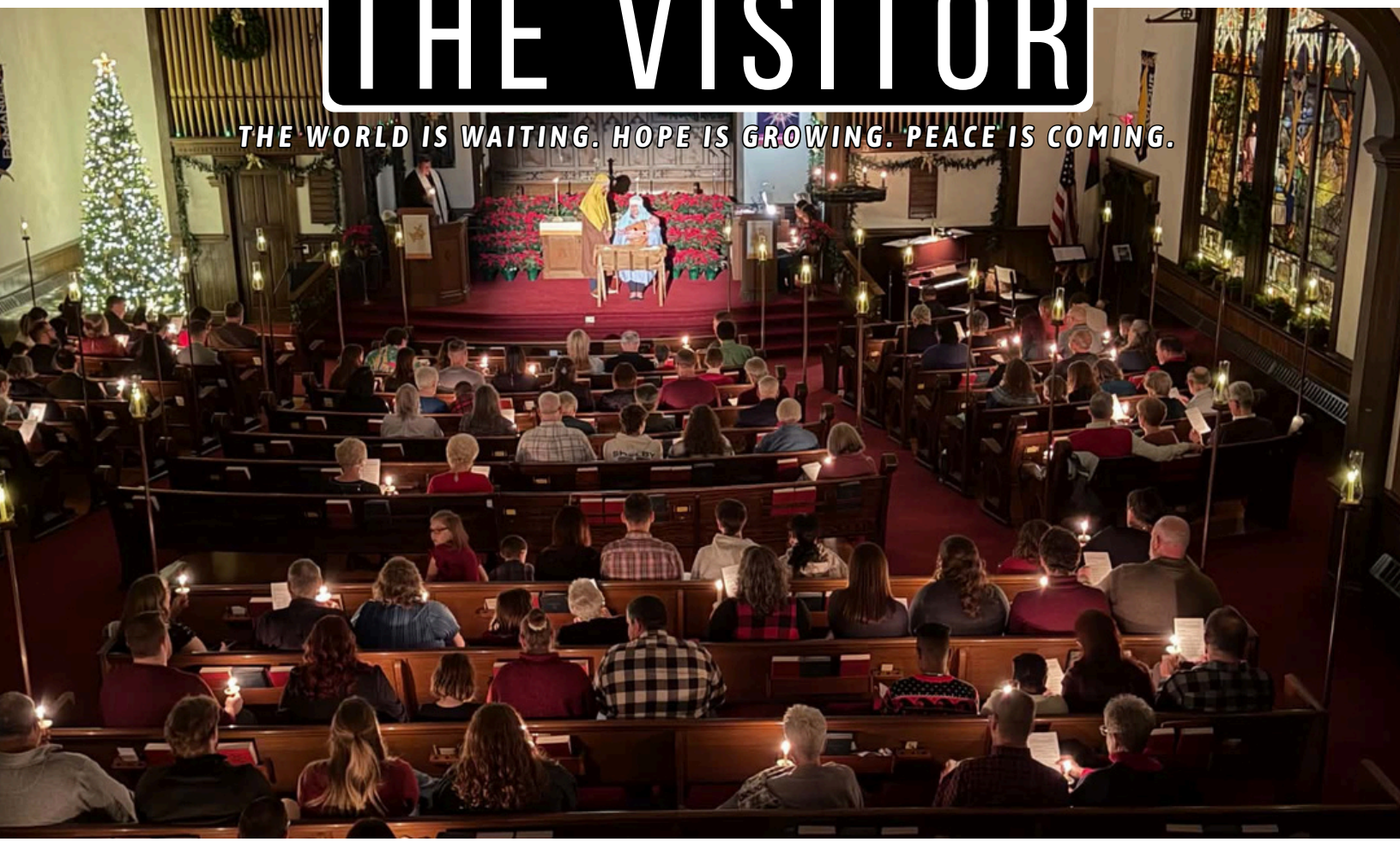
THE VISITOR



Matthew, Aarica, and Myles Christner portrayed “the Holy family” at last year’s candlight early Christmas Eve service

