



December 2012 Chimes

Christ Presbyterian Church

Christmas and *stillness* belong together. There isn't much logic to this. My Advent and weeks tend to be a whirl. Christmas morning in our home is a flurry of paper and packaging. Yet I can't shake the sense that Christmas asks for the calm that must have been in the fields before angels let "Glory!" loose on the shepherds.

Luci Shaw's poem "Night lodging" captures Christmas stillness:

Across the purple-patterned snow
laced with the light of lantern-glow,
dappled with dark,
comes Christ, the Child born from the skies.
Those are stars that are his eyes.
His baby face is wise
seen by my candle spark.
But is he cold from the wind's blow?
Where will he go?

I'll wrap him warm with love,
well as I'm able,
in my heart stable.¹

At Christmas we want to worship "laced with the light of lantern-glow" and "warm with love," rather than with exuberant all-stops-out organ or driving bass guitar. Christmas gives a centeredness that is less a praise shout and more a quiet gasp. Jesus' nativity is, literally, *touching*: we are touched by a God who received the world's touch, wrapped warm in swaddling cloths. At Christmas God stills us and swaddles Christ in our hearts again.

Advent invites us to hang a "vacancy" sign in our hearts, or to recognize where such a sign already hangs. Christmas says the sign can come down, for the Christ has come in. Truly there is no better news than this, but jumping and shouting seem inappropriate response. Contented breathing, deep gladness, quiet holding of the Love that holds us: this more in order. I wish this gift for me; I wish this for us all; I wish this gift for the world.

A blessed Advent and Christmastide to you all,

CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP

-5:00pm Traditional
Candlelight Service

-9:00pm Candlelight Service

¹ Luci Shaw, "Night lodging", in *Accompanied by Angels: Poems of the Incarnation*, (Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2006), 30.

ADVENT WEEK I

DECEMBER 1

8:00am Men's Tres Dias @ CPC

DEC. 2

*** See Sunday morning schedule below**

5:00pm Youth Group

DEC. 3

9:30am Children's Ministries

6:30pm Bootcamp

7:00pm Deacons

7:30pm Men's Group

DEC. 4

9:30am Prayer Group

DEC. 5

6:30am Men's Bible Study @ Arabica

7:00pm Worship Meeting

DEC. 6

7:00pm Choir Rehearsal

8:15pm Grateful Praise Rehearsal

DEC. 8

8:00am Men's Bible Study @ CPC

*SUNDAY MORNING

SCHEDULE:

- 9:30am Sunday School for Adults and Youth
- 9:30am Discovery Time for K-5th grade
- 10:30am Worship
- 10:30am Sunday School for 3 years-5th Grade

CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES

Jen Congdon, Director
jen@christpcusa.org



CPC GOAL: 55 BOXES

CPC ACTUAL: 130 BOXES

TOTAL COLLECTED: 793 BOXES



CPC kids pack shoeboxes during the 9:30 Discovery Time Sunday mornings.



Thank you everyone!



ADVENT WEEK 2

DEC. 9

***Sunday morning schedule
ADVENT LUNCHEON
following worship
2:00pm AFS Christmas Party**

DEC. 10

**11:00am Staff
7:30pm Men's Group**

DEC. 11

**9:30am Prayer Group
6:30pm Bootcamp
7:00pm Youth Ministries Meeting**

DEC. 12

**6:30am Men's Bible Study @
Arabica
7:00pm Girl Scouts**

DEC. 13

**7:00pm Choir Rehearsal
8:15pm Grateful Praise Rehearsal**

DEC. 14

2:30pm-8:30pm Pictorial Directory

DEC. 15

**8:00am Tres Dias @ CPC
10:00am-4:00pm Pictorial Directory
2:00pm Joyful Noise Christmas
Party**

*SUNDAY MORNING SCHEDULE:

- 9:30am Sunday School for Adults and Youth
- 9:30am Discovery Time for K-5th grade
- 10:30am Worship
- 10:30am Sunday School for 3 years-5th Grade

GOD PROVIDED OUR TRUCK!

As an Operation Christmas Child Relay Location, CPC was responsible for transporting all of the donated boxes to Warren, Ohio. On the first day of collection, I decided to call trucking companies for prices. I chose the closest, which happened to be CCM rentals in Chesterland., and received a quote for \$50-70 a day plus \$1 a mile. At 100 miles round trip to Warren it was going to be around \$150-170 plus tax!

