

HUM NEWS

Hartzell UMC January 2025

HAPPY NEW YEAR FROM YOUR LEADERSHIP BOARD

Your Board met in December to finish out 2024 and to begin the planning process for 2025. Here are some of the highlights:

All apportionments were paid in full to both the district and the conference. Again!

The Trustees completed work in the ladies' restroom, worked to repel the bats in the attic above the sanctuary, purchased and will mount signs for surveillance and prohibiting vehicles on the grass.

Missions, with your help, provided gift shoeboxes for Operation Christmas Child, provided cookies for Jail Ministry, purchased Target and gas gift cards, as well as beef, chicken, bread and dairy plus fresh fruit and vegetables for our Christmas families. Missions will also roll out our plans for the new year, 2025.

Worship provided new candles for the altar and the Advent wreath. Music was provided this past month by our church children with singing, chiming and playing instruments. The adults participated in the Bell Choir and the Adult Choir. Special music by Ellen Murphy, on her cello, and vocal solos by Zachary Riggins blessed our Christmas Eve Candlelight Service. The last Sunday of December we offered a delicious and bountiful potluck brunch and after food and fellowship we had a Christmas sing-a-long accompanied by John Carpenter.

Children and Family Ministries provided us with the Children's Christmas Program followed by Breakfast with Santa. Thank you to Melissa Norris for the children's chimes and all the elves in the kitchen. Save the date, Easter Egg Hunt on April 19th from noon until 1.

January brings the Covenant Renewal and anointing of the board and staff, renewal of contracts for paid staff, yoga returns, new missions, a new am and pm study, date and times to be announced, and new procedures, the tweaking of Gray's activities throughout the week.

Please read your HUM NEWS, the church calendar and the screen before service on Sunday to stay informed in 2025.

There will be a special **Called Church Conference** during worship service on Sunday, January 19th to vote to accept and sign the letter of intent to begin the process of developing our acreage. All members are asked to be present for the vote.

Your Board is looking forward to a wonderful 2025. Thanks for all you do!

Janua ry

Birthdays

January 1st Sonja Owens

January 1st Jeanie Shilton

January 5th Paty Crane

January 13th Harold Dreibelbis

January 18th Lu Wade

January 20th Mary Dreibelbis

Januar y

Anniversaries

Orville and Lynda Toles
January 25th

Family Ministries

From the Chair of Family Ministries
Co-chair of the Leadership Board,
Vicki Kelly

The Children's Christmas Program was held on Sunday, December 8th during the worship service. The program was based on the four Sundays of Advent. The children who participated in the program were: Piper Bobbitt, Langston Grey, Will and Kennedy deBord, Ben and Alivia Coffey, Nathan and Jacob Waddell, Andi Penley, Isla and Millie Flakne. They did an excellent job. The children's programs would not happen without the help of Amanda and Dan Waddell, Patty Crane, Melissa Norris, IKelli Coffey, Dan Willmott, and Pastor Deb. Thank You as always!

Follow the program everyone enjoyed a pancake and sausage breakfast, the food prepared by Joe Bobbitt, Curran Bobbitt, Sam Morgan, Mark LaBath, and Jack Crane. They all know how to do dishes and clean up a kitchen. Thank you, gentlemen!

Everyone enjoyed a visit from Santa Claus. He passed out gift bags to the children and many photos were taken and printed by Linda Maegly. Thank you to Carole Nordhausen for treating us to the guitar solo, "We Three Kings." It was a fun day!

Thanks to Amanda Waddell for leading the singing, to Patty Crane and Kelli Coffey for helping the children rehearse during Sunday School. Thank you to Melissa Norris for directing the Children's Chimes.

We will begin a new Sunday School series for winter called HEART SHAPER. This material continues to come from Cokesbury. We will continue with the same format for Sunday School that we are already utilizing. Preschool will be led by Kelli Coffey, Kindergarten through 6th Grade will be led by Amanda Waddell. Patty Crane, Vicki Kelly, and Dan Waddell will lead the older children.

