

Emmanuel United Church of Christ

January 2018 Newsletter

Family Spirituality
Joy Stewardship
Love



PASTORS PAGE

As we usher in 2018 many of us are designing New Year's resolutions that we plan on making our focus for the whole year. Many will be hoping to eat healthier, exercise more, lose weight, and, in general organize our lives a little differently. As always our priorities should focus on our health, both bodily and spiritually; so hopefully there are some of you who have made it a resolution to attend church more or be more active in the church as well. No matter what you have resolved to do in 2018, my hope and prayer is that you would be successful in your endeavor and I would remind you that in all things, repetition, practice, and habit-forming are the only ways in which true change can take effect.

To this end, I have crafted, and will be presenting to Consistory, a Goals and Action plan list of priorities that fall into 3 categories; Growth and Outreach, Stewardship, and Leadership Development. In each of these three categories I have listed 4 goals I will be working towards this year in an effort to focus my work in serving this Church Family. As I work towards these goals, I would ask that you be open to some new programming and offer your support for current ministries as I and our church Leadership continue to work towards the betterment of our community. Here are a few of the goals I have set:

- Connecting with our College Aged Members both near and abroad
- Strengthening the Wayfinders program for our youth
- Finding new and exciting destinations for our Family Fellowship Trips
- Organizing and training a Visitation Team
- Strengthen our Church Leadership with training and through regular communication

Truly my hope is that 2018 will be a wonderful year for Emmanuel. That we will see a spiritual strengthening in our community and growth in ways we do not expect. God has a plan for Emmanuel and it is our responsibility to discern that plan. I look forward to continuing the ministry here in Bluffton in 2018! May your New Year be blessed and happy.

Blessings,

Pastor Jeremy

FROM YOUR CONSISTORY

Have you volunteered yet to participate on a planning committee or volunteer team? Remember, it takes more than being in church on Sunday to make a church operate successfully. This church is more than listening to one of Pastor Jeremy's inspiring sermons or contributing to the offering plate once a week.

A form on the back table lists eight different kinds of church ministry teams and committees which need our support. Some need leaders, some need helpers. Before the first consistory meeting of the year I knew of several positions seeking new leadership for 2018. Depending on when you read this, we might still be seeking those volunteers.

If you consider yourself a newcomer, as I still think of myself, don't be afraid to step up and volunteer. Committees need a variety of viewpoints. New ideas are always welcome...that's how we grow individually and collectively as a church.

Remember: *Emmanuel Needs You* to volunteer.

Consistory Notes:

As hinted earlier, your consistory faced or was to have faced some personnel changes at the January meeting. In December, Connie Baker was approved as custodian during Amy Muniz's leave of absence. We anticipate other changes and will be calling on members for assistance.

We voted to meet the benevolence giving pledge (if short), with funds from Mission and Outreach.

Consistory members installed January 7 were Beverly Shepler, Jeff Bowlus and Amy Muniz as elders and Ron Geiser and Erin Stark as deacons. Consistory officers will be elected at the January 8 meeting. Scott Shumaker and Jill Rumor, who have served as vice president and secretary, respectively, both are going off consistory (and we thank them for their service).

Discussion was held regarding acolytes serving only during Lent and Advent since there often is a lack of youth participation. The continuing problem of the flooding from the parking lot also was discussed, with no action taken.

Ron Geiser, consistory president





Tickets are \$17.00
Emmanuel UCC
members, children's
tickets are
FREE



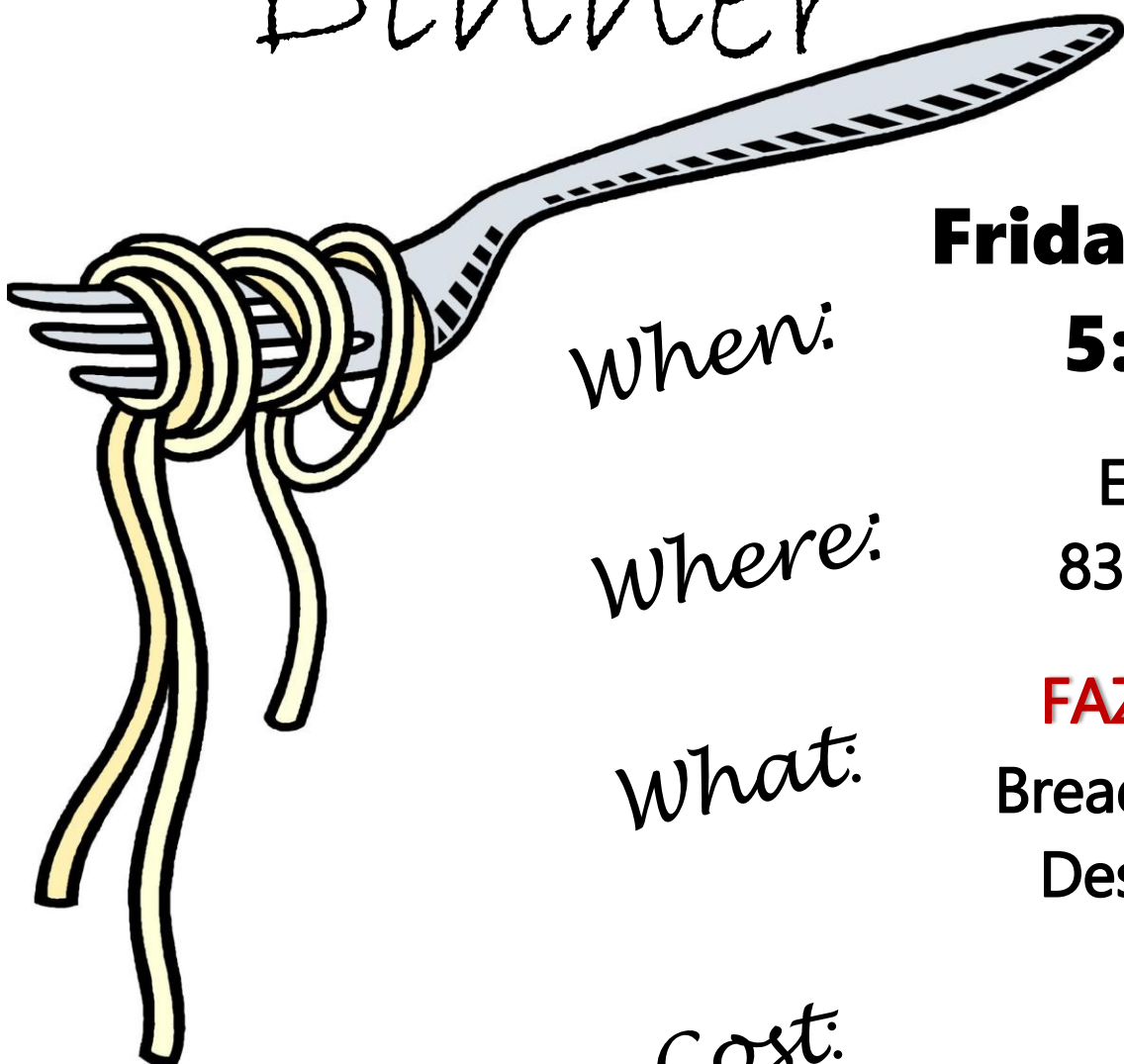
Saturday Jan. 13th
7:00 p.m.



