



# Heart Beat Newsletter

Zion United Methodist Church  
*In the heart of Whitehouse*

**January, 2019**

## **Pastor Carol's Comments**

If you stop by my office, you will see a banner with these words from God in Isaiah: "Behold, I am doing a new thing!" As we begin a new year, we may wonder what the new year will bring. But one thing we can be sure of. God is already doing new things in us and in the world. We have the exciting task of seeing what God is doing and joining in! As the new year gets underway, let's keep our hearts open to whatever new thing God invites us to be part of!

### Preparing for General Conference

In February, the UMC General Conference will meet to decide on proposals around same-sex marriage and ordination of homosexual persons. Although we don't know what the outcome will be, we do know that change is likely. We can actively prepare by becoming better informed. You should already have received a letter with some background information.

Please plan to attend our informational program on Sun., 1/13, at 1:00. We will review the three proposals from the Commission on the Way Forward. Also, please be part of our Thursday evening study "Living Faithfully" (see related article). By laying a good foundation, we will be ready for whatever changes come our way.

This conference meets in St. Louis from 2/23 to 2/26, 2019. Please keep these matters in your prayers.

## **News Around Zion**

### TAP Dinner

The January TAP Fellowship Dinner is on 1/16 at 5:00 p.m. (following TAP). This month it features lasagna, macaroni and cheese, garlic bread, salad and desserts. Note that if TAP is cancelled on that day due to weather, we will not have the dinner so watch for Anthony Wayne school closings. If you can help with the dinner or provide a dessert, please contact Pat Jones.

### Living Faithfully Bible Study

This study will help us prepare for the General Conference in Feb. It's not designed to persuade participants to adopt any one particular viewpoint. Instead, it explores (from various perspectives) how Scripture, church tradition, other areas of study, and our own experiences speak to the issues of homosexuality, same-sex marriage, ordination of gay and lesbian persons, and our current situation as a denomination. Cost of the book is \$8. We will meet on Thursday nights, 1/17, 1/24, 1/31 and 2/7 at 7:00 p.m. Pastor Carol will lead the study.

### Operation Christmas Child

Franklin Graham, along with several hundred enthusiastic volunteers from across the country, celebrated [Operation Christmas Child's](#) 25th year of sending shoeboxes to children in need with an energetic, praise-filled ceremony on Nov. 29. The event was held at the Samaritan's Purse Charlotte Processing Center. Those celebrating included Denise Longnecker and Pat Jones from our church! Read Denise's comments at the above link.



**News Around Zion (continued)**

Electronics Recycling Is Back!

We will again hold an electronics recycling day on Sat., 1/19, from 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. RecycleIT will return with their truck to haul away your old cameras, computers, cell phones, printers, stereo equipment, household batteries, and more! They will reuse or dispose of these items in an environmentally-friendly way. This is a great way to live out our Methodist commitment to caring for God’s creation! Check out our web site for details on what can be dropped off.

Winter Closing Policy

If wintry weather hits, all activities will be cancelled if there is a Level 3 snow emergency. Church leadership will evaluate other, less severe conditions. Check the local TV stations, our Facebook page, our web site, or call the church phone number where closings will be included in the voice mail greeting. If the TV stations don’t specify Zion UMC in Whitehouse, check our other sources, since there are numerous Zion churches in northwest Ohio, both UM and other denominations.

Leadership Development Day

Enjoy a day of learning how to increase our effectiveness in worship, service, and outreach at the Leadership Development Day, Sat., 1/26, 8:30-2:30, at Grace UMC in Perrysburg. Cost is \$10 and includes lunch, two workshops, and the keynote address. Workshops include Children’s Ministry; the “Holy Trio” of ways to reach, invite, and retain members of our community; maximizing partnerships for fulfilling our mission; immigration law and policies; a Way Forward Presentation by a local lay delegate to the General Conference; and worship for small churches. Where is God calling you to learn and grow in? More info at <https://www.maumewatershed.org/district/maumewatershed/event/leadership-development-day-2019>.

**Save the Dates for Next Month:**

- Ham Loaf Dinner on 2/14
- TAP dinner on 2/20
- General Conference 2/23 to 2/26

**Church Information**

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**Upcoming Events**

- Jan. 9 - TAP starts again (every Wed. at 3:30)
- Jan. 13 - Information meeting on Feb. General Conference at 1:00 p.m.
- Jan. 15 - Food Pantry, coffee and conversation at 9:30; food delivery 10-12 a.m.
- Jan. 17, 24, 31 and Feb. 7 - “Living Faithfully” Bible Study at 7:00 p.m.
- Jan. 19 - Electronic Recycling Day from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.
- Jan. 26 - Leadership Development Day, 8:30 to 2:30 at Grace UMC