

# KENT



## UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

YOU ARE WELCOME HERE

*An Open and Affirming, Accessible to All Congregation*



### A Message from Our Senior Pastor, Rev. Amy Gopp

#### *Beloved of God,*

Our Advent season this year felt *much* longer than usual. Instead of the usual four weeks leading up to Christmas, this period of waiting, anticipating, and preparing has lasted nine months—and we’re still not quite there. We have the distinct honor of making history as those who lived through a global pandemic, the likes of which happens *maybe* once a century or so. Yet here we are, living fully into the old proverb, “May God make you live in interesting times.” Perhaps some of you would appreciate less interesting times. Alas, we continue to scratch our heads, pondering what God wants us to learn from all this, and as we approach a new year, we wonder what might yet be in store for us. We’ve gotten used to surprises, haven’t we?

Who could have predicted just how appropriate it would be to bless our homes last January? Little did we know when I introduced the ritual of the Epiphany Chalk Blessing for the new year just how symbolic and important that would be. Home is where we’ve spent most of our time this year and will continue to do so into the next. Spending more time than I’ve *ever* spent in my own home, my sensitivity to those without a home or shelter has intensified—and in these cold and dark days of winter, especially so. I’ve also done more cooking than usual, preparing several meals a day, every day, for these past nine months. I love to cook and many of you have heard me yearn for more time to do so, but I could have never anticipated just how many opportunities this year would offer! “Ask and you shall receive,” is Jesus’ promise, after all! And yet I can’t help but think of the millions currently without enough food in our community and across the country, many in food lines for the very first time in their lives. Sadly, it won’t be the last. What has been a surprising gift for me has been an entirely unwelcomed reality for others. But even the realization of all that I have—even at a time when we are all mired in all we seemed to have lost, or are missing and grieving—while countless others go without is a gift I need to open again and again as I have my new year’s heart-to-hearts with God.

What are the surprising gifts you’ve received, or recognized in a new way, this past year? As you approach a new year, I invite you to reopen and reflect upon the surprising gifts this unprecedented year granted you. Perhaps the liminal space and time between Christmas and

the New Year can be set aside for an intentional time of reflection and prayer. Or maybe you decide to celebrate the 12 Days of Christmas in a different way, spending time with our newborn Christ-child by engaging in new spiritual practices and rituals, until you find yourself on Epiphany with a newfound clarity as to the gifts *you* will now offer Christ our Lord in the coming year. Just as we held out hope over these seemingly endless months of waiting, wondering, and hoping against hope, only to be fulfilled by the incarnational presence of the Holy One, so does God hold out hope for us, that we may be those who put the flesh and bones on the love of Christ for a very weary world.

This new year will be what we, by the grace and guidance of God, make it. God now waits on us. I am excited for the mission and ministry God continues to do through us at Kent UCC, and I have no doubt that there will be even more surprising and indescribable gifts and opportunities in 2021. May we open ourselves fully to the voice of our Still-speaking God and the movement of the Holy Spirit as we commit to partnering with the God who is already right here among us.

With profound love and great excitement, I remain,  
Your companion in the gospel,

*Pastor Amy*

### **Moderator's Message – Jaime Baughman**

Happy New Year! Please mark your calendars for **Sunday, January 24** at 11:30 a.m. for our annual congregational meeting. The meeting will be conducted via Zoom. More information as well as the Zoom link will be sent out in the weeks to come. As a part of the meeting, we will vote on our 2021 budget, as well as our new slate of officers and ministry chairs.

We had a successful special congregational meeting via Zoom on December 6 where we voted unanimously to proceed with the sanctuary lighting project. Thanks to all who attended for your support, and special thanks to John Hetrick and Dick Symons and the Property and Finance Ministries for their work on the lighting replacement proposal.

It has been a privilege to serve as moderator for our church this past year. Thank you for the opportunity!

### **Stewardship News - Karen Carmany**

Stewardship commitment packets were delivered to member homes or mailed in late October. Commitments received supporting the Mission and Ministry we share were dedicated on Sunday, November 22. We thank all of our church members who have so generously responded to our invitation to be "Faithful, Hopeful, Loving".

If you have not yet made a pledge commitment towards our ministry and mission in 2021, we ask that you *prayerfully consider* the opportunity to make a difference in the lives of others through our church. Please complete your 2021 commitment card, or use the one printed below, and return it to the church office as soon as possible. We also encourage everyone to utilize the "ENGAGE" program on the Kent UCC website to initiate automatic monthly donations.

