



THE CALL

Good Shepherd Christian Church

December 2016 Volume 8 Issue 12



Christmas at GSCC!

Christmas Eve: Carols, Candles, Communion & a Walk-on Christmas Pageant

Saturday, December 24th at 7:00 pm

In our traditional service of carols, candlelight and communion, children will be invited to participate in a walk-on Christmas pageant, sharing the good news of Christ's birth! Parents: if your children would like to participate, please arrive before 6:45 pm to pick up a costume and simple instructions for the evening. Everyone: please remember to bring your Reverse-Advent calendar boxes to bless!

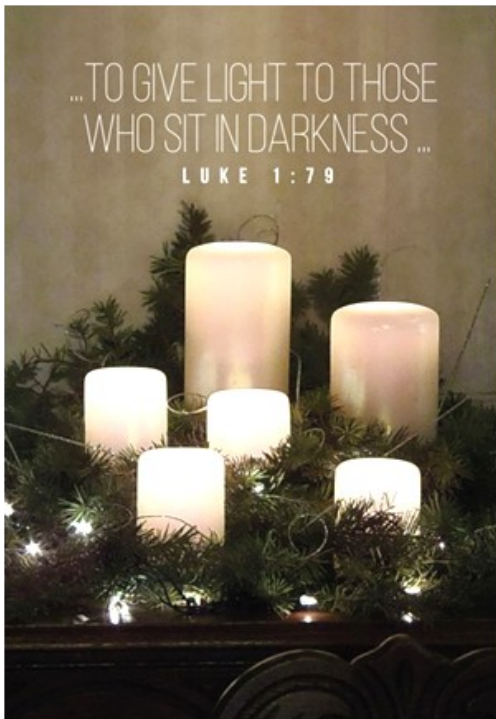
Christmas Day

Sunday, December 25th at 10:00 am

Christmas Day is on a Sunday this year! Wear your jammies or your Christmas best (whichever is most comfortable for you) and bring your families to celebrate Christ's birth! *Our time of worship will be 30 minutes of joyful carols and the sweet story of Christmas.*

December Events Calendar

- Dec 1 - Bible Study with Pastor Jill at Arbor Glen at 11:00 am
- Dec 4 - Congregational Meeting/Vision Team Update at 11:15 am
- Dec 6 - Coffee Table Conversation at 7:00 pm
- Dec 7 - Bible Study with Pastor Jill at GSCC at 11:00 am
- Dec 9 - Advent Spiral Walk 6:00 pm - 8:30 pm
- Dec 11 - Youth Group Meeting at 5:30 pm
- Dec 12 - Worship Team Meeting at 6:30 pm
- Dec 15 - Bible Study with Pastor Jill at Arbor Glen at 11:00 am
- Dec 16 - Recovery Group Meeting at 6:30 pm
- Dec 24 - Christmas Eve Service at 7:00 pm
- Dec 25 - Christmas Day Worship at 10:00 am



Thank you notes...

I just want to thank everybody for their prayers, visits, calls, and cards. Thank you to Pastor Melanie and Pastor Jill for their visits and prayers. Thank you to Lucy Kaufman for the beautiful lap quilt (everyone comments on it). Thank you to Jan Bittner for the two prayer shawls. A special thank you to Steve Noble for his visits and bringing us communion, and for bringing his beautiful daughter Julia! Thank you to Holly Schwartz for her calls and cards, and thank you Donna and Diana Beck for your visit.

I can't tell you how much you are appreciated! Thank you!

- Sandy & Jerry Millin

GOOD SHEPHERD CHRISTIAN CHURCH

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SUNDAY WORSHIP — 10:00 A.M.
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OUR STAFF

Lead Pastor

Rev. Melanie Harrell Delaney

Pastor of Faith Formation

Rev. Jill Harkins Goodman

Music Director

Holly Schwartz

Organist

Jane Jowers

A/V Technician

Mik Alexa

Admin Assistant

Marcia Sandor

The Call is a monthly publication of
Good Shepherd Christian Church.

Green Team



Here are some eco tips from the Green Team for the holidays...

- use energy efficient LED lights and set them on a timer
- use recycled paper and reuse gift wrap, especially boxes and gift bags
- look in your backyard for natural elements vs buying new items to decorate your home
- send eco-friendly cards
- purchase a real tree from a local tree farmer
- shop locally
- don't be afraid to re-gift!

Hope these tips help to make for a **GREEN CHRISTMAS SEASON!**

Congregational Meeting Join us!

