

A Letter from the Pastor Written by Pastor Jay Anderson

Advent Greetings!

Wow! Have these few months of summer and fall flown by or what?!? As this newsletter comes out to you we are in the season of Advent. So I guess I should be saying to you,

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

Happy liturgical new year, that is. Advent is the beginning of the church year - a time of waiting and anticipating the coming of the Christ, who is both coming and already here! No wonder this calendar gets some folks so confused!

We begin the church year with the coming of Christ, and then spend the rest of the year reflecting, remembering, and renewing our lives and our spirits in the knowledge of what all of that means to us. In the church year, Christmas doesn't actually begin until Christmas Day (sundown on Christmas Eve) and then extends for twelve days (thus the song) until Epiphany, on January 6th. Our society pushes Christmas forward, unable to stomach a time of waiting and watching, waiting and watching. Ours is a society where instant gratification isn't quick enough!

I invite you to consider s-l-o-w-i-n-g d-o-w-n this Advent Season, giving Advent (and God) time to work on you, keeping society's Christmas hoopla at bay as long as you can, and just spending some time considering what God might have in store for you, what blessings you might be missing out on, because you're rushing to get to the "big day" (the best prices are closer to Christmas Day anyway! Trust me, I'm a recovering retailer!)

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For many years, when I was in retail, Christmas lost all joy for me. In fact, as much as I'm pained to admit it, I hated Christmas. It was a period of several weeks of not seeing my family, working ridiculously long hours without days off, and dealing with customers who were upset that the latest, greatest, toy or tech items were in short supply and assuming it was somehow my fault -that I had somehow conspired with the manufacturer, the transportation companies and everyone else to rob little Johnny or Cindy of a Merry Christmas. Ebenezer Scrooge had NOTHING on me!

The JOY began to return for me when I left retail (not immediately, mind you, I did say I am a RECOVERING retailer) but has taken many years to elevate me beyond "Bah Humbug" status. Getting to be with my family again, being able to be in worship again on Christmas Eve, just having the time to reflect on what this first season of the new year is truly all about has made a huge difference for me. Am I totally there yet? No, but I get closer every year, and I'm looking forward to spending this Advent and Christmas with you.

There are ways for you to connect to the true meaning of the season this year, if you're willing to try. Our Advent Study, "Almost Christmas" is one way. Delivering poinsettias and brightening the season for some of our homebound members who can't get out is another. Our worship series for Advent is called "Heaven and Nature Sing," and is built on the 300th anniversary of the song, "Joy to the World." You could commit to being in worship each week to soak in the reason for the season. I've also extended an invitation to read one chapter of the Gospel of Luke each day in December, which will take you up through Christmas Eve. Our Chancel Choir will present the cantata, "Darkness Into Light" on Sunday, December 22nd. Our Christmas Eve Worship schedule includes a Family Service at 5:00 p.m. featuring our Children's Ministry groups, followed by a potluck meal, and then a Traditional Service at 7:30 p.m. And there is more that be found by checking out the worship folder, our weekly announcements emails, or just by asking.

So may you give yourself the gift of waiting this year. May you give yourself the gift of Joy, Peace, Hope, and Love in all of their wonderful manifestations. And when the right time comes, may you have a wonderful and joy-filled Christmas!

Holiday Blessings,

Pastor Jay



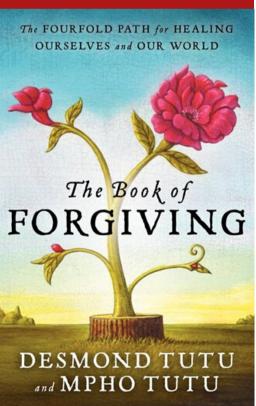


Join us every month in the
"Staff's Cozy Corner" as we
showcase a staff member as
they share their current
favorite reading materials.
This month, April joins us as
she shares about her
current book of choice: "The
Book of Forgiving" and her
progress in reading the
entire Bible throughout this
year!