DECEMBER AT A GLANCE

DECEMBER 01
“It’s a Wonderful Life” - Movie and Discussion 6:30 PM

DECEMBER 03
Painting Through Scripture 7:00 PM

DECEMBER 05
Ladies of Light Puzzle Competition 9:00 AM

DECEMBER 06
Christmas Open House 3:00 PM
Caroling 5:00 PM

DECEMBER 08
Bigs and Littles Christmas Party 6:00 PM

DECEMBER 09
Kids Club Family Night 5:30 PM

DECEMBER 14
Newsletter Deadline

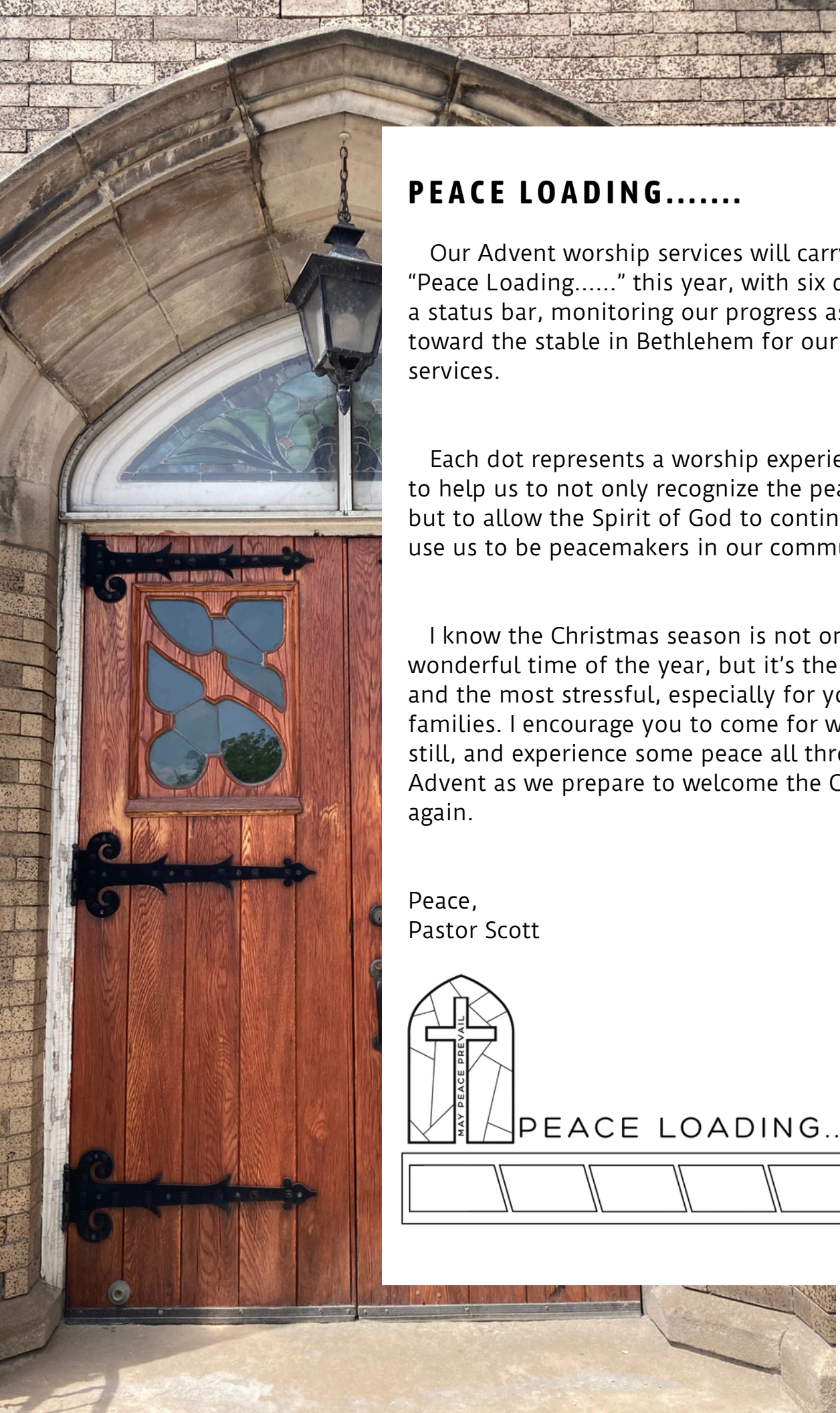
DECEMBER 15
It’s a Wonderful Life” - Movie and Discussion 6:30 PM

DECEMBER 20
Christmas Pageant and Breakfast 9:00 AM

DECEMBER 21
Longest Night Service 7:00 PM

DECEMBER 24
Christmas Eve Early Family Service 7:30 PM
Christmas Eve Late Service 11:00 PM

DECEMBER 25
Office closed - Merry Christmas!



