

Christian Reporter

Mt. Lebanon Christian Church

December 2022

I imagine that most of us have seen Charles Schulz's "A Charlie Brown Christmas." "Charles Schulz, creator of the Peanuts comic strip, was a devout Christian, and when he was asked in 1965 to create a Christmas special for CBS featuring the Peanuts characters, Schulz agreed... with one caveat: he would only do it if they would let him include the story of the birth of Jesus.

CBS executives were hesitant about including this, but because Peanuts was so popular, they conceded and agreed to allow Schulz to include it in the show. However, both the producer and the director tried hard to dissuade him from including it, first of all because they thought it would be boring to have a scripture reading in a television program, and secondly, because even then it was considered controversial. Schulz refused to budge. He reportedly said at one point, "We must tell this story! If we don't do it, who will?" (nickcady.org/2016/12/23)

In the show, Linus tells the scripture of the announcement to the shepherds in the field. It is at this moment when Linus repeats the words of the angel, "Fear not!" that he drops his security blanket. Those words are for us as well, "Fear not!"

The Christmas story is full of Good News for us and the world. That story is up to us to tell to the world. We do not need to give into fear, for Christ has come and lives within us!

Will you tell the story? I hope we all will.

*Blessings
Cindy*

Mt. Lebanon Christian Church
(Disciples of Christ)
367 Cedar Boulevard
Pittsburgh, PA 15228
412-531-8554
www.mtlebocc.org

**PASTOR: THE REVEREND DR.
CINDY McCLUNG**



**WORSHIP
WITH US**



Sunday Morning Worship

11:00 AM

PLEASE JOIN US!



December Worship Leaders

<u>Elders</u>	<u>Worship Leaders</u>
4 - Kathy Spray	4 - Jocelyn Wagner
11 - Verna McGinley	11 - Verna McGinley
18 - Sally Myton	18 - Dan Wahl
25- Brad Montgomery	25- Jeff Hawn

MISSION STATEMENT

Serving Christ!
Living and Sharing Faith, Hope and Love

VISION STATEMENT

God's vision for Mt. Lebanon Christian Church (DOC) is that we be a Christ-centered church; growing in faith through prayer, worship, and Bible study; growing in service through outreach; growing in love through Fellowship.

MT. LEBANON CHRISTIAN CHURCH (Disciples of Christ)

A Church Alive with the Holy Spirit!
367 Cedar Boulevard
Pittsburgh, PA 15228
Office: (412) 531- 8554
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"Every Member Is A Minister"

Cindy McClung
 John McCarty
 Tom Spray
 Chuck Bieri
 Joyce Lackey

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 Assistant Pastor
 Board Chair
 Director of Music
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Advent Bible Study

"Because of Bethlehem by Max Lucado"

Wednesdays Nov. 30, Dec .7, Dec .14, Dec .21 at 7pm on Zoom.

A remarkable gift can arrive in an unremarkable package. One did in Bethlehem more than 2,000 years ago. No one expected God to come the way he did. Yet the way he came was every bit as important as the coming itself. The manger is the message.



"Once in our world,
 a stable had something
 in it that was bigger
 than our whole world."



The one who kneels to the Lord
 can stand up to anything.

Services in-Person, via Facebook Live or Free Conference Call

We will continue to film the Facebook Live services on Sunday even though we are meeting in person now. We will also continue to use "Free Conference Call" using phone number 425-436-6348 and access code 284262#. Remember, you can view past services on our Facebook Live page by clicking [here](https://www.facebook.com/MtLebanonCC/), pick Video and select what you want to watch. (or enter this <https://www.facebook.com/MtLebanonCC/>)



Amusing Christmas Turkey Story

Sarah new young bride calls her mother in tears. She sobs, 'Richard doesn't appreciate what I do for him.'

'Now, now,' her mother comforted, 'I am sure it was all just a misunderstanding.'

'No, mother, you don't understand. I bought a frozen turkey roll and he yelled and screamed at me about the price.'

'Well, the nerve of that lousy cheapskate,' says her mum. 'Those turkey rolls are only a few dollars.'

