

WORTHINGTON

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

*Brought to you by Jesus...
to make a difference*



FIRST SUNDAY
OF
Advent

DECEMBER 2, 2018
10:00 A.M.

CHRISMON READINGS

PAX (Peace), World

Marissa Maxwell

HYMN #87

“Comfort, Comfort Now My People”

GENEVAN

stanza 1

Those holding a PAX, Dove or World Chrismon are invited to hang their Chrismon on the tree.

CHRISMON READINGS

Candle, Star

Kathryn Ferguson &
Elizabeth Timcho

HYMN #152

“What Star is This, with Beams So Bright”

PUER NOBIS NASCITUR

stanza 1

Those holding a Candle, Star or Lamp Chrismon are invited to hang their Chrismon on the tree.

CHRISMON READINGS

Manger, Crown

Dominic Maxwell

HYMN #268

“Crown Him with Many Crowns”

DIADEMATA

stanza 1

Those holding a Manger or Crown Chrismon are invited to hang their Chrismon on the tree.

CHRISMON READINGS

Cup, Shell

Jack Feucht

HYMN #486

“Child of Blessing, Child of Promise”

KINGDOM

stanzas 1 and 4

Those holding a Cup or Shell Chrismon are invited to hang their Chrismon on the tree.

CHRISMON READINGS

Butterfly, Cross

Kathryn Ferguson &
Elizabeth Timcho

* HYMN #133

“O Come, All Ye Faithful”

ADESTE FIDELES

stanzas 1, 2, 3

Those still holding a Chrismon are invited to hang their Chrismon on the tree.

All children are invited to the Chancel steps for a prayer.

Children will proceed to the Advent Workshop, please pick your child up in Fellowship Hall today.

PROCLAIMING GOD’S WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Deanna Olson

FIRST SCRIPTURE READING

Jeremiah 33:14-16

The days are surely coming, says the LORD, when I will fulfill the promise I made to the house of Israel and the house of Judah. In those days and at that time I will cause a righteous Branch to spring up for David; and he shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. In those days Judah will be saved and Jerusalem will live in safety. And this is the name by which it will be called: “The LORD is our righteousness.”

One: The Word of our Lord.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

ANTHEM

“Soon and Very Soon”

arr. Jack Schrader

The Chancel Choir

Soon and very soon we are going to see the King; Hallelujah! No more dying there, we are going to see the King; Hallelujah!

SECOND SCRIPTURE READING

1 Thessalonians 3:9-13

How can we thank God enough for you in return for all the joy that we feel before our God because of you? Night and day we pray most earnestly that we may see you face to face and restore whatever is lacking in your faith.

Now may our God and Father himself and our Lord Jesus direct our way to you. And may the Lord make you increase and abound in love for one another and for all, just as we abound in love for you. And may he so strengthen your hearts in holiness that you may be blameless before our God and Father at the coming of our Lord Jesus with all his saints.

One: The Word of our Lord.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

SERMON

“A Shoot from the Stump”

Dr. Tom Rice

*** HYMN #177**

“I Will Come to You”
stanzas 1, 2 and 4

YOU ARE MINE

RESPONDING TO GOD’S WORD

PRESENTATION OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

Dr. Julia Wharff Piermont

(Online giving available anytime via our account with EasyTithe: text your offering dollar amount to 614-808-8580 or go to www.easytithe.com/wpcgive.)

Offertory

“Comfort, Comfort Ye My People”

setting by Gerald Near

* Dedicatory Praise (Tune #607)

Praise God from whom all blessings flow.

Praise God, all creatures, here below;

Praise God above, ye heavenly host.

Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

* Prayer of Dedication

THE SACRAMENT OF THE LORD’S SUPPER

All who put their trust in Christ are welcome to receive communion.

Please note: Gluten-free bread is placed in the center of each tray.

Grape juice is red, and wine is white.

