

# Revelations

Sharon Center United Methodist Newsletter

December 2019

Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

I'm writing this on November 15, the first day of Celtic Advent, the observance of the forty days that lead up to the birth of the Christ child. This forty-day observance started most likely around 300 A.D. as a season of preparation much like Lent. Our liturgical observance of Advent begins December 1, after we've properly had a "hanging of the greens" on Nov. 30 - please join us at 10AM! My family crèche is displayed in our living room, empty and bare right now as a reminder that I am in a season of waiting, preparing and anticipating the fulfillment of the promises of God. The Shepherds, Wise men, Mary and Joseph are in another part of the house and will move toward the crèche over the days leading up to Christmas. I'm excited about this constant physical reminder of the active waiting – waiting for Christ to appear, and appear again, to bring us home.

The Christmas classic ballet *The Nutcracker* is a marvelous tale of a wooden nutcracker whose fight against the evil Mouse King transforms him into a prince. There's Clara, the young girl who receives a special gift at Christmas; Drosselmeyer, the godfather who gives Clara the Nutcracker; the evil mouse King; and of course, the Nutcracker that is transformed. During Advent, December 1 through 24, we will be exploring this story and reflect on it theologically – how does this story speak the message of Christmas?

You have three ways you can participate in this all church study: you can pick up a book from the table at the back of the Sanctuary and follow along with each of the Sunday messages through Advent by reading a chapter each week; you can pick up a book, follow along with the sermons and join the Sunday 9AM Small Group Bible Study for December; or you can just follow along each Sunday and hear the gospel in a new way. There are lots of options!

We have a lot of special activities and services for December so be sure to check them all out. We'll have a special Longest Night/Blue Christmas Service on Sunday, Dec. 22 at 3PM. The children will practice their musical which will be presented Dec. 15, and make gingerbread houses, the Bells will ring out on Dec. 29 and we'll light candles and sing Silent Night on Christmas Eve.

The true Christmas story is far more miraculous and magnificent than any Nutcracker tale: The Prince of Peace took on human flesh, conquered sin and Satan by His death and Resurrection, and reconciles sinful believers to the holy God. Our response is praise!

Christ the Savior is born!

Pastor

Jane



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## Did Someone Hand You This Newsletter?

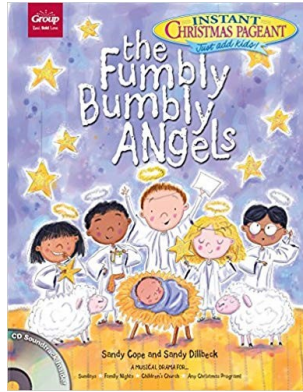
*If so, we're excited to share with you all the things going on in the life of Sharon Center United Methodist Church! Our church is a community that seeks to discover more about God and about who we are as the people God loves. We are truly a family of all ages, and there's always room for more! You're always invited to take part in all the activities and gatherings listed in this newsletter, as well as to join us every Sunday morning at 10:30am as we gather to worship and connect. Thanks!*

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## A Note from the Choir Director

Mark your calendars for Sunday, December 15! That's when "Chance", "Daphne", "Penelope", and "George" (better known as "The Fumbly, Bumbly Angels"! ) will try and earn their place in the heavenly choir!! This children's musical promises to be lots of fun. The children have learned a few songs already, but it is not too late to join us! We will be practicing again on Dec. 1 (during Sunday School), Dec. 7 from 10:00-11:30 a.m. and from 10:00-11:30 on Dec. 14.

After the rehearsal on the 14th, the kids will stay another hour and make gingerbread houses! Please mark your calendars and join in the fun!



Bell Choir rehearsals: December 2, 9, 16, 23 from 7:00-8:15. They will be playing for worship on December 29.

Choir rehearsals: December 5, 12, 19 from 7:00-8:15. They will be singing in worship on December 1, 8, 22 and Christmas Eve.

Children's Choir rehearsals: December 1 during Sunday School. December 7 from 10:00-11:30 and December 14 from 10:00-12:30. They will be singing in worship on December 8 and December 15.

~ Millie Frambaugh



"Comfort, comfort my people, says your God." Isaiah 40:1 The community is invited to a special service on Sunday, December 22 at 3:00 PM for a Blue Christmas Service of Remembrance, Healing and Hope in our Sanctuary.

