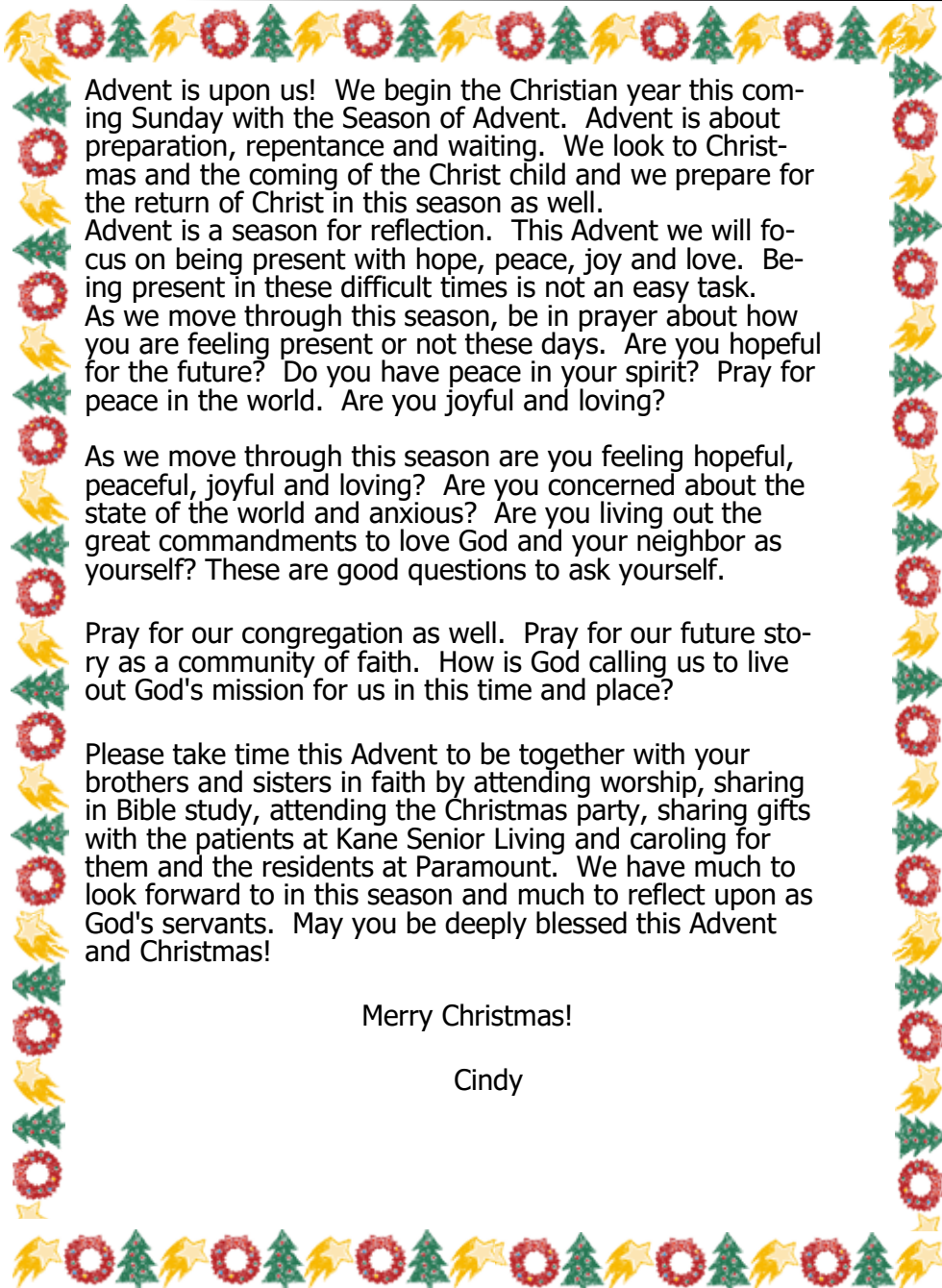


Christian Reporter

Mt. Lebanon Christian Church

December 2023



Advent is upon us! We begin the Christian year this coming Sunday with the Season of Advent. Advent is about preparation, repentance and waiting. We look to Christmas and the coming of the Christ child and we prepare for the return of Christ in this season as well.

Advent is a season for reflection. This Advent we will focus on being present with hope, peace, joy and love. Being present in these difficult times is not an easy task. As we move through this season, be in prayer about how you are feeling present or not these days. Are you hopeful for the future? Do you have peace in your spirit? Pray for peace in the world. Are you joyful and loving?

