics.

All who attend movie night are invited to a "potluck snack time" after the movie. Bring a snack to share and join in this fellowship time. Drinks will be provided.

Storyline

Scrooge is a miserly old businessman in 1840's London. One Christmas Eve he is visited by the ghost of Marley, his dead business partner. Marley foretells that Scrooge will be visited by three spirits, each of whom will attempt to show Scrooge the error of his ways. Will Scrooge reform his ways in time to celebrate Christmas? Script Written by [Mike Konczewski](#)



A Note from Sandee

Dear Friends,

It has been my privilege and honor to serve as the chairperson of our worship committee for the last several years. You have supported and encouraged me all along the way and I have been truly blessed by the experience. I have learned much and grown in maturity as a child of God. I look forward to continuing my journey through this life along side all of you.

I am stepping down now and Mary Brown will take over as chair on January 1st. I know you will support and encourage her also.

May God continue to bless CUMC and it's ministries to His people!

With love and respect, Sandee Daggett

DOERS Report 2011 & History

In 2011, through December 15 the DOERS of UMM have performed 10 tasks for our membership. These tasks ran the gamut from driving to an appointment, removing furniture, repairing various items, trim trees & bushes & removing leaves from lawns. Seven different men were responsible for fulfilling these ten requests.

This is the second fewest requests we have performed in the six years the group has been active. Total requests were - 2006 twenty one, 2007 nineteen, 2008 twelve, 2009 fifteen & 2010 only four requests were received and accomplished. This gives us a total of 81 requests fulfilled in our six year history.

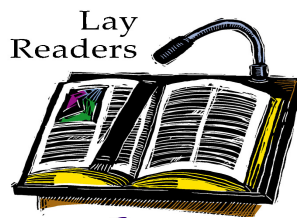
Do you need a task performed? Contact Adam Baillie @ 365-3200 or adam39@windstream.net.

Happy 2012!

Worship Helpers for January



Merlin Dyer
Mary Snider
Brenda Stoll
Bill Wilson



1st Sharon Dunkel
8th None this day
15th Ken Rush
22nd Willie Daggett
29th Martin Dunkel



Greeters

Children's Moments

1st Dianne Mueller 2nd Pastor Lare
3rd Linda Brunson 4th Becky Sklenar
5th Mary Brown

Children's Activities Helpers

Nursery 9:30 Pat Gregory & Helen Buckwald
10:45 1st Sun. MaryLou Doebele, Holly Leidenheimer
2nd Sun. Becky Sklenar, Nevada Hutkai
3rd Sun. Holly Leidenheimer, Maria Hartwig
4th Sun. Carol Blaner, Rosemary Lare
5th Sun. Sue Downer, Chris Wagers

Substitutes: Helen Buckwald, Pat Gregory

Growing Up Church

1st Sun. Linda Brunson, Sue Short
2nd Sun. Linda Brunson, Mavis Brown
3rd Sun. Linda Brunson
4th Sun. Bill & MaryLou Doebele
5th Sun. Linda Brunson

Winter Bible Studies

THE AMERICAN HERITAGE SERIES by David Barton*

Starting Sunday, January 15, from 3:30 – 5:00 p.m. for 10 weeks, discover the forgotten and astonishing story of our nation's foundation. For centuries, Americans were taught a truthful view of history that recognized the Godly heroes and moral foundation our nation was founded upon. But in recent years, a new version of history has assaulted the moral and spiritual fiber of our nation, leaving the truth of our past eliminated and forgotten.

A flyer is available in the bulletin each week that lists the topics for each Sunday. There is no homework for this class. A sign-up sheet is in the Narthex. Questions, contact Sara Bennett at 440-934-3378.

Special Note: As a kick-off to the series, join us for a chili cook-off tasting party on Sunday, 1/15 at 5:00 p.m. More info on this will be available soon!

*David Barton is the Founder and President of WallBuilders, a national pro-family organization that presents America's forgotten history and heroes, with an emphasis on our moral, religious and constitutional heritage.

PLEASE NOTE: This class will also be offered at Wesleyan Meadows starting on Thursday, 1/19 at 2:30 p.m.