PEACE LOADING.....

Our Advent worship services will carry the theme "Peace Loading....." this year, with six dots as parts of a status bar, monitoring our progress as we move toward the stable in Bethlehem for our Christmas Eve services.

Each dot represents a worship experience designed to help us to not only recognize the peace within us, but to allow the Spirit of God to continue to use us to be peacemakers in our community.

I know the Christmas season is not only the most wonderful time of the year, but it's the most hectic and the most stressful, especially for younger families. I encourage you to come for worship, be still, and experience some peace all throughout Advent as we prepare to welcome the Christ child again.

Peace,
Pastor Scott



CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING SUMMARY FROM NOVEMBER 10, 2026

Treasurer's Report is on file. Pastor and staff reports are on file.

Kaylene reported that 40 people were at Fall Camp. Breakfast is being planned to be served prior to the Christmas program on December 20. Youth/Mentor overnight will be held at Camp Wanake. The council will cover the cost of the retreat minus the $750 deposit and ask each student to pay $20.

Margaret Maupin is looking for one elder.

Mollie has begun the process of seeking a grant to help cover repairs on the church organ.

The front door (Main Street) needed a new lock mechanism. A new push bar was installed. A new rail has been ordered to repair the stage curtain. The water fountain on the main floor was repaired. The office countertops should arrive soon. Office staff is in process of moving Church Windows from the main computer to the auxiliary where the financial team works. There is still some touch-up painting to be completed and blinds purchased and installed in the office.

Jason is the liaison from the council to the preschool board. He does not have a vote on the preschool board. The board is scheduled to meet on the 1st Thursday of every month, as needed. Two board members terms have expired. Jennifer Howell will take one of the positions. The Hibachi food truck sales raised $300 for the school. There is currently a popcorn sale in progress. The teachers will be encouraged to continue to post "needs" on the Giving Tree.

Julie has asked the council to set aside time after worship on January 10 to be used as a mini retreat. Lunch will be provided. We'll also review by-laws.

We have a list of needs, prospective costs and what has been repaired/replaced since January 2025. A committee of 5 will be formed to access how these needs will be funded.

MUSIC OPPORTUNITIES

Do you enjoy sharing your musical gifts? We're looking for individuals or groups to provide preservice music for both our early and late Christmas Eve services. Music will begin 30 minutes before each service.

If you'd like to participate, please sign up by Wednesday, December 16, at 8:30 PM. You can let John Weyrauch know or add your name to the sign-up sheet on the bulletin board outside the office.

MEMORIAL GIFTS

IN MEMORY OF

WILBUR STEINER

Dale and Tracie Opperman
Jim and Rev. Jacquie McMillen
Linda McHenry
Mike and Julie Finney

REV. MARK STEINER

Christine Hawk on behalf of
Russel and Evelyn Geiser Family

BETTY AUBLE

William Arnold

YOUTH NEWS



Blaire Holderman plucks a "Turkey" at the Bigs and Littles Thankfulness Party.

BIGS AND LITTLES CHRISTMAS PARTY

Get ready for a cozy evening made just for our littlest ones! We'll hear the Christmas story in a way young hearts can listen and wonder, make simple crafts, play fun games, enjoy seasonal snacks, and even meet a special guest in a red suit! Kids ages kindergarten and younger with an adult are invited to attend. We can't wait to see you and your little one, 6-7PM in the fellowship Hall. Tuesday December 8th.

YOUTH FELLOWSHIP

With the many holiday events taking place in December, Youth Fellowship will meet just once this month on Sunday, December 13. We'll gather at the church for our annual Christmas party! Be sure to bring a wrapped gift (limit $15) for our fun White Elephant gift exchange. We look forward to celebrating the season together!

KID'S CLUB FAMILY NIGHT

Join us for Kids Club Family Night on Wednesday, December 9! We'll come together to explore fun and meaningful family Advent activities as we prepare our hearts for Christmas. It will be a wonderful evening of creativity, connection, and making memories together. We hope your whole family can join us!

