



Community Cornerstone Holidays Newsletter 2025 Thanksgiving-Christmas

OVERFLOW WITH GRACE PRESENT JESUS MAKE NEW DISCIPLES

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Sunday Worship 10:30am Facebook: Community Methodist Church Riverside Website: communitymcrriverside.com

BEST FRIENDS FOREVER!

Friendship is such a gift. Especially in the past few years, I have more deeply experienced this with you. I am getting to know the real you, and you're getting to know the real me. Together in Christ we are overcoming those old hurts, habits, and hang ups. We're settling in more together without excluding newcomers. We are family, but we are keeping our focus outward on serving very challenged others.

Consider how much God humiliated himself to serve you and bring you into a Friendship with Him. See *Philippians 2: 5-8*. Although being God, Jesus the Son made His loving way into the manger, and from there to the cross – all for you. He served you like this to become your Friend. See *John 15: 13-15*. Thus, with great gratitude, follow your Friend into the Thanksgiving and Christmas seasons and days.

Rightly start by scheduling time today with your best Friend, the Lord Jesus Christ. Then, schedule time tomorrow. After this, make time the next day and each day throughout the seasons.

Also, clear your Sunday mornings. Go to service with your Friend and worship Him there – for He is Lord! This is where you will experience His family and begin to make new friends and deepen established friendships. See *Hebrews 10: 23-25*.

From there, follow Jesus to your brothers and sisters in Christ, and be a friend. Schedule time with both those in the Jesus family who are newer to you as well as old. For, we are family -- the Family of God.

Follow your Friend Jesus even further. Go to the people around you are isolated, unheard, depressed, and relationally dysfunctional. Make time, listen, and be a friend to them beginning these Thanksgiving and Christmas seasons.

This newsletter will help you to be a friend. Read it now and discover times and places to connect with your family this **Holy-day** season!



Walk to
Emmaus
THE UPPER ROOM

**Exciting news!
The Men's Greater
Dayton Men's
Walk to Emmaus
is coming up**

January 22-25, 2026. We are looking for participants (called "Pilgrims") to participate on this wonderful Christian weekend getaway.

What is the Emmaus Walk? Well, it is inspired by the story of the Walk to Emmaus in the Bible, and holds the promise of a life-changing encounter with Jesus Christ. It's a chance to unplug from all electronics alongside about 30 other men for a long weekend: no phones, no clocks, no tvs, no computers. Just Jesus, each other, a guided program, plenty to eat, think and pray about and work through with others who are experiencing the same. (Can't tell you more about what happens until you experience it!)

A sponsor will help guide you through the process. If you're interested, please talk with someone who's walked this walk before: Dave W., Mario, Mike, Pastor Fritz, or Steve Nichols. You won't forget it - this encounter with Jesus has the chance to change your life. Applications outside office.- Mike Raines

The Women's Walk is February 22-25, 2026.
Ask Amanda, Rachel, Rhonda, Claire and others about how the experience was for them.



Bonfire Fellowship
Let's "Get Out of Our Corners" and join others in a night of fun, food and prayer on

FRIDAY Nov 15 at 6:00.

We will have hotdogs, s'mores and lots of chances to fellowship outside the "church building" atmosphere. This is for **EVERYONE!**

FINANCIALLY, WHERE ARE WE AT?

When each of us faithfully give, no matter how financially challenged we are, God provides abundantly – for you, your Community, and those we serve. I have learned this from the Bible, but experienced it personally while serving in an impoverished place in Appalachia.—Pastor Fritz

Annually, your Community develops a budget primarily based on your pledged giving for that coming year.

Expenses

▪ *Operations. Utilities, insurance, security system, administrative expenses, plus pastor and staff.*

At the end of September, our operations deficit was \$564.12.

▪ *Building. This designation includes grounds.*

With an older facility, some expenses are predictable (e.g. regular maintenance), but many are not (e.g. plumbing).

At the end of September, we had a budget deficit of \$10,808.33.

The needed LED lighting in the southern section of the building, and the post plumbing bedding and seeding the front lawn were the largest expenses.

The Legacy Fund often covers the larger expenses; however, the fund is now just over \$10,000.

