

# Revelations

Sharon Center United Methodist Newsletter

December 2022

Dear Faith Community,

This month's deadline for the Newsletter came surprisingly fast! I was so consumed by the everyday activities and preparing for Thanksgiving and Advent that it suddenly appeared, and I was not prepared. Thank the Lord for Nikki who send me a gentle reminder and kept me on course.

The Bible reminds us in several times that we are to be prepared as the coming day approaches – the day that the Lord returns to make all things new. There are two ways that we will be in the presence of the Lord – one way is that the Lord returns the same way he left us by descending from above at the sound of the trumpet. Another way is that our earthly journey comes to an end, and we die. Either way, we never know the day or the hour, only that we are to be prepared. Keep your lamps lit!

The season of Advent, which is the first season of the Liturgical calendar, is a time of preparation. This year it lasts from November 27 to December 24. During this time, we are to prepare ourselves for the coming of the Messiah, the birth of Jesus. Sometimes it's hard to contain our joy and we jump right to Christmas carols and "Joy to the World", when in fact we should be taking time to prepare our minds and hearts to receive him. Just like we don't just jump into something without counting the costs, making a plan, and gathering what's needed, we need to prepare ourselves for the Christ child. What does the season of preparation mean for you?

During this Advent we will be focusing on the Psalms of Ascent, which are generally believed to be Psalm 120 through Psalm 134. These are the songs that were sung, or said, by the Israelites as they made their way to the Temple in Jerusalem to Worship. Yes, they had them memorized because no one had books. I hope you will take the time to read them yourself this Advent during your quiet time or personal devotions and use them to prepare your heart to receive him again.

Take a lesson from the mistakes of the Pastor, and slow down this Advent season to prepare for the greatest gift of all, the gift of forgiveness, reconciliation to God, Jesus himself, born fully divine and fully human, King of Kings.

Praise be to God,

*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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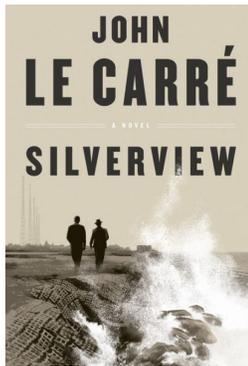


## Book Club

We meet at 10:00am in the Conference Room at the Church. Please join us at any time to discuss the books.

**December 3rd** *Silverview* by: John Le Carre'

The story is centered on the lonely lives of spies and the difficult choices they have to make when their experience redefines the parameters of their mission for Queen and country.



**January 7th** *A Gentleman in Moscow* by: Amor Towles

In 1922 an aristocrat is sentenced to house arrest in a grand hotel across the street from the Kremlin. He must live in an attic room. If he leaves the hotel he will be shot. Find out how he survives and raises a child who is left with him in the hotel.

~Nancy Vogel

## Gift Cards for Holiday Gifts

We have a few retail and Dining Gift Cards left that make great gifts for the holidays. See Nikki after church service, during office time, or they'll be set up during the Cookie Sale.



## Christmas Choir

... "Sing, Choirs of Angels!"

Who doesn't love the sound of a choir during the Christmas season? Join us for a very special Christmas choir this year here at Sharon Center UMC! We are calling all who are interested to come and sing on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day. We will have two rehearsals on SATURDAY December 10 and 17 at 10:00 at the church. The music will be fairly easy to accommodate ALL those who are interested! Please contact Millie at (330) 285-8922 for further information and then come and... "sing, choirs of angels!"

~Millie Frambaugh

## Food Pantry Collection

Let's fill the Food Pantry at St. Paul and our Blessing Box with canned veggies. Please remember the Blessing Box in front of the church when purchasing items as well as if you find someone you know who needs some basic food items to hold them over until they are able to purchase their own. The box is open to ANYONE. Drop off an item, or pick one up, or select a book to read. Our box has been used and it is a need in our community! Spread the word!



## Hanging of the Greens

Help decorate the Church for the holidays! We'll decorate the church on Nov. 26 at 10am. The Children will get to have story time and do a craft and we'll have pizza after.