Women's Study of Genesis

THE PATRIARCHS - Encountering the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob

In this study, Beth Moore reveals the flawed humanity and sin-nature of every human being, including the patriarchs of the O.T. She does so to encourage all who might feel "too far gone" in their sin or inadequate in some way to serve the Lord and show that with Christ, all things are possible. Homework 5 days a week. Sign-up in the Narthex. Call Ginnie Baillie or Linda Knapp if you have questions.

Tuesday 10:00 a.m. starts 1/17 or Thursday 6:30 p.m. starts 1/19

Class will be cancelled on days that the roads are bad.

Men's Study

A new Men's Bible Study will begin on Monday, January 16, 2012. The study will be on the Old Testament prophet, Hosea. There must be a minimum sign-up of six men for the study or it will be cancelled. The size of the group will dictate whether it meets at the home of the leader, Adam Baillie or will meet in the church parlor. The study will begin at 7:00 PM and will always end by 8:30. There is no homework involved, so all that is needed is your Bible & a writing instrument. You may register by calling Adam (365-3200) or signing the sheet, which will be in the narthex on Jan. 1; Jan 8; & Jan. 15.



The Bulletin Board

Happy Birthday!

1/2 Dick Rottari
 1/6 Mary Snider
 1/8 Sara Bennett
 1/14 Pat Burkey
 1/16 Dick Downer
 1/18 Azeal Ferrebee
 1/19 Deena Collins
 Diane Harbst
 Sharon Moehle
 1/22 Gene Marks
 1/24 Bob Shobe
 1/27 Joanne Meschke
 1/29 Sherry Dangremond
 Laura Hill
 1/30 Helen Buckwald

Happy Anniversary

1/14 Dick & Sue Downer
 51 years
 1/27 Gordon & Linda Brunson
 50 years

Special dates in January

1/1 New Year's Day
 1/6 Epiphany
 1/8 Baptism of the Lord
 1/16 M. L. King Jr.'s Birthday Observance
 1/18-1/25 Week of Prayer for Christian Unity



Hot Meals

Paper Dinner Napkins

Food Pantry

Canned Soup

January Meetings

1/3 7:00 p.m. Trustees Meeting
 1/8 8:00 a.m. UMM Breakfast Meeting
 12:00 p.m. Genesis Luncheon Group
 1/10 6:30 p.m. Worship Committee
 1/17 6:00 p.m. Finance Committee
 7:00 p.m. Administrative Council
 1/24 7:00 p.m. Education Commission
 1/31 7:00 p.m. Nurture & Care Committee

Reason for cheer

A psychologist has determined that the Monday in the last full week of January is the most depressing day of the year. This year, "Blue Monday" falls on January 23.

Cliff Arnall calculated this date based on a combination of bad weather, Christmas debts, broken New Year's resolutions and the end of the holiday break.

But no matter how bleak things seem — regardless of the time of year — Christians always have reason for hope. Thankfully, we can look beyond our earthly circumstances to the promise of new life with God forever.

As Martin Luther King Jr. said, "We must accept finite disappointment, but we must never lose infinite hope."

2012 Calendar Available in the Office

The 2012 Calendar is under the 2011 calendar on my door. Please schedule your meetings and activities for 2012 now so that the information is there when I prepare the Bulletin's and Clarion's.

Sherry D.

NO-SEW FLEECE SCARF



Winter is a difficult time for people in need, so make this scarf to help someone stay warm.

What you need:

- Medium-weight polar fleece, 60" standard width (a 9" portion will make one scarf)
- Scissors
- An adult to help

What you do:














1. Cut a piece of medium-weight polar fleece to the size of 60" x 9". Cut the fabric across its width so the material is stretchy.
2. Trim off the edge binding. To add "fringe" along each end, make a 6"-long cut every half inch.
3. For curly fringe, pull each strand and then let go sharply. Another attractive option is to tie an over-hand knot at the top of each strip.
4. Donate your scarf to a local group that helps people in need. For greater impact, encourage your Sunday school classmates or other friends to make scarves, too.



A caring disciple

In Acts 9, Peter tells of a woman who lived in Joppa. She performed good works and helped the poor. Solve the puzzle below to reveal this disciple's two names.

Instructions: Cross out the letters that spell each object and write the remaining letter on the blank.

