

# THE COMMUNICATOR

January 5, 2025



**“Unclutter Your Mind”**

**Sunday, January 5, 2025**

**9:00 a.m. Traditional Experience**

**Prelude – “At the Fireside” from *The Seasons* - Dr. Kim**

**Welcome/Announcements**

***When Morning Gilds the Skies – UMH 185 vs. 1,3,4***

**Greeting**

**Opening Prayer – Frank Roberts**

**Children’s Message**

**“Walk in the Light” – Chancel Choir**

**Romans 12: 1-8 – Frank Roberts**

**Unclutter Your Mind – Pastor Marie Smith**

**Pastoral Prayer/Lord’s Prayer**

***Open Our Eyes - FWS 2086***

**Holy Communion**

**Offering/Offertory - “Jesus, the Very Thought of Thee” – Dr. Kim**

***Glory Be to the Father – UMH 70***

***Breathe on Me, Breath of God – UMH 420***

**Benediction**

**Postlude – “Praise the Lord, Ye Heavens, Adore Him” - Dr. Kim**

## 5-in-25: Unclutter Your Mind

Rev Marie Smith

January 5, 2025

Four major causes of mental clutter.

Our environment creates calm or clutter and gets in the way of our peace.

**Philippians 4: 8-9** “Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable—if anything is excellent or praiseworthy—think about such things. <sup>9</sup> Whatever you have learned or received or heard from me or seen in me—put it into practice. And the God of peace will be with you.”

Clutter within the digital space creates unhealthy balances.

According to Psychology Today “feeling stressed by a cluttered inbox is enough to cause anyone’s mental hygiene to deteriorate...”

The people in your life should add positivity to your life, not create toxic negativity.

De-cluttering the distractions in our lives is essential for renewing our minds.

Most people waste at least an hour a day. This means more than 2 months a year you are wasting.

Clearing your mind and refocusing on purpose and plans is essential for mental clarity.

**Jeremiah 29: 11-13** “For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the Lord, “plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future. <sup>12</sup> Then you will call on me and come and pray to me, and I will listen to you. <sup>13</sup> You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart.

“Get control of your thoughts and your mental clutter will be tamed.” Ruby Evans Leak

Replace your negative habits with effective and helpful habits.

**1 Peter 5: 7** Casting all your cares [all your anxieties, all your worries, and all your concerns, once and for all] on Him, for He cares about you [with deepest affection, and watches over you very carefully]. (AMP)

Create a habit of centered prayer time, connecting with God daily.

Action Steps:

1. What area of your life creates the most mental fatigue?
2. Work toward uncluttering the parts of your life that do not serve you.
3. Add space for God and God’s peace in your life.
4. Join us next week as we dive into prioritizing movement.

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**Sunday, January 5, 2025  
10:30 a.m. – Contemporary Experience**

**Welcome**

**“Praise”  
“Come Now Is The Time To Worship”  
“Great Are You Lord”**

**Announcements/Offering**

**Romans 12: 1-8**

**Sermon - “Unclutter Your Mind” Pastor Marie Smith**

**Holy Communion**

**Lighting of Candles**

**“The Father’s House”**

**Sending Out/Benediction**

***For more information on programs offered at the church please contact:***

- **Worship Services – Office 740.474.4796**
- **Children’s Sunday School & Nursery – 740.474.4796**
- **Sermon Chat – Linda Kennedy – 740-248-3357**
- **Dimensions for Living Class – John Wysong – 740-601-3673**
- **The Explorers – Mark Denniston 740.474.4796**
- **Community Life – Mark Denniston 740.474.4796**
- **Monday Evening Ladies Bible Study – 740.474.4796**

**Other programs:**

**Community Care Ministry – 740.474.4796**  
**The Corner Closet – 740.474.4796**  
**Bell Choir – Alice Chester – 740.474.4796**  
**Church Choir – Alice Chester – 740.474.4796**  
**Saturday Morning Men’s Group – Larry Harris – 740.601.7769**  
**Girl Scouts – Office 740.474.4796**  
**Scouts – Robert Fanska-850.529.6724 or Joe McNemar-614.580.8074**  
**Narcotics Anonymous – 740.474.4796**  
**Quilters Group – Pam Patrick 740.412.7642**  
**Joy Group – Linda Kennedy 740.248.3357**  
**Christian Counseling – Dr. Nina Helene 614.906.6609**

**Prayer List for Jan. 02, 2025**

**Mary Ann Janes  
Joy Brooks  
Linda & Doug Sweazy  
Mary Harrison-Reed  
Scarlett Hedrick  
Larry Harris  
Doug Arledge  
Brian Barthelmas  
Dick Patrick  
Mike Logan  
Tom Cooke  
Jennifer Johnston**

**Parker  
Kathy Randolph  
Eric Hill  
Russell & Pat Saunders  
Pam Patrick  
Adam Clark**



Dear Circleville Community Church,

As 2025 begins we start with the words of Jesus echoing “Come, follow me, and I will show you how to fish for people!” (MATTHEW 4:19) How do we fish for people in today’s changing world? What has become obvious is, we are not the same church, we were prior to the pandemic. We as a congregation have aged, priorities of the culture around us have changed, and society has shifted. The way in which we share the good news of Jesus with the world needs to change. The way we have always done church has to shift. People with young children are struggling with priorities more now than ever. People of all ages continue to need the love and saving message of Jesus.

