

THE CIRCUIT RIDER

Jerome United Methodist Church
10531 Jerome Road, Plain City, OH 43064
(614) 873-8851



*Jerome United Methodist Church
sharing God's love by words and actions*

December 2009

AN ADVENT ADVENTURE

Advent is the liturgical season in the church year beginning with the fourth Sunday before Christmas, which in 2009 is November 29. For centuries, Advent has been viewed as a time of preparation for the celebration of the arrival of Jesus Christ at Christmas, God coming into the world in a unique revelation.

Our culture today is filled with things that dazzle us but so little that can really satisfy. Advent is a time to focus on matters of importance as we journey toward Christmas. It could be, and should be, an adventure. It may be difficult at times. It may demand our deepest and best. But we journey with Christ, life's greatest Guide, and the effort is worth it all. With this in mind, let's make the six letters of the word ADVENT into an acrostic and have each letter stand for a principle that can make this season an adventure.

A - ANTICIPATION: Part of the adventure is anticipation: dreaming, hoping, longing, and waiting. Little children on a trip start asking, soon after you back out of the driveway, "Are we there yet?" "When will we be there?" Anticipation is part of the adventure. Think about what you want Christmas to be like this year beyond toys or temporary joys. What do you want or need for Christmas?

D - DETERMINATION: Determine that you will remember the reason for this season; that you will keep Christ in Christmas. We must work hard not to be overcome by the commercialization of a consumer culture. Beautiful lights, trees, tinsel,

ribbons and packages are part of the season but not the primary reason we celebrate. Let's determine NOT to lose sight of what Advent and Christmas truly mean.

V - VENERATION: This urges worship of the Christ child, God coming into the world in a unique revelation. So many of the Christmas hymn writers knew this. Consider just a few lines from some of our favorite hymns:

O Come, All Ye Faithful, verse 2: "*True God of true God, Light from Light Eternal, lo, he shuns not the Virgin's womb, Son of the Father, begotten, not created, O Come let us adore him, Christ the Lord.*"

Silent Night, Holy Night, verse 3: "*Silent night, holy night, Son of God, love's pure light; radiant beams from thy holy face with the dawn of redeeming grace, Jesus, Lord, at thy birth, Jesus, Lord, at thy birth.*"

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing, beginnings of verses 1 and 3: "*Hark! The herald angels sing, 'Glory to the newborn King'; peace on earth, and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled!*" . . . "*Hail the heaven-born Prince of Peace! Hail the Son of Righteousness!*" . . . "*Hark! The Herald angels sing, 'Glory to the newborn King!'*"

Joy to World, the Lord Is Come, verses 1 and 3: "*Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth receive her King; let every heart prepare him room, and heaven and nature sing . . . No more let sin and sorrows grow . . .*"

On and on it goes. The Christian hymn writers knew who Christ is and why He came. I look forward to

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(Continued from page 1)

singing these hymns with you as we worship together at Jerome during the Advent and Christmas seasons as we prepare for and celebrate anew the birth of Jesus, our Lord and Savior.

E - EVALUATION: Ask yourself, “Am I living in such a way as to accept Christ in my life? Am I living in the way God intends, according to biblical principles, in the way in which the hymn writers sing?” Advent should be a time of evaluation when we recheck our priorities. Is my life ALL work, or ALL family, or ALL golf, or the Buckeyes, or that special project, or hobby, or whatever? What is the focus of my life that gives meaning or purpose?

St. Augustine prayed, “Thou has made us for Thyself, O God, and our souls are restless ‘til they rest in Thee.” Are you restless within? If so, ask yourself, “Am I seeking in the right place for peace, purpose, and joy?”

N - NAVIGATION: How do I get from here to where I want to be? How can I arrive at Christmas and have it be truly merry and blessed rather than harried and stressed? A pilot flying on a trip needs a map, a compass, and constant reference to known locations. Today there are GPS radios receiving information from satellites that can tell you within a few feet exactly where you are. In the Christian journey through life we have navigation aids: scripture, prayer, worship, the Presence of God’s Holy Spirit, the teachings of the church and Christian friends. These help to keep us on course – IF we are willing to utilize them.

T - TRANSFORMATION: This adventure of life ought to be one leading to transformation and constant growth. As someone said, “I’m not what I want to be and I’m not what I’m going to be, but thank God, I’m not what I used to be.”

The great message of Christ’s advent into the world is about transformation. He came to provide the means for us to be freed from bondage to sin to be able to become what God intends by following the example of Christ.

May you be blessed in numerous ways and drawn ever closer to Christ through this A-D-V-E-N-T Adventure we will share together at Jerome this

year. Are there some new traveling companions, family and friends you would like to invite to join in this Advent Adventure? Introducing someone to Christ is the greatest Christmas gift you can give. And what better way than to invite someone to share in the Advent and Christmas services and events this season offers.

May God bless you in a multitude of ways on your Advent Adventure and throughout the Christmas season.

Rev. Gloria Brooks

POINSETTIAS

Would you like to order a poinsettia, in honor of or in memory of loved ones, to adorn the church for Advent and Christmas services? Order envelopes are in the sanctuary pew racks and in the pew pads in the fellowship hall. The cost is \$7.00 and the order deadline is December 21. Please write information on the envelope, place your payment inside, and put the envelope in the offering plate or send to Chris Mills at the church office. Thanks!

Hanging of the Greens

It’s hard to believe, but Christmas is just around the corner! Can you spare a few hours Saturday, December 5, to help the Worship Committee decorate our church home for Advent and Christmas?

We will begin at 9:00 a.m. and work until finished, usually around noon. Doughnuts, coffee, and juice will be provided. If you can’t come for the whole morning, come for as long as you can. Your help will be greatly appreciated.