Reading has always been a favorite activity for me. It is even more enjoyable since having successful cataract surgery! After a recent major life event, I went in search of a book to help me process through this change. I had a conversation with Pastor Jennifer as I visited with her at Stonybrook UMC and she recommended, "The Book of Forgiving" by Desmond and Mpho Tutu. The stories of how people were able to forgive after experiencing devastating tragedies inspired me to work through the Fourfold Path. I am now on the way to being able to forgive (not forget) as I continue my healing process.

Eleven months ago I also took the "read the Bible in a year" challenge! There is a certain satisfaction in checking off the readings list each day that I complete them. By the time this article is published, I'll be in the final chapters of Ezekiel and starting 1 John. Here are a few of the things that have stuck with me so far:

- The level of violence in the Old Testament is pretty astounding. I think it is hard to realize the magnitude of God's wrath when reading a few verses in the weekly lectionary.
- The details of the construction of Solomon's temple are fascinating to me. As a church facilities manager, I can't even comprehend the enormity of that building project!
- I enjoyed reading through the Psalms. My favorite is Psalm 150 it speaks to the musician in me.





Now, will you take the challenge of reading the Bible in a year? Happy reading!

Children's Ministry

BY ERIN FLORY

During November our M&Ms kids learned about serving like Jesus. We used Matthew 25 as at the basis of our lessons. The children learned that when they serve the "least of these" they are serving Jesus. Each week during M&Ms the children had the opportunity to serve their neighbors. They served our neighbors who are hungry by preparing Thanksgiving Blessing Bags for WARM. They cared for those who are sick by sending cards to children who are hospitalized at children's hospitals across the country. They also brought joy to those who may be lonely by sending Thanksgiving cards to our homebound church members. Our hearts were filled as we watched God work through our youngest disciples. -Miss Erin

Music and the Master (M&Ms) Meets Every Thursday

Join us Thursday nights from 5:30-7:00 p.m. for music, fellowship, food and study. During December, the children will be learning about the promise of Jesus and also preparing for the 5:00 p.m. Christmas Eve family service. The typical M&M schedule is:

5:30-6:00 p.m.

- -Cherub Choir (toddlers-K and their grown-ups) in the Fellowship Hall
- -Faith Development (1st-5th graders) in Room 17
- -Youth (6th-12th grade) study hall in the youth rooms or gym time

6:00-6:30 p.m.

Everyone gathers for supper in the Fellowship Hall. Families sign up to cook part of the meal on a rotating basis.

6:30-7:00 p.m.

- -Godly Play (3 year olds-K) in Room 8
- -Junior Choir (1st-5th grade) in the movie room upstairs
- -Youth Bible Studies (6th-12th graders) in the youth rooms
- -Adult Bible Study and Conversation with nursery care
- provided

7:00-7:30 p.m.

Practice for Christmas Eve drama (1st-5th graders)

Sunday School

Join us for Children's Sunday school from 9:30-10:30 on Sunday mornings. All children age 3 through fifth graders gather in the Movie Room upstairs at 9:30 for a time of singing and fellowship. The preschool/kindergartners then transition downstairs to Room 8 and the 1st-5th graders move to room 17 for their lesson. In December we will begin our winter quarter and jump from the Old Testament to the New Testament as we dive into the Christmas story.

Rainbows and Dewdrops

Rainbows and Dewdrops are the Children's Church programs held during the 11:00 worship service. Rainbows is for children in 1st-3rd grade while Dewdrops is for 3 year olds-kindergarten. All children are invited to begin the worship service with their families, participate in the Children's Moment during the service and then follow their teachers to their classrooms. Dewdrops is held in Room 8 downstairs and Rainbows is held in Room 17 upstairs. Our theme for the year is "Loving God, Loving Neighbor." Our lessons all focus on the concept of faith lived out in community. In December we will dive into the Christmas story by looking at it from the perspective of Mary, Joseph, the angels and the shepherds.

