



Holiday Season 2022 Newsletter  
from:



**Greetings from Pastor Matt:**



Otterbein UMC Family,

I am amazed by the unending love of the Lord. Because the Lord is love, He does not leave us or forsake us. The Lord has always been with us and that will not change. Why? Because Christ is King! Read Matthew 25:31-46.

Christ the King Sunday is before Advent. Within the gospels the title Christ and the title King are not used together. But Christ is referred to as a king. Matthew 2:2, "Where is the newborn king of the Jews?" John 18, Pilate referred to Jesus as, "King of the Jews."

Jesus used the sheep and goat comparison not because he had something against goats. But for us to realize that Jesus will make all things clear. What is clear? Christ is the king of love. God's love is made known through Jesus Christ. Christ came to the lowly and Christ is happy to dwell with the least of these.

The love bond between Christ and all people is closer and greater than any human relationship. Between Christ the King and all people is an eternal bond. What makes this eternal bond so strong? It is love. With love I share three assurances as we prepare for the season of Advent.

The King Shepherd will gather his flock, will bring them back into the fold, and will live eternally with them. Do not let the world cause you to be separated from the love of Christ the King. *Pastor Matt*

**Christmas Baskets** With the Holidays coming, we are preparing baskets for families at Christmas. We have a list of names to help. If you wish to add a name, please sign the family name and information on the sheet on the narthex bulletin board or call the church office. The baskets will be ready for pick up Sunday, December 19<sup>th</sup>. Monetary donations to help with gift cards will be appreciated. Mark an offering envelope "baskets" or send your contribution to the church office.



**Nativity Sets** We are planning a display of Nativity Scenes, showing the ones people have collected. We would like to see and enjoy them also. The display will be in the Fellowship Hall from December 4<sup>th</sup>– December 11<sup>th</sup>. Please write a little story about your Scene, and put it on a card to display with your Scene.

**Poinsettias** If you would like to order poinsettias to be in the altar area on Sunday, December 18<sup>th</sup> and Christmas Eve, please complete the information on the Special flower envelope or call the office to place your order. Enclose the correct amount of money in the envelope. The flowers will be available for pick up following the Christmas Eve service. Cost is \$ 8.50 and deadline to order is Sunday, December 4<sup>th</sup>.



**Children's Christmas** The children in the Sunday school department have their Christmas Program during the 10:15 am worship service on Sunday, December 18<sup>th</sup>. At 9:00 am that day they will have a visit from Santa and will receive a treat bag. This will all follow the Christmas breakfast at 8:00 am.

**Christmas Program** The Children's Department will be leading a Christmas program on Sunday December 18<sup>th</sup> during worship service. The program is called "New Star" and will be telling the story of Jesus' birth, incorporating our Sunday school classes and several members of the congregation. Please join us, all children and youth are welcome to participate. We will be having a dress rehearsal December 11<sup>th</sup> after worship service that Sunday. Pizza and drinks will be provided for lunch. Any questions about the program, please refer to Megan Kenney or Cathy Hostettler.

**Christmas Eve** We will celebrate the coming birth of Christ on Christmas Eve, at 7:30 pm. Rev. Garrabrant will give the message and the choirs will offer Christmas melodies. We will partake of Holy Communion. The evening will conclude with candle lighting. Christmas Day will begin at 9:00 am in the Fellowship Hall with a fellowship time with snacks and sharing. Worship will be at 10:15 am in the sanctuary.



**Jr/Sr. High** These Sunday school classes have begun studying the Bible in its entirety with a study called "Gospel Foundations". It is a year-long study that journeys from Genesis to Revelation. This study is teaching the students God's word by also incorporating daily life application and conversation.



