

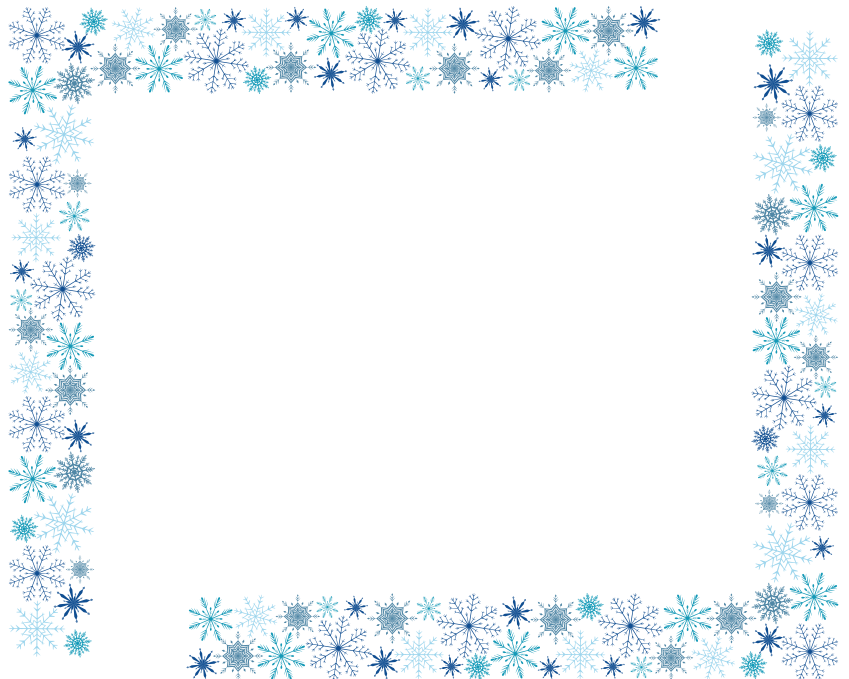


Centreville United Methodist Church
305 E Main St. Centreville, MI 49032 | 269-467-8645

January 2025



CENTREVILLE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
305 E. MAIN ST.
CENTREVEILLE, MI 49032



A note from Pastor Drew

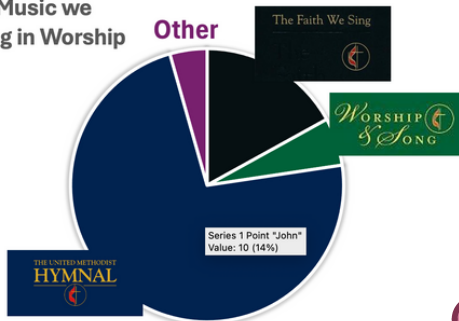
One of my favorite things about the end of the year is all of the “Best of” lists as well as the yearly summaries that companies provide. I got to learn my most listened to songs and artists, I saw a compilation of pictures from the last 12 months on “BeReal.” It always brings back memories and lets me see all the growth that has happened over the year as well as an awareness of some changes that I might want to make (do I really need to be playing that much on my phone?)

The past year here at CUMC has been an eventful one! It has been my first full year with you which I remain grateful for. It is also the year when we made great progress on our strategic plan which I know the team is excited to share with you this year. As you look back and forward, I thought a year by the numbers would be a fun way to celebrate the new year!

Rev. Drew Weseman

2024 CUMC Wrapped

Music we
Sang in Worship

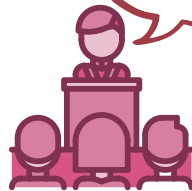


Worship Attendance

51 Average In-person
16 Average Online

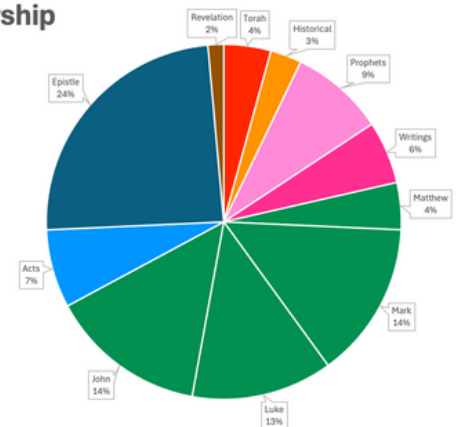
67 Average Total

71,400+
words preached
by Pastor Drew



Scriptures
Used in Worship

- Torah
- Historical
- Prophets
- Writings
- Matthew
- Mark
- Luke
- John
- Acts
- Epistle
- Revelation



