

DeBows Crows

The Monthly Newsletter of DeBows UMC

February 2017

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Rev. Ernie Williams, Pastor

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And Now
These Three Remain
FAITH, & LOVE
Hope, & LOVE
BUT THE GREATEST
of These is Love.
1 Corinthians 13:13

Sunday Worship & Schedule

Women's Sunday School	9:00 AM
Worship Service	10:00 AM
Sunday School	10:00 AM
Fellowship Time	11:00 AM
Choir Practice	11:15 AM

DeBows UMC Online

www.debowsumc.org

www.facebook.com/debowsumc

The church website is the place to access the latest information concerning schedules, events & activities, current blog posts, alert notices & weather related cancellations, and general information about the church. Visit often for the latest information.

DeBows Website



DeBows Facebook



Wednesday Bible Study 11:30am & 7:00pm

11:30 AM

Studying the book of Philippians, this class starts at 11:30am and finishes about 1:00pm. Some class members meet prior to class at 11:15am in the sanctuary for Prayer Time. Everyone is welcomed to join us.

7:00 PM

Using the study book "One Faithful Promise" and DVD by Magrey R. deVega, this class explores the 5 steps for covenant renewal advocated by John Wesley. This class will conclude on Wednesday, March 22nd.

Lenten Bible Study

Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, March 1st. There will be an Ash Wednesday Service at 7:00pm on this day. A church-wide Lenten Bible Study will be offered, starting on Wednesday, March 8th. Watch for more details.



February Prayer List

Counseling Corner

by Donna Ridge

*Just a closer walk with Thee
Grant it, Jesus, is my plea
Daily walking close to Thee
Let it be, dear Lord, let it be*

Anthony & Ann Giarratano	Donna Ridge
Chris Bitondo	Pat Duncan
Edith Gutwein	Dean Sparling
Karen Hornak	John Manion
Rudy Iannacone	Helen Kramer
Joe Huber	Janet Kittstein
Rose Teepe	Dylan & Carly Irwin
Kevin Turner	Angela McPherson
Ron Calub	Allie Juliano
Lynn Giordano	Martha Shewell
Christian Kok	Virginia Lane
Herb Finkenberg	Joyce & Leon Evans
Jimmy Cappadona	Jim (Guy's Friend)
Jamie Gray	Nancy Armstrong
Dottie Weeks	Betty Barrentine
Jennifer Shane	Jim Armstrong

All those that . . .

- . . . are homeless or hungry
- . . . are "un" or "under" employed
- . . . are dealing with domestic violence
- . . . are struggling with personal illness while caring for family
- . . . are affected by natural disasters
- . . . are affected by war or terrorism
- . . . are in prison & those that work with them
- . . . support the DeBows Food Pantry Ministry

NOTE: Please inform the Pastor when a name should be added or removed from the Prayer List.

~ Thank You ~

This has been my cry in recent weeks. I have been experiencing some health issues as have others around me.

My issues are minor compared to an eleven year old who is having surgery to remove her colon; several others are battling cancer. Another friend has an artery in her brain that was eighty-five per cent blocked. She had surgery, went to rehab and ended up in the ER with pulmonary embolism. She is back in ICU. You are probably thinking I'm on a downer. It is just that these are difficult situations. How do we deal with it?

The song above says it. Get closer to God. How you do that is very personal. Prayer and Bible reading are the main ways, but not the only way.

A few suggestions: praise Him in song or dance, take a walk while talking to Him, or listen to a sermon on line that relates to the situation. Remember, when we draw close to Him, He draws near to us. --- James 4:8

By the way, the pain associated with my situation was a ten most of the time. I did a lot of talking to God.

From the Pastor's Desk

Dear Friends,

We are navigating some exciting times for the DeBows congregation. This is due to a series of changes that have taken place – and they are not all yet complete. As always, some will find those changes to be challenging – even disorienting. But we can be sure there will be others who will be celebrating each change.