I called CCM back and explained that we have partnered with Operation Christmas Child to deliver shoeboxes filled with toys to children across the world for Christmas. I asked if there was any way that we could have a discounted rate. He said that he would call his Penske representative to see if he would do anything with the rates.

I hung up the phone and prayed that the Lord would do His work and soften the representative's heart. Whatever the Lord would provide would be perfect.

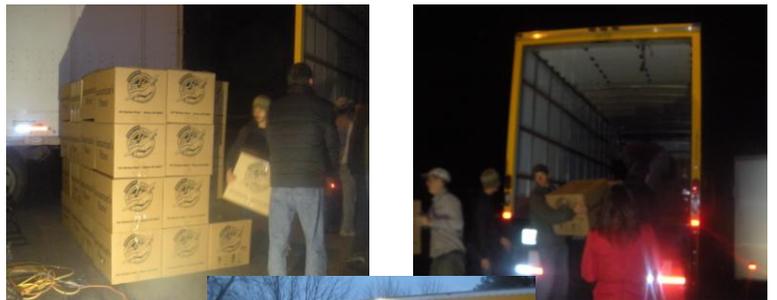
Fifteen minutes later, I received a call back from CCM rental. Penske agreed to remove ALL MILEAGE charges—we only needed to pay the daily rate!

AND IT DOESN'T END THERE...

Later that afternoon, an anonymous donor phoned and offered to cover the daily rate, leaving CPC with absolutely NO transportation fees!

God is Awesome!

-Jen Congdon



ADVENT WEEK 3

DEC. 16

***Sunday morning schedule
11:30am Youth Group Christmas
Party—Bring an unwrapped toy for
Chesterland Fire Dept. “Santa
Sleigh” drive.**

DEC. 17

7:30pm Men's Group

DEC. 18

**9:30am Prayer Group
6:30pm Bootcamp
7:00pm Session**

DEC. 19

**6:30am Men's Bible Study @ Arabica
11:00am Chapel Circle Luncheon -
Punderson**

DEC. 20

**7:00pm Choir Rehearsal
8:15pm Grateful Praise Rehearsal**

DEC. 22

8:00am Tres Dias @ CPC

***SUNDAY MORNING SCHEDULE:**

- 9:30am Sunday School for Adults and Youth
- 9:30am Discovery Time for K-5th grade
- 10:30am Worship
- 10:30am Sunday School for 3 years-5th Grade

2013 REHEARSAL SCHEDULE FOR THE JOYFUL NOISE CHOIR

From January 6 through June 2 we will practice every Sunday from 10:15-10:25 a.m. in the Library. All children between the ages of 4 and 10 years are welcome to join the choir. Throughout this past fall the children have faithfully raised their voices in praise to God. We thank you.

**-Mrs. Wood and
Mrs. Frankmann**



NEW CHRIST CHURCH WEBSITE

Imagine you walk in your front door and discover that your loved ones have repositioned the family room furniture. The TV, couch and coffee table are still there – just rearranged a bit. So it is with our Web site makeover. The same information you rely on is still available but may be located on a different page.

HERE'S WHAT YOU WILL FIND:

- New tabs at the top of each page, with calls to action: Grow, Serve, Connect
- A News section with updates and announcements
- Four large buttons featuring Worship, Children & Youth, Media and even a page for newcomers

Soon we will have a mobile version of our site for those who enjoy checking the calendar or downloading sermons on cell phones or tablets. And now, you can “Like” Christ Church on Facebook: [facebook.com/christpcusa!](https://www.facebook.com/christpcusa/)

So connect with CPC whether you're home or on the road. Oh, and we promise not to move the furniture again for a while!

-Sue Congdon, Webmaster

ADVENT WEEK 4

DEC. 23

*Sunday morning schedule
CHILDREN'S ADVENT PAGEANT

DEC. 24

CPC Office Closed

- 5:00pm Family Candlelight Service
- 9:00pm Candlelight Communion Service

DEC. 25 **CHRISTMAS DAY**

CPC Office Closed

DEC. 26

6:30am Men's Bible Study @
Arabica

DEC. 27

7:00pm Choir Rehearsal
8:15pm Grateful Praise Rehearsal

DEC. 29

8:00am Tres Dias @ CPC

DEC.30

*Sunday morning schedule

DEC. 31 **NEW YEAR'S EVE**

7:30pm Men's Group

*SUNDAY MORNING

SCHEDULE:

- 9:30am Sunday School for Adults and Youth
- 9:30am Discovery Time for K-5th grade
- 10:30am Worship
- 10:30am Sunday School for 3 years-5th Grade

OUR NEWEST MEMBERS:



DEBBIE BROOKS,

Debbie, her husband Bob, and daughter Lauren have been long-time friends of CPC. From teaching Sunday School, and heading up VBS crafts, to designing our Sunday Worship bulletin covers and sharing her artistic talents with us, Debbie doesn't miss a beat! Next time you see her, give her an official welcome.