## Gingerbread House Making

Join us on December 17 at 11am to make Gingerbread Houses. This is also during our Cookie Sale we invite everyone to bring the kids to make a gingerbread house while the adults can shop!



## Calendar

Regular Schedule:

Sun. 10:30a Worship  
available on Facebook Live

## November

11/26 10am Hanging of the Greens  
11/29 7p *Angels of Christmas Study*

## December

12/3 Ham Radio Test  
12/3 10a Book Club  
12/6 7p *Angels of Christmas Study*  
12/10 10a Choir Practice  
12/10 11a-1p Men's Study outing  
to Cup's Café  
12/11 Poinsettia order due  
12/13 7p *Angels of Christmas Study*  
12/17 9a-noon Cookie Sale  
10a Choir Practice  
11a Gingerbread Houses  
12/18 3p Blue Christmas Service  
Adopt a Family Items due  
12/20 7p *Angels of Christmas Study*

## Christmas Services

12/24 7p Christmas Eve Service  
12/25 10:30a Christmas Day  
Service

## 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

### Special Thanks:

Dear Sharon Center UMC Family,

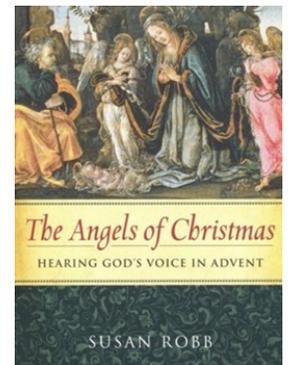
Thank you all so much for your outpouring of support for Pastor Appreciation Month! I received so many cards and gifts that were very meaningful to me, but also I appreciate the words of encouragement. I do nothing on my own, but through the power of the Holy Spirit and the encouragement and support of each of you. I love the WillowTree "Thank You" ornament that will be a part of my holiday each year to remind me of all of you.

Much love,  
Pastor Jane

## Foundations Team

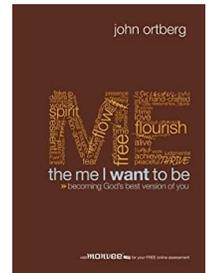
### Spiritual Growth Discussions

The study for Advent will be *The Angels of Christmas: Hearing God's Voice in Advent* by: Susan Robb. It will began 11/29 for four weeks. The study explores the angelic visits surrounding the birth of Jesus with Zechariah, Mary, Joseph, and the shepherds. The message of the angels hold meaning for listeners both then and now. Please join us on Tuesday evenings at 7:00pm for this interesting study. The study will be coordinated by Charlie Tramel.  
~ Nancy Vogel



### Men's Breakfast Study

Men's Breakfast Study continues Saturday, December 10. This Saturday Paul will be out of town and the group will be going to Cups Café from 11a-1p to volunteer with serving lunch.  
~ Paul Turner



## Cookie Sale

We will have our annual Cookie and Craft Sale on Dec. 17 from 9am-noon. A donation sheet will be out soon. Cookies will be \$9/ lb and crafted items will be priced individually. We have a lot of great bakers! Bring a friend and gather some cookies for Holiday parties!

## Adopt a Family

Adopt a Family Info is posted. Tags are on the tree at the back of the sanctuary. Please write down the tag number on the sheet and return by Dec. 18. Please return unwrapped but donations of wrapping paper and gift bags is appreciated.

## Operation Christmas Child

A Great BIG Thank You!

Thank you to all of you that packed a box for Operation Christmas Child or donated money for postage. Due to your extreme generosity, we were able to drop off 102 boxes AND the postage to cover them!! You have made this Christmas a little brighter for 46 boys and 56 girls somewhere in this world. And that's what Christmas is all about!! Hallelujah!

## Blue Christmas Service

Sunday, December 18 at 3PM

Partnering with Caretenders Hospice, Sharon Center United Methodist will offer a special service of healing and hope where we will remember our loved ones that we are missing during the holiday season. We will hear special music, readings, and have a time of remembering each loved one represented by those present for the service. Join us for this special service. Refreshments will follow. All attending will receive a special memento of their loved one to keep. This service will also be offered virtually.