There will be a **Congregational Meeting** to share a Vision Team update: **Sunday, December 4th after worship.**

Reflections

Rev. Melanie Harrell Delaney

“do not fear, for I am with you, do not be afraid, for I am your God; I will strengthen you, I will help you, I will uphold you with my victorious right hand.”
(Isaiah 41:10)

The phrase “Do not fear” appears 67 times in the Bible, from Genesis through the Gospels. The prophets spoke these words to the Israelites, angels spoke these words to announce Jesus’ birth, and Jesus himself spoke these words as a parting message to the disciples (and all of us). In scripture, and our faith, fear has a prominent role to play: it challenges us to have courage when responding to God’s call, provides a place for hope to take root, and keeps us in humble reverence of the Holy One.

This Advent and Christmas, join us for worship on Sunday mornings (including Christmas Day) as we seek God’s voice and promise in the midst of our fears, letting the

words “Do not be afraid,” settle into our hearts as we prepare to welcome the Christ Child once again. The story is familiar, but the way God brings hope, peace, joy and love into the world are new every year. This year, prepare your hearts by getting a grip on your fears. Create room for peace in the unknown. **Trust that God’s words are steadfast and true. “Do not fear, for I am with you; do not be afraid, for I am your God.”** Jesus has shown us how to live this way.

Let us welcome the Prince of Peace into our hearts and into the world.

Peace,

Pastor Melanie

New Group Forming

Do something out of Christ’s hope this season. We all need healing as do our brothers and sisters in Recovery.

Holidays have anticipations of joy, but they are often the most challenging times for individuals. My name is Christy Kraemer and I am a member here, but I am also a Licensed Independent Chemical Dependency Counselor with my Masters in Counseling Ministries from the Methodist Theological School of Ohio. I have formally been working with people who struggle with mental health and addictive substances since I stepped out of Youth Ministry in 2003. Our community has become aware of the drug epidemic which is snatching life from our young as well as not as young people on a daily basis. Other pains and recovery needs also exist. This is not a time to give up or judge out of fear. There is hope and there are roles for all of us to play regarding individuals successfully working through these challenging circumstances. Please pray individually regarding what the Lord would have you do. Then mark the following date on your calendar. Please **RSVP to me, Christy via text at [330-353-0725](tel:330-353-0725)** or reach out to me any time if there are questions, concerns or a desire to talk individually.

Friday, December 16th at 6:30 pm I would like to host an introduction and **prayer gathering for all who share a heart for leading a response** through the Body of Christ addressing issues of all forms of recovery.

With prayerful leadership and interest, REP (Recovery, Education, Prevention) group gatherings will be open to the community and begin in February on the first and third Fridays at 6:30 pm at the church. Children and packed food are welcome.

Advent & Christmas at GSCC!

Plan to join Good Shepherd in these opportunities for Worship, Prayer, Study, Service and Fellowship as we anticipate and celebrate the birth of our Savior!

Worship & Prayer:

“Do Not Be Afraid” is our Advent theme this year.

Sunday mornings at 10:00 am

Hear stories of how Zechariah, Joseph, Mary, the Shepherds, and we face our fears to welcome God’s Hope, Peace, Joy and Love!

(NEW!) Advent Spiral Walk December 9th 6:00 pm-8:30 pm

This is a celebration of quiet confidence, of carrying light in darkness, of sharing that light with others. Similar to walking the set path of a labyrinth, the Advent Spiral Walk is a walk of light and hope, especially designed to be meaningful to all ages -- including children and youth. Participants will be welcomed at the door and invited to gather in the candle-lit sanctuary to sing carols and wait for their turn to walk the Spiral Walk. Small groups of families and individuals will be guided through the Advent Spiral Walk by an Angel guide.

Through this evening of carols and light, we consciously take the opportunity to create a mood of quiet reverence for ourselves and our children in this simple, yet beautiful event. This can become a gift of inner peace to draw on during the busy holiday season.



Bible Study

Bible Study:

Once again, there are three opportunities for Bible study. Plan to join us for conversation around the Advent texts at any or all of these - no advanced preparation required!

- at Good Shepherd on December 7th at 11:00 am
- at Arbor Glen apartments, building 1 (2639 Arbor Glen Dr, Twinsburg) on December 1st & 15th at 11:00 am

Service

Gifts for the children of the Cleveland Christian Home: each year we serve the community by partnering with the Cleveland Christian Home to make sure the children and youth there know they are special to God and to us! Please return all gifts for the Cleveland Christian Home to the large box in Fellowship Hall and gift cards to Jennifer or Linda Palagyi by Sunday, December 4th.

Hats and Mittens for the Emergency Assistance Center: see page 5 for more information.

Fellowship & Friendship

Reverse-Advent Calendar Boxes!

