



THE CHIMES

December 2017 – January 2018

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Our Mission is to Make Disciples of Jesus Christ and to
Serve God by Sharing Compassion Hope and Love

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THE CHIMES

December 2017 – January 2018

Christmas Season Schedule

Dec. 3rd	10:15 am	First Sunday of Advent
Dec. 7th	11 am	Communion at Copeland Oaks
Dec. 10th	11:30 am	Christmas Luncheon
Dec. 16th	1pm	Santa's Workshop
Dec. 24th	10:15 am	Sunday Morning Christmas Eve.
Dec. 24th	7 pm	Christmas Eve Service

What Is The Season of Advent?

Advent is roughly the four-week season before Christmas when many Christians commemorate the first coming of Christ and anticipate his second coming. **The Season of Advent**, which comes from the Latin word *adventus* meaning “coming” or “visit,” begins four Sundays before Christmas. Its beginning can fall on any date between and including November 27 and December 3rd. It ends on Christmas Eve. This year (2017) Advent begins on December 3rd.

During Advent, we prepare for, and anticipate, the coming of Christ. We remember the longing of Jews for a Messiah and our own longing for, and need of, forgiveness, salvation and a new beginning. Even as we look back and celebrate the birth of Jesus in a humble stable in Bethlehem, we also look forward anticipating the second coming of Christ as the fulfillment of all that was promised by his first coming.

To that end, the worship, scripture readings, and prayers not only prepare us spiritually for Christmas (his first coming), but also for his eventual second coming. This is why the Bible readings during Advent include both Old Testament passages related to the expected Messiah, and New Testament passages concerning Jesus' second coming as judge of all. Also, passages about John the Baptist, the precursor who prepared the way for the Messiah, are read. Since Advent looks forward to Christ's birth and Incarnation, it is an appropriate way to begin the Church Year.

Though in modern times, Advent is often conflated with Christmas, Advent is *not* part of the Christmas season itself, but a preparation for it. Secular culture and many protestant churches focus their celebrations on and around the day of Christmas, taking it outside of the context of Advent and Christmastide. However, Christmas is not meant to be an isolated day, but a festival of the Incarnation in the midst of the Church year. ***Christmas is only properly understood after having the preparation provided by Advent.*** In the midst of the secular excesses leading up to Christmas, Advent provides a welcome solace and an opportunity to continually re-orient ourselves to God's will as we expectantly wait with patriarchs, prophets, and kings for the true meaning of Christmas: the Incarnation of God the Son.

History of Advent. The New Testament identifies Jesus as the expected Jewish Messiah, although Jesus was not the kind of Messiah most Jews at the time expected – a warrior who would forcibly overthrow the Romans. The gospel writers are clear that Jesus did not come to establish an earthly kingdom, or deliver the Jewish people from the Romans, but rather he proclaimed a heavenly kingdom available to Jew and Gentile alike. Even though early Christians understood that Jesus reigned in the Church, they knew that all things had not been subjected fully to him, so Christians understood that there existed a future finalization of his kingdom. Thus, early Christians eagerly awaited the return of Jesus in glory "to achieve the definitive triumph of good over evil," when he would judge the living and the dead. These prominent Scriptural themes form the basis of our Advent season.

The term Advent does not appear in the Scriptures texts. The first clear reference to a celebration of Advent occurs in the 6th century. Prior to this time, there were celebrations and fasts resembling our current Advent season. In various times and locations of the church, it has been observed for three, four, and six weeks leading to Christmas. The Western Church eventually settled on four Sundays of Advent, which has the season beginning at the very end of November or the very beginning of December.

During the Reformation, some Protestants attacked or de-emphasized many Christian holy days and seasons, disconnecting their churches from the rhythms of the Church Year. However, some Reformation churches, like the Anglicans, retained Advent. Possibly because of the liturgical movement, or maybe as a reaction to the excesses of secular Christmas values, celebrating Advent has become more popular in non-Catholic and non-Orthodox churches. Lutherans, Anglicans, Methodists, Presbyterians, and even many evangelical groups have incorporated Advent into their worship services to varying degrees.

Color. The color for Advent has traditionally been purple. Some churches have adopted blue for Advent. In practice, however, as churches increasingly incorporate the symbols and decorations of Christmas during Advent, more and more we see red, green, and gold appearing. The United Methodist Book of Worship upholds the traditional color of purple for Advent, signifying penitence and royalty, but also allows blue, the color of hope.