God *has* provided us with enough. We will use these precious resources to transform our community and the world to be the way God would like it to be.

If you have any questions, please contact Karen Carmany, Stewardship Ministry Chair

I/We thank God for the opportunity to support the ministries of this congregation.  
 As I/we seek to be devoted to good works and acts of charity, I/we commit to pray the same for others in our church

My/our financial commitment for the upcoming year is \$ \_\_\_\_\_

I intend to give via mail-in check/money order or online giving via [kentucc.org/give](http://kentucc.org/give) (circle one)

I/we understand that I can adjust this estimate of giving at any time by contacting the financial secretary.

\_\_\_I/we would like to speak with someone about using our gifts and talents to support our church's ministry.

\_\_\_I/we would like to speak with someone about our giving plans or help with my online pledge.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_



**2021 Church Officers and Ministry Chairs**

One important item of business at our annual meeting is the election of church officers and ministry chairs. At its last meeting, Council approved the Nominating Ministry's slate of incoming officers and new chairs. They are:

- Moderator: Jeff Roeger
- Vice-moderator: Sue Otterson
- Treasurer: Sally Saltzman
- UYF representative: Grace Polcha
- Diaconate chair: Jackie Peck
- Outreach chair: Donna Hess

Other Council members continuing into 2021 are Barb Hanniford (clerk), Jaime Baughman (past moderator), Becky Dunlap (Education), Julie Wallace (Fellowship), Dick Symons (Finance), John Hetrick (Property), Karen Carmany (Stewardship), Glenn Hanniford (Worship and the Arts), and Barb Wertsler (member at large). Those leaving Council this year with our gratitude for their service include Warner Mendenhall (past moderator), Don Bubbenzer (Diaconate), and Terri Silver (Outreach). Other committee chairs for 2021 are Gayle Wall and Eileen West (Hospitality and Membership), Kelley Gifford (Marketing and Communications), and Josh Case and Frank Hairston (Social Justice and Advocacy). The Green Team is led by Julie and Jimmy Wallace and the Mental Health Ministry facilitated by Jackie Peck and Mary Homer.

Many thanks to Jen Case and the Nominating Ministry for their work. There are still openings on some ministries for new members. Please speak with Jen or Pastor Amy to learn more about openings and to discern where you may best contribute. We need and want you!

## UPCOMING DATES (DETAILS WITHIN THIS MESSENGER)

**January 6, 13, and 27:** “Still We Sing” series (virtual)

**January 10, 17, 24, and 31:** Adult Education classes 9 a.m. via Zoom

**January 16:** Portage County NAACP MLK Breakfast (online)

**January 18:** *The Rape of Recy Taylor* All-Church Film Screening and Discussion, 7 p.m.

**January 24** – Annual Congregational Meeting 11:30 a.m. via Zoom

### Virtual “Still We Sing” Devotional Programs Coming!

Save Wednesday nights, **January 6, 13, and 27** for a unique experience perfect for dark winter nights. At this time of social isolation and distancing, we’ve asked [Amanda Powell](#)—a renowned singer and song leader—to bring her main series of “Still We Sing” programs to Kent UCC. This is a great opportunity for our congregation to sing, have fun and connect. In “typical” times, Amanda travels around the country, offering workshops intended to cultivate deeper relationship with ourselves, one another and God. With the pandemic, Amanda devised a series of devotionals conducted via Zoom to invite singing, reflection and fellowship. These devotional programs will be conducted virtually and are open to the whole congregation, not just the choir! Watch for more information and a Zoom link soon. Join us for any or all of the programs!



**STILL WE SING**

Weaving together songs and stories, Amanda Powell invites communities into a time of renewal and open-hearted connection. Amanda utilizes Zoom technology in creative ways to lead participants through unique journeys of singing, reflection, laughter and prayer.



## STILL WE SING

*Led by renowned songleader, Amanda Powell, Still We Sing is a unique series of devotionals and workshops inviting communities to sing, connect, and have fun.*

### MAIN SERIES

This three-part series of devotionals provides a wonderful opportunity for your choir, community or congregation to sing, reconnect and find spiritual sustenance.