Start a new Advent tradition this year! Reverse-Advent calendar boxes are a unique way to count down the days to Christ’s birth with acts of service and love -- by adding a food or hygiene item to the box for each day of Advent. Fill up your boxes with blessings for others and bring the boxes back to church on Christmas Eve as a gift to the Christ Child (children will help us bless the Advent boxes during the Christmas Eve service and we will send the items to the Emergency Assistance Center in January.)

Mitten Basket

Each Advent we collect mittens, hats, and scarves for those in need in our local area.

The basket is available in the Gathering Area. It is our hope that we can share the warmth of the season with the gift of a pair of mittens, a hat, and/or a scarf.



The gifts will be taken to the Emergency Assistance Center to be given to those who would otherwise go without during the cold winter months.

Nursery Update: Christmas Eve & Christmas Day

On Christmas Eve, our Nursery Attendant, Julia Tustin, will be available beginning at 6:45 pm to care for any children birth to 5 years who prefer to spend the evening in the nursery.

On Christmas Day, we will not have typical nursery care. The 10:00 am service will be shorter (approximately 30 minutes) and will be child-friendly. We will have rocking chairs and some children's toys available in the Gathering Area so that parents and young children can hear worship and play together in that space as needed.

Stained Glass Class Looking for New Students

The craft of making stained glass art dates back to early Medieval times. Little has changed in all that time, except that we now use electric soldering irons instead of an open flame to melt the solder and connect the many glass pieces together.

Our current class has students who have advanced to larger projects, and we are looking for two new students to learn this ancient craft. Is this something you have always wanted to do but never had the opportunity to try? Or perhaps you've already learned the art but haven't created anything for a while. We have a great studio space and enjoy working with people of all skill levels. We'd love to have you join us!

If you are interested, contact Jim Hensley at 440-252-5199 or email him at jchensleyv1@gmail.com

Coffee Table Conversation



Tuesday, December 6th at 7:00 pm - as a follow-up to Pastor Melanie's sermon last Sunday, the first ever Coffee Table Conversation will be held in the library (or the conference room, depending on turnout).

The Question under discussion is:

"Where do you get your news?"

Looking forward to a great conversation...hope very many of you can come. See Averil McClelland if you have questions.

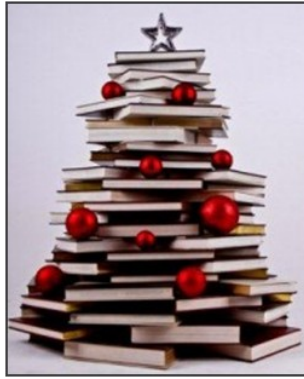


Morris the Church Mouse wants to say....

- Thank you to the congregation for their generous support of the sloppy joe lunch fundraiser for the youth. We collected \$521 in donations!
- Congratulations to **Evan Guffin** and Valerie Vondrak on their engagement!
- Come hear **Jeremy Guffin** and The Men of Independence sing on Saturday, December 10th at 6:30 pm at Solon High School. (www.menofindependence.com)
- We are excited for **Sophia Belli** who will begin classes in January for a bachelor's degree in Leadership and Ministry!

Books of the Month for December

Holly Schwartz is our librarian.



O Come Emmanuel: a Musical Tour of Daily Readings for Advent and Christmas by Gordon Giles

For people who like to read daily devotionals, this book starts with a devotion for December 1st and continues with one per day through January 6th, so you start in Advent and go through Christmas and Epiphany. Each entry starts with a scripture reading followed by the text of a song. A meditation on or history of the song is next, and a prayer concludes the day's study. The author is vicar of St. Mary Magdalene's Church in North London, so there are some songs that even I had never heard of. However, beginning with the 2 meditations on "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel!" I was familiar with most of the songs. If you're interested but prefer to read only the meditations based on familiar songs, you could start with December 10th ("People Look East") or December 17th ("O Come, O Come, Emmanuel!"). Fans of all things British might especially enjoy this book.

A Tree for Christmas by Dandi Daley Mackall, illustrated by Dominic Catalano. This bonus Book of the Month is a picture book and it tells the story of Jesus's life in poetry and illustration with special focus on wood and trees, beginning with Jesus lying in the manger, and mentioning some of the parables and including the table in the Upper Room and the cross, and pointing out how a Christmas tree can help remind us of Jesus. The drawings are in soft colors and are tastefully done. The author and illustrator are Ohio authors, Mackall from West Salem and Catalano from Bexley.



