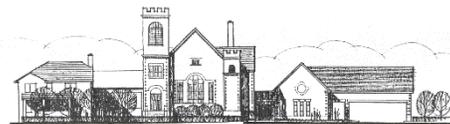


# Canfield UMC Friendly Visitor

Volume 93 Issue 12 December 1, 2025



## Pastors Ponderings

## Welcome the Child

During the Christmas Season, I sometimes reflect upon past Christmases when my children were younger and excited about getting Christmas gifts under the tree. I also remember past Christmases when I was growing up with my two sisters and my parents. When you are a young child, Christmas is a wonderful season of receiving and giving Christmas gifts. As great as worldly gifts can be both practical and unpractical, they have limited value over time. We all grow up and lose some of that childlike Christmas joy around Santa Claus and the Christmas Season as a whole.

In the Christian tradition, we celebrate the Advent Season that remembers the hope, peace, joy, and love of the birth of God's Son, Jesus Christ. The Christ Child's birth brings God's grace to us and brings us in a loving relationship with God the creator. My hope for you in this season of Advent and Christmas is that you would welcome Jesus Christ with a childlike faith that welcomes Christ's birth with joy and faith filled excitement. Joyfully read over this passage from Mark 9:

*<sup>33</sup> They came to Capernaum. When he was in the house, he asked them, "What were you arguing about on the road?"<sup>34</sup> But they kept quiet because on the way they had argued about who was the greatest. <sup>35</sup> Sitting down, Jesus called the Twelve and said, "Anyone who wants to be first must be the very last, and the servant of all."<sup>36</sup> He took a little child whom he placed among them. Taking the child in his arms, he said to them,<sup>37</sup> "Whoever welcomes one of these little children in my name welcomes me; and whoever welcomes me does not welcome me but the one who sent me."*

In this passage from Mark 9, we read that the disciples were more concerned about who was the greatest disciple. The disciples were caught up in the adulting world of who was greater or the best instead of following Jesus's lead to the greatness of a relationship with God. Try not to get too caught up in the Christmas spirit of finding the best or most expensive gift for your loved ones or yourself. Have a childlike wonder that welcomes the greatest gift in the world, which is Jesus Christ's birth, that brings us God's grace and love. Have a childlike faith that has joy in receiving Jesus into our lives and regift his grace and love to all people. When we welcome Christ as our Lord and Savior, we welcome a relationship with the Heavenly Father that is an eternal gift that every Child of God can enjoy for eternity. Blessings to you and your loved ones as we celebrate the birth of the Christ child!





The United Methodist Women will have their December meeting on Wednesday, December 3<sup>rd</sup> at noon. We will be helping Operation Blessing with their annual Toyland.

The January meeting will be at noon on Wednesday, January 7. We will welcome Cathy Pokrivnak of Protestant Family Service, to share news of the good work enabled by this organization. Both meetings will be in the atrium, with refreshments provided, and all women are welcome. Bring a friend!



Thank you so much for donating money to our Chicken Challenge, which helps Operation Blessing purchase chickens for families in need! CUMC and Canfield Presbyterian raised nearly \$3200! For the 2nd year in a row, CUMC won the "coveted" Chicken Challenge Trophy for most money collected. Western Reserve UMC sold Rev. Don Christensen's photographic calendars for their donation.

The picture below shows an example of Operation Blessing's Thanksgiving meal given to clients.

--Barb Ivey  
Canfield Operation Blessing Director

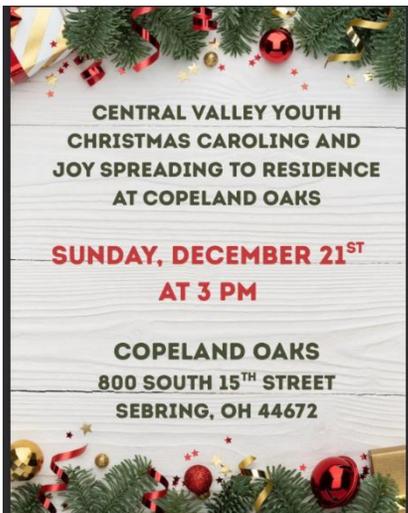


For our Special Christmas Offering, members can order a poinsettia for the altar or make a gift to the Music Fund. Flowers can be taken home after the Christmas Eve service. Please consider making your donation to the Music Fund if you are not interested in taking a flower home. Deadline to order poinsettias is December 15<sup>th</sup>. Cost is \$10.00.



The Aldersgate Class will meet at Davidson's on December 10<sup>th</sup> at 4:00 p.m. for a holiday get together. Please R.S.V.P. to Sheila Factor at 330-360-1449.

### Youth Events December



#### Events for Families with Children from Preschool through 4<sup>th</sup> Grade:

December 14<sup>th</sup> 6:00 - 7:30 p.m.  
- Family Game Night!



