



The Reflector

January 2020 Volume 28: Issue 1

Trotwood Church of the Brethren

Mission Statement:

*We are a church celebrating diversity,
strengthened by God,
transformed by the Holy Spirit
to serve and unify in the name of Jesus.*

Another year begins, Dear Ones, with fresh energy and abundant potential. This month's Reflector has two items I'd love for you spend a little extra time with. The first is a report from our Leadership Team Chair, Dawn Wojcik, on the December Leadership Team Meeting in which we took a break from our regular business to spend time reflecting on 2019 and looking ahead toward 2020. The second is an invitation to prayerfully consider how you will be a part of our path toward creating a few guiding statements for our church family. These guiding statements will include a list of our most cherished values, a vision statement, and a mission statement. After their creation, these statements will guide our programs, ministry, and organization into the future.

Like the wise men who traveled long and far in pursuit of a star that would lead them to the Christ Child, we are embarking on a journey toward more fully living into the kind of church God dreams we can be. I am hopeful that this journey will result in a focused and flourishing congregation!

If you have any questions, please feel free to give me or Dawn Wojcik a call or an email. And stay tuned for the first step in the process!

In honor of the wise men whom we celebrate on Epiphany Sunday (January 5th) and in honor of our fresh journey, I offer you one of my favorite prayers. It is written by Thomas Merton and has been tucked carefully in bible since seminary:

*My Lord God,
I have no idea where I am going.
I do not see the road ahead of me.
I cannot know for certain where it will end.
Nor do I really know myself, and the fact that I think
I am following your will does not mean that I am actually doing so.
But I believe that the desire to please you does in fact please you.
And I hope I have that desire in all that I am doing.*

(Continued from front page)

*And I know that if I do this, you will lead me by the right road
though I may know nothing about it.
Therefore will I trust you always though I may seem to be lost
and in the shadow of death.
I will not fear, for you are ever with me,
and you will never leave me to face my perils alone.*

I appreciate the humility in this prayer most of all. It reminds me that all the plans and choices I make don't always have the outcomes I desire ... however if I remain centered on doing what pleases God, the best path will find me. The outcome of choosing our guiding statements may not lead us what we think it will lead us- but we can trust that God will

*Grace&Peace,
Pastor Jen*

Trotwood Church of the Brethren Our Way Forward...in 2020



Who would not want to belong to a church that-
is scripturally grounded;
has shared values
with a compelling vision;
is missional in nature;
is both spiritual and strategic
with activity that gives flesh and bones
in following Jesus?

Prompted by our polity that calls for a five year review of our congregation's Mission and Vision Statement, the Leadership Team is prayerfully searching for several persons who will join in a discernment process over the next months in the development of a statement that expresses who we are as a Body of Christ in this time and place.

While you may step forward to serve on this committee by contacting Judy Gainey, our Administrative Assistant, you may be approached to prayerfully consider this opportunity. Regardless, you can expect to be challenged and surprised by God and the givens of the process which will be outlined later.

Leadership Team REFLECTIONS 2019

For our December meeting, the Leadership Team paused from our usual business to reflect on this year. We asked ourselves, as a church and a congregation, “What are some things that we have done well? What are our growing edges?”

We saw that we work to make everyone welcome. We have worked to welcome new people. We wonder how we might best reach out and help them, and all, to find meaning in their experiences here. We know we can work to be more welcoming. We hope to include more ethnically and racially diverse images.

Our worship services are inspiring, comforting, creative, and amazing. Our worship is often complemented by beautiful PowerPoint presentations. People are sitting closer to the front, a goal we set a few years ago. Our choir and orchestra make a joyful noise to the Lord. Taught and coached by members of our congregation, young musicians provide special music. The Bear Creek banners help to tell our love story for God as they now hang in our sanctuary.

We offer a Prayer Blanket Ministry. We gather in prayer asking God to meet that person’s needs over a blanket. We then present the blanket to the person to serve as a reminder of our prayers and God’s love for them during their challenging time.