What is Blue Christmas or Longest Night service? There are many moments in our lives when we need comfort. There are tough times when we yearn for comfort and hope. The suffering people who looked for the long-awaited Messiah were given a hope-filled image of God in the writings of Isaiah. It expresses the belief that no matter what happens to us, God will be there to comfort and support us. Christmas can be a time for many when we are in need of that reassurance and comfort.

Perhaps we are grieving over the loss of a loved one, struggling with illness, or have experienced the loss of a job. We wonder how we will get through the holidays.

Those looking for comfort, hope, wholeness, and renewal joined together for a time of quiet reflection and meaningful words and music. All share in the good news of "God with us: Immanuel!" Join us for this meaningful service. Refreshments follow in the Gathering place.

## Calendar

Regular Schedule:

Sun. 9a Adult Sunday School  
10:30a Worship

## November

30th 10a Hanging of the Greens

## December

1st		Kid's Choir practice Adult Choir sings
2nd	7p	Bell Choir practice
3rd	7p	<i>Unanswered</i> Study
4th	1p	Worship Comm. mtg
5th	10a	<i>Christian Atheist</i> Study
	7p	Adult Choir practice
7th	8a	Men's Breakfast Study
	10a	Kid's Musical practice
8th		Adult Choir sings
	4p	Sparks grp
9th	7p	Bells practice
12th	10a	<i>Bethlehem</i> Study
	7p	Adult Choir practice
14th	9a-12	Cookie & Craft Sale
	10a	Kids Musical practice & gingerbread house making
15th		Children's Christmas Program
16th	7p	Bells practice
19th	10a	<i>Bethlehem</i> Study
	11:30a	Lunch Bunch
	7p	Adult Choir practice
22nd		Adult Choir sings
	3p	Blue Christmas Service
23rd	7p	Bells practice
24th	7:30p	Christmas Eve Service
26th	10a	<i>Bethlehem</i> Study
29th		Bells play

## December Birthdays

- 4 – Cayla Falconer  
16 - Christina Breese  
18 - Stacey Russell  
23 – Janice Jones  
Melissa Shaw  
24- Eunice Merritt  
31 - Ann Krautheim

## December Anniversaries

- 10- Fred & Edilene Coblentz

## Mailing Address Update:

Art & Pat Shick  
6535 Ridge Rd.  
Wadsworth, OH 44281  
\*no more PO Box

## Notes of Thanks

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Thank you so much for making me feel appreciated and loved for Pastor Appreciation Month! I so enjoyed the cards and notes and gifts, reminders of your love and affirmations that yes, indeed, I am in the God's will. May we continue in the Lord's work, pressing on toward the prize, serving and sharing God's love with one another, our community and our world. In Christ alone, *Pastor Jane*

## Lunch Bunch

Dec. 19 Serenité Restaurant  
11:30a 538 W. Liberty Street. Medina, OH 44256  
Jan 16 Dewey's Pizza  
11:30a 3265 W. Market Str. Fairlawn, OH

The car pool will leave the church at 11am. Please sign up on the sheet located under the bulletin board by the stairs to the balcony. Please let us know if you will be driving on your own. We order our meals from the menu and each person pays for their own meal. Everyone is invited – bring a friend if you wish!

~ Nancy Vogel

## Foundations Team

### Adult Sunday School

The Adult Sunday School is currently studying the book of Hebrews. This book was written for Jewish Christians but has guidance for us even today. Feel free to join us at anytime, as it is not necessary to be in attendance for all sessions.

### Spiritual Growth Discussions

The study “**Unanswered – Lasting Truth for Trending Questions**” by Jeremiah J. Johnston will be ending on Tues, Dec. 3<sup>rd</sup>. The group will take a hiatus until January.

On Tues, Jan. 14, 2020, we will start discussing **Grace is Greater** by Kyle Idleman. This is a six-week study that will help you understand and experience the grace of God.

The study “Christian Atheist” will end on Dec. 5. On Dec. 12 we will begin the study “Because of Bethlehem” by: Max Lucado. This Study is 4 sessions and is lead by Randy Raw. It will meet in the conference room on Thurs. mornings at 10am.

~ Nancy Vogel

# Sparks



The Sparks will have their December gathering on Sunday December 8 at 4:00 PM. Details are still being finalized! We are planning on singing Christmas Carols for a local nursing home and then gathering back at the Church for games, a chocolate fountain, crafts and stories. More details to follow! This group is for kids who have received their Bibles (usually third grade and older) up to those in Confirmation (usually sixth/seventh grade). Leaders for this group are Paul Turner, Melissa Shaw and Pastor Jane.