Invitation and Sharing of Prayer Requests and Blessings

Great Prayer of Thanksgiving

The Lord’s Prayer (in unison)

Breaking of the Bread

Communion of the People

Hymnal Page 35

GOING IN GOD’S NAME

*** HYMN #109**

“Blest Be the God of Israel”

MERLE’S TUNE

*** CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**

POSTLUDE

“Sleepers, Wake!”

setting by David Cherwien

The Postlude is the final Alleluia of our worship. Please be respectful of fellow worshipers, who wish to listen, by refraining from conversation until the postlude concludes. Following worship, all are encouraged to enjoy a time of conversation and refreshment in the Hazelton Fellowship Hall.



What are Chrismons? The word Chrismon is made from two other words: Christ (Chris) and Monogram (mon). They were mostly symbols used by early Christians as a symbol of faith. In days when it was dangerous to be a Christian, followers of Jesus used secret signs and symbols to communicate with other Christians. In those times, Christians had to worship in secret. Traveling Christians would find their way to centers of worship in distant towns by looking for the fish or an anchor cross painted or carved in places such as underground passages or the catacombs. Today the sign of the fish and the anchor cross are just 2 of the Chrismons still visibly etched in the stone of the catacombs in Rome. Over time, more symbols have been added with meaning derived from the Bible or biblical ideas.

What do you use Chrismons for? What is a Chrismons tree? The tradition is to decorate an evergreen tree (symbol of God's constancy) with Chrismons instead of ornaments of color and only white lights. Sometimes the idea is expanded to use trinity symbols. It becomes almost the perfect Christmas tree – reflecting the true meaning and spirit of the most important events for Christians.

Why are Chrismon colors limited to gold and white? As monograms of Christ, they are all made in combinations of GOLD and WHITE. White is the liturgical color for Christmas and stands for our Lord's purity and perfection. GOLD represents His majesty and glory. On the Chrismon tree, tiny white lights symbolize Christ as the light of the world.

- **Cross** – Symbolizes that Christians believe Jesus Christ died for everyone on the cross.
- **Chi Rho** – Formed by superimposing the first two letters **chi** and **rho** (XP) of the Greek word for Christ to produce a monogram. The Chi Rho symbolizes the crucifixion of Jesus and his status as the Christ.
- **Alpha and Omega** – The first and last letters of the Greek alphabet – a symbol of Christ's divinity. Used together they stand for the beginning and the end, the first and the last.
- **Descending Dove** – Symbol of the Holy Spirit at Jesus's baptism. The dove is also a symbol of peace.
- **Chalice** – This cup is a symbol of the Last Supper and Holy Communion
- **Lamp** – A symbol of knowledge or learning. Psalm 119:105 says, "Thy word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path."
- **Shell** – This symbol represents baptism – with three drops of water it represents baptism in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit – the Triune God. The shell reminds Christians of the water of baptism.
- **IXTHUS** – fish shape – the Greek word for fish. This is an acrostic for the Greek words meaning **Jesus Christ, God's Son, Savior**
- **Angel** – Angels heralded the birth of our Savior.
- **Creche or Manger** – The representation of the feeding trough for the animals that was made ready for Jesus's crib on the night he was born.
- **Butterfly** – A symbol of the resurrection and eternal life because it emerges with a glorified body able to soar into the sky from the cocoon or chrysalis.
- **Lamb of God** – "Behold the Lamb of God, who takes away the sins of the world." John 1:29
- **Crown** – Symbol that Jesus is King. It shows that Christians believe Jesus is ruler over heaven and earth.
- **Nativity Star** – Symbol of the Star of Bethlehem
- **Five Pointed Star** – Symbolizes the five wounds of Jesus on the cross.

WELCOME!

WE ARE GLAD THAT YOU ARE WORSHIPPING WITH US.

Welcome to Worthington Presbyterian Church. This congregation has worshiped together in the Worthington community since 1805 and has had a building at High Street and Dublin Granville Road since 1830. We welcome all who seek faith, hope, and joy in the Lord Jesus Christ.