Advent and Christmas at Jerome 2009

Please invite your family, friends, and neighbors to join you for these special services. Sunday services are at 8:30 a.m. and 10:45 a.m. Sunday school for all ages is at 9:45 a.m.

Sunday, November 29

"Oh, You Better Watch Out"

Rev. Gloria Brooks

Sunday, December 6

"Blue Christmas"

Pastor Roger Gorden

Sunday, December 13

"This Little Light of Mine"

Rev. Steve Harsh

Sunday, December 13, 4:00 p.m.

in Fellowship Hall

"Christmas Mosaic"

Directed by John Holsinger

with Jerome Ringers, Festival Choir,

Jerome Orchestra, and Drama Team

Nursery provided (birth through age 3)

Sunday, December 20

"Mary, Did You Know?"

Rev. Gloria Brooks

Christmas Eve, December 24

"O Holy Night"

4:00 p.m. Family service with Children's nativity

Pastor Roger Gorden, preaching

7:00 p.m. Contemporary Service in Fellowship Hall

Rev. Gloria preaching

9:00 p.m. Traditional Service
with Communion in the Sanctuary

Rev. Gloria Brooks preaching

11:00 p.m. Contemporary service
with Communion in Fellowship Hall

Rev. Steve Harsh preaching

Sunday, December 27

"Joy to the World"

Rev. Gloria Brooks

Cookies Needed for Christmas Eve

Christmas Eve hospitality at Jerome Church includes cookies, cider, and coffee available after each of the four services. Do you have a favorite Christmas cookie recipe? Will you share it with the congregation and our guests on Christmas Eve?

If you are willing to provide cookies, please sign up in the lobby or call Penny or Chris at the church office (873-8851). Your help will be greatly appreciated.

Leadership Orientation Lunch

At the November 3 Church Conference, chairpersons and committee members were elected for 2010. On Sunday, January 17, a Leaders Orientation Lunch will be held from 12:15 – 2:15 p.m. This will be a very important time of becoming better acquainted and sharing expectations for the year ahead. All chairpersons and committee members are asked to make a special effort to attend. Childcare will be available if needed. Please tell us how many children will be with you January 17. There is no charge for the lunch for you or your children.

Please RSVP to Penny or Chris at the church office, 873-8851, by Monday, January 11 to let us know you will be coming and if you will need childcare.

YEAR-END GIFTS TO JEROME CHURCH

In late December and early January the church will receive many contributions for several purposes, including 2009 pledges, 2010 pledges, and the Christmas offering. In order to assist us in carrying out your intentions, please be sure that your check or envelope clearly states how you would like your contribution to be applied.

Fulfilling Your 2009 Pledge

For Tax Purposes, you will need to deliver 2009 pledge contributions to the church by December 31

in order to claim them in 2009. The IRS requires that charitable deductions be delivered in the year in which they are claimed. The ONLY exception to this is a check which is dated, mailed, and postmarked prior to the end of the year. In that case, the postmark constitutes the delivery date. Here are two examples:

- (A) A check is written, mailed, and postmarked on December 31, 2009. The church receives the check on January 2, 2010. This check is deductible in 2009 since the postmark represents the delivery date.
- (B) A check is dated Dec. 31, 2009 but is put in the offering plate on January 3, 2010. The IRS will allow the deduction in 2010, not in 2009, since it was delivered to the church in 2010.

For Church Purposes, a donation given in 2010 may be applied to your 2009 pledge if you so designate. Please clearly indicate to which year your donations are to be credited.

When you make a stock donation, please call Jerome Church's Financial Administrator, Chris Mills, at 614-873-8851, to discuss the transfer details since each transaction is unique. A one- or two-minute telephone conversation can ensure that your gift is credited properly. However, the date on which the church is notified of the transfer is not the contribution date. The date on which the stock is legally transferred to Jerome Church is the effective date of the contribution for federal income tax purposes.

COMMITTEE UPDATES

PARISH WELLNESS COMMITTEE

Blood Pressure Screening

The next blood pressure screening will be Sunday, December 13. The screening is done from 9:30-10:30 a.m. in the office conference room. All are welcome.

MISSIONS COMMITTEE

IT'S THAT TIME AGAIN!!

Alternative Christmas

In Honor Of or In Memory Of....Let us help you choose an item at the **Alternative Christmas** tables set up in the narthex Sunday Dec. 6, 13 and 20. Have you lost a loved one who you want to memorialize? Do you know a soldier who you want to honor by giving each of his or her family members or friends an ornament to show your appreciation for his or her service? You can make a donation to support one of Jerome Church's adult mission programs. You will receive a beautiful handmade card to present to the recipient of your carefully chosen item or items. And don't forget your neighbor, co-worker, baby sitter or hard-to-buy-for parent. It's an "**alternative**" way to show your love at the most wonderful time of the year! Let the Missions Committee be your Secret Santa. Your donation to Habitat for Humanity, Total Health/Total Home Honduras, Appalachian Service Project and Soup for the Soul is tax deductible.

Greeting Card Shop

The Mission Team is recycling your greeting cards to raise money for missions. Your cards have been transformed into lovely, creative new greeting cards to send to your family and friends. Come check out our selection on the rack in the narthex. Choose one or several to have on hand, then place a voluntary donation in the donation envelope on the rack. Thank you for shopping with us and for supporting this ministry. Remember to keep supplying us with your old cards so we can offer new cards for you.

Soup for the Soul

Please consider offering a regular donation to our Soup for the Soul ministry. Several members provide bread and eggs on a weekly basis. If you can provide a pot of soup, lunch meat and cheese, fruit, drinks, desserts or any food item on a regular or occasional basis, please contact Melinda Murphy (766-9002). You are also invited to join us on our weekly trip to the Church for All People to serve. We leave our church promptly at 3:30 p.m. each Friday, returning by 6:00 p.m.