#### 1. Finding Peace

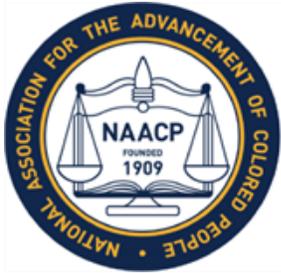
In the opening devotional, Amanda leads people on a journey to their individual and collective center. Together participants connect with their breath and learn songs of centering and peace.

#### 2. Choosing Love

At this challenging time, we must choose love for ourselves and for one another. This devotional introduces songs that are about deep, unconditional love. We open ourselves to the ways we are being called to bring love into the world.

#### 3. Cultivating Joy

Even as we navigate difficult times, we can look for moments of joy! Experience joyful moments in community with exuberant singing and fun! We learn to keep our eyes wide open for glimmers of joy in the midst of challenge.



# NAACP

PORTAGE COUNTY BRANCH  
P.O. BOX 309 | RAVENNA, OHIO 44266

## 1st Annual NAACP Virtual MLK Prayer Breakfast

### SAVE THE DATE

## Saturday, January 16, 2021

10:00 am - Noon

*Zoom Meeting Information Coming Soon*

*Proceeds to NAACP Scholarship Fund for Portage County*

To Make a Donation Please Send a Check to:

NAACP Portage County Branch

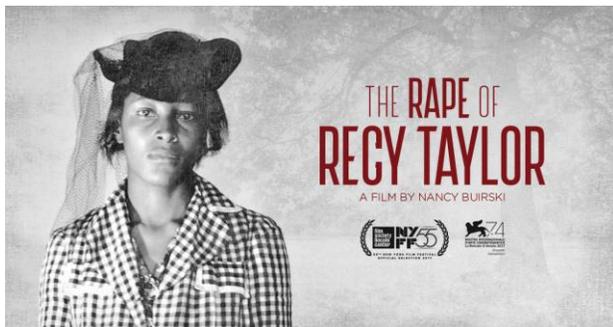
P.O. Box 309

Ravenna, OH 44266

*We Look Forward to Seeing You Online!*

### Special Film Screening and Discussion for MLK Sunday

*The Rape of Recy Taylor* is a documentary by Nancy Buirski. Pastor Amy was asked to write the sermon guide and offer theological reflection on the film by Odyssey Impact, an organization promoting faith-based and social justice-oriented media. We have been given permission to view the film free of charge. A link to watch the film on your own will be sent out in the new year, in preparation for a discussion on MLK Day, January 18 at 7pm.



Recy Taylor, a 24-year-old black mother and sharecropper, was gang raped by six white boys in 1944 Alabama. Common in Jim Crow South, few women spoke up in fear for their lives. Not Recy Taylor, who bravely identified her rapists. The NAACP sent its chief rape investigator Rosa Parks, who rallied support and triggered an unprecedented outcry for justice. This film exposes a legacy of physical abuse of black women and reveals Rosa

Parks' intimate role in Recy Taylor's story. An attempted rape against Parks was but one inspiration for her ongoing work to find justice for countless women like Taylor. **Please mark your calendars for this all-church film screening and discussion in honor of MLK and all**

**the unnamed and unrecognized Black women leaders of our country's history.**

**Writing Workshop and Poetry Reading with Poet Darren Demaree**

Ohio poet Darren Demaree will offer an online writing and discussion group on Wednesday, February 10 at 5:30 pm to address the opioid crisis facing individuals and their loved ones. He will give a reading at 7 pm from his book of poems, *Two Towns Over*, which addresses the drug addiction crisis in our country. Both the online workshop and reading are free and open to the public. A link for registration will be provided soon.

Workshop/Discussion: 5:30 – 6:30 pm, February 10

Poetry reading, followed by Q&A: 7-8 pm, February 10

This event is sponsored by Ralph and Judy Kletzien, Portage Medical Center Foundation at UH Portage Medical Center and the Kent United Church of Christ in collaboration with the Wick Poetry Center.

**Faith Formation News – Rev. Kim Nagy**

January has arrived, and traditionally, it has been a month to make resolutions, renew commitments, and discern what the months ahead might bring. However, I think 2020 reinforced that old Yiddish proverb: “We plan, God laughs.” Now, I’m not suggesting that God finds enjoyment in the continual absurdity we faced in 2020, but I *do* think that God has the ability to see a much bigger picture than we can imagine. I also think many of us have lived long enough to know that we can have the best plans and intentions, but oftentimes there will be holy interruptions to even the most well-intended plans.

