



## Central Southeast Ohio Association, Ohio Conference December 13, 2017



UNITED CHURCH  
OF CHRIST  
God is still speaking,

### CSEmail Newsletter

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The CSEOA office will be closed  
over the holidays from  
December 23 to January 1, 2018.



## A Note from Your Treasurer Regarding OCWM Gifts

OCWM gifts received from congregations through December 31st will be credited to 2017 giving. OCWM gifts received through January 5th, 2018, will also be credited to 2017 giving unless you clearly indicate that the gift is to be credited to 2018. (This is to accommodate churches who make a year end gift). All OCWM gifts received January 6th or after will be credited to 2018. Thank you, and all best wishes for the holidays.

Jay Yutzey, CSEOA Treasurer

## A Note from Joan Davidson, CSEOA Registrar Yearbook Reporting Coming Soon

**Mark your calendar!** It's time, once again, for the UCC to begin preparing the Yearbook & Directory for 2018. Church reporting begins January 2, 2018 at noon through March 7, 2018 at midnight. Watch here for complete information and the link to begin reporting.

### Quick Links

CSE Authorized  
Clergy and MID  
Directory

CSE Pulpit Supply  
List

CSE Church  
Directory

### 2017 Calendar

#### IT'S HAPPENING in the CSEOA

##### Saturday, January 13th 2018

Elders Meeting  
David's UCC in Canal Winchester  
10a

#### Calendar of Prayer

##### December 17

Zion UCC, Delaware

##### December 24

Zion Reformed UCC, Thornville

**CSE Departments,  
Council and  
Committees**

**2017 Calendar of  
Prayer**

**Visit the  
NEW  
CSEOA  
Website**



If you have news or photos to share and/or dates you would like to add to the calendar to be included in our next CSEmail, please submit to me by Friday at 4:30p  
Submit your articles, photos (jpeg, png format please) and attachments to [debras@ocucc.org](mailto:debras@ocucc.org)

**Many blessings to you  
and your family  
throughout Advent and  
this holiday season.**

**Grace and Peace....**



*Rev. Patricia E. H. Battle  
Servant of God*

[Click Here For Your December Praise & Prayer Calendar](#)

## Prayer Request for Jo Anne Nay

### Prayer Requests



Jo Anne Nay will have surgery on Thursday, December 21st to remove her right kidney. This will be a significant surgery and will require a period of recovery in the hospital and at home. Please lift her, her family and the team at Riverside Methodist Hospital that will be caring for her throughout this procedure, up in prayer. Jo Anne is currently serving as the Chairperson for our CSEOA DPAM committee.



## ROGER A. MILLER Celebration of Life Services

Saturday, December 16th, 2017 at 10:30a at  
North Church UCC  
2040 Henderson Rd, Columbus

A second service will be held on  
Saturday, February 24th, 2018 at 10:30a at  
First Congregational Church UCC  
444 E Broad St, Columbus

Thank you, and please continue to keep Roger's family  
in your prayers.

*Rev. Patricia Battle*



**Rachael Gardner Purdy  
To Be Ordained  
Saturday, January 6 2018  
at 2:00p at  
First Congregational UCC, Columbus**

**Love of Neighbor  
Now through Spring of 2018**

Click below for more details and a way to put your plan into action

**Basic Needs Drive**



**Love of Neighbor,  
Love of Children,  
Love of Creation.**

# St Nicholas A Devotion by Mary Luti



*"He had to be made like his siblings in every way, so that he might become a merciful high priest... For we do not have a high priest who is unable to empathize with our weaknesses . . . ." - Hebrews 2:17, 4:15*

When his wealthy parents died, Nicholas of Myra gave away a fortune and gave himself to the church. As a bishop, he acquired a reputation for generosity to the poor. After he died on December 6, 354, his fame spread beyond Asia Minor. In Europe, Christian imagination transformed him into jolly old St. Nick. Here, cartoonist Thomas Nast made him Santa Claus.

These days, many Christians are down on Santa and the commercialization of the season he represents. Aiming for a holier Advent, they point back to Nicholas, Santa's prototype. We'd be a lot closer to the right spirit, they say, if we looked to the bishop, not the elf.

If only it were that simple. It turns out that the kind bishop was also a harsh bishop. Once jailed for his faith, he gave as good as he got, persecuting pagans and repressing heretics. He was an amalgam of utmost kindness and fierce certainty, passions sweet and cruel, a compromised person in a complicated world. Like ours. Like us.

And if we're hoping to be squeaky pure in this expectant season; if we think there's a right way to do Advent that will bring us to Christmas with bright shiny faces; if we're striving to reach a spiritual place without defects, contradictions, and dead-ends, perhaps we haven't yet begun to grasp the Mercy we're waiting for, the One who reached eagerly for the compromised flesh we try to escape, entered the complicated world we try to smooth out, and loved them both to death, even death on a cross.

## **Prayer**

**On St. Nicholas Day, we surrender our compromised hearts, complicated lives, and earnest striving to you, O Mercy without end.**

## **Imagining a Different Conference**





You are invited to help the Conference Vision Team!

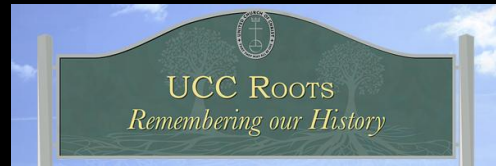
Recently, a team of 15 representatives from Associations and Conference forwarded a report to the Board of Directors. That report imagined different ways to shape the Ohio Conference and its Associations.

