



Good News!

But you, O Bethlehem of Ephrathah, who are one of the little clans of Judah, from you shall come forth for me one who is to rule in Israel, whose origin is from of old, from ancient days (Micah 5:2.)

Advent Greetings,

In the midst of this pandemic, I say we get back to basics. And what better season to do that than Advent? I love Advent. I have so many memories of Advent—chocolate Advent calendars from the corner drugstore, secret Santa surprises at school, singing in the choir for my church's White Gift Pageant, and of course, getting our Christmas tree. We always had live trees when I was growing up. I still have my mother's collection of wooden ornaments. And some of them have teeth marks in them from various dogs we've had over the years. That makes them even more special!

Advent is the beginning of the church year, so it's a little bit like New Year's Eve. Here are the four basics we'll focus on in Advent: Hope, Peace, Love and Joy. Those are also the names of the four candles in the Advent wreath. Speaking of the Advent wreath, if you would like to light the candles and read a short passage (most likely on camera and we often record on Fridays) please let me know.

This year may be a blue Christmas for many of us, but this also means unexpected opportunities may come our way. Another name for Blue Christmas is the Longest Night, which falls on the Winter Solstice, Monday, December 21, when traditionally people light candles to remember those who have died. Advent is meant to be somewhat of a solemn, reflective time, but also a time of preparation. When we observe Advent as it is meant to be observed, then the joy of Christmas takes on new meaning. Perhaps the good news this month is that the reality of the pandemic may push us to observe Advent in a more traditional way, without the commercialization and premature Christmas carols at the mall.

If you haven't joined us on YouTube for worship yet, please give it a try. It's just one click from Faith Church's website (faithchurchpcusa.org.) And please be in touch with your joys and concerns.

Wishing Everyone the Blessings of Advent: Hope, Peace, Love and Joy.

Pastor Julia

ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE

Chairperson: Greg Hughes

Financial Secretary: Don Niece

Treasurer: Diane Grycz

Support: Paul Brown

Finances:	Oct	YTD
Income:	\$11,903	\$120,472
Expenses:	<u>\$13,438</u>	\$109,760
Difference:	(\$1,535)	\$ 10,712

Next Meeting: Next Meeting: Dec 3rd at 7 PM

Here are some of the items going on in the church:

- Memorial contributions of \$1000 were received in October for Sets Nagaoka.
- Ohio Workers Comp sent a rebate to the church for last year's premium to help with this year's pandemic.
- Total expenses in October were more than income. *However YTD we are doing well. Thank you to all who continue to send in your pledges even though we are currently unable to meet in person.*
- Lights were replaced in the sanctuary.
- Some items have been cleaned out of the garage.
- Looking to buy some type of doorbell for the church entrance door.
- One of the front door handles came loose and needs repaired.
- Getting a quote to take care of the weeds in the parking lot.
- The roof and drains were cleaned of leaves.
- Our church provided one of the polling locations on November 3rd.



Session Notes: November 2020

Session met by Zoom on Nov. 12. Pastor Julia continues to maintain contact with our members and friends through phone calls, texts, cards, and visits. She also attended the Presbytery meeting, SONKA (UCC) and held preschool chapel. After serious, prayerful discussion, Session reluctantly decided to cancel in-person worship at least until December due to the current rising incidences of Covid-19. The other major action was approval of the budget for 2021. This budget will be reviewed with the congregation at a meeting to be scheduled in January, conditions permitting.



Presbytery Notes

Presbytery of the Miami Valley met via Zoom on Saturday, Nov. 12. The budget for 2021 was approved, including only a nominal increase (\$0.03) in connectional support. An additional significant action was the approval and installation of Lynn Bova as the Stated Clerk. Lynn had been the interim pastor at the Belle Center church. She is succeeding Larry Hollar who has served as our Stated Clerk for the last five years and is looking forward to spending time with family in his retirement. We wish both Lynn and Larry the best as they enter these new phases of their lives.



We have wrapped up pledge season for 2021. We appreciate all who participate; it makes a difference in our community. The yearly envelopes will be on the table in the foyer beginning the week of December 8th. You can pick them up at your convenience. If you will be unable to pick up your envelopes, please contact Sarah or Don Niece and arrangements will be made to get them to you. If you haven't yet pledged for 2021, please prayerfully consider doing so as it helps us plan for expenses.



Our next meeting will be January.

