



Chimes

DECEMBER

Dear Church Family,

We just celebrated Christ the King Sunday, which is the last Sunday of the liturgical year. A new liturgical year begins next Sunday with the First Sunday of Advent. Now seems to be a good time to reflect on the past year as we prepare to begin a new year. I suppose we are approaching New Year's Eve in a liturgical sense.

How has your faith changed during the past year? If you are like most people, it has probably grown in some ways, not changed much in other ways, and been challenged in still other ways. Whether we like it or not, that is how a truly living, vital faith works: Some experiences strengthen our faith and help us to feel the presence of a God who is with us through all the mountaintops and dark valleys of life. Other experiences challenge our faith and sometimes force us to ask difficult questions – questions that may not have any answer that is entirely satisfactory. Yet even more dangerous to our faith than experiences that severely challenge it, is the busyness of life that leaves us with neither the time nor the energy to pay much attention to our spiritual lives. The urgent demands that engulf us every day distract us from living as though we are spiritual as well as physical beings. Taking time to reflect on the health of our spiritual lives is important.

When were you aware that the Holy Spirit was transforming your life during the last year? That's a hard question for many of us; it really deserves some time for reflection. After all, being a Christian, coming to know the grace of God through faith in Jesus Christ, is not a once and done kind of thing. It is a lifelong process of renewing our minds and transforming us into the image of our Savior. Being able to feel the presence of God is a wonderful experience.

Yet, if knowing the presence of God does not result in being a transformed person, what has it accomplished? Christians are both called by God and sent out to be a blessing to others.

How have you encountered God in worship during the last year? In the Reformed tradition worship is active, not passive. The worship leaders do not worship for the congregation, but instead assist the congregation in their worship of God. Do you come to church on Sunday mornings to worship God and expect to encounter God in your worship? If someone with no church background wandered into our sanctuary one Sunday morning, what would they encounter that would encourage them to return?

After reflecting on your spiritual life during the past year, what would you like to change in the new year? Modest goals are the best, of course, such as reading the Bible daily. Maybe we can keep working toward our goals if they aren't too grandiose. The first step is always prayer. We will not succeed when we try to do it all on our own; yet with God all things are possible. I would like to be able to give you a guaranteed method for growing spiritually, but no one way works for everyone. The spiritual disciplines often help people grow spiritually, and they might work for you. There are many spiritual disciplines that Christians have used over the years. A few of them are prayer, fasting, generosity, study, worship, fellowship, gratitude, mission work, and teaching others about our faith.

We can all take steps that will help us to be open to encountering God. We can be more aware of where God is touching our lives. The Spirit is always working to renew and transform us. We can listen for the call or the gentle nudge of the Spirit. More than anything, we can slow down from the busyness of life that leaves us with little time or energy to listen for the Spirit. The new liturgical year and the season of Advent is a great time to work on being more open to experiencing God in our daily lives. I know, it's easy to say. Still, it's worth the effort. I'm going to try, and it will be a challenge because I feel as though I'm as busy as I've ever been. I hope that you will encounter God during this holy season of Advent.

Blessings,
Pastor Mark



WHAT'S HAPPENING? ...

IMPORTANT DATES

Dec. 3: Deacons meeting

Dec. 8 & 11: The church office will be closed

Dec. 10: Blood Pressure screening

Dec. 12-14: Pastor Steve will be on vacation

Dec. 16: Joint Deacon/Session meeting & potluck

Dec. 20: Session meeting

Dec. 25-Jan. 6: Pastors Désirée & Mark will be on vacation

Dec. 25-27 and Jan. 1: Church office will be closed

LOOKING FOR A CHURCH TREASURER

Session is in the middle of dividing up the treasurer position. They are hiring a bookkeeper and decreasing the workload of the treasurer. If anyone is interested in volunteering for the new treasurer position, contact Pastor Désirée.

Christmas Joy Offering, collected on Dec. 24

The Christmas Joy Offering has been a cherished Presbyterian tradition since the 1930s. The Offering distributes gifts equally to the Assistance Program of the Board of Pensions and to Presbyterian-related schools and colleges equipping communities of color.

