

# Circuit Rider

Saybrook United Methodist Church  
*"People trying to live like Jesus"*  
7900 S. Depot Rd., Ashtabula, OH 44004  
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**January 2023**  
Pastor for both churches  
**Rev. Vernon Palo**  
Plymouth Community  
United Methodist Church  
*Joyfully Share God's Love,  
Compassion, Mercy, and Hope that  
Transforms the Lives of Others.*  
Church: 440-998-0260

*Happy New Year* ♪ *Happy New Year* ♪ *Happy New Year*

## *Our Pastor's Ponderings*

Dear Members and Friends,

As I put my thoughts together on a most beautiful winter morning [December 29] a number of things are going through my mind. As beautiful as the current day(s) are the weather conditions surrounding Christmas Eve and Day rough even for the most seasoned northeasterner. Out of an abundance of caution worship services were cancelled. In most churches Christmas Eve (something I have not seen since 1983) and some even were shut down for Sunday the 25th. The thought that came to mind as leaders from both churches and I talked prior to making decisions to close or not to close was, "the very first Christmas was a quiet, private, orchestrated by divine powers". Hopefully your Christmas was peaceful, a time of reflection and of course great joy.

As I mentioned for me at the time of this writing its December 29, and soon the old year will be over. With the turning of one year to the next is that of taking down the old calendar, which is a little dustier, frayed and some yellowed curled pages then when I put it up. As we each put in place our new calendars we do so because time helps us situate ourselves. Time is after all, the material God gives us to create new life with Him. God doesn't want us so much to concentrate so much on the end of life that we forget the importance of life itself. Time isn't just the vestibule of eternity. It's meant to be lived to its fullness. To prove that point, our Lord Jesus Christ focused himself into time from beyond it, and lived that life himself.

In this day of new beginnings we're called to remember our mission and ministry as followers of Christ. As Christians we're to be conveyors of the good news of the Gospel, apostles of Christ to the people with whom we interact each day. As Christians we are to live our lives, choose our careers, and make our decisions as Jesus would if we were standing in our shoes. If the truth of the Gospel doesn't unnerve you, very likely you haven't fully understood it. The Gospel ask each of us to forget ourselves, our talents, our shortcomings and even what we hope to receive in life and to dedicate our lives to serving others in the name of our Savior. In the book, *Daring to Live the Challenge of Christ*, William J. Malley writes: "Christ has no human voice on earth but yours and mine, no hands but our hands. He is the head, we are the parts of his body. Without us, his mission is helpless."

Today is a new day of beginnings and resolutions. It's a time when Christ begins to live again in our world through us. It's a day when we not only make resolutions but also determine to live them out in the world to the best of our abilities. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., once said, "If your job is to sweep streets, sweep them the way Michelangelo would have swept them." When we labor for Jesus Christ, anything less than our best is unacceptable.

Perhaps the greatest resolution of all is to promise to take ten minutes a day to sit quietly, feet up, relaxed, looking through a window and asking, "How can this day become a day of new beginnings for me?"

God bless each of you in the living of your resolutions.  
*Pastor Vernon & Karen*





## JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

### Saybrook UMC

6 Mark Coach  
6 Kathryn Ford  
6 Sean Butler  
6 Kathy Heino  
7 Rebecca Eland  
8 Jim Shank  
11 Denis Wolff  
13 Bob Josson  
15 Mary Ann Cone  
19 Barb Kelley  
20 Devan Craft  
22 Jacob McKee  
24 Eva DeCamillo  
25 Randy Serpico  
26 Charles Davis  
31 Barb Laughlin

### Plymouth UMC

2 Debbie Milano  
11 Alan Wintz  
12 Jim Wheeler  
13 Aurora Baker  
13 Marge Nordquest  
14 Michelle Townsend  
18 Laurie Wagner  
21 Samantha Dibell



If you would like your Anniversary or Birthday in the Newsletter/Bulletin please email me at [saybrookumc1@gmail.com](mailto:saybrookumc1@gmail.com) or call me at 440-969-1562





Thank you to: Saybrook Giant Eagle, Ashtabula Walmart Harbor Save-A-Lot, and Steve Kiraly For providing Food & Discounts for the Christmas Family Distribution this year.  
Also.....The Collection of food from St. Johns School

**The Christmas Family distribution has come and gone but was a great success. After two years of distribution light, we were able to get back to normal.**

**The families were thrilled at all your donations and one of the boys was so excited that he found a coat that fit him and wore it home. There was much laughter and tears from both the families and our church volunteers. One of the family members commented after receiving a bible that she never had one before.**

**It is obvious that our God oversees this program.  
Many thanks to everyone for your participation that make this such a success.  
I pray that you all have felt blessed as you were part of HIS service in this program.**



... they should make them days of feasting and gladness, days for sending gifts of food to one another and presents to the poor.

