



The Connection

**November
2017**

**Germantown UMC
525 Farmersville Pk
Germantown, OH
45327
937-855-2102**

**Sunday Schedule:
9:00 Traditional
10:15 Sunday School
11:15 Contemporary**

***“Now all glory to
God, who is able,
through his mighty
power at work
within us, to
accomplish
infinitely more than
we might ask or
think.”***

Ephesians 3:20, NLT

“Resetting Priorities” by Pastor Gary

This morning as I was leaving the house, I walked halfway through our kitchen, pause, turned, and went into a different direction. Myra was there, and looked at me strangely. I explained, “I was coming to kiss you goodbye, but then remembered I needed to take my pills.” In that split second, my priority change in an attempt to efficiently complete those two tasks. You can decide if had the right order of priorities.

We all have priorities in life. Some are hard and fast; nothing causes them to

waver or decline in their importance. For me, those are the Lord, my wife, our church, and flying... in that order! Within each of these, there are certain responsibilities and tasks which we must judge and determine their priority in the midst of everything going on in our lives, given our time, energy, and capability constraints. Of course, other things come into our lives that must be given priority, some for a short time and others for a season. Still others try to assert their importance when it fact, they are not.

At times, it seems as if life is a juggling act, and we try to keep everything in the

PRIORITIES

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.



air, no matter what their real priority should be. We must determine what is most important, important, not so important, and never important, else we are ruled by what is called the “tyranny of the urgent”, or we take on too many things and can’t get them done.

Believe it or not, we have not had a church newsletter in nearly two years. With changes in staffing, it had fallen on me to write the articles. Unfortunately, at the same time, I was writing my Sunday School lessons, an extensive commentary on the Book of Revelation: 616 pages and 248,000 words! But last week, I finished writing the lessons (I think)!

I’ve known all along that our newsletter is important, a priority. Communication to a church is like location for reality; it’s everything. Yet, my priorities for the past 22 months has been on this very interesting Sunday School lesson, and teaching is just one of my gifts. Now that it is completed, I need to get back to focusing on improving our communication through our newsletter. But even in this, I must find the true priority.

Solomon wrote, “Depend on the Lord in whatever you do, and your plans will succeed.” (Proverbs 16:3, NCV) So even in the work of reestablishing our newsletter, you and I must commit and depend upon God completely, and trust Him to use it all for success.

Gary

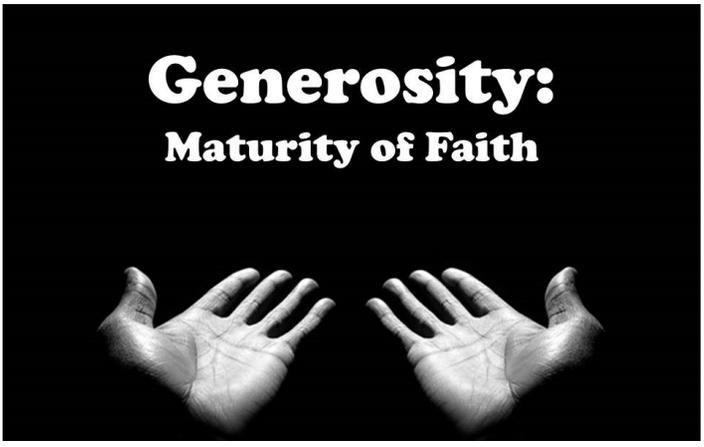
November Sermon Series: Generosity: Maturity of Faith

The month of November is traditionally our focus on stewardship. With the Holy Land trip occurring during the first two weeks of the month, we knew we would need a preacher to fill in, and boy do we have one. Rev. George Cooper, Executive Director of the Conference’s Council on Development and expert on church stewardship and finances, will be our preacher to begin our series. When Gary returns, expect some Holy Land stories and more on stewardship.

- Nov. 5: “What Does God Have to do with it?” (Rev. George Cooper)
- Nov. 12: “Intentional Relationship with Jesus” (Rev. George Cooper)
- Nov. 19: “Growing in Giving” (Pastor Gary)
- Nov. 26: “Let’s Have a Party” (Pastor Gary)



Then all of you can join together with one voice, giving praise and glory to God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. (Romans 15:6, NLT)



Upcoming Sundays

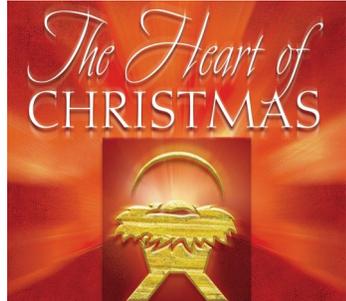
All Saints Sunday—November 5
 We will remember the saints from our church who have gone onto glory. Please come for this very moving worship.