The Assistance Program provides critical financial support to church workers and their families. God has blessed the Church with incredible leadership in every time and place, but those leaders often need to be supported by their communities as well. This Offering addresses the support needed by some of our leaders.

Save the Date for Partners in Education (PIE)

Saturday, January 20, 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Covenant Presbyterian Church

2070 Ridgecliff Road, Columbus, OH 43221

Leadership Training for: Clerks, Elders, Deacons, Educators and more!!

Go to psvonline.org. Click on the NEWS tab and scroll down to Save the Date for PIE, 'READ MORE' ... click on register to attend.

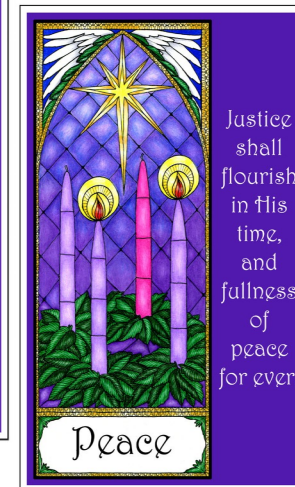
Advent

Advent begins on December 3.

“Advent” means “coming” or “arrival.” Each Sunday, a candle will be lit as we anticipate Christ’s coming into the world. The four weeks of Advent present an opportunity for communal discernment and personal examination.

Our Christmas Eve Service will be at 7:30 pm. If we should have bad weather, the service will be on Zoom.

If you have ordered a Poinsettia for Christmas to take home, you may pick it up after the 7:30 pm service.



ADVENT DAILY DEVOTIONAL

The church has purchased an online daily devotional for Advent from Presbyterian Outlook. You can reach it by clicking on this link ...

https://issuu.com/pres-outlook/docs/lg_apocalyptic_advent_large_full_copy?fr=sYzA2NzY1MjgxMDI



PCC NEWS

We hope everyone had a safe and wonderful Thanksgiving. November was a busy month for the PCC. We had our in-service day on November 10. The staff reviewed how to write an incident report and behavior slip, along with discussions about mandated reporting. The teachers also used this time to clean their rooms. It wasn't all work ... they did a special painting with Stephanie Huddleston. Thank you, Stephanie! The kids started practicing their songs for the Christmas program which will be in December. On November 16, Ms. Amy and Ms. Val prepared a special Thanksgiving dinner for the kids and the staff. It was delicious ... thank you! The PCC was closed on November 23 and 24 in observance of Thanksgiving, giving everyone time to be with family.

December will be a very busy month for us!! During December 4-8, the PCC will have a weeklong bake sale! Everything that is donated will go towards the PCC Sunshine Committee. On Wednesday, December 6, Ms. Amy and Ms. Val will be hosting a Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony! Ms. Amy will light the tree, Ms. Cherie will read a story to the kids, Ms. Val will sing Christmas carols, and there will be a special visitor from the North Pole! This will be followed by the PCC's Christmas Program on Friday, December 8, at 7:00 PM. All are welcome!! On Friday, December 15, the kids will have their Christmas parties!! The PCC will be closed on Friday, December 22 and Monday, December 25 for Christmas and on Monday, January 1, 2023, for New Year's Day.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to everyone. We hope you have a safe and wonderful holiday with your families and friends.

~ Abbey



PCC INVITATION

You are invited to the PCC Christmas Tree Lighting on **Wednesday, Dec. 6 at 9:15 AM** (presented by Ms. Amy and Ms. Val) ... followed by a visit from Santa, Christmas songs, and story time.

Also, you are invited to the PCC Christmas Program on **Friday, Dec. 8, at 7:00 PM**. A special 'you-know-who' will also be there (he does get around). We hope you can join us.



PCC BAKE SALE

December 4-8, the PCC will host a bake sale. All proceeds will go towards the Sunshine Committee! The Sunshine Committee is made up of PCC staff to find ways to raise money for the PCC and to support the teachers.

If you are in the mood to bake, would you like to include some goodies to contribute to their bake sale?