___ adcltne			
___ rohmtae			
___ srgbape			
___ rbieda			
___ pehtshred			
___ rdhaenlca			
___ fadoo			
Her name in Greek			
___ pdeesh			
___ dchilnero			
___ drove			
___ acehtr			
___ sarcos			
___ nusoatinm			

Answers: Tabitha, Dorcas

From 1/1/2012
 it's only 197 days until VBS

Community United Methodist Church - January 2012

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 9:30 a.m. Sunday School 10:45 a.m. Worship	2 9:30 a.m. First Place (at Harbst's)	3 7:00 p.m. Trustees	4 8:00 a.m. Quilting 7:00 p.m. Choir Practice	5 <u>Office Closed</u>	6 11:30 a.m. Soul Café 12:00 p.m. Food Pantry Open 5:00 p.m. Hot Meals	7
8 8:00 a.m. UMM Breakfast Mtg. 9:30 a.m. Sunday School 10:15 a.m. MeetGreet 10:45 a.m. Worship 12:00 p.m. Genesis Luncheon	9 9:30 a.m. First Place (at Harbst's)	10 6:30 p.m. Worship Comm.	11 8:00 a.m. Quilting 7:00 p.m. Choir Practice	12 <u>Office Closed</u>	13 11:30 a.m. Soul Café 12:00 p.m. Food Pantry Open 5:00 p.m. Hot Meals	14 9:30 a.m. SPRC
15 9:30 a.m. Sunday School 10:15 a.m. MeetGreet 10:45 a.m. Worship	16 9:30 a.m. First Place (at Harbst's)	17 6:00 p.m. Finance Comm 7:00 p.m. Admin Council	18 8:00 a.m. Quilting 7:00 p.m. Choir Practice	19 <u>Office Closed</u>	20 11:30 a.m. Soul Cafe 12:00 p.m. Food Pantry Open 5:00 p.m. Hot Meals	21
22 9:30 a.m. Sunday School 10:15 a.m. MeetGreet 10:45 a.m. Worship	23 9:30 a.m. First Place (at Harbst's)	24 7:00 p.m. Education Comm	25 8:00 a.m. Quilting 7:00 p.m. Choir Practice	26 <u>Office Closed</u>	27 11:30 a.m. Soul Cafe 12:00 p.m. Food Pantry Open 5:00 p.m. Hot Meals	28
29 9:30 a.m. Sunday School 10:15 a.m. MeetGreet 10:45 a.m. Worship	30 9:30 a.m. First Place (at Harbst's)	31 7:00 p.m. Nurture & Care				

Avoid Conflicts - Schedule Early

The Community Clarion
Community United Methodist Church
680 Abbe Road, North
Elyria, OH 44035

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Return Service Requested

9:30 a.m. Sunday School 10:45 a.m. –Morning Worship



Community U.M.C.

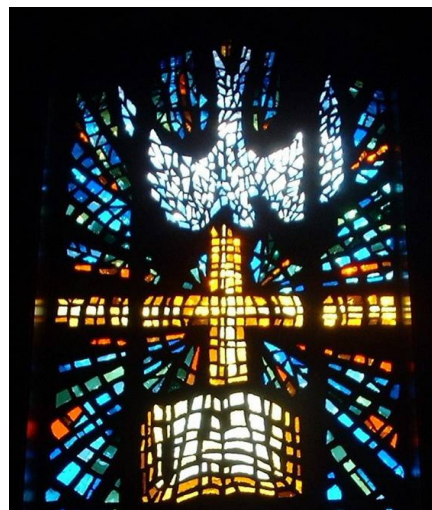
Bible Based
CHRIST
Centered Ministry

Our Mission:

*To Glorify God by
Equipping and Ministering to the Saints,
Proclaiming Christ to the Lost,
and Serving the Needy.*

680 Abbe Road, N. Elyria, OH 44035-3044
Phone: 440-365-7391 Fax: 888-776-2342
E-mail: cumc10@windstream.net

Visit us on the Web at
www.elyriacumc.org



Weekly Missions **Food Pantry**

Open every Friday
from 12:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Hot Meals

Served for the community
every Friday at 5:00 p.m.