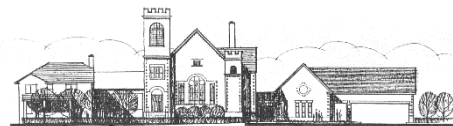


Canfield UMC Friendly Visitor

Volume 92 Issue 12 December 1, 2024



Pastors Ponderings

A Journey of a Life

As we come into this Advent Season that leads into Christmas day, it is easy to be distracted from the real reason for the season, which is to celebrate the birth of the world's Savior, Jesus Christ. Too often during the season of Advent, we get caught up in the material gift giving of Christmas and we miss the gift of grace and love that Christ brings to the world. Through Jesus Christ's gift of saving grace, we are born again into a new life full of his inherent grace and love. Read and reflect upon 1 Peter 1:3-5 "Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His great mercy has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, to obtain an inheritance which is imperishable and undefiled and will not fade away, reserved in heaven for you, who are protected by the power of God through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time."

Through Christ's grace, we have received a gift of mercy and been born again into a new life with a living hope that comes through the resurrection of Jesus Christ. As Christians when we keep the faith in Christ's grace, we have an inheritance that will not fade away and is reserved for us in heaven.

Christmas gifts will come and go and fade away, but the gift of Jesus Christ will be with us for eternity as long as we continue to receive his saving grace and live our lives through his grace and love. We are saved by Christ's grace and are called to share his grace with the world.

December 1st marks the beginning of the season of Advent in the life of the church. The life of the church begins in the birth of the world's savior in Jesus Christ. God sent Jesus into the world to share his love and grace as a gift. Advent in the life of the church is a time to celebrate the gift of Jesus Christ being born and receiving his gift of grace and love. During this Advent season, I will be preaching on Adam Hamilton's book, *The Journey: Walking the Road to Bethlehem*. In his book, he explores the story of Mary and Joseph on the road to Bethlehem for the birth of their son, Jesus Christ, the Savior of the world. Hamilton looks at Mary and Joseph and Elizabeth's lives as well the dwellings of Nazareth and Bethlehem and the manger of Jesus' birth. On this Journey to Bethlehem, Mary and Joseph experienced God's guidance and care amongst the struggle of life and the joys of bringing God's Son Jesus Christ into the world.

In this Christmas Season, I encourage you to give thanks for what Jesus Christ has done in your life. Remember that we have a part of sharing Christ's love and grace with the world, and, like Mary and Joseph, we help to deliver his Good News. I pray as you worship with your church family on this Journey to Jesus Christ's birth, that you would remember the importance of the gift of his grace in our lives and the world. God's blessings be upon you and your family in this Advent Season and in this new year.



Canfield UMC's annual
**Plum
 Pudding
 Festival**



**Sunday, December 8th
 following 9 a.m. service**



Breakfast casseroles and
 our famous Plum Pudding
All are welcome!



Our December book club selection is [The Santa Claus Girl](#) by Patricia Goodin. Discussion will be held on Thursday, December 19, 2024 at 4:30 p.m. in the church parlor, led by Lois Swartz. We invite all to get in the holiday spirit by

joining us for lively talk and laughter.

To start the New Year, we will be reading and discussing the book [Clear](#) by Carys Davies. Let's start the year right by attending this fun group, meeting on Thursday, January 16, 2025 at 4:30 p.m. again in the church parlor. Hope to see a crowd of fellow readers there!



On Wednesday, January 8th at noon, UMW will be meeting to line dance! Refreshments will be served.

December Meetings

Finance	December 9	6 p.m.
Trustees	December 9	7 p.m.

END OF YEAR CONTRIBUTIONS

A reminder that in order for contributions to count in 2024 they must be either turned in at Canfield UMC on or before Monday, December 30th or mailed to the church (27 S. Broad St. Canfield, OH 44406) postmarked on or before December 31st.

Pledges postmarked after December 31st or turned into the church office after December 30th will be credited to 2025 pledges.



Operation Blessing Toys for Christmas

Please consider donating
NEW TOYS & NEW ITEMS (No stuffed animals)
Donations can be put in the box in the atrium
anytime before December 13th.
Canfield Operation Blessing appreciates the
churches love and support.



You're invited to see our Preschoolers sing and perform for Jesus at their annual Christmas program. T/TH Preschool is Tuesday, December 17 at 11:00 a.m. MWF Preschool is Wednesday, December 18 at 11:00 a.m. Pre-Kindergarten is Wednesday, December 18 at 12:30 p.m. The program is about 15 minutes long with a cookie reception following.

Preschool Registration for the 2025-2026 school year will open on January 20, 2025 to the in-house families and church families. If you wish to register for preschool, you should do that week. Registration will open to the public in February. Spots are not guaranteed and are filled on a first come first serve basis.



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 9. Cost is \$10.00.





JOIN US FOR OUR
ANNUAL YOUTH

BASKET AUCTION

DECEMBER 15, 2024

AFTER MORNING WORSHIP

Canfield United Methodist

We are collecting raffle baskets and items for this event for those who are able and willing to donate. Please email Liz with any questions!

youth@canfieldumc.org

PLEASE RESERVE YOUR
STARTING AFTER WORSHIP
DECEMBER 1ST

Scrapping for Scouts Scrap Metal Drive

Canfield Troop 8025 is available to help remove any unwanted scrap metal, appliances, HVAC systems, etc. from your location.

**Please Call or Text
to set up a collection time.**

Same day pick-ups are often available.

Troop Adult Volunteer
Bret Gensburg

330-299-8040

Proceeds go directly to offset camping fees
and needs of the Scouts.
We appreciate your Support!



Canfield United Methodist Church
27 South Broad Street
Canfield OH 44406

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Non-profit
Organization
Permit 19
Salem OH



Sue Bell, Keith Bingham,
Donna Bricker, Ceil Gill,
Carolyn Powell, Debbie Schrock,
Jean Stryffeler

Our members at home.