Some of the events that are already scheduled to happen in 2025:

- **Easter Egg Hunt on Saturday, April 19th at noon**
- **Promotion and Graduation Sunday which is held in May with the children who completed 3rd grade to receive Bibles.**
- **VBS**
- **Trunk or Treat**

Missions

Lynn Dykes is the Chair of Missions

Thank you to everyone who made and brought cooking for Jail Ministry. This small token of kindness can bring so much joy to people who spend the holidays alone and without family and friends. Thank you to Dan Waddell for delivering the cookies to Kings Church.

Missions did an outstanding job helping support our families for Christmas. Thank you to everyone who participated in purchasing the food and gifts.

The Missions Committee received thank you notes from the Deer Park Schools and the Wesley Foundation on the UC Campus for all of the help Hartzell has provided, not just at Christmas, but throughout the whole year

Jail Ministry is the first Sunday of every month. If you are interested in joining this mission please see Jeanie Shilton. Currently Jeanie, Kim Coulehan, Becky Richardson, Julie Dreigon, and Pat Anshutz attend the monthly mission. Transforming Jail Ministries for Hamilton County will be holding their annual meeting in our Fellowship Hall in the month of January.

The next meeting will be the second Sunday of January. Please call Lynn Dykes with questions, suggestions or to volunteer.

Annual Community Christmas Mission

**FILL A FAMILY'S PANTRY CHRISTMAS
MISSION**

**Do all the good you
can, by all the means
you can, in all the
ways you can as long**

as you ever can -John Wesley

This year we altered the Family Christmas Basket Program, not only to be more manageable for our small church, but to be more supportive of our families by providing a pantry of food, not just two weeks of food. Our intent was to make a more substantial long term impact in fulfilling the needs of the families God entrusted us to help.

This year we supported three families from the Deer Park Community. The families were vetted by the local school system and One Deer Park. Along with the pantry items we provided clothing and toys for each child: a total of 82 gifts and gift cards for gas and Target for the adults.

Here are our families: 21 children ages 4 months to 17 years.

- Family One: 13 children, 5 girls, 8 boys, 2 adults
- Family Two: 2 children, 2 boys and one adult.
- Family Three: 6 children, 4 girls, 2 boys, one adult

The pantry items we provided came from the wealth of experience from the NEEDS program in Kenwood. The Pantry we provided for each family is as follows:

- Canned meats, meals, beans, fruits, vegetables, tuna, chicken, salmon, sauces, and soups
- Boxed Items: cereal, pop tarts, rice, pasta, potato dishes, stuffing. Popcorn, crackers, graham crackers, and cookies
- Baking Items and Condiments: sugar, flour, cake mix, icing, corn muffin mix, spices, salt, pepper, mustard, ketchup, and mayo.
- Miscellaneous Items: peanut butter, jelly, white vinegar, pancake mix, syrup, gravy, white and wheat bread
- Cleaning Items: dish soap, laundry soap

- Personal Care Items: toothbrushes, toothpaste, bar soap, shampoo, conditioner, razors and deodorant
- Paper Items: toilet paper, paper towels, Kleenex, diapers, and pull ups
- Dairy: milk, American cheese, eggs, butter
- Fresh Produce: apples, oranges, carrots, and potatoes
- Frozen Items: ground beef and chicken breasts

Family One received 19 boxes and 8 bags
Family Two received 13 boxes and 3 bags
Family Three received 15 boxes and 5 bags

Thank you for your support. From planning, donating, organizing, wrapping, distributing. We could not have completed this mission so beautifully without you!!

Young @ Hartz

Activities for 2025 are pending and will be sent out via email when we have more information. Look in your inboxes for details.