Children's Ministry

Kids Night In

Need a date night or a chance to do some Christmas shopping? Bring your kids to Kids Night In on Saturday, December 7th. Kids Night In is for all kids 3 years old-5th graders. This will be a special Christmas Kids Night In, so have your kids plan to wear the pajamas and be ready for a fun night of cookie decorating, Christmas crafts and games. We will have tacos and fruit for supper (with hot chocolate and cookies for dessert!) and then enjoy the movie The Star. Cost is \$10/child or \$25/family. Please let Miss Erin know by 9:00 a.m. Friday, December 6 if we can count your kids IN!

M&Ms in Mission

Thank you to all who helped with the Thanksgiving Blessing Bags for WARM! Our M&Ms families donated 20 bags of groceries to help WARM provide a Thanksgiving meal to those in need in our community.

Get Ready to Count Up to Christmas!

You are invited to join our M&Ms families in counting up to Christmas. Find a box this week and beginning Sunday, December 1, add one item each day for the WARM Choice Market food pantry. Most needed items include canned potatoes, carrots, peas, mixed vegetables, spaghetti sauce, tuna, jelly and canned pineapple. By Christmas Eve, you'll have 24 items in your box! Thanks for being a blessing to our neighbors in need.

Christmas Eve News

Our children are hard at work preparing for the 5:00 Family Service on Christmas Eve. Plan to join us and be blessed as the children share the message of the Christmas story through Scripture, music and drama. All 1st-5th graders, please plan to attend the dress rehearsal practice Sunday, December 22 from 3:30-5:30pm. Children with parts in the Nativity play, please plan to stay after M&Ms from 7:00-7:30 for extra practice.

Chime Choir and Junior Choir News

The Children's Chime Choir and Junior Choir will share music during the vespers service at Friendship Village on Sunday evening, December 15. We will meet at the main entrance to Friendship Village (5800 Forest Hills Blvd. Columbus, OH 43231) at 5:30 p.m. Please be on time so we can run through our music quickly before the service begins.

Memory Verses!

Our kids are working hard to memorize Scripture each month.

These are our memory verses from November.

Sunday School Verse
Every family of earth will be blessed because of you and your
descendants (Genesis 28:14)

Rainbows/Dewdrops Verse
Your word is a lamp before my feet and a light for my journey
(Psalm 110:105)



Children's Ministry



Important Dates for November

Kids Night In - Saturday, December 7 (5:00-8:00 p.m.)

Children's Chime Choir and Junior Choir at Friendship Village - Sunday, December 15 (5:30-7:00 p.m.)

Christmas Eve Practice (1st-5th graders) - Sunday, December 22 (3:30-5:00 p.m.)

Family Christmas Eve Service - Tuesday, December 24 5:00 p.m.

No M&Ms - Thursday, December 28 and January 2

U2 in December

Saturday, December 14, 6:00-8:00 p.m.

Dinner & Games

All 4th-6th graders are invited for dinner, board games, and conversation. We will enjoy dinner together, talk about what U2 would like to do in 2020, and play some board games. We will be meeting the chapel. Please let Bev (bev@chmaster.org) or Lucy (gorillajc@yahoo.com) know if you are going to join us!





Next Generation Ministry

SUNDAY NIGHT YOUTH GROUP AND OTHER EVENTS

Youth Sunday School During Advent

December 1, 8, 15, 22, 29 9:30-10:30 a.m.

All youth are invited to join us for Sunday School during Advent as we look at the book, "Almost Christmas: A Wesleyan Advent Experience" We will be looking at John Wesley's famous sermon "The Almost Christmas" in which he encouraged people to follow Christ wholeheartedly, striving to be the ultimate Christian. We will explore how we can make the same commitment to Christ during Advent, connecting our Wesleyan heritage with the traditional Advent themes of Peace, Hope, Love, and Joy.

Youth Sunday Nights

December 1 6:00-7:30 p.m.

