



## *A Message from Rev. Rich*

Hello Friends:

I am writing to you before the sun comes up on December 2, after our first good snow in a while. I hope you have all weathered this first batch. I am grateful, especially since my snowblower performed admirably!

There is much to say, but everyone is weary after these many months of anxiety and uncertainty. If we ever needed an Advent season and the coming of Christmas *to give us hope*, we certainly need it now. Hope is the force that keeps us going. But we are blessed, because in spite of what our culture has done to December, the essential meaning has always been there, like a discarded present hiding under the tree. It has been hidden with crumpled wrapping paper and almost accidentally thrown away ( I actually saw this happen once! ).

We sing a song about the name of Jesus ( *“There’s Something About That Name”* ) which doesn’t sound like Christmas, but His Name offers us something so special. Yeho-shuah ( or more like *Joshua* in our modern language ), the actual name of Jesus, means basically that *“God is the Rescuer.”* Now this might not make sense. We might feel that we are *not lost* or in trouble, and therefore *do not need* to be rescued. Our beliefs about our faith in fact go in so many directions. We might see ourselves as not really needing any assistance at all. We might be quite fortunate ( and if you are reading this, you already are ); but our society and all the world is clearly an angry, broken group. We have damaged our own planet, treating it as disposable and exploitable. Sure, *cut down that rain forest, because someone will cash in on it!* Once again we are seeing that in Australia, it is 116 degrees and on fire. There is no good news in this.

But just like our ancestors in Faith, we are asked to hope, and to trust God. We are also asked to listen to words and warnings from long ago that still ring true. We are asked to listen because God is still speaking. And we have to get it out of our minds that Advent and Christmas only have to do with the past. This is not a historical re-enactment. We sing of the coming of a Messiah. But my goodness, we need him now more than ever. We need the world he will bring. And the promise is that *it will happen*. Something beyond our ability to imagine will become real in our world. The world and all of us will be redeemed and restored. We will in fact be rescued. That does not mean we are to sit back and wait. We cannot, because too many people are losing hope. This is where we are asked to actively shine that light, and to love others anyway, because we know how the story will end. Like we learned in the Sermon on the Mount back in August and September, we are to import God's future to our trembling present. We can do this. I will do all that I can to share this understanding for us. It matters what we believe.

I cannot predict how this month of December will unfold. But we are preparing for the disappointment of not being able to hold candles while singing Silent Night as usual. We are working together to create something beautiful for people to enjoy, something that will give us hope. Pray for us as we do the best we can with what we are facing. Better days will come. Please stay safe, wear your mask, wash your hands, and avoid close contact with people who do not live with you. We can do these things.

May God bless and keep you, and all the world.

*Rev. Rich Theurlis*

***Pray For:***

Carson Cooper

Ann Kalina

Melody Norton

Heidi Parazeau

Harriet Singelyn

Barb West



***CONTINUING***

***PRAYERS FOR:***

Rich & Jessie Adams

Nancy Baldwin

Jr. Barker (Nephew of Jack & Leah Schultz)

Fred Bell

Rev. Edgar Brady

Donny Fackler

Nancy Faulkner

Becky Gardner

Mollie Lewis

Hermine McGarvey

Holly Schaffer

Melissa McGuire

Maxine Nimitz

Roderick Nimitz

Kenny Norris Jr.

Shirley Porter

Jerry Pesicek

Reita Silvis

Bob Singelyn

Pam Steinfurth

**Church Office  
Hours are Tues-  
day & Wednesday  
from 9am to  
12pm. Thursday  
from 9am to 1pm.**

Please call and leave  
a message. The Sec-  
retary will return  
your calls.

Office Phone #:  
330-527-2055

Rev. Rich is in the  
office everyday  
except Wednesday.

The door is locked for  
security.

Please  
ring the doorbell to  
gain entry.

Thank you for your  
patience

**Website:**

Garrettsvilleohumc.com

**Email:**

Garrettsvilleumc  
@frontier.com

## **OPPORTUNITIES FOR MINISTRY AND FELLOWSHIP**

### **Sundays**

9:30 AM - VIRTUAL WORSHIP  
SERVICE

**PLEASE SIGN INTO ZOOM**

### **Monday**

**10:00 AM Nelson Bible Study**

**7:00 PM GUMC Bible Study**

**Both Bible Studies are on Zoom**



## Send a “Thinking of You” Card

Living through a pandemic is incredibly difficult, and is harder for some more than others. Even if you have suffered your own losses — a job, ability to travel, in-person contact with loved ones or worse — letting others know that they are on your mind and in your heart can be healing for you both. Getting through tough times together is far easier than alone. Make sure the people you care about know you’re there for them and they’ll likely be there for you, too.