Sunday School classes for both adults and children allow us to gather around God’s word in community. Our newly hired Early Childhood Education (infant-3rd grade) staff, Alex and Kayla, provide children’s church, meaningful worship for the youngest in our congregation. We are also piloting a volunteer led 4-6th grade children’s church to do the same for our older children.

We must acknowledge that we have had a few instances in which spoken words have hurt a child or an adult. We regret these instances and remain committed to providing support to those involved. We hope and pray that we can all communicate lovingly with each other.

Our grounds and our building are well-maintained by volunteers who quietly work to provide us clean and useful worship and work spaces. Other volunteers meet needs without seeking any acknowledgment. We are a caring and giving Church family. When we become aware of a need, we work to find a solution to people’s concerns.

Concerned about maintaining a strong, vibrant church, about 1/3rd of our congregation participated in a retreat activity called the Twelve Scriptures Project, our first steps in evaluating our Church’s Mission and Vision statement. These results and strategies such as those found in the book, *The Scrappy Church*, will help us discern God’s will in the life of our church.

We are involved beyond the walls of our church. Through the Trotwood Neighborhood Transformation and our own Outreach and Witness ministries, we participate in community activities such as a hot dog roast or litter pick up. After the Memorial Day Tornado, we worked with Threads of Miami Valley to collect donations to share with Tornado Survivors. We hope to involve more members of our congregation in our community ministries. For those of us in leadership roles, we recognize we need help in delegating roles to others. We also participate with other congregations in many activities such as Vacation Bible School, Love Feast, Blue Christmas and Welcoming Advent.

We are blessed to be supported by a phenomenal staff. Our Administrative Assistant, Judy Gainey, is invested as a participant in our church. She problem solves being primarily pro-active. She is uniquely organized and creative. Our Pastor, Jennifer Keeney Scarr, leads our congregation with amazing pastoral care, with creative programming, and with insightful Bible Study and worship.

Our building is under-utilized in that it stands empty much of the week. We also would like to fill some leadership positions. We need more deacons and Sunday School teachers. We also have a vacancy in the position of Clerk. We prayerfully seek ways to address these concerns.

Dawn Wojcik, Leadership Team Facilitator



Vacancy for the position of Trotwood Church of the Brethren Clerk

to serve January 1, 2020-December 31, 2022

Our TCoB Leadership Team seeks a Member of our congregation to answer the call to serve in the capacity of our church's clerk. Here are the descriptions of the position as found on page 8 in our Polity and Procedure:

- Lines 4 & 5: *Clerk Function*: The Clerk shall keep minutes for the Council and Leadership Team.
- Lines 12 & 13: *Eligibility*: All Officers shall be Members of the Church of the Brethren, whether from this congregation or another.
- Lines 15-17: A person shall be called as an Officer for a term of three years. At the end of each term, the Leadership Facilitator and/or Pastor shall check with the incumbent to see if he or she is willing to continue or will need a break.
- Line 21: The officers above shall also be the legal officers of this organization.

The Leadership Team generally meets at 6:30pm on the 3rd Tuesday of most months. Council meets once a year in the last quarter of the year and as needed.

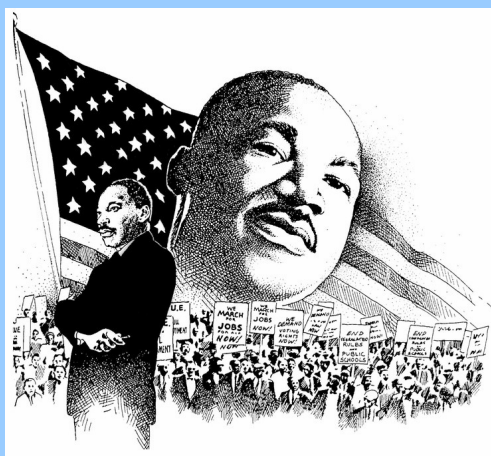
If you would like more information about this position and/or to attend a Leadership Team meeting to see what it's like to serve with our Leadership Team, please contact Dawn Wojcik, Leadership Team Facilitator or Pastor Jen.





Check it out!!!