*The flowers on the chancel are given to the glory of God by
Nancy & Larry Case in memory of Jill & Sam McKaig and Louise & Dana Case.*

SERVING US THIS MORNING

Audio: George Leonard

Carillon: Bill Allman

Flower Delivery: Judy Hazelton

Usher Team E: John Gray and Dick Jones, Co-Captains; Andy Balsler, Don Batton, Spencer Budros, Dennis Decker, Jack Dicke, Cliff Frasher, Joyce Hinkle, Laurie Holden, Simmey Ketchum, Shirley Lambert, Larry & Leslie Snyder, Joann & Dury Sudduth

PLEASE KEEP IN PRAYER

Due to privacy laws regarding medical information, we are not always aware when someone is in need of pastoral care. Please share joys, concerns and sorrows with Reverend Wayne Morrison at wmorrison@worthingtonpresbyterian.com.

Congratulations and prayers of joy to Jane & Gary Riddle on the birth of their granddaughter, Merrin Grace Riddle, November 19th. Parents are Kyle & Johanna Riddle of Zionsville, IN.
Prayers of healing for Ann Cupp and Joyce Evans.

Those Serving Our Country

Army

Jeff Gibbons
Leighann Holcomb
Nate Holcomb
Maura Stepanski

Scott Testa
Zach Wilson
Jacob T. Wixom

Navy

Tyler McMillen
Michael Sargent
Joseph Seida

Air Force

Cody Albright
Kelly Mason
Robert Pukay-Martin

Marines

Joseph Hempfling

MINISTRY DIRECTORY

Rev. Dr. Julia Wharff Piermont, Senior Pastor
Rev. Betsy Rice, Pastor for Member Ministries
Dr. David Rives, Director of Music
Dr. Stephen Jacoby, Organist
Melissa Robol, Pianist for Chapel Service

Rev. Dr. Thomas Rice, Pastor for Discipleship
Rev. Wayne Morrison, Parish Associate for Visitation
Brian Edwards, Director for Youth Ministry
Jenni Whitford, Director for Children's Ministry
A full staff directory may be found on our website.

773 High Street, Worthington, Ohio 43085-4171

Church Office Hours: Monday-Thursday: 8:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.; Friday: 8:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.
WPC Public WiFi password: Jesuslovesme
www.worthingtonpresbyterian.com

614-885-5355

wpchurch@worthingtonpresbyterian.com



We are a Stephen Ministry congregation. For more information, please contact Rev. Betsy Rice at brice@worthingtonpresbyterian.com.



Patience

ADVENT DEVOTION – WEEK 1 | DECEMBER 2-8, 2018

BY JILL DUFFIELD, PRESBYTERIAN OUTLOOK EDITOR

ROMANS 8:25

As a small child, I remember thinking Christmas would never arrive. The decorations would go up, television ads would hold out the latest and greatest toys, the Advent calendar would have more and more little, open flaps, but time seemed to stand still all the same. As a kid, being patient for December 25 felt excruciating. As I grew older I recognized that I was privileged, my household one that never lacked for food or presents, family or warmth. I began to understand that not everyone – in fact many around the world – did not wait longingly for gifts, but waited painfully for safety and sustenance. They hoped for that which they did not see but knew existed, at least for some.

This text from Romans 8 comes from the section on “future glory,” the passage that includes words about suffering, about all of creation groaning in labor pains. The hope for which we are to wait with *patience* is the hope of Jesus Christ, his coming, his return. The essence of our Advent waiting and our Advent preparing is Christ-directed and Christ-centered. We know that all is not right with the world. We see and feel the pain within and around us. And yet, like children eager for Christmas, we trust something good is coming, even when we cannot see it yet. Our experience of God reveals that our hope is not in vain and that our *patience* will be rewarded with the sure and certain presence of Jesus Christ. Do not, however, mistake Advent *patience* with Advent passivity. Our patient, hope-filled waiting entails worship, prayer and service. Our patient, hope-filled waiting enables others to see that their longing for an end to suffering is not in vain, either. Our patient, hope-filled waiting includes reaching out in love and with compassion to those who fear their waiting for safety and sustenance, justice and healing is in vain. Our patient, active, anticipatory waiting gives the world a glimpse of the great and glorious goodness soon to come.