#### Events for Youth 5<sup>th</sup> Grade through 12<sup>th</sup> Grade:

December 21<sup>st</sup> 3 p.m.  
- Youth Group Christmas Caroling at Copeland Oaks  
See graphic at left for the address.

Church Family,

We are deeply grateful for all that God is doing in and through our congregation. This past year, we have reinvigorated our mission activities benefiting our community and taken important steps to care for our church home and enhance our shared worship experience.

The ongoing monthly mission efforts ensure continued focus on those around us and the new audio/visual equipment and much-needed repairs on a portion of our church roof are already making a meaningful difference.

These investments will:

- Continue to enrich our community
- Improve sound and visual presentations during worship
- Strengthen our livestream and recordings for those unable to join us in person
- Protect and preserve our building so it remains safe, dry, and welcoming for generations to come

As we close out the year, we still need your help to complete funding for these vital projects. Would you prayerfully consider adding to your annual pledge or weekly giving and provide:

- a special offering marked “A/V and/or Roof Fund”
- a special offering marked “missions”
- Sharing this message with family and friends who may be led to support our efforts.

No gift is too small—every offering brings us closer to fully providing an environment where all can gather, grow, and experience God’s presence.

*“Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give... for God loves a cheerful giver.”—2 Corinthians 9:7*

With heartfelt gratitude,  
The CUMC Steering Council

---

## You’re Invited!

### Simple Gifts Choir

December 7, 4 PM, Hubbard First Presbyterian Church

Join us for “In Joyous Song”!

Roger Bell, Karin DiNardo, Jill Kercher, Janet Williams

### Joyful Connections Community Choir

December 12, 7 PM, Eastwood Mall Center Court

Join us for a musical Christmas celebration!

Roger Bell, Karin DiNardo, Jill Kercher



# Sharing the Joy of Christmas

The Missions Team invites you to join in your choice of three special missions:

- Giving Tree for hats, scarves, gloves, & socks
- Adopt-a-Family Christmas Project
- Angel Tree for outreach to our church homebound and care members



Each provides a meaningful way to share Christ's love and the joy of the season with our neighbors.



## The Giving Tree — Hats, Scarves, Gloves, Socks

This year, we're collecting new hats, scarves, gloves, and socks for children and adults in need.

No tags are needed — simply purchase new winter items and hang them directly on the tree in the narthex (area near sanctuary doors). Donations will be distributed locally to help keep families warm throughout the winter months.

Each item placed on the tree is a simple but powerful reminder that kindness truly warms the heart.

## Adopt-a-Family for Christmas — Partnering with Project MKC

Through Project MKC (formerly Making Kids Count), we've been matched with a local family in need this Christmas. This mission allows us to brighten the holidays for each family member. To ensure every family member is represented, we'll create gift tags for the project and place them on the Adopt-a-Family Tree. Each tag will list a specific gift request or need. Simply select a tag, purchase the item, and return it in a labeled bag to the narthex collection area, by Sunday, December 14.

The Missions Team will coordinate delivery to Project MKC, so there's no need to schedule anything individually. We also include wrapping paper and supplies, so parents can wrap the gifts themselves and experience the joy of preparing Christmas for their children.



## Angel Tree

This features caring for our church homebound, those in care facilities, and those on our care lists. These friends remain a cherished part of our church family.

Gifts for our homebound and those in need of visits are completely flexible — each person may contribute what they feel called to give. You have a chance to choose an angel to visit, maybe delivering small gifts or treats, or send cards to remind our friends that they are loved, remembered, and prayed for this holiday season.

## How You Can Help

\*Hang new hats, scarves, gloves, socks on the Giving Tree.

\*Select an Adopt-a-Family tag and return your gift by December 14.

\*Choose a name from the Angel Tree for church homebound or those in care facilities & deliver or send anything meaningful you wish to share.

Keep all those we serve in your prayers this season. Thank you for helping us share warmth, joy, and the true spirit of Christmas with those who need it most.

*Lisa Cannon, Amy Nash, Ellen Bennett, Jill Kercher & Missions Team*



**ADVENT/CHRISTMAS/EPIPHANY HAPPENINGS**  
**at Canfield UMC**  
Plan to join us!

Worship each Sunday, with message and music to anticipate  
Christmas

**ADVENT ONE - November 30**  
Lighting the **Blue** Advent candle for HOPE

**ADVENT TWO - December 7**  
Lighting the **Blue** Advent Candle for PEACE



**ADVENT THREE - December 14**  
Lighting the **Pink** Advent Wreath Candle for JOY  
The Heights Brass Quintet offers Christmas Music  
**\*\*NEW\*\*** Bring a Breakfast Casserole or Sweet to share  
after worship. Coffee and White House Apple Cider provided.  
see details next page