--> Please go to our Lord regarding a Legacy gift, now or as a part of your estate.

Income

Your pledged giving for 2025 is on track. Please finish the year faithfully and well. Pray and please meet your pledge.

Holiday giving and the regular giving from non pledging donors has significantly decreased.

--> Please prayerfully consider a special Thanksgiving gift and Christmas gift to Jesus through His body – your church.

Some of our most generous givers from the older generation are no longer able to give as they once were able. Some of their pledges remain unfulfilled.

-->Prayerfully consider giving just a little more to meet the deficit.

If you have further questions about where we are at financially, please go directly to Rachel Huffman at communitymcroverside.ft@gmail.com

What Are You & I To Do?

- Go to the Lord, and pledge for 2026. It doesn't matter if you're an official member or not.
- Trust God. Move into tithing (10% gross income)
- Finish faithfully. Go to God, pray, and fulfill your 2025 pledge.
- In November and December, pray and offer a Thanksgiving, Christmas, and/or Legacy gift to God through the church.
- Make the arrangements to leave a Legacy gift to your Community when you pass on to be with the Lord.
- Pray for your Community, the church family and leadership. Pray that those newer to Community settle in with us.
- Pray and recommit your heart to God as #1. Give accordingly

FINISH 2025 FAITHFULLY. Your 2025 Pledge & Giving.

Please fill out and turn in your PLEDGE CARDS before December 7. Your Community creates a faithful budget based on your pledges.



Welcome to the Neighborhood!

Sidewalk Soldiers, a non-profit organization that we at Community support spiritually and financially, has office space at Community.

We are excited that the administrative staff of Amanda, Shelley and Amy Cornelius will be in our building throughout the week taking care of administrative duties such as staff meetings, program coordination and documentation and connecting us to this important ministry. No client services will be conducted here.

*You may remember that Sidewalk Soldiers provides hope, help and healing to survivors of sex trafficking and those at risk. This is such important work they do and now the administration of that work will be conducted here. **God is good!***



November

11/03 Belva Rockwell
 11/03 Taunya Jacobs
 11/04 Abby Holt
 11/05 Nicholas
 McPherson
 11/05 Judith Mosoka
 11/06 Mark Ebright
 11/06 Sally Borba
 11/16 Amy Townley
 11/16 Krystina Fisher
 11/18 Don Rauch
 11/21 Rhonda Miller
 11/23 Denny Fulmer
 11/23 Nina Harris
 11/30 Nancy Dayton



11/08 Jim & Brenda Smith

11/18 Bill & Leila Hibbs

12/01 Pat & Charlotte Boyle

December

12/01 Steve Diorio
 12/02 Dave Watson
 12/02 Dustin Whetzler
 12/06 Nick Gusman
 12/07 Daniel Heys
 12/09 Mechele Gebke
 12/11 Michelle O'Brien
 12/13 Pete Willis
 12/14 James Wing
 12/15 Jennifer Miller
 12/17 Rose Kehl
 12/17 Garland Whetzler
 12/17 Holly Collier
 12/19 Michael Trappe
 12/24 George Hames
 12/25 Zach Willis
 12/26 Katie Frame
 12/28 Ellen Shelley
 12/29 Dale Kirby
 12/30 Bruce Boggs
 12/31 Don Espy
 12/31 Mark Miller
 12/31 Deb Rogerson
 12/31 Margaret
 Sanderson

UNPLUGGED GOING & GROWING STRONG!

UNPLUGGED

Happy Holidays Community! The Unplugged school year has gone well so far.

We have a total of 14 kids between our middle school and high school kids and continue to grow!

Our annual Thanksgiving Unplugged family dinner is going to be Tuesday November 18th. Amanda's family cooks this meal and serves the families. It is always a wonderful night of food and fellowship.

Our next two Friday night events are November 14th and December 12th. We continue to have 10-12 kids, games, crafts and outreach projects during this time.

The kids have continued to grow as a community. Recently they joined the Trotwood Outreach team on a Saturday in the Fall and were inspired by how much they could do in such a short time. They were able to hand out food and pray with people. It was such a good experience for them and a blessing for all.

