

## Weekly Update – December 14, 2016

### Music & Meditation - December 16 - 5:30 - 6 pm

Advent is a season for stillness, for quiet, for discernment. Give yourself the gift of peace. Music, meditation, prayer and candlelight.

### Daily Bible Reading – 2016      Shaping Our Life Experience

Excerpts from both the Old and New Testament are included each day. This is a great way to support your ongoing growth in faith and the Christ Church community as well.

December 14: Amos 1-3; Revelation 5

December 15: Amos 4-6; Revelation 6

December 16: Amos 7-9; Revelation 7

December 17: Obadiah 1; Revelation 8

December 18: Jonah 1-4; Revelation 9

December 19: Micah 1-3; Revelation 10

December 20: Micah 4-5; Revelation 11

### In Our Prayers

**Joy** – Thank you to Beth Reilly, Pat Noyes & Phyllis Maliken (9am) and Brad & Peggy Bermudez (11 am) for lighting the candles on our Advent wreath on Sunday.

**JOY** - Ed Fisher celebrated his 80th birthday with family and friends on Sunday.

**JOY**- The MYM party with The Buffalo Brass holiday concert on Sunday was joyful, moving and uplifting!

**JOY** – Thank you to everyone for your contributions to the Discretionary Fund and for the gifts for the Giving Tree!

**Joy** - To date 86 pledges have been received for \$210,000 plus some additional gifts. Thank you to all for your faithful & generous support as we begin setting goals for ministry in 2017!

**Joy** – From The Greater Buffalo Youth Orchestra—

*Rev. Jim and Christ United Methodist Church—*

*The church is a blessing to the GBYO and we appreciate the ability to use your space. The holiday season is a perfect time to thank you and let you know how much you're appreciated! Merry Christmas from the GBYO.*

**Joy** - In August 2017, four people from Christ Church and two friends will be heading to Uganda, Africa for a two week mission trip! The team includes Kathy Weaver, John Miller, son Jonathan and niece Samantha, and Janelle Martin and her friend, Bob. Plans are currently underway and the team would be grateful for your prayers and financial support as they look forward to seeing how God will work in the lives and hearts of many people.

- **Janelle Martin will be offering gift wrapping services in the lobby of Bender's Christian Store the next two Saturdays, December 17 & 24, from 10am-6pm, as well as the evening of Friday, December 23. Proceeds will support the Uganda mission team. Spend less time wrapping this year and support a great cause! Contact Janelle in the church office with any questions (839-2460).**

**Keep in your prayers** - Richard Mestler- at home, Al Tolsma- recovering from eye surgery, Mary Landel, Joyce Moser, Bob Kreib, Rita Arnold, Carol Teresi, Patty Keller, Charles Terranova, Carolyn Day, Janet Hill, Elvira Gonzalez, Florence Stengel, Fred & Lynda Painton, Janelle Martin's grandmother – recovering from a stroke, Castellino family

Keep the church consultation process and planning teams in your prayers as we move to determining goals will be achievable in the coming year or two and designing strategies for achieving them.

Pray for the healing of all nations.

Pray for Chris Maliken, Lindsey Darling & Ian Johnson – all serve in the US Navy

## **This Week at Christ Church**

**Church Office – Mon., Wed., Fri. – 9 am to 5 pm, Tues. & Thurs. – 9am to Noon**

Wednesday, December 14 - 7 pm – Choir Rehearsal - **Note change of time!**

Thursday, December 15 - 1 pm – New Vision Circle – Christmas Tea

6:30 pm – Praise Team rehearsal

Friday, December 16 -

**5:30 pm Music & Meditation**

Saturday, December 10 -

10 am – Christmas Pageant rehearsal

Sunday, December 11 -

**4<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Advent**

9 am – Casual Praise

10 am – FaithXpress – Christmas Pageant prep

**God Is With Us – Advent Study Group**

With David Pliss; Wesley Room

11 am – Traditional Style Worship & Pageant

*“Open The Door” Party following worship –*

*Everyone is invited!*

## **Opportunities to Make A Difference**

**Food Pantry –**

**December 11 – Soups**

**December 18 – Canned fruits & vegetables**

All food items are always needed to help stock local food pantries. Paper products and toiletries are welcome anytime. Grocery carts are available in the church for your donations.

**The Café is a connecting place.**

Sign up on the bulletin board in the Café to host some Sunday morning! Invite your family, friends, ministry team or group to join you! Share in this Café ministry of hospitality and welcome. Donations are welcome in the Café for use on Sunday mornings – baked goods, half & half, OJ, fruit & cookies are useful!

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**Christmas Pageant – Sunday, December 18 11 am Worship**



**Merry Christ-Mess...  
...Beyond Time**

***Only God can turn a mess into a message!***

***Followed by the Open The Door party  
Everyone welcome!***



***Coming Soon...Mark your calendar***

**Advent Fridays – Give yourself the gift of peace**

5:30 – 6 pm – Music & Meditation Taize style\*

*(\*Contemplative form of prayer, meditation, music, silence and candles)*

**Advent Sundays – Adult Study Group with Dr. David Pliss**

**ADVENT STUDY: GOD IS WITH US – *Sunday mornings at 10 AM***

A look at the scripture readings for the Sundays in Advent using the study book God Is With Us, by Robin Wilson. Participants will be led by David Pliss.

**Sunday, December 18 – Christmas Pageant 11 am**

**Merry Christ-Mess!...Beyond Time**

*Only God can turn a mess into a message!*

**Open The Door Party** following the pageant

**Saturday, December 24 – Christmas Eve 9 pm**

**Service of Lessons & Carols**

*Candles & Choir*

**Sunday, December 25 – Christmas Day Worship**

1 worship service at 11 am

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**Dumpster Day!**

On Saturday, January 7<sup>th</sup>, the Trustees and any other willing volunteers will be cleaning out the corners, closets and other hiding places around Christ Church! If you or your team have things you've been long "storing" around Church, please label it or ask the office to add it to the list of things to save. Otherwise, it's out to the dumpster!

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In our keenest sorrow, in our deepest darkness, Christ entered as joy enfleshed. He showed us that celebration is not a someday thing, a state of joyous completion that we cannot attain until life gets better. Rejoicing is what happens when, in the midst of the darkness that attends us, we open our hearts to the Christ who comes to us still. Celebration is what happens when we allow sorrow to have its say but refuse to let it have the final word. In this season, what gives you cause for rejoicing?

~Jan Richardson