



Mt. Lebanon
Christian Church

MLCC Newsletter - December 2024



Worship with Us

In-Person or Facebook Live

Traditional Worship: Sunday at 11:00 AM
CAYA Contemporary Worship: Sunday at 6:00 PM

Mt. Lebanon Christian Church
367 Cedar Blvd
Pittsburgh, PA 15220

<http://www.mtlebocc.org>

Dr. Cindy McClung: minister367@mtlebocc.org
Assistant Minister: The Reverend John McCarty: john.mccarty@mtlebocc.org

Our Mission:
Serving Christ!
Living and Sharing Faith, Hope and Love



Minister's Message

Advent and the Senses: A Journey of Anticipation and Reflection

Advent, the season of anticipation and preparation for the birth of Christ, is a period deeply rooted in the Christian tradition. It begins four Sundays before Christmas and is a time for reflection, expectation, and renewal. What makes Advent particularly special is how it engages our senses, drawing us into a multisensory experience that heightens our awareness of the sacred. During Advent this year we will focus on the senses and how they relate to the coming of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Each week you will have an opportunity to experience worship with special attention to a particular sense.

Sight

The visual elements of Advent are some of the most striking. The rich purples and pink of the Advent candles and wreaths symbolize penitence, royalty, and joy. Each candle represents a different aspect of the season: hope, peace, joy, and love. The gradual lighting of these candles each week builds a visual crescendo, leading up to the brilliance of the Christmas candle, symbolizing Christ's light entering the world. The decorations in homes and churches, from nativity scenes to evergreen branches, create an atmosphere of expectancy and reverence.

Sound

Sound plays a pivotal role in Advent, enveloping us in melodies and hymns that recount the story of Christ's coming. Traditional carols like "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" resonate with longing and anticipation, their haunting melodies reminding us of the wait for the Messiah. The readings and sermons during this time often echo the prophetic promises of hope and salvation, inviting congregants to listen and reflect on their meaning.

Smell

The season is also rich with distinctive scents that evoke the spirit of Advent. The smell of fresh pine and fir from Advent wreaths and Christmas trees brings a sense of life and renewal. Incense, used in many liturgical traditions, represents prayers rising to heaven and imbues the sacred space with a

sense of divine presence. The aroma of baking holiday treats, like gingerbread and spiced cookies, fills homes with warmth and hospitality, fostering a sense of togetherness and joy.

Taste

Advent is a time for traditional foods that hold deep symbolic meaning. The sweetness of cookies and pastries reminds us of the joy and sweetness of the awaited birth of Jesus. Special meals shared with family and friends during this time often include recipes passed down through generations, connecting us to our heritage and the broader Christian community. The act of sharing these meals enhances the communal aspect of the season, reinforcing bonds of love and fellowship.

Touch

The tactile experiences of Advent also have profound significance. Handling the soft greenery of the Advent wreath, lighting the candles, and decorating the tree are all physical actions that draw us into the season. The feel of a warm blanket or a cozy scarf during a cold Advent evening can be a comforting reminder of the warmth of community and the protective love of God. Engaging in acts of service, like giving gifts or volunteering, involves our hands in the work of embodying Christ's love and care for others.

Advent is a season that invites us to slow down, reflect, and engage fully with our senses. By doing so, we deepen our understanding and appreciation of the profound mystery of Christ's incarnation. Each sensory experience during Advent serves as a reminder of the hope, peace, joy, and love that the season brings, drawing us ever closer to the true meaning of Christmas. Don't miss out on this opportunity to worship God and prepare our hearts, minds, and spirits for the coming and return of Christ!

Blessings!

Cindy

Support MLCC

Mail Checks to: Mt. Lebanon Christian Church - 367 Cedar Blvd. - Pittsburgh, PA 15228

Or Give online at mleboecc.org

Or **Online Giving** available through our Givelify by clicking on <https://giv.li/rwhcas> or clicking on the QR code below



Your gift of time, talent or treasure enables MLCC to serve Christ by living and sharing faith, hope and love.