"Christmas Presence"

All youth are invited to youth group as we look at how we can be present during this Christmas season without focusing too much on the Christmas presents we want under the Christmas tree.

December 8 4:00-6:00 p.m.

We will meet at church and then head to Friendship Village to deliver poinsettias and Christmas Carol.

December 15 6:00-8:00 p.m.

It's Youth Group Christmas Party Time!

All youth are invited to join us as we celebrate Christmas together. We will decorate (and eat) cookies, have our annual "Socking" exchange, AND put together some hygiene bags we can bring to a homeless shelter for teens in Columbus. We will be collecting trial size toiletries, tooth brushes, combs, etc. We will package them, remembering some of the "least of these" this Christmas.



Next Generation Ministry

SUNDAY NIGHT YOUTH GROUP AND OTHER EVENTS

Mark your Calendars!!

Friday, January 3-Saturday, January 4, 2019 8:00 p.m.-8:00 a.m.

The Youth Lock-in will be held on Friday, January 3-Saturday, January 4 (8:00 p.m.-8:00 a.m.) This will be for all youth in grades 6-12. Cost is \$10/person All youth in grades 6-12 are invited to join us for the Lock-In. There will be games, worship, a donut run, movies, and much, much, more. Bring a sleeping bag and pillow, and anything else you need to sleep. Friends are welcome. (We need to have forms filled out, so make sure you let Bev Know you have friends coming)!

THE 11th ANNUAL YOUTH CHILI LUNCHEON!

Sunday, January 12

Join us after 11:00 a.m. worship for our 11th Annual Chili Luncheon. We'll be serving some of the best chili in Westerville, chicken noodle soup, salad bar, and great desserts. Gluten Free & Vegetarian options will be available. The funds from this lunch will help defray the cost of the 2020 REACH Work Camp to Gettysburg, Pennsylvania. We currently are looking at approximately 35 youth and adults planning to be a part of our Summer Mission Trip Experience.



Winter Ringing Opportunity for Youth

Come ring in the New Year with the Youth Bells this January. We will begin rehearsals on Thursday, January 16 and play in worship in March (date TBD). All rehearsals are at 5:30 p.m. If you are interested and able to join us, please email, text or phone Kim Hoessly at 614-537-8596, kim@chmaster.org or catch Kim in Church on Sundays.

The Holiday Season is Here!

Sundays, December 1, 8 and 15 9:45 a.m.-10:30 a.m.: Advent Bible Study

Join us as we study "Almost Christmas" and explore how we can make a commitment to Christ during Advent, connecting our Wesleyan heritage with the traditional Advent themes of Peace, Hope, Joy and Love. Books are \$12 and we hope you will join us as you are able!

Sundays, December 1 and 8: The Heifer International Table

The Heifer International Table will be in the gathering space on December 1 and 8. This fundraiser is a great opportunity to help families be self-supporting. Per tradition, you can purchase animals for the wooden ark via check or cash during these Sundays in the gathering space. Make sure you save the dates on your calendar now!

Now through December 8: Poinsettia's

You may begin ordering poinsettia's! We are also looking for people/families to deliver poinsettias to our homebound members. You may sign up in the Gathering Space or contact the church office. Poinsettias should be delivered the week of December 7th so that they can be enjoyed throughout the season. If you have any questions, please contact the church office. Order deadline for all poinsettias is December 8.

December 1- December 24: Counting Up to Christmas

You are invited to join our M&Ms families in counting up to Christmas. Find a box beginning Sunday, December 1, and add one item each day for the WARM Choice Market food pantry. Most needed items include canned potatoes, carrots, peas, mixed vegetables, spaghetti sauce, tuna, jelly and canned pineapple. By Christmas Eve, you'll have 24 items in your box! Thanks for being a blessing to our neighbors in need.