Themes, Images, Symbols, and Practices. There are a number of historic and traditional themes observed during Advent:

- Preparing to celebrate the coming of Christ:
 - ✦ The coming of the Messiah to the Jews.
 - ✦ The coming of Jesus into the world at Bethlehem.
 - ✦ The second coming of Jesus in final victory.
 - ✦ The continual coming of Jesus into the hearts and lives of believers.
- A time of penitence and fasting, austerity, seriousness, reading of Scripture, hearing and proclaiming the Word in sermon and song; waiting and longing for the Messiah's coming
- Symbols: Chrismon tree with its white monograms, the Jesse tree, Advent calendars, trumpets (for Isaiah), the messianic rose, star of Jacob, and fleur-de-lis. Modern innovation includes the use of an Advent wreath with four candles and themes around hope-peace-love-joy, John-Elizabeth-Joseph-Mary, or some other pattern.
- Our *United Methodist Book of Worship* (page 238) calls for the following themes for the Sundays of Advent:
 - ✦ **First Sunday:** the final return of Christ in victory; the Second Coming
 - ✦ **Second and Third Sundays:** John the Baptist, his role, his words, his teachings
 - ✦ **Fourth Sunday:** the events immediately preceding Jesus' birth.

Watch your upcoming Sunday bulletins for more information on the rich meanings of the symbols of the Seasons of Advent and Christmastide.

Information excerpted and adapted from <http://www.churchyear.net/advent.html> and UM GBOD/Worship.

SCRIPTURE TEXTS FOR THE SUNDAYS OF ADVENT 2017

A new liturgical year (Year B) of the Revised Common Lectionary begins on this First Sunday of Advent. The total three-year cycle of scripture lessons commonly called a

Lectionary (which simply means “readings”) was created in order for churches to cover the major themes of our faith as well as most parts of the Old and New Testaments.

1ST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Isaiah 64:1-9 **Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19**
1 Corinthians 1:3-9 **Mark 13:24-37**

2ND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Isaiah 40:1-11 **Psalm 85:1-2, 8-13**
2 Peter 3:8-15a **Mark 1:1-8**

3RD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11 **Psalm 126**
1 Thessalonians 5:16-24 **John 1:6-8, 19-28**

4TH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16 **Luke 1:47-55**
Romans 16:25-27 **Luke 1:26-38**

CHRISTMAS EVE

Isaiah 9:2-7 **Psalm 96**
Titus 2:11-14 **Luke 2:1-20**

CHRISTMAS DAY

Isaiah 52:7-10 **Psalm 98**
Hebrews 1:1-4, (5-12) **John 1:1-14**

December 2017

Brothers and Sisters, do you ever find yourself saying something like, “I just want to go home!” I do, and quite often in fact. And most times when we say that, we are referring to that place where we dwell, that familiar where our belongings are, and where we go regularly to rest and regenerate and feel comfortable. But sometimes when we speak of “home” we are referring to something more – to that place where we feel comforted, where there is the love and fellowship of family, and maybe even the favorite memories we share with the people we have related to there. Traditionally, that “home” is a wonderful concept; it speaks of being loved, accepted, included. It is that concept of “home” that we yearn for especially in the time of the holiday season.

But for many, that idea of wanting to go home can be quite a complicated concept. For quite a few older adults, myself included, many of the people in our lives who have represented “home” may no longer be living and so the desire to go home becomes more of an unmet but deeply felt yearning than a reality. I am very familiar with this reality because as a single woman in my sixties whose children are all grown with families of their own and living scattered around the country, there is not a home meaning family place available! And as an itinerant pastor, I have resided in several different dwelling places, lovely ones to be sure, but none that I can truly call “home” in the sentimental sense of that word.

And that is particularly why I love this year’s Advent theme of “coming home.” Because not only does it speak of returning to a place, a reality, where one is loved, accepted, where one can share favorite memories and new stories and be in fellowship with loved ones, but it also speaks of coming to a place that is familiar, where our deepest yearnings are met and satisfied. Our spiritual lives and our faith journey provides just such a place, which is what makes the promises of the Advent and Christmas Seasons so poignant! I introduced this idea in my earlier Advent letter to you. This season is a time when we hurry home to spend some time with remembering who we are and WHOSE we are! It is a time that we remember and bask in and retell the story of our redemption and of our promised future. And we absorb that love that surrounds us in the Christmas story and remembering how very much our parent God loves us! That’s just one reason why I particularly love Jesus’ words spoken to His disciples in John 14.