***Join Emmanuel UCC at the
Toledo Walleye's Game
again this year.***



Spagetti Dinner



When:

Where:

What:

Cost:

Friday, February 9th
5:00-7:00pm

Emmanuel UCC
8375 Phillips Road

FAZOLI'S Spaghetti,
Breadsticks and Salad
Dessert & Beverage

\$8.00



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SNOW TUBING FUN

Please join Emmanuel
and help bring in
the new year
with our annual
tubing trip to



Saturday Feb. 18th

Cost: \$20.00 for 3hrs

Children of Emmanuel are free

2018 COMMUNITY CHILI COOK-OFF CHALLENGE

Tuesday February 20, 2018

5:30-7:00p.m.

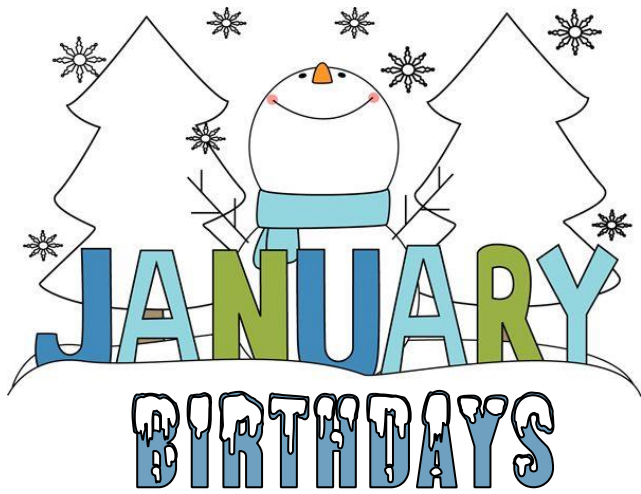
Bluffton Middle School Cafetorium

(A community event to benefit the Bluffton Community Assistance Program)



Also if anyone in the congregation would be interested in Serving Chili,
helping with sales of sandwiches and desserts
or would be able to help with the set-up and tear-down that would be great.

THANK YOU



January 7th

Mark 1:4-11

January 14th

John 1:43-51

January 21st

Mark 1:14-20

January 28th

Mark 1:21-28

Leah Fett	01/01
Regena Mummert	01/01
Elnora Moser	01/02
Lauren Parkins	01/04
Jill Burkholder	01/07
Lindsey Kiene	01/07
Kinzley Lutz	01/08
Carolyn Shaw	01/08
Cindy Kelly	01/10
Tony Rumer	01/10
Ashley Ruhlen	01/11
Ethan Luginbuhl	01/14
Rae Lynn Reichenbach	01/14
Jessie Caskie*	01/16
Tony Pinks	01/16
Terri Wilch*	01/16
Addison Vance	01/17
Pat Arnold	01/18
Steve Stark*	01/22
Todd Steele	01/22
Gerry Fett	01/25
Maryn Cottrell	01/27
Mary Fett	01/27
Olivia Hunt	01/27
Carolyn Oberly	01/28

January 2018 Emmanuel UCC Calendar of Events

	1 	2	3	4	5	6
7 Office Installation	8 Consistory Meeting	9	10 Bible Study 7:00p.m.	11	12	13 Toledo Walleye Hockey Trip Men's Breakfast
14 Communion	15 Women's Outreach @ Maplecrest	16	17 Bible Study 7:00p.m.	18	19	20
21	22	23	24 Bible Study 7:00p.m.	25	26	27
28	29	30	31 Bible Study 7:00p.m.			