Friday, December 13 7:00 p.m.: Habitat for Humanity Progressive Christmas Concert

A walking event, stopping in three Uptown churches – Church of the Master, Church of the Messiah, and First Presbyterian Church – all within about a block of each other. Ticket holders attend a short concert in each of the three churches and are led to the next by costumed guides with lanterns. It's a great way to get into the holiday spirit, see beautifully decorated historic churches, and hear great music provided by the choirs and musicians of our member churches. Save the date and more information to come!

Tuesday, December 24, 6:15 p.m.: Church-Wide Christmas Eve Potluck Dinner

All are invited! Are you having trouble figuring out how to find time to eat supper and attend the Christmas Eve services? We've got the answer for you! Join us for a Potluck Supper between the two services. The meal will begin around 6:15 p.m. To facilitate planning, please let Bev Pancoast (bev@chmaster.org or 330-416-4656) know by Sunday, December 22 if you plan to join. You can sign up on the link below so we know what people are bringing: https://www.PerfectPotluck.com/JRCX1704 If you have questions, please contact Bev.

Tuesday, December 24 Christmas Eve Worship Services

5:00 p.m. Family Worship Service | 7:30 p.m. Traditional Worship Service

Announcements, Events and Updates





Progressive Christmas Concert

The Westerville Habitat Partnership welcomes you to enjoy an evening of art, food, and music at its annual Progressive Christmas Concert on Friday, December 13th. A delicious soup supper served in handcrafted bowls will start at 5:00 at the Otterbein Campus Center and will continue until the progressive concert starts at 7:00. Choirs from Church of the Messiah, Grace Lutheran Church, Church of the Master, Central College Presbyterian Church, and First Presbyterian Church will be performing at churches located in the Uptown area. Guests will also have the opportunity to hear from a Habitat representative during the evening's events to see how this ministry is providing quality affording housing in Central Ohio. All proceeds from this event help continue that mission. For tickets, please see Josh Flory, stop by the table in the Gathering Area on December 1st and 8th, or purchase them online at WestervilleHabitat.org.



History of the Angel Banners

The Angel banners are given in memory of Thomas McVetty Stutz (1983-1994). They were designed by Carol Shackson; Carol and Linda Stutz made them for the Advent Season in 1994. The angels are worshipping the Christ child, who came for every person on Earth. Each represents one of the earth's continents, and together they portray the joy of all the world's peoples. The intent was to portray various nationalities in costumes that represent their traditional dress. The Indian angel wears a sari made of fabric that a friend's mother brought with her from India when she came to the US. The Hispanic angel wears an actual straw hat that we cut in half before attaching. The angel in church choir robes holds a page from an old Church of the Master hymnal.

Mitten Tree

In a cooperative project between Missions and Outreach, this year we are asking you to support a Mitten Tree in the Gathering Space. Your gifts of mittens, gloves, hats, and scarves for all ages and all genders will be collected through the Advent Season and then delivered to those in need through our Laundry Ministry. These items can be found almost anywhere this time of year, on sale much of the time. Or, if you are gifted in this way, home knitted items would be a wonderfully personal addition to the tree as well. The tree is ready to receive your gifts as soon as you are able to bring them through Christmas Eve.