Music Ministry

John Holsinger

Director of Music
740-361-1281

Holsinger.4@osu.edu

Dear Friends,

Thank you for a beautiful month of music. Consecration Sunday was very meaningful to me. The day began with great music and ended with a wonderful benefit concert. (Thank you, Mr. Bob.)

December usually brings a hectic schedule. I am trying my very best NOT to over-schedule.

Here are the high points:

December rehearsals:

Sunday, December 6, 1-3:00 p.m. - Festival Choir and Orchestra in fellowship hall with tech team.

Saturday, December 12, 1-3:00 p.m. - Festival Choir and Orchestra in fellowship hall with tech team.

Jerome Christmas:

Sunday, December 13 - Everyone meets at 3:00 p.m. The program begins at 4:00 p.m.

Jerome

Christmas

Please join us for our musical program,

"Christmas Mosaic"

Sunday, December 13, 4:00 p.m.

*Participants include Jerome Ringers, Festival Choir,
Jerome Orchestra and Drama Team.*

CHANCEL CHOIR

We will sing every Sunday in December. We will rehearse on Wednesdays, December 2, 9, 16, and 23. (There will be no rehearsal on Wednesday, December 30. *See you at 8:00 a.m. on Sunday, January 3.*)

JEROME RINGERS

We will rehearse on Wednesdays, December 2, 9, and 16. (No rehearsals on Wednesdays, December 23 and 30.)

We will ring...

- for the Jerome Christmas program, December 13, 4:00 p.m.

- for Sunday, December 20 – both services (8:30 and 10:45)

HIGHER GROUND

Rehearsals continue on Thursdays, 8:00 p.m. There is no rehearsal on December 31 – *Happy New Year. We will meet at 9:30 a.m. sharp for the January 3 service.*

Christmas Eve Schedule:

We will rehearse at 5:45 p.m. for the 7:00 service.

*** Children's Music ***

Junior Bells

We will ring on Christmas Eve at the 4:00 p.m. Family Service.

Practice Schedule:

Tuesdays, December 8 and 22, 5-5:30 p.m.

Children's Choir

We will rehearse Wednesdays, December 2 and 16, 5:15 p.m. (prior to *TWIST*) and Tuesdays, December 8 and 22, 4:30-5:00 p.m.

We will sing Christmas Eve at the 4:00 p.m. Family Service.

Christmas Eve Service Schedule

- 4:00 p.m. Family Service
(Children's choir and bells meet at 3:30)
- 7:00 p.m. Contemporary Service
(Higher Ground meets at 5:45)
- 9:00 p.m. Traditional service with communion
(Chancel Choir meets at 8:30)
- 11:00 p.m. Contemporary service with communion
(Instruments and singers meet at 10:00)

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

- 12/1 Janet Wilkie, Robert Guthrie,
Susie Bluestone, Tara Middlestead,
Layne Dunleavy, Lee Roggencamp,
Cindy Decker
- 12/2 Kathy Clark
- 12/3 Laura (Sullivan) Holmes, Dan King,
Randy Evans
- 12/5 Lynn Boston
- 12/6 Mark Ingram, Vickie DiCesare
- 12/7 Michele Decker
- 12/9 Megan Patterson
- 12/10 Chad Moberger, Justin Martin, Patrick Murphy
- 12/13 Bob Hoppe, Mike Moore, Andrew Clark
- 12/15 Nicole Dixon, M.J. Doran
- 12/16 Kathy Grauer
- 12/18 Ryan Moore
- 12/20 Matthew Reis, Amy Smith
- 12/21 Holly King, Greg Bowman, Kathy Tummonds
- 12/22 Laurel Benefiel, Mandy Ingram,
Mary Alice Schacherbauer, Ben Hartman
- 12/23 Ben Flowers, Johnny Bolte, Maddie Lauer
- 12/24 Sue Bynner, Mike Gieske
- 12/25 Cathy Friday, Patrick Sonnenberg,
Chuck Dyer
- 12/26 Kelly Transue, Kim Patterson
- 12/27 Bev Fields, Keith Welcker, Conner Kerns,
Kelly Lauer, JoAnn Thomas, Claire Page,
Wayne Gordon
- 12/28 Woody Green, Martha Morley
- 12/29 Rachael Grauer
- 12/30 Carol Yates

The ministry and office staff of
Jerome Church wish you and yours
a Merry Christmas!

Connecting Kids to Christ and Christian Community
Donna Montgomery
Director of Children's Ministries
614.873.8851 or donna.jumc@gmail.com

Compassion Caring enough to do something about someone else's need

What kid can resist it? A fist-sized glass orb filled with water and white particles, enclosing a miniature scene of a favorite vacation spot, Mickey Mouse®, or Christmas. Some play music, some stick to your fridge, others are inflatable yard decorations, but whatever their size or shape, snow globes are fascinating. Maybe it's the appeal of an enclosed world protected from outside danger, or maybe it's the power to really shake things up.

This is what happened when God sent Jesus to this planet. What is that verse about the world groaning? "We know that the whole creation has been groaning as in the pains of childbirth right up to the present time" (Romans 8:22, NIV). Think about what was going on at the time. For example, slavery was a common and widely accepted practice throughout the ancient world. By the time Jesus was born, one out of three people in the heart of the Roman Empire was a slave. One-third! One of every five people elsewhere on the globe was enslaved. In fact, the Roman economy (among others) was based on slave labor. Some Bible scholars and other historians suggest that the world was nearing a tipping point, that when the enslaved population is greater than the free, civilization becomes unsustainable. But God looked down and shook the planet. "You see, at just the right time, when we were still powerless, Christ died for the ungodly" (Romans 5:6, NIV). He came to set us free, from the most profound slavery, the perfect illustration of God's compassion for us.

