



# DECEMBER NEWSLETTER



Friday, December 12 @ 7pm

Saturday, December 13 @ 7pm

Sunday, December 14 @ 2:30p

## UPCOMING

### **KEENAGER'S BREAKFAST** | Tuesday, Dec. 2 @ 9am

All senior retirees meet for breakfast at Bob Evans in Eaton.

### **HELP PASS OUT INVITE CARDS/CANDY CANES**

Volunteers are needed to pass out invitation cards and candy canes for our Christmas Program at Whispering Christmas at Ft. St. Clair on Tuesday, Dec. 2 from 5:45-8:30pm. Sign up at the Commons or contact Matthew ([matthew@e1cog.com](mailto:matthew@e1cog.com)).

### **MEN'S BREAKFAST** | Saturday, Dec. 6

All men are invited @ 7:30am for great food & fellowship!

### **NURSING HOME MINISTRY** | Sunday, Dec. 14

All are invited to join us as we worship with those at Greenbriar Nursing Home (501 W. Lexington St., Eaton) at 1:30pm.

### **CANDLELIGHT & COMMUNION SERVICE**

Sunday, December 21 @ 6pm—we will gather to sing familiar carols, worship in candlelight and share together in communion. Join us for this special time.

### **CHRIST'S BIRTHDAY OFFERING** | Sunday, Dec. 21

Through our giving, we can better equip the church to bring the story of His birth and His presence into the whole world.

### **SPONSORING A FAMILY FOR CHRISTMAS**

This Christmas, our church is partnering with Preble County Domestic Violence Shelter to sponsor a family in need—a mother and her four children. If you'd like to contribute, please stop by the table in the commons to select a tag with gift suggestions and sizes. Be sure to sign your tag on the sheet provided and return your unwrapped gift with the tag attached by Sunday, December 7th. Thank you for showing such compassion and generosity!

### **WOW SMALL GROUP** | Widows or Widowers

Our group will not be meeting together in Dec. May all of you have a joyous Christmas celebration.

## PASTOR'S THOUGHTS

Many of us approach the holidays with a sense of dread or sadness. Perhaps I still have fixed in my mind the Thomas Kincaid depiction of the season in warm soft glows and happy gatherings. Real life is seldom like that. The same family gatherings that we look forward to are also often sources of tension. The familiar traditions can feel empty after the loss of a loved one. A song by the Gray Havens comes to mind, titled "Not Home Yet". The lyrics describe how there is a joy and peace to be found in Jesus, even as we recognize that the picture perfect will have to wait till Heaven.

Until then, let's wait with patience

## WEDNESDAY NIGHT KIDS

We will be working our way through the beautiful Christmas story and birth of our Savior, Jesus Christ on Wednesdays and Sundays. Be sure to join us!!

Advent coloring books are available on the table outside the sanctuary. It's a wonderful way for your child to work their way through the advent season along with you!

Our children have been learning music on Wednesday evenings to share during the Worship Arts Christmas celebration December 12-14. Please note: this year the children will be at the beginning of the program. When they are done you may meet them in the commons to sit with you for the program or to leave for the evening.

Call times for for the program are as follows:

December 12th-6:30pm  
December 13th- 6:30pm  
December 14th- 2:00pm

With our dress rehearsal scheduled for December 10th at 6:30pm. Please stay until they are finished as they will be dismissed to go home when they are done

December 17th will be our Christmas party for our Wednesday night program from 6:30-7:30pm.

There will be no Wednesday night program on December 24 or December 31st due to the Christmas and New Years holiday! Enjoy special time with family!

## ANGEL TREE DONATIONS

Our youth group has decided to help our church support a family in need this Christmas. If you feel led to donate \$5-\$10 toward the gift, please pass it along to Allie and she will make sure the gift gets bought. Let's be the hands and feet of Jesus!

## WEDNESDAY NIGHT YOUTH

We meet every Wednesday from 6-7:30p, where we share a meal, worship, play games and go through a lesson together. Bring your Bible, a friend and an open heart for Jesus.

\*We will not be having Bible Study on Dec. 24 & 31 due to Christmas holiday.

## YOUTH CHRISTMAS PARTY

We will be having a Christmas party on Wednesday, December 17th from 6-8pm! There will be games, food, and fun - be on the lookout for more details!

## SMALL GROUPS

Guys & girl's Bible study (7th - 12th grade) at 6pm every Sunday for dinner and fellowship. Bring your Bible, appetite & a friend!

- Guys meet at Donald's house (6664 Paddock Rd., Eaton)
- Girls meet at the church on Tania's house (320 Lutheran Dr., Eaton).

There will be no Small Groups on Dec. 21 & 28 due to the Christmas holidays.

## GET CONNECTED @ elcog.com

Small groups and Sunday classes offer an opportunity to study the Bible in a smaller, more discussion-based setting. Check our website for more information.

## NOVEMBER GIVING/ATTENDANCE:

	AM Attn.	Offering	Bldg/Reno Fund	Faith Promise
Nov. Online		\$4,656.00		\$275.00
11/2/25	177	6,167.00	\$58.00	292.00
11/9/25	168	7,710.62	218.00	207.00
11/16/25	182	6,236.57	188.00	541.00
11/23/25	178	6,358.00	233.00	244.00

Average Weekly Offering: \$ 7,782.05

Average Weekly Offering Needed 2025: \$7,949

## FOOD DRIVE FOR CHRISTMAS

The Preble County Food Bank is collecting food to provide a Christmas meal to families in need. To help, you can donate any of the items from the shopping list needed for a family. **Please put donations in the Commons or drop off at the Once Around Shop Food Bank by November 30.** List for one family: instant potatoes, 2 cans of corn and green beans, stuffing mix, boxed cakes/brownies, coffee, tea, cocoa, juice, flour, vegetable oil, breakfast items (pancake mix, syrup, oatmeal), cream of mushroom soup, spices (chili powder, all-spice, garlic salt, salt, pepper, etc.), sugar, brown sugar, chicken broth.

## LOVE PACKAGES

Love Packages need donations of Christian materials to send overseas. See container in Commons for list of what they need.

## BLOOD DRIVE

Sign up to give blood on Saturday, January 24, 2026 from 7:30am - 1:30pm in the church gym. Sign up on the church website or a [www.donortime.com](http://www.donortime.com).