They are working to include newer kids and build a Jesus community together. *Please pray that the kids continue to grow in their faith and their relationships with Christ and with one another.* Thank you!

Blessings, Bill

Hope Restored

Learn how to deal with those things that rob us of our joy and hope

Led by Charlotte @
 Community Methodist Church 339 Meyer Ave. d.c. 45404
 "Hope deferred makes the heart sick but a longing fulfilled is a tree of life."
 Proverbs 13:12

Every other Sunday evening at 6:30, we "create space" to fellowship and meet new people. As different churches gather together, it is a great opportunity to invite visitors, and to hear about what God is doing in each local congregation.

We are presently brainstorming about how to be part of the solution to local needs. A "hope filled" topic or message is presented. It is a "safe" place to share your God-given gifts and talents. Some sing or play an instrument, some share what the Lord is laying on their heart, others bring food, or share their individual talents, with the group.

It is a great place to "be" together. Give it a try!

COMING UP: Nov 9 & 23 and Dec 7 & 21

MEMBERSHIP IN COMMUNITY

If you have regularly attended and participated in Community for three or more months, please prayerfully consider formally joining the team!

Membership, like marriage, is a way of saying you're not just hanging for a while, but committed to this Jesus team honored Community.

The Welcome Class (Membership) begins the 1st week of February.

▪ 7 sessions.

▪ Pastor Fritz facilitates.

-->See Pastor Fritz for more info.



**Community Methodist Church
Riverside 339 Meyer Ave**

**Bean Soup & Cornbread
Supper**

Monday 5-6:30 pm,

November 10, 17, 24

*Proverbs 28:27 "The generous will
themselves be blessed, for they share their
food with the poor."*

Everyone Welcome!

**You are invited to join us as we serve up a
simple supper of beans and cornbread in
November! Come and eat. Come and serve.**

Or maybe Monday nights are not open for you but
you want to be a part of a simple solution for some
hard times that people are facing in our
community.

Here's how you can help: contact Charlotte
(937-287-1872) with an idea for where we can get
donations for this simple meal such as bowls,
cups, drinks, cornbread or let her know that you'd
like to help in any way.



Trotwood OUTREACH

The Third Saturday of each month

The next ones: November 15 and December 19
9:30am

For such a time as this...

This is an amazing opportunity to love like Jesus did.

The volunteers are welcoming and model what
community looks like.

You can stay behind the scene and pack groceries
or get out there and pray with others.

"Try it, you will like it!"

**Thursday Morning Bible Study
10:00 am**

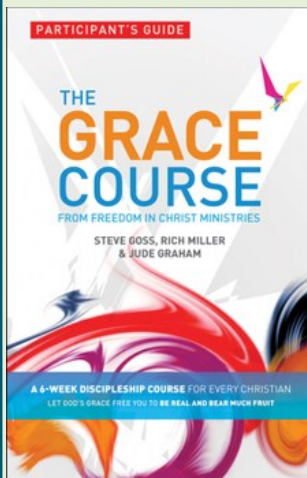
Focused on learning more about how to love and
serve the LORD.

We are studying from the Grace Course.

**November 20, we will have a "Celebratory" -
Thanksgiving carry-in.**

**Drop-in visitors are always welcome! Come join
us!**

The Grace Course



Grace is not behavior
modification, it's learning to
rest in His promised love.
Discover how grace frees
you from:

- joyless religion
- a low-grade fever of guilt
- being defined by your past
- feeling unable to say no
- thinking you're not enough

In this powerful six-week
series, you will encounter
God's grace like never

before.

- ☐ Library, Community Methodist Church Riverside
(339 Meyer, Dayton, OH)
- ☐ Facilitated by Charlotte Boyle

**New Hope Church
Non perishable Food
Drive**

- . Cans of pasta (spaghetti, ravioli, etc)
- . Cans of soup
- . Canned or pouched tuna or chicken
- . Spam (or other canned meat)
- . Peanut Butter
- . Crackers of any kind
- . Applesauce or fruit cups
- . Granola Bars

**Drop them off in the Fellowship Hall in
the box provided and we will get them to
New Hope for Distribution. Thank You!**

Once again, a way to help those who are
struggling during this government shut down.
**New Hope (located 530 Xenia Ave close to
Keowee St)** will collect the items you donate and
distribute them to our community throughout
November and maybe into December.
Thank you!