Prayer Requests

- Kathie Bates: heart concerns
- Kennedy and Will deBord: prayers
- Dave Dennis: continued health concerns. He and Melissa are traveling to the Cleveland Clinic and have a morning appointment on January 7th. Also, please pray for traveling mercies, the weather is expected to be snowy and frigid.
- Gail Disbonnet: friend of Melissa Morris', back surgery in December
- Bonnie Flaig: her cancer is back and it has spread, friend of Sandy Ingram
- Jennifer, Paul Toms' daughter has breast cancer and is progressing with her chemo treatments
- Pat Anshutz's daughter, Cindy Orf, is thriving as she continues her battle with terminal cancer. Thank you for your continued prayers.
- Tom Crowthers is suffering from serious back pain, please pray for relief and the right treatments

Souper Bowl Sunday

Melissa Norris is becoming the queen of special events. First the Spaghetti Dinner and now the second annual Souper Bowl Sunday fund raiser. The date is Sunday, February 9th. We will have multiple soups available to purchase. We are tweaking things from last year to add more options and streamline our customer service. We have discussed presenting a dessert option plus homemade breads, once

again. More information and specifics will be available as we close in on the date

A MESSAGE FROM THE DENNIS FAMILY

Dave Dennis turned 80 in December and his family threw a true "Bob Ross" themed Birthday Party. They all gathered in a cabin in Hocking Hills and Dave wanted to thank everyone for your card. He received 40 from our church family and 40 from friends and family. He is recovering from Covid before his trip to the Cleveland Clinic. Please continue your prayers for him and family.

From Your Pastor

Welcome to another glorious new year! I was reading now unnatural it is to make new years' resolutions in the dead of winter. Winter is when we hunker down and go into hibernation mode, or at least wish we could, but our biological rhythms do not recognize it as a time to begin anew; that time is around the spring equinox when new life is springing forth. So, if you have always had trouble keeping new years' resolutions save them for spring, your body will thank you for it. No need to push the rock uphill, wait for the right time for change.

Which leads me to another topic, a smooth segway: There will be a **Called Church Conference** during the worship service on Sunday, January 19th. The purpose of this meeting is for a membership vote to sign a letter of intent with our development firm to begin the process of developing our acreage. This will be a long process and will require a great deal of work on the part of many people. We will make a short presentation and recap what is occurred since our last informational meeting and then membership will vote on the issue. Only church members are allowed to vote on this issue. You will receive two emails regarding this meeting and I will

announce it every Sunday until the 19th so everyone will have the opportunity to be present for this very essential called conference. At that time we will also fill you in on other pertinent information. We will be addressing the community when our plans are solidified. Please be in prayer about this endeavor. It is a huge step for us and we want to be sure of God's timing.

We chose to close the church this Sunday because of the extreme cold and pending snow and ice. I am very protective of you all and did not want anyone to slip and fall or feel compelled to get out in inclement weather for a church service. We will have our Covenant Renewal and Anointing of the Leaders with Holy Communion next Sunday. Please be present so that we can begin 2025 in unity.

The word for 2025 is **PERSPECTIVE**. I am sure that is not a surprise to you all since I have been sneaking that word into every sermon for months. Our church is changing and expanding in every way and our desire for substantial learning is increasing so I will be providing another outlet for anyone who wishes to pursue a passion and delve into aligning with God's purposes for a fruitful and profound life regardless of our age or situation. I will be teaching a course on the Enneagram, with a guest specialist from the Alabama West Florida Conference. Rev. Pam Avery, an old friend and colleague. She will present the opening information and we will take it from there. She is credentialed for this study and teaches it in AWFC from Gulf Breeze, Florida, Gulf Breeze UMC where she is a teaching pastor. I am excited to offer this spiritual development tool to our congregation and will open the study up to anyone in our area who wishes to attend. This will be an outreach of our Gray't Expectations Senior Ministry.

I am not usually so long winded, but a lot has been drifting through my mind during prayer and meditation. I feel the Lord is leading us to deeper depths and higher planes, and I am excited to be apart of this growth. Dates and times will be announced as we hone our presentation. What a wonderful way to start a new year with new fresh direction and purpose.

Love to All
Deborah