“Don’t let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God, and trust also in me. ² There is more than enough room in my Father’s home. If this were not so, would I have told you that I am going to prepare a place for you? ³ When everything is ready, I will come and get you, so that you will always be with me where I am.” John 14:1-3 (NLT)

Home! But just like many of us in our natural lives, we too often get busy living our lives and forget to return to the One who gave us life. We get too busy to go check in at “home.” Such was the case a few years ago in singer/songwriter Matt Redman’s home church. Experiencing a period of apathy, the congregation was surely gathering each week for worship, but the worship had gotten mechanical, and too performance oriented and they “were struggling to find meaning in their musical outpouring at the time.” Following is how Matt Redman described what was happening in the congregation to which he belonged and ministered in music. Talking about their worship, Matt says,

“There was a dynamic missing, so the pastor did a pretty brave thing,” he recalls. “He decided to get rid of the sound system and band for a season, and we gathered together with just our voices. His point was that we’d lost our way in worship, and the way to get back to the heart would be to strip everything away.”

Reminding his church family to be producers in worship, not just consumers, the pastor, Mike Pilavachi, asked, “When you come through the doors on a Sunday, what are you bringing as your offering to God?”

Matt says the question initially led to some embarrassing silence, but eventually people broke into a cappella songs and heartfelt prayers, encountering God in a fresh way.

“Before long, we reintroduced the musicians and sound system, as we’d gained a new perspective that **worship is all about Jesus**, and He commands a response in the depths of our souls no matter what the circumstance and setting. *‘The Heart of Worship’* simply describes what occurred.”

*♪ When the music fades, all is stripped away, and I simply come
Longing just to bring something that’s of worth that will bless your heart
I’m coming back to the heart of worship, and it’s all about You, Jesus ♪*

This Advent Season, I want to go home! Don’t you? Home to that place where I know I am loved so much that the greatest gift ever has been given. And I want to experience the fullness of all God is offering. But to do that, I have to do what Matt Redman’s song says, and I have to set aside all that would hinder that experience... my busyness, self-importance, regret, anger, hurt, unforgiveness ... and yes, even my desire for that perfect meal or for all things to be “just right”, because when God offers it, won’t it ultimately **be** just right and satisfy just what we yearn for?

This Advent Season, as we cry out for God to “tear open the heavens and come down” to us, I invite you to join me in stripping away all that would separate *our* hearts from God so that this Advent Season and the Christmastide that follows would truly be a time of joyful expectancy, exceeded only by the experience of a true and wonderful Christmas homecoming in Christ! Blessings!

Have a Rich and Soul Satisfying Advent and Christmas Season!
Pastor Stephanie

The Heart of Worship

Matt Redman

When the music fades, all is stripped away, and I simply come
Longing just to bring something that's of worth that will bless Your heart
I'll bring You more than a song for a song in itself is not what You have required
You search much deeper within, through the way things appear
You're looking into my heart

I'm coming back to the heart of worship, and it's all about You, it's all about You, Jesus
I'm sorry, Lord, for the thing I've made it when it's all about You, it's all about You, Jesus

King of endless worth, no one could express how much you deserve
Though I'm weak and poor, all I have is Yours, every single breath!
I'll bring You more than a song, for a song in itself is not what You have required
You search much deeper within, through the way things appear
You're looking into my heart, yeah

I'm coming back to the heart of worship, and it's all about You, it's all about You, Jesus
I'm sorry, Lord, for the thing I've made it when it's all about You, it's all about You, Jesus



from the Organ Bench My mission for playing the organ at Christ UMC is to bring worship alive for those in attendance each Sunday. Music touches the soul, and is a major part of our services. It may be the organ music, choral music or the handbells. It is my hope that the music touches someone each week.

