

## From the Desk of Pastor Katie

Over the course of my three years in seminary one of the most beneficial classes I took was a required course called *Vocational Formation and Church Leadership*. This course was required all three years and was held primarily in a small group format. Each week we had an opportunity to discuss with a facilitator and other students what we were learning in the classroom and how it intersected with what we were learning in each of our Field Placement sites. The course syllabus was filled with assignments and activities that allowed us to dig into and truly explore our call to ministry and discern where God was calling us in our vocation. It also endeavored to teach us how to care for ourselves as ministry professionals and create healthy boundaries for ministry. One such assignment was to create a *Rule of Life*. Brother David Dryhof from The Society of St. John the Evangelist has this to say about creating a Rule of Life:

“A Rule of Life allows one to clarify their deepest values, most important relationships, most authentic hopes and dreams, most meaningful work and highest priorities. A Rule of Life allows one to live with intention and purpose in the present moment. . .

The word “rule” derives from a Latin word, *regula*, which implies not so much a system of rules or laws, but rather a way of *regulating* and *regularizing* our lives so that we can stay on the path we have set for ourselves. A rule is like a trellis which offers support and guidance for a plant, helping it to grow in a certain direction.”

As we enter the season of Lent, the 40 Days (excluding Sundays) that precede Easter, I have found myself drawn to review my Rule of Life. Lent is just about one-tenth of a year, making it a tithe of time of sorts. What better way to use these 40 Days than to reexamine the way I use my time, to repent and return to God and to re-focus my life to be more in line with Jesus.

Throughout the season of Lent we will be following a series called DARE YOU TO LOVE. We will follow Jesus’ life on earth as his own journey of love culminates on the cross. Jesus “dares us” to show the same love he models in his life on earth, in his death, and in his resurrection. Jesus loved God with all his heart, all his mind, and all his soul. This love is foundational to the Christian life. Would you join me on this journey to use the 40 Days of Lent to reexamine your own life? Your own use of time? To repent and return to God and to re-focus your life to be more in line with Jesus? Perhaps instead of creating a Rule of Life you can choose a fast, cutting out some of the things in your life that distract you from God, be it food, technology or something else. Or maybe you would like to take on something for Christ by volunteering weekly at Inter Parish Ministries or bringing food each week for the Feed the Hungry drive. Maybe you can find a new prayer rhythm, praying intentionally while you walk, drive or listen to music each day.

In these pages you will find several opportunities to serve, to study, and to gather together throughout these 40 Days of Lent. Pick one. Pick several. I pray that these new or refreshed practices will be a balm on your spirit as you seek to draw closer to God this season as we await the joyous celebration of Easter.

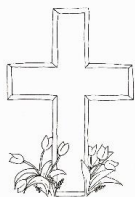
+Pastor Katie

## How to Contact the Pastor

If you need to meet with Pastor Katie please make an appointment as her office hours (and location) vary throughout the week. She is generally in the office Monday – Wednesday and uses Thursday as a reading, research and sermon writing day. She also often has off-site meetings, visitations or can be found working remotely at a coffee shop or park near you. You may make an appointment by calling the church office at (513) 561-6678 or emailing [pastor.numc@zoomtown.com](mailto:pastor.numc@zoomtown.com)

If you need immediate assistance during daytime hours, please try the church office first. If you cannot reach anyone there or it is after 4:00 p.m. you may contact Pastor Katie at home at (513) 843-5520. In the event of an absolute emergency please contact a member of the SPRC or support staff and they can contact Pastor Katie by cell phone. This option is for emergencies only, i.e. a sudden death in the family, hospitalizations, the church is on fire, etc.

*Please also note that Pastor Katie's Sabbath Day is on Fridays. Contact for emergencies only.*



### Mark Your Calendars! - Lenten and Easter Service Schedule

Ash Wednesday, March 1 at 7:00 p.m.

Maundy Thursday, April 13 at 7:00 p.m.

Easter Sunday Sunrise, April 16 at 6:30 a.m.

Easter Sunday, April 16 at 10:30 a.m.

## Service Opportunities

Throughout Lent we'll be following the series, *DARE YOU TO LOVE*, following Jesus' life on earth as his own journey of love culminates on the cross. Jesus "dares us" to show the same love he models in his life on earth, in his death, and in his resurrection.

This series features an ORV District wide DAY OF SERVING on **Saturday, April 1, 2017**. Currently we're working on setting something up with Inter-Parish Ministries here in town. Keep an eye on your bulletins and our Facebook page for more information as it becomes available.

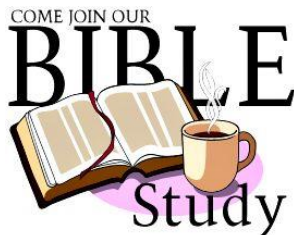


Don't forget to bring in food for FEED THE HUNGRY all through Lent, too!



### UC Wesley Dinner March 14

The Wesley Foundation in Cincinnati is the United Methodist Campus Ministry at the University of Cincinnati and throughout the Greater Cincinnati Area. It is their mission to offer God's radical love to every student in the greater Cincinnati, Ohio area and to form a community of disciples grounded in Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. Join Pastor Katie **Tuesday, March 14** to take dinner to their Tuesday night Bible Study group. We can meet at NUMC at 4:30 p.m. to carpool to Clifton – just make sure to tell Katie you plan to go so she knows how many to expect!



### Lectionary Study – Thursdays in Lent

Looking for a new spiritual practice to try during Lent? Why not join Pastor Katie on Thursday mornings from 10-11 a.m. for a Lectionary Study? We'll dig into the scripture readings for the following Sunday using the ancient practice of Lectio Divina. Drop in for one week or come for all six beginning March 2<sup>nd</sup>.

