



Holiday Season 2024 Newsletter from



**Greetings from Pastor Bill and Tammy,**

“For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Prince of Peace”. These are the words Isaiah writes about the birth of our Savior Lord Jesus. This Christmas season is very exciting for Tammy and I as it is the first Christmas we get to celebrate with our family here at Otterbein UMC. It seems like it was just yesterday, that Tammy and I were looking forward to our first Sunday here at Otterbein, and now Christmas time is just around the corner. In the last few months many of our church family have undergone: surgeries, health problems and medical tests, with prayers helping and comforting everyone in these situations. Otterbein is so blessed to have the wonderful and faithful prayer warriors we have.



As we enter this Christmas season let us not lose sight of the “reason for the season”, that of God’s Wonderful Gift to us of His only Son Jesus the Christ. Let us in our prayers, thank God for the birth of Jesus and pray for all those who are “not so cheerful” at this time of the year. Love, Peace, Hope and Joy is what Tammy and I pray for each and every one of you this Christmas season and into 2025.

Merry Christmas and God’s Blessing to all, Pastor Bill and Tammy

**Advent Preparation** Long before silver bells jingled, Christmas lights twinkled, and horse drawn sleighs went dashing through the snow, God was at work.

Three women played significant roles in our Lord’s birth. Elizabeth, Mary, and Anna. Each of their lives were different. Elizabeth was married, settled and mature. Her relative, Mary was young and living at home. She was engaged to Joseph. Anna, an elderly widow was devoted to God every waking hour. The women who carry this story, teach us to wait upon the Lord. They teach us to trust, pray, obey and hope. Remember God has chosen each one of us too! He truly and always will love you. Advent is a season for reflection, preparation, and renewal. It is the perfect time to reach for God’s word, to read and ponder on the birth stories in Matthew and Luke. These stories of the Christ Child await us. May each of us discover the wonder and miracle of Christ’s birth, so we may have hope, love, joy, and peace.



Enjoy your journey, Rev. Carl

**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 the Sanctuary Roof Replacement Fund. If you have questions, check with Judy Carrick. Check the boxes and see if you received some cards.



**Blue Christmas** We will have a Blue Christmas service on Sunday, December 8<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. Pastor Carl, our Minister of Visitation, will lead this service.

**Holiday Breakfast** Sunday, December 15<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 rehearsal on Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup>, following the Children’s Chat. Cathy Hostetler is the Program Director. The program is during the 10:15 am worship hour on Sunday, December 15<sup>th</sup>.

**Christmas Eve** We will celebrate the coming birth of Christ on Christmas Eve, at 7:30 pm. This will include carols, candles and scriptures.



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



United Women in Faith

**Otterbein United Women in Faith** will meet Tuesday, December 10<sup>th</sup> at 1:00 pm to pack baskets for shut-ins. Cookies and fruit are needed. Linda Icardi will have the program and Doris Brown will present the World Thank Offering. Sunday, January 12<sup>th</sup>, the UWF will have their annual Call to Prayer Sunday worship at 10:15 am. This will feature mission information and a special offering. On Saturday, January 18<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. Annual Valentine Breakfast & Auction is Saturday, February 8<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!!! 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 26<sup>th</sup> and February 2<sup>nd</sup>. All women are invited to these events.

**Sound Technician Needed** We are in need of someone to learn to run the sound board. Please see Michael Medley or text (330) 353-0848. Training will be provided. We are also in need of someone to help with the website.



**Youth Group** Our Youth Group, grades 6-12, is meeting monthly. Watch the weekly bulletin for dates and information about activities.

**Bible Study** Is there interest in a Bible Study or Study group that would be held possibly in the morning and evening, once a week, that would be different material than the Sunday School classes? Are there any men that would be interested in a "Men Devotional group" that would meet once a month or twice a month if wanted, that would have the same daily devotional and would discuss thoughts from that devotional at each meeting? If interested, contact Pastor Bill.

**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 17<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.



**Kid's Program JAM** (Jesus and Me) is held during each Community Meal, families can eat from 5:00 pm - 5:30 pm, then the children, K-grade 6 will go to the classroom wing for an hour.

**Lunch after Church will resume January 19<sup>th</sup> at 11:30 am.** The menu will be boneless chicken breast, mashed potatoes and gravy vegetable, applesauce, rolls, dessert and beverages. Cost is adults \$10.00; age 6-12 is \$5.00; age 5 and under, free.

**Giving Statements** The 2024 Giving Statements will be emailed or mailed by the end of January.

**Keep Informed:** If you would like to get frequent text reminders, please sign up for the Otterbein Remind. Just text, @otter1963 to 81010. Thanks.

**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.