Dear Friends,

We would like to stress the importance of non-employees being in the pre-school area during school hours.

The employees of the Apple Tree Preschool, Rev. Rich and Secretary, Gale Lane are the only people that have been approved by the Ohio State Department of Job and Family Services to be in and around the preschool during their operating hours (Tuesday thru Thursday from 9am to 1pm). These employees are required to have their temperature taken and hands sanitized before entering the preschool areas.

The children deserve to be safe and well cared for at all times. One of the children's care provider's most important responsibilities is keeping the children safe from harm. One way your provider does this is by making sure that all adults with access to the children have had a comprehensive background check.

The following list has more details about the specific checks that are required.

1. An FBI fingerprint check
2. A search of the National Crime Information Center's National Sex Offender Registry
3. A search of the following registries, repositories, and databases in the state where the child care staff member lives and each state where the staff member has lived in the past 5 years:
  - State criminal registry or repository (fingerprints are required in the state where the staff member currently lives, and optional in other states)
  - State sex offender registry or repository
  - State-based child abuse and neglect registry and database

They are also required to have a medical form filled out by their Health Care Provider certifying the following:

- Physically fit for employment at a facility caring for children.
- Immunized against Diphtheria/Tetanus/Pertussis (Tdap)
- Immunized against Measles, Mumps and Rubella (MMR)

When these official rules are NOT followed, our Apple Tree Preschool is in risk of being shut down.

Thank you to everyone for being respectful of the Apple Tree Preschool official rules.

Sincerely,

The Apple Tree Preschool Staff



**Update From Finance Committee:**

General Fund: \$9,477.45

Expenses: \$9,721.30

( \$243.85)

**Update to GUMC Directory:**

New phone # for Fred & Jane Bell: 330-527-8300

**Update from Trustees:**

- The western stairwell has been cleaned out.
- Ice melt and the shovel have been put out.
- The eastern stairwell has a new covering.
- The kitchen has been painted.
- The sump pump by the kitchen is being maintained.
- The Harris Room dehumidifier is operating.

## **Dear Faith Community,**

As we continue adjust to all the changes and challenges of COVID 19 the Outreach Committee has looked at ways we can reach out to help families and children in our community. Below is the information to help with those mission ministries we have supported over the years.

School Lunches will be different this year because the students first day out of school will be on Christmas Eve. We will begin doing lunches on December 28th through December 31st. If you are willing to donate we will have a drop of area at the church. We will do this the same way we did school lunches during spring break. Pick up will be the same time 11am at the back of the church with no one getting out of their car. Each drop off will be in brown bags with no one returning to the church after delivering. Only a small team will be inside the church.

If making a monetary donation please indicated which mission you want to support.

As a community of faith you have supported these mission ministries in the past we ask you to please pray about them for 2020 and in what way you can help. We are also asking you to pray for those lives we will touch with our mission ministries. Thank you ahead of time for being the hands and feet of Christ in time that has become so challenging for all of us. As we move toward this Thanksgiving & Christmas season we wish everyone a Thanksgiving filled with blessings and a Merry Christmas.

Blessings and Prayers,

The Outreach Committee



12/02: Kat Berry

Jerry Clark

12/07: Pat Singelyn

12/11: Jane Bell

12/12: Belva Smith

12/14: Kay Smith

12/15: John (Dave) Finney

12/19: Jack Ellerhorst

12/21: Lisa Schwan

12/22: Abby Collopy

# HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

12/09: Jeremy & Sarah Tarnowski

12/12: Richard & Linda Fall

12/21: Mike & Gail Mikula

John & Cheri Wolfe

12/22: Pat & Kristina Cupples

12/31: Michael & Heidi Parizeau



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Website: [garretttsvilleohumc.com](http://garretttsvilleohumc.com)

## **NEWSLETTER SUBMISSIONS**

If you would like to submit articles, committee news or announcements for the next newsletter please provide by  
**December 20, 2020**

**Email: [garretttsvilleumc@frontier.com](mailto:garretttsvilleumc@frontier.com)**  
**Website: [garretttsvilleohumc.com](http://garretttsvilleohumc.com)**

**Submission by email is desired , however if email is not an option please feel free to provide a hard copy to the church office.**

**Thank You,  
Gale Lane, Secretary  
330-527-2055**