This summer I passed a milestone in my life. In July I realized that I have been a church musician for 60 years! I started organ lessons as a teen, and began as a summer substitute organist in Congregational churches in Middlebury, Naugatuck, and Watertown, CT. When I was in college in Ann Arbor, Michigan, I played for two Baptist churches, one of which was an African-American church. I also played for the Congregational church. When I was a graduate student at Kent State, I played for the United Methodist Church in Kent. I was there for twenty years. Then I was organist at two small Methodist churches in Twinsburg, and Brimfield. I became Music Director for Stow UMC in 1994. Then I got my dream job as Organist-Choir Director for First UMC in New Philadelphia. I was there nine years, and then came to Christ UMC. In each position I grew spiritually and musically. It is a joy to use my spiritual gift of music each day. Carolyn Wallace

Year of Prayer

Our church entered into an intentional Year of Prayer at the beginning of Advent last year. November marked the end of the cycle with the conclusion of the church year. I hope that over the past twelve months you found some of the prayer practices helpful and learned some new ways to pray, leading to a deepening of your relationship with God.

Of course, the end of one Year of Prayer marks the beginning of a new year, as every year in the church is filled with prayer. Prayer is how we connect with God and learn God's will for us as individuals and as the body of Christ. This coming year will bring transition to Christ UMC, and prayers of discernment, of intercession, of confession are needed in abundance as we open ourselves to the ways God wants us to live out our ministry as a church in this time and in this place.

Pray by yourself, find a prayer partner, pray in your small groups and committees, pray as the whole congregation. Just keep praying.

All of the inserts and Chimes articles on the prayer practices for the past year are available on the website (cumcalliance.org). If you want to return to a particular prayer practice, if you missed some, or if you want to cycle through the year again, please take advantage of the resources. Other excellent resources, which I used heavily, are Teresa Blythe's *50 Ways to Pray*, Daniel Wolpert's *Creating a Life with God*, and Marjorie Thompson's *Soul Feast*.

Don't be anxious about anything; rather, bring up all of your requests to God in your prayers and petitions, along with giving thanks. Then the peace of God that exceeds all understanding will keep your hearts and minds safe in Christ Jesus. (Philippians 4:6-7, CEB)

Susan Haddox, Lay Leader



REMEMBERING THE SAINTS THE ROLL OF THE VICTORIOUS

Members of Christ United Methodist Church
Who have passed on since All Saints Sunday,
November 5, 2017

+Ruth Rankin
+Robert Hunter Jr.
+Edwin Ackley

+Robert Clayton
+Louise Coldwell

Congregational Care

The committee met on Thursday, November 15, 2017 to assemble the advent mailing. Thank you to all who helped with this process.

There will be a communion service at Copeland Oaks for our members and guests on Thursday, December 7, 2017. The service will be held in the chapel at 11:00 a.m. with a fellowship luncheon to follow in Lakeside Terrace. Reverend Stephanie Lee will deliver the message. Peg Williams is coordinating this event. Reservations are requested by December 1, 2017.



Koffee with Rev. Keith Bohley

Part of Rev. Bohley's assignment at Christ Church is to assist us in transitioning toward new pastoral leadership. A time of self-examination is helpful during this process to help determine what we see as our future and the type of leadership needed to get us there.

As part of this process, Rev. Bohley would be interested in meeting with small groups and individuals to hear your views. They will be informal and confidential. The first two times are Wednesday, Dec. 6th from 2p-4p and Thursday Dec. 7th from 2p-4p. Please contact Dolores at the church office 330-823-7136 to make a reservation or to be put on the email list for meeting times, when available.



The UMW Winter Soup Kitchen will be
Selling Chicken Noodle Soup in January.

Watch for details!

UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

Christ United Methodist Women will be hosting the Union Avenue United Methodist Women Tuesday, December 5, 2017 – 7:00 P.M. at Copeland Oaks in the Western Reserve Room.

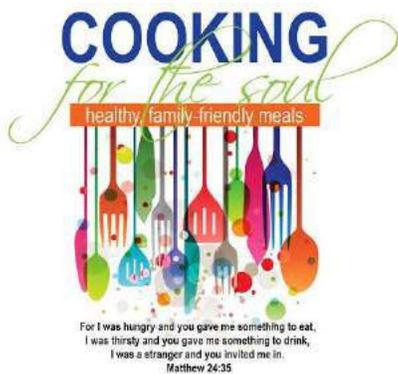
Circles:

December 8, 7:00 P.M.	Susie Buckel Circle	Jamie Greiner's
December 18, 12:15 P.M.	Dorcas Circle	Copeland Oaks
December 18, 7:00 P.M.	M & M Circle	Peg Rodefer's
December 19, 7:00 P.M.	May Smyth Circle	Christmas Dinner
January 16, 2018	Susie Buckel Circle	Church

CHURCH WOMEN UNITED:

11:30 AM – Board Meeting	Friday, Dec. 1, 2017 – First Baptist Church
	1:00 PM General Meeting and Program
	Alliance High School Choral Groups – Mrs. Chunat

Friday, Jan. 5. 2018 CWU – Details will follow in bulletin.