**Otterbein United Women in Faith** will meet Tuesday, December 5<sup>th</sup> at 1:00 pm to pack baskets for shut-ins. Cookies and fruit are needed. Linda Icardi will have the program. Sunday, January 8<sup>th</sup>, the UWF will have their annual Call to Prayer Sunday worship at 10:15 am. This will feature a mission speaker and a special offering. On Saturday, January 21<sup>st</sup>, 2023, they will meet for their service project meeting. That is "Blanket Day" and each woman is asked to bring \$10.00 to cover the cost of a Church World Service blanket. These are used during disasters for shelter, warmth, and whatever is needed. Annual Valentine Breakfast & Auction, Saturday, February 11<sup>th</sup>, beginning at 8:30 am. We welcome baked goods, homemade candy, sewing crafts, knitted & crocheted items, woodworking items. If you can make it, we can sell it!!! Proceeds go to Red Bird Mission School, Wings of Caring, McCurdy School, Mozambique Hospital, Christian Children's Home in Ohio, Rahab Project and Hannah's House. Cost for the breakfast is: adults \$5.00; children ages 6-12, \$3.00 and age 5 and under, free. Michelle Feucht will be taking reservations Sunday, January 29<sup>th</sup> and February 5<sup>th</sup>. All women are invited to these events.

**Christmas Card** We will once again offer the opportunity to give Christmas cards to church friends. The boxes are in the narthex. You can put the postage you save in the container to support Capital Improvement. If you have questions, call Judy Carrick.



**Facilities Update** The Otterbein Board of Trustees accomplished several projects during 2022, including blinds in classrooms, entryway lights, hiring of a second custodian, reorganization of storage areas, and boiler repairs at the church, as well as, tree removal and furnace flu repair at the parsonage. We have approved the contract for replacing the narthex roof and hope to have it completed before year end. We are looking forward to serving Otterbein in 2023.

**SPR Committee** Looking back on 2022, the SPR Committee wanted to show our appreciation by providing monthly homemade gifts to our staff. The SPR Committee also provided an appreciation dinner for our Children's Sunday school teachers. We continue to search for a Youth Director. If you or someone you know is interested please contact the church office. The Staff Parish Committee wishes you all a Blessed Christmas Holiday Season!

**Teddy Bear Ministry** The hope is to begin the Teddy Bear Ministry in January. The ministry is, folks can donate NEW TEDDY BEARS to be named, sit in worship on a Sunday, and then be picked up to give to someone who needs a smile or cheer. The NEW Bears are to be put on the rack in the narthex. The bulletin board will have the names of the Bears, where you sign them out. If you have questions, call Judy Carrick.

**Sociable 60's** Our plans are to begin Sociable 60's in March. Anyone 50 or older who is retired is welcome. There are no dues. We go to a pre-planned restaurant to eat, have a program and business meeting. We meet on the first Monday of the month at 12:00 noon. The meal is the only cost to you. More information will follow at a later date. Call with questions to Judy Carrick, President.



**Community Meal** The next free Community Meal is Tuesday, December 20<sup>th</sup> from 5:00 pm-6:30 pm. The menu is Pulled Pork, Pasta Salad/Macaroni Salad Applesauce Dessert & Beverages. You may dine-in or have carryout. Community Meals are the third Tuesday of the month.



**Summer Camp** you know that the average cost of 1 whole week of summer camp at Wanake is \$ 439 per camper? There are discounts available through early registration, families sending siblings, Tuscarawas District and East Ohio Conference camperships, and even our church helped financially to ensure our youth have a tremendous faith-based camp experience during the summer months. East Ohio Conference and Tuscarawas District awarded \$2,946 to several Otterbein families, who filled out campership forms this past May. Otterbein and our UMF contributed to the cost of each camper's fees \$ 1,926 funds! What does all this mean? Without all this financial support, 14 campers from ten different families would not have had the spiritual experiences from summer camp this past season.

**Winter Training Opportunity** Want to try some deeper study over the winter months? Southwestern College, a UM institution in Winfield, KS offers an online training ministry at [beadisciple.com](http://beadisciple.com). They have a wide range of 2-3 week courses for less than \$100. The classes are proctored by experienced educators and offer a valuable small group experience like Children's' Ministry, Christian Education, Evangelism, and Prayer. Give it a whirl! Contact Greg Miller (330) 353-9899 for more info.

**Email Addresses** We are emailing the weekly bulletins. If we do not have your email address, please send it to us at [secretary@otterbeinconnection.org](mailto:secretary@otterbeinconnection.org). If you have any contact changes, please let us know. Thank you.