



Central Southeast Ohio Association Heartland Conference December 19, 2019

Greetings!

Remember when Christmas Caroling really was a thing? I do! When I was a child, every year before Christmas break, a group of my elementary school classmates, teachers, parents and I would gather together and go Christmas Caroling. Each of us would have a palm sized book of Christmas Carols in green print and a candle for light. We would go door to door singing our way through the book until we were so cold that most of us couldn't sing another note.



One of my favorite carols was "The First Noel." Something about the song always made me wonder what it was like for the people who lived during the time of the very first "Noel." What did it really feel like for a young girl who was expecting not only her first child, but a "miracle" baby nonetheless? What was it like for her young husband, who had the awesome and arduous responsibility of caring for both mother and baby while also being accountable for the decrees of the "state." What was it like for the animal who got to be the one carrying this girl in her delicate condition? And what a dangerous adventure it had to be for the wise men. They were following a star, running for their lives, traveling in the dark under the blanket of the divinely lit sky. The thought of all these things and more had a way of invoking in me a sense of awe, wonder, and anticipation.

Surprisingly, one thing I didn't wonder about as a child, was the meaning of the word *Noel*. It wasn't until later, as an adult, I decided to check out its definition and etymology. According to Merriam Webster, in the English, noel means Christmas. However, as a derivative of the Latin word *Natalis*, it means birthday or to be born. Given the song is a celebration of Jesus' birth, it made total sense, right? But then, I started wondering again.

What if Christmas were to become more than a time of remembering the Christ child and his birth in the past tense? What if it also became the gift we are continually opening as we fervently embrace our relationship with The Divine. It could be a time of personal experience where because of remembering, reliving and celebrating the birth of Christ, each of us would experience the gift of that birth perpetually, instead of once a year. Instead of racing to the stores or spending hours online trying to find the perfect gift, what if the ultimate gift of Christmas, God's perfect gift of Love in Christ, caused us to experience a more holistic rejuvenation? Wouldn't it be an amazing gift to get over and over again? And, think of how transformative it would be to then share with the world our renewed Hope and our revitalized Love for ourselves and one another.

During this Advent and Christmas season, may you remember and experience the mystery in the majesty, the awe, wonder and anticipation of these Holy days. Most of all, through the Birth of Christ, may you experience the gift of Love that draws you closer to the One who first "So Loved" us all and closer in community with each other.

Advent and Christmas Blessings,
Rev. Patricia Battle
Your Association Minister and co-laborer in Christ



New Email Addresses & Holiday Hours

- **Patricia's** new email:
patricia.cseoa@heartlanducc.org
 - **Melodie's** new email:
melodie.cseoa@heartlanducc.org
 - **Mary's/CSEOA Office** new email:
mary.cseoa@heartlanducc.org
- Please update your contact information!



- **Holiday hours:** Office hours during Christmas and New Years: The office will be closed December 25, December 26 and January 1. Also, on December 24 and January 2 the office will be open for phone calls and emails only from 10-12 noon.

Clergy Openings



United Church of Granville

Rev. Jay Groat has been named the settled pastor beginning in February, 2020.



Grace UCC, Lancaster

Searching for settled Pastor.

[More Information](#)

Westerville Community UCC: Rev. Daniel Doty will be the Interim Pastor beginning January 2, 2020.

OCWM and Other Contributions

As we approach year-end just a reminder that all Year-End financial commitments need to be into CSEOA by January 10, 2020. Please plan your schedules accordingly so that you are able to meet this deadline. Contributions received after January 10 will be recorded as a 2020 contribution.

Give Camp for Christmas!

Give Camp for Christmas! Visit the link below to buy a gift certificate that can be used towards summer



camp. Give a gift that they'll remember for years!

[Purchase Summer Camp Gift Certificates](#)

[More Information](#)

Continuing Education & Training

NOTE: If you have taken Ethical Boundary either Anti-racism training then forward your certificate to the office (mary.cseo@heartlanducc.org) so we can update your record.

Upcoming UCC History and Polity Courses

The New York Conference is offering an online UCC History, Theology and Polity Course that meets the requirements as set forth by the UCC Polity Teacher's Network in Jan/Feb 2020, and registration is now open. The instructor will be Rev. David Gaewski, Conference Minister of the New York Conference, UCC. Classes will begin at 9:30am and end at 3:30pm EST on the following dates: January 4, 18, 25 and February 1, 2020. The platform utilized will be Zoom Video Conferencing (zoom.us) The tuition will be \$495. For more information contact course instructor, Rev. David Gaewski, davidgaewski@uccny.org. This polity course is sponsored by the Oneida Association of the New York Conference. Payments should be sent no later than December 20th to: UCC Polity Course, Attn: David Gaewski, P.O. Box 551, Dewitt, NY 13214. Make checks payable to David Gaewski. A syllabus is available upon request. Laity, Members in Discernment and Privilege of Call candidates are all invited! The course will be cancelled if we do not obtain seven registered students. A student is considered registered when full payment has been received. Students who cancel enrollment will receive reimbursements up until January 2nd. Please note several recent courses reached maximum capacity.