As we move through this season are you feeling hopeful, peaceful, joyful and loving? Are you concerned about the state of the world and anxious? Are you living out the great commandments to love God and your neighbor as yourself? These are good questions to ask yourself.

Pray for our congregation as well. Pray for our future story as a community of faith. How is God calling us to live out God's mission for us in this time and place?

Please take time this Advent to be together with your brothers and sisters in faith by attending worship, sharing in Bible study, attending the Christmas party, sharing gifts with the patients at Kane Senior Living and caroling for them and the residents at Paramount. We have much to look forward to in this season and much to reflect upon as God's servants. May you be deeply blessed this Advent and Christmas!

Merry Christmas!

Cindy

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

Pastor: The Reverend Dr. Cindy McClung
Assistant Pastor: The Reverend John McCarty

Sunday Morning Worship 11:00 AM
CAYA Service at 6:00 PM

PLEASE JOIN US!

Worship
With Us



December Worship Leaders & Elders



<u>Elders</u>	<u>Worship Leaders</u>
3 - Brad Montgomery	3 - Chuck Sargent
10 - Jeff Hawn	10 - Verna McGinley
17 - Chuck Sargent	17 - Dan Wahl
24 - Kathy Spray	24 - Jeff Hawn
31 - Amy Angotti	31 -

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

Fax: (412) 531- 4155

“Every Member Is A Minister”

Cindy McClung
John McCarty
Tom Spray
Samuel Olawoyin
Joyce Lackey

Pastor
Asst. Pastor
Board Chair
Director of Music
Secretary

minister367@mtlebooc.org
John.mccarty@mtlebooc.org
tomspray@hotmail.com
solawale46@gmail.com
churchoffice@mtlebooc.org

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

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

YEAR END GIFT CONSIDERATION

The government allows for IRA withdrawals that go directly to a charity to be non-taxable if you are over 70 ½.

The Qualified Charitable Donation (QCD) can be up to \$100,000. You might want to use funds from your IRAs as a gift to the church. If you must take funds out of your IRAs because of the Required Minimum Distribution (RMD) law, then you can transfer any part of those funds directly to a charity and it will not be treated as taxable income. Thus, the Charitable IRA Rollover allows individuals to avoid paying income taxes that were never paid when the funds were deposited in to IRA



Try not to become a person of success, but try rather to become a person of value.



Save the Dates!

December 10 - Gifts for Kane patients are due

December 10 - Christmas party following 11 AM worship service.

December 16 - Caroling and sharing gifts at Kane at 1:30 PM
Caroling at Paramount in Bethel Park at 3 PM



Church Christmas Party – Dec 10th after worship

Please plan on coming to the Church Christmas Party. Food will be provided and we ask you to bring a dessert if you can. We will sing Christmas Carols and enjoy a play called "Bethlehem Evening News". You won't want to miss this.



Advent Bible Study

Wednesdays at 7pm on Zoom

Join us for a transformative journey this holiday season as we delve into the heart of Christmas with "Incarnation: Rediscovering the Significance of Christmas" by Adam Hamilton. This Bible Study promises to unwrap the true meaning of the season, guiding us through the profound concept of the Incarnation and its implications for our lives today. Adam Hamilton, known for his insightful teachings, takes us on a thought-provoking exploration of the biblical narratives surrounding the birth of Jesus, inviting us to reflect on the profound impact of God becoming flesh. Let's come together, share in the joy of the season, and deepen our understanding of the incredible love that led to the Incarnation, because Christmas is more than a holiday; it's a divine invitation to experience the presence of God in our lives.



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.

Sargent Family - death of Laurie's Dad

Schmidtetter family – death of Ruth

Crist Family – Death of Mary

Butler family - death of Helen

Ed Pajak – Broken Ankle

Fires in Maui and Hawaii

Fires, flooding and earthquakes throughout the world

War in Israel

Bill Green

Duane Ready

Donny and Heather Harrison – Healing

Jim - lung cancer - friend of Jane McCarty

Scout – friend of Scott's -5 year old with brain tumor

Carla – recovery from surgery – health issues

Sara & Ron – friends of Wahl's

Rev. Janet Hellner-Burris - pastor, DOC Wilkinsburg

All those with Covid

Victims and survivors of Tree of Life Shooting

Also, please remember in your prayers our members who are homebound. Connie McCarty, Lee Scott, Audrey Houke and Betty Rothermel.

Our doubts are traitors, make us lose the good we often might win, by fearing to attempt.



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Love is the strongest force the world possesses and yet it is the humblest imaginable.