PAGEANT PRACTICE SCHEDULE

Christmas Pageant rehearsals:
Saturday 12/5 9-10AM
Saturday 12/12 9-10AM
Saturday 12/19 9-11AM DRESS REHEARSAL

KIDS SUNDAY SCHOOL

There will be no kid's Sunday School on December 20th, 27th, or January 3rd due to the Christmas Pageant and the Holidays.

MISSION AND OUTREACH

LADIES OF LIGHT PERIOD PACKS

The Ladies of Light gathered on Saturday, November 14th to put love into action, assembling 86 period packs to be donated to Church World Service!

These packs will help provide essential menstrual hygiene supplies to women and girls experiencing poverty, displacement, or crisis. Access to these basic necessities can make a meaningful difference in someone's health, dignity, comfort, and ability to participate fully in everyday life.

A heartfelt thank you to everyone who helped make this project possible. Whether you donated supplies, contributed financially, or spent your morning helping assemble the packs, your generosity made this effort a success.

We are grateful for a church community that cares for our neighbors and finds meaningful ways to make a difference beyond our own walls.



Members of the Ladies of Light work together to pack 86 period packs for CWS at their November gathering.

DECEMBER SPECIAL OFFERINGS

Church World Service (CWS)

Throughout December, we will be collecting our annual offering for Church World Service, a faith-based humanitarian organization working around the world to address hunger, poverty, displacement, and disaster. CWS provides assistance to people facing difficult circumstances, including refugees, families experiencing food insecurity, and communities recovering from disasters. Our gifts help bring practical support, hope, and opportunities for a fresh start to neighbors near and far.

The Christmas Fund

Our Christmas Eve offering will support the United Church of Christ's Christmas Fund, which has been providing assistance to active and retired UCC clergy, church employees, and their families for more than 100 years. Many who have devoted their lives to serving the church face financial challenges in retirement or times of unexpected hardship. Gifts provide emergency assistance, help with pension and health care costs, and special Christmas gift checks to retired ministers and church workers.

FELLOWSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

CHRISTMAS OPEN HOUSE

You're warmly invited to a Christmas open house at Scott and Beth Schieber's home on Sunday, December 6 from 3-7pm. Drop in anytime and stay as long as you want! We will have cookies, snacks, coffee and hot chocolate for all, and pizza for our carolers after they have finished their rounds! Our address is 1665 Sandalwood Dr in Wooster.



Katherine places the final piece in her team's puzzle at last year's speed puzzle competition.

CHRISTMAS CAROLING

Help us spread a little Christmas cheer! Join us Sunday, December 6, at 5:00 PM in the gathering area as we divide into groups and head out to sing Christmas carols for members of our congregation who are homebound or could use a little extra holiday cheer.

No professional singing voices required, just a willingness to share some joy!
After caroling, we'll head over to Pastor Scott and Beth's house to join their open house and enjoy some time together. All ages are welcome!

IT'S A WONDERFUL LIFE!

On December 1 and 15, join Pastor Scott in the gathering area to watch the classic Christmas movie at 6:30 pm! We will watch half of the film each night with a discussion of theological ideas in the movie. We can put our heads

together and think about how Frank Capra depicted evil, grace, salvation and hope in this classic favorite! Popcorn will be provided!

LADIES OF LIGHT

Get ready for some fast-paced festive fun! The Ladies of Light will gather on Saturday December 5th for a little friendly competition. We'll divide into teams and race to complete a Christmas-themed jigsaw puzzle. Who will be crowned the puzzle champions this season? Come join the fun and find out at 9:00 AM in the Pole Room!

In January we will take a break from gathering to rest from the holiday season. See everyone again in February!

PAINTING THROUGH SCRIPTURE

Adults of all ages are invited to join us on the first Thursday of each month for a peaceful evening of Scripture, painting, conversation, and prayer. We'll spend time with a passage of Scripture, reflect on what it might have to say to our lives, and create something inspired by it. We'll meet on the second floor of the education wing from 7-8 pm on December 3rd.

PRACTICING PEACE

MAKE ROOM

December is full of invitations, gatherings, traditions, and celebrations. But it's also a time when some people feel especially lonely, overwhelmed, or left out. Practicing peace means paying attention to who has a place at the table and who might be missing one.