So this December, 252 Basics (Children's Worship) will revolve around Jesus' birth as a perfect example of God's compassion, which is caring enough to do something about someone else's need. Specifically:

Week 1: God saw our need. You have to SEE a need before you can DO anything about it. Compassion requires us to look and see, too. **God saw our greatest need. Whose needs do you see?**

Week 2: God sent His Son, even though it would cost Him. Compassion costs us something, too. **God gave us the greatest gift. What will you give?**

Week 3: God gave us hope when He sent us a Savior. Compassion is contagious; it spreads hope. **God gave us great news. Who will you tell?**

Week 4: God laid bare His great love for us when He gave us Jesus. Compassion demonstrates God's love when we show it for others. **God showed the world His love. How will you show the world?**

When we work together to show compassion, we can make a difference in this world. So shake it up!

Peace,
Melanie Williams
The reThink Group

mwilliams@rethinkgroup.org

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FamilyTimes Resource

Studio 52 is the curriculum we are using for Elementary Children's Worship this year. Studio 52 correlates with FamilyTimes virtues. Have you been searching for a way to bring more faith talk into the home with your children? FamilyTimes is a monthly kit designed to help equip parents with easy to use tools to make the most of everyday moments together. The CD and other resources are geared to elementary children and are available in the church office. Simply pick up a packet and begin using it. If you'd like to contribute to the cost of these kits, they are \$8.50 each. You can put a check in the offering and write family times on the memo line.

SUNDAY MORNINGS - KidConnections

Getting children connected to Christ and Christian Values is very important to us. We try to help parents by providing quality children's ministry programs on Sunday mornings that mirror adult worship and education. We abide by the Safe Sanctuaries Policy and have at least 2 leaders in children's classrooms. We provide the following experiences for children each Sunday morning:

Nursery

Infant to Three Years Old

Sign children into nursery before worship in Room 122

8:30 Worship, 9:45 Sunday school, and 10:45 Worship

8:30 CW Children's Worship

Preschool through Fourth Grade

Children are guided as a class from the Sanctuary to Room 119

9:45 Sunday School

Strong Bible Teaching in age-specific classes is the aim of our Christian Education at 9:45. Teachers who are committed to Christ and love kids invite your children to their classes. Teachers have passed a BCI background check and are experienced parents. Sunday school is a great time for the traditional congregation to unite with the contemporary and one of the best opportunities to connect your children to the Christian Community.

Preschool Room 119 - Jenney Seely and Dax Pitts

Kindergarten and First Grade Room 107 - Susie Sutphen and Joni Clark

Second and Third Grade Room 111 - Marc Zimmerman and Roger Hayslip

Fourth and Fifth Grade Room 106 - Linda Pettit and Nancy Ikels

There are 4 adult Sunday school classes, including "The Lounge" that is geared for parents and meets in Room 104.

10:45 CW Children's Worship

Preschool through Kindergarten – Room 119

First through Fourth Grade – Room 111

CHILDREN'S SUNDAY OFFERING

I thoroughly enjoyed seeing the children complete their commitment cards on consecration Sunday, Nov 15. It brought me great joy to see them excited about giving to the church in so many different ways. The offering collected on Sunday mornings in Children's Worship will go towards blankets for children at the United Methodist Children's Home. The children love to give. They are an example of the scripture, "God loves it when the giver delights in the giving. (2 Corinthians 9:7)" If your child would like envelopes in which to place their offerings, see Donna.

4:00 P.M. CHRISTMAS EVE FAMILY SERVICE



The 4:00 Christmas Eve service this year will be Jerome's traditional Children's Nativity Service (note the time change). Children **simply sign up** to be one of the characters. There is no prior rehearsal for this service and we will supply the costumes. Participants should **arrive at 3:30 Christmas Eve** and plan to be a part of the live nativity scene formed as a part of the service. You may sign up for this in the church office. Children participating in Children's Choir and Junior Bells are learning special music they will share with the congregation Christmas Eve.

FAMILIES

1ST AND 3RD WEDNESDAYS

CHILDREN'S CHOIR (Grades 2-5)

5:15 – 5:45

TWIST (Families with young children)

5:45 – 7:15

People like TWIST because it is a time to build relationships with other families. It is a time of weaving our families together with fellowship, faith, and fun. We hope you will come.

- For families with young children (infant through elementary).
- 1st and 3rd Wednesday of each month
- 5:45 – 7:15 pm
- Family meal
- Recreation
- Service projects
- Children's Choir prior to Twist at 5:15 for children in grades 2-5

Contact Donna Montgomery 614-873-8483 for more information or to RSVP. Friends are encouraged.

O.C.C. Mission Project...

Jerome UMC gave 25 boxes to Operation Christmas Child this year. It was inspiring to see the hearts of the children trusting God to help them know what to put in their boxes and praying for their recipient child. The United Methodist Women (UMW), as well as others from the congregation, donated boxes and money towards the shipping cost. Thanks to Amy Page, the families attending Twist and all who made donations towards this project.

TURTLES UPDATE

If you recall, the children made turtles during VBS this summer. They originally were going to go to Red Cross. However, I am pleased to tell everyone that the Plain City Fire Department and the Marysville Police Department were both excited to receive the turtles to give to children they meet that need comfort. Pass this on to your children and remind them to keep praying. ☺

OPEN GYM PLUS

Open Gym for preschoolers will be back this winter. Tell your friends about this free play time to chase away the winter blues and help everyone from going "stir crazy." Open Gym Plus will be held weekly during January, February and March on Tuesday mornings 9:30 – 11:30. We could use a few more riding toys for toddlers and preschoolers if you have access to those things. Contact Donna for information.