- ◆ Advent is here and each family has been sent an Advent Calendar of devotions to use in this season of Christmas. Hope you will find time to use the Calendar to refresh yourself and hear the good news of the birth.
- ◆ We will have started our Advent Study on November 30th at 5pm. Hope you will think about joining us over Zoom.
- ◆ The Christmas Eve Open House is on hold due to the virus. We do not know what will be happening and have chosen to put this time on hold to keep us safe.
- ◆ Thanks to your generous donations, we filled 55 bags with tops, pencils, crafts, erasers, and small trinkets.
- ◆ The Presbyterian Woman study is on hold and will continue when it is safe to gather again.



MERRY CHRISTMAS

May you be merry and joyful during this season that is by far the most challenging of our lives.

Cyndi Adams, Kyung-Hee Swihart, Chris TenBroeke and Jo Hall.

Adopt-A-Family is on!

The tree with ornaments will be on the office window after Thanksgiving. If you would like to take part in the gift giving but are not comfortable shopping you may mail your donation to the church and a committee member will shop for you. We will also be collecting cash to purchase perishable groceries and donations that come in to the FISH bins will go to the families. Thank you for your support of this project. There are a few more challenges this year, but we can figure it out!

If you have any questions call Diane Grycz at 937-667-6622.

The last day is December 20th and we appreciate all that is done for this very worthy ministry!



SERRV started small, helping WWII refugees. 71 years later they employ nearly 8,000 artisans and farmers in 25 countries. SERRV empowers through fair wages, new opportunities and safe working environments changing lives along the way. Over thirty items were ordered and this means a donation of almost \$300.00 for FISH. Mission and Outreach are thankful for the support for both of these vital ministries.

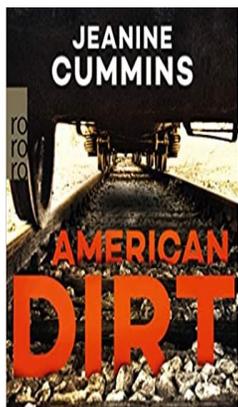


**Troop 3022
Food Drive**

Girl Scout Daisy Troop 3022 Two of the girls are Faith Preschool Alumni! (Brynne and Lily) and Sasha helped pack up for delivery to FISH.

Girl Scout Troop 3022 consists of 12 first graders attending Huber Heights City Schools. The girls collected at Faith until November 30th food and blankets. These items were collected to teach the girls about how to help their community and earn their Rosie Daisy Petal. This award is to teach every Girl Scout they can make the world a better place.

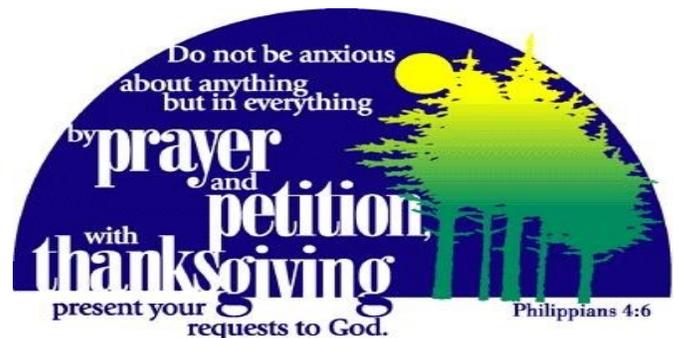
A great big thank you for the donations of food to FISH. In November a delivery of 27 bags of groceries was made from Faith. We don't have the official amount from Troop 3022 but their barrel at Faith was running over. For the month of December Missions and Outreach our supporting the Adopt a Family program. *If you have any questions call Diane Grycz at 937-667-6622.*



