



CIRCLEVILLE
Presbyterian Church

Pres-Line

Volume 15, Issue 4

134 E. Mound St., Circleville, OH 43113

December 2016



*May you be inspired
by the peace and hope
of this beautiful season.*

Merry Christmas

To our church family,

*Wishing you and your loved ones a
joyous Christmas season, and a new year
filled with hope and God's blessing.*

From your church staff.

Jeri-Lynne's Christmas Jottings

If we claim to be in the light and hate someone, we are still in the dark. But if we love others, we are in the light, and we don't cause problems for them. If we hate others, we are living and walking in the dark. We don't know where we are going, because we can't see in the dark.

1 John 2:9-11 (CEV)

Jesus is the Light and Jesus is Love. Christmas is a perfect time to remember God's love revealed for us through Jesus Christ. As we prepare for the celebration of Jesus' birth I recalled a story that has been circulating during the Christmas season for some time now. It is called "Christmas Love" and it is written by Candy Chand. She writes:

Each December, I vowed to make Christmas a calm and peaceful experience. But once again, despite my plans, chaos prevailed. I had cut back on Nonessential obligations-- extensive card writing, endless baking, decorating, and yes, even the all American pastime, overspending. Yet, still, I found myself exhausted, unable to appreciate the precious family moments, and, of course, the true meaning of Christmas.

My son, Nicholas, was in kindergarten that year. It was an exciting season for a six-year-old filled with hopes, dreams and laughter. For weeks, he'd been memorizing songs for his school's "Winter Pageant." I didn't have the heart to tell him I'd be working the night of the production.

Unwilling to miss his shining moment, I spoke with his teacher. She assured me there'd be a dress rehearsal the morning of the presentation. All parents unable to attend that evening were welcome to come then. Fortunately, Nicholas seemed happy with the compromise.

So, just as I promised, on the morning of the dress rehearsal, I filed in 10 minutes early, found a spot on the cafeteria floor and sat down. Around the room, I saw several other parents quietly scampering to their seats. As I waited, the students were led into the room. Each class, accompanied by their teacher, sat cross-legged on the floor. Then, each group, one by one, rose to perform their song.

Because the public school system had long stopped referring to the holiday as "Christmas," I didn't expect anything other than fun, commercial entertainment -- songs of reindeer, Santa Claus, snowflakes and good cheer. The melodies were fun, cute and lighthearted, but nowhere to be found was even the hint of an innocent babe, a manger, or Christ's sacred gift of hope and joy. So, when my son's class rose to sing, "Christmas Love", I was slightly taken aback by its bold title.

Nicholas was aglow, as were all of his classmates, adorned in fuzzy mittens, red sweaters and bright snowcaps upon their heads. Those in the front row -- center stage -- held up large letters, one by one, to spell out the title of the song. As the class would sing "C is for Christmas," a child would hold up the letter C. Then, "H is for Happy," and on and on, until each child holding up his portion had presented the complete message, "Christmas Love."

The performance was going smoothly, until suddenly, we noticed her -- a small, quiet girl in the front row who was holding the letter "M" upside down. She was entirely unaware, that reversed, her letter "M" appeared as a "W." Fidgeting from side to side, she soon moved entirely away from her mark.

The audience of 1st through 6th graders snickered at the little one's mistake. But in her innocence, she had no idea they were laughing at her as she stood tall, proudly holding her "W".

One can only imagine the difficulty in calming an audience of young, giggling students. Although many teachers tried to shush the children, the laughter continued until the last letter was raised, and we all saw it together. A hush came over the audience and eyes began to widen.

In that instant, we understood -- the reason we were there, why we celebrated the holiday in the first place, why even in the chaos there was a purpose for our festivities. For when the last letter was held high, the message read loud and clear:

CHRIST WAS LOVE.

And, I believe, He still is.

Candy is an author living in Rancho Murieta, California. The story, Christmas Love, is true.