The Susie Buckel Circle, with the support of the entire group of United Methodist Women, recently conducted the 7th Series of “Cooking for the Soul” classes. *This series of classes took place on 3 consecutive Thursdays, **October 19, 26, and November 2, 2017 at 5:30PM** in Fellowship Hall and focused again on **Crock Pot Cooking**. We had a full group of Neighborhood women and their children that participated in the classes.*

We would like to thank all of you for supporting this project. These classes are not only a blessing to each of the women and children that attend, but to everyone that is involved. It is a wonderful way to get to know the women living in our community and be an example of Christ’s love in their lives. Your prayers, generosity, and volunteering of your time and talents is essential for these classes and is deeply appreciated.

*As this article is being written we are in the process of making the final preparations for our 3rd Annual Cooking for the Soul **Christmas Cookie Class** for the Women and Children that completed both the Crock Pot and Casseroles series in the past 12-months. The Cookie Class will not only allow us to help these women prepare for the Christmas season by making Christmas cookie doughs, but it is a wonderful opportunity for us to re-connect with them and invite them to join our Church Family in the celebration of Christ’s birth and the many upcoming Church events planned throughout this Advent Season.*

Our desire is that the “Cooking for the Soul” Classes truly exemplify faith, hope, and love in action, through education, service, and spiritual growth. Again, your support of and dedication to these classes is truly appreciated.

Merry Christmas,

The Susie Circle



Hard Tack Candy will be here soon for your Christmas Gift Giving! The UMYF will be selling it after Church beginning December 3th, while supplies last. The cost is \$5.00 per bag. Thank you in advance! UMYF

A TOTAL OF \$309 was received for United Methodist world missions through CUMC’s annual “**Christmas Card for World Service**” project. **Thank you to all!** A special word of thanks to Julie Greiner and Dolores Lawrence for their extra efforts in creating and publishing the special churchwide holiday greeting card for all to enjoy in the **CHIMES** ! THE CHRISTIAN OUTREACH COMMITTEE

YOU ARE THE HEART  OF CHRIST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH.
THANK YOU!!

On November 12 we concluded our Stewardship Campaign for 2018. Thank You again for your faithful support of our mission and ministry. If you have not yet turned in your Estimate of Giving Card, please mail or deliver it to the church office as soon as you are able. Together, we can continue to be the hands and feet of Christ in this world.

Pat Helsel, Chairman
Stewardship Committee

CHRISTIAN ED CORNER

One of my favorite Christmas carols is “O Come, O Come Emmanuel”; the melody and the lyrics are enchanting as they speak to us concerning the coming of Jesus Christ. The first Sunday of Advent is upon us again in anticipation of the birth of our Lord and Savior. The holiday season comes and goes but this is a song that could be sung during the entire year to remind us that God is with us not just at Christmas time but at all times.

The name can be spelled with an ‘I’ as in Immanuel and is a Hebrew name first seen in the book of Isaiah: “Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel (Isaiah 7:14). The word Immanuel appears only two other times in the Bible in Isaiah 8:8 and Matthew 1:23. The first reference was a prophecy written more than 700 years before the birth of Christ. Immanuel means “God is with us”.

The concept of Immanuel expresses the idea of God’s special presence living among his people going all the way back to the Garden of Eden as he walked and talked with Adam and Eve. We see the presence of God manifested in the ‘pillar of cloud by day and fire by night (Exodus 13:21). Before Jesus ascended into heaven, he made this promise to his followers: “And surely I am always with you, to the very end of the age (Matthew 28:20). This promise is repeated in the Book of Revelation 21:3 which reads: “Now the dwelling of God is with men, and he will live with them.”

