



I'm going to let you in on a secret. I'm going to tell you something I'm getting my wife for Christmas. If you talk to her, don't tell her, though. It's a board game. Yeah, I know. "A board game?" But trust me, she really wants it. This isn't one of those times when I get her something I really want for myself and just kind of pretend it's a gift for her. This isn't even a game I'm that interested in, myself. It's called *Tapestry* and it's long and kind of boring.

AND it's very expensive. Like, you wouldn't believe how expensive. We'll just leave it at that. Ordinarily, there is no way I'd ever spend that much money on a board game. I can't imagine it's worth it. Even if it was a really good game, how many times are you going to play it? Plus, how could I possibly justify spending so much for something that's just for casual entertainment? So I know I'd never buy something like that for myself. It's just too expensive for a game.

BUT... in another sense, I'm not really buying a game; I'm buying a present. (I'll pause here to recognize that this may seem like I'm justifying something here, but let me remind you, IT'S A LONG, BORING GAME. No dragons. No space aliens. No car chases. Nothing like that. So I'm really not just getting it for myself.) And again, it's just a game. There's no way it'll be worth the money, at least not by itself.

But as a present, it's easily worth whatever money it might cost. Part of what makes a store-bought present such a treat is that it isn't something that you would buy for yourself. The cost is part of that. The extravagance is what makes it special. By giving it to someone, you're telling them that they are, themselves, worth a whole lot to you, that they are very valuable.

Probably you are in the midst of the gift giving process. Likely you've bought some things but still have others to get. Maybe you've even wrapped some things. Perhaps you're one of those people who goes around proudly announcing that all your shopping is done and wrapped and yadda yadda yadda.

Either way, we are all thinking about gifts in one way or another. While games and clothes, jewelry and books, cookies and toys and things like that might make excellent gifts for people on your list, stop for a moment and consider yourself as a gift.

You are precious. You are extravagant. You are beyond cost. Finer than anything money can buy. Of greater worth than a storehouse of treasure. Nothing you could buy at a store or order online or even craft with your own hands will ever be more valuable than you. You are an amazing gift to others.

Consider ways that you can share that gift with others. Helping out when someone is in need, visiting a person who might not get many guests, pitching in to help with a task or chore — these are things that matter most. Because every time we do something like that, we are giving a little piece of ourselves to someone else. We are investing in them. And we allow them to invest in us.

(continued on page 2)

(continued from page one)

We know that Jesus Christ is the original Christmas gift, given to us all because “God so loved the world...” Then, Jesus gave us the gift of himself again, so that we could have new and everlasting life. When we share ourselves with others, we continue the gift-giving of Christ.

You are a gift worth giving. Nothing else you give this Christmas is better than yourself. Give that gift to others and they will treasure it. Merry Christmas to all of you, and thank you for sharing your best gifts with all of us at Canfield Christian Church (Disciples of Christ).

--Pastor Ben

OUR CHURCH REMINDERS

ELDERS Serving in December:

- 1 Jan Pumphrey**
- 8 Jan Pumphrey**
- 15 Diana Secaur**
- 22 Sally Ifill**
- 29 Jan Pumphrey**

Coffee Fellowship – The host families for our Sunday morning coffee fellowship provide an invaluable service. Thank you, Lynne Fredo and Sally Ifill, for serving as Hostesses in December, and for Sally Payne and June Barnes for serving in January.



Our monthly Game Nights are taking the winter off to give everyone time to snuggle in and stay warm, but we look forward to starting them back up in the spring.



Thank you for supporting our children's efforts to help others while filling their Wagons of Hope on ***Sunday, February 9***. Your generosity makes a difference to needy families in our local area.



Candles for Sale!

To continue to support our Sunday school programs, Milton will have more candles for sale at \$2.00 each. They will be in colors for Valentine's Day. You can contact him or the church office for more information.



11/11/2019

Members of C. Christian Church.

I thank you for all of the prayers for my son, Ted, who passed away April 3, 2019.

For remembering him by having my sister, Dolores Hanna, light a candle for him on All Saints Day was special!

"For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord

"plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you a hope and a future."

Jeremiah 29:11

God Bless, Naomi Harris



Warmest Thanks

Dear friends in Christ,

A new heartfelt and special thank you for all the love and prayers while I was absent from your midst.

God has been so good to me and I am on the road to a full recovery from my accident.

My prayers and thoughts are with you all as together we grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ!

In Christian Love,
Margaret Clark

THANK YOU

Thank you very much to
everyone who helped with mom's
luncheon. Everything was greatly
appreciated. Thank yous for all your
prays. Our family feels very blessed
to be a part of this church family.

Thank yous,
The Niddel Family

Disciples Heritage Corner

Born: September 27, 1886

Remembered as the “Goddess of Nanking”, Minnie Vautrin devoted her career to her students in China, first at Luchowfu Girls’ School and then at Ginling College in Nanking. She served Ginling College as faculty member, dean of education and as president for two years.