Making room doesn't have to mean hosting a big gathering or adding one more thing to an already busy calendar. It might mean inviting someone to sit with you at church, checking in on a neighbor, reaching out to someone you haven't talked to in a while, or making an effort to include someone who might otherwise be on the outside looking in.

This month's practice: Look for one opportunity to make room for someone else. It could be an invitation, a conversation, a seat at your table, or simply letting someone know they're thought of and welcome.

Sometimes peace begins when someone realizes there is a place for them.



SPECIAL SERVICES AND EVENTS

CHRISTMAS PAGEANT AND BREAKFAST

Join us for a morning of Christmas fun and fellowship! We'll gather for breakfast at 9:00 AM in the Fellowship Hall, followed by our original Christmas pageant, Christmas Inn a Little Town, at 9:30 AM in the sanctuary.

Come enjoy a good meal, a little laughter, and the Christmas story brought to life by the kids of Christ Church. Everyone is welcome!

LONGEST NIGHT

Annually on December 21, we gather in the darkened sanctuary on the longest night of the year. Obviously, the longest night falls during the week of Christmas and reminds us that for many, the holidays bring a bundle of emotions—joy, sadness, peace, grief.

Amidst the glitter, we pause for a quiet, contemplative service at 7 pm on the longest night, gathered together in community under God's watchful eye.

CHRISTMAS EVE

Celebrate the wonder of Christmas with us on Christmas Eve! We will gather for two candlelight worship services at 7:30 PM and 11:00 PM, each featuring familiar carols, scripture, and the beauty of candlelight as we welcome the birth of Christ.

Special pre-service music will begin 30 minutes before each service. We hope you'll join us for this meaningful Christmas tradition!

FROM THE ARCHIVES

Do you remember The Madrigal? Many hands worked together to prepare and present a renesance style boars head feast. With musical and dramatic pagentry the Christmas story was presented to the Orrville community by players and singers from our very own Christ Church. Take a look at the pictures below, you may just recognize a face or two!











SHARE YOUR MEMORIES

We would love to hear your memories of Christ Church! This month we are specifically looking for Christmas memories that we can share across various platforms. If you would like to share a memory scan the QR code to the right or watch for a link in the Chat or simply write down your memory and submit it to the office.

SCAN HERE TO SHARE!

LAST MONTH IN PICTURES



(Left) Scott, Nancy, Robin, Shirley, Cheryl, and others help to assemble the period packs at LOL in Nov.



(Above) The alter assembled during Friday evening worship by Fall Camp participants.



Jeff, Wendy, Riya, and CJ enjoy a wagon ride around Camp Wanake at Fall Camp.



Teddy Holderman sorts pom pom balls by color at the Bigs and Littles Thankfulness Party.

INCLEMENT WEATHER POLICY

As temperatures begin to fall and snow looms on the horizon we want to take a moment to remind everyone of the Church's inclement weather policy.

If Wayne County is in a Level 2 snow weather alert or the Pastor and Moderator determine that road conditions are likely to worsen through the morning, the Sunday morning worship service will be cancelled. On weeknights, we will cancel our programming at 3 pm if we are in a level 2 snow alert or if the Pastor or program leader determines that conditions are likely to worsen.

Cancellations will be communicated via email, our social media sites, and on our church phone message.

TREASURER'S REPORT

October 31, 2026

Current Fund	Month of Oct 2026	Year to Date	Last Year
Sunday Offerings	$ 14,917	$205,886	$213,649
Other Income	$ 3,121	$ 21,479	$ 10,301
Expenses	$ 23,142	$243,274	$203,223
Net Surplus (Deficit)	$ (5,104)	$ (15,908)	$ 20,728
Benevolent Fund Donations	$ 2,333	$ 34,662	$ 28,819
Samaritan Fund Donations	$ 1,098	$ 4,221	$ 5,918
Salvation Army	$ 1,100	$ 1,100	

Samaritan Fund Balance is $2,772.