Before Jesus returned to heaven, he told his followers that the third person of the Trinity, the Holy Spirit, would dwell with them: “And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Counselor to be with you forever (John 14:16)”. I may get some strange looks if I am noticed singing “O Come, O Come Immanuel” In the middle of July. But if the word ‘Immanuel’ can be a reminder that God is with me, so be it. Remember that he is always with us and for that we must rejoice not only at Christmas time but at all times.

Peace,
Dr. J



A Case of Mistaken Identity - Missing Wool Blend Camel Color Jacket

If you were in church on February 5th, 2017 you may have mistakenly taken my coat instead of your coat. They do look very similar - you have wonderful taste! However, the coat remaining on the coat rack at church, unlike mine, has a scarf, gloves, and a rain bonnet. If this is your coat and you have mine, please contact me, swap out the coats at the church, or I can pick it up at your convenience.

Jamie Greiner - (412)-601-4275 - jamiagreiner6916@gmail.com

Thank You so much!



WORSHIP PARTICIPANTS FOR DECEMBER

USHERS - Team #3

Linda Montgomery, Captain
Chuck Cline Treva Cline
Don Kingan Don Kingan
Will Kinser Greg Ruff

LITURGISTS

3 Jamie Greiner
10 Pat Helsel
17 Bill Sol
24 Josh Shields
24 Eve Patti Hirst
31 Jim Greiner

WELCOME CENTER GREETERS

3 Kathy/Gene Stroia
10 Betty Sheetz/Betty Thorpe
17 Carolyn Miller/Sarah Smith
24 Dolores Lawrence/Patti Hirst
31 Mike/Jamie Greiner

NORTH & WEST DOORS GREETERS

3 Greg/Marilyn Ruff
10 Aerian/Brianna Starkey
17 Karen /Mark Locke
24 Josh Shields/Michael Shields
31 Larry/Connie Pyers

TELLERS

3 Pat Helsel/Marilyn Ruff
10 Mark Locke/Bruce Helsel
17 Donna Essick/Marilyn Bower
24 Jan Essick/Nancy Prueter
31 Bill Prueter/Jill Greiner

ANNIVERSARIES

27 Lew and Pettie Shields

BIRTHDAYS

4 Jacob Shields
5 *Kristin Sayre*
6 *Emilee Strong*
7 *Midge Mohr*
9 *John Skivolocki*
9 Mark Locke

15 Pettie Shields
19 Bill Sol
22 Carol Woolf
23 Mary Louise Ford
26 Sandra Skivolocki

VISITATION MEMBERS

3 Vivien Reid, 800 S 15th St, #7321, Sebring OH 44672
10 Polly Waggamon, 800 S 15th St, #1822, Sebring OH 44672
17 Myrtle Hanna, 800 S 15th St, #9131, Sebring OH 44672
24 Lois Bush, 1277 S Sawburg Ave #105, Alliance OH 44672



WORSHIP PARTICIPANTS FOR JANUARY 2017

USHERS – Team #4

	Bruce Helsel, Captain	7
Karen Locke	Mark Locke	14
Bill Prueter	Larry Pyers	21
Cheri Rodefer		28

LITURGISTS

Victor Lee
Susan Haddox
Will Kinser
Ellen Sol

WELCOME CENTER GREETERS

7	
14	See Bulletin
21	
28	

NORTH & WEST DOOR GREETERS

7	
14	See Bulletin
21	
28	

TELLERS

7	
14	AVAILABLE MID-DECEMBER
21	
28	

BIRTHDAYS

1	Leann Austin	21	Jennifer Locke
4	Jason Handy	22	Marilyn Young
6	Greg Ruff	23	Jay Marsh
6	Chris Helsel	24	Michael Schafer
8	Andrew Shuster	24	Will Kinser
10	Jenni-Jo Kinser	25	Patti Hirst
14	Ben Shuster	25	David Bodo
16	Brandon Handy	28	Donna Webster
18	David Feess	29	Joan Skidmore
19	Cheri Rodefer	29	Benjamin Kirk
20	Iris Heddleston		

ANNIVERSARIES

7	John and Donna Lane
22	Jerry and Nancy Sandifer
22	Bradley and Diane Thomas

VISITATION MEMBERS

7	Jack Madison, 200 E State St #148, Alliance OH 44601
14	Elvin Madison, 200 E. State St #146, Alliance OH 44601
21	Darlene Howell, 350 S Arch Apt 511, Alliance OH 44601
28	Betty Coleman, 981 W Milton St, Alliance OH 44601