I haven’t ditched the hope I have for 2021, but I know it will continue to be a year rife with flexibility and recalculating. Just because 2020 ended doesn’t mean it has taken COVID-19, racial tensions, and global warming with it, so we must continue to move forward in faith and an open heart, trusting that God will help guide us wherever life might lead.

One of the ways we can do this is by intentionally letting God guide us. Just like the three kings traveled to see Jesus guided by starlight, we can navigate the journey ahead by allowing God to guide us. I invite you to choose a Bible verse that might guide you in the coming year, and then I invite you to participate in a January adult education class on Zoom, where we will share and study the Bible verses we are using to guide our year ahead. This class will be held Sunday mornings from 9-10 a.m. January 10-31. If you’re interested in participating, please reach out to me as soon as possible and let me know what Bible verse you’ve chosen.

Moving with you into the new year with great anticipation,

Rev. Kim Nagy

*Minister of Faith Formation*

**Children’s Ministry**

Families can continue to access children’s church videos on YouTube each Sunday morning at 10 a.m. Our January videos will follow the theme, “Won’t You Be My Neighbor?” To receive weekly faith formation emails that include Sunday school lessons that can be used throughout the week, email Kim Nagy.

**J-Walkers (Middle School Ministry)**

In December, J-Walker families participated in a service project by shopping for toys for children at the Miller Community House. Families drove to the church and collected a tag off the decorated tree outside, shopped for toys for a particular child (some shopped ahead of time via Amazon or Target pick-up if they didn't feel comfortable going into a store), and returned them to the tree at the church. We were able to provide four kids staying at the Miller House with some fantastic Christmas gifts!

Our J-Walkers also enjoyed a holiday party on Zoom with games, trivia, and other festive fun!

Moving into the new year, our J-Walkers plans will change from week to week based on COVID-19 rates in Portage County. To stay in the loop about upcoming activities, please email Kim Nagy to be added to email and Remind 101 lists.

**United Youth Force (High School Ministry)**

In December, UYF members also participated in the toy drive for children at the Miller Community House. They also helped surprise Grace Polcha for her 16<sup>th</sup> birthday by driving by her house with signs and honking their horns. A few UYF members helped pack and hand out meals for the third Sunday community meal.

Moving into the new year, our UYF plans will also change from week to week based on COVID-19 rates in Portage County. To stay in the loop about upcoming activities, please email Kim Nagy to be added to email and Remind 101 lists.

**College**

Remember to keep our Kent UCC college students in your prayers as they return to classes this winter! Many of them will be adjusting to student life at home and some will be returning to campuses. If you know one of our college students, reach out with an encouraging word or card during this time!

**January Adult Education**

Sometimes it is difficult to know where God might be leading, especially in times of deep uncertainty like we have experienced in 2020. As we enter 2021, we invite you to move into a new season of allowing God to guide you by choosing a "star verse." During the season of Epiphany, it is customary to choose a "star word" to help guide the year ahead. Instead of choosing a word, we invite you to choose a Bible verse (or verses) to help guide you in 2021. Then, each Sunday morning from January 10-31, we will take a closer look at the star verses you have chosen by looking at them in their original contexts and diving into what they can mean for us today. God has been guiding God's people through the ages, and God is certainly guiding us now. This adult education class will take place via Zoom from 9-10 a.m. Please sign up [HERE](#) and let Kim Nagy know your star verse before January 4 to help prepare. Just bring yourself and a Bible!

**Anti-Racist Book Study**

Please join us for our next anti-racist book study, "How to be an Anti-Racist" by Dr. Ibram X. Kendi. This will be a 7-week study. It started on December 3 and will end on January 28 (with a break for the holidays), Thursdays at 7-8:30 pm. All are welcome, even joining in January! Please contact Jen Case at [imjenlee@hotmail.com](mailto:imjenlee@hotmail.com) for more information and to receive a Zoom link.