Foremost among the change is what has been most visible. The beloved and familiar sanctuary is undergoing a dramatic change. The altar area was painted and there were new banners purchased to herald the season of Advent. The TV screen, added to the front of the sanctuary, has been displaying visuals designed to enhance our worship. It is also proving to be helpful as a way to screen our scriptures each week, as well as the prayers that are printed in our bulletin. The intention is that this will be used increasingly to complement our worship. Our technical support for this is Mark Hayward and Guy Raymond. And they will soon be scouting for others who can be of assistance as we progress in this use of additional media in our worship.

The rest of the sanctuary is now in the process of being painted. It is our hope that this will soon be complete. Various other areas that are less visible have already been painted (like the stairwells). Another part of the work that is less visible is the wiring to connect the TV to a computer at the back of the sanctuary. This work is intricate as it involves wiring for both sight and sound. We owe Guy Raymond a deep debt of gratitude for all that he does in this technical arena. But along with him we are grateful to the Trustees who have spent a great deal of time on the painting project – some of them spending up to ten hours a day to make this happen.

For the nation, the inauguration of a new president is a solemn celebration. It signals for us, and the world, a peaceful transition of power. People who witness these swearing in ceremonies are aware of the fact that the nation is always divided. It is always the case that whereas many voted for the new president, many others did not. But we all need to remind ourselves, however, that we always honor the office even more than we do the occupant – regardless of who occupies that position. Few would argue that President Trump is a “different” president – winning after a particularly divisive and turbulent election. But he is the president – and our collective prayers must be for his success.

But in regard to the current division in nation, we who are part of the Christian community have a role to play. We are the agents of healing and reconciliation. This is part of what it means for us to be disciples of Christ. For we are the ones given the mandate to be united as a community of faith, and to be uniting instruments of peace. We are uniquely qualified for this task. We are a community where faith in Christ always takes precedence over ideology or party allegiance. For any Christian, the cross represents our ultimate loyalty. And it is the cross itself that reconciles us to God, and therefore makes us determined to be reconciled to each other. *“Therefore if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. All this is from God, who through Christ reconciled us to himself and gave us the ministry of reconciliation; that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself ... and entrusting to us the ministry of reconciliation.”* (2 Corinthians 5:17f) Worth pondering during these tumultuous times – but times that call forth a new beginning for nation and church.

Shalom,



Upcoming Events

February 2017						
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13 FOOD PANTRY	14 	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27 FOOD PANTRY	28	March 1 Ash Wednesday			

Wednesday, February 1

Bible Study	11:30am
Singer Support Studio	5:00pm
Green Hymnal Jam	6:00pm
Bible Study	7:00pm

Sunday, February 5

Worship Service & Sunday School	10:00am
Fellowship Time	11:00am
Choir Practice	11:15am

Wednesday, February 8

Bible Study	11:30am
Singer Support Studio	5:00pm
Green Hymnal Jam	6:00pm
Bible Study	7:00pm

Sunday, February 12

Women's Sunday School	9:00am
Worship Service & Sunday School	10:00am
Fellowship Time	11:00am
Choir Practice	11:15am
Finance Meeting	11:30am

Monday, February 13

Food Pantry Open	6:00pm
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Tuesday, February 14 -- Valentine's Day

Wednesday, February 15

Bible Study	11:30am
Singer Support Studio	5:00pm
Green Hymnal Jam	6:00pm
Bible Study	7:00pm

Sunday, February 19

Women's Sunday School	9:00am
Worship Service & Sunday School	10:00am
Fellowship Time	11:00am
Choir Practice	11:15am

Wednesday, February 22

Bible Study	11:30am
Singer Support Studio	5:00pm
Green Hymnal Jam	6:00pm
Bible Study	7:00pm

Sunday, February 26

Women's Sunday School	9:00am
Worship Service & Sunday School	10:00am
Fellowship Time	11:00am
Choir Practice	11:15am

Monday, February 27

Food Pantry Open	6:00pm
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Lent Starts on March 1st

Ash Wednesday Service at 7:00pm

Liturgical Colors

Why do the colors of the paraments keep changing on the pulpit and lectern? What do they represent? The colors symbolize the days and seasons of the Christian year.

