

Disciples Christian Church

Spreading the Word

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December 2017

Merry Christmas

OUTREACH

Chosen

Meals will be served at **Chosen** on Wednesday, December 12th and Thursday, December 14th. See Sign-up Sheets on the board.

Miss Betty's Angels

Our Christmas Outreach Project will be to provide gifts to the children's ministry at the Trailer Park down the street. Please see the list on the board to sign up to provide gifts to boys or girls of a specific age. The gifts should range between \$5.00 - \$10.00 (so all get similar sized gifts) and should be brought to the church, unwrapped, by December 18th.

Christmas Special Day Offering

The Christmas Special Day Offering supports Regional Ministries – for us, the Region of Ohio and Camp Christian. This offering will be received December 10 and 17.

Regional Church ministries may not be your first thought when you ponder Advent and Christmas giving. After all, this is a season of miracles — not a fundraising season for an administrative ministry.

What if I told you that I believe, every day, that Regional Ministry is a miracle. I've been involved in serving in three regional positions over 28 years, and I've seen miracles every week, for all of those years!

I see a miracle when I see a group of kids and adults show up at church camp one day, and several days later see them leave as transformed people embedded in a Christian community and faith.

I see a miracle when I visit a new church start and hear their testimony about God's grace in helping them to find the Disciples of Christ church as their home.

I see a miracle when a group of women from a variety of congregations raise funds together to give to people on another continent because the regional church connected their compassion to a global church.

I see a miracle when I participate in an ordination service for a new pastor sent out after a few years of nurture from a Regional Commission on Ministry.

I see a miracle when pastors form a support group that helps them with some complex ministry challenges, and the group reminds them that they do not serve alone.

I see a miracle when people speaking multiple languages worship together at a regional gathering and recognize the Holy Spirit is among them.

I see a miracle when congregations install a new pastor after a Regional Minister coaches their search process.

I see a miracle when a regional board meets, and I listen to their hope for the future of the whole church.

I see a miracle when one church sees another church down the road doing a ministry in their community and says "We could do that too!"

I see miracles every day in Regional Ministry.

Please continue your generous support for this miraculous ministry we share.

Rev. Dr. Cathy Myers Wirt, President of the College of Regional Ministers

Helping Hands Hygiene Ministry ...

We were blessed with an abundance of items left from the Trunk or Treat. All of the items were boxed up and given to Mrs. Betty at Sky Meadows Mobile Home Park off of Tuley Road. The residents greatly appreciated the extra hygiene items for their families.

WORSHIP

The Journey Begins Sunday, December 3rd!

This Advent we are going to use *The Journey*, by Adam Hamilton. He has blessed the church with several books and study series in recent years. We are going to use videos in worship along with the sermon to really walk the steps of Mary and Joseph this Christmas season. Don't miss out! Starting, December 3rd we begin the journey! For more information or a closer look, check out the Church's Facebook page!



Christmas Eve Service
Sunday, December 24, 2017.
7:00 p.m.

Beautiful, meaningful messages will be expressed through music and through words to create our annual worship experience remembering our Savior's birth.

In preparation for this service, we will "Journey to Bethlehem" each Sunday in Advent. Following along to the steps of Mary and Joseph to the manger, you are invited to prepare your heart to worship the newborn King once more beginning, Sunday, December 3, 2017.

Poinsettias

Now is the time to decorate the church with poinsettias. You can bring a fresh or silk one anytime. If it's fresh, let me know so we can keep it watered. Thanks, Jan R

Children's Worship Activities

We are blessed that Jeri Pendergest has for several years cared to the children who worship with us following the Children's Sermon with activities during the sermon. We cannot thank her enough for all the work she has done and continues to do.

In an effort to build upon this ministry and include children in worship, we have introduced Children's Worship Activities found in the basket near the Sunday bulletins. Each week they include a special Children's bulletin or activity pages that go along with the morning's scripture reading and sermon. Parents/Grandparents are encouraged to use the activities with the children to help them participate in worship while learning more about the theme or idea for the morning. At the end of the service, the clipboards are placed where they were found to be prepared for the next Sunday.

Advent Devotional Flashback with Relevance for Today

(Reprinted with Permission)

Scripture: Luke 2:1-4 "And the angel said unto them, 'Be not afraid; for behold, I bring you good news of a great joy...'"

Good news! Isn't that what we are all waiting for? We'd love to hear that a loved one for who we have been praying is improving. We look anxiously for that publishing company's large check. We wait for the tiny seeds we have lovingly placed in the earth to sprout, for a bud to open into a beautiful flower. We might be fearful as we await test results from school, from the doctor's office. We fear the unknown and the different.

When the angel suddenly appeared and told the shepherds they should not be afraid they certainly were not expecting angels coming down from the starry sky. We are heartened by good news just as the shepherds so long ago were excited. All their lives they had learned about the coming of the Messiah. They were full of curiosity and of excitement. So they went to see for themselves.

Advent is the time of waiting for the good news. The season of Christmas reminds us of the promises made by God throughout scripture of a promised Savior. Are we looking forward to the right thing? Are we ready for the coming of our Savior?