## Notes from Leadership Board

The Board met on November 9th and discussed several items that I want to share with you. They are the following:

There is a concern regarding the inside doors to the sanctuary and the basement. These doors need to be closed at all times. Failure to close the doors interferes with the heating system of the church. We all want to be warm when in the church so please, if you see these doors open close them.

We need to continue to decrease the number of gift cards available for sale. There are still plenty left. Please consider purchasing them for Christmas gifts or for your own use.

Due to a generous gift from The Hillier Family Foundation, our financial cash flow will be positive for the year 2022. Going forward, however, Sunday plate giving is trending below the level necessary to sustain a positive cash flow, requiring the use of our financial reserves to satisfy the expenses necessary to operate the church. Please prayerfully consider increasing your support for 2023.

All church policies were reviewed and updated. I plan on reviewing these policies with you in the next few newsletters. The ones I want to highlight now are:

**Policy on Media Calls:** It is the policy of Sharon Center United Methodist Church that all Media calls are referred to the Pastor and District Superintendent. At no time is the receiver of the call to answer any question or give out any information requested.

(This is important at this time as outsiders are attempting to get congregations to seek disaffiliation from the United Methodist Church. Any changes to the policies of the UMC will not occur until the General Conference in 2024.)

**Policy on Weather Emergency:** It is the policy of Sharon Center United Methodist Church that in event of a snow or other extreme weather condition when Medina County generates an official Level 2 or above all activities, meetings, and Worship Services will be cancelled at the church for the safety of all concerned. Should an official Level I snow or weather emergency situation be in effect, the church will remain open for activities, meetings, and Worship services, and the decision hold such activities or attend them shall be made by those involved in said activities.



## 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 \$13.00 each using the following form. You may place the order form with payment in the collection plate on Sundays, return to the office by drop off or email, pay online. If you pay online please let the office know and send form with info by email or drop off. Orders for poinsettias will be taken until Dec. 11<sup>th</sup>.

You may take the poinsettias home after Christmas Eve, Sundays following Christmas, pick up during office time at church, or have dropped off at your home by request.

Poinsettia \$13.00      Quantity ordered \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

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

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

# Cookie & Craft Sale



December 17

9a-noon  
\$9/ lb



Sharon Center UMC  
6407 Ridge Rd.

Large variety of cookies and snacks  
Proceeds support the Sharon Center UMC



## Contact Us

Sharon Center UMC  
6407 Ridge Rd.  
P.O. Box 239  
Sharon Center, OH 44274

Nicole Fox  
(330) 239-1616  
SharonCenterUMCSecretary@gmail.com

Pastor Jane  
janepiehl@gmail.com  
(330) 321-4700

Visit us on the web at:  
[www.SharonCenterUMC.org](http://www.SharonCenterUMC.org)

Visit Us on Facebook!  
Sharon Center UMC

Service time: Sunday, 10:30a

## Shop and Support Your Church at No Extra Cost



### What Is AmazonSmile?

AmazonSmile offers all of the same items, prices, and benefits of its sister website, Amazon.com, but with one distinct difference. When users shop on AmazonSmile, the retailer's Foundation contributes 0.5% of eligible purchases to the charity of your choice. For frequent Amazon users, this additional perk is a great way to give back to our church effortlessly. Here are some things to remember.

The Internet address is [smile.amazon.com](http://smile.amazon.com). But the company uses the term AmazonSmile in its explanatory information.

- If you already have an Amazon account, when you click on [smile.amazon.com](http://smile.amazon.com), you will be asked to sign in. If you don't have an account, you will need to set one up. It doesn't cost anything to set up an Amazon account.
- Once signed into [smile.amazon.com](http://smile.amazon.com), you will be prompted to pick a charity. You can select Sharon Center United Methodist Church. Once you do that, a percentage of your purchase price on many, but not all, items will be donated to the church. You must remember to go to [smile.amazon.com](http://smile.amazon.com) each time you shop for all of this to work. So, consider bookmarking the site. This is an easy, simple way for the church to benefit from your shopping at no extra cost to you! Sign up today!