PRAYER:

God of Hope, fill us with all hope and peace in believing. Grant that our patient waiting would not be passive, but instead filled with overflowing with preparations for the coming of Jesus Christ. Help us to act out of trusting hope, singing, praying, serving, bearing witness to the sure and certain return of the One who brings justice, mercy and redemption to the world. Amen.

DAILY PRAYERS AND PRACTICES

Monday – 2 CORINTHIANS 6:1-10

“At an acceptable time, I have listened to you and on a day of salvation I have helped you.” When have you waited for that “acceptable time” of God to help? Are you waiting now? Today be mindful of how you are being listened to and helped by God and by others.

PRAYER FOR THE DAY:

Lord, we question your timing, wonder if you are indeed listening and are often unwilling to endure much for the sake of your ministry. Bolster our courage. Embolden our witness. Forgive our impatience. Give us eyes to see your presence, ears to hear your Word and the faith to do your will. May we put no obstacle to faith in anyone’s way. Amen.

Tuesday – EPHESIANS 4:2

This verse from Ephesians calls on followers of Jesus Christ to be humble, gentle and patient. We are to bear with one another in love. Is there a situation or person with whom you need to be humble, gentle and patient? What would patience with this circumstance or person look like?

PRAYER FOR THE DAY:

Patient and gentle God, too often we jump to judgment, make hasty conclusions, or rush to fix someone or something when what you are calling us to do is listen, pray and wait. Help us to be patient with ourselves, others and mostly with those who most need compassion, care and kindness. May our interactions reflect your character. In Christ’s name, Amen.

Wednesday — COLOSSIANS 1:11-13

Giving thanks while patiently enduring circumstances not of our choosing requires a spiritual maturity possessed by very few. Today, be conscious of giving thanks, regardless of what happens. List things for which you give thanks and add to it throughout Advent.

PRAYER FOR THE DAY:

Almighty God, you grant us life and breath, salvation and peace. When circumstances challenge our ability to be grateful, help us to give thanks in all things. Help us to see even within difficult experiences your grace and goodness. May our praise and thanksgiving always be greater than our grumbling and complaints. Amen.

Thursday — 1 TIMOTHY 1:15-16

Jesus Christ came to save sinners. Thanks be to God. Otherwise, what hope would we have? Christ's mercy toward us reveals the extent of God's patience with us. As you look back at your life, when has God been patient with you?

PRAYER FOR THE DAY:

As we wait for the coming of Jesus Christ, we rest in the promise of God's grace. We rejoice in the truth that Christ comes to save sinners. We thank you, Lord God, for your merciful patience with us when we have strayed from your path, lost our way or gone our own way. In gratitude and faith, we seek your way, Christ's way, the Way. Amen.

Friday — 2 TIMOTHY 4:1-2

There are few gifts more precious than a patient teacher, one who guides persistently, corrects gently, encourages liberally. A life of faith requires such mentors. Who are the teachers for whom you give thanks? If you are able, express to them what their guidance means to you.

PRAYER FOR THE DAY:

Lord, our Master and Teacher, you instruct us to follow your example. You wash the feet of the disciples, eat with outcasts, have compassion on the hurting and forgive those who persecute you. While we will always fall short, we pray to emulate what you model for us, proclaiming God's Word, encouraging the faint hearted and upholding the weak. Amen.

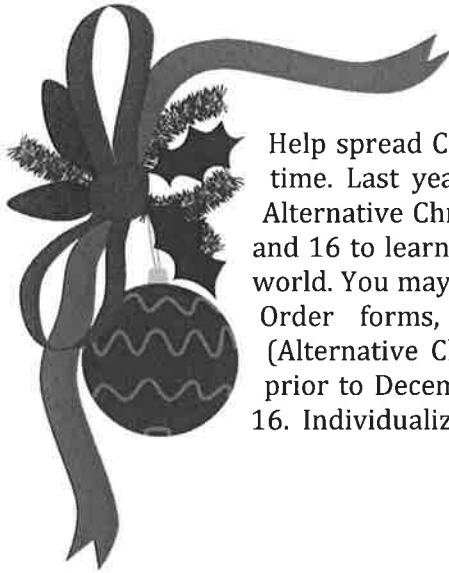
Saturday — JAMES 5:7

Mystery surrounds the timing and ways of God. We think we know what God should do, and yet often as we look back we marvel at how God has done more than we could ever hope or imagine. How and when has God worked in your life in ways you did not see at the time?

