



Weekly News

December 6, 2023

Issue #150

St. John's United Church of Christ is an inclusive congregation where God's love is felt by all, for all, and in all we do through worship, mission, and community.

CALENDAR

Thursday (12/07):	12-2PM	Food Pantry	Brombaugh Room
	7:00PM	Chancel Choir	Sanctuary
Sunday (12/10):	10:30AM	Worship	Sanctuary
	12:00PM	Bell Choir Practice	Sanctuary
Tuesday (12/12):	12-2PM	Food Pantry	Brombaugh Room

WORSHIP

➤➤➤ **Join us for in-person worship Sundays at 10:30AM.** ◀◀◀

Livestream worship is available on [St. John's YouTube channel](#)

<u>December 10</u>	<u>Pastor Mark Anthony</u>	<u>December 17</u>	<u>Pastor Mark Anthony</u>
<i>Second Sunday of Advent</i>		<i>Third Sunday of Advent</i>	
Scripture: Isaiah 40: 1-11 & Mark 1: 1-8		Scripture: Psalm 126: 1-6 & Luke 1: 46-55	
Sermon: Incredible News		Sermon: Laudate!	
Musical Offering: Bell Choir / O Come, O Come Emmanuel		Musical Offering: Youth Choir & Youth Bells / Behold That Star/What Child Is This?/Jingle Bells	
Liturgist: Brenda Williams		Liturgist: TBA	
Godly Play: The Shepherds Show the Way (p.136)		Godly Play: The Magi Show the Way (p.139)	
Storyteller: Erin		Storyteller: Brenda	



OUR CHRISTMAS FAMILY

Please help us make Christmas a little better for a St. John's family in need. 'Auntie' has lost her job. She has custody of two nephews. Did you know that family members who take custody of their relatives' children are allotted no financial assistance? Both boys are honor students in Carlisle Schools. Gage, who is 14, is in Band and the recent musical, Dirty Dancing. Ryder is 10 and likes working with his hands as well as his mind. **Please pick a Gift Idea from the Angel Tree in the Assembly Room** or come up with your gift idea. Shop, then return the wrapped gift under the Tree. Please label the "TO" portion of a Gift Tag. Gift Cards for Gas and Groceries, if donated, will also be given to Auntie. **Let's have everything under the Angel Tree by December 17th.**



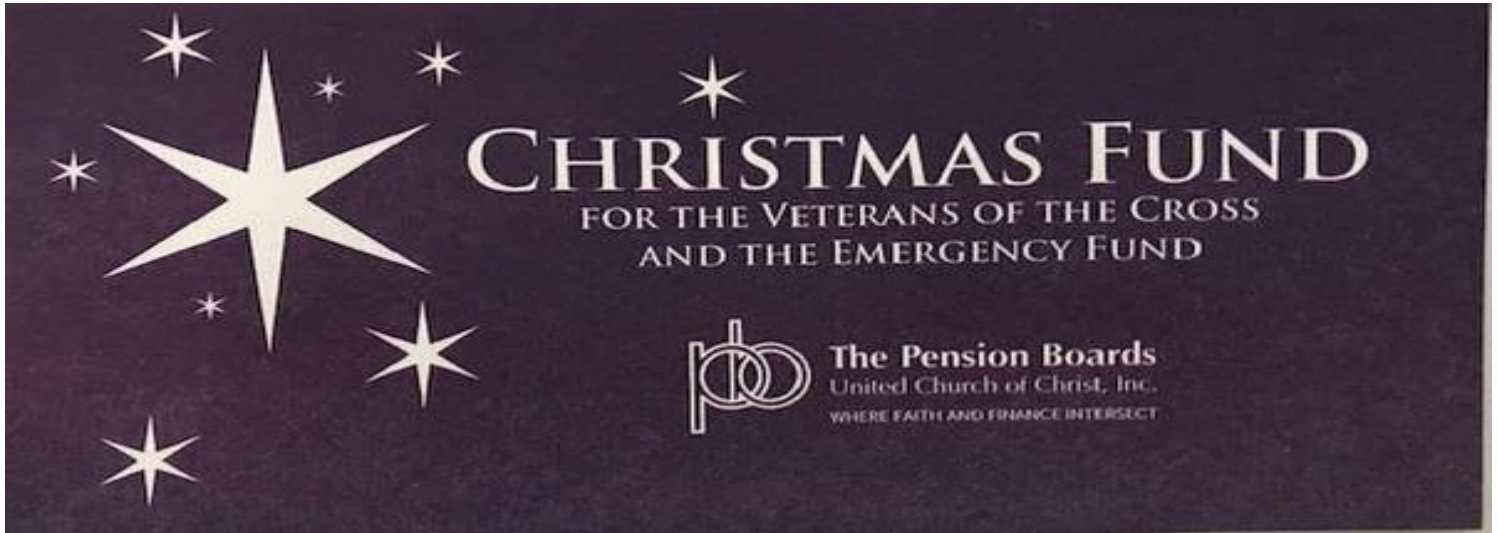
BLUE CHRISTMAS SERVICE

We are introducing a Blue Christmas Service at St. John's this year. It will be held on **Thursday, December 21, 2023, which is the Winter Solstice, at 7:00 pm in the sanctuary.** The Christmas holiday can be a time of stress and loneliness for many, so this time of prayer and meditation is offered for the expression of grief, pain, and heartbreak as well as an opportunity to focus on the promise of hope found in Christ. Anointing with Oil will be available for the strengthening of mind and body.



CHRISTMAS FUND

On Christmas Eve, an offering for the UCC Christmas Fund, formerly known as the Veterans of the Cross collection, will be taken. This offering has been received for active and retired clergy and lay employees of the United Church of Christ for over 100 years, providing emergency grants, supplementation of small annuities and health premiums, and Christmas “Thank You” gift checks each December to our lower-income retirees. Envelopes for this collection are available at the entrances to the church. In support of so many who spent their lives in service to the church, please consider giving a donation.



ADVENT SEASON

As we approach the Advent Season, we again will have families lead the congregation in prayer by the Advent Candles each Sunday. We are still in need of volunteers for December 17. Families of any size, even one, are welcome! Please call the church office if you have questions or want to volunteer.



PRAYER REQUESTS

Please send all prayer requests via email (secretarystjohns937@gmail.com) or by calling the church. They will be shared in our Weekly News and during online worship. Please make sure you make note of whether request is for Pastor/Elders only or to be published/shared via internet. Prayer requests shared during online worship do not include last names for privacy purposes. If you have questions or want updates regarding anyone on our prayer lists, please contact the Church Office (937) 855-2050.

Ongoing Care Circle: Dick, Danita, Mary Anne, Elaine, Vickie, Mary Louise, Margaret, Barbara, Cheryl.

Members of the Armed Forces: Chad, Christina, Robert.

Cancer Survivors: Gerald, Jackie, Dorris, Paul, Judy, Sarah, Elaine, Rhonda, Twila.



CONTACTS

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