

## PASTOR PAM PONDERS

### *A New Year...A Self-Revelation*

I often wonder in the midst of the post Thanksgiving, Advent, Christmas, New Year season, why all these holidays are grouped together in a short six week period. And although each time I promise myself not to be stressed out, overscheduled....I fail.

So, in my sense of self-doubt over my inabilities to accomplish that sense of calm in the midst of the storm, I begin the new year with expectations of doing better in the coming year. But then life happens, again.

So in the spirit of changing this all too familiar pattern...I am just winging 2012. NOT! Because meetings will take place, events will be scheduled and expectations for results will occur.

The one slight difference for me is in the form of a ... self-revelation. **THROUGH JESUS CHRIST, THE FAITHFUL, REGARDLESS OF THE SITUATION OR CIRCUMSTANCES I FIND MYSELF, I AM SUSTAINED BY A GOD WHO LOVES ME UNCONDITIONALLY.**

Christmas isn't about the holiday...it is about God creating an intimate, fulfilling relationship with each one of us. And the Baby, who changes everything, Jesus, is proof of that.

### *With Appreciation*

Thank you, to all who shared your cookies, breads and candy... beautiful cards and gifts with me and my family over the Christmas Season. LOVE WAS FELT AND APPRECIATED! We are blessed to have you all in our lives!



Dear Church Family,  
Ann's family and I want to thank you for the cards, prayers and words of condolence at the passing of her stepfather. We are comforted knowing that he is in a better place and is no longer in pain.

*In Christ's Love, Jerry & Ann McElroy & Family*

## FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES



### BIRTHDAYS

February 1 Rick Abbott  
February 2 Julia Suttles  
February 5 Betty Baker  
February 7 Lisa Hines  
February 9 Barbara Bewsey  
February 10 Elizabeth Ortman  
February 12 William Clinton  
February 13 Carolyn Robertson  
February 19 Caleb Mohler  
February 23 Joyce Miller  
February 26 Ray Blakely



### ANNIVERSARIES

February 5 Mark & Susan Blank  
February 15 Charles J. & Joan Brown  
February 18 Robert & Tammy Janz  
February 26 Bill & Jean Beard



### CARE & CONCERN GRIEF SUPPORT GROUP

This group which met the first Thursday of each month at our church will no longer meet here, but will meet (scheduled through St. Matthew's United Methodist Church) at Nancy Raidy's home. The first meeting will be Friday, January 20 at 7:00pm. To contact Nancy for her address, please call her at 659-9088. If you have any other questions concerning the program, contact St. Matthew's Church at 654-5575.

### LOOKING AHEAD TO FEBRUARY...

**Feb. 12** Pitch-In dinner following worship  
**Feb. 19-26** Week of Compassion  
**Feb. 22** Lent Begins, Ash Wednesday Service (more info to come)  
**Feb. 26** Night Vision Worship followed by a Pitch-In Dinner

## THIS 'N THAT

### Notes of Appreciation

Dear Church Family,  
I would love to thank "all" of our church family. I know that we are all loved and I am so glad to be part of this church family. Thanks for all of the help, thoughts and prayers.  
Love, Bobbie Spear & the Girls

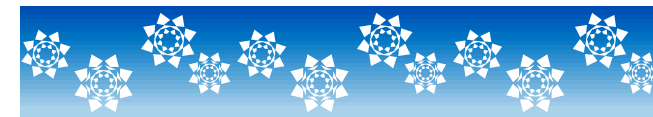
Dear Pastor Pam and the First Christian Church,  
Thank you for allowing us to host our Christmas Party in your fellowship hall. The families really enjoyed the meal and gathering together. Daniel was extremely helpful and a pleasure to work with. Thank you again.  
Marie Yeager, FSA Healthy Families, Clinton County

Dear Friends,  
We would like to take a moment to thank you for all the generous gifts that were provided for the children on our Christmas list. It is truly amazing that we have people like you in our community that reach out to those in need, especially at the special time of year that is Christmas.  
Thank you. Boys & Girls Club Staff

Thank you for your visits, prayers, and also to the Bereavement Committee for the excellent funeral dinner for Lois Dowden's funeral.  
Bob & Janet Thorley

I would like to extend a huge thank you to EVERYONE who helped put up and take down the Christmas decorations. Special thanks to the committee who showed up with smiles to tackle this monumental job. We have such willing workers amongst our church family!  
Thank you, Thank you, Thank you!! Denise Barney

To Our Church Family,  
A heartfelt thank you to all of you for making our 40th anniversary such a memorable day! To Pastor Pam for the meaningful ceremony, Daniel Kauffman and Tony Kauffman and all the others who helped prepare the meal, Jane Mohler for the beautiful decorations in the fellowship hall, those who cleaned the hall following the dinner, and to each of you for the cards, gifts, and well wishes. The love we feel from you is overwhelming. We love you and appreciate you all.  
With Love and Appreciation, Gary & Shirley Mikesell



## THE DAYS AHEAD

### WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 18

6:00pm Bell Choir  
7:00pm Chancel Choir

### THURSDAY, JANUARY 19

1:00pm God's Prayer Group  
2:00pm Happy Hearts Card Ministry

### SUNDAY, JANUARY 22

9:00am Sunday School  
10:00am Coffee Fellowship  
10:30am Morning Worship  
6:00pm Night Vision

### MONDAY, JANUARY 23

6:30pm Board Meeting, parlor

### WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 25

6:00pm Bell Choir  
7:00pm Chancel Choir

### THURSDAY, JANUARY 26

1:00pm God's Prayer Group  
2:00pm Happy Hearts Card Ministry

### SUNDAY, JANUARY 29

9:00am Sunday School  
10:00am Coffee Fellowship  
10:30am Morning Worship  
6:00pm Night Vision

### WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 1

6:00pm Bell Choir  
7:00pm Chancel Choir

### THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 2

1:00pm God's Prayer Group  
2:00pm Happy Hearts Card Ministry

### SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 5

9:00am Sunday School  
10:00am Coffee Fellowship  
10:30am Morning Worship  
**No Night Vision tonight**

### MONDAY, FEBRUARY 6

6:00pm Parenting Matters

### WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 8

6:00pm Bell Choir  
7:00pm Chancel Choir

### THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 9

1:00pm God's Prayer Group  
2:00pm Happy Hearts Card Ministry

### SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 12

9:00am Sunday School  
10:00am Coffee Fellowship  
10:30am Morning Worship, dinner to follow  
6:00pm Night Vision

### TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 14

7:00pm Elder's Meeting

### WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 15

6:00pm Bell Choir  
7:00pm Chancel Choir