\$18,996.44

Given to Missions

20

different mission
partners

40-45

Current average attendance
at our Community Dinners

66
First-Time
Visitors!

When we re-started
there were 10-12

visits

10.6K ↑ 25.5%



Who can you
invite this
year?





January Nurse's Notes

Welcome to January and a new year! Do you look at the first of the new year as an opportunity to start fresh? Many of us make resolutions, usually about improving our lives, physically and spiritually.. While such ideas are great, be realistic about it; don't set yourself up for failure. Want to get down to a healthy weight? Start with a smaller, realistic goal, like losing a pound a week. Don't swear to yourself that you'll never eat chocolate again, especially if you love chocolate. Ready to quit smoking? Cut back daily by one or two cigarettes. Have you decided this is the year to read the entire Bible? Probably don't start with Genesis. Get your support system in place and be gentle with yourself. Goals can be changed!

Many of us struggle with depression in the winter. The excitement of the holidays is over, the sun is with us a little longer each day, but its trip north seems to take forever, as my grands would say.. We may leave for work in the dark and come home in the dark and not see what little bit of anemic sun there is. It's usually cold and roads can be icy, so we tend to stay home more often. For those who do struggle with winter depression (Seasonal Affective Disorder), the good news is that spring WILL come! In the meantime, try taking more deliberate care of yourself. Get the rest you need and balance that so you're not sleeping too much. (I've always kinda wondered if we might be meant to hibernate in winter) Get more fruits and vegetables in your diet, the fresher the better. If there's a safe way, make friends with winter by taking a walk, learning a new winter sport, sledding. Find a way to serve others.

Light box therapy can also be beneficial. According to Mayo Clinic, "A light therapy box mimics outdoor light. It's thought that this type of light may cause a chemical change in the brain that lifts your mood and eases other symptoms of SAD, such as being tired most of the time" Sometimes antidepressants or talk therapy can be helpful.

As I write this, we're in Advent, waiting the birth of the Christ Child. Visiting the jail has made this time more holy and precious for me. I was pretty nervous the first Christmas I went into the jail. How does one bring Christmas to incarcerated women? Women who are away from their families, who may have lost their children, women who know they are where they deserve to be, but, man. It's hard. I was expecting the women to be full of grief and anger. Instead, I found that **Christ-mas** was already there. Here, in jail, away from the commercial and financial busy-ness we experience, the idea that we must create the perfect holiday, Christmas, in all its holiness is all that there is to focus on. No distractions. Those women had the opportunity for their best Christmas ever. We talk about the Advent and Christmas stories and they are able to really listen, hear and receive the good news that Jesus came to those who were/are marginalized, considered less-than. They listened so intently, as if it was the first time they had heard the story. My Christmas and New Year wish for you is that you might experience the story with the appreciation of how shocking it all was/is, and look for that Baby in everyone you meet.

Christy Friedel, R.N., Spiritual Director 269-535-1032
Office hours 10-2 Tuesdays at Building Hope Free Store



JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

4 – Jennifer Case 28 – Cathy Carpenter
9 – Brenda Pearrow 28 – Dawn Eby
14 – Carson Hunter 29 – Mary Herendeen
16 – Lila Preston 30 – Wendell Moyer
26 – Adley Batten

JANUARY ANNIVERSARIES

2 – John & Mary Martinson
9 – Pastor Drew & Jessica Weseman

JANUARY MEETINGS

Trustees: 1/7 at 6 pm
Building Hope Free Store: 1/9 at 7 pm
Finance: 1/14 at 6 pm
Memorial: 1/18 at 6 pm
Church Council: 1/28 at 6 pm

Church Office Hours

December Office Hours:
Pastor Drew:
Monday, Wednesday, Thursday: 11:30-2:30 pm
Friday: Sabbath
Tori: Monday, Thursday: 8:00-2:30
Friday: 8:00-12:00

Electronic Giving

Check out our online-giving option, GiveButter! There are options for our special givings (our missions & can offerings, Special Sundays, UMCOR, etc), as well as general giving. You can setup auto-giving as well, for your convenience. Please reach out if you have questions or if you would like more information or help getting started.