Whatever you would like to make will be appreciated. Since the sale goes on each day, you pick which day you would like to drop off the treat.

Friday, Dec. 8, is the **big day** as the baked goods will be presented for sale during the Christmas program. Thank you for your support!

SISTERS IN THE LORD December



The next Sisters in the Lord gathering will be on
Saturday, December 9
1-3:00 pm
River of Life Worship Center
4453 Big Plain Circleville Rd.
London, Ohio

Join us for lunch, praise, singing and worship in the fellowship of ecumenical women from the London area. For more information, see Joyce Lloyd or Rhonda Miller.



WELCOME TABLE MEAL

The next Welcome Table meal will be on Thursday, December 7. Currently, about 100 meals are being served. The following is needed for this meal:

Marzetti casserole (recipe is on the next page)

Salad

Garlic Bread

Any dessert.

It is best to use a disposable pan. The food will need to be delivered to the St. Paul AME Church, located at 11 W. Center St., London, between 4:30-5:00 PM. Thank you for your continued support. ~Dolly McDonley

Welcome Table JOHNNY MARZETTI CASSEROLE

2 cups dry penne pasta	1 (15 oz) can tomato sauce
1 pound lean ground beef	1 tsp garlic powder
1 small onion chopped	1 tbsp Italian seasoning
1 green bell pepper, seeded & diced	Salt & pepper as desired
1 pound white mushrooms, sliced	3 cups sharp cheddar cheese, (divided)
1 (15 oz) can diced tomatoes	

INSTRUCTIONS:

- Preheat the oven to 350 degrees. Prepare a 9X13 baking dish with nonstick cooking spray.
- Cook pasta according to package directions. Do not overcook as the pasta will continue cooking in the oven. Drain well.
- In a large (12 inch) skillet or Dutch oven, brown the ground beef with the onions and bell peppers, crumbling the beef as it cooks, until the meat is no longer pink. Add the mushrooms and continue cooking until the mushrooms are softened. Drain well and then return the mixture to the skillet.
- To the meat and vegetables, add the tomatoes, tomato sauce, and seasonings. Cook over medium heat for 10 minutes.
- In the pasta pot, combine the meat sauce with the pasta. Stir in half of the cheese. Transfer to the prepared baking dish. Cover with aluminum foil.
- Bake the casserole for 30 minutes. Remove the aluminum foil and top with the remaining cheese. Continue baking for 10 minutes or until the cheese has melted.

PRAYER LINE

All requests to be submitted to Shelley Jones at shelley.j.jones8@gmail.com or call 614-425-7570.

IMPORTANT: Due to privacy issues, please make sure any prayer request is with consent of the person concerned.

Let the pastor know when her presence is needed. If you wish to have prayer concerns lifted during the worship service, please email the church office.



PRAYER REQUESTS FROM PASTOR ABOU OF THE REFORMED NATIONAL CHURCH OF THE SAHEL (RNCS)

Please continue to pray for Pastor Abou and his flock.

They are in the planning stages of organizing a Christmas Vacation Bible School. They ask for our prayers as they begin the planning for a successful, joyful, and hopeful season.

RECIPES FOR THE SEASON

APPLE CRANBERRY CRISP

Preheat the oven to 350°F. Butter a 9x9-inch baking dish.

Filling Ingredients

- 6 cups peeled & sliced baking apples
- 2 cups fresh cranberries
- 2/3 cup sugar
- 2 tablespoons all-purpose flour
- 2 teaspoons lemon juice
- 2 teaspoons grated orange zest

Topping Ingredients

- 1-1/4 cups all-purpose flour
- 3/4 cup packed light-brown sugar
- 1/2 teaspoon cinnamon
- 1/4 teaspoon salt
- 8 tablespoons (1 stick) cold, unsalted butter, cut into 1/4-inch pcs.

Combine all of the **filling ingredients** in a bowl. Set aside for 10 minutes, stirring occasionally.

