



OHIO UNITED

Presbyterian Church

January 7 through January 13, 2024



Dear Friends in Faith,

It's a full week—Happy New Year...Epiphany...Orthodox Christmas...Baptism of the Lord. Much to celebrate, which way to turn? In these final days of Christmastide you may be enjoying a good book by the fireside with your Christmas lights on, or you may be simply 'finished with it all.' We have friends who pack Christmas away on the 26th and others who wait until our Orthodox friends have had their celebration. We are of the later sort.

The tradition grew in us when early in ministry our clergy circle in Homer City included a priest from the Orthodox tradition. He invited us to join them for Christmas worship so, having nothing on the calendar on January 7, a United Methodist friend and I accepted. I don't recall many details from the night but what stuck was a broadening of my horizons...a deepening of understanding that there are many unique ways Christ followers have come to understand and live out our faith. With incense or without, with two sacraments or seven, this calendar or that, it's not right and wrong...it's variety.



Thankfully we no longer kill our sisters and brothers over faith issues as was done in some times and places in our history. But, we still draw lines, throw barbs, look askance, even belittle...we persecute. In spite of our sometimes quirkiness, our sometimes deeper differences, there is an eternal truth—we are each treasured by God.

I guess what I'm trying to say is this: whether your Advent candles are still being lit or are all packed away matters not one iota. For each and every day we are privileged to lean into the love of God in Jesus our Lord. Each and every moment of each and every day...that's something to celebrate!

with joy in our journey,

pastor bob



Worship

- Training for newly elected deacons will be on Sunday, January 14 at 9am in the library
- Communion is on Sunday, January 14
- Ordination and Installation of deacons and elders is on Sunday, January 14

Congregational Care

- Dedecorating the church will be this Sunday, January 7 following worship
- No Adult Sunday School. It resumes on Sunday, January 21
- Children's Sunday School has resumed for children 3 yrs. old – 6th grade
- Story Time is back at 10am on Wednesdays.
- Deborah Circle Bible Study is on Monday, January 15 at 6:30pm

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
- 55 in worship on December 31
- Property Meeting on Monday, January 15 at 6:30pm





JANUARY

Birthdays

<u>Birthdays</u>	<u>Birthdays</u>	<u>Birthdays</u>	<u>Birthdays</u>
Jerri Lech 1/06	Camden Hoth 1/17	Simon Hunsberger 1/22	Everitt Laird Jr. 1/25
Paul Hurni 1/10	Michelle Sebastian 1/18	Rich Kerlin 1/22	Jonathan Lech 1/31
Bob Keller 1/12	Brian Archer 1/19	David Kocher 1/22	Robert Nan 1/31
Eric Nan 1/12	Belinda Nolte 1/20	Jacob Cagnon 1/23	
Sara Allen 1/16	Kevin Smith 1/21	Megan Hunsberger 1/25	

The LORD your God is with you, the Mighty Warrior who saves. He will take great delight in you; in his love he will no longer rebuke you, but rejoice over you with singing.

Zephaniah 3:17



January 7 – 6-7:30 Meeting at the Manse

January 14 – 6-7:30 Meeting at the Manse

January 21 – 6-7:30 Meeting at the Manse

January 28 – 6-7:30 Meeting at the Manse

**Need at least 1 helper at Youth Group please
volunteer!!**