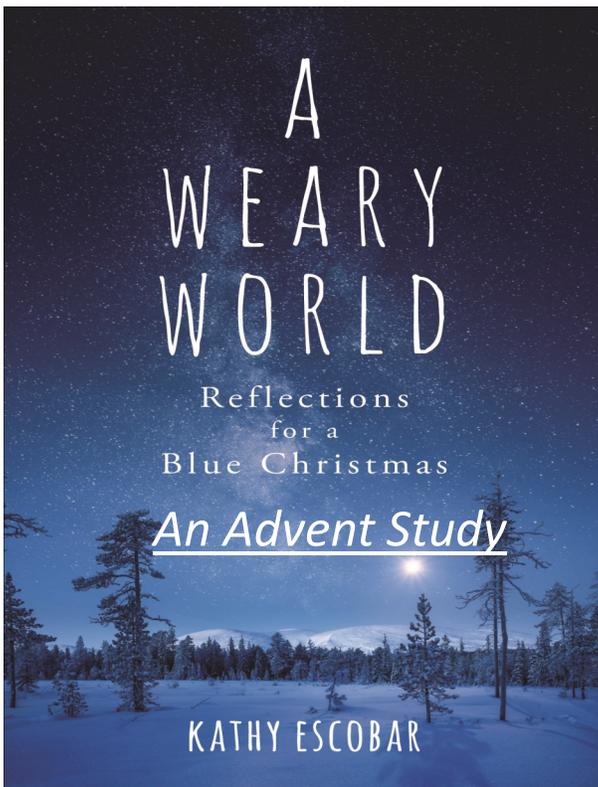
Sweet Communion Book Club returns in January!

But probably without communion this time. We will discuss the novel American Dirt, by Jeanine Cummins. It is the gripping story of Lydia and her son Luca who leave their home in Mexico to save their lives by immigrating to the United States. When I read it, I couldn't put it down! It is gripping to hear the obstacles they must overcome to make it to

the border and the people they meet along the way. Some help them out and others are a threat to their lives. We will meet over Zoom on Weds, January 20 at 5 PM. This book is very popular, so allow extra time to reserve it at the library. Books can also be ordered for \$14.



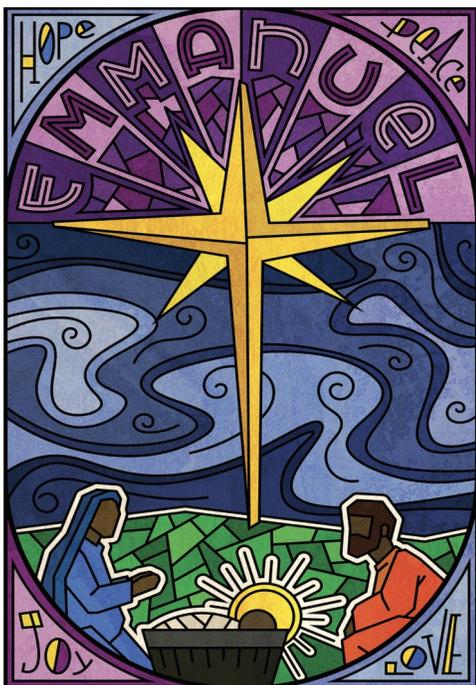
Beth Griffin, Betsy Morris, Jan Schroeder, Deborah Moore, Mary Swartzel, George O'Bryan, Norma Leshner, Bob and Emily Christian, Maria Beimly, Rick Latimer, Dottie Standley, Carol Weaver, Doctors, Nurses, Frontline & necessary medical workers.



You are invited to join us over Zoom for our Advent Study on *A Weary World: Reflections for a Blue Christmas*, by Kathy Escobar. We will meet :

Mondays, Nov 30, Dec 7, 14, 21 from 5-6 PM over Zoom. It's the most wonderful time of the year...until it's not. During the holidays, so many of us suffer for all kinds of reasons. The magnitude of our weary world weighs on our hearts and minds. For 2020, most all of us are feeling weary for countless reasons. *A Weary World: Reflections for a Blue Christmas* honors the reality of the season in a raw and hopeful way. It includes daily reflections paired with prayers and practices to help sustain us. The four themes for discussion are: Honoring Reality, Practicing Honesty, Embracing Paradox, and Borrowing Hope.

If you haven't tried Zoom yet, please give it a try! All you need is a laptop, phone or tablet along with an internet connection. It's fun and easy once you learn the basics. Copies of the book will be available in the office for \$8. **To order your copy, contact Sarah in the office, Pastor Julia or Linda Niece (she will be setting up the links each week). We have a few extra copies still available.**



 CHRISTMAS JOY
SPECIAL OFFERINGS
LEADERSHIP, PAST, PRESENT, AND FUTURE

The Christmas Joy offering will be collected all through the month of December. As we prepare for Advent, we know that the only perfect gift ever given was the one we received in Jesus Christ. In Matthew's Gospel, one of the names given to Jesus is Emmanuel, which means "God is with us." By participating in the Christmas Joy Offering, you help provide assistance to current and retired church workers in their time of need as well as develop our future leaders at Presbyterian-related schools and colleges equipping communities of color.