The Christian year has two cycles: the Christmas Cycle (Advent-Christmas-Epiphany) and the Easter Cycle (Lent-Easter-Pentecost). Within each cycle are a preparatory season symbolized by the color purple and a festival season symbolized by the color white. After each cycle there is an ordinary time of growth symbolized the color green. Thus there is a sequence of seasons using purple, white, and green in that order twice each year.

- Traditionally **purple**, representing both royalty and penitence, is used during Advent and Lent.
- **Blue** symbolizes hope and may also be used during Advent.
- **White** and **gold** are used at Christmas and Easter to symbolize joy and festivities.
- **Red** symbolizes the color of fire to represent the Holy Spirit on the Day of Pentecost and times when the work of the Holy Spirit is emphasized. During Holy Week it represents the blood of Christ. Red is also used for ordinations, church anniversaries and civil observances such as Memorial Day and Thanksgiving.
- **Green** represents growth and is used during Ordinary Time (the season after Epiphany and the season after Pentecost.)

You may view an episode of “Church Knows Church” concerning Liturgical Colors here:

www.youtube.com/watch?v=EXTGUBSmuq4

Winter Word Search



Find the 12 words below associated with the winter season. Up, down, diagonally, forward or backwards. All words are in a straight line.

Cold	Snow	Gloves
Ice	Blizzard	Scarf
Boots	Christmas	Skiing
Skating	Shovel	Snowman

S	O	E	N	T	S	L	P	F
N	S	K	A	T	I	N	G	P
H	B	L	I	Z	Z	A	R	D
C	H	R	I	S	T	M	A	S
W	S	K	I	I	N	G	N	C
X	N	H	C	I	C	N	R	A
T	O	U	E	O	A	G	Y	R
B	W	H	K	M	L	U	P	F
E	O	G	W	O	V	D	D	E
S	H	O	V	E	L	B	O	N
R	N	E	T	B	M	L	H	A
S	S	L	C	S	A	F	R	S

Mission Activity

“Post” Souper Bowl Sunday
February 12th, 2017



More than 25 years ago, the Souper Bowl of Caring began with a simple prayer from a single youth group:

“Lord, as we enjoy the Super Bowl football game, help us to be mindful of those without even a bowl of soup to eat.”

Since that day, millions of dollars have been raised for local charities across the country through the Souper Bowl of Caring. It has become a powerful movement that is transforming Super Bowl weekend into the nation’s largest youth-led weekend of giving and serving.

On Sunday, February 12th, DeBows will celebrate this movement on “Post Souper Bowl Sunday” with a special collection during the worship service (to support our food pantry) and accept food donations at the luncheon, which will follow the service. As always, we thank you for your generous support of this very important ministry of our church.

Red Bird Missionary Conference



Note: We have been collecting the “Labels for Education” that are found on some food items. This has been a tremendous help to the Red Bird Mission. Due to changes in this program, collection of these labels will be stopping in early 2017. The Red Bird Mission is trying to get enough labels collected to purchase a vehicle for their school before this program ends. You will be seeing less and less of these labels. The UPCs must have the words or symbol “Labels for Education” on them. Please bring in any of these labels that you have so we can send them in as soon as possible. You may continue to bring in any “Labels for Education” until May of 2017.

The “Box Tops for Education” is a totally different program. This program provides the Red Bird Mission with real money for the redemption of the box tops. We will continue to collect them going forward.

The *Red Bird Missionary Conference* is located in Southeastern Kentucky and is the most comprehensive mission effort of the United Methodist Church in the United States. They will be able to use these labels/box tops to purchase needed items for the school they run (pre-school to high school). A collection jar and a list of products that carry these labels/box tops are available on the table outside of Fellowship Hall.

