



December 2014 Chimes

Christ Presbyterian Church

A few years ago, I decided to stop resenting the consumerism that pervades much of North America's Christmas celebration. This decision has been good for my soul. I've concluded that better than my harping on, frankly, the *greed* that underlies a shopping saturated gear-up to Christmas is my staying close as I can to the season of Advent.

Advent majors in waiting and longing, hope and love, peace and joy. All of these resist self-oriented consumerism. Advent emphases help us to stay God-oriented by commending soul deep questions: For what do I wait and long? In what is my hope? What does love look like? How can I know peace? In what is my deepest joy? So, juxtaposed to a Christmas buildup about "getting things," whether for or from another, Advent's questions keep us open-handed and open-hearted to receive imperishable gifts from God. Thus Advent readies us for Christmas when we don't "get" a Savior—we receive him from God who freely gives.

This Advent the **Sparkle Box** (see p. 4) is helping us to become more God-like givers and receivers. Based on a children's story of the same name (written by Jill Hardie and illustrated by Christine Kornacki), the Sparkle Box is a present we fill with gifts that Jesus would like to receive. In Children's Moment on Sunday, our children pointed out that such gifts wouldn't be iPods or Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles figures, but things like merciful acts, expressions of service, or material blessings given to those diminished by their lack. When I asked our, "What does Jesus want for his birthday?" their resounding consensus was, "Jesus wants love."

"How might Jesus receive the gift of my love?" Families will give concrete response to this Advent/Christmas question by filling Sparkle Boxes in their homes. **In worship, we'll put instances of our giving to Jesus in our church's Sparkle Box. Do come with something to offer!**

Each in its own way, the church's liturgical seasons helps us to offer ourselves to our Lord who offers himself for us. For Advent and Christmas, it's as Christina Rossetti has put it in "In the Bleak Midwinter":

What can I give Him, poor as I am?
If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb;
if I were a wise man I would do my part;
yet what can I give Him?
Give Him my heart.

Our hearts and lives in Jesus' hands, our practical giving into Jesus' purpose: these might be the best Christmas gifts we could hope receive.

Matt

Christmas Eve
Candlelight Service
5:00pm

ADVENT WEEK I

NOV 30

* See Sunday morning schedule below

DEC. 1

9:30am Children's Ministries

7:00pm Deacons

7:30pm Men's Group

DEC. 2

9:30am Prayer Group

6:30pm Bootcamp

DEC. 3

6:30am Men's Bible Study @ Arabica

DEC. 4

7:00pm Choir Rehearsal

8:15pm Grateful Praise Rehearsal

DEC. 6

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

CONSIDER THIS:

Church Wide Mission Trip Interest Meeting Dec. 7

We are in the interest gathering stage of a summer church wide mission trip for youth entering 9th grade – adults. Come to an exploratory meeting December 7 following worship for more information.

USED CLOTHING DROP-OFF SHED

**Sponsored By:
CHRIST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**



Clothing donated to our sheds is then distributed to people all over the world who need it, but we can donate clothing locally if there is a need.

Items Accepted (in tied or closed bags)

All clothing, shoes, sneakers, belts, purses, blankets, sheets, pillowcases, drapes and stuffed toys.

*Please **NO** rags, fabric scraps, pillows toys or household goods, electronics or appliances.

Go to: <http://www.stpaulytextile.com> for more information.

ADULT ADVENT STUDY: During the Sundays of Advent, November 30 – December 21, join Pastor Reeves for a study of the four titles for the messiah in Isaiah 9:2-7. We will consider what Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, and Prince of Peace would have meant in Jesus' time. We will also think on how Jesus fulfilled those titles, sometimes in quite unexpected ways. Class will meet in the Library. Those who wish to avoid using stairs are welcome to park near the east lower level door.

ADVENT WEEK 2

DEC. 7

***Sunday morning schedule below**

DEC. 8

**11:00am Staff
7:00pm Youth Committee Meeting
7:00pm Adult Ministries
7:30pm Men's Group**

DEC. 9

**9:30am Prayer Group
6:30pm Bootcamp**

DEC. 10

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

DEC. 11

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

DEC. 13

**8:00am Tres Dias @ CPC
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



CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES

Elizabeth Goodin
Children's Ministry Director
440.729.1688
elizabeth@christpcusa.org

Somewhere in our sanctuary, near the front, there is a Bible with pencil markings in the text of Genesis Chapter 12. I was there when they were made and actually encouraged it. It was a teaching moment too important to pass up. Too many Bibles are left unopened and unused, with no signs that the Word has taken root in a heart.