Advent Begins November 24
 Advent is the time to “prepare” for the coming of the Christ Child. Would you like to help us celebrate Advent by being part of lighting the Advent Wreath? We would like to find 10 individuals/families to help us. Please contact the church office.



Christmas Cantata December 17
 This year’s Christmas Cantata will be in the evening of December 17. Put the date on your calendar.



New Grief Support Ministry Coming

There are grieving people all around us, persons who have lost loved ones. Often, they receive our love and support immediately following the passing of their loved one. But after the funeral is over, they find themselves alone, not knowing how to cope.

GriefShare is a new ministry we are starting at our church, to help people on their journey from mourning to joy.



We are beginning this ministry by offering "Surviving the Holidays", a 2 1/2 hour session to deal with the specific pain and hurt that comes when the holidays come. People can come either November 19 and/or December 10 from 6:30-8:30 PM. The cost is \$10.

Then beginning January 7, 2018, we will begin the 13 week GriefShare full program., again from 6:30-8:30 PM. The cost is \$20.

If you or someone you know would like more information or be part of GriefShare, go to www.germantownchurch.com/griefshare/ or contact the office.



"This will continue until we all come to such unity in our faith and knowledge of God's Son that we will be mature in the Lord, measuring up to the full and complete standard of Christ." (Ephesians 4:13, NLT)

Sunday School Opportunities

Group	Leader and Room	Current Study
Faith Seekers	Scott Hayes (Room 6)	International Bible Study: this popular adult curriculum is based on the Uniform Series, which enables Christians across the globe to study the same Scriptures and topics on the same Sundays throughout the year.
Good News	Kenny Lee (Room 7)	Kenny prepares lessons that focus on Christian Perspectives on Current Events
Good Spirit	Carl Michaels (Behind Organ)	Uses the Upper Room curriculum that helps learners grow in their walk with Christ.
Living Grace	Julie Smith (Room 9)	Discovering Your Spiritual Gifts.
Pastor's Bible Study	Pastor Gary (Room 8)	Transitioning from the Book of Revelation to Paul's 5 T's (1&2 Thessalonians, 1&2 Timothy, and Titus)

Give Team Report by Karen Tucker

The Give Team is tasked with creating a budget and then seeing if we can fund this budget through your giving. We are sad to report this has not happened in the last few years. Some items have been left unpaid or we have had to make up a difference out of the General Fund.

Our unpaid item is the Apportionments. It is our third largest expense. We will not meet the amount of \$41,979.00 for this year as we have only been able to pay \$18,344.00 – leaving a balance due of \$23,635.00. This is better than 2016, but still not meeting our obligation.

The offering for St. Paul did not meet the \$2,400.00 commitment this year. We raised \$1,435.00 – the other \$1,000.00 came out of General Fund.

We added a Community Day to let the community know the church is here and gaining a few visitors or members. This item was not in the budget and although there were many donations of food and money, there was \$1,582.90 that was taken out of the General Fund for this event.

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“Give away your life; you'll find life given back, but not merely given back—given back with bonus and blessing. Giving, not getting, is the way. Generosity begets generosity.” (Luke 6:38, The Message)

Giving Recap: As of the end of September 2017

Item	To Date	Budgeted Need	Last Year
Offering	\$171,572.16	\$211,402.70	-0.5%
Total Income	\$185,343.20	\$211,402.50	-0.6%
Expenses	\$184,778.65	\$211,402.50	-2.1%
Mortgage	\$57,679.55	\$49,527.00	-5.5%
Apportionments	\$17,427.00	\$31,484.25	-4%
Missions	\$10,626.17	\$10,752.06	-1.1%



“Bring all the tithes into the storehouse so there will be enough food in my Temple. If you do,” says the LORD of Heaven’s Armies, “I will open the windows of heaven for you. I will pour out a blessing so great you won’t have enough room to take it in! Try it! Put

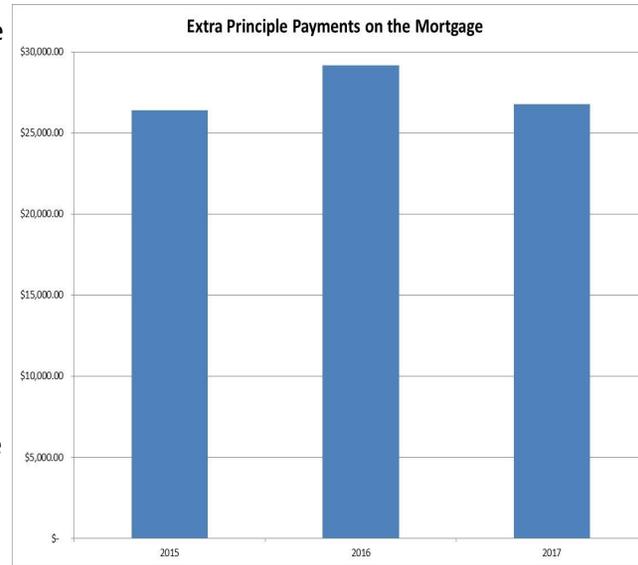
GIVE (Continued)