Each Sunday, everyone should take the time to walk back the hallway by the children's classrooms and check out the bulletin board to see what our children are doing in Children's Church! Kayla and Alex are doing wonderful things with our little ones and they post their creations on the bulletin board for all to see!

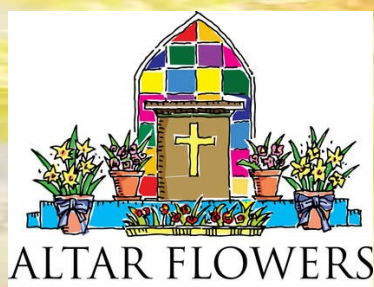


Martin Luther King, Jr. Day March

Trotwood Church of the Brethren will celebrate Martin Luther King, Jr. Day by participating in Dayton's March to celebrate and remember his dream. We will meet at 9:00 am in our parking lot and caravan to the Dr. Charles Drew Health Center located at 1323 W. Third Street. The march begins at 10:00 am. After we walk with the Dayton Community to the Dayton Convention Center (1.6 miles), we will take the shuttles back to the Drew Health Center, then caravan to the

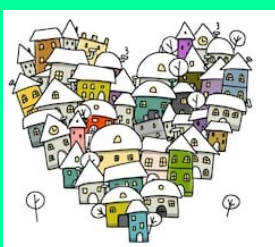
Trotwood Church of the Brethren where we will enjoy chili and participate in our local celebration of Dr. King's work in peacemaking and social justice. Our local celebration of lunch and fellowship will begin as our marchers return approximately at 12:00 pm.

Please dress appropriately for the weather. If you are unable to participate in the march, please consider joining us for our local celebration.



Reservations are now being taken for our 2020 altar flowers. Arrangements are \$25 and may be placed in memory of or in honor of a loved one or event. Payment for arrangements may be marked as "Altar Flowers" and placed in the offering plate or sent to the church office. To check availability and reserve a date, please contact Annette Sommer at rastmud@frontier.com or call 837-8643.

Thank you!



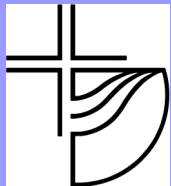
Many people have been asking about Jim and Karleen King. This summer, they sold their house in Trotwood and moved in with Jim's daughter, Susie Rose in Grove City, Ohio. Most recently they were moved to the Brookdale Pinnacle Retirement Community at 1305 Lamplighter Drive in Grove City.

If you wish to send them a card, you can send it to:
Susie Rose, 3094 Louise Avenue, Grove City, Ohio 43123

Weekly Lunch Spots



- January 5** La Fiesta Mexican Restaurant (8331 N. Main Street, Englewood)
January 12 Carry-in to Welcome New Members (in our Fellowship Hall)
January 19 China Cottage (1983 Shiloh Springs Road, Trotwood)
January 26 Marion's Piazza (404 W. National Road, Englewood)
- February 2** Seafood Restaurant (6556 Union Road, Clayton)
NEW Lunch Spot Located behind UDF at St. Rt. 49 and Union Road
February 9 Carry-in (in the Fellowship Hall)
February 16 Pearson House (28 N. Miami Street, West Milton)
February 23 Marion's Piazza (404 W. National Road, Englewood)



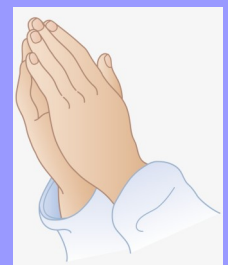
Prayer List for Congregations

The Southern Ohio/Kentucky District of the Church of the Brethren invites us to join in prayer for congregations throughout the district.

This is an important way to hold one another in prayer throughout the year.

Please be in prayer for these congregations this month:

- Week of January 5 - Lower Miami (Dayton, Ohio)
Week of January 12 - West Milton (West Milton, Ohio)
Week of January 19 - Troy (Troy, Ohio)
Week of January 26 - Trinity (Sidney, Ohio)



Each Sunday there is a card in the Sunday School class that meets in the Fireside room, then it's taken to the narthex for everyone to sign.

