

THE CHIMES

The Season of Waiting and Watching

The Pastor's Word

It is good that one should wait quietly for the salvation of the Lord. – Lamentations 3.26

If ever there was a season created to drive the typical American crazy, it is Advent. The American reputation for being driven, impatient, goal-obsessed, "let's get it done" people is not without evidence. It's been pointed out to us so often how much our lives revolve around instant breakfasts, ten-minute oil changes, self-help books, and microwave ovens, we hardly hear the words as a criticism. It's who we are we say to our critics and to ourselves. We rarely imagine we could be any different.

If ever there was a season that Americans need more than Advent, I'm not sure what it would be. We are a materially prosperous people - a prosperity due in no small part to our cultural task oriented-ness. We are also a spiritually immature people. Far too often, if we think of God at all, it is only to include him as a partner in our own plans. And never one with a voting majority in the company.

Advent is the season of waiting and watching for God to act - two activities which are profoundly counter-cultural to our way of life. Advent is not at all about hurrying up. It is not about getting anything done. It's not even about going anywhere. It is so, as I said, un-American.

For three and half weeks before Christmas, we try to remember what it must have been like for Israel to nurture the hope of God's salvation. We try to wear the hat of a worn out, tired, hungry group of people who are at the end of all their ropes and know they need more than just a stronger army or a more vibrant economy or a new king on the throne. We imagine what it must have been like to wait, not for a therapist or a professional coach or a consultant to

help us manage our lives, but for a savior. We try to wait, helpless as helpless can be, like they waited for God to come and do what he said he would do. We try to imagine not our future with God in it but God's future with us in it.

There is a lot of future-tense language in Advent. In Isaiah we read words like these: *In the days to come, the house of the Lord will be established.... He shall judge between the nations.... They shall beat their swords into plowshares.... The wolf shall live with the lamb.... The eyes of the blind shall be opened....* And notice it's all God's future. There are no plans of ours.

This is a vision of a very pleasant and comfortable future. It's a world in which life is good for every person and every creature. Advent language is all about a world where justice and health is second nature and God is on the throne of government. It's a place where the metals of industry are shaped into tools for life and not for death. Above all, it is a universe of divine order and all living creatures know and are content in their unique place.



The hope of Advent was fulfilled in the Babe of Bethlehem, of course. God did keep his promise. Jesus is the reason why we ought to trust God for anything else he has promised, too. He did it then and he will certainly come through for us again.

Advent probably makes sense only to people who know they need God more than anything else. It won't work for those who want God sometimes, to help on some projects, or to be present in some places. But for those who know they need a Savior, it's a great time of the year. The watching and waiting are, well, just what God's people are supposed to do.

- KDS

FROM THE ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL

The Council met November 9, 2010 and took action to approve Christ Church's participation in Habitat Apostle Build in 2011. We will be the 12th church to join in the collaboration of Alliance-area churches, including 3 other United Methodist churches, to erect a Habitat for Humanity house in this community. This commitment will require both physical participation by church members and a monetary contribution of \$5000 to the effort. We also heard reports from 3 of the 7 groups assigned responsibility for meeting the goals adopted by the congregation several months ago.

Pastor Karl reported on the general success of the Nominating Committee in filling leadership positions for the church for 2011. We remain, however, in *desperate* need for some one to fill the role of secretary to the Council. Please consider whether you could fill this relatively simple but nevertheless crucial position for your church. Feel free to contact Pastor Karl or the undersigned for more information.

The Administrative Council's next regularly scheduled meeting is **Tuesday, January 11, 2011 at 7:00 p.m.**

Jim Williams, Chairperson

NEWS FROM THE EXPLORER'S CLASS

You may have noticed a new Christmas Tree in the back of Sanctuary. This tree was purchased last year and it currently is decorated with gold and red bulbs, but we would like to turn it into a "Memorial Tree", for our congregation. So if you have a special ornament, that you would like to place on this tree, please feel free to bring it in and hang it on the tree! These ornaments can be for family, friends or past members of the congregation.

The Explorer's Sunday School Class

CONGREGATIONAL CARE

Our Committee would like to remind everyone to use the **Advent devotional material** recently mailed to the congregation. Of course, we are all also encouraged to use the Advent offering envelopes that accompanied the devotional material.