MEETINGS AND ACTIVITIES- DECEMBER 2019

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
8:30 a.m. Casual Worship Service 9:30 a.m. Sunday School for All Ages and Progressive Christmas Concert Ticket Sale 11:00 a.m. Traditional Worship Service 3:00 p.m. King's Fraternity Dinner 6:00 p.m. Youth Group	7:00 a.m. Monday Morning Coffee Ministry 9:00 a.m. Aerobics 10:00 a.m. Monday Volunteer Work Crew 10:00 a.m. Quilting 12:30 p.m. Otterbein Choir Rehearsal 7:00 p.m. Telecare 7:00 p.m. SPRC Meeting	9:15 a.m. Tai Chi 10:00 a.m. Staff Meeting 6:45 p.m. BSA Troop 471	9:00 a.m. Aerobics 12:30 p.m. Otterbein Choir Rehearsal 6:00 p.m. Exultation Ringers 7:00 p.m. Chancel Choir Rehearsal	5:00 p.m. Chime Choir 5:30 p.m. M&M's 5:30 p.m. Youth Bells Rehearsal	12:30 p.m. Otterbein Choir Rehearsal 10:00 p.m. Midnight Pancakes!	5:00 p.m. Kids' Night In
Poinsettia Delivery All Week! 8:30 a.m. Casual Worship Service 9:30 a.m. Sunday School for All Ages and Progressive Christmas Concert Ticket Sale 11:00 a.m. Traditional Worship Service 4:00 p.m. Youth Group	7:00 a.m. Morning Coffee Ministry (Finals Week) 9:00 a.m. Aerobics 10:00 a.m. Monday Volunteer Work Crew 10:00 a.m. Quilting	7:00 a.m. Morning Coffee Ministry (Finals Week) 9:15 a.m. Tai Chi 10:00 a.m. Staff Meeting 10:45 a.m. Lydia Circle 6:45 p.m. BSA Troop 471 7:00 p.m. Finance Committee Meeting	7:00 a.m. Morning Coffee Ministry (Finals Week) 9:00 a.m. Aerobics 6:00 p.m. Exultation Ringers 7:00 p.m. Chancel Choir Rehearsal	7:00 a.m. Morning Coffee Ministry (Finals Week) 5:00 p.m. Chime Choir 5:30 p.m. M&M's 5:30 p.m. Youth Bells Rehearsal	7:00 p.m. Progressive Christmas Concert	3:00 p.m. BSA Troop 471 Christmas Party
8:30 a.m. Casual Worship Service 9:30 a.m. Sunday School for All Ages and Bean Soup Fundraiser 11:00 a.m. Traditional Worship Service 6:00 p.m. Junior and Children's Chimes Choirs at Friendship Village 6:00 p.m. Youth Group	9:00 a.m. Aerobics 10:00 a.m. Monday Volunteer Work Crew 10:00 a.m. Quilting 7:00 p.m. Trustees Meeting	10:00 a.m. Staff Meeting 7:00 p.m. K Circle 4 Him	9:00 a.m. Aerobics 6:00 p.m. Exultation Ringers 7:00 p.m. Chancel Choir Rehearsal	\$:00 p.m. Chime Choir 5:30 p.m. M&M's	20	9:00 a.m. Chancel Choir Rehearsal
8:30 a.m. Casual Worship Service 9:30 a.m. Sunday School for All Ages 11:00 a.m. Traditional Worship Service 3:30 p.m. Christmas Eve Practice	9:00 a.m. Aerobics 10:00 a.m. Monday Volunteer Work Crew 10:00 a.m. Quilting	Christmas Eve 5:00 p.m. Family Worship Service 7:30 p.m. Traditional Worship Service	Christmas Day Office Closed Christmas Day Office Closed Christmas	Christmas Holiday Office Closed	5:00 p.m. Wedding Rehearsal	3:30 p.m. Wedding
8:30 a.m. Casual Worship Service 9:30 a.m. Sunday School for All Ages 11:00 a.m. Traditional Worship Service	9:00 a.m. Aerobics 9:30 a.m. Open Shelter Cooking 10:00 a.m. Monday Volunteer Work Crew 10:00 a.m. Quilting	New Year's Eve Oring on the NEW YEAR!				



Tuesday, December 24

Christmas Eve Worship Services

5:00 p.m. Family Worship Service 7:30 p.m. Traditional Worship Service

Are you unable to make it to church for worship sometimes? You can always listen to Pastor Jay's sermons online! Head to our website (chmaster.org) and click the link at the top to listen to last week's sermon, or check out the archive on the right after you click on the most recent sermon to hear previous sermons.



Find us on Facebook at "Church of the Master United Methodist"

Church Office Hours Monday through Friday 9:00 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.

Church of the Master United Methodist

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