BIBLE SUNDAY

JANUARY 10

Sign up for your third grader to receive a Bible. On Bible Sunday, January 10, third grade students are invited to receive a personalized Bible from the Jerome Church congregation. And, just like Jesus' gift of Salvation, the only thing they need to do is accept the gift. This is a long-standing tradition at Jerome. Children may receive Bibles at either service but **we need you to sign up.** This is important so that we have the correct spelling for names on the covers of the Bibles. Sign up in the church office or by contacting Donna at 614-873-8483 or donna.jumc@gmail.com.



BEGINNER'S BIBLE STUDY **3 YEARS OF STUDY**

We will begin a 10 week Bible study for students in grades 3-5 on January 10. **The Bible Study is open to any 3rd - 5th grade student and can be attended for 3 years.** Beginner Bible study is where kids use their Bibles and they begin to develop a lifetime pattern for spiritual growth. In addition to Bible study, we promise laughter, fun, pizza, and recreation. We will meet on Sunday evenings 5:30 – 7. **Please sign up by** contacting Donna Montgomery at 614-873-8483 or donna.jumc@gmail.com.

FROM THE MINISTER OF YOUTH & CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

MIDDLE SCHOOL AND SENIOR HIGH BIBLE STUDY SCHEDULE

Buckeye Angels – Middle School Girls... meet the second Monday of the month, December 14, 7:30 p.m. for pizza and Bible study at the home of Denise Gorden.

The Rust Machine – Middle School Boys... meet the second Monday of the month, December 14, 7:30 p.m. for pizza and Bible study at the home of Rusty Woerner.

G.R.A.P.E.S. – Senior High Girls... meet the third Monday of the month, December 21, 7:30 p.m. for pizza and Bible study at the home of Denise Gorden.

Senior High Boys... meet the third Monday of the month, December 21, 7:30 p.m. for pizza and Bible study at the home of Rusty Woerner.

Oasis... senior high boys and girls are invited to join us in the teen room on Wednesdays at 7:30 p.m. for pizza and Bible study.

GROW CHRISTMAS PARTY

All young adults who are 18 years of age and older are invited to join us for the annual GROW (God Rocks Our Word) Christmas party on Sunday, December 20, 6:30 p.m., at the home of Roger and Denise Gorden, 7866 Harriott Road. We will have an Italian dinner. Guests are welcome to bring a salad, dessert or their favorite Italian dish. Please let Denise know what you plan to bring.

All guests are invited to bring a white elephant gift. Please call 873-8851 or email swajumc@aol.com Denise by December 15 if you plan to attend. If your son or daughter is away at college, please pass this information on to them.

**THE CHRISTMAS SHOP
CHURCH FOR ALL PEOPLE**

The annual Christmas Shop will be held at the Church for All People on Saturday, December 19. All middle school students are encouraged to join us that day as we distribute toys and clothing to families in need. We will meet at the church at 11:00 a.m. and return by 5:00 p.m. We will need parents to provide transportation and supervision. If your son or daughter would like to attend, please call 873-8851 or email Denise at swajumc@aol.com by December 10.

BETHLEHEM ON BROAD FOOD BOXES

This year we have committed to supply 25 food boxes to be distributed at "Bethlehem on Broad". This is a ministry run by Broad Street UMC in downtown Columbus. The food boxes are distributed to those in the community who are in need. Boxes must be delivered to our church by December 10. Items need to be placed in an egg box with a lid, as many of these people carry the boxes home or ride on a bus. Egg boxes will be available at the church or you can ask for one at your local grocery store produce department. Please sign up in the church lobby or call Denise if you would like to provide a food box. The items in the box are:

- \$10 Kroger gift card taped to the inside lid of the box
- 2 large cans of vegetables
- 1 large box of cereal
- 1 six pack of Ramen noodles
- 1 large box of instant potatoes
- 1 CANNED HAM (if available) or 1 large can of beef stew
- 1 roll paper towels
- 1 box saltine crackers
- 2 large CANS of spaghetti sauce
- 1 large box of spaghetti
- 2 cans of fruit
- 4 rolls of toilet paper
- 1 large package of cookies
- 1 large PLASTIC jar of peanut butter
- 1 large PLASTIC jar of squeeze jelly

BETHLEHEM ON BROAD DISTRIBUTION

Bethlehem on Broad food distribution will be Saturday, December 19. Young adults and senior high students are invited to join us that day to help pass out food boxes to those in need. We will meet at the church at 1:30 to carpool to the distribution site. Students who feel they cannot lift the heavy food boxes are welcome to attend the Christmas Shop at the Free Store, which is also that day. Please call Denise or sign up in the church lobby if your son or daughter plans to attend. Adults are needed to provide transportation and supervision.

MOUNTAIN T.O.P. 2010

The youth group will make its 16th trip to Mountain T.O.P. We have received confirmation of our 2010 Mountain T.O.P. week - June 19-27. Mountain T.O.P. (Tennessee Outreach Project) is a non-denominational organization that serves the people of the Cumberland Mountains. During our stay there we will provide for the physical, spiritual and emotional needs of the people we visit.

We will leave the church Saturday, June 19, at 9:00 a.m. and return Sunday, June 27, at 3:00 p.m. All students who will complete the 8th grade in June and those in senior high school are invited to join this ministry. The cost of the camp week is \$375. Each student will be asked to PAY or EARN an additional \$75 to help pay for our trailer, gas for six vans and food and hotel. If you choose not to participate in any fundraisers, you will be asked to write a check for \$75 to help cover the other costs. Money can be earned from the wreath or flower sale. There will be an informational meeting in the sanctuary on Sunday, December 6 at noon. All students who are interested in attending Mountain T.O.P. are asked to attend, along with their parents.

During the first part of the meeting, we will go over important dates and other important information that parents need to know. Returning campers and parents may leave following this part of the meeting.

