



December 15 Through December 21, 2024

Beloved,

I have had the privilege of sharing home communion with several of our members who are homebound. It has been a joy to hear how the rest of our community has surrounded these lovely people, sharing in the work of community, the work of relationship, going the extra mile (really, most have only been that far away!). It has not surprised me in the least that each deacon who has accompanied me has a deep relationship and connection with the people we visit.

Right relationship, loving connections are a joy to witness. On the third Sunday of Advent, we light the PINK candle in the wreath. That pink candle is for JOY.

The third Sunday of Advent, in some higher churches (like Catholicism or Episcopalianism) is often called Gaudate Sunday, meaning "rejoice." It is a time when we are called to rejoice in anticipation of God doing a new thing among us. We are called to rejoice at the anticipation of that in-breaking, the moment of Jesus's birth when Mary gave birth to Emmanuel, which means "God with us."

While the Scripture for the day (Luke 3:7-18) focuses on John the Baptist (Jesus's second cousin) and all the many things John calls us to remember we must do as followers of the Lord who is coming to make all things new - repentance and caring for those who have none when we have extra - the expectation is that those who would have heard John's proclamation would rejoice, hoping in the coming of the Anointed One who would bring about justice, peace, and redemption to a world that has gone far from what God intended for God's beloved.

And remember, it wasn't good news for everyone - we find right after this passage that Herod was unhappy with these proclamations - Herod, who stood to lose a lot of power if this Lord (another word for king, anointed one, etc) did come into power. Herod eventually imprisoned and beheaded John the Baptist for calling people to repent, to feed the hungry, to clothe the naked, and declaring that there is a new power, a new person whose lead must be followed.

Let us remember that Christ reaffirmed God's intent for the Kingdom and that Christ also called out the abuses of power, the oppression of the vulnerable, and the brokenness of our relationships - calling us to repentance, to a life of hope, a life sustained not by worldly matters but in Christ alone, who comes not strong and powerful saying what everyone wants to hear, but humbly, speaking in favor of those who do not hold power, choosing to associate with sex workers, tax collectors, and those who were seen as less than savory by the priests and royalty of his time.

May we welcome, serve, and love those who are abused, loving God through the work of loving our neighbors so that they too may come to understand the hope, peace, joy, and love that comes from the promised arrival of our King.

Grace & Peace,
Pastor Kalyn



Worship
• We gather for worship Sundays at 10am • 185 on worship on December 8 • Choir rehearsal is on Thursday, December 19 • Bells will be performing on December 15 • Cantata is on December 15 • Christmas Eve service is at 6pm
Congregational Care
• STORY TIME ON WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 18 AT 9:30 OR 10:30
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.



- Kenny Jones–Lenny Laird got a new pacemaker on Monday.
- Missy Sardo–Mom fell and injured her ankle and she also has severe sciatica. She will be going into rehab. Prayers of healing and that she makes it through rehab.
- Karen Keller–Joy to be back at church after her hip replacement surgery.
- Simon Hunsberger–He is thankful for all the support while having baby Grace
- Jeff Davis–Thankful for folks coming to Holly Jolly concert on Saturday and the opportunity to play with wonderful musicians.
- Lynn Smith–Prayers for students at Mercyhurst and Penn State Behrend. They got a lot of snow.
- Wendi Rybicki–Eva Sue is gaining weight and doing well
- Diane Gennaro–Jack’s chemo medication is attacking his liver. Will be changing meds.
- Christina Palmer–Joy to see Sallie Alviani and children in church on Sunday
- Pastor Kalyn–Joy for kids and families

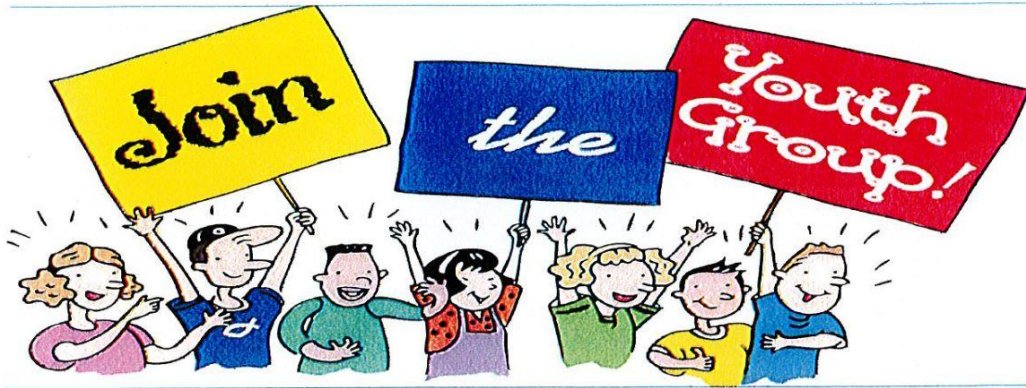
ATTENTION

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.



<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	





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