Lord, help us look forward to celebrating the birth of Jesus. Let us remember the important things and not the material desires of our dreams. Keep us focused on you. Amen.

-Claudette Thomas 2007

Gluten – Free Communion Bread

Realizing that individuals may need or simply want a different option on Sunday morning from the traditional bread loaf we use in the service, Gluten-Free Wafers are available both in the front of the sanctuary near the communion table and on the tray passed in the congregation. Please feel free to use a wafer if this is necessary for health concerns or to make it easier to take communion.

Worship Leader Schedule

Dec	3	Kathy Baughman	777-3698
	10	John Pendergest	310-5166
	17	Jill White	829-5690
	24	Margaret Adamson	939-2213
	31	Dean Schmidt	777-3738

(The schedule for January is not yet available.)

Please let Diane know if you trade with someone – and let Jan know if you cannot find a replacement when you are unable to serve.

EDUCATION & FELLOWSHIP

Celebration of Minister's First Anniversary at DCC

Pastor Bonnie Goodwin was recognized Sunday, November 5, 2017 on her first year anniversary as the pastor of Disciples Christian Church. The Pastoral Relations Committee presented a powerpoint presentation reflecting on her first year, followed by a reception after church. The Pastoral Relations Committee is an advisory group that seeks to support the pastor and her leadership throughout her ministry. Blessings to Pastor Bonnie and the committee for their pastoral care.



Special Thank You

Thank you to all you planned the one-year celebration of my ministry with Disciples Christian Church. I cannot thank you for all the love, encouragement and kind words I have received in our time together. I pray that we have many more years together in life, ministry and love.

Bonnie and David Goodwin

Cookie Exchange and Fellowship Luncheon

The Men's Group will be sponsoring a Pulled Pork Sandwich Luncheon on Sunday – December 17th, 2017 following the Sunday Service. This event will serve as a Fellowship for our Church Congregation and then also as an Outreach project. The donations collected will go to some form of Outreach, to be determined at the December Men's Group meeting. The men will prepare the pulled pork, and provide buns and coleslaw for the sandwiches. They will provide chips and drinks.

The ladies are asked to prepare cookies, candy or fudge for the exchange/sale. You are asked to make 2 dozen cookies and place 6 cookies on 4 different plates, or some other items to allow people to have enough cookies to have an opportunity to get your cookie. Also, if possible try to bring your cookies to the church on Saturday Dec. 17th between 11:00 AM and 2:00 PM.

There is a signup sheet on the board to indicate who will be bringing cookies.

Thank you for assisting with this endeavor.

Men's Group

The men's group will meet December 13th for their Christmas Get-Together. Time and place to be determined.

Thanksgiving

Disciples Christian Church celebrated Thanksgiving 2017 with beautiful decorations in the sanctuary and an all church Thanksgiving Dinner on Sunday, November 19, 2017. It was a time to reflect on blessings, a wonderful meal and fellowship. A great time shared by all.



MISCELLANEOUS NEWS

November 2017 Financial Report

Checking Account Balance at 11/30/2017: \$14,484.11

Investment Account Balance (DCEF): \$351,075.00

November Income (Offerings): \$ 5,381.40 actual, \$ 7,085.37 adjusted

November Expenses/Outreach: \$ 7,264.65 actual, \$ 6,075.90 adjusted

* Adjusted takes into consideration early offerings, interest from our investments and the amount from the Duke Energy Settlement and pro-rates these throughout the year. It also uses normal expenses only. In addition, Expenses were adjusted to remove \$1,188.75 which was paid for the Sound System from the Designated Capital Improvement Fund. An additional \$3,000.84 from the Designated Capital Improvement Fund will be paid in December, and \$1,200 will be paid from the 2018 Capital Improvements (budgeted fund) in January for the Sound System.

Bonnie's Vacation

Bonnie will be on vacation December 25th through 30th. If pastoral assistance is needed during that time, please contact John Pendergest or Kathy Baughman.

Sound System Update

Can you hear me now? The Trustees voted to upgrade parts of our sound system due to outdated equipment and the need to improve our capabilities for better sound performance. You may have noticed new speakers positioned to decrease the amount of feedback we hear in worship or the individual microphones the praise team uses on Sunday morning. After two Sundays with the new updates, many have mentioned improved sound in worship. The answer to my question is YES! You can hear me now!

Trustee Highlights

The Trustees met on November 5th to discuss and approve the budget which was approved by the congregation the following week.

Fellowship Hall Remodeling – The Trustees are meeting with the Architect, Bob Powell, on December 2nd to review the plans. I'm hopeful that we will have updated estimates for removing one wall and removing both walls in time for our December 3rd Congregational Meeting.

Sound System – The new sound system is in and working beautifully.

Our next meeting will be January 7th after worship.

Office Hours

Please call ahead to ensure Rev. Goodwin has arrived before coming to the church. Her cell phone number is (570)250-3057 or you can always call the church (513) 795-6742 to leave a message. All messages left on either phone will be returned in a timely manner.

