



November 23 through November 29, 2025



Dear Friends in Christ,

“Forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors” (Matthew 6:12).

First and foremost, I would like to extend my heartfelt thanks to everyone who helped with the recent Presbytery meeting. These meetings always mean lots of work and effort, and because of many folks contributing, things went great! I am very proud and honored to serve as your pastor, and because things went so smoothly, I continue to be proud of you all. The Body of Christ called Ohio UP Church proved it is a great church. Again, my thanks to you all for making me proud.

And now to my message: this past Sunday, I delivered the first of two sermons on forgiveness. It covered Joseph and his journey to and time in Egypt, particularly during the famine. We learned about the arrival of his brothers and Joseph’s generous act of forgiveness to them, despite what they had done over two decades earlier. If you haven’t done so, I encourage you to read Genesis 37 (skip chapter 38) and chapters 39-45.

For this Sunday, finish Genesis (46-50), covering Jacob’s (Joseph’s father) time in Egypt. The account continues, and offers several more points about forgiveness. Again, I am drawing on a book discovered several years ago: Total Forgiveness: When Everything in You Wants to Hold a Grudge, Point a Finger, and Remember the Pain – God Wants You to Lay it All Aside, by R.T. Kendall (Charisma House, Lake Mary, Florida, 2007). Dr. Kendall is a well-known evangelist who was the pastor at Westminster Chapel in London for twenty-five years.

In his book, Dr. Kendall relates what social scientists say about three types of forgiveness:

- 1. Detached forgiveness – a reduction in negative feelings toward the offender, but no reconciliation takes place***

- 2. Limited forgiveness – there is a reduction in negative feelings toward the offender, and the relationship is partially restored, though there is a decrease in the emotional intensity of the relationship**
- 3. Full forgiveness – there is a total cessation negative feelings toward the offender, and the relationship is fully restored**

Dr. Kendall goes further than the scientists – he offers a definition of Total Forgiveness, based upon the work of Christ: “The ultimate proof of total forgiveness takes place when we sincerely petition the Father to let those who have hurt us off the hook – regardless of who they have hurt.” Further, he tells us that to totally forgive, we must pray that those who have offended us receive God’s blessings!

When we ask God to forgive us, God blesses and prospers us. Do we do the same when we forgive others?

Think about this:

- As Christians, we receive a multitude of blessings – that’s what being a Christian is all about, right?**
- However, have you ever considered that the reason YOU might be receiving blessings is because someone YOU harmed has forgiven YOU, and has prayed that YOU would receive blessings?**

WOW! I must say, when I read this for the first time, I was stopped dead in my tracks! Someone who I HARMED had forgiven me, and was praying for blessings to come to ME!

Think and pray about this, and come hear about Jacob on Sunday.

In Christ,

Pastor Jim





Worship
• Sunday School for children 3yr.-6th grade is during worship after the children’s chat • Adult Sunday School is at 9am • 83 were in church on Sunday, November 16 • Communion is on Sunday, November 30
Congregational Care
• Story Time continues on Wednesdays at 9:30 or 10:30am • Currently taking orders for College Care Packages. Last day to order is November 30. See bulletin insert for more information and to sign up • On Sunday, November 23 we will be Hanging the Greens following worship. Please plan on staying to help • No Story Time on Wednesday, November 26. • December 2 @6pm Women’s Holiday Dinner at Vesivio’s Restaurant • December 13–Cookie Bazaar • December 11–Big Band Concert @7pm • December 14–Chilren’s Program • December 21–Cantata • December 24–Christmas Eve Service @7pm with communion
Mission
Operations
Property meeting on December 1 at 6:30pm Finance Committee meeting on December 1

On December 1 Women’s Association will visit Beaver Healthcare and Rehabilitation for Christmas Carols and Bingo

The Women’s Association will be holding their year-end holiday dinner at Vesusio’s Restaurant in Monaca on December 2 at 6pm. Please RSVP to Corinna Petrella at 724-622-5312 by November 30.

The Wish Tree is up at the front of the Sanctuary. Please consider taking a tag to help a local child have a blessed Christmas. Please return unwrapped gifts with the tag attached by December 7.

Poinsettia order forms are in your bulletins. Last day to order is December 7.