Brian Amstutz, Treasurer

BIRTHDAYS

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

12/01 Dana Keirstead
Beau Stocker
Jack Wallace

12/02 Kerri Shonk
Elise Troyer

12/03 Martha Johnson

12/04 Jena Jones
John Swinehart
Daniel Wisard

12/06 Albert Yeagley

12/07 Tyler Bates
John Curtis
Sean Smith
Olivia Weeman

12/08 Scott Falb

12/09 Madeline Thomas

12/10 Kayla Bumgardner
Carrie Lefever

12/11 Charlotte Curie
Jaxon Curie
Joe Hranko
Lora Nolt
Rebecca Sigler

12/12 Michaela Donley
Jayne McGrew

12/13 Dennis Landaw

12/14 Laura Brownlee
Scott Schieber

12/15 Allison Gresser
Molly Hostetler
Bob Landis
Sith Luangraj
Finn Smith

12/16 Sara Shaffer

12/17 Katherine Anderson

12/18 Sheila Bricker
Gunner Curtis
Carole Hahn

12/19 Craig Keirstead
Thalia Wisard

12/22 Joseph Andrews

12/23 Wanda Falb
William Stocker
Jacob Weyrauch

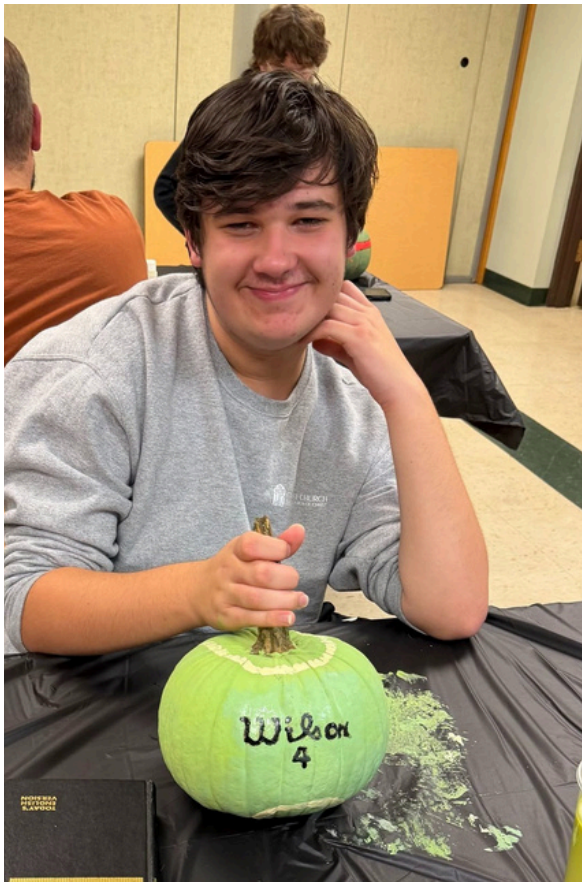
12/24 Josh Hershey
Meredith Landis
Heather Tompkins

12/27 Karen Gresser
Brandon Sigler

12/28 Elliot Wagers

12/30 Linda Madigan
Caleb Maupin
Jeanne Orosz
Jayne Wallace

12/31 Donald Grimes
Margaret Mangano
James Swinehart



Jack Wallace poses with his "tennis ball" pumpkin painted at youth fellowship in October. Jack celebrates a birthday this month.

ANNIVERSARIES

DECEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

12/03 John & Martha Johnson Jr

12/09 Jason & Lori Ayers

12/12 Benjamin & Robin Stocker

12/17 Joshua & Mollie Curie

12/18 Jennifer & Bill Georges

12/22 Gene & Judie Pouly

12/27 Kevin & Meredith Kropf

12/31 Gordon & Margaret Maupin



Mollie and Josh paused their pancake flipping for a photo our annual pancake supper. The Curie's celebrate 21 years of marriage this month!

FROM THE WIDER CHURCH

In Spring 2027, there will be the opportunity for you to explore our E&R roots (Evangelical & Reformed, the German ancestral stream of UCC history) and meet with our partners in Germany. The two week trip, planned by Heartland & Indiana-Kentucky



Conferences will include these highlights:

- Visiting historical/tourist sights
- Attending the UCC Forum in Dortmund
- Staying with Host Families
- Experiencing Kirchentag in Dusseldorf

General information is forthcoming from the Conference soon but for more detailed information, come ask Annette Schroer questions at Sure House Coffee in Wooster on December 28 at 9:30 am. Dan will meet with interested folks on Monday, December 14 at 7:00PM at Nervous Dog Coffee Bar, Stow (4161 Steels Pointe). You can also email inquiries to Annette at annetteschroer@gmail.com or Daniel Doty at ddoty66@gmail.com.