Here are the current office hours for each week:

Monday 8:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Tuesday 1:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Wednesday 8:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Thursday 1:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Bonnie's regular days off are Friday & Saturday. If pastoral care is needed on one of these days, please contact John Pendergest or Kathy Baughman.

Or by appointment.

Message from John Pendergest - Our Role

I once met a man with sandals on his feet
And I asked him this question as we stood there in the street

What do you think is our purpose and role in life
When it seems that all there is, is hardship and strife

The man responded to me "To do the best we can do"
I believe that is all God asks of you

To be there to say the kind word or give the caring touch
I really don't think that our role asks too much

As the man shared these words it was like the world was lifted from my shoulders
As if these words had removed my hardship and strifefull boulders

Then I turned to him and said – “All my life where have you been”
He replied – “I’ve always been here and we will surely meet again”

So as we turned to walk our ways, I said to him “ I will do the best that I can do”
And the rest – Dear God, I will leave to you.

Written by:
John Pendergest
Commissioned Minister/Pastor

As we prepare for Advent and the coming of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, may we do our best and pray.

Prayer is simply a conversation with God; it is not only those that come in a formal structure, but in words and action.

So often people say that don't pray because their prayers aren't answered, but that is because they won't accept that the answer may be “No”. Sometimes they won't see that we are asking for things that are against God's will or we pray SSP (Something Stupid Prayers) and God tells us to come humbly and earnestly and with intension and ask of our Father and he will give unto us.

Take time to read some Advent reflections and to take a moment to reflect on those readings.

Take time to be thankful, as Thanksgiving shouldn't be only one day per year, but every day!

Pray that God will help you to be the man/woman that He made you to be!!!

Minister's Musings

“When they saw the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy.” – Matthew 2:10

During a trip thru the McDonald's drive thru this week, I spoke a little longer to the cashier who just seemed to be in a great mood. After exchanges about our Thanksgiving celebrations, she expressed her excitement for the season. It was centered around the feeling she gets when viewing all the beautiful decorations, namely the lights.

As I drove away from our conversation, I realized once more how much the lights of Christmas bring joy to my life. The darkness is silenced by the glow of lights all around and people take on a spirit of joy that overwhelms them. I imagine the excitement for the star leading both the shepherds and the wise men to the manger was more meaningful than the strand of lights on my Christmas tree.

Yet, our preparations to remember the birth of our Savior, the waiting for the birth, and the excitement for something new and different in our lives can truly overwhelm us with joy just as the star overhead. It is the hope that God is still working in and through us. That God did in fact come down to Earth to save us! So as you see a twinkling light this year, remember that Jesus light is here for you, to save you this season.

Rev. Bonnie Goodwin

DECEMBER CALENDAR

- Dec 2 9:00 am Trustee Meeting with Architect
- Dec 3 10:45 am Worship – *First Sunday in Advent - Hope*
12:00 pm Congregational Meeting
- Dec 4 6:30 pm Bible Study – Luke
- Dec 7 6:30 pm Praise Team Rehearsal
7:15 pm Choir Rehearsal
- Dec 10 10:45 am Worship – *Second Sunday in Advent – Peace*
Salvation Army Angel Gifts Due
- Dec 11 6:30 pm Bible Study – Luke
- Dec 13 Men’s Group (Christmas Get Together – Time and Place TBD)
- Dec 13 5:30 pm Serve at Chosen
- Dec 14 5:30 pm Serve at Chosen
- Dec 16 11:00 am – 2:30 pm Greater Project – Christmas Shopping (more info to follow)
- Dec 17 10:45 am Worship – *Third Sunday in Advent - Joy*
Gifts for Miss Betty’s Angels (Trailer Park) Due
- Dec 21 6:30 pm Praise Team Rehearsal
7:15 pm Choir Rehearsal
- Dec 24 10:45 am Worship – *Fourth Sunday in Advent - Love*
7:00 pm Christmas Eve Service
- Dec 25 *Merry Christmas*
- Dec 25-28 Church Office Closed
- Dec 28 10:00 am Newsletter Deadline
- Dec 31 10:45 am Worship



PRAYER REQUESTS

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|-------------------------------|--|-----------------------------|---------------------------------|
| John Pendergest | Athol Cox | Lois Johnson | Marie Garnett |
| David Goodwin | Debbie Ittel | Phyllis Hurst | Mike Mullins |
| Angel Shanholtzer | Paul Caudill | Jordan Habel | Jason (friend of Shaine Gentry) |
| Nancy Kibler (Jill’s Mother) | Charlie (Margaret’s Brother) | Family of Patrick Barkley | |
| Kelly (Dean & Bev’s Daughter) | Kathryn Feldman (Dean & Bev’s Granddaughter) | | |
| Todd (Claudette’s neighbor) | Fred (Friend of Richard’s) | Brett (Jill White’s Cousin) | |

BIRTHDAYS

<u>December</u>		<u>January</u>	
Bev Rosser	2	Lynn Adams	6
Diane Kinner	8	Beverly Schmidt	11
Linda Ashbrook	14	Kim Vangen	13
John Baughman	14	Todd Richards	15
Jasmine Shanholtzer	26	Marie Garnett	25
Ellis Ittel	29	Debbie Ittel	28



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