It's simple to donate once or set up reoccurring donations using the Give link. Options for giving include helping with Building Maintenance projects and Community Outreach programs.

There are plenty of ways to get involved. Volunteer opportunities include:

AV Tech - Contemporary Worship Musicians - Social Media - Child Care Nursery - Small Group Leader - Landscaping - Greeter - Community Service - Event Planning
For more information about volunteering contact John McCarty.

December Outreach

Giving Tree

The Christmas Holiday can be an especially trying time for individuals facing social isolation. With this in mind, Mt. Lebanon Christian Church is collecting and delivering gifts to spread joy to the residents of Kane Senior Living.

Simply choose a tag from the Giving Tree located in the narthex and return your wrapped gift to the church by Sunday, December 7. Be sure to affix the gift tag from the tree to your gift.

All are welcome to join in this heart-warming, Christmas caroling, gift giving event Saturday, December 14 at Kane Senior Living located at 300 Kane Blvd, Pittsburgh, PA 15243. Arrive at Kane Senior Living at 10:15 AM. Caroling and gift giving will begin at 10:30 AM.

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

Dining Disciples



Join us for Dining Disciples!

Dining Disciples are groups that meet once a month for lunch or for dinner to get to know others, talk about faith and find ways to live out our faith in our everyday lives. Dining disciples is a great way to connect with others, grow in your faith and find ways to serve the Lord in God's Kingdom here on earth. Check the calendar for dates.



🎄 **Congregational Christmas Party** 🎄

Join us for a joyful celebration of the season at our Congregational Christmas Party on **December 15!** This festive event will feature a **special presentation by Dan Wahl** that you won't want to miss.

📅 **Date:** December 15 🕒 **Time:** Following Worship

Please bring a **dessert to share** as we come together to enjoy an afternoon of fellowship, laughter, food, and delicious treats. Lunch will be provided. Let's make this holiday season memorable with great company and festive cheer!

We are looking forward to seeing you there!

Upcoming Events - Save the Date

Thursday December 5 - Dining Disciples Daytime Group - Noon at Bravo

Saturday December 14 - Caroling and Gifts at Kan Senior Living - meet at 10:15 AM

Sunday December 15 - Congregation Christmas Party following worship service

Join us for a time of fun and fellowship as we celebrate Christmas. Please bring a dessert to share

Friday December 20 - Dining Disciples at 6:30 PM - location to be announced

Tuesday December 24 - Christmas Eve Service



CHRISTMAS EVE

CANDLELIGHT SERVICE



Mt. Lebanon Christian Church is a wonderful choice for a Christmas Eve Candlelight Service! Their address is **367 Cedar Blvd, Mt Lebanon, PA, 15228**. The service starts at **7 PM** on Christmas Eve, and it's sure to be a special and heartwarming experience.

Are you planning to attend with family or friends?

Join us after worship for a time of fellowship. Bring a dessert to share!

BIBLE STUDY - Wednesdays at 7 PM on Zoom (December 4 & 11 only this month)

You're invited to join our upcoming 6-week Bible study Wednesdays at 7:00 PM on Zoom! We'll be diving into *Context: Putting Scripture in Its Place* by Josh Scott, exploring the historical, cultural, and literary backgrounds of the Bible to better understand its relevance today. This study will help us look deeper into familiar passages and consider how their original context shapes their meaning, allowing us to approach Scripture with fresh eyes and greater insight.

Whether you're new to studying the Bible or have years of experience, this study is for you! Each session will be an opportunity to learn, ask questions, and engage in meaningful discussion with others. Don't miss this chance to deepen your understanding of Scripture in a welcoming and interactive environment. To join, simply mark your calendar and keep an eye out for the Zoom link—we can't wait to see you there!