Give Team Report (Continued)

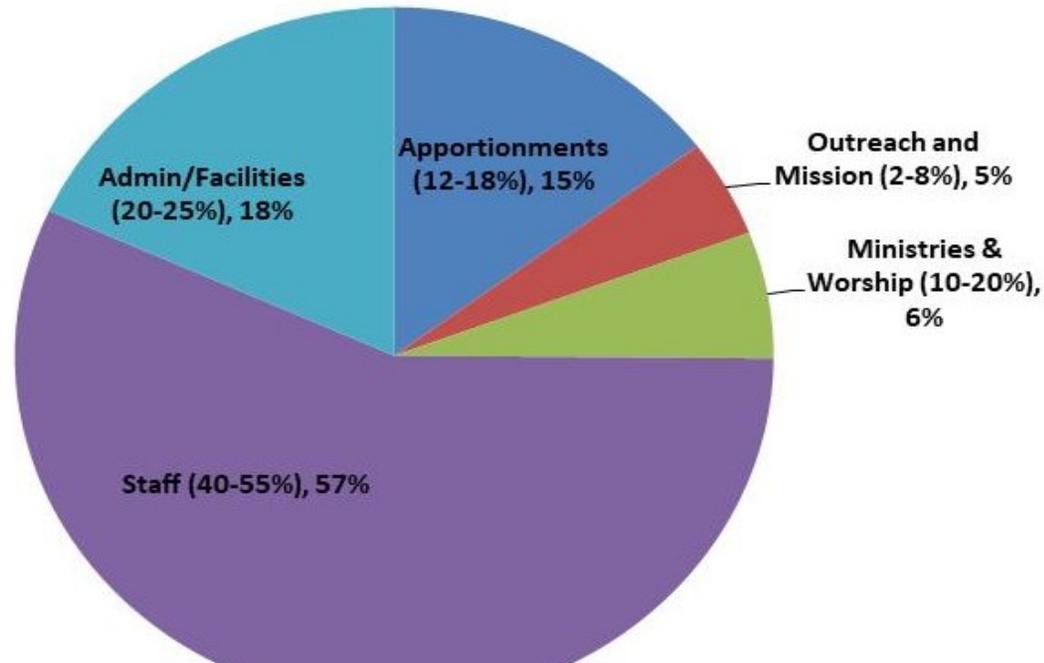
It is not all doom and gloom or unexpected expenses – we have paid an extra \$23,771.73 on the mortgage this year! Way to go! With all the extra payments, since May 2016 of \$82,266.84 we have cut 34 months or almost 3 years off the life of the loan!

We had our last meeting of the year to work on the proposed budget for 2018 of around \$278,393. Because of the mild winter and summer, we felt we could cut next year's budget by \$3,477.00 or 1.23%. Let's pray this trend continues.

Please pray about the budget and what you can do to help. Increase your giving if you can or ask others to come to church with you if they do not have a church home. They might make this their church home. It was guesstimate that if we can gain another 15 members (not counting children) we could fund this budget.



2018 Budget



St. Paul UMC – Christmas Tuesday Lunch

GUMC will be participating in the St. Paul United Methodist Church – Tuesday lunch program on December 12. Volunteers are needed to help prepare and serve the meal to over 200 folks. Meal preparation will be on Monday, December 11 starting around 10:00 a.m. We will be departing the church on Tuesday at 10:00 a.m. So bring on the holiday cheer and wear your favorite holiday gear – the more antlers, Santa hats and flashing lights, the better!

INTERESTED IN PARTICIPATING? If so, please contact Julie Smith at 937-231-8712 or email Vvjas3@gmail.com. This is an awesome opportunity to reach out into the community and put your hands, feet and hearts to work as we begin our Covenant Church Partnership with St. Paul.