Alongside her vocation of teaching she worked closely with the Disciples missionaries and

doctors in Nanking. As significant as her vocation was, her courageous resolve and steadfast

commitment to protect her students during the 1937 Rape of Nanking has ensured that she is remembered as a true hero.

When the Japanese army invaded Nanjing in December 1937, she and the other foreigners in the city worked to protect the civilians in the Nanking Safety Zone. Ginling Girls College where she taught became a haven of refuge, at times harboring up to 10,000 women in a college designed to support between 200 and 300. With only her wits and the use of an American flag, Vautrin was largely able to repel incursions into her college.

After the war, Vautrin was posthumously awarded the Emblem of the Blue Jade by the Chinese government for her sacrifices during the Nanjing Massacre. Her work saving the lives of Chinese civilians during the massacre is recounted in the biographical book, *American Goddess at the Rape of Nanking*, written by historian Hua-ling Hu.

In the documentary film *Nanking*, Vautrin was portrayed by actress Mariel Hemingway, who recited excerpts from Vautrin's diary.



**Celebrating the Love, Joy and Enthusiasm
that shapes Canfield Christian Church**

We hope you will enjoy celebrating September and October Birthdays and Anniversaries with us on **Sunday, February 9.**

BIRTHDAYS:

JANUARY:

1 Cassandra Arcenio
3 Janeth Condori
6 Angel Pollock
10 Sue Ann Russell
11 Emma Payton
11 Ian Michael Johnson
13 Justin Fredo
22 Laura Brown
27 Lilac Secaur
27 Carl Dahlgren

FEBRUARY:

1 Ricardo Condori
1 Brenda Hernan
3 Dawn Fredo
5 Robert Biggs
6 Gary Hendricks
7 Susan Payton
8 Karen Hunt
17 Timothy Wiant
17 Levi Sharp
19 Bud Richards
21 Alan Coy

AS YOU CONTINUE YOUR PRAYERS FOR OTHERS

Please remember those who are in assisted living/nursing homes with your prayers, phone calls, and visits:

AustinWoods: DeNise Martin

Brookdale: Barbara Hepplewhite

The Inn at Christine Valley: Irene Lehtonen

The following individuals and families do appreciate your continued prayers on their behalf:

Helen Bush

Helen Dishong

Debbie Tunison

Jeff Nape

David Dishong

David Metzger

Wesley Coy

Colt Schmidt (Great Grandson of Pat Wiant)

Doug Lewis (Brother of Joyce Coy)

Roseann Lobaugh (Sister of Anita Powell)

Jack Harris (Nephew of Jerry & Dolores Hanna)

Marcellene Hawk Mayhall (Friend of Anita Powell)

Rosa and Maria Arcenio (Sisters of Trinidad)

Scott Chepke (Received a transplant)

Rhonda Jones and Perri Graf (Friends of Sally Payne)

Melissa Miskell Tabbara (Friend of Sally Ifill)

J. Edward Baker (Littleton, Colorado)

Margrit Galano (Mother of Cindy Stackhouse)

Jennifer Cox (Daughter of Jim & Carol Swartz)

Sandra Jeffries, Lyne Ahalt and John Beales

Robby Cox (Son of Rob & Jennifer Cox)

(Friends of Dorris Baringer)

It is important to remember our service members in your daily prayers.



*How wonderful it is to have so many
smiling and friendly children
in Church!*



January 2020

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 Happy New Year!	2	3	4
5 Worship 10:30 am	6 AA Meeting 7 pm	7	8 Wednesday Weight Watchers 8-9 am	9 Operation Blessing 10 am	10	11
12 Worship 10:30 am	13 MEETINGS: Worship Committee 6 pm General Board 7 pm AA Meeting 7 pm	14	15 Wednesday Weight Watchers 8-9 am	16 Operation Blessing 10 am	17 Alzheimer's Support Group 10 am	18
19 Worship 10:30 am	20 AA Meeting 7 pm	21	22 Wednesday Weight Watchers 8-9 am	23	24	25
26 Worship 10:30 am Souper Sunday	27 AA Meeting 7 pm	28	30 Wednesday Weight Watchers 8-9 am	31		

CANFIELD CHRISTIAN CHURCH

123 S. Broad St.

Canfield, Ohio 44406

330-533-2246

Email: canfield.christian.church@zoominternet.net

Website: canfieldchristianchurch.org

Secretary, Joann Detwiler

Electronic Service Requested

NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION

U.S. POSTAGE PAID

YOUNGSTOWN OH

PERMIT NO. 28



**Canfield Christian Church Disciples of Christ, Canfield
Ohio Touching Lives with Compassion, Understanding and
Hope while Modeling the Love of Christ since 1829**