IS WHIZ KIDS CALLING YOU?

What a start we have had to Whiz Kids! We have four new Whiz Kids—one of whom is a cousin to one of our current Whiz Kids, who came because she heard about how much fun Whiz Kids is!

Not only that, we have three NEW mentors, and two mentors who have returned after a time, as well as one young man who was a Whiz Kid himself and wants to give back to the program now that he is older! We are so blessed!



However, as of the writing of this article, we still have five to six mentors who don't have Whiz Kids! Also, two of our Whiz Kids attend Virginia Stevenson, a Mad River school for which we don't have transportation. As of right now, the parents are transporting the kids to Community Church for Whiz Kids. But wouldn't it be awesome if we could pick those kids up, too?



And, I know that a number of Prayer Angels, including myself, have two (or more!) Whiz Kids. Could God be calling you to pray for a child, and write a note of encouragement to that child each week?

We know that over these 10 years, we have learned a lot, and that God has taken care of us

each step of the way. We know He will continue to do that, and one of the means He uses is your prayers and your willingness to serve. **Listen to what God is saying to you and be obedient.**

In Jesus,
Claire



CELEBRATING RECOVERY THROUGH THE HOLIDAYS!

The holiday season is not easy for people in recovery. Often, we are not invited to family gatherings or social functions because of our PAST. If we are invited, we are faced with people who do things that trigger our addictions (drink alcohol, do drugs, overeat, peer pressure, etc.). These things make us feel like we are pressured to "fall off the wagon" of our recoveries.

In the past, on Thanksgiving, we have shown the movie Charlie Brown Thanksgiving. This has been a welcome change from the usual lesson presentation or testimony. Since Christmas falls on a Thursday this year, we are continuing the tradition and will be showing the movie Charlie Brown Christmas.

If you do not have anywhere to go for Thanksgiving and/or Christmas, and want to be around people that will support your recovery and not tempt or judge you, you are welcome to join us at Celebrate Recovery Riverside. If you would like to come to CR and see what we're about, or want to help serve food, please do so!

CR will supply the meats for both occasions and ask that you please bring a side dish. Please contact Rhonda Miller (937-203-6446) and let her know what you will bring and for which occasion (or both).

Thanksgiving & Christmas –

6:00 p.m. - Traditional dinner with all the fixings & fellowship

6:45 p.m. - Prayer requests & celebration of recovery achievements

7:15 p.m. - Presentation of Charlie Brown Thanksgiving/Christmas

8:00 p.m. - Small groups (women with women, men with men)

CR is not filled with a lot of doom and gloom - we actually have a lot of fun at our meetings! We hope and pray to see you there.

Happy Thanksgiving and Merry Christmas!—Amy



**Communion the First Thursday of
Every Month: November 6;
December 4**

SERVICES & MESSAGES

The Thanksgiving & Christmas Seasons

11/16. FOREVER THANKSGIVING!

▪ Special Guest. Jeff Sorrell!

Yes, and I will continue to rejoice, for I know that through your prayers and God's provision of the Spirit of Jesus Christ what has happened to me will turn out for my deliverance... Philippians 1: 18-19 NIV

For decades, Jeff has been an innovative Christian outreach leader in the Dayton area. In the past three years, our Lord has brought him through "unhealable" physical challenges to a place of healing. We want to come together, and thank God for this healing; so many of you have and are praying for him. Now, because of all this, Jeff has a message of encouragement and challenge for us.

Also, as we worshipfully enter into this Thanksgiving season, we will name and intently pray for the healing of others in our lives and world – including ourselves.

11/23: FOREVER THANKSGIVING!

▪ Thanksgiving Offering: Dayton Lifewise Pastor Pam Wantz, Linden Ave Church

Religion that God our Father accepts as pure and faultless is this: to look after orphans and widows in their distress and to keep oneself from being polluted by the world. James 1:27 NIV

Truly grateful hearts love the people God especially loves. Many of you love the challenged children that we serve. You serve them through your prayers, cards, food, and mentoring. Many of these kids, for various reasons are like orphans; their parents are not very available. You help fill the gap and address what is missing in their lives. More than this, you address the core of their need. You share Jesus with them.