- **For the topping**, combine the flour, brown sugar, cinnamon, and salt in a food processor and pulse briefly to mix. Scatter the pieces of butter over the dry mixture. Pulse several times, or until it has a sand-like consistency.
- Transfer to a large bowl and rub the mixture between your fingers until it is uniform and clumpy.
- Spread the fruit in the prepared pan. Sprinkle with the topping.
- Bake on the center oven rack for 45 minutes, or until the apples are soft and the cranberries are bubbly. Transfer to a cooling rack for at least 10 minutes before serving.



OATMEAL APPLE CRISP

Preheat oven to 350°F. Grease a shallow baking dish.

Ingredients

- 4 tart cooking apples, sliced
- 1/2 cup (1 stick) butter
- 3/4 cup firmly packed brown sugar
- 3/4 cup quick-cooking oats
- 1/2 cup all-purpose flour
- 1 teaspoon ground cinnamon

- Place apples in prepared baking dish.
- In a saucepan over medium heat, melt butter. Stir in brown sugar, oats, flour, and cinnamon and mix well. Sprinkle mixture over the apples.
- Bake for 45 minutes, or until top is golden and apples are soft.
- Serve warm with whipped cream or vanilla ice cream.

DECEMBER BITS

December 7 is National Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day, and it marks the beginning of Hanukkah.

December's traditional birthstone is Turquoise, a symbol of good fortune and success.

December's birth flower is the Holly, and the paperwhite Narcissus, associated with good wishes, hope and wealth.

The winter solstice will happen on December 21, 2023.

December's full Moon, the Cold Moon, appears on Tuesday, December 26

Look for the Geminid Meteor Shower the night of December 13, after 9:00 PM

Common decorations on a Christmas tree each have their specific meanings. Candles – the light of the world, the star at the top is a reminder of the first Christmas night and candy canes are to represent the shepherd's cane.

* Frost on the shortest day in December is said to indicate a severe winter.
* Thunder in December presages fine weather.

The term Yuletide comes from a Norse tradition of cutting and burning a tree to bring in the Winter Solstice. This was to last through 12 days – later known as the 12 days of Christmas.

The first artificial Christmas tree was made in Germany, fashioned out of goose feathers that are dyed green!

December 12 is Poinsettia Day

December 26: National Candy Cane Day

An Odd Moment in History for December

December 14, 1807

At 6:30 a.m. on this day in 1807, residents from Vermont to Connecticut looked up at the sky and saw a red fireball. About two-thirds the size of a full Moon, it raced across the heavens, broke apart, and fell to earth in at least six areas of Weston (now Easton), Trumbull, and Fairfield, Connecticut. Whizzing sounds were heard close to the impact sites, and three sonic booms were heard as far as 40 miles away. The entire event took about 30 seconds.

Upon hearing the news a few days later, Yale professor Benjamin Silliman, accompanied by his colleague, professor James Kingsley, traveled to the impact area to talk to witnesses, examine impact sites, and collect specimens (including some that enterprising townsfolk were selling as souvenirs). Silliman confirmed that it had been a meteorite—the first officially recorded in the New World.

Meteorites, rocks that fell from space, were a concept slowly gaining acceptance in Europe, but their study was still a relatively new science. In an article in the Connecticut Herald published on December 29, Silliman and Kingsley described the Weston event. The news rapidly spread to other newspapers, and accounts were published in literary and philosophical journals. Later, Silliman performed a chemical analysis of the rocks and published a revised report. The findings were discussed by notable scientific organizations in Philadelphia, London, and Paris. Still, there were skeptics about the idea of meteorites, including U.S. president Thomas Jefferson, who was said to have remarked, "It is easier to believe that two Yankee professors could lie than to admit that stones could fall from heaven."

Fun Fact: Silliman's and Kingsley's Weston meteorite fragments were the first cataloged items in the Yale meteorite collection, which is the oldest in the United States.

(from www.almanac.com)



HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

David & Ruth Kennedy

12-11

T.J. & Connie Dwyer

12-30

May your mornings bring joy and
your evenings bring peace.