Santa's Workshop

Who: Babies, Toddler, and Children up to 5th Grade of School

Where: Christ United Methodist Church
470 East Broadway St., Alliance



When: Saturday, December 16, 2017

Time: Doors Open at 1:00pm (West Side Parking Lot)
1:00—2:30pm is Santa, Crafts, and Food
2:30—3:00pm is Story Time

Cost: **FREE!!!!**

RSVP: By Friday, December 8, 2017 to the church
Office (330) 823-7136

**Pizza, Fruit, Snacks, and Punch
&
Free Picture with Santa to
take home with you!**

For Unto Us, A Child is Born... (Isaiah 9:6)



ALL CHILDREN MUST BE ACCOMPANIED BY AN ADULT!!!!

CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON

Sunday, December 10
11:30AM In Fellowship Hall

ENJOY

Hot Roast Beef and Rolls
Hot and Cold Sides and Salads
Desserts
Hosted by Friendship II Class



Won't you join us?



CELEBRATE
with
Holiday Music
and
Christmas Carols



Transportation to Copeland Oaks will be available.

What to Bring?: We're only expecting the pleasure of your company

But if you insist, bring a holiday dessert to share.

Wear your favorite Christmas outfit, which might be Santa Hat or an "ugly" sweater

Donations will be accepted to benefit Red Bird Mission



THE CHRISTMAS POINSETTIA ALTAR ARRANGEMENT

As in years past we have beautified our church at Christmas by placing many lovely poinsettias in memory of/or honor of loved ones and friends. In order that you might have another option for your Christmas Memorial, there is the World Service Fund, to which you may prefer to give, in lieu of a poinsettia. Orders for poinsettias to be placed in the church for Christmas must be in by December 17, 2017. The price of the poinsettias this year will be \$9.00 each. Orders may be placed in the offering plates or sent to the church office. No orders will be taken after December 17. ALL ORDERS MUST BE ACCOMPANIED WITH THE MONEY AND ORDER FORM. Donors' names and those to be honored or memorialized will be listed in the Christmas Bulletin, December 24.

MY NAME _____

I WOULD LIKE TO ORDER A POINSETTIA FOR THE ALTAR AND TAKE IT AFTER THE CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE, DECEMBER 24.

IN LIEU OF A POINSETTIA I WOULD LIKE TO DONATE TO THE WORLD SERVICE FUND.

This poinsettia or Donation is **IN MEMORY OF** (please print names)

or **IN HONOR OF** (please print names)

AMOUNT INCLUDED \$ _____



We will have the gift tree in the lounge from the Salvation Army. Please take a name and have the gifts to the church by Monday, Dec. 11th. Thank you.

December



2017

***Sunday** Worship & Program
 9:00 A.M. Sunday School
 10:15 A.M. Worship Service
 10:45 A.M. Cherub & Wesley Choirs
 5:00 P.M. Youth Choirs
 6:00 P.M. UMYF Snack Supper
 6:30 P.M. **UM** Youth Fellowship

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 cwu 1:00p at First Baptist Church	2 9am Hard Tack UMYF
3 1 st Sunday of Advent *See Sunday Schedule Holy Communion Sunday 5P CRC Visitation	4 7p. Scouts	5 12:00 Prayer in Chapel 5:30p Community Dinner 7p. UMW Unit Mtg	6 4p Staff Meeting 5:3p. Halleluia Bells 6:30p. Chancel Bells 7:30p. Chancel Choir	7 6:30 Cooking for the Soul Cookies	8 7p Susie Buckel Circle	9
10 2 nd Sunday of Advent *See Sunday Schedule 11:30 am Christmas Luncheon	11 7p. Scouts	12 12:00 Prayer in Chapel 5:30p Community Dinner 6:30 SPRC 6:30 Prayer Shawl	13 4p Music Meeting 5:3p. Halleluia Bells 6:30p. Chancel Bells 7:30p. Chancel Choir	14	15	16 1p Santa's Workshop
17 3 rd Sunday of Advent *See Sunday Schedule 5P CRC Visitation	18 12:30p. Dorcas Cir. 7p. M & M Circle 7p Scouts	19 12:00 Prayer in Chapel 5:30p Community Dinner 7p. May Smyth Circle	20 4p Music Meeting 5:3p. Halleluia Bells 6:30p. Chancel Bells 7:30p. Chancel Choir	21	22	23
24 4 th Sunday of Advent Christmas Eve 9:00 am Sunday School 10:15 am Worship Service 7:00 pm Candlelight Christmas Eve Service	25 Merry Christmas 	26 5:30p Community Dinner	27 NO CHOIRS	28	29	30
31 9:00 am Sunday School 10:15am Worship Service						

