



December 8 Through December 14, 2024

Beloveds,

On December 6th, 2018, I learned that I was pregnant with Miguel. I had felt a little off in Greek class, but did not expect a positive test. And yet, there it was. I almost couldn't believe my eyes when two little pink lines appeared.

In the midst of our final year of seminary, while we were discerning where Felix might continue his graduate education, we had a whole other life to consider. A baby changes everything.

Expecting Miguel during advent made this pastor (then seminarian) incredibly reflective about Mary's heart and mind as she agreed to be the mother of God, as she then birthed her child in less than perfect conditions. I doubt hay and a manger were in Mary's birth plan.

Miguel has been a joy since he arrived in August of 2019. We had him baptized later that month, leaving later that evening to arrive in the Saint Louis area where we lived until just this past August.

And many of you know Emilio turned two on December 2nd. I returned to the church only once during my maternity leave, and that was so that our family could play the Holy Family, with Emilio starring as baby Jesus and Miguel as the donkey.

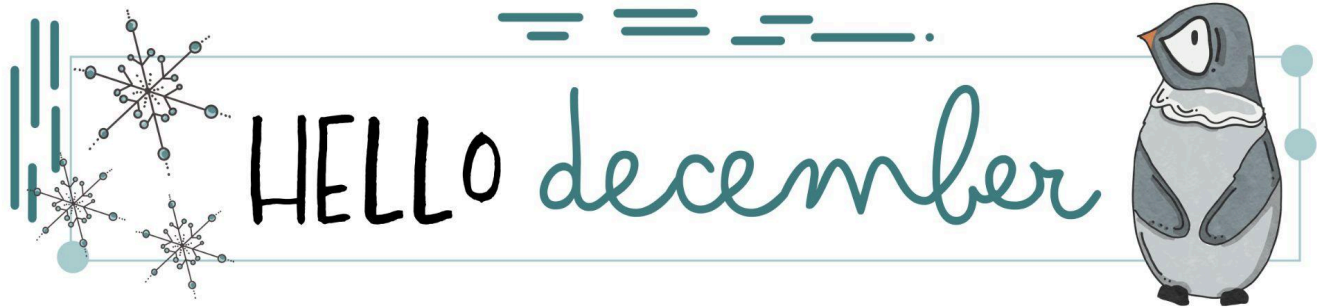
Having a child just before the second Sunday of advent made this pastor incredibly reflective about Mary's heart and mind during the minutes and hours of labor, about the minutes and hours and days and months and years to come that she imagined for her beloved little child.

Now, as I sit at the dining room table while my five year old jumps on the couch in excitement and my two year old builds train tracks on the very same table I sit at to write, I wonder at the laughter, exhaustion, tears, frustration, eye rolls, wonder, and joy that Mary experienced as the mother of God. We know Jesus had at least one brother, James - and I wonder, how far apart were they in age?

Was toddler Jesus running about learning how to be a human, getting into all sorts of mischief with the ample curiosity and lack of impulse control that accompanies all who are new to this world?

As we encounter children, adults, and this busy, wild time that is the holiday season, may you find the laughter in the midst of exhaustion, the joy in the midst of the eye rolls, and the wonder in the midst of the tears. May you wish good tidings to those around you, knowing that a baby has changed everything for the better in this world, and even in the midst of sorrow, we can find moments of hope, peace, joy, and love because God came down so that we might have everlasting life.

Grace & Peace,
Pastor Kalyn



Worship
• We gather for worship Sundays at 10am • 91 on worship on December 1 • Cantata rehearsal is on Monday, December 9 at 8pm and Saturday, December 14 at noon • Hand Bells next rehearsal is December 9 at 7pm for the December 15 performance of “ Away in a Manger”
Congregational Care
• STORY TIME ON WEDNESDAY,DECEMBER 11 AT 9:30 OR 10:30 • Hopewell Big Band Concert is on December 12 at 7pm • SAVE THE DATE-COOKIE BAZAAR IS ON SATURDAY, DECEMBER 14 from 9am-11am. IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO BAKE OR HELP WITH THE BAZAAR CONTACT PATTI STOMINGER. ALL PROCEEDS WILL GO TOWARDS THE PARKING LOT REPLACEMENT PROJECT.
Missions
Operations
• November YTD Expenses-\$196,479 & YTD Receipts-\$183,846 • Per capita Expenses YTD – \$8,840 & Per Capita Receipts YTD-\$2,550