Discernment Committee

Following our congregational meetings with Jim and Annelle from New Beginnings, we engaged in the next steps of the discernment process - preparing to facilitate open dialogue and collective decision-making to consider the future for our faith community.



Through four house meetings, which will be offered both in-person and online during January and February, you will be able to share your thoughts, ideas, and concerns regarding the direction of our church. We encourage you to commit to attend all four meetings as your voice is essential as we continue on our journey of discernment and shared stewardship. Please keep an eye out for additional details and sign-ups for the house meetings. Your presence and insights are invaluable assets in this process.

December

December starts on the same day of the week as September starts every year, and ends on the same day of the week as April ends

After many Anglo-Saxons became Christians they called it “Heligh monath” or holy month, because Christmas, the birth of Jesus is celebrated in December.

Common decorations on a Christmas tree each have their specific meanings. Candles – the light of the world, the Star at the top is a

“Jingle bells” was composed in 1857, and not for Christmas – it was meant to be a Thanksgiving song!

In 1647 Oliver Cromwell, an English Puritan leader, banned the festivities of Christmas for being seen as immoral on such a holy day. The ban was lifted in 1660.

An almanac prediction states that if snow falls on Christmas Day, Easter will be warm, green, and sunny.

We withdraw more money December than any other month.

According to a recent survey, December is the month when couples argue the most.

National Cookie Day is December 4th. Other snacks celebrated this month include pie, cotton candy, chocolate brownies (mmm!), co-coa, and cupcakes.

December 7th is National Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day.

The first day of winter is either December 21st or 22nd. This is the shortest day of the year and the longest night. It is called the winter or Southern solstice in the Northern Hemisphere



December Outreach

Christmas can be an especially trying time for older individuals living in local senior living facilities without families for support. With this in mind, Mt. Lebanon Christian Church is collecting gifts to spread joy to the residents of Kane Senior Living. All are welcome to join in this heart-warming, Christmas caroling, gift giving event.

Simply choose a tag from the angel tree in the narthex and return your wrapped gift to the narthex by Sunday, December 10. Be sure to affix the gift tag from the tree to your gift. Gifts will be delivered to local residents during the caroling event December 16.

Saturday, December 16:

1:00 PM: Meet at the church to gather gifts

1:30 PM: Visit Kane Senior Living for Christmas Caroling and gift giving

3:00 PM: Visit Paramount Senior Living for Christmas Caroling

Help share God's love and cheer through caroling and generosity!



A boy and his Spirit guide

Elder's Corner

A seven (7) year old boy was sent to a nearby village to get firewood for his family. On his way he encountered a fierce and hungry lion. Frightened, he stopped and could not move forward. Wondering what to do, the young boy remembered a prayer that he learned from his parents. Closing his eyes, he said; "O lord, bless this food before we eat it. Amen."

When he opened his eyes again, the lion had gone away. The boy did not know why this happened. Being sure to thank the Great Spirit for this miracle, he continued his journey.

His short prayer, although uttered out of context, was answered, and his life was spared.

The Holy Spirit intercedes for us and shapes our prayers when we need them the most. Prayer does not depend on particular words or phrases. It comes from our heart and is guided by the Holy Spirit.

Use this as an opportunity to ask for guidance, inspiration, and instruction. It will help us to live in a way that gives us light in our day-to-day life.

When was the last time YOU had a conversation with the Holy Spirit?



Try Before You Buy!



Myra was going to the Christmas office party but needed a new party dress.

In the clothing store she asked, 'May I try on that dress in the window, please?'

'Certainly not, madam,' responded the salesgirl, 'You'll have to use the fitting room like everyone else.'



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December 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	
					1	2	
3 11:00 Traditional Worship Service CAYA Service 6:00 pm 1st Sunday in a Advent	4	5 7:00 pm Women's Prayer Group	6	7	8	9	
10 11:00 Traditional Worship Service CAYA Service 6:00 pm 2nd Sunday in a Advent Xmas party after service	11	12 7:00 pm Women's Prayer Group	13	14 Dining Disciples A Noon Elders Meeting 7 PM	15 Dining Disciples B 6 PM	16  1:30 pm Caroling at Kane	
17 11:00 Traditional Worship Service CAYA Service 6:00 pm 3rd Sunday in Advent	18	19 7:00 pm Women's Prayer Group	20	21 Dining Disciples C 6:30	22	23	
24  11:00 Traditional Worship Service 4th Sunday in Advent Christmas Eve Worship	25 	26 7:00 pm Women's Prayer Group	27	28	29	30	
31  11:00 United Worship Service New Years Eve				Remember, I'm always watching over you.			