January

2018

***Sunday** Worship & Program Opportunities
 9:00 A.M. Sunday School
 10:15 A.M. Worship Service
 5:00 P.M. Youth Choirs
 6:00 P.M. UMYF Snack Supper
 6:30 P.M. United Methodist Youth Fellowship

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 <i>New Year's Day</i> 	2 12p Prayer in Chapel 5:30 Community Dinner	3 4 p Staff Meeting 5:3p. Halleluia Bells 6:30p. Chancel Bells 7:30p. Chancel Choir	4	5 1pm Church Women United	6
7 <i>Epiphany Sunday</i> *See Sunday Schedule	8 6:30 Christian Ed 7p. Boy Scouts 7p. Christian Outreach	9 12p Prayer in Chapel 5:30 Community Dinner 6:30p. Finance Comm. 7p. Admin Council	10 5:30p. Halleluia Bells 6:30p. Chancel Bells 7:30p. Chancel Choir	11	12	13
14 <i>2nd Sunday after the Epiphany</i> *See Sunday Schedule 5p. CRC Visitations	15 7p. Boy Scouts 12:15 DorcasCircle	16 12p Prayer in Chapel 5:30 Community Dinner 7p Susie Buckel	17 1:30p. Congregational Care Com. 5:30p. Halleluia Bells 6:30p. Chancel Bells 7:30p. Chancel Choir	18	19	20
21 <i>3rd Sunday after the Epiphany Food Pantry Sunday</i> *See Sunday Schedule	22 7p. Boy Scouts	23 12p Prayer in Chapel 5:30 Community Dinner 6:30p. Bd. of Trustees 7p. Worship Com.	24 5:30p. Halleluia Bells 6:30p. Chancel Bells 7:30p. Chancel Choir	25	26	27
28 <i>4th Sunday after the Epiphany</i> *See Sunday Schedule 5p. CRC Visitations	29 7p. Boy Scouts 7p UMW Exec. Board Mtg.	30 12p Prayer in Chapel 5:30 Community Dinner	31 5:30p. Halleluia Bells 6:30p. Chancel Bells 7:30p. Chancel Choir			



From all your Friends at
Christ United Methodist Church

Dolores Lawrence
 Bill & Nancy Prueter
 The Cline Family: Chuck & Treva, Travis & Lauren & Kate
 Peg & Cheri Rodefer
 Susan Walsh + Victoria
 Robert and Carolyn Wallace
 Love & God Bless Jim Barabauer
 Julie Greiner
 Andy & Cindy Magala
 Pam & Stephanie Law & family
 Larry & Connie Pappas

Barney & Dorothy
 Mary Jo

BE NEAR ME, LORD JESUS, I ASK THEE TO STAY
 CLOSE BY ME FOREVER, AND LOVE ME, I PRAY;
 BLESS ALL THE DEAR CHILDREN IN THY TENDER CARE,
 AND FIT US FOR HEAVEN TO LIVE WITH THEE THERE.

Leslie & Dave Austin
 Bobbie Wright
 Paul Cople
 Mike & Jamie Hainers
 Dee Lepp
 Cheryl Pollock & Faith
 Donna, Jan & Amy Essick
 Frank Woolf
 Keith B. Hollis
 Mark & Karen Locke
 Dick & Susan Diser
 Jane Helwig
 Lew & Pattie Shields
 Peg & Jim Williams
 Jean & Boyd
 Jim & Jill Haines
 Dave & Ruth Eva Williams
 Bill & Ellen Lipp
 Susan Swart
 Bruce Pat Helze
 Jim & Phil Haines
 Sue Shum
 Mark Shefer
 Paul Black
 HE BECAME POOR
 THAT WE MAY BE RICH!
 WARM CHRISTMAS LOVE!

Proceeds from this greeting benefit the
world's needy through World Service