Open an avid Bible reader's Bible, and you will often see underlining, circling of words, notes and symbols in the margins, corners of pages turned under, highlighting, dates, question marks, and exclamation points! God's Word is not a one-sided conversation. We are meant to respond, and keeping a record of what moved us and how is a great way to keep that internal dialogue going.

This is precisely the reason our 3rd through 5th graders were given new Bibles this year in Sunday school. Their new *Spark* Bibles have extra wide margins with space for markings. In the back of their Bibles are pages of stickers with writing prompts such as *I don't get it*, *Something I like*, *Makes me feel...*, *Reminds me of...*, *Makes me want to...*, and *Makes me wonder...* that are meant to be placed in the margins. Invitations to record questions, answers, and key ideas are sprinkled throughout their lessons. It is my hope that our kids will continue the practice of recording their thoughts in their Bibles beyond 5th grade, and that when they open their Bibles in the years to come, they will see the visible signposts of their journey towards a deeper understanding and relationship with God.

If your Bible has remained dormant for too long, I invite you to venture back to it and see what will be revealed to you through fresh eyes and new experiences. If a little structure is what you need to get started, I have just the ticket: The One Year Bible by Tyndale House Publishers. This Bible is organized into 365 readings that include daily passages from the Old Testament, the New Testament, and the books of Psalms and Proverbs – just in time for 2015. If you desire companionship in this endeavor, form a group and digest the Bible together (I'll join you!). But don't forget to keep a pencil handy.

God Bless.

Elizabeth

ADVENT WEEK 3

DEC. 14

***Sunday morning schedule
11:45am Mission Committee
Meeting**

DEC. 15

**10:00am Evangelism
7:00pm Property & Maintenance
7:30pm Men's Group**

DEC. 16

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

DEC. 17

**6:30am Men's Bible Study @ Arabica
12:00am Chapel Circle Luncheon -
Bass Lake Inn**

DEC. 18

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

DEC. 20

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



CPC Sparkle Box

What does Jesus delight in?

Let's give him that for Christmas.

Throughout the Advent season,
look for opportunities to

Give,

Serve,

Love.



Did you fill a box for Operation Christmas Child, donate to the food pantry, help someone in need, or visit a friend? Write it on a card and add it to our Sparkle Box on the Sundays in Advent. We'll open the box together and share how we, as a church, are honoring Jesus this Christmas.



Children's Shadow Nativity

All children and friends of CPC are invited to join us as we present the birth story as a *Shadow Nativity* in worship on December 21st.

Rehearsals:

November 30, December 7th, December 14th
9:30 a.m. - 10:15 a.m.

ADVENT WEEK 4

DEC. 21

***Sunday morning schedule
CHILDREN'S SHADOW
NATIVITY**

DEC. 22

7:30pm Men's Group

DEC. 23

**9:30am Prayer Group
6:30pm Bootcamp**

DEC. 24

CPC Office Closed

- **5:00pm Family Candlelight Service**

DEC. 25 CHRISTMAS DAY

CPC Office Closed

DEC. 27

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

YOUTH MINISTRIES

Amber Bowers-Balista
Youth Director
440.729.1688
330.719.3688
amber@christpcusa.org

Christ Presbyterian Church Youth and families,

Raindrops on roses and whiskers on kittens
Bright copper kettles and red woolen mittens
Brown paper packages tied up with strings
These are a few of my favorite things...

Perfect music for this time of year! There are so many wonderful things about the Christmas season, but my favorite part has always been the lights, the night is so dark and the lights just draw you right into the magic this time of year is truly about. The perhaps obvious analogy is that like those lights, Jesus was born into the world to be our light in the darkness. That is true but, I think there is more to it. When I look at those lights hanging in the dark frozen air this time of year I think of the warmth we are capable of. The warmth of family, the warmth we have inside ourselves to connect with each other and care for those in need. Even amongst what the "holiday season" has been turned into, the cold detached sales for a larger profit margin and people shopping until midnight on Christmas Eve just to have something, anything to wrap up. While there seems to be so much room in the human spirit for coldness, those lights remind us that our hearts have been warmed by the way Jesus humbled and opened himself to us, so that we can do the same toward one another. This season let us take the time to share in the warmth of our families, our church family, our friends and maybe even strangers!