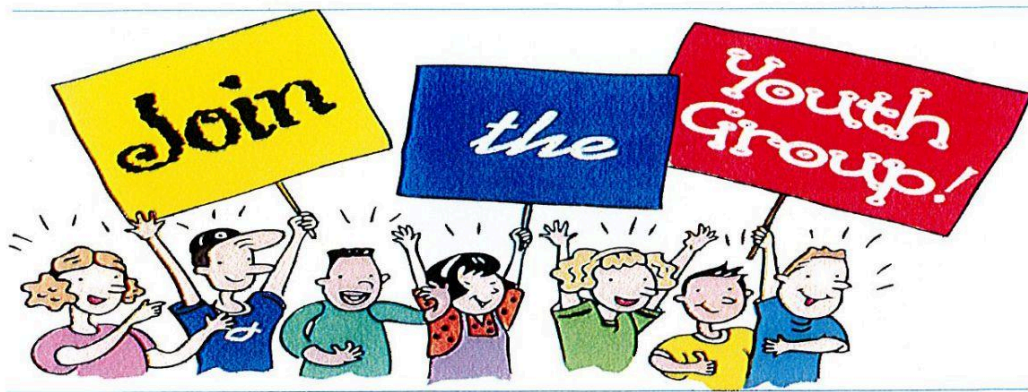
The Ohio UP Church Christmas Card Mailbox is in the Narthex ready to be filled with your Christmas Greetings. If you wish to send cards to fellow church members who attend worship regularly, please feel free to bring your cards and put them in the slots that are in alphabetical order. While spreading good cheer, you will be saving money on postage stamps. Perhaps you might consider making an extra donation to the church for upcoming projects like repaving the parking lot. Remember to check your slot to see if you have any mail during the month of December.



<u>Anniversaries</u>	<u>Birthdays</u>	<u>Birthdays</u>	<u>Birthdays</u>
Joe & Dana Gavita 12/4	MacKenzie Petrella 12/01	Sherri Murdoch 12/09	Richard Young 12/20
Holly & William Diccio 12/18	Whitney Shaffer 12/03	Dale Fouse 12/13	Kathy Fouse 12/21
Marsha & Mark Douglass 12/21	Shane McLinden 12/05	Joe Glatz 12/13	Kathy Lee Tolfa 12/25
Cherryl & Zbig Lachowicz 12/27	Lynn Smith 12/06	Betty Martin 12/17	Mark Douglass 12/27
Russell & Wendy Dameron 12/28	Chandler Dameron 12/07	Joel Mitchell 12/18	Daniel Palmer 12/29
Jason & Gina Arzberger 12/30	Russell Dameron 12/07	Mark Muslin 12/18	Andrew Arzberger 12/30
	Wendy Dameron 12/07	Kristine Dameron 12/20	
	Nancy Connell 12/09	Kenneth Strominger 12/20	

Musical Rehearsals





November 18 – Youth Group 7:00 – 8:30

November 23 – Hopewell “Beauty and the Beast”
either 2:00 or 7:00

November 24 - 7:00 - 8:30 (**Sunday**)

December 2 – 5:30 – 7:30 We will be traveling to Elder
Care where we will pass out presents and sing carols. Church Van
leaves at 5:30. Families Welcome

December 9 – Youth Group 7:00 – 8:30

December 14 – Church Cookie Bazaar – Help
with setup, clean up, etc. 9:00

December 15 – Jacobs Angels – Help wrap gifts for
kids in need. Arrive 9:30 lunch incl.

December 16 – Youth Group 7:00 – 8:30

CHRISTMAS PARTY

Happy Holidays No YG Till January 6, 2025

December 9 Meeting is changed to December 10



- Pastor Kalyn—Prayers for Felix. He has had a bad cold.
- Lynn Smith—Prayers for the kids in the musical to stay healthy for their program this Sunday.
- Marsha Douglass— Prayers for Missy Sardo who is under the weather
- Mark Mitchell—Prayers for brother who is in the hospital with blood clots in his leg

ATTENTION

Church members may purchase gift cards for the McCowin family while baby Eva remains in the hospital for the next several weeks. Gas cards and restaurant cards will be greatly appreciated. They can be given to Bonnie, Rayna, or Alli to be delivered each week.