Financial Update

December 2024

Operations Financial Summary		
Income	December	Year To Date
Pledged Income	15,166.00	133,838.17
Non-Pledged Income	1,978.00	20,535.23
Endowment - Gen.	-	2,681.53
Building Use	550.00	3,600.00
Other	-	7,773.04
Total	\$ 17,694.00	\$ 168,427.97
Expenses		
Salaries and Benefits	17,534.17	109,537.92
Ministry Shares	-	13,631.00
Property and Utilities	1,630.29	23,697.81
Administrative	1,468.54	10,253.41
Worship	1,323.82	3,495.25
Program and Education	-	579.26
Other	701.23	1,479.20
Total	\$ 22,658.05	\$ 162,673.85
Net:	-\$4,964.05	\$ 5,754.12

Missions Income	\$ 3,066.25	\$ 18,904.71
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Boiler Income	3,950.00	23,660.00
Total Cost of Boiler		25,049.47

For full financial information,
please contact the church office.

For all financial questions,
please contact
Michael Davis or Pastor Drew.



Writer's Group



Writer's Group will begin meeting starting January 7th. That meeting will be at 11:00 am, but the following Tuesdays will resume normal time of 9:00 am. We absolutely welcome anyone who would like join. Any future changes will be noted in Sunday's bulletin (for example: No meeting February 4th or March 11th).

My God,
My Leader,
My Companion,
You have led me through pine and birch forests,
across snow capped mountains,
along tiny streams, mighty rivers,
on Great Lake rocky shores
and Pacific black sand beaches.
With my hand in yours
I was sure,
I was safe.
Today I wander aimlessly
far from water,
lost, disoriented in a desert of my own creation.
When did I drop your hand?
Without you there is no beauty,
no trees, no water,
no path.
Clasp my hand.
Restore me to your side
where there is peace,
where there is direction.
Guide me to your kingdom
where there is no separation.

Donna Perkins Pierce

Adventures of Tiny Jesus

Tiny Jesus attended the Trans-Siberian Orchestra concert in December! He enjoyed the story telling and songs celebrating the story of his birth



Tiny Jesus went to the Ophthalmologist's office for an eye exam, and ran into a friend!

Missions & Events



safeTALK Training

Michael Davis' mission, Made with Love and Hope, is partnering with United Steps to offer safeTalk Training on Saturday, January 11 from 10 am-2 pm at the church.

LivingWorks' safeTALK training provides individuals with the tools to effectively identify a person struggling with suicidal thoughts, support the person through a vulnerable time, connect them with life-saving resources, and beyond. This training isn't only for first responders, educators, parents or medical professionals - it's for everyone, and it could save a life! Tickets can be purchased through the link at the top.

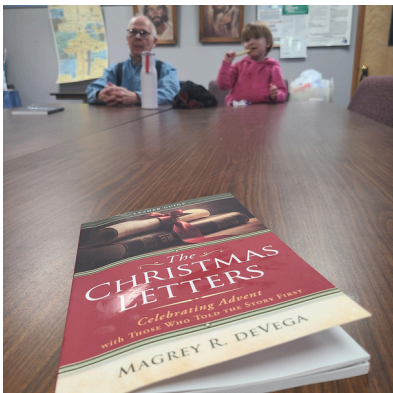


Community Dinner



Community Dinner is still every 2nd & 4th Wednesday of the month from 4:30-6:00 pm. Christy & Connie are always open to help!

Advent Book Study



We completed the Advent Book Study on The Christmas Letters by Magrey DeVega. This was such a great study for the season!

Choir Cantata



Our annual Choir Cantata performed "God is With Us" on Sunday, December 15th during worship. It was, as always, a wonderful performance, and are so thankful to have such a talented choir!