Amber

December Events for CPC teens

Friday **December 5th**, worship at *B'nai Jeshurun synagogue*. Meet at CPC at 6:15pm.

Saturday **December 20th**, Christmas Cookie baking! Join us and learn some cookie recipes in the afternoon to fill the tables at coffee hour on Sunday.

December 21st, Advent Pageant! Be a part of the pageant by being an usher or greeter for worship today! And/or help to serve at coffee hour.



LAST WEEK OF DECEMBER

DEC.28

*Sunday morning schedule

DEC. 29

7:30pm Men's Group

DEC. 30

9:30am Prayer Group

6:30pm Bootcamp

DEC. 31

6:30am Men's Bible Study @
Arabica

JAN. 1 NEW YEAR'S DAY

CPC Office Closed

*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



END OF THE YEAR

The last day for submitting your 2014 contributions to Christ Presbyterian Church will be Wednesday, December 31, 2014. All checks must be dated by December 31, 2014 to be accepted in the 2014 statements of giving.

Please try to have your contributions completed and turned in by Sunday December 28th if possible. Next year's pledge envelopes should be available to be picked up on Sunday, December 14, 2014...but please **do not start using them until 2015** since some envelope numbers may be changing from the current ones you are using.

If you do not see a box of envelopes with your name on it on the table with everyone else's and wish to use pledge envelopes in 2015 please contact me (440-488-2926) or leave a note in the Financial Secretary box in the second room off of Fellowship Hall, the one with the choir robes in it. If you have not been using pledge envelopes and would rather not be bothered trying to remember where you last put them before Sunday's service, do not worry. As long as you use a new envelope (with your name on it) or a check, you will receive a year end statement of contribution.

2014 contribution statements should be ready to be passed out by Sunday January 4, 2015 and January 11, 2015.

Note: The *initial offering envelope* is used to offset the cost of the pledge envelopes only. Each box of pledge envelopes costs less than \$5.00 (as a reference \$). Per capita is an apportionment by which we share in the structural cost of being part of the Presbytery of the Western Reserve, Synod of the Covenant, larger Presbyterian Church. For 2015, per capita is \$26 per member.

Merry Christmas to all,
Rusty Wenger

CPC Financial Secretary

WOMEN'S RETREAT



HEALING IN JESUS: THE ORIGINAL ICU

On October 24 and 25, 2014, thirty women gathered together for a time of fellowship, song, learning about Jesus' healing ministry and share God's love together. They came from across Northeast Ohio from a variety of churches and locales.

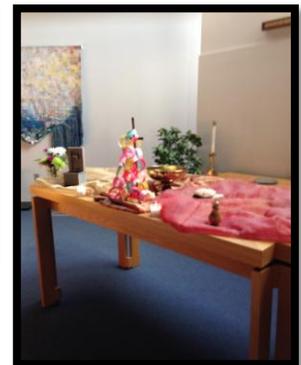
The leadership team of Lenore Robinson, Pastor of Spencer United Methodist Church led the evening and day long program. She was supported by Pastor Pam on the guitar and trumpet and Sheri on the piano. The heart of the retreat was the ministry of Jesus through healing. Many opportunities for individual reflection and contemplation were offered throughout the program. The gift basket generously donated by Sandy Stumpf and the centerpieces were given to several participants.

The lunchtime visit from Mrs. Faith on Fire was a delightful surprise. Pastor Lenore wore so many hats that day and actress and inspirational guide was yet another. Mrs. Faith on Fire was the unexpected humor at lunchtime which cemented just how much God loves each one of us "just as we are". Throughout this retreat each one was able to look deeper into barriers which might be holding us back from being the people God has created us to be.

The healing and communion service which concluded the day together was a great blessing. For many this service was the capstone of our time together.

Thank you to Helen Frankmann who offered hospitality and overnight lodging to the team who guided this retreat. We are so very grateful to Helen for her generosity.

The Evangelism Committee



*Give thanks to the Lord
for he is good.
HIS FAITHFUL LOVE
endures forever.*

psalm 107

DEACONS...