'No, mother it wasn't the price of the turkey. It was the airplane ticket.' "Airplane ticket...." What did you need an airplane ticket for?'

'Well mother, when I went to fix it, I looked at the directions on the package and it said: "Prepare from a frozen state," so I flew to Alaska.'



IN NEED OF PRAYER

Please contact The Elders for any prayer concerns or even just to talk. The Elders pray for those in our congregation who need prayers from those on our prayer lists and those mentioned during our , worship services. If you are in need of prayer and would like to be included in our private prayer list please contact the church office.

Church Members

- Mary Crist
- Hawn Family on the death of Dorothy
- Bill Green
- Audrey Houke
- Karen Newman - surgery recovery
- Mary Nicholson
- Gerri Offenbach - surgery recovery
- Chuck Sargent - knee surgery recovery
- The Scott Family - death of Ralph's niece
- Ed Pajak
- Duane Ready

Friends and family

- Matt - Dan Wahl's Nephew - recovery
- Joanne - Bill Green's daughter
- Patrick Holstead - liver transplant recovery
- Katy Creenan - cancer
- Bob Conroy Sr. - stroke recovery
- Ann Peden - cancer
- Kathleen Miller - kidney concerns
- Maggie Goodwin - back surgery recovery
- Rick Fleischauer - brain injury - nephew of Jane McCarty
- Leo Schober - healing
- Hugh Pollon - Father of Bonnie Philippon
- Richard Sykes
- All those affected by Mass shootings
- Ed Totin - Father of Anne Totin
- Peace in the Ukraine

Also, please remember in your prayers our members who are homebound. Helen Butler, Connie McCarty, Ruth Schmidetter, Lee Scott and Betty Rothermel.



DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

4 - James Campbell Jr.
6 - Duane Ready
8 - Chuck Bieri
10 - Patty Wolff
15 - Bill Green
 Rocco Campbell
18 - Lois Lindeman
26 - Anne Totin
31 - Bev Hafner



December Events

- December 3 – Women’s Retreat at Rev Cindy’s house at 2:30 pm.
- December 11 – Christmas Party following worship. Please bring a dish to share. Sign up in the back of the church for the dish you wish to bring.
- December 24 – Christmas Eve service 7PM. Fellowship after the service. Please bring a hors d’oeuvres to share.
- December 25 – 11:00 Christmas day service. (No CAYA service)

Christmas Party – Dec. 11

Our Church Christmas Party will be after worship service on Sunday, December 11th. Please bring a dish to share. We hope you can attend and we can share the Christmas Spirit as we begin the celebration of the birth of our Lord and Savior Jesus. We will sing Christmas Carols.

The Global Water Crisis - MLCC can make a difference in the lives of many through giving to the World Vision Clean Water Projects!

From World Vision:

- The global water crisis affects millions of people worldwide, with 771 million people lacking access to clean water.
- People are struggling to access the quantity and quality of water they need for drinking, cooking, bathing, handwashing, and growing their food.
- Every day, more than 800 children under 5 die from diarrhea caused by contaminated water, poor sanitation, and unsafe hygiene practices.
- 1.69 billion people live without access to adequate sanitation.
- The average woman in rural Africa walks 6 kilometers each day to haul 40pounds of water.
- Women and girls spend an estimated 200 million hours hauling water every day.

World Vision is the leading nongovernmental provider of clean drinking water min the developing world.

Please help our faith community make a difference by giving 10 – 20% or more of your Christmas gift budget to World Vision for their clean water projects. We can give with a special sense of joy knowing that these gifts make a difference between life and death for people in other parts of the world.

Imagine how drastically different our own lives would be if we did not have access to clean water.

The first \$2500 of our giving will be matched. Give in honor of your loved ones or to the glory of God!

Please make your check to the church with water project on the memo line.

Together we can make a powerful difference!