This year with all the uncertainty we have a few options on how to give;

- Mail to 5555 Chambersburg Rd Huber Heights 45424 attention Financial Secretary. Make sure you note the check this is for the Christmas Joy.
- Give online at <https://specialofferings.pcusa.org/make-a-gift/gift-info/christmas-joy/>
- You can also support the Christmas Joy Offering through gifts to the [Presbyterian Giving Catalog](#).

Thank you for your support of the Christmas Joy Offering!



PRESCHOOL
News

Dear Friends,

So much to be thankful for, and grateful for it all!

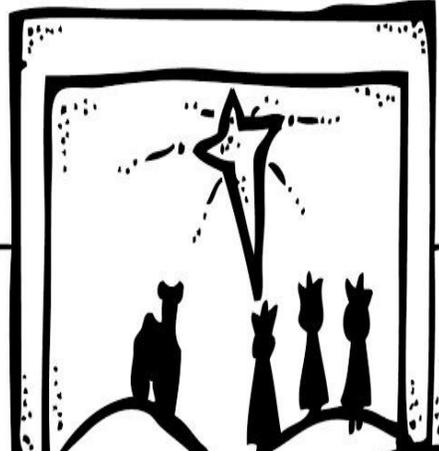
The goodie bags that you made for the kids harvest party were wonderful! The preschoolers loved them! The Cookie Dough Fundraiser was a success! You helped us raise 966.80 and we are super proud of our kids! Take a look at our top sellers in each class!

Wishing all of you many blessings, and a very Merry Christmas to all!

Blessings
Kelley Britt



Kid's Page



For unto us
a child is



born...
and His
name shall
be called

Wonderful!
Isaiah 9:6



December
anniversaries

- 5 Don & Linda Niece
- 9 Kevin & Kimberlee Sharp

BIRTHDAYS

- 8 Jackie (Ellis) Hyden
- 13 Jim Kempton
- 14 Wilma Shields
- 24 Paul Brown
- 26 Doris Harmsworth
- 27 Kelly Mayhew



On first Sunday of the month the Worship & Nurture committee

places flower arrangements on the chancel in memory or honor of loved ones of the family of Faith.

If you would like to provide a flower arrangement in memory or honor of a loved one return the following form with your donation to Samantha Adams. The arrangements cost is \$18 for one and \$36 for two. Please make checks payable to Faith Presbyterian Church. Your Gift will be recognized in the bulletin unless you instruct otherwise. Also be sure to mark if you would like to pick up the arrangement. All arrangements not collected will be delivered to those in need of their day brightened. For more information please contact Samantha Adams.

Please accept my donation of

\$18 _____ \$36 _____

For the Memorial flowers fund

In Memory of:

In Honor of:

Given by:

I will pick up the arrangement



If your New Year's resolution is to get rid of items you no longer need, how about those old eyeglasses? You can put your old glasses in the tub marked for lions that is located on the shelf in the

coat room. Your pair of glasses make a big difference in someone's life. The donated eyeglasses are cleaned, sorted by strength, packaged and distributed to those in need, mostly in developing countries, but also in America. There were **45 eyeglasses** donated to the Lions Club from our church in October. Thank you for donating

December 2020

Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

		1 6:30PM Popcorn with the Pastor	2	3 6 PM Missions & Outreach 7 PM Admin	4	5
6 <u>Peace</u> 2nd Sunday of Advent	7 5 PM Zoom Advent Study	8 6:30PM Popcorn with the Pastor	9	10 7 PM Session	11	12
13 <u>Joy</u> 3rd Sunday of Advent	14 5 PM Zoom Advent Study	15 6:30PM Popcorn with the Pastor	16	17	18	19
20 <u>Love</u> <u>Christmas Joy</u> <u>Offering</u>	21 5 PM Zoom Advent Study	22 6:30PM Popcorn with the Pastor	23	24 6:30 PM Zoom Christmas Eve social followed by special time of Worship Will be recorded.	25 <u>Christmas</u> Happy Birthday Jesus	26
27 1st Sunday of Christmas	28	29 6:30PM Popcorn with the Pastor	30	31 <u>New Year's Eve</u>		

Church Mice

Karl Zorowski

