



Perry Christian Church

December 2016

Volume 8, Issue 12

BEAUTIFUL WINTER

As I was sitting quieting my mind, soul and spirit, I had an epiphany. The leaves on my beautiful weeping cherry tree, outside my living room bay window, are thinning and falling. Soon they will all fall and the tree will be bare and appear to be dead. At that moment I had an epiphany, **“But the tree isn’t dead.” Next spring it will bloom with pink flowers, and then green leaves.**” Death looks so final. But the epiphany for Christians is that death in reality is birth. We just bloom in another sphere, the sphere of the Kingdom of God.

Death and birth are like a woman who ages gracefully, skin marked by age spots, eyes duller and less twinkly, hair silver or white glimmering in the sun, she may have some wrinkles, but her heart is bright, her spirit joyous, and her soul healthy with the Holy Spirit which draws you to her. She is wise in her old age and she guides those younger than herself. She is full of life and all who see her only see her beauty. All the signs of aging are invisible to those who adore this woman of grace. And everyone who knows her and takes the time to stay a while with her, is uplifted and made better

for having known her.

She is renewed and born again by loving God with her whole heart, mind and soul. She prays, fasts, and repents, **not because she fears God’s wrath or hell, but to enter into union with God so God will renew her heart, unbind her spirit, and heal her soul with the oil of joy that surpasses understanding.** When she loves with the love of God, she radiates God’s love and is free to find God’s commandments illuminating rather than burdensome. She lives for God, not for vindication from the world, and she is in God and God in her.

John 14:19-20 (NIV) ... Because I live, you also will live. ²⁰On that day you will realize that I am in my Father, and you are in me, and I am in you.

Sin may tempt her, but she no longer is affected by its pull. Her heart is free, filled with the fullness of God, and she is beautiful inside and out. God adores her and makes his home with her.

Because she asks God to **renew her heart with God’s love**, the wicked one cannot touch her.

1 John 3:9, 18(NIV) ⁹No one who is born of God will

continue to sin, because God’s seed remains in them; they cannot go on sinning, because they have been born of God. ...¹⁸We know that anyone born of God does not continue to sin; the One who was born of God keeps them safe, and the evil one cannot harm them.

Our heart is God’s desire for each person who walks the face of the earth. And all those who seek God’s desire for themselves, find it. All who ask God day and night **for God’s love to fill their being** are filled, and they are in God and God in them, their hearts are illumined by the commandments of the Lord.

My gift to you this Christmas is this prayer from Pope Shenouda III, 117th Pope of Alexandria and Patriarch of the See of St. Mark, Shepherd of the Coptic Orthodox Church. May we pray this prayer many times, day and night, this winter, dying to our old selves, freeing us to journey toward birth of renewal in Christ.

Prayer: Grant me, O Lord, to love you. Remove the love of sin from my heart, and give me your love.

Blessings,
Pastor Janet



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Special points of interest:

- Christmas Potluck and Caroling
- Christmas Worship

WORSHIP

CHRISTMAS OFFERING

On December 4th and 11th, we will be collecting a special offering to benefit the Ohio Regional Ministries of the Christian Church.

The regional church cares for and supports congregations and

pastors in Ohio. It is responsible for training local and lay clergy leaders, sponsoring camps and conferences at Camp Christian, establishing new congregations, and offers program assistance to help revitalize existing congregations. The Christmas Offering enables the Christian

Church in Ohio to perform this essential work. 100% of your Christmas Offering will be used by the Ohio region.

Please give generously. More information and offering envelopes will be in the bulletins on December 4th and 11th.

Christmas Day Worship

Join us as we celebrate the birth of Christ and worship Him on Christmas Day, December 25th at 9:30 a.m. Although this is something different than your usual Christmas tradition, it will be wonderful to gather with our church family for a time on this special day.

Since Christmas occurs on Sunday we will not be having a Christmas Eve Worship Service

Dec 24th. There will also be no Sunday School on Christmas Day. That allows you to return home to continue celebrating and for some, play with your new toys.



New Year's Day Worship



We will begin the new year in worship at 9:30 a.m. Rick Bartlett will be bringing a message that is sure to inspire all.

Please plan to stay after church to help take down the Christmas decorations. With lots of help, it shouldn't take long and you'll be home in time for plenty of college football.

FELLOWSHIP

CHRISTMAS POTLUCK AND CAROLING

Our Christmas Potluck and Caroling will start after worship on December 18th. Please bring a dish to share. We always go caroling and take a Christmas gift to our special members who are 75+ years young. It is a lot of fun to carol and spread the joy of the

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*la,
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la!*

Christmas season to others. **Maybe you can't sing a note, but you can say Merry Christmas to those who are shut in and look forward to a cheerful smile.**

Everyone is needed and welcome. Let us make a joyful noise together.

Sherry Smith, Potluck Chair
Laurie Martin, Caroling Chair



Sue Talley Memorial Christmas Tea

Mark your calendars for the Annual Sue Talley Memorial Christmas Tea at 7 pm on Wednesday, December 14th. We will be sure to have your favorite hot teas & cocoa and fancy Christmas cookies. Make a reservation with Brenda or Laurie by Sunday, December 11th. Come & join us for this annual Christmas event and bring a friend.