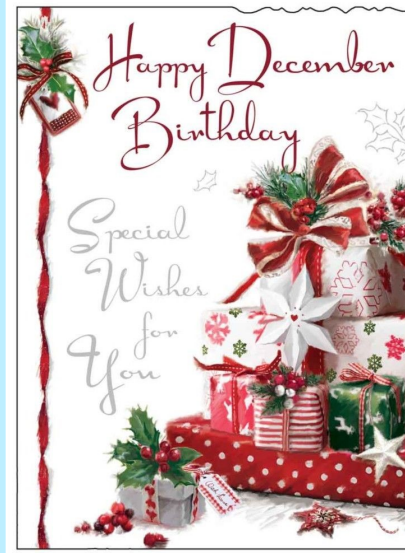
May your troubles grow few as your blessings increase.

May the saddest day of your future
be not worse than the happiest day of your past.

May your hands be forever clasped in friendship
and your hearts joined forever in love.

Your lives are very special,
God has touched you in many ways.

May His blessings rest upon you
and fill all your coming days.



December borns are either Sagittarius (Dec 1-21) or Capricorns (Dec 22-31). The Sagittarius is characterized by their optimism, curiosity, and adventurous spirit. The Capricorn is known for their ambition, practicality and strong work ethic.

In general, December borns are down to earth and friendly. For them, honesty is the best policy. They have hidden talents and love to be organized. A December born has great compassion for others, and has a firm belief in God. They are committed towards their partner and family. No matter how hard the situation is, these people will never leave their loved ones and will never stop chasing their dreams.

Richard Newberry	12-3	Ken Morlock	12-18
Deb Blaho	12-5	Stephanie Huddleston	12-18
Cheryl Clemmons	12-7	Nancy Anders	12-18
Cherie Watters	12-8	Shelley Bailey Jones	12-19
Virginia Murray	12-10	Aubrey Miller	12-20
Debbie Cochran	12-12	Jeff Baltzer	12-23
Gloria Miller	12-13	Mark E. Johnson	12-24
Marjorie Hopkins	12-13	Gordon Johnson	12-27
Curt Ramkissoon	12-14	Nancy Barck	12-29
Judy Wessel	12-14	Janet Newberry	12-30
Leland Dodge	12-15		

DECEMBER 2023

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
26 Decorating the Church for Advent ● 9am Sunday School ● 10am Worship... Cider 'n' Donuts	27 3:30pm Presbytery Meeting	28 3:30pm Presbytery Meeting	29 Pastor Steve, off ● 1pm PCC Leadership Meeting ● 7pm Choir Rehearsal	30 7pm Choir Rehearsal	Dec 1 REMINDER- Annual Reports - email	2
3 9am Sunday School 10am Communion 2 more	4	5 3:30pm Presbytery Meeting	6 9:15am PCC tree lighting & Sancti 1pm PCC Leadership Meeting 5pm Christian Education Zoom IV	7 10am LLAMA 6pm Worship Committee Meeting 7pm Choir Rehearsal	8 Cherie off 7pm PCC Christmas program	9
10 Blood Pressure Screen, after work 9am Sunday School 10am Worship	11 Cherie off 11am PCC Leadership Meeting	12 Pastor Steve, off	13 1pm PCC Leadership Meeting 4pm Stewardship Commission	14 4:15pm Mission Committee mee 7pm Choir Rehearsal	15	16 12pm Joint Session & Deacon M
17 9am Sunday School 10am Worship	18 9am Sunday School 10am Worship	19 Organ Tuning - per Tom 1pm PCC Leadership Meeting 4:30pm Session Meeting	20	21 11am Session Review 7pm Choir Rehearsal	22	23
24 9am Sunday School 10am Worship 7:30pm Christmas Eve Service	25 Pastors Desiree and Mark on Vacation Christmas - Closed for the Holiday 2 more	26	27 7pm Choir Rehearsal	28	29	30
31 Pastors Desiree and Mark on Vacation 9am Sunday School 10am Worship	Jan 1 New Year's Day-Closed	2	3 1pm PCC Leadership Meeting 5pm Christian Education Zoom IV	4	5	6

The Chimes

First Presbyterian Church
 211 Garfield Ave, Box 226
 London, OH 43140



RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED