

November/December 2021

# The Cornerstone

Christ Church United Methodist  
700 S. Marshall Road, Middletown OH 45044  
513-422-7364 (telephone) • 513-422-2161 (fax) • [www.christum.com](http://www.christum.com)

“Impacting the  
Community for CHRIST”



## Staff

Evette Loper Watt, Pastor  
Betsy Balger, Accompanist  
Julie Coleman, Office Manager

## 10:30 am - Sunday Worship

## 9:00 am - Group Study

## Sunday Adult Classes

Room 115: *ReachOut*  
Room 113: *Calvary*

## Christmas Eve

**Candlelight Service**  
**December 24**  
**9:00 pm**

## CHRISTMAS CLOSURES

There will be **NO** Sunday Service on December 26.

The church office will be closed the week of  
December 27 and will reopen on Monday, January 3.

Magrey R. deVega

## Awaiting the Already

An Advent Journey Through the Gospels

## Advent Study

Wednesdays  
December 1, 8, 15 & 22  
10:30 am - 11:30 am  
Narthex

*The price of the study guide  
is \$10 and can be picked up  
in the Narthex Sunday  
morning or in the church  
office during the week.*

# Letter from the Pastor



Greetings Beloveds!

Thanksgiving is here and the Christmas season is more than near. What do you lift up as praise and thanksgiving to our God?

Many expressed during a recent worship service deep gratitude for relationships. We were created for fellowship and relationships. We were primarily created for fellowship with God. Yes, our primary relationship is with Jesus Christ, and the secondary relationships are marriage, family, and neighbors. As we prepare to share a feast, hearty laughs, and plenty of football games with family and friends on Thanksgiving Day, let us be mindful of those who would be blessed by our fellowship, hospitality, and Christian love. Christ Church continues to express love in its missions work to the least of these.

The year 2021 brought social, political, financial, and health challenges. I am certain you can all name more challenges. We have lost loved ones and friends and celebrated those lives on All Saints Day. God is faithful. We are finally moving beyond the grasps and limitations of the pandemic, and our precious children are now eligible for vaccinations. Praise be to God. Freedom of movement in daily life looks so different today versus this time last year. There is much to be grateful for, beloveds. I am grateful for each of you.

As the holy advent season draws near, let us reverently and mindfully approach with great anticipation the most important birth on earth. Meditate on the true meaning of our Savior's birth. Meditate on the gifts of hope, peace, joy, and love. If you cannot join the Advent Bible study on Wednesday mornings, consider reading along with us at your convenience. This makes for a rich advent experience.

These words from the prophet Isaiah tell of the Coming One who shall save the world:

<sup>6</sup>For to us a child is born,  
to us a son is given,  
and the government will be on his  
shoulders.  
And he will be called  
Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,  
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.  
(Isaiah 9:6)

- <sup>1</sup>A shoot shall come out from the stump of  
Jesse, and a branch shall grow out of his  
roots.  
<sup>2</sup>The spirit of the Lord shall rest on him,  
the spirit of wisdom and understanding,  
the spirit of counsel and might,  
the spirit of knowledge and the fear of  
the Lord. (Isaiah 11:1-2)

Holy One, may we embrace Isaiah's vision as we embark upon this season of deepening our relationship with You. Amen.

Grace and Peace,  
Pastor Watt



## Families to be Adopted this Christmas

We will be adopting three families this Christmas and will be collecting food and grocery items for the food baskets that will be given to each family. Needed items can be found on the bulletin board outside Pastor Watt's office door. We are also accepting monetary donations to purchase gift cards for perishable items. All donations should be returned to the church by Sunday, December 12, and placed on the tables located outside the library; delivery to the families will be made the following weekend. If you have any questions, please see Jane Tipton. Thank you.

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## Smile Closets

Christ Church has received a \$9,000 grant from the Middletown Foundation and will be partnering with First United Methodist Church to provide "Smile Closets" in six elementary schools in Middletown. Christ Church will be providing "Smile Closets" at Creekview, Central Academy and Mayfield schools while First Church will be providing for closets at Wildwood, Rosa Parks and Amanda schools. The items that will be filling these closets include coats, hats, gloves, pants, shirts, socks, underwear, hygiene items and school supplies. We thank God for this ministry opportunity and the Middletown Foundation for providing the grant monies necessary to help the children of this community.

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## LANDSCAPE VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Following the Knapps' retirement, we are now looking for volunteers who enjoy being outside and playing in the dirt; who are inspired by the fruits of their labor; who do not mind getting down and dirty on bended knee; and perhaps are looking for a new form of exercise. The Knapps have left detailed instructions and directions for those who will follow. A "green thumb" is not a prerequisite for volunteering. It would be wonderful to be able to assemble a team of volunteers to make the workload lighter. If you are interested in volunteering, please see Tom Streiff.

## Knapps to Hang-Up their Gardening Gloves

After 16 years of planting, weeding, pruning, feeding, deadheading, trimming, watering, and removing debris from the church grounds and landscaping beds, the Knapps have decided to retire at the end of 2021.

*George and Linda, words cannot adequately express to you the immense gratitude of this congregation and the church leadership for your dedication and faithfulness in caring for the church grounds and landscaping beds for the past 16 years. The hours spent in the heat, the cold, and adverse weather conditions is truly a testament of your love of God and His church. THANK YOU for your tremendous labor of love over these many years. In your "retirement" from church gardening, may you discover new outdoor enjoyment in the months to come!*

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HOSPICE CARE  
OF MIDDLETOWN

Invites you to

*A Season to Remember*

*Candlelight Community Memorial Service*

Saturday, December 11, 2021 at 7:00 pm  
Woodside Cemetery & Arboretum  
1401 S. Woodside Blvd., Middletown

Come early to enjoy the luminaries lighting the way to the chapel. Refreshments will be served in the community room following the service.

## United Methodist Women's Annual Christmas Party

Thursday, December 2  
11:30 am  
Heritage Green Club House  
Monroe, Ohio

Lunch will be served.  
\$10 gift exchange.  
Games and fun for everyone.

## You Are Invited . . .

### Northstar Classical School Christmas Cantata

Thursday, December 16  
6:00 pm  
New Life Center

## Prayer Warriors Wanted

We are looking for 13 *Prayer Warriors* to pray for a teacher, students and staff member of Northstar Classical School this school year. Each prayer warrior will be asked to pray for the teacher/class or staff member daily to make this school year successful and meaningful.

If you would like to be a prayer warrior, please email Gail Rose at [gail.rose@zoomtown.com](mailto:gail.rose@zoomtown.com) and she will let you know who to add to your daily prayers.



## GOD LOVES INDIA

Less than 0.1% of the population of Northern India is Christian. Additionally, there is an extreme shortage of Christian digital media (video and audio) available in the local languages resulting in many people from this region of the world having never really heard the gospel of Jesus Christ. It is for this reason that a non-profit organization called **God Loves India** was formed by Jeff and Janet Layne and is dedicated to spreading the gospel through digital media in one of the last remaining spots on earth before the end time harvest.

To help the Laynes accomplish their task, **God Loves India** is partnering with the George and Susan Charian ministry in India. Over the last 30 years, the Charians have founded hundreds of Christian churches, mission centers, training centers and old age centers throughout India. The Charians have also had some success in creating and distributing on-line Bible studies and music in the languages of Hindi and Malayalam. Some of their videos have been viewed hundreds of thousands of times on-line.

The preparation and production of high-quality video cost time and money so the Laynes are asking for your help. To learn more, please visit their website at <https://godlovesindia.com>.

## INTERIM CHORAL DIRECTOR NAMED

We are pleased to announce that Kim Swiger has graciously agreed to step in and serve as the interim choral director and will be assisting Betsy Balger in our music department.



## Birth Announcements

### Congratulations to . . .

David and Jocelyn Greider upon the birth of their daughter, Inez Love Greider, on September 22. Loving grandparents are Denny and Beth Greider and great-grandmother is Urith Ellen Thompson.

Paul and Anna Jean Petroff Sauter upon the birth of their son, Victor John Sauter, on October 21. Loving grandparents are David and Janet Sauter.

## November Birthdays

- 5 Jane Berns  
Debbie Lawson
- 8 David Martin
- 10 Barbara Strait
- 11 Mark Idle  
Robyn McCall
- 18 Kim Swiger
- 20 Jim Alexander
- 22 Jane Tipton
- 23 Becki Davis
- 27 Pat Anthony  
Donna Idle
- 29 Aleah Kassner

## December Birthdays

- 1 Joan Peterson
- 20 Paul Radabaugh
- 27 Tom Streiff
- 28 Beverly Hill
- 29 Diane Neal
- 30 Kevin Strait

## With Heartfelt *Sympathy*

Walker and Sally Williamson and family upon the death of their sister-in-law, Judy Williamson, on August 23 and Sally's brother, Larry Phillips, on October 17.

Don and Sandy Smith and family upon the death of Don's sister, Irene Braun, on August 25.

Les and Vicki Greider, Mildred Tutt and family upon the death of Vicki's father, Paul Tutt, on October 1.

Jeff and Janet Layne and family upon the death of Janet's father, Ferman Anderson, on October 3.

Elaine Bailey and family upon the death of Elaine's sister, Pam Seibold, on October 26.

## Anniversaries

### November

- 3 Ward and Zelda Stephenson
- 16 George and Linda Knapp
- 17 Eddy and Deanna Sellers

### December

- 4 Norman and Karen Gibbs
- 7 Bob and Ann Baber

## Thank You

Christ United Methodist Church,

Words can't express the gratitude I have for the beautiful card and gift package you all sent me. It is such a help and it warms my heart knowing people as good as you all are out there. Thank you so much and may God bless you all.

Love,  
Nick Schraub

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