GOOD CHRISTIAN MEN, REJOICE

As this spritely carol reminds us, Christmas should be the most joyous season of the year for all true Christians. Our lives should be filled with gratitude to God for the immeasurable love shown to us in the gift of His Son. Out of joyous hearts we should be exuberant in “heart and soul and voice!” This ancient hymn uses frequent repetition to impress upon us that the birth of Christ won for us “endless bliss” by opening the way to heaven and conquering our fear of death through His assurance of eternal life. The festive spirit of Christmas should not fade away as the holiday passes. The joy and peace that Christ brings to our lives should enable us to be continually rejoicing Christians regardless of the circumstances. The blessings that come to us on Christmas morn have illuminated our lives forever.

Good Christian men, rejoice with heart and soul and voice; give ye heed to what we say: News! News! Jesus Christ is born today! Ox and ass before Him bow, and He is in a manger now: Christ is born today! Christ is born today!

Good Christian men, rejoice with heart and soul and voice: now ye hear of endless bliss: Joy! Joy! Jesus Christ was born for this! He has opened heaven’s door, and man is blessed evermore; Christ was born today! Christ was born today!

Good Christian men, rejoice with heart and soul and voice; now ye need not fear the grave: Peace! Peace! Jesus Christ was born to save! Calls you one and calls you all to gain His everlasting hall; Christ was born to save! Christ was born to save!



Jesus Requires Faith of His Members

Elder's Corner

One day as Jesus was entering the town of Capharnaum a Roman army officer came up to Him with a request. “Lord,” he said, “My servant is lying sick in the house, paralyzed and is grievously afflicted.” The man did not even get to ask Jesus to cure the servant.

Our Lord said, “I will come and cure him.” The officer was amazed. He did not think it necessary for Jesus to come to his house in order to cure the servant. He believed that our Lord has the power to cure a sick man who miles away, He said to Jesus, “Lord I am not worthy that you should come under my roof, but only say the word and my servant will be healed.

Jesus marveled at the faith of this army officer. As a man Jesus was actually stunned by this man’s great faith. He turned to those who were gathered about Him, and said, “Amen” I say to you, “I have not found such faith in Israel.” Then Jesus said to the army officer, “Go your way as you have believed, so be it done to you.” The gospel of Mathew ads, and the servant was healed in that hour.

These words of Jesus tell very clearly how important faith is, how important it is to believe in Christ, His Works and His Promises. Faith is absolutely necessary for the members of the Messiah’s Kingdom.

Nothing pleased our Lord so much as loving belief in Him. If a person had faith enough, there was nothing that Jesus would refuse them. Before He worked a miracle our Lord often asked whether the person who asked for the miracle had faith. After our Lord worked a miracle He often gave credit to the faith of the person who has asked for the favor. “Your faith has saved you” he would say, or “Your faith has made you whole.

Now that Christ, the Messiah, has come, faith in God means faith in his Son, Jesus Christ. God spoke to the Israelites through the prophets and said, “He who believes in me believes not in me, but in Him who sent me. He who sees me, sees him who sent me. I have come, a light into the world, that whoever believes in me may not remain in the darkness.”

(John 12:44-46)



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December 2022

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>Christmas is not as much about opening our presents as opening our hearts.</p>				1	2	3
<p>4</p> <p>11:00 am United Worship Service</p>	5	<p>6</p> <p>7:00 pm Women's Prayer Group</p>	<p>7</p> <p>Bible Study, 7:00 pm on Zoom</p>	<p>8</p> <p>7:00 pm Elder's Mtg.</p>	9	10
<p>11</p> <p>9:30 CAYA Service 11:00 am Worship Service Christmas Party following service</p>	12	<p>13</p> <p>7:00 pm Women's Prayer Group</p>	<p>14</p> <p>Bible Study, 7:00 pm on Zoom</p>	15	16	17
<p>18</p> <p>9:30 CAYA Service 11:00 am Worship Service</p>	19	<p>20</p> <p>7:00 pm Women's Prayer Group</p>	<p>21</p>  <p>Bible Study, 7:00 pm on Zoom</p>	22	23	<p>24</p>  <p>Christmas Eve Serv. Fellowship Following</p>
<p>25</p>  <p>11:00 am United Worship Service</p>	26	<p>27</p> <p>7:00 pm Women's Prayer Group</p>	28	29	30	<p>31</p>  <p>New Years' Eve</p>