Poinsettias will once again be delivered to visitation members. Sign-up sheets will be in the lounge on **December 5th and 12th** for those willing to deliver these beautiful emblems of the season, along with appropriate cards, to those who are unable to attend services. The flowers, cards and decorated Christmas cookies, courtesy of our Church School children, will be available to be picked up any time during the **week of December 12th**. Delivery may be made at your convenience. Please consider helping with this greatly appreciated gesture and be sure to allow time to visit when you drop off the gifts.

Best wishes for a blessed holiday season for all from your Congregational Care Committee:

Bob Clayton, Paul and Shirley Cope, Rev. David and Mildred Hostetler, Larry and Connie Pyers, Rev. Karl D. Stonebraker and Peg Williams, Chairperson

CHRISTMAS CAROLING

The Explorer's Sunday School Class, will be going Christmas Caroling, on Sunday December 12th. We will be leaving the church between 1:30 & 2:00. We are planning on caroling at Copeland Oaks, and possibly some other locations! Everyone is invited to come, for some fun and fellowship! Last year was a delight, to see the smiles and excitement on the faces of those we caroled to, as well as the little ones that went with us!! This is a fun time!! Hope to see you on December 12th!!

The Explorer's Sunday School Class

**DEADLINE FOR THE FEBRUARY 2011
CHIMES WILL BE MONDAY JANUARY 17, 2011.**

CHRISTIAN ED CORNER

"In a world where children use email and texting, are we teaching them to pray?" An iTeach article raises that question. Today we are at the mercy of televisions, computers and an almost uncontrollable social networking phenomenon which includes Face book, Twitter, texting and email. Has prayer been omitted from these electronic equations and, if it has, how do we re-insert it? Melanie Gordon, author of the article "Praying with Children" suggests that we should first model the discipline of prayer for our children to see. Modeling or teaching on a one-on-one basis does have its benefits. How vivid are the childhood memories I have of kneeling down beside my mother as she prayed and taught me to pray.

Most of us learned "The Lord's Prayer" when we were young children and perhaps the bedtime prayer that began, "Now I lay me down to sleep...". We probably did not understand then that prayer was communication with God and about entering into a relationship with God. Maybe we did not realize until later that our prayers could usher us into a sense of devotion and commitment to God. There was a spiritual connection with God during those intimate moments in prayer.

Can we accomplish that same spiritual connection on a "Face book" page? Can we establish and support our relationships with God through prayer with a Twitter message?

FROM CHRISTIAN EDUCATION COMMITTEE

We are asking for volunteers to fill the following substitute teaching and nursery positions:

Nursery (9:30 AM – Noon): December 5
1st – 5th Grade & 3-4-5 Year Olds/K:
December 5, 19, 26 & January 2.

Sign up sheets will be available in the Lounge or you may contact Dr. J. or Pat Stone.

"Thank You" for all of your support.
The Christian Education Committee

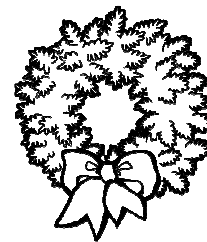
Would God respond to our prayer requests with a return text or perhaps a Twitter response? I am sure he could if he wanted to. I am also sure that I could not teach a child about prayer or anything else using electronic communications.

I could start, however, by teaching face-to face "one-liners": simple, one line prayers such as "Be near me, Lord Jesus." A one line prayer could be "Praise God from whom all blessings flow!" There is an abundance of one line prayers in the Psalms using only the first verses. Psalm 138:1 says "I give thanks, O Lord, with all my heart." In Psalms 118:1 we find "Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good! His faithful love endures forever."

Our hymn books are rich with "one-liners" like "Let there be peace on earth and let it begin with me." "I have decided to follow Jesus, no turning back, no turning back" is a great prayer of commitment. We know that God will hear our prayers no matter when we pray or what prayer position we assume. We can be confident that God will meet us wherever we are. He will hear the formal prayers prayed in the worship setting as well as the simple prayers of a young child prayed in a Sunday school class. How will God present himself and relate to us in cyberspace?

Peace,

Dr. J



CHURCH WOMEN UNITED

December 3, 2010

New Zion Baptist Church 1135 E Jersey St.