Winter Weather Plan



A decision will be made by the Leadership team Chair, the Pastor and the Property manager whether or not to have Sunday School and Worship service. Once a decision has been made, the Pastor will send out an e-mail message and the One Call phone chain will go around. Those members who have an e-buddy are asked to make contact with their partners and let them know. We will contact four Dayton TV Stations to report the cancellation: 2, 7, 22 and 45. If you do not have e-mail or your e-buddy is out of town, feel free to call the Pastor or another member who has access to e-mail to be certain of the plan.



This month our Food Pantry
is in need of
canned Tuna and/or Chicken

Your donations can be placed in the
baskets outside the narthex doors
Let's overflow our pantry!

Scripture Chat

*Tuesdays at 10:00 AM
in the Fireside Room*

Each week we discuss the scripture
which will be preached on the
following Sunday.

Join us for lively discussion,
heart felt fellowship, and
deepening discipleship.

No previous Bible knowledge
is needed.

REFLECTOR DEADLINE January 24

is the last day to get your news
to the office for the January Reflector

Pancake & Sausage Breakfast

Saturday, January 4, 2020
7:30 - 10:00 am
at Mill Ridge Village

All you can eat Buttermilk Pancakes
Dohner's Pure Maple Syrup
Baked Landes Sausage Links
Coffee
Orange Juice

*Come Enjoy Breakfast
and Meet Friends*



Scripture Chat

*Tuesdays at 10:00 AM
in the Fireside Room*

Each week we discuss the scripture
which will be preached on the
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Join us for lively discussion,
heart felt fellowship, and
deepening discipleship.

No previous Bible knowledge
is needed.

REFLECTOR DEADLINE January 24

is the last day to get your news
to the office for the January Reflector

These are the
scriptures I'll be preaching
on each week!
Come on in and join us!
We'd love to see you!



January 5

Matthew 2:1-2, 9-12

January 12

Mark 1:1-20

January 19

Mark 1:21-45

January 26

Mark 4:1-34

*Check back to see what
Pastor Jen will be preaching about!*



Please Note: We are happy to publish news about our members when they win awards, make the Dean's list, get engaged, etc. We can't keep up with everyone so please feel free to send a digital photo (or a picture we can scan) and we would love to share your good news, joys and triumphs.

Southern Ohio/ Kentucky District Church of the Brethren



Leader:
David Chappell

Topic:
**Principals of
Discipleship**

Men's Retreat

February 7-9, 2020

Woodland Altars Campgrounds
Heritage Lodge
33200 SR 41
Peebles, OH 45660



This retreat is a spiritual weekend for all men, regardless of church affiliation. Men 16 years of age and older are invited to enjoy a weekend of fellowship, scripture teachings, worship and fun. There are three different registration packages for full to partial attendance to choose from. Come and enjoy a getaway from your normal routine. Registration forms can be found in the narthex, or you can call the church office.

WINTER BLAST 2020

Sledding, Games, Singing, Devotions,
Stories, Swimming, A Movie and MORE!

January 17 & 18

Cricket Holler Camp

Friday, 6:00 pm (after dinner)
to Saturday at 4:00 pm

Ages K - 12

\$25 per person

Kids in 3rd grade and under
need a paying adult

Sponsored by the Camping & Retreat Ministries of the
Southern Ohio/Kentucky District Church of the Brethren
(Registration forms on next page)

For more info contact Karen Dillon at 937-890-7388 or crimdill@aol.com

Winter Blast 2020

January 17 - 18, 2020
at Cricket Holler Camp



Registration Form

Name _____ Age _____ Gender _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Phone _____ email _____

Church _____ Grade in school _____

Parent or Guardian _____

Dietary needs _____

Allergies _____

Send registration and \$25 to: Karen Dillon

756 Old Springfield Road
Vandalia, OH 45377

Questions? Call Karen:
937-890-7388 or
937-238-6909

Sponsored by Camping and Retreat Ministries
Southern Ohio/Kentucky District Church of the Brethren