We, the church, must shift and change with the world. This is not to say we are changing our values, or standards. No, quite the opposite, we are doing what Jesus does best. We are meeting people where they are and building relationships with them through discipleship, outreach and mission. Remember, Jesus has not changed; He is the same yesterday, today and tomorrow.

We must create discipleship pathways that meet people where they are, including both our current congregation and people who have yet to come. Discipleship is a lot like a tree; the trunk of the tree is our connectedness to God, the roots are our growth, the branches and leaves (fruit) are the way we serve, give, and reach out. Discipleship is a lifelong process that is both active and passive. As a church, we must meet people where they are in the process, help them to connect to God, grow those deep roots, and sprout expansive branches that produce fruit.

As leaders, the Church Council and Staff Parish made some hard decisions regarding the direction our church would go in the future. To meet people where they are in Circleville, and in greater Pickaway County, we need to make some adjustments to the way we do things at Circleville Community UMC.

1. We need focus and vision. In the next few weeks, we will have a vision event on January 26<sup>th</sup> for you, the congregation, to come and hear the new vision, see the strategic plan we have in place and ask questions regarding how you might be part of the process.
2. We have evaluated each staff position asking how they fit within a discipleship pathway. While outreach is an important piece to discipleship, it is only one part of discipleship. Church Council and Staff Parish as well as the Pastor felt it was necessary to shift this role to a more comprehensive role for the church.
3. We are hiring a part time Director of Youth Ministry. This should be completed by February 2025. Currently Pastor Marie, Levi Graf and several other laity are serving the Youth of the church. This ministry has grown in the last year from about 3 students to 10.
4. A new position, Director of Congregational Engagement, has been developed which encompasses discipleship pathway, missions and outreach.
5. The Outreach Director position will move to a new role beginning January 1, 2025, with a 45 day transition period.

What does this mean for our connection to the community? We will continue to serve the community through the Compassion Office, on various boards, and through the Corner Closet. This new role will help the Tree of Discipleship grow. This role will engage the congregation in connecting with serving and growing opportunities. This does mean that other community agencies will be responsible for things that our current Outreach Director is doing. For example, furniture removal, doctor's appointments etc. We realize this may take some time, therefore a transition period of 45 days to accommodate these logistics is necessary.

We are excited to see where and how Community UMC will grow and flourish. God's vision for our church is to reach new people helping them and existing people know and experience God's love and then share that love with others. Please keep our church in your daily prayers.

You can expect an update from me or the Director of Congregational Engagement monthly through email or on our website through a video message.

I look forward to seeing what God does in 2025!

Blessings and Grace,



Pastor Marie, Church Council and Staff Parish Committee

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**Thanks to everyone who contributed in many ways this year to assist with providing clothing needs to people of our county though the Corner Closet. A special thanks to Becky Stevens for monitoring the volunteer's schedule. She does a great job making sure we have enough people working for the hours we are open. To those of you who volunteer to work, we sincerely appreciate you giving of your time to sort, hang, organize and do the many other needed tasks to make this store a friendly, pleasant place for our shoppers. To those who contribute clothes, please continue to bring your slightly used items to us. We hear many heart-warming stories about how we are meeting the needs of people. Our numbers of shoppers have increased significantly since we opened:**

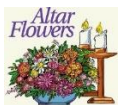
**2022 6,300 (first year)  
2023 8,537  
2024 9,263**

**Betty Wolford**

**\*\*\*\*Community Cupboard\*\*\*\***

Don't forget to bring in your non-perishable food items this Sunday. We are running very low on all types of food. Both the church and Corner Closet locations have been frequently visited over the Christmas season and we need to replenish the shelves. Thank you so much for helping our community.

The Children's Ministry team is having a painting workday on January 19<sup>th</sup> following The Point service. A light lunch will be served at 11:30 and then volunteers will work on painting and cleaning the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor hallway and several classrooms. This is the first step to get ready to move the children's classrooms upstairs later this year. Those who are interested, please email Katie Skidmore at [katie.skidmore@circlevillecumc.org](mailto:katie.skidmore@circlevillecumc.org).



The 2025 altar flower sign-up sheets are ready and posted on the bulletin board in the Church Office. Altar flowers are \$30.00 and can be ordered through the church or you are welcome to furnish your own arrangement.