The Vision Team declared to the Board of Directors that we need to become "one nimble and responsible judicatory that is faithful in mission and responsible in stewardship."

The Board agreed. And that's where you come in.

[Read More](#)

## The First Woman on the Eden Seminary Faculty



Anna Astroth, born in St. Louis in 1889, was educated in German Evangelical parochial and public schools. After obtaining a B.A. and M.A. in German from Washington University, she studied Christian Education at Boston University. She was energetic, committed, and highly respected. Before her time at Caroline Mission she had served as a national Field Secretary for the Y.W.C.A. and director of Christian education at Back Bay Mission, Biloxi, Mississippi. During her time at Caroline Mission she helped many people navigate the Depression, World War II, and racial integration. In 1946 she was appointed Family Counselor. Her message was uncomplicated, "Love God, love yourself, and love everyone you meet. Then the theological and religious questions you continue to struggle with will be answered, or they will become unimportant to you."

Contributor: Scott Holl

[Get the Whole Story](#)

**WISDOM CONVERSATIONS**  
**"Aging and Opportunity for Congregations and Ourselves."**



Join United Church Homes' Ruth Frost Parker Center for Abundant Aging for a clergy and lay leader retreat! The theme is "Aging and Opportunity for Congregations and Ourselves."

Facilitators are Susan H. McFadden, Ph.D., professor emerita of psychology at the University of Wisconsin Oshkosh, and John T. McFadden, M.Div., an ordained minister of the United Church of Christ who served in parish ministry for 34 years.

The one-day conference will be from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Jan. 8, 2018 at Dublin Community UCC, 81 W. Bridge St., Dublin, Ohio 43017-1167. Registration begins at 9 a.m. with the program to follow at 9:45 a.m.

Registration is \$20 and includes lunch and the program. To register, visit <https://uchwisdomconversationsjan2018.eventbrite.com> by Dec. 29. For more details please visit <https://www.abundantaging.org/events/clergy-wisdom-conversations-aging-opportunity-congregations/>.

[View Flyer Here](#)

## Speaking of Faith... *Spiritual but Not Religious,* Hinduism, Christianity, Islam

Over the next several months Rev. Dr. Tim Ahrens will be facilitating this program.

We will learn WITH people who practice their faith in each of the above beliefs.

Monday, January 8, 2018 - 7-9pm - **Hinduism** - location to be announced.

Monday, February 5, 2018 - 7-9pm - **Christianity** - location to be announced.

Monday, March 5 -7-9pm - **Islam** - Noor Cultural Islamic Center, 5001 Wilcox Road, Dublin, Ohio 43016

Bring friends, family, neighbors, co-workers. All are welcome. We need to have folks sign-up so we can plan for food and seating.

Contact [Rev. Dr. Tim Ahrens](#) for more information

## Churches Currently in Transition....

- **Heidelberg UCC, Stoutsville** is in the process of writing their local church profile.
- **Advent UCC, Columbus** is in the process of beginning their search for a new



minister.



### **Have you read the PARISH PAPER?**

The Parish Paper is a wonderful resource to which the Ohio Conference has subscribed on behalf of all Ohio Conference churches. Each issue stands alone as a topic of interest and importance to being a living and growing congregation. Check it out...

[December - Does Our Pastor Need a Job Description](#)

[January, 2018 - 18 Questions for 2018](#)

[February 2018 - Best Practices for Church Members Serving as Staff](#)



[Constitution and By Laws Adopted 10-25-14](#)

[CSEOA Vision - Future Story 2020](#)

[CSEOA Strategic Plan 2013-2020](#)

[Ohio Conference Website](#)

[Outdoor Ministries](#)

[Member In Discernment Manual Rev. 7 10-9-2013](#)

[How Do I Transfer My Standing?](#)

## **Staff Contacts**

**Debbie Smetts,**  
**Association Office Administrator**  
**Central Southeast Ohio Association**  
6161 Busch Blvd., Suite 100  
Columbus, Ohio 43229-2547  
614-885-0722 Ext. 218  
Toll Free: 800-282-0740 Ext. 218  
Fax: 614-885-8824  
Email: [debras@ocucc.org](mailto:debras@ocucc.org)

**Reverend Patricia Battle,**  
**Association Pastor**  
*Office Hours by Appointment*

Email: [patriciab@ocucc.org](mailto:patriciab@ocucc.org)  
Call or Text: 614-531-8240

## **Staff Specialists**

**Reverend Scott Schieber,**  
**Head of Staff for Specialists**

Email: [scotts@ocucc.org](mailto:scotts@ocucc.org)  
Cell: 614-226-1314

**Joan Davidson,**  
**Association Registrar**

Email: [joand@ocucc.org](mailto:joand@ocucc.org)  
Cell: 419-934-3713

**Reverend Linda Meredith,**  
**Covenantal Elders Specialist**  
**Pastoral Practice Specialist**

Email: [lindam@ocucc.org](mailto:lindam@ocucc.org)  
Cell: 740-815-1048

**Beverly Holt,**  
**Search and Call Specialist**

Email: [beverlyh@ocucc.org](mailto:beverlyh@ocucc.org)  
Cell: 740-816-2987



UNITED CHURCH  
OF CHRIST  
God is still speaking,

**[ABOUT THE NEW LOGO](#)**

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