

# otterbein Connection

*Holiday Season 2023 Newsletter from:*



## Greetings from Pastor Carl:

It is beginning to look and sound like Christmas. Many activities are in full swing. Homes, churches, shopping malls are decorated inside and outside with wreaths, lights, trees, nativities, and more.

Our preparations for Advent and Christmas fill our time with baking, wrapping, traveling, parties, special events and more. We wonder, will we have time to get everything done? As followers of Jesus, we want to make sure all of our preparations and celebrations don't crowd out room for the coming birth of Christ. We have to be intentional to keep Jesus at the center of our celebration.

Only a few discovered what God was doing in that feeding trough in Bethlehem. Those shepherds and Magi would never be the same. During that season of wonder, celebration and anticipation and new life let us be intentional in sharing Good News with others. Do this in practical ways of showing love to neighbors, at work, recreation, school or wherever.

As John says in his Gospel, "God loved the world so much he gave his one and only son." May we not miss the reality of the Christ Child to bring us hope, love, joy, peace, and new life.

Merry Christmas,  
*Pastor Carl*



**Blue Christmas** We will have a Blue Christmas service on Sunday, December 10<sup>th</sup> at 3:00 pm. This service is for those experiencing loss of a loved one, loss of a job, recent move, dealing with illness and pain - a loss of any kind. Feeling depressed, difficult memories and not in the Christmas spirit. If you would like to help in this service, please see Pastor, Carl.



**The Cookie Walk is Back!** Sunday, December 10<sup>th</sup> following worship, you can choose your favorite cookies and purchase a Baker's Dozen for \$7.00. We hope you also bake cookies, make candy and special treats, bring them to the church and everyone can choose what they want to buy. The Proceeds will go the Capital Funds. For questions, see Missy Diekmann.



**Holiday Breakfast** Sunday, December 17<sup>th</sup> will begin with a hot breakfast at 8:00 am. The menu will be French toast sticks, sausage, Amish rolls, assorted Danish rolls, fruit, cereal, juice, coffee, and tea. At 9:00 am Santa will be here to visit with the kids and give them a treat bag. There is no Sunday school that day. All are invited to breakfast and fellowship.

**Children's Christmas** We will be having a dress rehearsal December 10<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 am, during the Sunday School hour, for the Christmas program. Any questions about the program, please see Cathy Hostettler. The program is during the 10:15 am worship service on Sunday, December 17<sup>th</sup>.

**Christmas Eve** Since Christmas Eve is on Sunday this year we will have our usual worship on Sunday morning at 10:15 am. The Sunday school classes will meet at 9:00 am. We will celebrate the coming birth of Christ on Christmas Eve, at 7:30 pm. Which will include carols, candles and scriptures. If you are willing to read a scripture, please let Pastor Carl know.



**Poinsettias** If you ordered poinsettias to be in the altar available for pick up following the Christmas Eve evening service.



**Christmas Cards** 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, check with Judy Carrick. Check the boxes and see if you received some cards.





**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 14<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 20<sup>th</sup>, 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 10<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, 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 28<sup>th</sup> and February 4<sup>th</sup>. All women are invited to these events.



**Youth Christmas Get-together** Calling all youth!!! Join us on Sunday, December 17<sup>th</sup> for a Christmas gathering. All youth grades 7-12 are invited to the annual Christmas party. Watch for the time and other details. Our youth directors are Alicia Edinger and Stacy Freed. Check in with them for Youth every Sunday evening from 6:00 pm - 7:30 pm. More to come!!

**Security Update** In an effort to keep our church safe, the Board of Trustees have upgraded our security system. There is an intercom system at the front door, narthex double doors and the children's education wing doors. Thanks to our trustees for always being proactive.

**Teddy Bear Ministry** The Teddy Bear Ministry is ready and anxious for our bears to find new homes. Folks donate NEW TEDDY BEARS to be named, sit in worship on Sunday, and then picked up to give to someone who needs a smile or cheer. The bulletin board has the names of the Bears, where you sign them out. If you have questions, check with Judy Carrick.



**Sociable 60's** The Sociable Sixties meet the first Monday of the month at noon in an area restaurant or at Otterbein. Judy Carrick is the president of this group. If you like food, fellowship, and friends, you will love being with this group. Watch bulletin for locations.

**Community Meal** The next free Community Meal is Tuesday, December 19<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.



**Lunch after Church will resume January 21<sup>st</sup> at 11:30 am.** The menu will be roast beef, mashed potatoes and gravy vegetable, applesauce, coleslaw, rolls, dessert and beverages. Cost is adults \$10.00; age 6-12 is \$5.00; age 5 and under, free.

**Readiness 360** The church has been in an evaluating/planning program with our coach, Rev. Jeff Croft. We will have an extended session on Saturday, January 13<sup>th</sup> at Bolivar UMC from 9:00 am - 3:00 pm to complete this part of it. If you are interested in attending, please sign up on the form on the Blessings Board in the narthex. Lunch will be provided.



**Summer Camp** It is about time to think "camping!" There are discounts available through early registration, families sending siblings, District and Conference camperships, and our church helps financially to ensure our youth have a tremendous faith-based camp experience during the summer months. Watch for registration material.

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

Have a wonderful holiday season. See you in church.