**New Adult Education Class on Contemplative Prayer and Practices**

Beginning Sunday, February 7 through Palm Sunday March 28, Pastor Amy will facilitate a study on contemplative prayer and practices. This is an 8-week study leading us through Lent. We will read the book *Mindful Silence: The Heart of Christian Contemplation* by Phileena Heuertz and follow the accompanying film series. If you are at all interested in learning new ways to pray, deepening your faith, and enriching your spiritual life please plan to join us on Sunday mornings for this brand-new study. It promises to be a rich experience.

**Outreach Update – Terri Silver**

Thank you for your generosity in giving to our special offerings over this past year! Traditionally, Outreach focuses our attention on current events and imminent needs, both inside and outside our community, with our Christmas Eve collection. This year's donations will support the Portage County NAACP. Racial justice programs and events are in critical need, and we pledge to be a part of these efforts. Even if Christmas Eve has passed, it's not too late to give! Please just make the notation clear on your check or online gift.

**Property Ministry Update—John Hetrick**

Thank you to all who were able to join the Congregational meeting on Dec. 6 via Zoom to discuss and vote on proceeding with the replacement lighting system. The response was better than I anticipated, and the meeting was efficiently run under the leadership of Jaime Baughman. Following the affirmative response, the Property Ministry is planning to meet with the Electrical Contractor and winning bidder, Speelman Electric, to discuss project details. Equipment delivery is estimated at 6 weeks, so we can expect installation to begin sometime in February of 2021.

The Norway Maple at the rear parking lot has been removed. It was the victim of a girdling root and a hot dry summer. Currently, there are no plans to replace this tree.

**Hospitality and Membership Update – Eileen West and Gayle Wall**

The Hospitality and Membership (H&M) Ministry has been very busy this past month! We sponsored an all-church favorite hymn bracket! Members voted for their favorite Christmas hymn over the last weeks! We found out what hymn our Kent UCC family likes best at the all-church Hymn sing on December 16! It may be no surprise to know that *Silent Night* came in first and *Joy to the World* second. Thanks to everyone who voted! A special shout out to Linnea Stafford for designing the user-friendly bracket voting format! Many thanks, also, to Corey for conducting the Christmas hymn sing.

We also put together Advent “Candy Gram” Bags with the help of the Education and Fellowship Ministries. A beautiful Advent gift bag was placed on the door of all church members who live locally the weekend after Thanksgiving. Hopefully everyone enjoyed receiving the bag with all the goodies and “light” of the holiday season. Many thanks to the people who delivered the bags to our church members! Also, thanks to Pat Ray for making advent wreaths for all the children in the church, which they received with their Advent bags! H & M continues to deliver prayer shawls to church members. We’ll try to kick start the online game group in the coming month. You can still join an online game group by letting Eileen West or Gayle Wall know of your interest. We look forward to the new year and finding many new and exciting ways to engage our church members with extravagant hospitality.

### **Book Group – Kathy Robinson**

You are welcome to join the Kent UCC book group on Saturday, January 16 at 7p.m. on Zoom as they discuss Connie Schultz's novel *The Daughters of Erietown*.

"In 1957, Clayton Valley, Ohio, Ellie has the best grades in her class. Her dream is to go to nursing school and marry Brick McGinty. A basketball star, Brick has the chance to escape his abusive father and become the first person in his blue-collar family to attend college. But when Ellie learns that she is pregnant, everything changes. Just as Brick and Ellie revise their plans and build a family, a knock on the front door threatens to destroy their lives. The evolution of women's lives spanning the second half of the twentieth century is at the center of this beautiful novel that richly portrays how much people know—and pretend not to know—about the secrets at the heart of a town, and a family."

For more information about the group and the Zoom link, email [Kathyarobinson@gmail.com](mailto:Kathyarobinson@gmail.com).

### **Adult Small Groups**

We have several other small groups that are a great way to build meaningful relationships and have fun! Given the virus outbreak, our groups generally will not meet in person, although some are meeting via Zoom. Look for future meetings for our women's fellowship groups, men's breakfasts, Men Baking Bread, Bagels and Books, Mahjong, yoga, and more. We will all be so glad when it's safe to resume our gatherings!

### **Mental Health and Addiction Ministry – Jackie Peck and Mary Homer**

The WISE (Welcoming, Inclusive, Supporting, Engaged) Team will convene on Zoom January 4 to examine some covenants posted by WISE congregations. The team includes Lorelea Allen, Sue Hetrick, Mary Homer, Linda Morris, and Jackie Peck and will also have youth participation. We will update the congregation monthly as our work proceeds. Please pray with us that our journey be blessed by God, loving parent of us all.