## Spring Carry-In

Come help us welcome spring with a carry-in luncheon **on Sunday, March 19th** after church.

Bring your favorite side dish or dessert; meat and drinks will be provided. Door prizes will be given away. There is a sign-up sheet in Fellowship Hall.

Thanks!  
Jenny Smedley

## We are going digital!

We are going to be updating our website to make it welcoming for prospective members and friendly for all!

I am in need of some information from you if you run a mission or service through the church. Please send a short blurb including the history and purpose of your work as well as contact information (email and/or phone) for us to post on the site. We do great work and should spread the word! Email Jenni Wallen at [jennifer.m.wallen@gmail.com](mailto:jennifer.m.wallen@gmail.com)

## Update on Medicine Bottles

We have taken another 5 bags of medicine bottles to Matthew 25 Ministries. This time we gave them 1186 bottles. Of those, 900 were prescription bottles and 286 non-prescription bottles. The time frame on collecting this many was from August 2016 to January 2017. This makes a grand total of 9309 bottles since we have been saving them.

Thank you for your continued support of this project.  
Phyllis Fought

## Ad Council Retreat and Visioning Session March 11

The Ad Council will be meeting from 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. on Saturday March 11 for their annual retreat. The focus will be big picture vision and creating a strategic plan for Newtown United Methodist Church. Anyone interested in being a part of this important work is also invited to come. Please sign up on the table in Fellowship Hall so we know how many to count on for lunch.

## Time to Register for Camp!

Here we are, deep in the midst of winter and what am I thinking about? SUMMER CAMP!! I can't help it, it seems like I'm always trying to think of ways for us to learn more about who God is and how we can be closer to God. I think that Church Camp is absolutely one of the best ways that we can know God and grow closer to God!

I would love for you and/or your children, grandchildren, nieces, nephews, neighbors, whomever to consider joining me at Camp Otterbein (over in the beautiful Hocking Hills, near Logan, Ohio) this summer! The first opportunity is for children and youth ages 9-17 the week of **June 18-23**. That week is called "Adventure Camp" and there will be lots of adventure going on from swimming, going on the "Blob", Climbing on the Rock Climbing Wall in the Lake, High Ropes, Zip Line, Climbing Wall and Mountain Bikes. I'll be serving as a Pastor of the Week and it will be a GREAT week full of fun!!

If your camper is not quite ready for a whole week at camp by themselves, or you yourself are interested in a shorter getaway, then please consider coming to Family Camp **July 21-23**. No one is too old or too young to come to camp! At Family Camp you can choose to stay in air-conditioned cabins, bring your own tent for camping or even request to stay in one of the brand new Treehouses. Just be sure to register soon, as this event is likely to fill quickly.

At camp campers spend time every day in worship (twice, in fact) and have other Bible study and small group times during the day. It's a fantastic mix of fun, adventure, faith and a great place to meet people who might become life-long friends!

If you are interested in registering or reading more about all that our West Ohio Camps offer, go to [www.westohiocamps.com](http://www.westohiocamps.com) Also, *never* let a lack of funds get in the way. If your family has a need, talk with me (Pastor Katie) and I'll find a way to get you the help you need. We want all kids and families to have a chance to attend camp! See you there!



# Acknowledgements

The congregation of the Newtown United Methodist Church would like to thank the families below for sponsoring the **CHIMES** and the Sunday Bulletins. Information about becoming a sponsor can be found on the church message board section of this issue of the **CHIMES**.

## CHIMES

JANUARY	MARILYN & ROBIN BEATTY
FEBRUARY	DOROTHY LARSSON
MARCH	TOM ZIMMERMAN
APRIL	JON & BARB FRANCE
MAY	CATHY MARTHIS
JUNE	CHUCK & NANCY LINGO
JULY	RICHARD SMITH
AUGUST	
SEPTEMBER	
OCTOBER	
NOVEMBER	
DECEMBER	

## SUNDAY BULLETINS

JANUARY	MARILYN & ROBIN BEATTY
FEBRUARY	DORI PORTER
MARCH	DOROTHY LARSSON
APRIL	TOM ZIMMERMAN
MAY	JON & BARB FRANCE
JUNE	CATHY MARTHIS
JULY	CHUCK & NANCY LINGO
AUGUST	RICHARD SMITH
SEPTEMBER	
OCTOBER	
NOVEMBER	
DECEMBER	

### Church Staff and Support Personnel Email Addresses

[Facility.NUMC@Zoomtown.com](mailto:Facility.NUMC@Zoomtown.com)  
[Music.NUMC@Zoomtown.com](mailto:Music.NUMC@Zoomtown.com)  
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[Outreach.NUMC@Zoomtown.com](mailto:Outreach.NUMC@Zoomtown.com)  
[Pastor.NUMC@Zoomtown.com](mailto:Pastor.NUMC@Zoomtown.com)  
[Publicity.NUMC@Zoomtown.com](mailto:Publicity.NUMC@Zoomtown.com)  
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Pastor Katie Steele  
Robin Steinmetz  
Clay Anderson

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45244

PHONE:  
(513) 561-6678

### Pastoral Needs

If you have a need for Pastoral services, please contact Pastor Katie by calling the Church office at 513-561-6678 or email Pastor Katie at [pastor.numc@zoomtown.com](mailto:pastor.numc@zoomtown.com)

If you have an urgent need after office hours, contact Pastor Katie at home at (513) 843-5520.

### **CHURCH MESSAGE BOARD**

- ❖ If you would like to sponsor the **Chimes** please place a donation of \$47.00 (checks payable to the church) in an envelope marked **Chimes**.
- ❖ If you would like to sponsor the **Sunday Bulletin**, the cost is \$30 per month. Please place your donation (checks payable to the church) in the offering plate marked **Sunday Bulletin**.