RUDY KRISTAVCNIK

Rudy has gotten to know Christ Church through Men's Bible studies. He lives in Chesterland and works as a Technician. He enjoys working with his hands and being creative. We are blessed to have him as part of our church family. Welcome aboard, Rudy!



RACHEL MYKRANTZ

Rachel and her daughter Louise have been attending CPC for some time. She lives in Munson Township and is a retired nurse. It is great to see both Rachel and Louise each Sunday. Take time to introduce yourself to both of them. We're so glad to have you as part of our family.

**CPC DEACONS ARE ONCE AGAIN
SPONSORING A
GEAUGA COUNTY FAMILY.**

Once again this Advent, there is a tree in Fellowship Hall with ornaments attached. The ornaments denote gifts for a family in need. This year our family is a mother with two children—a boy 16 years of age and a 13 year old girl. Please take an ornament to use as the gift card, indicate who the gift is for on the card, and place your **wrapped** gifts under the tree.

We will also sponsor family from the WomenSafe.shelter for domestic violence victims. This family is a mother with two daughters. There are tags for them on a gift board in Fellowship Hall. These gifts will remain **unwrapped**. Place them in the boxes under the tree. All donations are due under the tree no later than December 16th.

In addition to these families, Deacons are also assisting another family with gift cards for gasoline and food. Also, as an update, we are once again helping with the gift bags for Prison Ministries. This year our donation will be 150 decks of playing cards. Thank you so much for your generosity and love for supporting this area of our ministry. If you have any questions, please call Joy Kule at 729 2992 or Marsha Zimmermann at 338 1898.

Joy

CHAPEL CIRCLE

Chapel Circle will meet at CPC on Wednesday, December 19st at 11:30am. The group will carpool from church for a noon lunch date at Punderson Lakes.

Ring & Sing!

ADULT BELL CHOIR will rehearse 12/2, 12/16, 12/23 for the Christmas Eve service. Feel Free to join us!

CPC ADULT CHOIR:

Everyone is welcome to join the CPC Adult choir for the holiday season. We rehearse every Thursday from 7:00-8:15pm. Talk to any choir member for more information or contact Joshua Chenoweth.

Josh Chenoweth
440-231-1345



THANK YOU to Jim Kule and a group of men and boys who came to my house to clean up the leaves in my yard. To me, the leaves were overwhelming and I do appreciate all of their work to get them cleaned up. It is hard to ask for help, but when I did, the church folks were there to help me. Thanks just does not seem enough, but I know they did it from the heart and I love them for it. Thanks and may God bless our church.

-Janet McIntee

This is a note to express thanks to God and the Doctor for my successful operation. We also want to thank Pastor Matt, our family and friends and the CPC Prayer Group for all of the prayers, cards and meals. We deeply appreciate the concern shown to us after my surgery.

Sincerely,

Joanne and Bob Graham

DEACONS NOVEMBER MEETING

At the end of the year five of our current Deacons will be leaving us. We wish them well and thank them for serving Deacons and CPC.

Secretary and Treasurer reports were given and approved.

College Students: Beth Boucek sent out 22 Halloween cards and gift cards and 3-4 birthday cards in the month of October to our college students.

Flowers: Lila Latta informed us that she is losing a flower arranger for next year. Anyone interested, please see Lila or any of the Deacons.

Food Committee: Deacons are asking for the congregation's help regarding coffee hours. We are looking for Hosts and or donors. Cyndie Trof and Beth Boucek are looking for people interested in baking cookies or pastries for our special coffee hours for Christmas. Monetary or food donations are also appreciated. Vegetable trays are a popular option.