PRAYER FOR THE DAY:

Lord of all time, there are seasons in our lives when we want you to act decisively and quickly. At times we struggle to see your presence and power. We doubt you are working in the painful, confusing places of our lives and world. Assure us yet again that you will never abandon us and that your will is for abundant life for all. Help us to trust your promises even when we do not yet see them fulfilled. Amen.

Patience



ALTERNATIVE CHRISTMAS MARKET 2018

Help spread Christ's love across the country and around the world at Christmas time. Last year, our congregation gave more than \$9,600 in gifts through the Alternative Christmas program. Please join us in Fellowship Hall on December 9, and 16 to learn about the wonderful projects you can help locally and around the world. You may use the order form on the reverse side to select the gifts you want. Order forms, with checks payable to Worthington Presbyterian Church (Alternative Christmas in the memo), may be dropped off at the church office prior to December 16 or between services in Fellowship Hall on December 9 or 16. Individualized ornaments and prayer cards will be available for each donation.

GIFT CHOICES

COMPASS: For some families, unexpected medical bills or child-care problems are enough to send them into a shelter or worse, out on the streets. Most social service programs are not designed to deal with such sudden short term issues. In central Ohio, COMPASS provides aid quickly to keep the working poor from losing their homes because of temporary setbacks.

The Mid-Ohio Food Bank: Most people don't realize the staggering impact hunger has in central Ohio. Soaring food prices and high unemployment mean too many families go to bed hungry.

Blessings in a Backpack: Help supply Spring Break meals for food-insecure children at Salem Elementary. 20 families have been identified to receive food for the week of Spring Break.

Turning Point: Turning Point is a new regional domestic violence shelter expected to open later in 2018 in Delaware County. Its mission is to provide safe, secure, temporary shelter to victims of domestic violence and their children. Delaware County is the largest county in Ohio currently without a shelter. This shelter will meet the deep needs of our greater community.

Presbyterian Disaster Assistance-Hurricanes Florence and Michael Relief: PDA is deploying teams to affected presbyteries to meet with Presbyterian and community leadership to assist in coordinating relief efforts and mucking out homes and churches. After initial needs are addressed, PDA will remain—providing spiritual emotional care and Long Term Recovery to address unmet needs of those impacted. Through your prayerful gifts we draw hope out of the chaos.

Montaña de Luz: "The Mountain of Light" orphanage in Honduras is home to children affected by HIV/AIDS. This is a special place where children can receive the safety, love, nutrition and medicine they deserve. Your gift will help provide nutritious food, medical care and education.

Gardens for Haiti: In countries like Haiti, a dry season can last five to seven months, posing challenges for food production. Container gardens allow families to grow food in smaller spaces with minimal expense, water and labor—providing them with essential nourishment and a source of income. This project is coordinated by Mark Hare, a member of our Presbytery, and his wife, Jenny Bent.

Bibles for Romanian Christians: In post-communist Romania there are many small Christian churches growing in remote villages. The economy in Romania limps along and most churches are unable to provide Bibles for their members. Your donation will help distribute Romanian printed Bibles to those families who seek the word of God.

