



OHIO UNITED

Presbyterian Church

December 10 through December 16, 2023



Dear Friends in Faith,

As I place fingers to keyboard and glance at the calendar I realize that Christmas is just 20 days away. When you receive this little note it will be even less. How can that be? We've only just begun Advent.

It seemed a bit strained last Friday evening, as I attended the Pittsburgh Concert Chorale's Christmas concert, to hear Silent Night and Hark the Herald Angels sing. To ponder that celebration of our Savior's birth when we were just leaning towards lighting the first Advent Candle. Now it has been lit, but the days are waning all too rapidly.

So how are you doing with taking time to go to one of your thin places in the fullness of these days? Taking time to rest in God's grace and the holiness of your sacred space? Not so great...yup...well, me neither. But that's okay...we can still lean into and on God's grace. Grace is the hope and the peace of these first two weeks of Advent. This Sunday we'll be lighting the peace candle.

In Luke's gospel we hear the story of John the Baptist's birth as precursor to Jesus'. An unexpected happiness for Zechariah and Elizabeth in their old age. Hope realized in a family as it brought peace to two hearts. Grace to live with each other as Zechariah's speech disappears for the season of waiting and expectation for their child's birth. After the baby's birth, on the eighth day, they went to the temple for his circumcision and naming. There, both expressed the desire that he be named 'John,' meaning God is gracious.

We won't get an opportunity to go exploring this story in our Advent season together this year so I invite you to read Luke 1:5-24 & 57-80. Sit with this story and contemplate the way the narrative weaves seamlessly together with the birth of Jesus. Perhaps ask, how did hope and peace touch this family? How are hope and peace touching our family?

I hope to see each of you in worship in the days ahead.

with peace, pastor bob





“Straight Outta Bethlehem” will be presented by the children of Ohio UPC this Sunday, December 10, at 10AM in the sanctuary. The Deacons invite everyone to the Fellowship Hall for refreshments and conversation following worship.

The Cantata, **“We Call It Christmas Because of Jesus,”** will be presented on Sunday, December 17. As music speaks to all ages, there will not be a children’s Sunday school hour.

Sunday, December 24 will feature two worship opportunities. At 10:00AM we will light the fourth Advent Candle and worship with eyes peering toward Jesus’ arrival, just around the corner. Everyone is encouraged to wear a favorite Christmas sweater or, perhaps, your Christmas pj’s. At our 6:00PM service we will light the Christ Candle as we worship with Carols & Candlelight. Both worship services will be ‘child friendly.’ Come to one or both as your hearts and life schedules lead.

On **December 31, the Seventh Day of Christmas**, we will enjoy scripture, stories and Christmas carols in a light and joy filled worship time.

Children’s Sunday School will not meet from December 10-31. Classes will resume on January 7, 2024!

Spread some Christmas cheer using our **Christmas Card Mailbox** in the Narthex! Please "mail" your cards according to the recipient's last name. Also, please try to limit your cards to people who regularly attend church services.



Worship

- Choir rehearsal is on Thursday, December 14 at 7pm and Cantata rehearsal is at 8pm
- Cantata dress rehearsal is on Saturday, December 16

Congregational Care

- Adult Sunday School from 9am to 9:45am
- There will not be Children's Sunday School from December 10 to December 31. Classes will resume January 7, 2024!
- Story Time on Wednesday December 13 at 10am

Missions

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Operations

- Year to date (end of November)
Expenditures \$199,559 Received \$167,239
Per Capita expense \$10,023
Received YTD \$2,280
- 98 in worship on December 3
- Property meeting on Monday, December 11 at 6:30

Light into Darkness

As the war in Ukraine enters its second year, the need for humanitarian aid remains acute. Thanks to the efforts of local organizers and world-class musicians a Benefit Concert for Ukraine will be offered on Sunday, December 10, beginning at 5pm at Park Presbyterian Church, 275 Commerce St., in Beaver. The concert is the third in a series of fund-raising events to feature Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra musicians as well as outstanding local artists, many of whom have family and friends still living in Ukraine.