First time campers and their parents will be asked to stay to go over other information that is relevant to them.

PLEASE make an effort to attend this meeting with your son or daughter. It is helpful if we can all be on the same page and you, as a parent, know the

details about the trip. If you are new to our church and have any questions about the Mountain T.O.P. ministry, please give Denise a call. If you are interested in providing a scholarship for someone attending Mountain T.O.P., please contact Denise.

This is the payment schedule:

January 3-\$135

March 12 (no refund after this date)-\$135

May 14- \$150 (camp cost plus t-shirt cost)

June 15-\$75 if not earned or paid

All checks need to be made out to Jerome UMC and marked Mountain T.O.P.

SPIRIT CAFÉ

The Spirit Café is open in the teen room each Sunday at 9:45 a.m. for the middle school and senior high students to enjoy donuts, bagels, muffins, juice and hot chocolate before Sunday school begins. Parents of students are asked to take turns providing items for the café each week. If you would be interested in doing this, please email Denise at swajumc@aol.com as soon as possible.

PRINTER CARTRIDGE RECYCLING

Thanks to everyone who has donated used printer cartridges. Please continue to save your used cartridges. There is a collection box in the narthex on the shelf above the coat rack. Proceeds from these collections will go toward the Mountain T.O.P. 2010 trip.

CIRCLE OF CONCERN

BEREAVEMENT:

- Jaudzems family (Holly's grandmother, Marge Tinker)
- Pettit family (Linda's grandmother, Pauline Lord)
- Martha Morley and family (brother, Raymond Dort)
- Welcker family (Keith's father)

HOSPITAL or HOME ILLNESS

- Harold Adams (Gloria Brooks)
- William Anderson
- Dick Detwiler (Paul Detwiler)
- Pat Heier (Jan Bambach)
- Jake Koch (Tina Darr)
- Bob Haley (Diana Hoffman)
- Ann Hugill

- Esther Manker
- Carolyn Mitchell (Shelly Detwiler)
- David McDowell
- Anna McKinney (Dax & Rosemary Pitts)
- Shelly Pettit (Norma Pettit)
- Nancy Powell
- Daryl Ramsey (Rosemary Pitts)
- Winston Richardson (Rosemary Pitts)
- Craig Snyder (Steve & Diana Harsh)
- Bill Sprout (Sherrie Moore)
- Stuart Staples
- Brock Star (Amy Page)
- Doris Tagenhorst (Sarah Koenig)
- Helen Tinlin (Larry Tinlin)
- Andrea Trux (Andy Trux)
- Barb Wilcox
- Madilyn Zimmerman

HOMEBOUND:

- Forrest & Ginny Albright
- Mary Alice Schacherbauer

NURSING HOME:

- Lee Schacherbauer
- Mary Hoover (Diana Hoffman)
- Tom Webb
- Miriam Wilcox

MILITARY:

- Brad Bennett (Kristi Smith)
- Daniel Clark, Jr. (Abby Clark)
- Vince Cobb (John Holsinger)
- Brian Doyle-Wenger (Dave & Valerie Altfater)
- Austin Evans (Joan Hayslip)
- Jeremy Holcomb (Chris & Sarah Holcomb)
- Michael Hoover (Steve & Diana Hoffman Harsh)
- Joshua Kline (Kim Solomon)
- Tom Little (Wilkie family)
- Jodi McFee (Vicki Bowman)
- Cody Miller (Charlie & Gerri Miller)
- Seth Miller (Charlie & Gerri Miller)
- Michael Moran (Marla Anderson)
- Jordan Neill
- Shannon Neill
- Zach Shipe (Joan Hayslip)
- Jason Tummonds (Wayne & Kathy Tummonds)
- Zach Yeager (Charlie & Gerri Miller)

MISSIONARIES:

- Dave & Donna Jacobsson: MAF
- E-mail: djacobsson@maf.org

ADULT PROGRAMS AND MINISTRIES

ADULT DISCUSSION CLASS

The Shack

The Adult Discussion Class will have a one week discussion on The Shack by William Paul Young on Sunday, December 6. All adults of our congregation are invited to read the book and join us for discussion.

SAGE-ING CIRCLE: CULTIVATING WISDOM IN THE SECOND HALF OF LIFE

These classes on Creating a New Vision and Purpose for the Second Half of Life will meet monthly over the next year to cover a variety of topics related to harvesting and using the wisdom of life experience. People of all ages are invited to attend either the 10:00 a.m. or 7:00 p.m. sessions. The sessions will be held Monday, December 7.

NEW ADULT DISCUSSION STUDY

The Adult Discussion Class will begin a new study on Sunday, December 13. The class will read the book CS Lewis on the Fullness of Life, Longing for Deep Heaven by Dennis J. Billy. If you would like to order a book, please contact Denise.

HOT TOPICS CLASS

The Hot Topics Sunday school class will begin a new study on January 3. The title of the study is Christianity and World Religions: Wrestling With Questions People Ask. It's a video-based small-group study and outreach program that explores four major world religions- Hinduism, Buddhism, Islam, and Judaism – and compares the beliefs of each with those of Christianity. This six-week study deals openly and honestly with questions people ask about other religions, including why we should believe the claims of Christianity over those of other faiths. As part of the study, author and presenter, Adam Hamilton, interviews a religious leader from each tradition. He treats the world religions with great respect, recognizing the unique contributions of each.

MEN'S AND WOMEN'S RETREAT DATE CHANGE

We have been informed by the Kirkmont Center that, because of their economic situation and the closing of several lodges, both the men and women's retreat date will need to be changed. The new date for both retreats is the weekend of February 19-21. Women and men of all ages and walks of faith are invited to join us.

