

Revelations

Sharon Center United Methodist Newsletter

December 2023



Dear Friends of God,

The Advent Season, the four Sundays prior to Christmas Day, is a time when we prepare our hearts and minds as well as our homes and Sanctuary for the coming Christ child, God made flesh in the form of a newborn baby. We will be decorating the Sanctuary and Gathering Place on Saturday, December 2 at 1:00 PM as we “get ready” for the coming of the Christ child. Please join us! Anytime a new person joins the family, space and preparations are made to welcome them and make them feel comfortable. Babies need a lot more preparation than adults because they are more helpless.

We don't think of Jesus, the Son of God, as being helpless – yet Jesus came as a helpless infant so that we would know that he experienced everything we do as a human being. There is nothing that we have felt that Jesus didn't feel in his thirty-three years walking the earth.

During Advent this year I will be talking about how we can reflect on John Wesley's theology through the themes of the season.

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|---------------|--|
| December 3 | Grace Prepares Us – A Season of HOPE |
| December 12 | Praying like Zechariah – A Season of PEACE |
| December 19 | Acts of Mercy – A Season of JOY |
| December 24 | A Message for Today – A Season of LOVE |
| Christmas Eve | The Incarnation – God Made Real |

We pray that the weather holds out so that we can again this year decorate the parking lot and sidewalks in front of the church with luminaries on Christmas Eve. We will gather as the family of God two times on Christmas Eve: first in the morning for our regular 10:30 AM Worship, and then again at 7:00 PM for a Candlelight Communion Service for the entire family. I always look forward to being surrounded by my faith family, lit candles in hand, singing “Silent Night” and knowing that for a brief moment, there is peace on earth and goodwill to all men.

May the peace of God which passes all understanding keep you in perfect peace as your mind is set on Him.

Joy to the World!
Pastor Jane



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!

Choir Corner

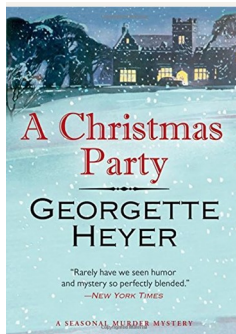
"Sing, Choirs of Angels!" Who doesn't love the sound of a choir during the Christmas season? We are calling all who are interested to come and sing on Christmas Eve at the 7pm service. We will have rehearsal on Thursday, December 21 from 7p-8p. at the church. The music will be fairly easy to accommodate ALL those who are interested! Please contact Millie at (330) 285-8922 for further information and then come .. "sing, choirs of angels!"

~Millie Frambaugh

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 2nd The book *A Christmas Party* by Georgette Heyer will be discussed. Guests at a festive holiday house party discover there is a killer in their midst when their host is found dead in a room locked from the inside.



January 6th We will discuss *The Bluest Eye* by: Toni Morrison. This book talks about our obsession with beauty & conformity that asks questions about race & gender with characteristic subtlety and grace.

~Nancy Vogel

Hospital/ Home Visitation

If you or someone you love is in the hospital or sick please call the office and let them know so that the Pastor can call, visit or bring Holy Communion. We will need name, address and phone number.

Food Pantry Collection

Let's stock the pantry with canned beans in December. These are great for soups and side dishes. Also, individual size items like microwavable soup cups, rice cups, ramen noodle cups, Chef Boyardee bowls, mac & cheese bowls are very popular in the Blessing Box.



Operation Christmas Child Shoeboxes

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 100 boxes and postage to cover them!! You have made this Christmas a little brighter for 45 boys and 55 girls somewhere in the world. And that's what Christmas is all about!! Hallelujah!

Calendar

Regular Schedule:

Sun. 10:30a Worship
available on Facebook Live

November

11/28 10a Co-Op Group
7p *Savior is Born Study*

December

12/2 9a Radio Test Group
10a Book Club
1p Hanging of the Greens
12/3 3p Blue Christmas Service
12/5 6:30p Co-Op Science Fair
7p *Savior is Born Study*
12/12 7p *Savior is Born Study*
12/19 7p *Savior is Born Study*
12/20 Adopt a family items due
12/21 7p Choir Practice

Christmas Eve Schedule

10:30a Sunday morning service
7p Candlelight Christmas Eve
Service

January

1/10 7p Leadership Team mtg
1/11 7p Choir Practice

Future Dates:

4/23-5/3/2024
United Methodist Church General
Conference at the Charlotte
Convention Center in Charlotte,
North Carolina

December Birthdays

- 4 - Cayla Falconer
- 16 - Christina Breese
- 18 - Stacy Russell
- 23 - Melissa Shaw
- 24 - Eunice Merritt
- 31 - Ann Krautheim

December Anniversaries

Text a Prayer Request

We have a new Prayer Request System. In the newsletter is a QR code and text number for Prayer requests. All are welcome to use it and it goes directly to Pastor Jane.



Text Us
a Prayer
Request

Text Us a Prayer
Request

855•527•8699

Foundations Team Spiritual Growth Discussions

The *Advent Study will be A Savior is Born* with Pete Briscoe. This is a 4 week study on experiencing the wonder of the first Christmas. Millie Frambaugh will lead the study. Please join the group for this meaningful study on Tuesday evenings starting on November 28, at 7:00pm.

We were unable to complete the study *The Way of the Chosen* in November due to our stimulating discussions. Therefore, the study will continue from January 9—February 13, 2024.

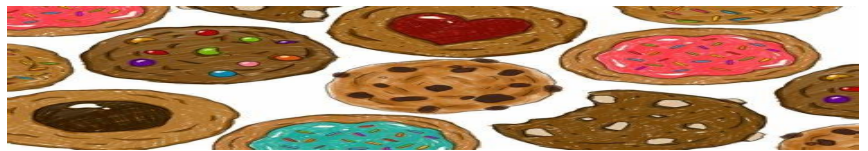
~ Nancy Vogel

Fall Luncheon & Bake Sale

Thank you to all who donated your time and baking talents for the Fall Luncheon and Bake Sale.

Upcoming Cookie Sundays

We will have Cookie Sunday on December 10 this month. Join us after church to mingle and have snacks!



Update from Leadership Board

Please sign up for the text alert for prayers. You can then call 855-527-8699 to request a prayer for all those in need.

We will continue with the cleaning of our membership role in 2024.

Our year-to-date income is higher than budgeted however it still remains below what is needed for the year. We do have 6.4 months of operating expenses. In order to meet the needs of the church we like to have at least 6 months of operating expenses on hand.

The budget for 2024 was approved. We will need an annual income of \$112,307.78 to meet our operating expenses for the year.

The East Ohio Conference will be changing from 10 districts to four districts in January 2024. The Canal District will be disbanded.

NOTE: We had a short time assignment in the Northern Waters District as we were notified on Thursday, 11/16 that we were re-assigned to the West Plains District.

The District Superintendent is Rev. Nestor Nazario and the Associate District Superintendent is Rev. Donna Van Trees.

The next meeting of the Leadership Board will be at 7:00pm on January 10, 2024.

~Nancy Vogel

Blue Christmas Service

December 3

3pm.

Sharon Center UMC

6407 Ridge Rd. Wadsworth, OH

Contact Us

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Visit us on the web at:
www.SharonCenterUMC.org

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Sharon Center UMC

Service time: Sunday, 10:30a

Christmas Eve Service

7pm

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Wadsworth, OH