December

2023

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Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
Wyatt Moreno Baptism Congregational meeting 3 Gingerbread House decorating Youth Group	4	Women's Holiday Dinner 6pm 5 Choir 7pm Cantata 8pm	Big Band rehearsal 7pm 6 Story Time 10am	Big Band Concert 7pm 7	8	9 Jacob's angels
Children's 10 program Youth Group Christmas Party	11 Property Meeting 6:30pm	12 Deacons 6:30pm	13 Story Time 10am	14 Choir 7pm Cantata 8pm	15	16 Cantata dress rehearsal
Cantata 17 Youth Group Christmas Caroling	18	19	20	21 Choir 7pm	22	23
24 10am service 6pm service No Sunday Sch.	25	26	27	28	29	30
No Sunday Sch. 31						



DECEMBER

Birthdays & Anniversaries

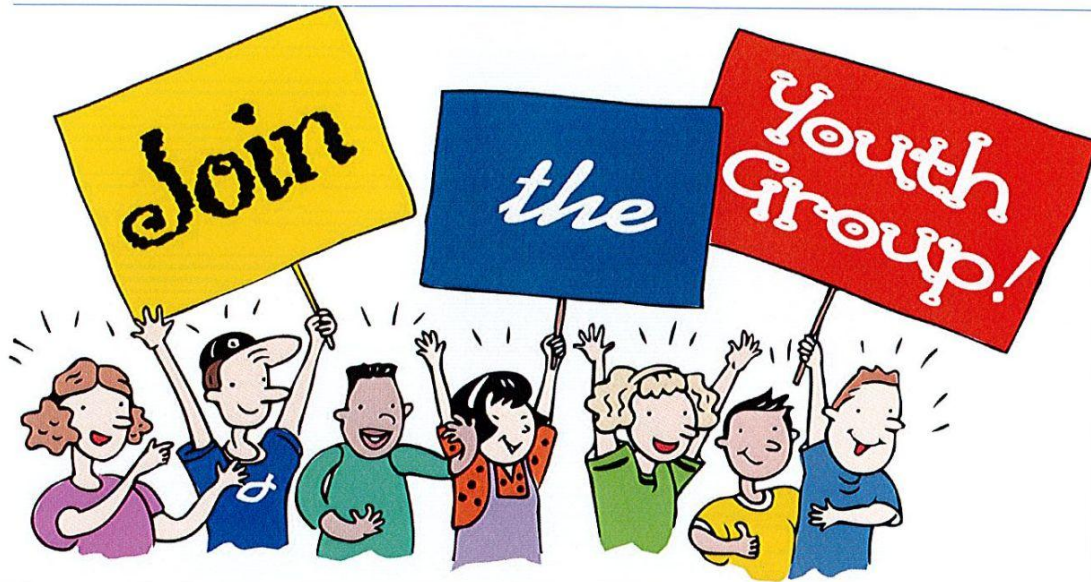
<u>Anniversaries</u>	<u>Birthdays</u>	<u>Birthdays</u>	<u>Birthdays</u>
Holly & William Diccio 12/18	MacKenzie Petrella 12/01	Sherri Murdoch 12/09	Kenneth Strominger 12/20
Marsha & Mark Douglass 12/21	Whitney Shaffer 12/03	Roberta Smith 12/10	Kathy Fouse 12/21
Cherryl & Zbig Lachowicz 12/27	Shane McLinden 12/05	Dale Fouse 12/13	Kathy Lee Tolfa 12/25
Russell & Wendy Dameron 12/28	Lynn Smith 12/06	Joe Glatz 12/13	Mark Douglass 12/27
Jason & Gina Arzberger 12/30	Chandler Dameron 12/07	Betty Martin 12/17	Daniel Palmer 12/29
	Russell Dameron 12/07	Joel Mitchell 12/18	Andrew Arzberger 12/30
	Wendy Dameron 12/07	Mark Muslin 12/18	
	Nancy Connell 12/09	Kristine Dameron 12/20	

*Take delight in the Lord, and he will give you the desires of your heart.
Commit your way to the Lord; trust in him and he will do this:*