As a result, you will likely have a heart for what God is doing to present Jesus to the children of Ruskin Elementary School. Once a week, with custodial adult permission, a number of the children from this very challenged, East Dayton school travel across the street to New Hope Church. There, they pray and are taught about Jesus for about 30 minutes. This is completely legal and is facilitated by a Christian nonprofit, Lifewise.

As a part of the service, Pastor Pam will share what God is doing at Ruskin through Lifewise, and how we can participate. **Our Thanksgiving offering this year will be for these local kids served through Lifewise.** (cont'd next column)

SERVICES & MESSAGES

The Thanksgiving & Christmas Seasons

11/30: Your Spiritual Health 1.

The Diagnosis.

When Jesus saw him lying there and learned that he had been in this condition for a long time, he asked him, "Do you want to get well?" John 5:6 NIV

When we are sick and tired, we cannot do much. The symptoms and illness preoccupy us, so we are not very available for much of anything or anyone. Therefore, we schedule an appointment with a doctor, and expect an accurate diagnosis.

However, when we receive a diagnosis, some of us may resist doing ALL that the doctor prescribes. We don't want to do "ALL that," and tell ourselves that we cannot. So, we do what we want to do, play doctor, often self medicate, adapt to living sick and tired, and declare "This is just the way it is."

This is especially true of our spiritual lives. Do we truly want to get well and be available to God and others? In other words, are you sick and tired enough of being sick and tired to change?

A healthy, spiritual you is crucial for your faithfulness to God and witness to others. The greatest witness to your family and friends is when you get with the Doctor and take Him at His Word. Follow God into the healing and transformation of your heart and life and others will see and believe!

A more Spiritually healthy you is the greatest gift you can give your family and friends this Christmas season! You will have the opportunity to answer our Lord's question, "Do you want to get well?" with a committed "Yes."

12/7: "Shalom." PEACE & Friendship With God as God. The Gospel.

▪ Homemade Lunch

Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ...Romans 5:1 NIV

Do you have peace with God? How do you know? If you do, settle in and down. Learn to live by His grace-filled lead through faith.

The world deserves punishment, but Father God gave us His Son Jesus. He is your peace. Settle into Him as He is!

12/14: "Shalom." PEACE With Self. Be Who You Really Are As God's Friend!

▪ Communion

▪ 2nd Sunday Offering

Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid. John 14:27

(cont'd next page)

SERVICES & MESSAGES

The Thanksgiving & Christmas Seasons

(cont'd from page 6)

As a born again son or daughter of God, do you have peace with yourself? Have you truly settled into who you are and Whose you are in Christ? In a world of lost people trying to find or even create themselves, God calls and names you. He is your peace. Settle in to Him and who you are in Christ!

12/21: "Shalom." PEACE & Friendship With Others. Forgive & Bless!

Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you. Ephesians 4:32 NLT

With whom do you not have peace?

Against what people are you still holding offense? Have you settled into the forgiveness that God gave you through Jesus? Will you settle into the forgiveness that God graciously commands you to extend to these others?

God sent his Son into a world of complaining, cursing, and bitterness to take it on. He did. He broke the spell of Sin through his loving life, forgiving death, and life giving resurrection. Jesus is Lord -- your Lord. God is God -- your God. You are His born again child. The Holy Spirit lives in you. **In Christ, you can forgive, bless, and be at peace in your heart even with those who want to be your enemies.** For, the Lord Jesus Christ is your peace.

12/24, 6:30 p.m.: CHRISTMAS EVE. "Everlasting Peace & Friendship."

*For to us a child is born,
to us a son is given,
and the government will be on his shoulders.
And he will be called
Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.
Of the greatness of his government and peace
there will be no end. Isaiah 9: 6-7 NIV*

Do you really believe this? Is this honestly how things will turn out in the end? Are you at peace with this ultimate future? Are you at peace with what truly will happen after you die? Trust God at His Word! Be at peace!