Dec 25 Kevin & Melissa Albrecht
27 Jim & Carol Hensley



Dec 1 Olivia Delaney
1 Owen Delaney
4 John Humphrey
5 Don Taylor
6 Lori Slusarski
7 Kevin Albrecht
7 Phyllis Melling
7 Camron Pugh
8 Tom McCray
9 Lucy Kaufman
16 Jack Hockman
16 Miles Hockman
16 Samantha McCabe
16 Janet Sheehan
20 Scott Jowers
25 Linda Palagy
26 Melanie Delaney
27 Hilda Elcock

If your birthday or anniversary is not on this list, please contact the church office.

December Schedule for Sunday Leadership

Date	Worship Leader	Scripture Reader	Elder	Deacons	Nursery Attendant
Dec 4	Holly Guffin	Holly Guffin	Joan Thomas	Phyllis Melling, Kaleena Hensley, Jennifer Zammikiel, Dave McCabe	Peggy Clark
Dec 11	Averil McClelland	Averil McClelland	Averil McClelland	John Humphrey, Donna Beck, Sue Pejeau, Gretchen Nahas	Jennifer Zammikiel
Dec 18	Don Taylor	Don Taylor	Carol Hensley	Mary Shelley, Mik Alexa, Niki Kubinski, Nancy Klatt	Donna Beck
Dec 24	Frank Schwartz Sue Sipos	Frank Schwartz Sue Sipos	Diana Beck	Melissa Albrecht, Kevin Albrecht	
Dec 25	Holly Schwartz	Holly Schwartz	Holly Schwartz	Sophia Belli, Edith Nuhfer, Melissa Albrecht	

Deacons - If you are not able to serve on your scheduled Sunday, please find a replacement and notify the church office & Donna Beck.

2016



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
27 10AM Worship 11:15AM Youth Group Fundraiser Luncheon	28 10AM Staff Meeting 8PM A.A. Meeting	29 9AM Weightwatchers 7:30PM A.A. Meeting	30 7PM Calvary Community	1 11AM Bible Study/Arbor Glen 5:30PM Weightwatchers 6:30PM Chimes Practice 7:30PM Choir Practice	2 6PM Advent Spiral Walk 7PM Girl Scout Meeting	3
4 10AM Worship/2nd Sunday of Advent 11:15AM Congregational Meeting/Vision Team Update 11:30AM Coffee Hour	5 10AM Staff Meeting 8PM A.A. Meeting	6 9AM Weightwatchers 7PM Coffee Table Conversation 7:30PM A.A. Meeting	7 11AM Bible Study GSOC 7PM Calvary Community	8 5:30PM Weightwatchers 6:30PM Chimes Practice 7PM Girl Scout Meeting 7:30PM Choir Practice	9 6PM Advent Spiral Walk 7PM Girl Scout Meeting	10
11 10AM Worship/3rd Sunday of Advent Fellowship Hall reserved to 4:30pm 5:30PM Youth Group	12 10AM Staff Meeting 6:30PM Worship Team 8PM A.A. Meeting	13 9AM Weightwatchers 12:30PM Neuropathy 7:30PM A.A. Meeting	14 6PM Stained Glass Class 7PM Calvary Community	15 11AM Bible Study/Arbor Glen 5:30PM Weightwatchers 6:30PM Chimes Practice 7:30PM Choir Practice	16 6:30PM Recovery Group Meeting	17
18 10AM Worship/4th Sunday of Advent	19 10AM Staff Meeting 8PM A.A. Meeting	20 9AM Weightwatchers 7:30PM A.A. Meeting	21 7PM Calvary Community	22 5:30PM Weightwatchers 6:30PM Chimes Practice 7:30PM Choir Practice	23	24 7PM Christmas Eve Service Bring Advent Box
25 10AM Worship/ Christmas Day	26 Office Closed 8PM A.A. Meeting	27 9AM Weightwatchers 7:30PM A.A. Meeting	28 6PM Stained Glass Class 7PM Calvary Community	29 5:30PM Weightwatchers	30	31 New Year's Eve

←————— Pastor Melanie on vacation —————→

GOOD SHEPHERD CHRISTIAN CHURCH

9571 Shepard Road
Macedonia OH 44056



Youth Group News

The Youth Group at GSCC wishes that your Advent Season be filled with Hope, Peace, Joy and Love, and thanks the congregation for its support.

The Youth Group will meet on **Sunday, December 11th from 5:30 – 7:00 pm** for time of connection during the Advent season and sharing a meal together.

All youth are encouraged to invite a friend as we join for a time of connecting and building relationships. Questions can be directed to Jennifer Palagyi, Jeremy Guffin or Sophia Belli.

The GSCC youth group has its own email – you can reach any of the three leaders at Goodshepherdccyouth@gmail.com.



November 2016