The Center for Progressive Renewal is offering a UCC History and Polity Course for Winter 2020. Information can be found here: <https://faithlead.org/p/ucchp-winter2020>. This course is taught by Rev. Heather Fosburgh, Associate Conference Minister in the Southeast Conference, and is \$629. This course may be available for credit at seminaries or divinity schools; interested students should check with Heather at hefosburgh@gmail.com.

Continuing Education for credit offered at Pittsburgh Theological Seminary:

The American Religious Landscape

Preaching A Relevant Word

Kelso Community Conversation on Race and Faith

The Lombard Mennonite Peace Center is offering a course, Mediation Skills Training Institute for Church

Brochure

2020 Wisdom Conversations Retreat



On Jan. 5 and 6, 2020, the Ruth Frost Parker Center for Abundant Aging will host its third annual Wisdom Conversations retreat, Aging: Realities and Renewal, at Parkvue Community in Sandusky, Ohio.

The retreat will feature an evening of relaxation and conversation followed by a day of learning for clergy and

those in ministry with older adults. Participants will enjoy water yoga, massage therapy, Reiki sessions, an essential oils workshop, swimming and evening worship on Sunday. On day two, family counselor and gerontologist Jan Aerie and Parker Center Executive Director Rev. Beth Long-Higgins will speak to attendees about the facts, myths and realities of aging during the morning session. In the afternoon, Aerie and Long-Higgins partner again to present All Congregations Are Aging: Assessment and Planning.

[Registration & Details](#)



LEARN IT, LIVE IT, SHARE IT[®]
Faith Formation in the Heartland Conference



February 28 at 1:00pm to
February 29 at noon
at Westerville Community UCC

*The Second Annual
Faith Formation Conference*

"Learn It!"

**Rev. Dr.
David Greenhaw**
*President of Eden
Theological Seminary*

[Registration](#)

Learn it, Live It, Share It... is a dynamic and interactive approach to Christian faith formation developed in the Heartland Conference that engages the sacred texts of the Bible in their beauty and depth, calls forth a living out of God's love, and invites others into the shared journey of discovery and discipleship. This transformational model is adaptable to many settings. It can change your life!

CSE Quick Links

[Authorized Clergy and MID Directory](#)

[Calendar of Prayer](#)

[Church Directory](#)

[COM Online Training](#)

Female Clergy Lunch

Female clergy in the Ohio Conference are invited to meet monthly for lunch, fellowship, sharing of resources and support.

We meet on the 4th Tuesday of each month in the Columbus area. **There will not be a meeting in December.**

Our next gathering is:
January 28, 2019, 11:30 a.m. at the Ikea restaurant (I 71 - Gemini Exit).

[Calendar of Prayer](#)

**Constitution and By
Laws, adopted 10-27-18**

**Departments, Council and
Committees**

Manual on Ministry

Pulpit Supply List

Visit Our Website

December 22, 2019
Zion UCC, Delaware

December 29, 2019
Zion Reformed UCC, Thornville

January 5, 2020
CSEOA Association Staff

January 12, 2020
Advent Community Church,
Columbus

January 19, 2020
Dublin Community UCC, Dublin

January 26, 2020
Congregational UCC, Belpre



[December Newsletter](#)



**UNITED CHURCH
OF CHRIST**
God is still speaking.

[News](#) [Events](#)



[How do I transfer my
standing?](#)

[Heartland Conference website](#)

[Outdoor Ministries](#)

[UCC Ministerial Code](#)

NOTE:

- **New Email Addresses for Patricia, Melodie and Mary.**
- **Office hours during Christmas and New Years: The office will be closed December 25, December 26 and January 1. Also, on December 24 and January 2 the office will be open for phone calls and emails only from 10-12 noon.**

Have a Blessed Holiday!

Staff Contacts

Reverend Patrica E. H. Battle,
Association Pastor
Office Hours by Appointment
Email:
patricia.cseo@heartlanducc.org
Call or Text: 614-531-8240

Reverend Melodie Rezac,

Mary Plumley,
Association Office
Administrator/Registrar
Office Hours:
Tuesday, Thursday, Friday 10-2
and Wednesday 1-5
Email:

Administrative Minister
Office Hours by Appointment
Email:
melodie.cseo@heartlanducc.org
Call or Text: 740-503-4803

mary.cseo@heartlanducc.org
Call: 614-885-0722, ext. 5
or 800-282-0740, ext. 5

If you have news or photos to share
and/or dates you would like to add to
the calendar, please submit to
mary.cseo@heartlanducc.org by
Monday at 5:00 p.m.
Submit photos in jpeg format.

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[All UCC LOGOs are Available
Here](#)