**ADVENT FOUR - December 21**  
Lighting the **Blue** Advent Candle for LOVE  
Final Sunday before Christmas!



**CHRISTMAS EVE - December 24, 4:00PM Worship**  
Traditional Candlelight Service

**CHRISTMAS DAY - December 25 - The first day of Christmas!**  
**HE IS BORN - December 28 -Worship - to continue the celebration!**  
**EPIPHANY - January 4 - Three Kings!**



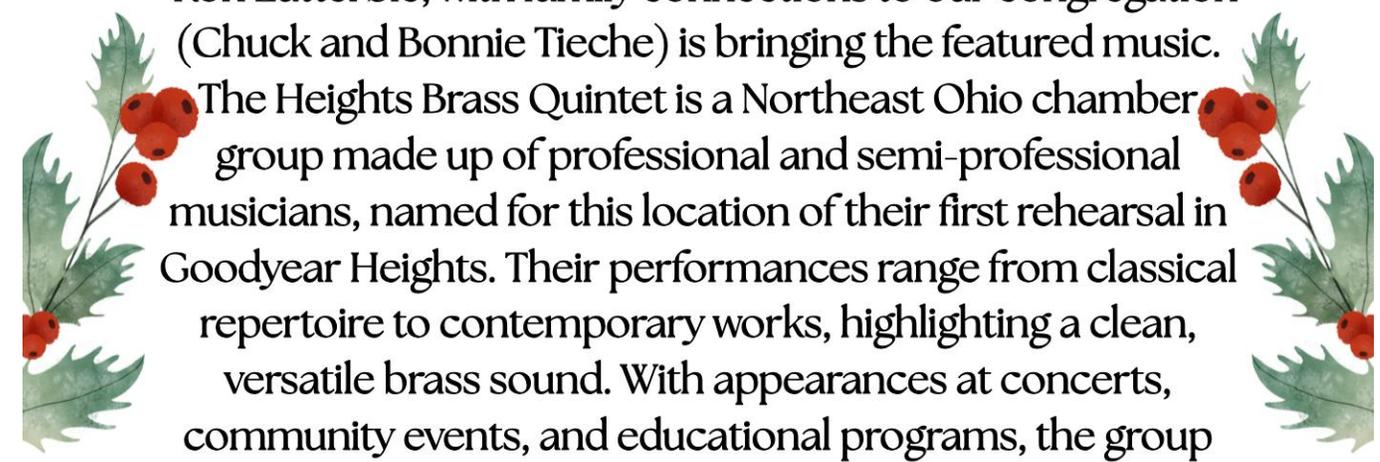
**ADVENT THREE - December 14 9 a.m. Worship**  
Lighting the **Pink** Advent Wreath Candle for **JOY**

The Heights Brass Quintet\* will share musical highlights of  
Advent Christmas and Epiphany!

Congregational hymns will be "The First Noel" and  
"Hark! The Herald Angels Sing."

Following Pastor Paul's message the Quintet will play the  
"Hallelujah" Chorus followed by  
"We Wish You a Merry Christmas!"

\*Ron Lutterbie, with family connections to our congregation  
(Chuck and Bonnie Tieche) is bringing the featured music.



The Heights Brass Quintet is a Northeast Ohio chamber  
group made up of professional and semi-professional  
musicians, named for this location of their first rehearsal in  
Goodyear Heights. Their performances range from classical  
repertoire to contemporary works, highlighting a clean,  
versatile brass sound. With appearances at concerts,  
community events, and educational programs, the group  
focuses on engaging audiences across the region and  
expanding exposure to brass chamber music.



Following Worship, you are invited to enjoy shared  
favorite breakfast foods, coffee and White House  
apple cider in the atrium!

Canfield United Methodist Church  
27 South Broad Street  
Canfield OH 44406

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Non-profit  
Organization  
Permit 19  
Salem OH

	<p><b>JOIN US!</b></p> <p>Worship 9:00AM</p> <p>Address: 27 S. Broad Street Canfield, OH 44406 330.533.9801</p> <p>Email: <a href="mailto:office@canfieldumc.org">office@canfieldumc.org</a> Web: <a href="http://www.canfieldumc.org">www.canfieldumc.org</a> Facebook: <a href="https://facebook.com/CanfieldUMC/">facebook.com/CanfieldUMC/</a></p>	 <p>Sue Bell, Donna Bricker, Pastor George Lee, Ruth McCune, Ron Musgrove Jr., Ron Musgrove Sr., Birdie Reinhart, Debbie Schrock, and Donnie Yoho.</p> <p>Our members at home.</p>
---	--	---

CANFIELD UNITED METHODIST CHURCH NEWSLETTER