

Weekly Update – December 7, 2016

A Seasonal Word

The season is upon us when our eyes and ears are most completely met with the glitz and glitter of a prematurely celebrated Christmas, all the pressure and sales-hype, the stresses on our schedules and wallets, the insistence of canned holiday songs wherever we go. Of course partying and celebration are wonderful things and there's great joy to be had in the gatherings of faith and friendship in these days. But while Advent is still Advent, it's good to keep a quiet space, a sacred time, an unhindered sanctuary away from the pressures, to be still and hear again one's deepest yearnings... May it be so for you.

Music & Meditation - December 9 - 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 7: Daniel 9-10; 2 John 1

December 8: Daniel 11-12; 3 John 1

December 9: Hosea 1-4; Jude 1

December 10: Hosea 5-8; Revelation 1

December 11: Hosea 9-11; Revelation 2

December 12: Hosea 12-14; Revelation 3

December 13: Joel 1-3; Revelation 4

In Our Prayers

Joy – Thank you to **Nancy Annunziata** (9am) and **Guy & Gio Castellino** (11 am) for lighting the candles on our Advent wreath on Sunday.

Joy – Thank you to the Staff-Parish Relations Team members (and spouses) for the enjoyable evening spent together at the home of Ed & Cindy Fisher. The holiday atmosphere, delicious meal and good conversation with friends was enjoyed and deeply appreciated by all of us. *-The Church Staff*

Joy – Welcome Audrey Lynn, infant daughter of Erin and Chris Johnson, born on November 30th. Audrey is being well cared for by her big sister and brother, Abby & Brennan.

Joy – 80 pledges and commitments of support totaling over \$200,000 have been received for 2017. Thank you for jumping in and helping to make connections, offering opportunities and planning new pathways for ministry and care.

Joy – Ryan Lopez is participating with his school team in a science competition at Nichols School. *Good luck, Ryan!!*

Keep in your prayers - Richard Mestler- at home, Al Tolsma- recovering from eye surgery, Jean Ericson, 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 continue to discern God's purpose for Christ Church. The next step involves selecting goals that 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, Alex Dunbar, 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 7 - 7 pm – Choir Rehearsal - **Note change of time!**

Thursday, December 8 - 6:30 pm – Praise Team Rehearsal

Friday, December 9 - **5:30 pm Music & Meditation**

Saturday, December 10 - 10 am – Christmas Pageant Rehearsal

Sunday, December 11 - **3rd Sunday in Advent**

9 am – Casual Praise

10 am – FaithXpress – Christmas Pageant prep

God Is With Us – Advent Study Group for Adults

With David Pliss; Wesley Room

11 am – Traditional Style Worship

12:15 pm - Choir Rehearsal

1:30 pm – MYM Christmas Party at Sean Patrick’s restaurant

5 pm – **Buffalo Brass Holiday Concert at Christ Church**

Opportunities to Make A Difference

Cookie & Candy Sale – Sunday, December 11th

Thank you to all who baked and made candy for the Cookie and Candy Sale! \$764 was received this past weekend. The sale continues this Sunday from 10:00 – 1:00 in Crafts Hall. Cookies and candy are packaged and ready for entertaining or gifts. All proceeds from the sale will support local outreach missions of Christ Church.

Note from the Archive Team-

Thank you to all who have given items to the Archives Team to record and remember the rich history of Christ Church. Please remember to label all items placed in the Archive Team’s mailbox. An 8mm videocassette was given to the Archives Team labeled “60th” – does anyone have further information about this donation, or have a way to view/convert the video? Please contact Bob Snyder (741-6901).

Singers! - You are invited to sing in the choir for Christmas Eve!!

Come to rehearsals on Wednesdays at 7:30 pm in the Sanctuary. The first 45 minutes of each rehearsal will be devoted to preparing the Christmas Eve anthems.

Discretionary Fund –

Thank you for your contributions to this ongoing fund!

Food Pantry –

December 4 – Pancake Mix & Peanut Butter
December 11 - Soups

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.

Giving Tree – in the Parlor

There are still a few gift tags left on the tree! The final deadline for returning gifts is this Sunday, December 11. Return gifts unwrapped. Contact Diane Klenk with questions 651-0236.

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 in the Wesley Room

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, beginning on Sunday, November 27, the first Sunday in Advent. Study books are available at the church.

Sunday, December 11 – Concert by the *Buffalo Brass*
5 pm at Christ Church

Tuesday, December 13 – Christmas Caroling

Join other area UM churches to bring joy to others as we travel by bus to sing for residents of Bristol Village and Fayebrook Senior Apartments. Gather at Harris Hill UMC at 6 pm. Bus returns to the church at 9 pm. Sign-ups available in the Café.



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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“Fortunately, in God’s economy, getting to the end of ourselves is the beginning of hope. Jesus said, “Blessed are the poor in Spirit” (Matthew 5:3)—meaning that when we realize we have no more resources, we’re ready to ask God for help.”

– *Henry Cloud, God Will Make a Way: What to Do When You Don't Know What to Do*