## Book Club

December 7

*Christmas on the Island: A Novel*

by: Jenny Colgan. On a remote Scottish island Christmas is festive and beautiful. However, if you just got pregnant by your ex-boss and do not know how to tell him, this Christmas may not be one of glad tidings.

January 4

*The Written World*

by: Martin Puchner.

This is the story of how literature shaped world history from Alexander the Great and the Iliad to Don Quixote and Harry Potter.

The Book Club meets on the first Saturday of the month at 10am except for weeks with holidays when it meets the second Saturday of the month. Feel free to join us and bring a friend if you wish.

~Nancy Vogel



## Christmas Eve Luminaries

The Worship Committee would like to replace some old luminaries and add more to our parking area this Christmas Eve. We are in need of 1/2 gallon and gallon clear milk jugs. If you would be willing to save what you have or use, please rinse them out and bring them to church. You can place them on the counter in the kitchen. We will do the rest! Please help make our church look beautiful this Christmas Eve!

## Cookie & Craft Sale

Date: Dec. 14

Time: 9a-noon

Location: Sharon Center UMC

Price: \$8/ lb and crafts priced individually.

We are looking for approx. 25 different variety of cookies and treats for our annual cookie sale. Sign up on the back sanctuary table if you can help. We hope to see you there!



## Adopt a Family Giving Tree

We will be sponsoring our annual adopt a family through the Highland Community Support Network this Christmas. The Christmas Tree is in the back of the sanctuary. A tag can be taken, purchase item, return unwrapped with gift receipt by Sun. Dec. 15.

## Pantry Pick of the Month

December 2019

For the month of December, let's shower our local pantry with all things TOMATO!

Pasta sauce, canned tomatoes, tomato paste –

you get the idea! How about Tomato Soup! Wow, that sounds good with a toasted cheese sandwich right now...Thank you for your support!



## Hanging of the Greens



This is a special time to decorate our church for the Christmas Season. We will have a story read to the children and some Christmas music. There will also be a craft for the children. We will have pizza and pop for lunch along with some desserts. ALL ARE INVITED to help with this special time with family and friends to start the Advent Season. Hope to see you there!

Date: Nov. 30

Time: 10am

Location: Sharon Center UMC

## Men's Group

This year we are using The Making of a Man by Tim Brown. Tim Brown won the Heisman Trophy at Notre Dame and played 17 years in the NFL and was inducted into the NFL Hall of Fame in 2015. It's about leading a life of honor and integrity that honors God. This is a study for all men no matter what stage of life you are in. There are six sessions and we plan to go until Saturday May 2, with filling in some of the months with community service projects.

Our next meeting will be Saturday Dec. 7, 8-9:30AM at St. Paul Lutheran Church.

If you want to see what you missed you are welcome to borrow the materials in between meetings. You can also join in at anytime because each session is independent of the others and there are no pre-requisites. .

~ Paul Turner



## Poinsettia Order Form

Our sanctuary will be decorated the Sunday before Christmas with Poinsettias ordered by members of our congregation in honor of, in memory of, or to celebrate loved ones. You can also purchase one to be given to a homebound individual. The names of donators will be listed in an insert in the bulletin.

Poinsettias may be ordered for \$9.50 each using the following form. You may place the order form with payment in the collection plate on Sundays, on the desk in the office, or give to Nancy Baldwin. Orders for poinsettias will be taken until Dec. 15<sup>th</sup>.

You may take the poinsettias home Sun. Dec. 23<sup>rd</sup>, Christmas Eve, or Sun. Dec. 30<sup>th</sup>.

Poinsettia \$9.50      Quantity ordered \_\_\_\_\_

In Honor of \_\_\_\_\_

In Celebration of \_\_\_\_\_

In Memory of \_\_\_\_\_

Given by \_\_\_\_\_



Join us for a  
Christmas Eve Service:

7p – Traditional Candlelight Service

# Cookie & Craft Sale



December 14

9a-noon

\$8/ lb



Large variety of cookies and snacks

Proceeds support the Sharon Center UMC



## Sharon Center UMC

P.O. Box 239

6407 Ridge Rd.

Sharon Center, OH 44274

## Contact Us

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Visit us on the web at:

[www.SharonCenterUMC.org](http://www.SharonCenterUMC.org)

Visit Us on Facebook!

Service time: Sunday, 10:30a

PLACE  
STAMP  
HERE