



December 7 through December 13, 2025

Dear Friends in Christ,

*“ Truly I tell you, anyone who will not receive the kingdom of God like a little child will never enter it” (Luke 18:17).*

On December 14, the Children of OUPC will be presenting their annual Children’s Pageant. Please plan to attend this wonderful service! The Pageant is “The Power of the King,” and is sure to be fun.

Speaking personally, I have many faults – one is that sometimes I make things complicated. I do this most days when I work with churches in transition (some will testify to this). In addition, sometimes I also get into the weeds regarding theology and study of Scripture (I talked about Jesus’ Apocalyptic Discourse last Sunday!)

But in the passage above, Jesus himself instructs us to not make things too complicated regarding our theology and our life in Christ.

In the 20 th century, there was a famous Swiss theologian named Karl Barth. During his lifetime, he wrote the Church Dogmatics, an absolutely phenomenal analysis of the Church, Christ, and our life in Christ. The Dogmatics covers 9,200 pages in 14 volumes. I have my own copy, which I hope to read someday.

Many years ago, Dr. Barth was asked what was the most compelling and important thing he had discovered / discerned during his study and writing of the Dogmatics.

*His response? Jesus loves me, this I know, for the Bible tells me so.*

My friends, remember the most important theological fact out there – Jesus loves me, this I know! Indeed, God gives us a brain to think about and study the various issues of theology, but we also need to receive the grace of Christ like children – with open and fresh hearts.

As the children present their program, pray that the performers’ hearts and minds will be opened to receive and welcome the grace of Christ offered in the message. And let US be willing recipients too!

My best wishes for you and yours this Advent season.

In Christ,

**Pastor Jim**



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| Worship                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Sunday School for children 3yr.-6th grade is during worship after the children’s chat</li><li>• Adult Sunday School is at 9am</li><li>• 65 were in church on Sunday, November 30</li></ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
| Congregational Care                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Story Time continues on Wednesdays at 9:30 or 10:30am</li><li>• December 10–Ruth Circle @1pm</li><li>• December 13–Cookie Bazaar (If you missed signing up to bake contact Patti Strominger.) (Remember to drop off baked goods on the 12th between 5 and 7)</li><li>• December 11–Big Band Concert @7pm</li><li>• December 14–Children’s Musical Program</li><li>• December 21–Cantata</li><li>• December 24–Christmas Eve Service @7pm with communion</li></ul> |
| Mission                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
| Operations                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
| <p>\$184,213 Expenses year to date–what has been paid out for salaries, utilities, services, etc.</p> <p>\$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</p> <p>\$3,806 Difference between expenses and collections. This is a positive figure.</p>                                                                                                       |

**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.

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**



# DECEMBER

*Birthdays and Anniversaries*

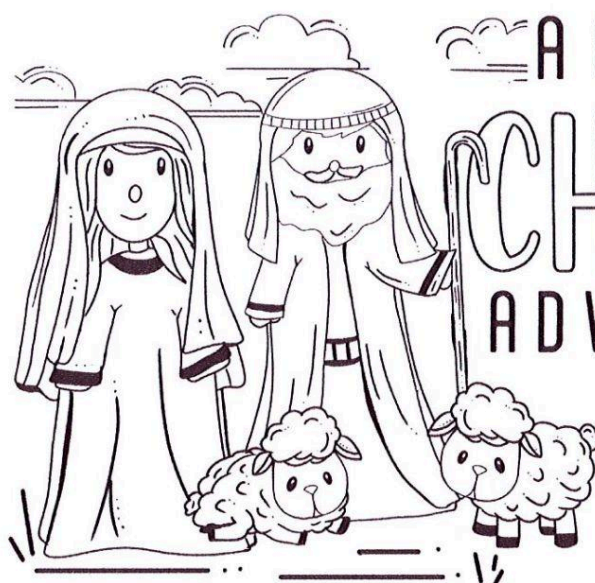
| <u>Anniversaries</u>              | <u>Birthdays</u>            | <u>Birthdays</u>        | <u>Birthdays</u>         |
|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------|-------------------------|--------------------------|
| Joe & Dana Gavita<br>12/04        | MacKenzie Petrella<br>12/01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



## Prayer List

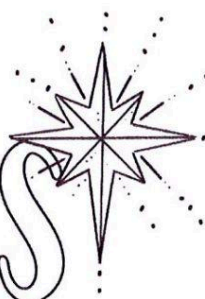
- Holly Diccico–Prayers for Cherryl Lachowicz who will be having surgery for pancreatic cancer
- Dan Fox–Prayers of peace and comfort for Dan’s family as his brother passed away on Saturday
- Diane Gennaro–Prayers of healing for Steven Ward as he goes through some medical issues
- Dawn Psik–Susan had a brain MRI on Monday at Sewickley. It showed no abnormalities





# 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

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

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