Elder's Corner



My First Christmas in Heaven

*I see the countless Christmas Trees around the world below
With tiny lights, like heaven's stars, reflecting on the snow.
The sight is so spectacular, please wipe away that tear
For I am spending Christmas with Jesus Christ this year.
I hear the many Christmas songs that people hold so dear,
But the sounds of music can't compare with the Christmas choir up here.
I have no words to tell you, the joy their voices bring,
'FO it is beyond description to hear the angels sing.
I know how much you miss me. I see the pain inside your heart.
But I am not so far away. We really aren't apart,
SO be happy for me dear ones. You know I hold you dear,
And be glad I;s spending Christmas with Jesus Christ this year.
I send you each a special gift from my heavenly home above,
I send you each a memory of my undying love.
After all "Love" is the gift, more precious than pure gold.
It was always most important in the stories Jesus told.
Please love and keep each other, as my Father said to do,
FO I can't count the blessings or love He has for you.
So have a Merry Christmas and wipe away the tear.
Remember I'm spending Christmas with Jesus Christ this year.*

FAITH IN ITS MOST FERTILE SENSE

Faith in its most fertile sense

Is like wading through a lush meadow

Awash in waist-high wildflowers

Where one finds on all sides

Black Eyed Susans rolling like waves

On ocean waters;

Faith

Turns weeds Into Wisteria,

Worries into everlasting echoes

Of birdsong and beauty.

In Faith

I see a dell I dared not dream of,

A field so fertile, so drenched in dew

My eyes endeavor to drink it dry;

In Faith

I find love, laughter, and tenderness;

I find a future bathed in sunlight;

I find a more compassionate friend,

A kinder companion,

A tough-minded truth to set the spirit soaring;

My very own meadow full of courage and strength.

In Faith, I find the fabric of my being.

dan wahl

December Worship Leaders & Elders

1 - Chuck Sargent 1 - Jane McCarty
 8 - Verna McGinley 8 - Jeff Hawn
 15 - Dan Wahl 15 - Brad Montgomery
 22 - Jeff Hawn 22 - Verna McGinley
 29 - Chuck Sargent 29 - Chuck Sargent

December Birthdays

6th – Duane Ready
 10th – Patty Wolff
 15th – Bill Green & Rocco Campbell
 18th – Lois Lindeman
 26th – Anne Totin
 31st – Bev Harner

		<h1>December 2024</h1>					
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	
1 11:00 am Worship Service	2	3 7:00 om Women's Prayer Group	4 7:00 pm Bible Study on Zoom	5 Noon Dining Disciples Daytime Group at Bravo	6	7	
8 11:00 am Worship Service Return Giving Tree gifts to Church	9	10 7:00 om Women's Prayer Group	11 7:00 pm Bible Study on Zoom	12 7:00 pm Elders Meeting on Zoom	13	14 10:15 am Caroling and Gifts at Kane Senior Living	
15 11:00 am Worship Service Christmas Party following Service	16	17 7:00 om Women's Prayer Group	18	19	20 6:30 PM Dining Disciples Evening Group	21	
22 11:00 am Worship Service	23	24 7:00 pm Christmas Eve Service	25 Christmas Day	26	27	28	
29 11:00 am Worship Service	30	31 7:00 om Women's Prayer Group					

Prayer List

Jim Comer - heart attack - Brother-in-law of the McCarty's
Congratulations to Ron Brown and Amy Angotti who were married on October 23

Peace and civility in our nation

Ann Miller - Colon cancer surgery

The Lange family – death of Katrina

Ron Brown – healing

Horst & Doris Riddler

Ray Dubiel

Joanie McCarty – change of residence transition

Emma– signs of rejecting liver

Maggie Goodwin - healing

Sam Levine – 17 year old - inoperable brain tumor

Giles McCarty - healing

Bill Samples

Bill Green

Duane Ready

Ann Peden – friend of Rev. Cindy

Carla– recovery from surgery – health issues

Ron Abels – Friend of Wahls

All those with Covid, RSV and the Flu

War in Ukraine

War in Israel

People impacted by Hurricanes Helene & Milton

Travelers