### Stephen Ministry – Sue Otterson

As we look to a new year, your Stephen Ministry team would like to offer our listening ears to any who may feel the need to regroup after the past challenging year, and to any who face struggles in the days to come. It often helps to get your thoughts out to someone outside your regular circle, and we all know how small our circles have become. Please reach out to me or to Pastor Amy if you'd like someone to chat with either short or long-term.



### Social Justice and Advocacy Ministry News – Barb Hanniford

We hope you'll join us in attending the virtual Martin Luther King Day breakfast on Saturday, January 16 from 10 a.m.-noon. Watch for further information soon.

We also understand that the Kent Alliance for Racial Reconciliation and Justice (KIFA) plans a showing of *The Children's March* on Sunday, January 17 with a discussion following. This film tells the true story of students in Birmingham, Alabama in 1963 who showed inspiring courage, commitment, and leadership. Watch for further information about this event as well.

The *New York Times* shared recommendations in a June 2, 2020 article on books for children and youth that can help parents and grandparents explain racism and protest to kids. Their picks, by age group:

Ages 0-3: [Ezra Jack Keats's books about Peter](#) ("The Snowy Day," "A Letter to Amy," "Hi, Cat!," "Whistle for Willie")

Ages 3-5: "[Saturday](#)," written and illustrated by Oge Mora and "[Hair Love](#)," by Matthew A. Cherry. Illustrated by Vashti Harrison.

Ages 5-8: "[Each Kindness](#)," by Jacqueline Woodson. Illustrated by E.B. Lewis. Also, "[The Youngest Marcher](#)," by Cynthia Levinson. Illustrated by Vanessa Brantley Newton.

Ages 9-12: "[Resist: 35 Profiles of Ordinary People Who Rose Up Against Tyranny and Injustice](#)," by Veronica Chambers. Illustrated by Paul Ryding. Also, "[Not My Idea: A Book About Whiteness](#)," written and illustrated by Anastasia Higginbotham

Ages 12+: "[All American Boys](#)," by Jason Reynolds and Brendan Kiely. Also, "[Stamped: Racism, Antiracism, and You](#)" by Jason Reynolds and Ibram X. Kendi

In addition, Donna Hess recommends *All Because You Matter*, by Tami Charles, and *Anti-Racist Baby* by Ibram X Kendi.

### PFLAG January Meeting

The next PFLAG meeting will be held virtually on Tuesday, January 5th at 7:00 pm through Zoom. Giovanni Santiago, Founder of the nonprofit organization META Center Inc. Anyone wanting to attend should contact Michael Spayd at [euchre1@roadrunner.com](mailto:euchre1@roadrunner.com) for login information. Any general questions about PFLAG can be forwarded to Michael Spayd or Pastor Amy. META Center Inc. is an Akron-based 501(3) organization that creates regular programming for transgender and gender non-conforming youth ages 7-19. Through providing affirmation to one of society's most vulnerable, META Center Inc. works to create social change and foster acceptance.

**Chancel Flower Sign-Up for 2021**

Though we may not be worshipping any time soon in our sanctuary, a chancel floral arrangement viewed during these times we worship virtually does lift all our spirits and warms our hearts as we hear of a special occasion a member of our congregation is celebrating or we remember a loved one! Nancy Bubbenzer continues to coordinate with those who wish to donate a chancel flower arrangement for the first three months of the new year: **Open Dates Include:**

- |                         |                   |               |
|-------------------------|-------------------|---------------|
| Sunday January 24, 2021 | February 7, 2021  | March 21,2021 |
| Sunday January 31, 2021 | February 14, 2021 | March 28,2021 |
|                         | February 21, 2021 |               |
|                         | February 28, 2021 |               |

To save one of these dates to dedicate your chancel floral arrangement, contact Nancy Bubbenzer at 330-678-3436 (H), 330-671-1014 (C) or email her at [nbubbenzer@gmail.com](mailto:nbubbenzer@gmail.com). Nancy will contact you at the beginning of the week to remind you of your flower donation for the upcoming Sunday worship service and the delivery procedures, along with the message you would like printed in the worship bulletin and announced.