DEACONS ARE LOOKING FOR FLOWER ARRANGERS!

We are in need of volunteers for one Sunday a month or every other month to provide a floral arrangement for worship. We can assist with the cost if you will consider sharing your talents by creating the arrangement. Please contact Sue Stamey at 440-840-3495 to share in this ministry.

CHRISTMAS COOKIES TO SHARE!



Once again Deacons wish to make December coffee hour a festive occasion. Bring some of your favorite Christmas cookies to fill our tables during coffee hour. Please sign-up in the Fellowship Hall. If you have any questions, please call Cyndie Trof at 440-729-3764. Share the love!

2014 CHRISTMAS GREETING CARD DISPLAY



- ✚ Send your Christmas Greeting card to the church:

*Christ Presbyterian Church
12419 Chillicothe Rd.
Chesterland, OH 44026*

- ✚ Or Place your Christmas card in the "Office" mailbox in The Choir Room.

Throughout the Christmas season, all greeting cards will be displayed on the bulletin board in Fellowship Hall.

Choose an ornament!

Christmas time gets extra busy for the outreach deacons. Visit the Giving Tree and "gift board" in Fellowship Hall. There, you will find gift tags for two families. We are partnering with Geauga Job and Family Services and Womensafe in Geauga County. Select a tag or two to help provide a joyous, blessed Christmas for these two families in need.

Wonder what else we do?

The Outreach deacons also financially assist a local family each month for the entire year. This year, we are also assisting a pair of grandparents who are taking care of 4 grandchildren.

Deacons finance the monthly community dinner at Beachland Presbyterian Church in Lyndhurst. This mission feeds those in need and who have fallen on hard times. These meals are an opportunity to show them God's love through the generous works of our volunteers. Every person who comes for food and fellowship is so grateful. Thank you to all who have helped serve meals, bake and provide food and monetary donations.

Christmas Eve

The Christmas Eve offering is the only money that funds the Deacon's budget each year. We hope that you might consider donating to the deacons throughout the year so that we can continue to show God's love and grace to our neighbors in Geauga County and beyond. Thank you in advance.

In His Service,

Joy Kule and Marsha Zimmermann

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Want to do something extra?

The Next Step Home in Geauga County is a home for persons who have aged out of the foster care program, but have nowhere else to go. They are looking for paper products (Kleenex, toilet paper, paper towels, ect.) to use in the home. Please consider this the next time you're out shopping.

We have moved...

A special "Thank You" to all our friends at CPC:

We appreciate your thoughts and prayers when we were ill, your friendship and good wishes. We will miss you,

Peery & Rita Elswick

Our new address:

4510 E. Sheffield Dr.
Bloomington, IN 47408

**CHAPEL CIRCLE
CHRISTMAS PARTY**
Wednesday, December 17th

Bass Lake Taverne
Chardon, Ohio
12:00pm

*If you wish to carpool, some will meet
at church by 11:45am.*

**WHEN THE WEATHER OUTSIDE
GETS FRIGHTFUL**

CHECK FOR EVENT CANCELLATIONS:

- Your E-mail
- CPC Website:
<http://www.christpcusa.org/>
- CPC [Facebook page](#)
- call the church office:
440-729-1688

Reminder: CPC Office is closed when
Geauga schools are closed.



DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Charlotte Wood	12/02
Irene Clyde	12/06
Susan Congdon	12/06
Heidi Minick Starke	12/08
Janet Davis	12/14
Andrew Fondrk	12/14
Creola Lambert	12/14
Maridee Bello	12/18
Eli Milnar	12/19
Karen Arp	12/20
Dave Wunderle	12/20
Chris Keller	12/25
Matt Reeves	12/25
Dushan Boucek	12/27
Ryan Fairfield	12/29
Anne McCaslin	12/31



CPC FINANCIAL UPDATE - 2014 OPERATING BUDGET

Month	Actual Income	Actual Expense	Difference (Income - Expenses)
January - October	\$202,290.22	\$214,271.92	(\$11,981.70)
Reserve as of January 1, 2014:			\$12,415.56
Operating Fund Balance:			\$433.86

Please keep your pledge up-to-date to support our operating budget.

Church office hours:
8:30 am - 3:00 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