11:30 am – Board Meeting

1:00 pm – Program: Concert by:

The Allegheny Wesleyan College Choir
From Salem, OH

UNITED METHODIST WOMEN UNIT MEETING

Tuesday December 7 at 7:00 P.M.
At Union Ave. United Methodist Church
We will be guests of Union Ave. UMW
Program is: **"Kim Lewis and Musicians"**

CIRCLES:

December 13, 12:30 P.M. **Dorcas Circle**
Lakeview Terrace, Copeland Oaks

December 13, 7:00 P.M. **M&M Circle**
Pat Helsel, 1633 Denwood Street, Alliance

December 14, 1:00 P.M. **May Smyth Circle**
Susie Buckel, 3215 Beechwood Ave.,
Alliance

Save the Date:

Tuesday January 18, 7:00 P.M.
Combined Unit/Circle Meetings
Program: Pledge Service and
Installation of Officers
Greeters and Hostesses: UMW Officers

Save the Date Continued:

Saturday January 29: Winter Renewal Retreat
and Officer Training
Presented by: Tuscarawas District United
Methodist Women
Location: North Canton Faith UMC
Registration: 9:00 A.M.
Study: 9:30 A.M. – 12:30 P.M.
Lunch: 12:30 P.M. – 1:00 P.M.
Leader Training: 1:15 P.M.
Dismissal: By 2:00 P.M.
Registration Deadline: **January 21, 2011**
Contact Jill Greiner

Tuesday February 1 – 7:00 P.M. Unit Meeting

In February we will be collecting personal
items and cosmetic bags for Domestic Violence
Shelter.

Needed items: Cosmetic bag, toothbrush +
paste, face soap, wash cloth or sponge, shampoo,
deodorant, comb or brush, lotion, small tissues,
emery boards, shower cap, and small perfume.

A collection box will be in the lounge, in February!

FOR THE MONTH OF DECEMBER:

LITURGISTS

	<u>8:30 A.M.</u>	<u>10:45 A.M.</u>
5	Steve Diser	Susan Haddox
12	Haven Ackley	Keith Noble
19	Steve Diser	Peg Rodefer
24	Christmas Eve 7:00	Sheila Gard
26	Haven Ackley	Bill Sol

WELCOME CENTER GREETERS

5	Willie & Don Gray
12	Dick Diser & Peg Williams
19	Rev. David & Mildred Hostetler
26	Lou & Bob Clayton

DECEMBER TELLERS

5 – Pat Helsel & Marilyn Ruff
12 – Jill Greiner & Diane Hisey
19 – Tyler Kinser & Bruce Helsel
26 – Diane Hisey & Bill Messenheimer

DECEMBER USHERS

Jim Greiner - Captain	
John Christian	Mike Greiner
Arnie Hirvela	Charlie Manypenny
Keith Noble	Bill Sol
Ward Tuttle	David Williams

DECEMBER ANNIVERSARIES: 27 Lewis and Pettie Shields

29 Rev. David and Mildred Hostetler

WORDS OF THANKS

Dear Church Family,

Thank you so much for the beautiful red carnation. It brightened my room along with the altar bouquet. I also enjoyed Pastor Karl's visit. Hope to see you soon.

Shirley Cope

Dear Ones,

Mere words of "Thank You" are not enough for the outpouring of love, compassion and sympathy shown to me and my family during dad's recent passing. Thank you for your words of comfort, your emails, and your prayers. They mean so very much to me.

Sheila Gard

To Christ United Methodist Church:

Thank You for the wonderful service you did for Carol. She would have loved everything that was done for her.

Thank You also for your prayers and support. Thank You to Pastor Karl and Carolyn for their visits.

Howard Cope and Family

PACK 50 NEWS

The Alliance Police Department will present a program 'Stranger Danger', at the Cub Scout Pack 50 meeting on Monday December 6th, at 6:30 PM.

Troop 50 Boy Scouts and any children or youth are invited. Parents are welcome to attend.

**FOR THE MONTH OF JANUARY:
LITURGISTS**

	<u>8:30 A.M.</u>	<u>10:45 A.M.</u>
2	Steve Diser	Jim Greiner
9	Dolores Lawrence	Victor Lee
16	Haven Ackley	Judith Hookway
23	Steve Diser	Tyler Kinser
30	Haven Ackley	Paul Whipple

WELCOME CENTER GREETERS

2	Connie & Larry Pyers
9	Helen Brown & Peg Williams
16	Cynthia Carlin & Charlie Manypenny
23	Bill Sol & Peg Williams
30	Betty Thorpe & Peg Rodefer

JANUARY TELLERS

2	Nancy Sandifer & Mildred Hostetler
9	Julie Greiner & Jan Essick
16	Jim Greiner & Larry Pyers
23	Pat Helsel & Marilyn Ruff
30	Jill Greiner & Donna Essick

JANUARY USHERS

	Roger Frank – Captain
Chuck Cline	Treva Cline
Jennifer Frank	Don Gray
Linda Montgomery	Greg Ruff
	Brian Skidmore

NEWS FOR INTERFAITH.....

