



THE HEART GOES HOME FOR CHRISTMAS

Smoke curls from the chimney,
Snow on the roof, a picturesque pair
When the chill winds of December
Remind us it's time to prepare.

The heart goes home for Christmas,
Though the house may not be there.
The aroma of Mother's cooking
And lighted candles scent the air.

The tree stands in the corner,
Sparkling and trimmed with care,
Surrounded with colorful presents
For children and kin to share.

The heart goes home for Christmas,
Taking its place at the table there,
Joy and love mingle in silence
When Father says the prayer.

Memory, a precious treasure
Bonds holidays everywhere,
Surely a guardian angel protects
Recollection with care.

God's gift of the Holy Family
Keeps us forever aware,
When the heart goes home for Christmas,
The Child awaits us there.

Poem by Eileen Wikel Darby

WORSHIP THROUGH MUSIC SERVICE ON DECEMBER 15TH @ 10 AM

Please join us as Chancel Choir and Friends, Guest Soloists, Youth Singers, Handbell Choir, Strings and Brass Instrumentalists, Organist Matthew, Pianist Carol, and Scripture Readers

join together once again to provide a service of worship, celebration, and meditation during this Advent Season. The Congregation's participation will be welcomed and encouraged through the singing of several familiar Christmas carols! As we take time from our busy schedules to celebrate the Christmas Miracle through music and the Word,



we hope you will join us!! As it will be the Third Sunday in Advent, the theme of JOY is an appropriate one for this service. INVITE YOUR FRIENDS There's plenty of room in our 'Inn!'



Have you sent in your 2020 Pledge Card? Please turn them into the office by Tuesday, December 3rd.

Looking Ahead....



HOLIDAY FUN NIGHT

Monday, December 2nd

Join us on Monday, December 2, 2019 from 6-8 pm for a holiday activity with Scouts in grades K-12, during their parent meeting and FPC church kids are welcome to attend as well. Activities included, but not limited to the following: making ornaments & decorating the tree in Fellowship Hall, decorating cookies, making (or buying) pizza to eat during our time together. We need church family to participate in this joint activity.



WORSHIP THROUGH MUSIC SERVICE

Sunday, December 15th

Mark your calendars! Our annual *Worship Through Music Service* will be on Sunday, December 15th @ 10:00 am. Hope to see you there! Tell your friends, or better yet, bring them with you!

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE

Tuesday, December 24th

Our Traditional Candlelight Christmas Eve Service will be on Tuesday, December 24th @ 7:30 pm. This service will feature the lighting of the Christ candle, traditional Christmas carols, and Scripture readings telling the birth of our Savior. Please plan to attend! If you need a ride, please contact the church office.



REMEMBRANCE SERVICE



This year we will have the Remembrance Service after the Worship Service on Sunday, December 8th. As in the past, ornaments in memory of loved ones will be placed on the Remembrance Tree in the parlor. If you are unable to attend, you are welcome to place ornaments in memory of loved ones on the tree any time throughout the Advent season. Please don't forget to label each ornament with the name of your loved one,

so we can remember them each year when the ornaments are placed on the tree again.

CUB SCOUT SERVICE PROJECT

Cub Scout Pack 31 is performing a service project to put together 50 welcome bags for the Valor Home in Lorain, which serves homeless veterans in NE Ohio. There is a box in the parlor where donations can be left for collection by the Cub Scouts between now and December 8th. **Items requested are:** pocket packets of tissues, small/sample size deodorant (men/women), tube-style white socks (one size fits all), mints/gum, small spiral notebooks, ball point pens, small hand towels and emery boards.

CALLING ALL BAKERS

The Little Wonders Christmas Program will be held next Sunday, December 8th at 1:00 PM. The Christian Education Committee hosts the reception after the program, and they are seeking cookie donations. The cookies should be dropped off in the kitchen by December 8th before the worship service. Please mark them for Little Wonders. Thank you in advance for your generosity.

SESSION MEMBERS

John Blakeman— *F&M*

Gail Burke— *Stewardship*

Carolyn Culbertson— *Christian Education*

June Hanes— *Worship*

Phillip Hopkins— *F&M Chair*

Cindy Kaman— *Worship Chair*

Katy McGraw— *Christian Education Chair*

PRAYER CALENDAR FOR THE CHURCHES OF HURON

December 1, 2019

Zion Lutheran Church
Pastor Kristine Schroeder

December 8, 2019

First Presbyterian Church

December 15, 2019

Grace Fellowship Hall
Reverend Larry Oldaker

December 22, 2019

Christ Episcopal Church
Reverend Michael Floyd

December 29, 2019

Lighthouse Assembly of God Church
Pastor Tom Holzaepfel

Prepare the way for the Lord!



Janet Mueller— *N&M Chair*

Ann Pullano— *Clerk of Session*

Patti Smith— *N&M*

CHRISTMAS JOY SPECIAL OFFERING

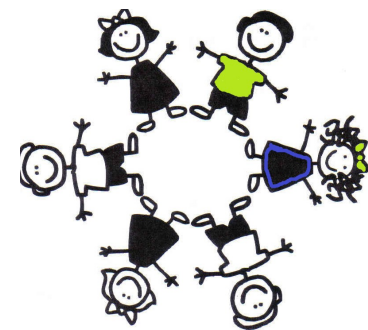
God is with us. God saw the great needs of the world and offered a perfect gift, a gift that brought God and humanity closer together. God's perfect gift to us, Jesus Christ, offered the power of being with us. According to Matthew's Gospel, one of the names given to Jesus is Emmanuel, which means "God is with us." In Jesus, we receive the perfect gift of God being with us, and of being with those who were often overlooked, left out, vulnerable, or in need. What a powerful gift, a perfect gift, the gift of... being with. This is one of the reasons we share gifts during Christmas. We, too, want to share the power of being with those we love and those in need, by offering gifts like those we give to the Christmas Joy Offering. 50% of your gifts make it possible for students to learn and grow in faith at Presbyterian-related schools and colleges equipping communities of color. 50% of your gifts assists current and retired church workers and their families with critical financial needs. Because God is with us — We see the potential of students of color who will become our leaders and we seek to come alongside them, to encourage them, to be with them. Because of gifts to the Christmas Joy Offering, the Acabal children — Marco, Celeste and Luis — were able to attend the Menaul School, a Presbyterian-related secondary school equipping communities of color, with scholarships. Nearly 60% of students at the school need assistance. Because of your gift — We see church workers who have critical financial needs and we come alongside them, to assist. We are with them. Because of gifts to the Christmas Joy Offering, Rev. Shelley Wiley was able to continue her ministry with help from her presbytery and the Assistance Program of the Board of Pensions through a shared grant, after an accident left her unable to drive for six months.

IF WE ALL DO A LITTLE, IT ADDS UP TO A LOT!

WAYS TO GIVE:

- ♦ Through your congregation by placing a Christmas Joy Offering Envelope in the offering plate
- ♦ Text JOY to 56512 to learn more or donate
- ♦ Online at presbyterianmission.org/give/christmasjoy





Little Wonders
Presbyterian Preschool

LITTLE WONDERS



The Little Wonders have had a busy month! It started out with their annual Spaghetti Dinner which was well attended, and fundraised over \$5,000.00 for preschool supplies and tuition assistance! They had over 85 raffle baskets this year, which is the most they've ever had! The 5-day students made pepperoni pizzas for the letter "P" day, and they enjoyed eating their work. The month ended with a visit from *Back to the Wild*. The students and their families were greeted by many interesting and amazing creatures.



IN THE COMMUNITY



ST. STEPHEN UCC CHURCH'S CHRISTMAS BAZAAR

Saturday, December 7th @ 9am-3pm

The St. Stephen UCC Church located at 905 E. Perkins Avenue, Sandusky, OH 44870 will be hosting a Christmas Bazaar on Saturday, December 7th from 9 am until 3 pm. A nice variety of vendors offering homemade items, jewelry, decorations, crocheted & knitted items, wreaths, Lebkuchen Cookies, Christmas Resale Shop, Scrip Gift Cards, and much more. Admission is \$1 to benefit the food pantry for local families.



SEARCH FOR THE CHRIST CHILD

Saturday, December 7th & Sunday, December 8th

New Life Church will again host the *Search for the Christ Child* on Saturday, December 7th from 5-8 pm and Sunday, December 8th from 4-7 pm. This is a free gift to the community. Through the production it is their hope people will draw nearer to God this Christmas season. Search for the Christ Child gives a unique opportunity to be a "living part" of the first Christmas.



It is a 20 minute walk, from act to act, inside New Life Church. The historical reenactment of the life and time when Christ was born is led by a Shepherd who encounters angels, innkeepers, King Herod, Wise Men, Roman soldiers, market place vendors, beggars, live animals, a tax collector, and the Holy Family. The play is based on the Biblical gospels of Matthew and Luke. Learn the story as you travel to find the Baby Jesus. Live animals. The Search for the Christ Child is in its 22nd season. It's great for the whole family and is handicapped accessible. New Life Church is located at 6511 Milan Road, Sandusky.

- December 2 Holiday Fun Night @ 6-8 pm
- December 3 PW Circle @ 3pm
- December 4 Girlfriends in God @ 6 pm
- December 8 Remembrance Service (following Worship)
- December 8 Little Wonders Christmas Program @ 1 pm
- December 11 Christ's Meal @ 5 pm
- December 11 Girlfriends in God @ 6 pm
- December 13 Retired Teachers Luncheon @ 11:30 am
- December 15 Worship Through Music Service @ 10 am
- December 16 Steeple Notes Deadline
- December 18 Session @ 7 pm
- Dec. 24-27 Office Closed for Christmas
- December 24 Christmas Eve Service @ 7:30 pm
- December 25 Christ's Meal @ 5 pm
- Dec. 31-Jan. 1 Office Closed

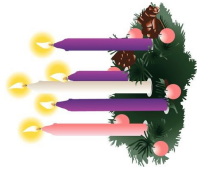


- December 2 Chris Hakeman
- December 5 Fern Delamatre
- December 7 Karen Brown
- December 16 Jeanne Smith
- December 22 Marty Ryu
- December 23 Megan Emerson
- December 24 Edwina Chamberlin
- December 25 Carol Johnson
- December 25 Katy Mischler
- December 29 Sharon Velliquette

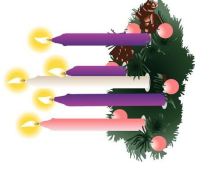
"For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counselor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace." -Isaiah 9:6



	Ushers	Liturgist	Hospitality	Flowers
Dec. 1	Rachel Pratt & Patti Smith	Chuck Kaman	Sarah Blakeman	Terry & Gail Burke
Communion Servers: Charlene Schuman, Jeannie Asher, Tammy Boos, and Karen Brown Communion Set-up: Chuck Kaman				
Dec. 8	Clark & Carolyn Culbertson	Rachel Pratt	Ann Pullano	Doug & Wendy Quinn
Dec. 15	Chuck & Bob Kaman	Karen Brown	Kathy Kirby	Glann Family/ John Bickell
Dec. 22	Jack & Marcia Arthur	Tammy Boos	Gail Burke	Muntz Family/ Eileen Wikel Darby
Dec. 29	Bob & Marcie Muntz	KC Wittmer	Ellen Drumm & Katy McGraw	Bob & Marcie Muntz



DECEMBER 2019



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 Adult Bible Study @ 8:45am Worship @10:00am (Communion/2-Cents-A-Meal)	2 Hot Dog Monday @ noon Prayer Group @ 1 pm Holiday Fun Night @ 6-8 pm	3 PW Circle @ 3 pm	4 Girlfriends in God @ 6pm	5 Handbell Practice @ 6:30 pm Chancel Choir Practice	6 7	
8 Adult Bible Study @ 8:45am Worship @10:00am Little Wonders Christmas Program @ 1:00 pm	9 Hot Dog Monday @ noon	10	11 Christ's Community Meal @ 5 pm Girlfriends in God @ 6pm	12 Handbell Practice @ 6:30 pm Chancel Choir Practice @ 7:30 pm	13 Retired Teachers Luncheon @ 11:30 am	14
15 Adult Bible Study @ 8:45am Worship Through Music Service @10:00am	16 Steeple Notes Deadline Hot Dog Monday @ noon	17	18 Little Wonders Christmas Parties (FH-all day) Session @ 7 pm	19 Handbell Practice @ 6:30 pm Chancel Choir Practice @ 7:30 pm	20	21
22 Adult Bible Study @ 8:45am Worship @10:00am	23 Hot Dog Monday @ noon	24 Christmas Eve Service @ 7:30 pm Office Closed	25 Merry Christmas! Christ's Community Meal @ 5 pm	26	27	28
29 Adult Bible Study @ 8:45am Worship @10:00am	30 Hot Dog Monday @ noon	31 Office Closed				