Pal Craftaid: Rooted in the peace and justice work of the Presbyterian Church USA since 1993, Pal Craftaid has been an all volunteer, non-profit ministry of compassion, hope and healing for Palestinians. Olive wood and embroidered handcrafts made by artisans in the West Bank and Gaza will be available for purchase. **This will be our last year offering Pal Craftaid products.**

ALTERNATIVE CHRISTMAS 2018 ORDER FORM

ORGANIZATION	GIFT AMOUNT
COMPASS (Central Ohio)	
Mid-Ohio Food Bank (Central Ohio)	
Blessings in a Backpack (Central Ohio)	
Turning Point (Central Ohio)	
Presbyterian Disaster Assistance—Hurricanes Florence and Michael Relief (National)	
Montaña de Luz (Honduras)	
Gardens for Haiti (Haiti)	
Bibles in Romania (Romania)	

GRAND TOTAL FOR ALL GIFTS: _____

DONOR NAME: _____

Please make checks payable to Worthington Presbyterian Church with “Alternative Christmas” in the memo line.

Gifts are 100% tax deductible.

Return to the church office no later than December 16.

Thank you for your gift!



TODAY

DIGITAL DANGER: The Ten Commandments include the core value: "You shall not bear false witness." Lauren Glaros, teacher from Worthington Kilbourne High School, will be with us today at 9:00 a.m. in Room 222. Ms. Glaros teaches an AP government class in which she presents a guide for assessing the credibility and bias of news sources. Everyone welcome! Come learn to be more discerning in our use of news sources and social media.

10 a.m. HANGING OF THE CHRISMONS & ADVENT WORKSHOP. The children will decorate the Chrismon tree, then participate in our Advent Workshop. There are several creative stations and activities: cookie decorating, wisemen stained glass, candy cane ornament, nativity banner, mason jar silhouette and "Advent in a Box" take home kit.

SPONSOR-A-FAMILY needs your help with 50+ families this Christmas. Please come to Fellowship Hall to select a family.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BLUE CHRISTMAS ~ In scripture and song, in quiet and candlelight, prepare for Christ's coming, in the Chapel on Wednesday, **December 5th** at 7:00 p.m. This worship service makes way for whatever mixture of joy and grief fills your heart.

Starting this Thursday: **ADVENT ON HIGH**, 30-minute yuletide concerts at three different churches in Worthington. The programs will begin at **noon**, and they're **free!** Worthington Presbyterian will be first in the series on **December 6th**, with performances by Stephen Jacoby, organist; Nancy Jacoby, soprano; and Jeff Johnson, tenor. Concerts will continue at All Saints Lutheran Church on **December 13th** and St. John's Episcopal Church on **December 20th**. Join us for a musical path to Christmas with **Advent on High**.



YOUTH MINISTRY NEWS. Brian Edwards is moving his family to North Carolina, and **December 13th** will be his last day at WPC. His 3 years of youth ministry leadership have been a treasure and a blessing to our whole congregation, and we will miss him. If you wish to contribute to a gift of appreciation, please mark the memo line of your check "Brian Appreciation," and deliver it to the church office no later than Dec 14th. Thank you.

PLEDGES for 2019 are coming in steadily—thank you very much to the families who submitted their

giving commitment for 2019. For the strength of our congregation, it is important that as many members as possible participate. If you have not submitted yours yet, please do so as soon as possible (via offering plate or to Jenny Farber, church office). Pledge cards are available in the pew racks or the church office—look for brochures with "2019 Pledge Estimate". Your pledge helps the Session plan responsibly for the coming year. Thank you, and may you learn the blessing of the "**Generations of Generosity.**"

WPC SPONSOR-A-FAMILY needs your help with 50+ families this Christmas. Today and **December 9th** please come to Fellowship Hall to select a family. On Sunday, **December 16th**, we will collect all gifts for the families in Fellowship Hall. We will also be collecting Target gift cards to help the youth group shop for a family. Salem Elementary, St. Stephens Community House and Guadalupe Center families will benefit from your generosity. God bless you for your help! Questions, contact Mindy Steel at 614-209-9603 or bob-mindy@sbcglobal.net.

CHRISTIAN LIFE CIRCLE'S December Bible study is entitled "**God With Us When We Seek God.**" Because Old Testament Kings Solomon and Jeroboam were unfaithful in following God, the Israelites suffered severe consequences. Does this mean that God's promise of his presence depends upon our faithfulness, or does God give us unconditional love and never abandon us? Join our discussion led by Pastor Rice, on Thursday, December 6th from 1:15 - 2:00 p.m. in Room 222. Come early for dessert, coffee and conversation at 12:15 p.m., followed by the latest news about Presbyterian Women United's activities at 12:45 p.m. You don't need to be a circle member to attend.