Brenda Carr, Co-Chair CWM

FAMILY FUN NIGHT

Kids-put on your favorite pajamas; adults-dig out your craziest Christmas sweater or sweatshirt and join us for Family Fun Night on Saturday, December 17th from 5:00 to 7:00 pm. We will watch a movie...maybe even have popcorn. There will be games and puzzles or you can bring your own favorite. And, of course, there will be lots of food.

Please RSVP to the church (259-4821) and leave a message or call Carole Martin (259-2257) to let us know you'll be there. Hope to see you on the 17th.

Carole Martin



MISSIONS

PROJECT HOPE

We will be preparing a cheese plate for Project Hope on Thursday, December 15th @ 6:00pm to be delivered on December 17th. We need:

8—8 oz bricks of cheese, any kind

1 large box of Ritz Crackers



For lunches we need:

55 slices of Ham

55 slices of cheese

5 loaves of bread

3 cases of 24 bottles of water

Cash donations towards the purchase of fruit are always appreciated.

Thank you

Susan Callahan and Brenda Carr,
Co-Chairs

THE PERRY CENTER

This is a busy time of year at The Perry Center. It is quite an undertaking to provide special Christmas boxes for their clients.

They will need help on Saturday, December 17th from 9a until finished to set up the area for packing the boxes. It will involve some

heavy work I'm sure.

On Monday, December 19 from 9a-finished, help is needed to pack the Christmas boxes.

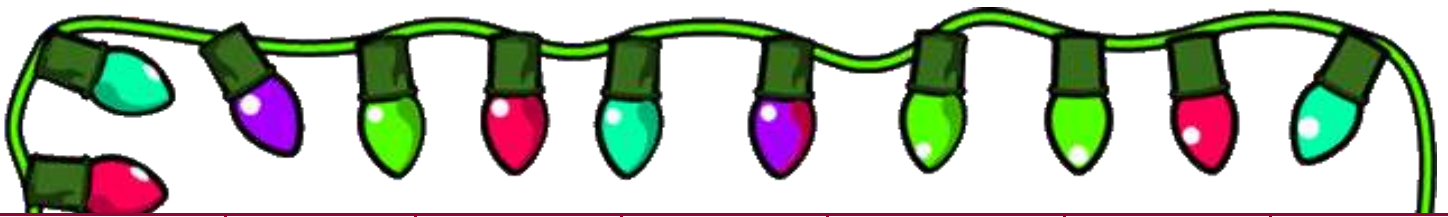
On Tuesday, December 20th the boxes will be distributed to clients from 9-11a and from 6-8p. Help is needed at both of those sessions.

Don't forget to bring in cake mixes

and tubs of frosting! This is the Perry Christian Church donation for the Christmas boxes at The Perry Center.

This photo is just a small view of Christmas Food Boxes packed several years ago. Wow! Well done!





Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<h1>December 2016</h1>				1 2p Prayer Team	2 Salvation Army Bell Ringing	3 10a Band Prac- tice
4 2 nd Sunday of Advent Christmas Offering 8a CWM Ex. Board 9:30a Worship 10:45a Fellowship 11a Sunday School 4p The Messiah Chorus Presentation	5	6	7 9a Community Mission	8 2p Prayer Team	9	10
11 3 rd Sunday of Advent Christmas Offering 9:30a Worship 10:45a Fellowship 11a Sunday School	12 7p Trustee Mtg.	13 6p Leadership Team Mtg.	14 7p Sue Talley Christmas Tea	15 2p Prayer Team 6p Project Hope Food Prep	16	17 9a Perry Center Set-up 10a Band Practice 6:45p Project Hope Delivery
18 4 th Sunday of Advent 9:30a Worship 10:45a Fellowship 11a Christmas Pot- luck and Caroling	19 9a Pack Christ- mas boxes at Perry Center Newsletter articles are due.	20 9a-11a Distribute Christmas boxes at Perry Center 6-8p Perry Center distribution	21	22 2p Prayer Team	23	24 Christmas Eve No service this evening, see you Christmas morning at 9:30a
25 Christmas Day 9:30a Worship	26 Office Closed	27	28	29 2p Prayer Team	30	31
Pastor is on vacation from Monday, December 26th thru Sunday, January 8th. In December if you need a hospital visit, call Rick Bartlett 259-8345; for the Prayer Chain, call Mary Hale 639-8833; for an administrative concern, call Carole Martin 259-2257.						