Winter S Words

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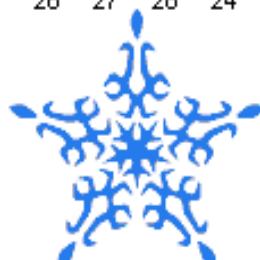
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January 2020



	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
La Fiesta Mexican	<p><u>Birthdays</u> <u>Anniversaries</u> <u>Ministries & Rehearsals</u> <u>Community Meetings</u> *Time/Date Subject to Change</p>	<p>5 <u>Roxie Ballard</u></p>	<p>6 <u>Alice Medlar</u></p>	<p>7</p>	<p>8 7:00 Choir Practice</p>	<p>9 <u>Melissa Phillips</u></p>	<p>10 <u>Allison Tyree</u></p>
Carry-in	<p>12 </p>	<p>13 Pastor Jen's day off</p>	<p>14 10:00 Scripture Chat *4:00 Worship Planning</p>	<p>15 7:00 Choir Practice</p>	<p>16</p>	<p>17 <div style="background-color: #ADD8E6; padding: 5px;"> Winter Blast 2020 for ages K-grade 12 Starts at 6:00 pm on Friday (after dinner) through 4:00 pm on Saturday at Cricket Holler Camp </div> </p>	<p>18</p>
China Cottage	<p>19 <u>Janet Suchland</u></p>	<p>20 Meet at 9:00 am for MLK Day March </p>	<p>21 10:00 Scripture Chat 6:30 Leadership Team Mtg.</p>	<p>22 7:00 Choir Practice</p>	<p>23</p>	<p>24 <u>Norm & Judy Bassett</u></p>	<p>25 Pastor Jen's day off</p>
Marion's Piazza	<p>26 Pastor Jen's day off</p>	<p>27 10:00 Scripture Chat *4:00 Worship Planning</p>	<p>28</p>	<p>29 7:00 Choir Practice</p>	<p>30 <u>Jerry Bashor</u></p>	<p>31 <u>Rich Sommer</u></p>	

Trotwood Church of the Brethren

208 East Main Street

Trotwood, OH 45426

E-mail: trotwoodcobrethren@gmail.com

Phone: (937) 837 6604



Prayer List



Seeking peace and comfort for the families of: Emerson Davidson, Lynn Shough, Ron McAdams, Janet Eby, Johanna Roediger, Alice Hoover

Seeking health and hope: Kenny Shank, Mary Wiens, Doug Medlar, Kirk Hughes, Keegan Portemont; Erma Foust; Bill Landis; Rick Cowdrey & family; John & Karen Bodey; Bert McAdams, Toni Patterson, Audrey Sizemore, Julie Bestabi, Eddie Morgan, Martha Davidson, Carolyn Armstrong, Ruth Gress, Melissa Phillips, Lynne Brumbaugh, Chris Collins, Monica Hill, Stephanie Wright, Nancy Ward, Johnny Perdue, Jim & Karleen King.

For Our Community: The family of Dayton Detective Jorge Del Rio and Police Departments everywhere; Everyone affected (directly or indirectly) by the senseless act of violence in the Oregon District on August 5th; Tornado survivors in Trotwood, Dayton, Brookville and the surrounding areas and the relief efforts; those who are hungry and lonely; Trotwood Neighborhood Transformation (TNT); Neighborhood Watch groups; Our First Responders; City Council

Around the World: Pindar Nuhu; the violence in northeast Nigeria; Refugees of all countries; the people of Santiago Atitlán, Guatemala

Those serving our country: Christian Peacemaker Teams and Brethren Volunteer Service volunteers

Friends who'd love to hear from you...

Eddie Morgan, Room 340, Friendship Village

Audrey Sizemore, 5166 Crescent Ridge Drive, Clayton, OH 45315

Johnny Perdue, 1074 Alexanderville Road, Miamisburg, OH 45342, phone 937-776-0758

Ruth Gress, 502 W Sherry Drive, Trotwood, OH 45426

Stephanie Wright, 1001 S. Kingston St., Apt 56; Aurora, CO 80012