Please join us on Wednesday, **December 12th**, 1:00 p.m. at **STAFFORD VILLAGE** for our monthly program. As we await Christmas Day and anticipate the birth of Jesus, we will read "**THE STORY OF THE NATIVITY**" and discuss the true meaning of the Twelve Days of Christmas. We will join together in singing Christmas Carols, hear the famous poem, "Twas the Night Before Christmas" and tell stories of Christmas' past. All members and their families are invited. We look forward to having you join us!

STAFF APPRECIATION GIFT: The Personnel Committee invites you to contribute Christmas bonus gifts for all staff (pastors exempt). We are deeply blessed by their passion for the gospel and their talents and dedication shared with WPC. A contribution of any amount is welcome. Please make your check payable to WPC, with "Staff Christmas" on the memo line and submit via the offering plate or church office no later than Sunday, **December**

16th. Questions may be directed to Dan Beck, Personnel Chair, at 614-477-0447.



A MUSICAL CELEBRATION OF ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS will be offered in the 10:00 a.m. worship service on **Sunday, December 16th**. The Chancel Choir and Renaissance

Ensemble will be joined by brass, percussion, flute and oboe. The joyous service will include works by G.F. Handel, Howard Helvey, Glenn Rudolph, Morten Lauridsen and Dan Forrest. Our spiritual preparation for Christmas will be enriched.

The **CHURCH OFFICE WILL BE CLOSED** at noon on **December 18th**. The staff will be celebrating Christmas together.

ADULT EDUCATION

NEXT SUNDAY: "God's Word and Worship"--learn about the background and message of Bible passages of the season used in our worship services. Sundays **December 9th** and **16th** at 9 a.m. in Room 222.

RELIGIOUS STUDIES is discussing *The Theology of Paul the Apostle* by James D. G. Dunn. Join us in the "Living" Room at 9 a.m.

FAITH SEEKERS are studying *Basic: Christian Doctrine* by John Leith at 9 a.m. in Room 124. Our topic is The Beginning of Life and Death in the chapter on *The Human Creature* as created by God.

MISSION

On **Monday, December 12th at 6:00 p.m.** we will serve a **CHRISTMAS DINNER** for **STAFFORD VILLAGE** residents. Please help as we share God's love with our neighbors. A night of food and fellowship for God's people in need. Contact sean.lane@crosschx.com to sign up to help.

Would you like to meet some of the kids from **SALEM ELEMENTARY**? We have a third grade reading day on Monday, **December 17th** at 10:00 and you are invited to join us. The children have earned books to keep and we help them choose an appropriate book and then listen to them start the book to see if it is a good fit. **This is a one-time volunteer activity.** Please contact Debbie Towarnicky at debtowarn@gmail.com or 614-882-9212 or Janie Wiest at jwiest70@yahoo.com or 614-787-5680. Thank you!

We invite you to donate any mittens, gloves, hats and/or scarves to our **MITTEN TREE** until

December 31st. The Mary Lou Paton/Emma McCormick Mitten tree is in Fellowship Hall waiting to be decorated! Items are needed for children and adults in Central Ohio. Presbyterian Women United thanks you in advance for your kind contributions.

NNEMAP NEEDS: We are in need of donations of flour and coffee to breakdown for NNMEAP Food Pantry. NNEMAP is also in need of diapers (size 5/6) and holiday food items: stuffing, mashed potatoes, canned pumpkin, corn and green beans.

A BEHIND-THE-SCENES MINISTRY

For the past three years, the wonderful ladies of The Living Hope Circle have faithfully prepared the elements for communion the first Sunday of every month. At first it was only for the 10 a.m. service but then 11:30 service, the Sunday School teachers and Sunday Secretary were added. That's a lot of bread to cut and little glasses of wine to pour! So, thank you Regina Ausich, Ellen Beller, Ann Burk, Joanne Crockett, Kim Hamilton-Holmes, Alice Miskell, Debbie Murphy, Dru Qualman and Sue Wilson.