Although it's been a challenging year with our finances, we still are very thankful for many things. The first is the generosity of this church and members. Secondly, we love our children and families here at the preschool. Lastly, a preschool is only as good as the staff and we have wonderful, caring teachers.

The third Thursday of the month is *Family Night* from 5:15-6:16 P.M. We eat together and then provide interactive activities for the parents to do with their children. In December we will have our Christmas Program on Wednesday, December 15th. We would like to extend an invitation to anyone interested in attending!

Happy Thanksgiving to everyone and thank you again for all your support throughout the many years!

CONSECRATION SUNDAY IS A SUCCESS!

THANK YOU THANK YOU THANK YOU

Many thanks go out to the congregation for your support of Consecration Sunday. The new pledges and the many increases in pledges show your belief in our ministry from Christ Church to our local and worldwide community.

For those who need numbers (myself included), commitments were up over \$8000 or 3 ½ % over last year. This may seem a small increase but we are very thankful considering we had a significant number of lost pledges due to the deaths of faithful givers. Hopefully, these numbers may increase as a number of commitment cards still need to be returned.

Special thanks go out to Rev. Gary George for his great message and support of our Consecration Sunday; Pettie and Diane for insuring the program runs smoothly; and to the United Methodist Women for providing a wonderful Celebration Luncheon.

God bless the work and the commitment of our church.

Jim Greiner
Stewardship

CHRISTIAN OUTREACH COMMISSION

One of my third graders wrote in her explanation about Christmas, "Christmas is all about giving." This is so true; God gave us the greatest gift, and we can give to others. Victor Lee did such a good job in his Mission Moment, sharing this message. Thank you, Victor.

Our final luncheon of the calendar year for Red Bird Mission was held after church on Sunday, November 14. The Explorers Class, Christian Education and Christian Outreach commissions, and the youth proved that "many hands make light work." We have exceeded our \$1,000 pledge to Red Bird this year. Thank you to all the groups and individuals who participated in our luncheons in 2010.

The November 30 dinner at Alliance Neighborhood Center is our last one for 2010. As of now, we are planning to continue providing these dinners every time there is a fifth Tuesday in the month.

Also, we will continue our aluminum can collection and fifth Sunday noisy can offerings for our global missionary, Beatrice, in Sierra Leone. Thank you for supporting Beatrice and for supporting global missions by signing our church-wide Christmas card and making a donation.

Our bell ringing at Thorne's on Union Ave., the hat and mitten tree, and Salvation Army food pantry donations continue to help people in our local area. Also, our quarterly offerings for the Good Samaritan Fund is used by the Alliance of Churches help needy people in Alliance, too. Of course, the Thanksgiving dinner served at the First Immanuel United Church of Christ is an awesome event, too. Thank you for supporting these local missions.

It was heart-warming to hear Judy Douglas and others who participated in the mission trip to Alliance, Ohio, present an overview of their week, at the November United Methodist Women meeting. It is great that members of different churches are working together for the good of people in our community. We are very excited to be the 12th church in the Apostles Build for Habitat for Humanity, too!

It is wonderful to see our church at work in the community, the country, and the world.
May each and every one of you have a blessed Christmas!

Susie Buckel, chairman

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

3	Doris Barnhouse
4	Jacob Shields
5	Kristin Sayre
6	Emilee Strong
7	Midge Mohr
7	David Charlton
9	John Skivolocki
9	Mark Locke
15	Pettie Shields
19	Bill Sol
22	Carol Woolf
23	Mary Louise Ford
24	Virginia Fronk
25	Mildred Hostetler
26	Sandy Skivolocki
28	Bob Raynes
31	Jessica Richmond

JANUARY ANNIVERSARIES

7	John and Donna Lane
11	Harold and Norma Wasson
22	Jerry and Nancy Sandifer
22	Brad and Diane Thomas

DECEMBER 2010 VISITATION MEMBERS

- 5 – Lois Markel, 1110 W. College St,
Alliance, OH 44601
- 12 – Olympia Helsel, 800 S. 15th St., #7231
Sebring, OH 44672
- 19 – Freda Jurs, 2040 McCrea St., #150
Alliance, OH 44601
- 26 – George Custer, 805 S. Rockhill Ave
Alliance, OH 44601

JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

1	Leanne Austin
4	Jason Handy
5	Marjorie Porter
6	Greg Ruff
6	Chris Helsel
8	Drew Shuster
10	Don Rankin
10	Jenni-Jo Kinser
11	Everette Coldwell
14	Ben Shuster
16	Brandon Handy
18	Billy Reese
18	David Feess
19	Cheri Rodefer
20	Iris Heddleston
21	Jennifer Locke
22	Marilyn Young
23	Jay Marsh
23	Duane Locke
24	Michael Schafer
24	Will Kinser
25	Patti Hirst
25	David Bodo
28	Donna Webster
29	Joan Skidmore
29	Benjamin Kirk

JANUARY 2011 VISITATION MEMBERS

- 2 – Corinne Ruby, 800 S. 15th St., #9186
Sebring, OH 44672
- 9 – Joan & Bob Raynes, 800 S. 15th St., #2103
Sebring, OH 44672
- 16 – Virginia Fronk, 800 S. 15th St., #7423
Sebring, OH 44672
- 23 – Mary Jane Johnson, 2350 Cherry Ave. #33B
Alliance, OH 44601
- 30 – Darlene Howell, 350 S. Arch Ave., #511
Alliance, OH 44601

ATTENTION:

As a part of our goals established by the Administrative Council and the Spiritual/Strategic Planning process, we have scheduled a 'Planned Giving Seminar' for Thursday morning February 3, 2011, at 10:00 am, in the Dussel Room at the Church.

Our own Brian Sheets, of the East Ohio United Methodist Foundation, will present options and opportunities for planned giving during this 90 minute seminar. There will be ample opportunity to ask questions.

This seminar is open to all members and friends of Christ UMC. Please mark you calendar and plan to attend. Look for more information in the January bulletins.



READERS FOR THE ADVENT SEASON

8:30 Service

**November 28 – Dolores Lawrence
December 5 – Steve Diser**

**December 12 – Haven Ackley
December 19 – Steve Diser**

December 24 – The Kinser Family

10:45 Service

**November 28 – The Shields Family
December 5 – Rachel Wood &
Jesse McNight**

**December 12 – The Starkey Family
December 19 – The Frank Family**



THE CHRISTMAS POINSETTIA ALTER ARRANGEMENT



As in years past we have beautified our church at Christmas by placing many lovely poinsettias in memory of/or honor of loved ones and friends. In order that you might have another option for your Christmas Memorial, there is the Living Memorial Scholarship Fund to which you may prefer to give, in lieu of a poinsettia.

Orders for poinsettias to be placed in the church for Christmas must be in by December 12, 2010. The price of the poinsettias this year will be \$8.50 each. Orders may be placed in the offering plates or sent to the church office. No orders will be taken after December 12. ALL ORDERS MUST BE ACCOMPANIED WITH THE MONEY AND ORDER FORM. Donors' names and those to be honored or memorialized will be listed in the Christmas Bulletin, December 19.

MY NAME _____

- I WOULD LIKE TO ORDER A POINSETTIA FOR THE ALTAR AND **TAKE IT** AFTER THE CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE, DECEMBER 24.
- IN LIEU OF A POINSETTIA I WOULD LIKE TO DONATE TO THE LIVING MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP FUND.

This poinsettia or Donation is **IN MEMORY OF** (please print names)

or **IN HONOR OF** (please print names)

AMOUNT INCLUDED _____

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DECEMBER 2010/JANUARY 2011

Volume Number 10
Published 10 Months 2010

NON-PROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
ALLIANCE, OH 44601
PERMIT NO. 298

Christ United Methodist Church



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Alliance, OH 44601-2698
Rev. Karl D. Stonebraker
Church: 330-823-7136

"The Church on The Hill"

***Our Mission is to Make Disciples of Jesus Christ and to
Serve God by Sharing Compassion, Hope and Love***

Covenant Relationship Staff: Thom and Chris Denman, The Joy Center
E-Mail: church@cumcalliance.org Web Page: www.cumcalliance.org

THE CHIMES

DECEMBER 2010/JANUARY 2011



SUNDAYS IN DECEMBER 2010:

Worship Services: 8:30 and 10:45 A.M.; Sunday School for all ages at 9:30 A.M.

December 5 – 2nd Sunday of Advent

Family Night Dinner @ 6:00 PM

December 12 – 3rd Sunday of Advent

Christmas Caroling, leaving the church between 1:30 & 2:00

December 19 – 4th Sunday of Advent

Christmas Sunday

December 24 (Friday) – Christmas Eve Candlelight Service @ 7:00 PM

December 26 – 1st Sunday after Christmas