“Therefore, go and make disciples of all the nations...” (Matthew 28:19, NLT)

“Operation Christmas Child/Samaritan’s Purse Shoe Box Filling Party!” by Theresa Fiessinger

As Thanksgiving approaches, it is also time to think about filling shoe boxes and sharing the Good News through Operation Christmas Child! Our church family is invited to come share in a simple dinner, then work as a family in filling shoe boxes with small gifts for children around the world. You can bring plastic shoe boxes, coloring books, crayons, markers, colored pencils, pencil sharpeners, stickers, small note pads, mini-size footballs, baseballs, basketballs, soccer balls, Hotwheels or Matchbox cars, jump ropes, jacks, play jewelry, hair accessories, combs, brushes, toothbrushes, bars of soap, wash cloths, tee-shirts, socks, slippers, underwear, gloves and mittens, hats, baseball caps, plastic decorated cups, sunglasses or silly glasses, small stuffed animals and dolls, marbles, and balloons.



Or you can just show up, eat dinner, and help fill the boxes! Sunday, November 12, from 3 to 5 PM, ages 3 to 103!!! We need you!

We also need sponsors for each of the boxes. Sponsorship is \$9 per box. Please—checks only—made out to “Operation Christmas Child”. You can write 1 check to cover all of the boxes that you wish to sponsor. We also need you to pray over the boxes, so that they reach the children who need this symbol of God’s love the most!

Any questions—contact Erin Develbiss or Theresa Fiessinger; (Theresa—reno35427@gmail.com or 937-307-1137) or call the church office! Thanks so much! May God bless this effort to “let the little children come unto Him”!

Sonshine in a Bag

There are now 177 children receiving food assistance through Sonshine In A Bag at Valley View Schools! That is an increase of 99 children. Sonshine In A Bag is accepting donations of 18 oz. jars of peanut butter & 19 oz. squeeze bottles of jelly. We have been asked to concentrate on these two items which are given out each week. They are also in need of plastic grocery bags. If you can put them into double bag sets it will help a lot. Supplies go out as quickly as they come in. This program serves children in the Valley View School District. Thank you for your continued support of this much needed mission. See the literature rack by the office for more information.

AROUND THE CHURCH

Holy Land Trip

Seven persons from GUMC, plus seven others from Germantown, are leaving for the Holy Land October 31. They are traveling with Educational Opportunities, which has organized trips since 1974, with over 400,000 Christians traveling on various faith-based tours. The base trip will be 10 days long and visit the Sea of Galilee, Nazareth, Bethlehem, Masada, the Dead Sea, and of course, Jerusalem. Several from the group will continue their tours into Egypt or Jordan and Petra. Please pray for safe travels, health, and inspiration for Glen & Lareen Bowman, Kenny Brown, Vicki Dursch, Mark Heistand, Joyce Hetzler, Darlene Raker, Tom & Connie Shaffer, Barry & Barb Wachter, Gary & Myra Wheeler, and Janet Withrow.



UMW Annual Bazaar

Mark your calendars for Saturday, November 11th for the United Methodist Women's Annual Bazaar. There will be many artisans and crafters with wonderful items for sale. Lunch will be available featuring chicken and noodles, pulled pork sandwiches and desserts. You won't want to miss this opportunity to begin your Christmas shopping.

Winter Camp at Camp Wesley

Experience God's Backyard in a Winter Wonderland of Faith, fellowship and adventure! Thursday, December 28th—Saturday, December 30th. Cost: Students \$89.00 ages 7-17, adults with a group \$45.00. For more information call 800-844-6200. Camp Scholarships are available; contact the church office for more information.





MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

- **Trustees:** Are working on getting electric to the storage building, then constructing storage shelves. Working on the mounting for one of the University of Dayton nativity sets.

Upcoming Church Meetings:

- **Trustees:** November 7, 7:00 PM
- **Charge Conference:** November 20, 7:00 PM

The mission of Germantown UMC is:

Building a Christ Connection

2017 Charge Conference

Our annual Charge Conference will be held Monday, November 20 at 7 PM in the Fellowship Hall. Rev. Brian Thie, pastor of Farmersville UMC, will be our Presiding Elder. Members of the Administrative Board have voting privileges at a Charge Conference. Others are welcome to attend.

Visit us at our new address:
germantownchurch.com
or Facebook!

Deadline for submitting articles is the 20th of each month.

Please update: Please contact the office to update your telephone numbers. It is important that we have current information. Every month we find incorrect information when we try to make contact.

Germantown United Methodist Church

525 Farmersville PK., Germantown, Oh 45327 (937) 855-2102

Sunday Worship 9:00 a.m. and 11:15 a.m.

Fellowship Time/Coffee/Donuts 10:00 – 10:15

Sunday School Classes 10:15

Office Hours: Monday through Thursday 9:00am to 4:00pm, Friday 9:00am to noon

Rev. Gary K. Wheeler, Pastor pastorgary@germantownchurch.com

E-mail: secretary@germantownchurch.com Website: ww.germantownchurch.com

For any emergencies, not during office hours, contact Pastor Gary at