12/28: Your Spiritual Health 2.

The First Prescriptions.

▪ Emotionally Healthy assessment after service

What are your first steps to get healthier? After this service, you will be offered a time to go through a simple tool to assess your Spiritual health.

The SIMPLY JESUS series will start again in January 2026 with "Your Choice," Matthew 16:13

AFTER CLEAN UP DAY

Thank you to everyone that came out and helped us clean up parts of the church. We were a small but mighty crew. We focused on areas of the church and got them cleaned up and organized and even re-organized.

We focused in the Nursery, Women's Restroom, Pantry, and a couple of rooms downstairs. We got rid of some items we didn't need by donating them, trashing them or relocating them to a place where they would be used. We also did some deep cleaning of areas.

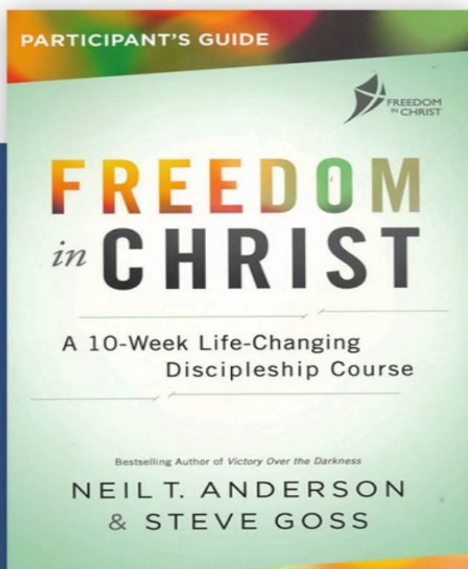
We will be doing another cleaning in the Spring time. As usual no one will have to spend all day cleaning; we will have two shifts. Rooms will be identified to clean and supplies will be available to use in them. If you have any ideas or thoughts if what needs to be cleaned or organized please let us know.



Thanks again to everyone that came and helped out. We look forward to the Spring cleaning day.

-Robb French





"Learn to live out your identity in Christ and become a fruitful disciple."

This course helps you address pride, unforgiveness, deception, and rebellion—equipping you to live free and embrace your full potential in Him."

Fee for the class is \$20..that covers the materials, snack, and meal

Course Schedule: 11/7 7p-9p, 11/8 9a-12p,
11/14 7p-9p 11/15 9a-5p



[Link to Course registration](#)

SUNDAY LUNCHES

It is truly amazing to see everyone enjoying themselves while we are physically and spiritually being fed.

I want to thank everyone for contributing to the carry-ins. It means so much knowing you will help. We will have more carry-ins in the future and it is fun to see what we will be blessed with each time.

If you have an extra 15-20 minutes to spare after a carry-in, **we could use help cleaning up.** There is more to do than "just the dishes" after a meal. Come, join us, and see what fun we have cleaning up.

If you would like to help on any aspect one Sunday, please let me know.

Thank you,
Rhonda Miller
(937) 203-6446
rhmillier68@gmail.com



Please thank **Rhonda**, who facilitates the lunches, and **Olivia** and

Troy, who organize and help, by cleaning up after yourself as well as volunteering to help afterward. Also, we greatly appreciate Sally Borba and her family for their regular home cooked lunches each month. **Sally** is Amanda Wing's mother, Faye and Zoe's grandmother. Also, a big, thank you to **Wanda Fillmore**,

Amanda's aunt, for bringing the food that we often serve and give out to needful people. She brings this blessing from Xenia Fish Pantry.



Annual Senior Picnic

Once again the seniors came out in full force for the Senior Picnic. Of course, it is not a picnic in the usual style but that is what Marsha has named it and everyone understands. Many different delicious offerings were available like a traditional picnic like hot dogs, hamburgers, mac and cheese and so many delicious desserts.

Marsha had some great help from Bill, Marcia, Margaret and Wanda. Jim Smith and his brother played some good old hymns and 50's and 60's tunes. Wanda and a group danced around the Fellowship Hall.

Everyone had a wonderful time with over 40 in attendance. It was great to see some of our well loved faces back in the building. **Thank you Marsha and Bill for all the work and love you put into this great event.**