December Service Schedules

	Worship Leaders	Elders		All Month
4	Eric Van Boxel	Rick Bartlett Joann Rombough	Greeters: Dave Helmick and Andy Lawson Hostesses: Shelley Braden and Donna Van Boxel	Deacons *Frankie Blanchard **Vicki Wakelee Eric Van Boxel
11	Donna Van Boxel	Susan Callahan Linda Warfield	Hostesses: Pat	Sacristan Donna Van Boxel Sandy McKenna
18	Sydney Martin	Joann Rombough Don Bartlett	Hostesses: Judy Bartlett Darla Bartlett	Counters Connie Smith 12-4 Judy Bartlett 12-11,18,25 Vicki Wakelee
25	Earl Johnson	Earl Johnson Susan Callahan	Hostess: Pat Johnson	

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
 Born in December 				1 Paige Stevenson	2 Connie Smith	3
4	5 Sandy McKenna	6	7 Roberta McAlister	8 Andy Hinton	9 Shelley Braden	10 Rachel Collins
11	12	13 Elle Pierce	14 Taunya Brewer	15 Ethel Campbell	16	17
18	19	20	21	22 Mary Hale Joanna Lynch	23	24 Russell Sines
25	26	27 Pastor Janet	28 Jaymz Helmick	29	30 Sherry Smith	31

MISSIONS



SALVATION ARMY BELL RINGING

On Friday, December 2nd, we will have the opportunity to raise funds for The Perry Center by ringing the bell for Salvation Army.

We will be ringing at the Perry IGA. As usual the shifts are just for a few hours. A sign-up sheet is on the bulletin board and it looks like we need a couple more volunteers.

Thanks to all who volunteered on Friday, November 25th.

THIS AND THAT

MESSIAH CHORUS

“The Messiah” will be performed at St. John Vianney Church (7575 Bellflower Rd., Mentor) on Sunday, December 4th at 4:00 p.m. This is the 68th annual presentation by The Messiah Chorus of Lake County. The 200-voice choir is made of people throughout northeast Ohio, and also has professional soloists. The choir is accompanied by a string orchestra, piano, organ, harpsichord and trumpet, all under the direction of Kevin Donahue. A freewill offering will be collected.

Holiday Singles Event



On Friday, December 16th at 7:00 pm the Burning River Brass

will be performing at Painesville

United Methodist Church. There is no admission charge, but a free-will offering will be collected.

We're partnering with Cornerstone Church in this singles event that is an adults only evening out.

We will be leaving Cornerstone parking lot at 5:00 pm to get seats for this free Christmas concert. The Burning River Brass is AWESOME! Perhaps we can go out for coffee/dessert after the concert if there is an interest.

Tim Johnson

CWM

As is our tradition the CWM will be gathering items for love gifts for members who are 75 and over. We have 17 singles and one double bag(s) to pack. Please have your items to the church by Wednesday, December 14th, so they may be distributed during the Christmas potluck luncheon and caroling on December 18th.

CWM Executive Board will meet Sunday morning, Dec. 4 at 8:00am at the church. We will be finalize plans for our December activities.

FYI: Advent Retreat for Women Saturday, December 10th 9 AM to 3 PM

This retreat will be held at the Herald B. Monroe Lodge, Camp Christian. Led by Rev. Margot Connor & Wendy Taylor, the cost is \$40 and is due by Dec. 5th. More information & registration can be found at www.ccinoh.org



In Sympathy



We extend our deepest sympathy to the family and friends of Sharon Wright. Sharon went to her heavenly home on October 29th. Her memorial service was held on November 3rd.

THANK YOU

Christmas Child Shoe Box Blessings

Thank you to everyone who made the Christmas Child shoe box gifts a success. We packed and sent 87 shoe boxes for children around the world. Giving Christmas Child shoe boxes is one way we minister to those less fortunate than ourselves. Jesus said go into all the world teaching them everything I said (Matt 28). Each child receives a shoe box of toys with a message about Jesus inviting him/her to accept Jesus as his/her savior. Thank you for your time, talent and treasure in spreading the gospel to the ends of the earth.

Taunya Brewer and Laurie Martin and Carole Martin, Youth Sunday School Teachers

Holiday Dinner Blessings

We enjoyed a great holiday dinner this year cooked by these church members: Eric Van Boxel, Earl Johnson, Rick Bartlett, Bob Wright and Glenn & Janet Mers. We thank those who brought side dishes and desserts. Also we appreciate the those who provided the main course: Barb Head, Pauline Bowlus, Shelly Braden, Eric Van Boxel, Earl Johnson, and Rick Bartlett.

Kitchen clean-up is always a dirty job. Isn't there always one family member who hides until the

dishes are done? Well, not here!

Thanks to Judy Bartlett, Laurie Martin, Katie Hale, Carole Martin, Andy Brewer, Eric Van Boxel and Pastor Janet, our clean-up crew.

We couldn't have dinner without tables, chairs and place settings...well I guess we could, but it might get kind of messy. Thanks to Linda Warfield, Tim Johnson, Earl Johnson and Eric Van Boxel for taking care of those chores.

Thanks, Glenn Mers, Chef



"He who has not Christmas in his heart, will never find it under a tree."

-Roy L. Smith

We pray that this Christmas season you will find pure joy, love and peace that only Christ can bring to your lives.

May God bless you now and throughout the coming year.

The PCC Staff



Newsletter



December 2016

Pastor	Rev. Dr. Janet Mers
Worship	9:30am
Fellowship	10:30am
Sunday School	11:00am
E-Mail	sec@perrychristianchurch.org
Phone	(440) 259-4821
Website	www.perrychristianchurch.org

"The Crier"



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