Recyclable Greeting Cards for St. Jude's Ranch For Children

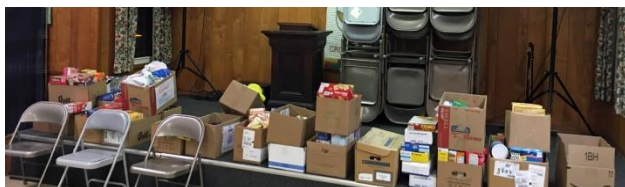
What are you planning to do with the greeting cards you received this year? This mission supports St. Jude's entrepreneurial teen-run job training program, which teaches teen's critical employment skills so they are prepared to be productive, wage-earning citizens in the community when they leave St. Jude. *Only the front of the card is used*, so any donated cards must not have writing on the back of the front picture. Please note: they do not accept Hallmark, Disney or American Greeting Cards. There is a collection box outside of Fellowship Hall.

DeBows Food Pantry

The DeBows UMC Food Pantry is open the 2nd & 4th Monday each month from 6-8pm. It serves between 100 and 120 people per month.

The Food pantry is a true beacon of God's love in our community. If you would like to volunteer time to support this ministry, please see the sign-up sheet outside of Fellowship Hall. You may contact Deb Cregle for more information.

Speaking of community, the Food Pantry receives generous support from various community groups, such as the recent food donation from our friends at Saint Aloysius Catholic Church, seen below:



Sanctuary Work

As most people are aware, the church sanctuary is in the process of being renovated. This includes painting the walls and the implementation of multimedia equipment, including a large screen HDTV in the front and a smaller monitoring screen in the rear of the sanctuary. Below are a couple of pictures taken during this process. The bulk of the work should be completed in the next few weeks.

We are grateful to the Trustees that have put in many hours of work to complete this project to make our worship space as inviting and inspiring as possible.



A Little Church Humor

Painting the Church

There was a Scottish painter named Smokey MacGregor who was very interested in making a penny where he could, so he often thinned down his paint to make it go a wee bit further.

As it happened, he got away with this for some time, but eventually the local church decided to do a big restoration job on the outside of one of their biggest buildings. Smokey put in a bid, and, because his price was so low, he got the job.

So he set about erecting the scaffolding and setting up the planks, and buying the paint and, yes, I am sorry to say, thinning it down with turpentine.

Well, Smokey was up on the scaffolding, painting away, the job nearly completed, when suddenly there was a horrendous clap of thunder, the sky opened, and the rain poured down washing the thinned paint from all over the church and knocking Smokey clear off the scaffold to land on the lawn among the gravestones, surrounded by telltale puddles of the thinned and useless paint.

Smokey was no fool. He knew this was a judgment from the Almighty, so he got down on his knees and cried:

"Oh, God, Oh God, forgive me; what should I do?"

And from the thunder, a mighty voice spoke.

"Repaint! Repaint! And thin no more!"

Did You Know?

- ☑ Remember that alert notices such as church event cancellations due to bad weather, will be posted on the church website as needed.
- ☑ You can contact the church office at 732-928-4475 in the event of a pastoral care situation that might need Pastor Ernie's attention. Voicemail is available.
- ☑ WiFi is available in the church. To connect, just follow the instructions found on the bulletin boards inside and outside Fellowship Hall.
- ☑ Past issues of the DeBows UMC monthly newsletter can be downloaded and viewed from the church website under News & Media/Newsletter Archive.
- ☑ Bulletins for the Sunday worship service are available on a stand in the hallway leading to the side door of the sanctuary. Bulletins for children can also be found there along with busy bags for kids.
- ☑ You can access the Upper Room and other daily devotionals online by visiting **debowsumc.org** and selecting "Daily Devotionals" under the Grow menu item.
- ☑ Those of you that have been in worship since Advent have seen the increased use of multimedia in the services. This is an evolving capability and we would very much like to hear what you think about the use of multimedia in worship; what is good, what is bad, or what you would like to see going forward. All feedback is valuable as we strive to properly utilize technology to improve our worship at DeBows. Please reply to the newsletter delivery email to share your thoughts.