Exploring Prayer

Tuesday, January 21 we will begin a new 5-week class on the Exploration of Prayer. The class will take place at noon, both in-person and virtual, or you can also take the independent study with Pastor Drew at your own pace.

This practical 5-week class will look at different ways of prayer (Please, Why, Sorry, Thanks, Help) RSVP at centrevilleumc.org/study or the sign-up sheet in Fellowship Hall



Blood Drive

Tuesday, January 7 from 12 pm - 5:45 pm is the Red Cross Blood Drive. The QR code above can be used to schedule your time.



Be on the lookout!

The Strategic Planning Committee has some exciting news upcoming very, very soon! Most of you have probably noticed, as Pastor has been asking for shirt sizes and things. We are THIS  close to completing the next steps!



Gingerbread Houses



The annual Gingerbread House Party was held on Sunday, December 15th, and it was so much, as always!

The luncheon was delicious, and the gingerbread creations were so creative.



Community Dinner & Christmas Carry-In



Thanks to all the volunteers who came out to help with the community carry-in Christmas dinner ! We appreciate the goodies donated by Yoders Country Market, the lovely piano music from Thomas Rhyner, and the sing-along with Scott & Megan Marsh and Gayle & Michelle Brokaw. Santa also had some local elves deliver gift bags for our guests. Thanks, everyone!





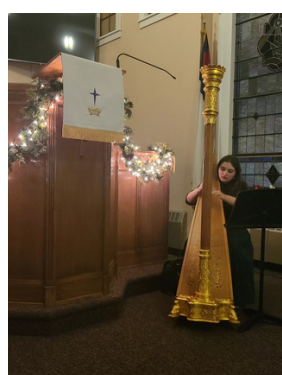
Christmas Boxes

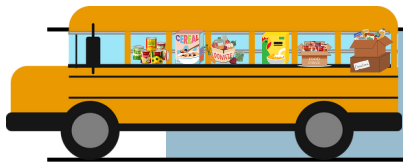


On Friday, December 20, we packed Christmas food boxes to be distributed to the community on Saturday, December 21, which was also held at our church. We missed out on the opportunity to celebrate, but Hayla Mostrom's class helped bring out the food from the Corner Classroom into Fellowship Hall on Thursday, during their weekly time at our church. The Catholic Church joined us to get all of these boxes packed, and as you can see from the photos, there was fun and fellowship as the task was accomplished.



Candlelight Christmas Eve





Stuff the Bus



On Saturday, December 14th, the Centreville FFA held their annual Stuff the Bus campaign food drive in support of our Food Pantry. The kids braved the cold that morning, loaded up the bus with all the items collected at school from the week (there is a class competition), then hung out in the Yoder's parking lot for a few hours collecting from the community. John met the bus at the church, and the kids unloaded all the goods. This is such a great way to re-stock our food pantry, and we are very grateful to the FFA!



Pollyanna Sweet Shoppe



Pollyanna Sweet Shoppe was back in action this season!
Bringing back their decadent pretzels dipped in handmade caramel & chocolate.





January 2025



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 <i>Happy New Year</i>	2	3 Food Pantry 10 am	4
5 Worship Service 10 am	6	7 Trustees 6 pm	8 Community Dinner 4:30-6:00 Choir Practice 7 pm	9 BHFS 7 pm	10 Food Pantry 10 am	11 SafeTALK Training 10am-2 pm
12 Worship Service 10 am	13	14 Finance 6 pm	15 Choir Practice 7:00 pm	16 Kinship Care 6 pm	17 Food Pantry 10 am	18
19 Worship Service 10 am	20	21 Memorial 6 pm	22 Community Dinner 4:30-6:00 Choir Practice 7 pm	23	24 Food Pantry 10 am	25
26 Worship Service 10 am	27	28 Church Council 6 pm	29 Choir Practice 7:00 pm	30	31	

January Song Leaders

1/5 - Michelle Brokaw
1/12 - Barb Bungart
1/19 - Michelle Brokaw
1/26 - Shone Rhyner

January Liturgists

1/5 - Jan Rhoades
1/12 - Brenda Pearrow
1/19 - Kathy Knautz
1/26 - Mary Herendeen

January Children's Moment

1/5 -
1/12 -
1/19 -
1/26 -