The women's retreat will begin Friday, February 19 at 5:00 p.m. If you would like to carpool, we will meet at the church at 3:00 p.m. The women's retreat will conclude at 2:00 p.m. on Saturday, February 20.

The men will meet at the church at 1:00 p.m. on Saturday, February 21 to carpool to the retreat center. Their retreat will begin that day at 2:30 p.m. They will return home Sunday after lunch. Reverend Steve Harsh will lead this retreat.

The cost of lodging and linens for both retreats is \$50. Since Kirkmont is no longer catering, the meals for both groups will have to be prepared by participants. We will work on those details later. Please mark your calendars for these retreats. There is lodging for 24 participants. If you are new to our church or have been here for awhile and want to get reconnected, you are encouraged to join us. If you have any questions, please call Denise at 873-8851

RECREATION & FUN

MEN'S BREAKFAST GROUP

Mark your calendars for the men's breakfast at Der Dutchman Restaurant in Plain City Saturday, December 5, 7:30 a.m. This is open to all men of the church and their guests.

EUCHRE PARTY

Sign up on the bulletin board in the church lobby for the euchre party on Friday, December 11, 7:00 p.m. at the church. Penny Sullivan will host. Please bring an appetizer or dessert to share.

There is also a sign up sheet to host upcoming euchre parties. The host provides soft drinks, paper products, and small prizes for men's and women's high, men's and women's low and most loners (optional).

JEROME MEN'S GROUP

Jerome Men's group will go Christmas caroling Sunday, December 20 at 4:00 p.m. and have dinner at the church afterwards.

Thank You

Thanks so much for all of the sweet cards I have received, expressing concern for healing from my recent surgery. They have been a source of joy for me and it is wonderful to know that many are praying for me. I am gradually regaining my strength and hope to be back in church soon so I can say my thanks in person.

Ann Hugill

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It takes many volunteers to keep our church and its programs running smoothly. We thank all our committees who do work on a regular basis and others who help with specific projects.

Thanks to:

- Leslie Zimmerman for deep-cleaning the church kitchen.
- the exercise class for wrapping and bagging bread and bagels for Soup for the Soul
- Melinda Murphy, who organizes Soup for the Soul, everyone who provides soup and other food items each week, and those who help serve 100 persons in need each Friday at the Church for All People in downtown Columbus
- Stuart Staples for making the coffee on Sunday mornings
- volunteers who set up and take down the fellowship hall chairs weekly

RECYCLING

The time of our recycling pick up (on the second Saturday of the month) has been extended to 8-9:30 a.m. Union Recyclers accepts glass and plastic bottles/jars, tin and aluminum cans, newspaper, cardboard and magazines. Bottles and cans should be rinsed out. Please save your recyclables and bring them to the church on Saturday, December 12.

FLEA MARKET PLANNING

Planning for the 2010 flea market has begun. We will post items of the month in the newsletter and bulletin. We will do this for the next several months until our next sale. There are many items we always need to run the sale. Even though we will post items of the month that we would like to collect, we will absolutely take additional donations anytime throughout the year. In the Flea Market mailbox will be a list of all the items we need for the flea market. Please feel free to take a list with you.

The items we are collecting in December are:

- Aluminum Foil
- Clear Plastic Wrap
- Dessert, Lunch and Dinner thick paper plates
- Foam Cups
- 55 Gallon Trash Bags
- Masking Tape
- Packing Clear Tape

December Calendar

Tuesday, December 1

7:00pm Staff/Parish Relations Committee meeting

Wednesday, December 2

9:45am Daytime Serendipity
5:15pm Children's choir rehearsal
5:45pm Twist
7:00pm Chancel Choir rehearsal
7:30pm Oasis
8:00pm Handbell rehearsal

Thursday, December 3

7:00pm Serendipity
8:00pm Band rehearsal

Friday, December 4

3:30pm Soup for the Soul

Saturday, December 5

7:30am Men's breakfast
9:00am Hanging of the Greens

Sunday, December 6

8:30am Worship, Nursery, Children's Church
9:30am Fellowship time
9:45am Sunday School for all ages
10:45am Worship, Nursery, Children's Church
noon Mountain T.O.P. information meeting
1:00pm Jerome Christmas rehearsal

Monday, December 7

10:00am Sage-ing Circle meeting
7:00pm Acts 11 meeting
7:00pm Sage-ing Circle meeting
7:00pm Boy Scout meeting

Tuesday, December 8

4:30pm Children's choir rehearsal
5:00pm Junior handbell rehearsal
7:00pm Finance Committee meeting

Wednesday, December 9

9:45am Daytime Serendipity
7:00pm Chancel Choir rehearsal
7:30pm Oasis
8:00pm Handbell rehearsal

Thursday, December 10

7:00pm Serendipity Nighttime

8:00pm Band rehearsal

Friday, December 11

3:30pm Soup for the Soul
7:00pm Euchre party

Saturday, December 12

8:00am Recycling pick up
1:00pm Jerome Christmas rehearsal

Sunday, December 13

8:30am Worship, Nursery, Children's Church
9:30am Fellowship time / blood pressure screening
9:45am Sunday School for all ages
10:45am Worship, Nursery, Children's Church
3:00pm Jerome Christmas participants meet
4:00pm Jerome Christmas program "Christmas Mosaic"

Monday, December 14

7:00pm Boy Scout meeting
7:30pm Buckeye Angels Bible study - Denise's
7:30pm Rust Machine Bible study - Rusty's

Tuesday, December 15

7:00pm Administrative Council meeting

Wednesday, December 16

9:45am Daytime Serendipity
5:15pm Children's choir rehearsal
5:45pm Twist
7:00pm Chancel Choir rehearsal
7:30pm Oasis
8:00pm Handbell rehearsal

