



December 7 through December 13, 2025

Dear Friends in Christ,

Sing the praises of the Lord, you his faithful people, praise His holy name (Psalm 30:4).

As many of you know, the Book of Psalms is a actually collection of songs for worship. The Book was essentially Israel's ancient hymnal, with the word "psalm" itself meaning "song." Psalms were written to be sung or chanted in worship, expressing deep emotions and prayers, and they continue to be used in religious services today. Thousands of songs, hymns, chants, or chorales have been written based on particular psalms.

If you look carefully at some of the sub-headings from individual psalms, you will see many are "...For the director of music." Other psalms mention *flutes, lyre, stringed instruments, gittith, or miktam*. Music, and the singing of lyrics, were an important part of the worship

I might repeat music, and the singing of lyrics ARE an important part of the worship service.

Each week, I thank God for the music ministry here at Ohio Church. First and foremost, you are a singing church, and I can even hear separate parts as you are singing.

Also, as I have said, sitting back and letting the music "wash over me" is an opportunity for me to worship – before I have to get back to work! The music ministry at OUPC is a valuable contributor to the overall ministry of our Body of Christ. Men and women have been given the spiritual gift of music, and they graciously and generously share that gift with us. Even more important, they believe the words they sing!

On December 21, our beloved choir will offer their annual Cantata, "Let Heaven and Nature Swing." Our blessed (and talented) Accompanist Skye Lanham and our singers have been working for weeks to prepare this work – this offering – for us and for us. Singing is how they respond to God's grace and provision.

Please join us and hear what has been prepared for us in the name of Christ. Let the music wash over you as you hear their wonderful and powerful voices. Like I do each week, sit back as they "...*sing the praises of the Lord...[and] praise His holy name.*"

My best wishes for you and yours this Advent season, and always.

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 • 86 were in church on Sunday, December 7
Congregational Care
• Story Time continues on Wednesdays at 9:30 or 10:30am • December 14–Children’s Musical Program • December 21–Cantata • December 21–Congregational Meeting to elect Elders and Deacons • December 24–Christmas Eve Service @7pm with communion
Mission
Operations
\$184,213 Expenses year to date–what has been paid out for salaries, utilities, services, etc. \$188,020 Collected year to date–what has come in through the offering plate or through electronic deposits to the Current Fund. This does not include any money marked for missions or deacons \$3,806 Difference between expenses and collections. This is a positive figure.

The Ohio UP Church Christmas Card Box is in the narthex and ready for your Christmas Cards for members who regularly attend Worship in person. The Deacons will pass them out before and after our Worship Service. You may make a small donation to the Deacons if you wish.

Would you like to offer special music on Christmas Eve before the service? We are looking to have some pre-service music starting around 6:45pm. If you would like to do, please see Chris Mathias

If you are able to help with the snow removal from the sidewalks, please contact Charles Hendrick

We are looking for someone to make Communion wafers starting in January. If you are interested please contact Chris Mathais.

The Deacons are requesting donations for our food pantry. Any donations are appreciated but we are running low on health and beauty products – Shampoo, toothpaste, soap and deodorant. Donations can br placed in the bin at the back of the church

HISTORY OF CHILDREN'S CHOIR UNDER THE DIRECTION OF LYNN SMITH

This has been the 40th year I have led the Children's Choir in the annual Christmas Musical and it will probably be my last. I have really enjoyed working with the kids over the years, starting with Janis (Kanitra) Lewis and Brittany and Patrick Smith and on with so many others with as many as 40 singers at times! I am so proud of all these kids using their God-given talents to share the story of God's gift sent to us in the form of a human child.

Over the years we have had kids dressed as sheep, kings, camels, Egyptians, newscasters and of course, the holy family to tell the Christmas Story. God certainly must have been pleased with our offering to Him because in the 40 years and so many participants we never had a child unable to perform due to illness. That is until COVID hit, when we had to postpone the whole musical for a year!

So many children over the years have learned a little about music and a lot about the Bible in presenting each unique way of retelling the Christmas Story. Thank you to all of my young performers and to their parents.

God Bless,
Ms. Lynn



DECEMBER

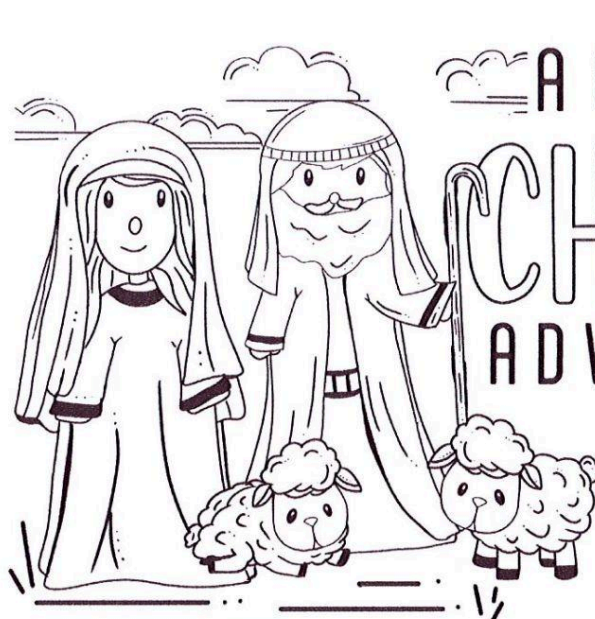
Birthdays and Anniversaries

<u>Anniversaries</u>	<u>Birthdays</u>	<u>Birthdays</u>	<u>Birthdays</u>
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	



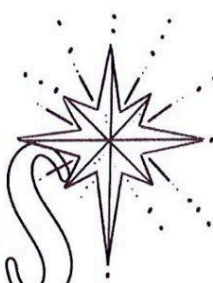
Prayer List

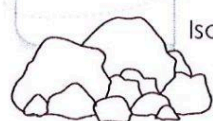
- Pastor Jim–Welcome Bonnie Martin!
- Zbig Lachowicz–Cherryl had surgery. She is in ICU and doing well.
- Christina Palmer--Her nephew is returning to work after 2 months with MS. Working on new meds.
- Harriet’s sister, Char DeMatteo sends her thanks for the prayers for the family.
- Jen Davis–Thanks to all the church friends that attended the Holly Jolly Concert.
- Bonnie Martin–Thank you for all the prayers, calls, texts, etc.!
- Dawn Psik–Sister, Susan’s last chemotherapy was on Monday.
- Prayers for Dawn who has a sinus infection.



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
14 Luke 2:15-20	13 Luke 2:8-14	12 Luke 2:6-7	11 Luke 2:1-5	10 Luke 1:30-33	9 Luke 1:26-29 	8 Luke 1:24-25
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
	23 Philippians 2:8-11	22 Galatians 4:4-5	24 James 1:16-18	25 John 3:16	