Circleville Presbyterian Church believes God's grace is expressed through Christ's love! It is our hope that the new mission statement, vision statement, and slogan will guide all of our ministry and mission together.

Sometimes we get so caught up on how things have always been done or what our plans have always been that we do not notice God at work in the smallest of changes. These changes, or perceived mistakes, may be the perfect "God-given" opportunities to share God's grace.

As we approach 2017 may we remember this story, "the quiet girl in the front row", who makes what is perceived as a huge blunder that provides a powerful witness to the love and grace of God in Jesus Christ!

Mission Statement:

"We are a fellowship that exists to glorify God and share God's grace."

Vision Statement:

We glorify God by:

- Providing various styles of worship
- Living the teachings of Jesus and doing life together in Christian fellowship

We share God's grace by:

- Identifying and responding to the needs of others

Slogan:

Sharing God's Grace!

Christmas Blessings,
Pastor Jeri-Lynne

**Worship Opportunities
during Advent**

Worship with us at 9 or 11 unless otherwise noted

Advent 1 Nov. 27, 2016

"Are You Ready?"

How and why do we wake up Christians today?

Advent 2 Dec. 4, 2016

"Hope and Harmony"

Something to look forward to.

Advent 3 Dec. 11, 2016

9:00 *"Authenticity"*

Jesus, the Authentic Messiah

11:00 Children's Program

"Celebrate the Gift of Jesus"

Advent 4 Dec. 18, 2016

"The Perfect Name"

What do you name a child that will save all people?

**Worship Opportunities
for Christmas**

Christmas Eve Dec. 24

Candlelight Service

7:00 pm

"BGE"

(Best Gift Ever)

Christmas Day Dec. 25

Communion

10:00 am

"Cheers for Jesus"

12TH ANNUAL MOUND STREET CHURCHES' FOOD DRIVE

On **Saturday, December 17, 2016**, please consider participating in the 12th Annual Mound Street Food Drive to benefit the Pickaway County Emergency Clearinghouse Food Pantry. Please drive up and drop off non-perishable items or make a monetary donation at any of the four churches on Mound Street, in Circleville, from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Any non-perishable item would be appreciated. Items on the most wanted list include: peanut butter; jelly; saltine crackers; cornbread; instant potatoes; hamburger helper; other boxed dinners; canned vegetables; canned fruit; canned meats; pasta; canned soups with meat; canned pasta with meat; and navy beans. Cleaning and personal products such as soap, detergent, shampoo, paper towels, and toilet paper also would be appreciated.

2017

COFFEE HOUR/FLOWER CALENDAR

Sign-up sheets are available on the bulletin board in the office for 2017. Please stop by or call the office (740-474-4791) to reserve your special date to honor loved ones with fresh flowers for Sunday worship service, and/or to volunteer as host or hostess for Coffee Hour. For flowers, please make a note if you are ordering flowers yourself.

CHRISTMAS CARDS

Once again we invite members and friends to send or bring their Christmas cards to the church to post on our window. Pictures are welcome.

CALLED CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

On Sunday, December 4, 2016, immediately following worship, there will be a called congregational meeting for the purpose of electing church officers.

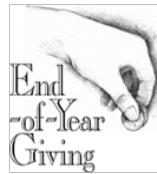


27th Annual Cookie Walk
Saturday, December 10,
9:00 a.m.

Campbell Hall

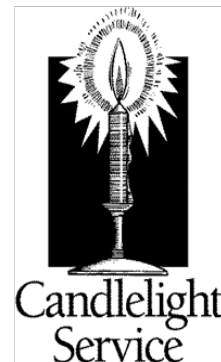
Please bring your home baked cookies to the church on Friday, December 9. This is always a fun day working together and enjoying the holiday spirit.

2016 CONTRIBUTIONS



Contact the church secretary if you need to check on your pledge status to assist you in your year-end giving. To comply with the IRS report on your final 2016 Contribution

Statement, only those gifts placed in the offering on Sunday, December 25, brought to the office through Thursday, December 29, or postmarked no later than Saturday, December 31 will be applied. January 2017 contributions will not qualify for 2016, even if your check is predated to 2016 or was actually written in 2016. Final Contribution Statements will be available for **PICK-UP here at the church** no later than the middle of January. Out of state statements will be mailed.