Esther 9:22, NRSV

Thank you for Bringing in & Purchasing the Beautiful Poinsettias  
 To Beautify the Church for the Glory of God  
 &  
 In Memory or Honor of Friends & Family



Plymouth United Methodist Church

<b>In Loving Memory of Don Bell</b>	Love Jeri Bell
<b>In Loving Memory of our Parents</b>	Love Jeff & Sandy Corbett
<b>In Loving Memory of Pastor Meredith Coleman</b>	Love Jeff & Sandy Corbett
<b>In Loving Memory of Linda Lathrop &amp; Mary Corns</b>	Love, Melissa & Jerry Cunningham
<b>In Loving Memory of Bill, Millie, George &amp; Rose</b>	Love George Jr. & Carolyn Dixon
<b>In Loving Memory of My Parents</b>	Love Mary Ferguson
<b>To The Glory of God</b>	Denise Hodges
<b>In Honor of Friends who have passed on</b>	Love, Jim & Sonja Trisket



Saybrook United Methodist Church

<b>In Honor of Richard &amp; Grace Arnold</b>	Love Daughter Jill Serpico & Family
<b>In Loving Memory of Jim Brindley</b>	Love, Bobbi Brindley
<b>In Loving Memory of Our Parents Harold &amp; Louise Buck Gillis &amp; Verna Spurlock &amp; Harold Buck Jr.</b>	Love, Lou Buck,
<b>In Loving Memory of Max Cobb</b>	Love, Sandy Cobb
<b>In Loving Memory of Ed &amp; Eunice Harrington</b>	Love Daughter Rita & family
<b>In Loving Memory of Sara Ann McKee</b>	Love , Grandparents Lloyd & Judy Richards
<b>In Memory of Wanona Smith</b>	Love Ron & Charmaine
<b>In Loving Memory of Jim &amp; Janice Prickett</b>	Love Mike & Joanne Prickett
<b>In Loving Memory of Lorain Reese</b>	Love, Marilyn Reese & Family
<b>In Loving Memory of Beverly Wiley</b>	Love Ed, Betsy & Ryan

**When the kindness and love  
of God our Savior appeared,  
he saved us.**

Titus 3:4-5, NIV

**PLYMOUTH UMC 2022**



*Merry*  
**CHRISTMAS**

A decorative garland with green leaves and red berries, tied with red bows at the ends, positioned below the text.

SAYBROOK UMC 2022





*Merry*  
**CHRISTMAS**

A decorative garland with a repeating pattern of red and white bows, positioned below the text.

Dear Saybrook UMC family,

I was recently humbled by the visit of four of our members, and my friends. **Along with a nice visit & a delicious pecan pie, they gave me a beautiful quilt and a gift envelope from our congregation.**

It was a generous goodbye gift for my move next month to Arizona.

Thank you so very much!

Have a blessed Christmas season!

Love *Shelley Didonato*



I would like to thank each and everyone of you for the cards and love offering that was given during this Holiday Season. It helps spiritually to know how much you are appreciated and loved and of course it helps buy food and pay bills.

Thank you again from the bottom of my heart.

I have been blessed with a wonderful and caring church family.

Love *Betty Cochran*



**DO JUSTICE ...**

*love kindness ...*

**WALK HUMBLLY**

*with our God.*

MICAH 6:8





*To Saybrook Our Friends at the Saybrook UMC  
The Christmas Cards that are posted on the  
Bulletin board were sent in to you with love!*

*Betty Cochran  
Ann Felde  
Virgil & Carol Hammonds  
Barb Laughlin  
Harold & Sue Miller  
Jeff, Sue & Jake Nelson  
Mary Simmons  
Ruthann Falicione & Jim Smith  
Cheryl Wakeman  
Pam Whelan  
Saint Johns School  
Kurt Law Office*







# As sweet as honey



Honey is both a sweetener and a medicine.  
How can our words be used in the same ways?



*Directions: Use the hexagon key to fill in the missing vowels and complete Proverbs 16:24, NIV.*



Gr  c    s w  r  d s

r   h  n   c  m  b,

s w   t t  th  s   l

n d h   l  n g



t  th  b  n  s.



PROVERBS 16:24, NIV

Answer: Gracious words are a honeycomb, sweet to the soul and healing to the bones. Proverbs 16:24, NIV

# January 2023

# HAPPY NEW YEAR!

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 Worship Services PUMC-8:30 SUMC-10:45	2 6:00pm Trustees	3 10:00am Membership 6:00pm Education	4 10:00am Nominating 6:00pm WOW	5	6	7 8:30am Men's Group 10:00am Worship & Music
8 Worship Services PUMC-8:30 SUMC-10:00 Sunday School 9:00am	9 10:00am Mission 6:00pm PUMC Ad Council	10 10:00am Membership 6:00pm Education	11 6:00pm WOW	12	13	14
15 Worship Services PUMC-8:30 SUMC-10:00 Sunday School 9:00am	16 Martin Luther King Day	17 PUMC Food Distribution 1-5pm	18 6:00pm WOW	19	20	21 8:30am Men's Group
22 Worship Services PUMC-8:30 SUMC-10:00 Sunday School 9:00am	23 PUMC Food Pantry 3-5pm	24	25 6:00pm WOW	26 SUMC 5:00pm Community Dinner	27	28
29 Worship Services PUMC-8:30 SUMC-10:00 Sunday School 9:00am	30	31		SUMC Sun. & Tues 7pm AA		



# New Year's Day

## WORSHIP SERVICE

WON'T YOU JOIN US ?  
PLYMOUTH UMC SERVICE AT 8:30AM  
SAYBROOK ONE SERVICE AT 10:45AM

PSALM 65:11  
YOU CROWN THE YEAR WITH  
YOUR GOODNESS,  
AND YOUR PATHS  
DRIP *WITH* ABUNDANCE.