**ACME Community Cash Back Deadline**



Purchases for Acme Cash Back credit ends Saturday, December 26, 2020. Please turn in you Acme receipts to the Church by Sunday, January 17, 2021. An envelope or plastic baggie with the complete tapes may be placed in the Blue Box by the Office Door or mailed to the Church. Thank you for your support and participation during these uncertain times. Stay safe.

**The Blue Box!**

Did you know we have a blue box outside our front office doors? It's large enough to accommodate a great many things. Currently, it's holding devotional materials. Would you like a copy? Stop by and pick one up! It also works the other way. Do you have Acme receipts? Drop them off in the blue box. If you have several receipts, try to paper clip them together or put them in an envelope, clearly marked as Acme receipts. Our Women's Fellowship collects and tallies the receipts for the community cash back rewards. **Purchases for Acme Cash Back credit ends Saturday, December 26, 2020. Please turn in you Acme receipts to the Church by Sunday, January 17, 2021.**

**Time's a Ticking for our Time Capsule! – Jaime Baughman, Bicentennial Chair**



Everyone is invited to participate in our time capsule project. What speaks to you about this unique and challenging time in our history? Maybe it's a newspaper article or a photo... or even a mask.

Please save the items for our Kent UCC time capsule. You can leave them in the Blue Box next to the church office doors, mail them to the church or give me a call or email to arrange for pick-up. Contact me at

[Sjbaughman1@gmail.com](mailto:Sjbaughman1@gmail.com) or 330-256-5899. We will plan to bury a time capsule when we come back together! Thanks to Carol Birkner for getting us started!

### **Treasurer's Report - Kay Hansford**

Please remember that all donations/pledges for 2020 must be received or postmarked by Dec. 31, 2020 otherwise it will be credited to 2021. Also, if you are sending money for both 2020 and 2021 PLEASE use 2 different checks or deposits as we cannot interchange these. If you have any concerns or questions please call or email Heather...her phone messages go to her email [hcronin@kentucc.org](mailto:hcronin@kentucc.org)

Thank you and we hope you have a joyful holiday!

Heather and Kay

Income as of December 15      \$9,226

Expenditures as of Dec 15      \$12, 797.42

YTD income                      \$444, 063.62 \*

YTD Expenses                  \$373,300.78

\* includes PPP loan of \$59,100 of which we haven't yet received an official word that it will be forgiven, but most likely it will.

### **January Birthdays**

02 Kristen Horvath-Broda 03 Don Bubenzer. Peter Johnson 12 Carol Ewers 13 Ray Aeschliman, Susan Hansford 15 Miriam Ridinger, Pam Rusanowsky 16 Sherry Bennington 17 Paul Silver 18 Gwen Gressard 27 Leah Kidney 28 Roger Duvall, Nancy Moss 29 Moe Moyseenko 31 John Rees, Marilyn Skinner, Barbara Werstler

### **Sundays in January**

**January 3: Epiphany Sunday**

**Worship led by Youth and Young Adults with Kim Nagy**

**10:00 Worship on Facebook and YouTube**

**January 10: The Baptism of Christ**

**Worship led by the Ohio Heartland Conference of the UCC**

**10:00 Worship on Facebook and YouTube**

**January 17: Martin Luther King Jr. Sunday**

**Sermon by Pastor Amy**

**10:00 Worship on Facebook and YouTube**

January 24: Third Sunday after Epiphany  
Sermon by Pastor Amy  
10:00 Worship on Facebook and YouTube

January 31: Fourth Sunday after Epiphany  
Sermon by Pastor Amy  
10:00 Worship on Facebook and YouTube

**How to Reach Us**

Kent UCC | 1400 East Main Street | Kent, OH 44240  
Phone: 330.673.9534 | Fax: 330.673.8828  
[office@KentUCC.org](mailto:office@KentUCC.org) | [Facebook @ KentUnitedChurchOfChrist](https://www.facebook.com/KentUnitedChurchOfChrist)

**Office Hours: Staff are primarily working from home during Covid-19 crisis.  
Regular hours are 9am-4pm. Pastors Amy and Kim will be on vacation after Christmas.**

**Staff Contacts**

**Rev. Amy C. Gopp**  
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**OUR MISSION:**

Enlivened by the grace of Jesus Christ and empowered by the Holy Spirit, Kent United Church of Christ does justice, embraces faithful love, and walks humbly with our God to serve and transform lives, our community and the world. (Micah 6:8)