Psalms 37:4-5



- Evelyn Lawson–Ed will be staying where he is for now. Still looking for a Memory Care Facility
- Prayers for Advent
- Jen Davis–Thanks for friends at High School Concert. Thanks for church family prayers for brother Jeff who was in church
- Lynn Smith–Prayers for the kids in musical
- Taffy Capton–Prayers of comfort for friend who lost her mom on Sunday.
- Bonnie Martin–Joy for family visiting
- Diane Gennaro– Saw Shirley who sends her love to all
- Dave Kocher–His sister, Barb, is having knee replacement surgery. Prayers for healing.
- Christina Palmer–Joy for so many kids at Wednesday Library Program
- Please pray for Jack Gennaro. He was admitted to Sewickley Hospital on Tuesday. They are running tests and he has seen one oncologist. He is seeing another one on Wednesday. Diverticulitis is being discussed but his white blood cell count is very low.



November 5 – 6-7:30 Meeting at the Manse

November 12 – Peggy is away

November 19 – 6-7:30 Meeting at the Manse

November 26 – 6-7:30 Meeting at the Manse

December 3 – 11:00 Gingerbread House

Decorating Fellowship Hall – See attachment

December 10 – 6-7:30 Youth Group Christmas Party

December 17 – 6-7:30 Youth Group Christmas Caroling

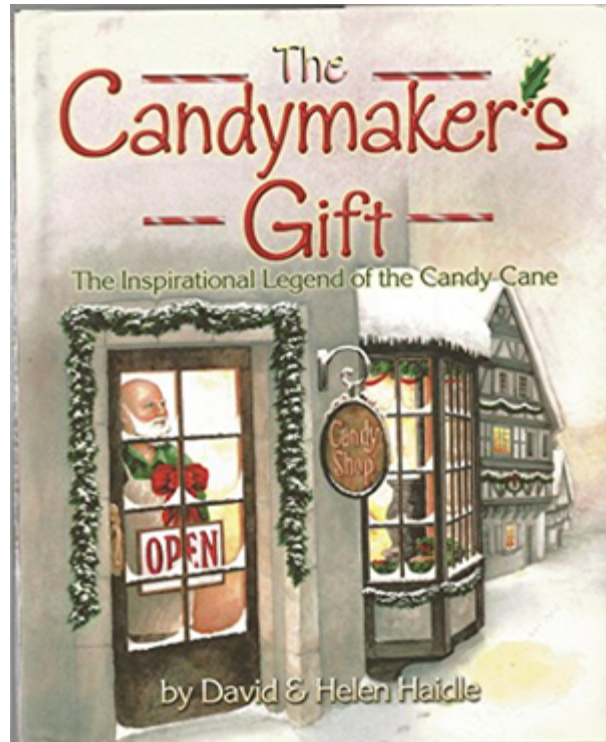
Need at least 2 helpers at Youth Group

No Youth Group December 24 and 31

Garden of Knowledge Library

As we expand our library, we have created an Amazon wish list that you may purchase books for our library. The books range in age from newborn to young adult. Here is a link to our wish list:

https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/11KT1O8IDN6AG/ref=nav_wishlist_lists_2



The Candymaker's Gift by David & Helen Haidle (authors)

The Legend of the Candy Cane, once upon a time a candymaker set out to create a special Christmas treat for children everywhere-a treat that would tell the story of Jesus. With simple text and delightful illustrations, this insightful holiday book will be a treat for the whole family. The legend of the candy cane wonderfully proclaims the "best gift of Christmas!".

Recommended for ages 6-8.



The Littlest Watchman by Scott James (author)

Benjamin is a Watchman. It's his job to watch for the sign that all God's promises are coming true. It's his job to watch a stump. Trouble is, it's hard just waiting. And one night, Benjamin finally gives in and stops watching. But that same night, as he sits outside Bethlehem, he gets to watch something wonderful. Kids will be gripped by what Benjamin saw, and will be excited by the Christmas story all over again.

Recommended for ages 4-13.

After a complete inventory of our Garden of Knowledge Library, we are missing some books, many were checked out prior to the pandemic. Please check your children's books at home and see if you have any from our library. You can return them to Christina Palmer. Thank you!