Christmas Eve
6:45 p.m.

December 24, 2016



Advent Brunch

The Annual Advent Brunch will be held Sunday, December 4, 2016, in Campbell Hall immediately following traditional worship. Congregational Care and Discipleship and Spiritual Formation Teams will provide quiche, muffins, fruit, cookies, juice, milk and coffee. The meal will be served by the Middle and High School youth along with members of the teams. Carla Mavis and Sam Wilson will speak about their recent fall mission trips. Please join us for this celebration of Christ's coming!

In Our Thoughts and Prayers

Caring Touch

Linda Stevenson

Clearmont Retirement Village

Doris Gruebel

Franklin Woods

Judy Palm

Glendora

Woody Jones

Logan Elm Health Care

Tom Cooper

Donald Maxson

Nancy Weitendorf (Sue Twining's mother)

Pickaway Manor-Assisted Living

Mildred Dyer (Blaine Keckley's mother)

Doris Luna

Sharon Ryan

Pickaway Manor

Martha Gearhart

Dorothy Sampson

Convalescing at Home

Max Acklin

George Butler

Bill Campbell

Carol Campbell

Lou Ann Clark

Scot Clydesdale

Jim & Phyllis Hartley

Marilyn Herel

Marcella Hostetler

Alfred Johnson

Sylvia Johnson

Lois Jones

Jimmie McKelvey

Gwen Painter

Also Convalescing

Eloise Beers (Kathy Studebaker's mother)

Charley Edgar & Corrine Edgar

Tom Farynowski

Sara Mofield Goga (Judy Spicer's daughter)

George Grigg

Marty (Ward) Hart (Marcella Hostetler's sister)

Wendy Jordan

Nathan Mofield (Judy Spicer's son)

Nancy Schneider

Phyllis Smith (Rod Smith's mother)

Betty Topliff (LibbyRushley's mother)

We are sorry if we have missed anyone! If you want someone added or removed, PLEASE call the church office.



As part of our Christmas celebration,
The Presbyterian Church provides
the opportunity for the placement of
poinsettias in the sanctuary
for Christmas worship.

Individuals and families may place orders for plants
In Honor of or In Memory of loved ones,
whose names will appear in the worship bulletin.

If you would like to place an order, please complete an
order blank and
include your payment of \$11.00 for each plant ordered.

ORDERS MUST BE RECEIVED by SUNDAY, DECEMBER 4th!

Donor's Name(s) _____

In Memory of _____

In Honor of _____

Quantity & Color: Red _____ White _____ Pink _____

_____ total number @ \$11.00 each = _____
 _____ Cash _____ Check

_____ I wish my plant(s) to be delivered to a shut-in person.

_____ I will pick up my plant(s) after Christmas Eve Service on December 24.

_____ I will pick up my plant(s) after Christmas Day Service on December 25.

BREAKFAST CLUB INVITATION

The hymns “How Great Thou Art” and “Were You There When They Crucified My Lord” are examples of the highs and lows experienced in song. The Psalms also reflect highs and lows of the writer. In December the Breakfast Club will begin a short study of Psalms for the highs and lows of life. There are times when we just want to shout for joy and others when we wonder what is happening to us. We will examine how God is with us during these times—when we have this profound joy, and how he lifts us out of our despair.

We look forward to you joining us during the Sunday school hour between services in room 114 behind the overflow area of the sanctuary. Invite a friend to come with you.

CHANGES

Doris Gruebel, Apt. 920-A
Claremont Retirement Village
7041 Bent Tree Blvd.
Columbus, OH 43235

Julie Calder
No Landline
740-601-0431

Bill and Carol Campbell
317 Rolling Acres
Middlebury, VT 05753
Carol cell still 740-412-4070
Be sure to read her letter with the Christmas cards on the office window.