We have three other ladies who are stepping down January 1st, who have prepared the bread every Sunday for our 8 a.m. service, as well as some special services. We will miss you: our gratitude to Connie Lewis, Linda Slicker and Joyce St. Pierre.

~ Elder Peggy Foster



CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS

During the month of December, we decorate our beautiful Sanctuary with poinsettias. The Ministry of Worship and the Arts is accepting honorariums and memorials for poinsettias. If you would like to honor a loved one, please make a contribution of \$20, complete this form and send a check to the church **no later than Sunday, December 16th**. The dedications will appear in our Christmas Eve bulletins. **Please PRINT legibly.**

IN HONOR OF: _____

IN MEMORY OF: _____

DONATED BY

LAST NAME(S): _____

FIRST NAME(S): _____

Church Activities This Week at WPC

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 2 ~ 1st Sunday of Advent

- 8:00 AM Worship & Communion, Dr. Rice preaching, Chapel
- 8:45 AM Childcare: Infant & Toddler, Nursery
- 8:45 AM Coffee Hour & NNEMAP Breakdown, Fellowship Hall
- 9:00 AM Confirmation Class, Youth Room
- 9:00 AM Digital Danger, Room 222
- 9:00 AM Faith Seekers, Room 124
- 9:00 AM Religious Studies, "Living" Room
- 10:00 AM Worship & Communion, Dr. Rice preaching, Sanctuary
- 10:15 AM ADVENT WORKSHOP, Fellowship Hall
- 11:00 AM Coffee Hour, Fellowship Hall
- 11:30 AM Monthly Worship & Communion, Rev. Wayne Morrison Preaching, Chapel
- 5:00 PM New Connections Worship & Communion, Dr. Rice Preaching, Chapel
- 6:00 PM Jr. & Sr. High Youth Activity, Fellowship Hall, Youth Room

MONDAY, DECEMBER 3

- 9:15 AM WPPS Committee, Nursery
- 6:00 PM Community Friendship Dinner, Fellowship Hall

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 4

- 7:00 PM Prayer Shawl Ministry, "Living" Room

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 5

- 9:00 AM Sacristy Guild, Sanctuary
- 6:30 PM Celebration Ringers, Sanctuary
- 7:00 PM **Blue Christmas Worship**, Rev. Betsy Rice and Rev. Wayne Morrison, Chapel
- 7:00 PM Small Group, Room 124

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 6

- 7:45 AM Stewardship Committee, Room 111
- 12:00 PM **Advent on High** with Stephen Jacoby, Sanctuary
- 5:00 PM Choir Plus, Fellowship Hall, All Rooms; Parent Discussion (Choir Plus), Room 124
- 6:15 PM Thursday Small Group, "Living" Room
- 7:15 PM Chancel Choir, Sanctuary, Choir Room
- 7:30 PM Montaña de Luz, Room 124

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 7

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 8

- 8:00 AM Faith Runners, Antrim Park
- 9:00 AM Renaissance Ensemble, Sanctuary, Choir Room
- 2:30 PM Stafford Village Birthday Party, Stafford Village

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 9 ~ 2nd Sunday of Advent

- 8:00 AM Worship & Communion, Dr. Piermont preaching, Chapel
- 8:45 AM Childcare: Infant & Toddler, Nursery
- 9:00 AM Confirmation Class, Youth Room
- 9:00 AM Faith Seekers, Room 124; Religious Studies, "Living" Room
- 10:00 AM Immersion Sunday, Choir Room
- 10:00 AM Worship, Dr. Piermont Preaching, Sanctuary
- 10:15 AM Church School: Preschool - Grade 6, Chapel, 111, 112, 113, 222
- 12:00 PM Choir Christmas Luncheon, Offsite
- 5:00 PM New Connections Worship, Dr. Piermont, Chapel
- 6:00 PM Jr. & Sr. High Youth Activity, Fellowship Hall, Youth Room