Outreach Committee: Is sponsoring two Geauga family this Christmas. In addition to these families, Deacons are also assisting another family with gift cards for gasoline and food. Also, as an update, we are once again helping with the gift bags for Prison Ministries. Our donation this year, will be 150 decks of playing cards.

Motions were made and passed to help the following:

- Our Geauga family for November and December
- Salvation Army
- Presbyterian Disaster Relief (Super Storm Sandy)

NEEDED: COOKIE

BAKERS for CPC Coffee Hour December 16th, 23rd and 30th.

Homemade Christmas cookies really give people that warm, welcoming feeling. If you've got a favorite recipe you'd like to share, Contact Cyndie Trof at 440-729-3764 or Beth Boucek at 440-338-1926.



December

ANNIVERSARIES

Carol & Jack Duggan 12/17

BIRTHDAYS

Charlotte Wood 12/02

Lori Zagarskas 12/02

Monte Zimmermann 12/02

Irene Clyde 12/06

Susan Congdon 12/06

Heidi Minick-Starke 12/08

Zachary Lundberg 12/09

John Pauley 12/09

Janet Davis 12/14

Andrew Fondrk 12/14

Creola Lambert 12/14

Elijah Milnar 12/19

Karen Arp 12/20

Mackenzie Pauley 12/20

David Wunderle 12/20

Chris Keller 12/25

Matthew Reeves 12/25

Dushan Boucek 12/27

Ryan Fairfield 12/29

Anne McCaslin 12/31



Larry and Peggy Evans
14040 Fox Hollow Dr.
Novelty, OH 44072

FELLOWSHIP NEWS

We proclaim to you what we have seen and heard, so that you also may have fellowship with us. And our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son, Jesus Christ. 1 John 1: 3

The Fellowship Committee hosted an event on Oct. 20th, an Italian Feast & Blind Auction. What a wonderful evening everyone had, over 64 people attended. As always the food offerings were plentiful and delicious! Laughter was heard throughout the night while a variety of “blind” gifts were auctioned. Each gift bag had a clue as to what the bag held and was auctioned off to the highest bidder. Some gifts were hand-made, some humorous, some useful and some...well, you get the point! Thank you to Bob Russell Jr. and Chuck Scott for their marvelous auctioning abilities and of course those who donated items as well as those who purchased items. There were 36 gift bags donated garnering \$247.00 which was donated to CPC’s Food Pantry.

I would like to take this opportunity to once again thank the members of the Fellowship Committee: Debbie Brooks, Mary Goodman, Bill Gripp, and Bill & Charlotte Wood. Also, past members: Lynda Martin, Lindsay Russell, Gary Stumpf, Brenda Varner and the many people who showed up to lend a hand in clean-up, cooking, set-up etc. Without all of the many volunteers we couldn’t have held these events as successfully. I have thoroughly enjoyed working with this committee and representing them as Elder of Fellowship. If you have an opportunity, please join me in thanking them for their dedication to serving God, our church and community. In January, a new Elder will be representing Fellowship. Let’s keep the committee in prayer and extend a “helping hand” to another “new beginning” in 2013!

In His Service,
-Linda Russell

SAY CHEESE!!!

Lifetouch Studios will be taking pictures for our new 2013 Pictorial Directory on:

Friday, December 14	2:30 - 8:30pm
Saturday, December 15	10:00am. - 4:00pm.
Thursday, January 10	2:30 - 8:30pm
Friday, January 11	2:30 – 8:30pm.
Saturday, January 12	10:00am - 4:00pm

Please sign up on-line at www.christpcusa.org or in the Narthex on Sundays in December.

The Directory will be incomplete without you, so please sign up now.

ADULT MINISTRIES WORKSHOP SERIES:

FINDING GOD IN THE EVERYDAY: LEARNING PRACTICAL SKILLS TO LIVE A FAITH-CENTERED LIFE

Come join us in Fellowship Hall for a series of free workshops designed to help you learn practical skills that will deepen and inspire your connection to Christ. These workshops will offer different opportunities to learn how to open up to and be more aware of the love and grace that God provides in our everyday lives. Participants will leave the workshops with practical tools to live a life centered in Christ’s love. Everyone is welcome to participate so feel free to invite a friend. These events are free and open to the public. Childcare will be provided for some of the workshops.