NOVEMBER

Birthdays and Anniversaries

Anniversaries	Birthdays	Birthdays
Rich & Christina Palmer 11/14	Dorothy Elko 11/11	Amy Muslin 11/23
Eric & Kristen Nan 11/20	Casey Atwell 11/14	Sarah Jane Shaffer 11/24
Marcy & Edward Zombeck 11/24	Beverly Abate 11/19	Morgan Lewis 11/26
	Trudy Boggs 11/21	Cherryl Lachowicz 11/30
	Barbara Corsi 11/22	



DECEMBER

Birthdays and Anniversaries

Anniversaries	Birthdays	Birthdays	Birthdays
Joe & Dana Gavita 12/04	MacKenzie Petrella 12/01	Joe Glatz 12/13	Richard Young 12/20
Holly & William Diccico 12/18	Shane McLynden 12/05	Betty Martin 12/17	Kathy Fouse 12/21
Mark & Marsha Douglass 12/21	Lynn Smith 12/06	Joel Mitchell 12/18	Kathy Lee Tolfa 12/25
Cherryl & Zbig Lachowicz 12/30	Sherri Murdoch 12/09	Mark Muslin 12/18	Mark Douglass 12/27
	Dale Fouse 12/13	Ken Strominger 12/20	

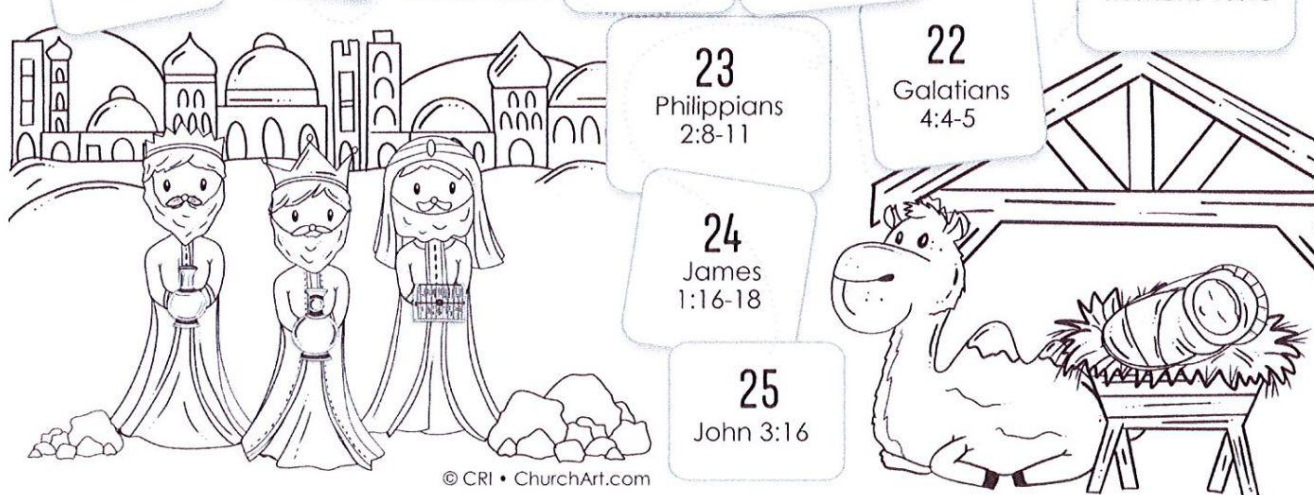


- Jen Davis—Sister, Chris, finished radiation and she rang the bell! Next is putting her pacemaker back in, then hip replacement.
- Kathy Fouse—Lauren's daughter came home from the NICU. Thank you for your prayers.
- Pastor Jim—Pastor Tom McMechan had double-bypass surgery. Will be home this week
- Christina Palmer—Danny's girlfriend, Nikki, got a teaching job!
- Corinna Petrella—Father had hip replacement surgery on Monday. Prayers for healing
- Wendi Rybicki—Sold home to Stephanie Strominger—Well Wishes!
- Diane Gennaro—Jack's heart catheterization went well; next step is a pacemaker
- Betty Solinski—Friend, Jane Gregory, passed this week
- John Martin—Bonnie is doing well. Numbers are going up where doctors want them to be. She was discharged from hospital Wednesday evening to continue her recovery at home.
- Dawn Psik—Sister, Susan, had 5th round of chemo on Monday
- Catherine Kapton—Pray for healing for both brothers, Bill and Joe, They are recovering from surgery.

A CHRIST-CENTERED CHRISTMAS ADVENT READING PLAN

Explore the true meaning of Christmas as you travel through God's Word. Discover God's promises he fulfilled through the birth of His only Son, the **KING OF KINGS.**





1 Isaiah 7:14

2 Isaiah 9:6-7

3 Malachi 3:1

4 Micah 5:2-4

5 Luke 1:5-7

6 Luke 1:10-15

7 Luke 1:18-22

8 Luke 1:24-25

9 Luke 1:26-29

10 Luke 1:30-33

11 Luke 2:1-5

12 Luke 2:6-7

13 Luke 2:8-14

14 Luke 2:15-20

15 Matthew 1:18-21

16 Matthew 1:22-25

17 Matthew 2:1-3

18 Matthew 2:4-6

19 Matthew 2:7-9

20 Matthew 2:10-12

21 Romans 15:13

22 Galatians 4:4-5

23 Philippians 2:8-11

24 James 1:16-18

25 John 3:16

© CRI • ChurchArt.com