Thursday, December 17

7:00pm Serendipity Nighttime
8:00pm Band rehearsal

Friday, December 18

3:30pm Soup for the Soul

Saturday, December 19

11:00am Middle schoolers meet at the church to volunteer at the Christmas Shop
1:30pm High school students meet at the church to volunteer at Bethlehem on Broad

Sunday, December 20

8:30am Traditional Worship, Nursery
9:30am Fellowship time
9:45am Sunday school for all ages
10:30am Fellowship time
10:45am Contemporary Worship, Nursery, Children's Church
6:30pm G.R.O.W. Christmas party at Denise's
4:00pm Jerome Men's group Christmas caroling and dinner at the church

Monday, December 21

7:00pm Boy Scout meeting
7:30pm G.R.A.P.E.S. Bible study - Denise's
7:30pm Senior high boys Bible study - Rusty's

Tuesday, December 22

4:30pm Children's Choir rehearsal
5:00pm Junior handbell rehearsal

Wednesday, December 23

7:00pm Chancel Choir rehearsal

Thursday, December 24 – Christmas Eve

3:15pm Children's choir rehearsal
4:00pm Family worship service – fellowship hall
5:45pm Band rehearsal
7:00pm Contemporary worship service – fellowship hall
9:00pm Traditional service with communion – sanctuary
11:00pm Contemporary service with communion – fellowship hall

Friday, December 25

Church office closed

Sunday, December 27

8:30am Traditional Worship, Nursery
9:30am Fellowship time
10:45am Contemporary Worship, Nursery, Children's Church

DECEMBER VOLUNTEERS

GREETERS

12/6	8:30	Bob & Becky Neill
	10:45	Scott & Cara Hanhart
12/13	8:30	Charlie & Wendy Bynner
	10:45	Carl & Ellen Erikson
12/20	8:30	Ron & Myra Brenneman
	10:45	Rob & Sara Meriweather
12/27	8:30	Sharon Dunn
	10:45	Chris & Sarah Holcomb

GREAT EXPECTATIONS TEAM GREETERS

		Inside	Outside
12/6	8:30	Laurel Benefiel	Tom Pierce
	10:45	Barb Keith	Kathy Feightner
12/13	8:30	Sharon Dunn	Dan Sutphen
	10:45	June Booher	Sandy Montee
12/20	8:30	Stephanie Middlestead	Tom Pierce
	10:45	Sarah Holcomb	Terry Woerner
12/27	8:30	DeeAnn King	Tom Pierce
	10:45	Dawn Stanko	Steve Mark

USHERS

12/6	8:30	David & Madeleine Breitmayer
	10:45	Andy & Marilyn Trux
12/13	8:30	Randy & Amy Page
	10:45	Kim & Scott Weaver
12/20	8:30	Scott & Melanie Danhof
	10:45	Woody & Jane Green
12/27	8:30	Wayne & Kathy Tummonds
	10:45	Don & Gail Lambie

SCRIPTURE READERS

12/6	8:30	Ruth Elliott
	10:45	Jan Manring
12/13	8:30	Kathy Hoover
	10:45	Steve Mark
12/20	8:30	Carol Kauffman
	10:45	Kim Weaver
12/27	8:30	Kathy Tummonds
	10:45	Chip Seely

ACOLYTES – 9:00AM

12/6	Seth Transue
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12/13 Nick Page
 12/20 Abbi Clark
 12/27 Madilyn Zimmerman

FELLOWSHIP TIME VOLUNTEERS

12/6 9:30 Clark & Pat Breeding
 10:45 Scott & Jennifer Sonnenberg
 12/13 9:30 Ron & Myra Brenneman
 10:45 Dawn Stanko
 12/22 9:30 Charlie & Wendy Bynner
 10:45 Chris & Sue Steuerwald
 12/27 9:30 Mike & Marie Clark
 10:45 Dave & Debbie Trego

ALTAR FLOWERS

12/6 Rob & Sara Meriweather – in honor of Jackson’s birthday
 12/13 Sherrie Moore – in honor of Mike’s birthday
 12/20 DeeAnn King – in honor of Holly’s 14th birthday
 12/27 Toni Burkholder – in honor of Mark’s birthday

CHILDREN’S NURSERY

12/6 8:20 Becky Neill
 9:35 Kim Weaver
 10:35 Amy Plank
 12/13 8:20 Hayley Neumeier
 9:35 Brenda Hancock
 10:35 Brenda Hancock
 12/20 8:20 Rosemary Pitts
 9:35 Open
 10:35 Amy Smith
 12/27 8:20 Randy Page
 9:35 *No Sunday School*
 10:35 Anne Allen

CHILDREN’S WORSHIP VOLUNTEERS

8:30 service

	Teacher	Shepherd
12/6	Donna Montgomery	Cody Middlestead
12/13	Donna Montgomery	Abbi Clark
12/20	Donna Montgomery	Abby Clark
12/27	Donna Montgomery	Amy Page

CHILDREN’S WORSHIP VOLUNTEERS

10:45 service

Pre-K

	Teacher	Shepherd
12/6	Michelle Pettit	Janell Bolte
12/13	Leah Koenig	Mike Anderson
12/20	Tracy Moldovan	Elizabeth Haglock
12/27	Donna Montgomery	Open

Elementary

12/6	Becky Hayslip	Kimberly Bowman
12/13	Greg Jaudzems	Erica Pettit
12/20	April Keiffer	Sarah Holcomb
12/27	Kathleen Rose	Lori Greiner

FELLOWSHIP HALL CHAIR SET UP

12/6 Bob Warne
 12/13 Sonnenberg family
 12/20 Bowman family
 12/27 Bryan family

PANERA BREAD/ SOUP FOR THE SOUL PICK UP VOLUNTEERS

12/3 Gregg Rothermund
 12/10 Valerie Altfater
 12/17 No pick up
 12/24 No pick up