Sarah Spring
damesarahspring@gmail.com

We offer our condolences to the family and friends...



...of Ellie Butler who died in October, 2016.

...of Mary Ann Delong who died in October, 2016. This is the sister of Lois Jones.

...of Rosemary Ankrom who died in November, 2016. This is the mother of John Ankrom.

...of Craig Palm who died in August, 2016. This is the son of Judy Palm.

...of Jack Ely who died November 24, 2016.

THANK YOU NOTE

We would like to express our heartfelt gratitude to our church family, who has been so supportive as we journey through the sad loss of John's mother, Rosemary Ankrom. All of the cards, food, and expressions of sympathy have lifted us, and we feel so very fortunate to be a member of this loving body of Christ.

May God Bless You All!

John and Teresa Ankrom, and family

NEW ART SHOW

If you would like to experience the Christmas season and winter in central Ohio, stop by the upstairs art gallery and see the photography of Nathan Mofield (son of Judy Spicer).



Discipleship and Spiritual Formation News!

We are enjoying a wonderful season of Sunday School Classes, thanks to our dedicated teachers, parents and students who are making a weekly commitment to learn more about their faith and sharing it with others. There is always room for more and guests are always certainly welcome.

Coming up are many opportunities for you to enjoy the fun and fellowship provided by the Discipleship and Spiritual Formation Team (DSF) with our church family.

Nov. 27th our youth will meet at church to create special items for the Christmas Program. Our youth leaders Erin and Curtis Crego are sharing their energy and enthusiasm with our youth on a monthly schedule.

Dec. 4th following the 11:00 service, will be the Annual Advent Brunch with muffins, casseroles, quiche and decorating the large Christmas tree in Campbell hall.

Dec. 4th PRACTICE FOR CHRISTMAS PAGEANT 5:00 to 6:00 pm.

Dec. 5th our youth will reach out once more to the residents at Brown Memorial to bring them to our sanctuary for an evening of Christmas carols on the organ and fun. Our own Jack Mader will be sharing his magic with us.

Dec. 10th PRACTICE FOR CHRISTMAS PAGEANT (Donuts and Christmas Pageant practice) 9:00 am to 10:00.

Dec. 11th during the 11:00 service all our young people will be presenting the Christmas Pageant titled, "Celebrate the Gift of Jesus". It promises to be a special service with an inspirational message.

Dec. 18th Family caroling will take place for our members who are shut in and the nursing facilities. We will return to the church for refreshments and fellowship. We will gather at the church at 3:30.

December 25 and January 1 are both Sundays in 2016 and 2017. There will be no Sunday school classes those Sundays and one worship service will be held at 10:00.

It is a wonderful and busy time here at church. We hope that you will attend as many opportunities as your schedule will allow.



DECEMBER 11, 2016
During the 11:00 Worship Service

We are so blessed to have this time together.
May you be renewed and blessed by this Christmas Season.

With Peace and Gratitude,
Marcia and Carla



*134 East Mound Street P O Box 147 Circleville Ohio 43113
740-474-4791 Fax - 740-474-1404*

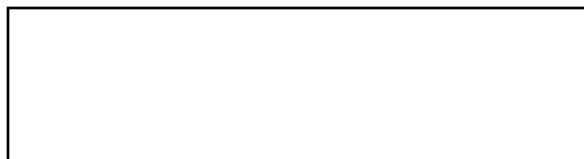
E-Mail - circpres@frontier.com

Website - www.circlevillepresbyterianchurch.com

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Permit Number 195

Please remember to contact the church office with your new address. As bulk mail, the Pres-Line is not forwarded and is returned to the church for a fee.

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



Looking ahead to.....



- 15- Annual Reports Due**
- Super Soapy Sunday**
- Pickaway Manor Service**
- 20- Pres-Line Deadline**
- 22- 2016 Contribution Statements available**

Mark your calendars
Annual Meeting, February 12, 2017