January 26th, 2013 - Healthy Living Workshop (11:00am – 1:00 pm)-

Kick off the New Year on the right foot. Learn from a Cleveland Clinic Lifestyle Coach the basics of eating right and managing stress. Learn how stress impacts our health and tools to recognize and manage it. Learn what foods can enhance health and prevent disease. Get healthy recipes and enjoy a nourishing light lunch together. You will learn why making healthy choices enables you to be a living vessel of Christ. This is a workshop designed to help busy individuals and families gain practical tools to live a healthier lifestyle.

UPCOMING WORKSHOPS:

February 16, 2013	Awakening the Heart of Christ
March 16, 2013	Growing Closer as a Family of Faith
April 13, 2013	Managing Your Money 101
May 18, 2013	Learn to Listen- Silent Nature Walk

Contact Chris Keller at 440-256-7170 for more information

CPC FINANCIAL CONTRIBUTIONS

The last day for submitting your 2012 contributions to Christ Presbyterian Church will be Monday, December 31 2012. All checks **MUST** be dated by December 31, 2012 to be accepted in the 2012 Statements of Giving.

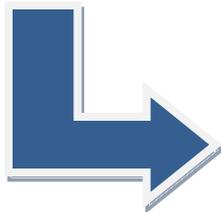
Your completed contributions need to be turned in by Sunday December 30th. Pledge Envelopes for 2013 will be available on Sunday, December 16 2012. Please **DO NOT** start using them until 2013.

To request pledge envelopes, leave a note in the "FINANCIAL SECTETARY" mailbox in Fellowship Hall, or call me at 440-448-2926. The white pew envelopes are sufficient as well. Be sure to label them with your name to receive a year end Statement of Contribution.

2012 Contribution Statements should be ready to be passed out by Sunday, January 6 2013 and January, 13 2013.

NOTE: The **INITIAL OFFERING ENVELOPE** is used to offset the cost of the Pledge Envelopes only. Each box of Pledge Envelopes (including Youth) costs less than \$5.00 (as a reference \$). The **PER CAPITA** is a membership fee for being part of the Presbyterian Church of the Western Reserve Synod and changes yearly; **\$25** for 2012 per member.

Rusty Wenger
CPC Financial Secretary



LIBRARY 101

Looking for answers to some of your questions about the bible? Want tips for handling the holidays on a budget? Looking for a sing-along songbook for children? Want Stormie Omartian's biography? Or are you hunting for a faith-based fiction for your teen?

Come check out our library!

We have hundreds of titles on dozens of topics in our main collection downstairs. For the tech-savvy among us, our entire collection is logged online at <http://www.librarything.com/catalog/cplibrarian>. There is also a small selection of books in the narthex upstairs, for those of us more comfortable perusing with a cup of coffee in hand.

Checkout is easy!

When you find something you'd like to take home:

1. Pull the card from the book
2. Write your name on it
3. Leave the card in the file box for me

You are welcome to hang onto that book as long as you need it, whether 3 weeks or 3 months. Donations are always welcome. Please leave them on the lower shelf of the returns rack, in the main library downstairs.



-Amy Rau, CPC Librarian

CPC FINANCIAL UPDATE 2012 OPERATING BUDGET

MONTH	ACTUAL INCOME	ACTUAL EXPENSES	DIFFERENCE (INCOME-EXPENSES)
Jan-Oct	\$198,157.01	\$174,908.00	\$23,249.01
		Reserve as of Jan 1	<u>\$6,676.52</u>
		Operating Fund Bal.	\$29,9225.53

**Church office hours:
9:00 am - 2:00 pm
Monday - Thursday**

**Contact Information
Christ Presbyterian Church
12419 Chillicothe Rd.
Chesterland, OH 44026
440-729-1688
Fax: 440-729-3733**

**Website:
www.christpcusa.org**

**Church Office e-mail:
office@christpcusa.org
karen@christpcusa.org**

**Pastor Matt's e-mail:
matt@christpcusa.org**



IS THE WEATHER OUTSIDE FRIGHTFUL?

***CHECK CPC WEBSITE:
WWW.CHRISTPCUSA.ORG
OR CALL THE CHURCH OFFICE:
440-729-1688
FOR EVENT CANCELLATIONS.***

***CPC OFFICE IS CLOSED WHEN
WEST GEAUGA SCHOOLS ARE CLOSED.***

Do you have a change of address during the winter months?



NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

EMAIL _____

PHONE _____

DATE OF DEPARTURE _____

DATE OF EXPECTED RETURN _____

*Return this information to the church office