



# Weekly News

December 13, 2023

Issue #151

**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

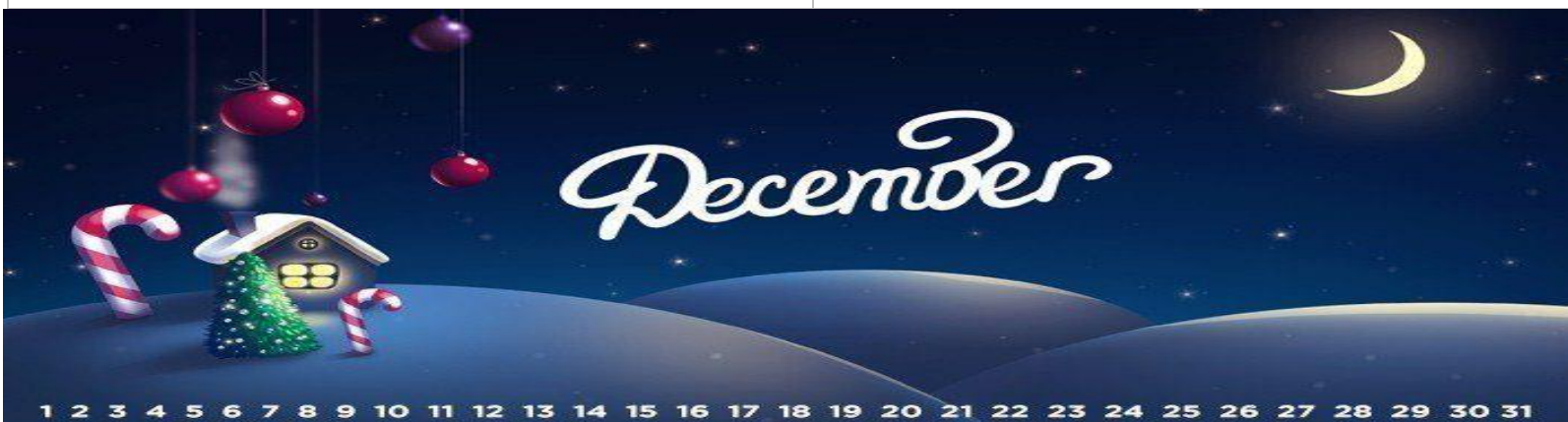
Thursday (12/14):	12-2PM	Food Pantry	Brombaugh Room
	7:00PM	Chancel Choir	Sanctuary
<b>Sunday (12/17):</b>	<b>10:30AM</b>	<b>Worship</b>	<b>Sanctuary</b>
	12:00PM	Bell Choir Practice	Sanctuary
Tuesday (12/19):	12-2PM	Food Pantry	Brombaugh Room

## WORSHIP

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

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

<u>December 17</u> <i>Third Sunday of Advent</i> <i>Pastor Mark Anthony</i>	<u>December 24</u> <i>Fourth Sunday of Advent</i> <i>Christmas Eve / Communion</i> <i>Pastor Mark Anthony</i>
Scripture: Psalm 126: 1-6 & Luke 1: 46-55	Scripture: Isaiah 9: 2-7 and Galatians 4: 4-7 & Luke 2: 1-20
Sermon: Jubilate!	Sermon: A Seed Takes Root
Musical Offering: Youth Choir & Youth Bells Behold That Star / What Child Is This? / Jingle Bells	Musical Offering: No Special Music Group
Liturgist: Elaine Pottenger	Liturgist: Carol Garner
Godly Play: The Magi Show the Way (p.139)	Godly Play: No Godly Play
Storyteller: Brenda	Storyteller: No Godly Play



**POINSETTIAS'**

Church Family, we still have 10 Poinsettia's available for purchase! Please reach out to Jackie Finney to purchase yours!

<b><u>FROM</u></b>	<b><u>IN MEMORY (M)</u> <u>IN HONOR (H)</u></b>	<b>#</b>
<b>Phil &amp; Anne Ridenour</b>	<b>(M) Bob &amp; Thelma Hiltbrand (M) Maurice &amp; Barbara Ridenour (H) Our Families &amp; Friends</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Dick &amp; Pat Schaeff</b>	<b>(H) Our Children and Grandchildren</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Tom Weaver &amp; Kathy Yohn</b>	<b>(M) Dave &amp; Ollie Yohn (M) Bud &amp; Alma Weaver (M) Kristine Yohn</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Janet Hydeman</b>	<b>(M) Ann Sharp Hydeman</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Paul and Dorris Hensley</b>	<b>(H) Our Family</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Tim &amp; Elaine Pottenger</b>	<b>(H) Our Children &amp; Grandchildren</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Roger &amp; Jan Hornung</b>	<b>(M) Our Parents</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Pat Kirchner</b>	<b>(M) Mary Ann Carrie (M) The Kirchner Family (H) The Finney Family</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Rich &amp; Mary Anne Miletic</b>	<b>(M) Matt Miletic</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Judy Johnson</b>	<b>(M) Earl &amp; Pearl Johnson (M) Don &amp; Pearl Sayers</b>	<b>2</b>



*Christmas Poinsettias*

DONATE POINSETTIAS FOR THE SANCTUARY  
IN HONOR, MEMORY, OR APPRECIATION OF SOMEONE!



## 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.



## AN UPDATE FROM DAVID

**Sanctuary is Beautiful:** Every year we are amazed at how beautiful our sanctuary is when decorated for Christmas. Many thanks to Brenda Williams and Erin Keister for coordinating and preparing for Advent Workshop. Thanks to Tom Weaver, John Friedline and Phil Ridenour for putting up the garland that surrounds the top of the sanctuary. Climbing up and down and moving that ladder 17 times is quite a chore. And many thanks to all who helped decorate the trees and put up the other garlands, manger scene, etc. Thanks to Agape for buying us lunch!

**Food Pantry:** During the month of November, we served 43 families totaling 128 people. That's 43 families in the Germantown area that were helped by St. John's. Food Pantry Items Needed: At the present time we need the following: produce such as potatoes and onions, jelly, personal care items such as shampoo, conditioner, deodorant, facial and hand soaps, toilet paper and paper towels, pet food, condiments, coffee, spices, cake mixes, and pancake mixes and syrup. We appreciate any help you can give by bringing in any of these items. Look for sales!



## PRAYER REQUESTS

Please send all prayer requests via email ([secretarystjohns937@gmail.com](mailto: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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# CONTACT US