



THE CENTRAL CONNECTION

Winter 2018/2019

New Resolve



From the Pastor

We're in a strange place in our house – we're actually ahead of schedule in our holiday preparations. We have the tree up, the outside is decorated, a lot of the gifts are already in and ready for wrapping and I found myself searching for all our usual Christmas movies and specials on the TV schedule so we could relive all our nostalgic favorites. But is looking back really what we should be doing with this time?

The Liturgical Calendar has restarted and our traditional calendar will soon rotate over as well. There's something special about the fresh start that comes with the "new year". We try to step away from old habits that aren't as healthy and we try to take on new ones that will add well-being to our lives. We wait for the world to tell us now is a good time to start over.

The truth for us as Christians, though, is each day is a new start. We are made new in a grace that doesn't have a shelf life. The grace we celebrate in Jesus Christ is a new opportunity to start over with each moment of our lives, a blank canvas of endless possibilities. It is that promise that we embrace as we enter the new beginning of Advent. As much as we get into the nostalgia of our favorite Christmas songs, specials, movies, and treats, this is not meant to be a review of what we've already seen. Each year as we enter Advent, it is to be a time to look to the horizon toward that we haven't seen yet. This is the time we wait for Christ to be revealed.

As we begin our next lap around the yearly cycle, rather than gawking at all the things we've seen before and trying to repeat the familiar refrains, let's embrace that which is new and surprising, let's celebrate that the reality is we still haven't seen the real payoff yet, and let's explore what we can do to make more of the kingdom of God a reality in our lives and in our church, and in our world now.



*Christmas Blessings
and
Warm Wishes
for a
Happy New Year
from the staff of
Central Presbyterian Church*

Pastor Cliff, Kevin, Joe, Tom, Suzie,
Leslie, Marcy and Karen



With winter weather upon us, please note the local media we use to get the word out if the church office will be closed or opening late/closing early or if Sunday morning services or other church activities are cancelled.

Cox Media Group Ohio

95.7FM AM1290 News Talk Radio WHIO WHKO-FM K99.1FM
 WHIO-TV - Channel 7 www.whiotv.com
 www.newstalkradiowhio.com www.k99online.com

WDTN - Channel 2

In addition to the information scrolling at the bottom of the screen, you can also sign up to receive text alerts from both Cox Media and Channel 2 on your smart phone. Just follow the steps online to be set up.

For Cox Media, go to <https://www.whio.com/text-alert-signup-instructions/>. We are listed as **Central Presbyterian Church**.

For Channel 2, go to <https://www.wdtn.com/about-us/text-alerts>. We are listed as **Central Presbyterian Miami Twp.**

Please remember that each member should make his/her own decision to venture out in bad weather, even if you have a role in that morning's worship service. Your safety is always paramount!



**CONGREGATIONAL
MEETING**

A congregational meeting will be held on Sunday, **December 9, 2018**, for the purpose of electing Class of 2022 elders and deacons and four (4) at-large members for the 2019 Nominating Committee. The meeting will be held in the Sanctuary immediately following our 10:30 AM Christmas Cantata.

Central Church's annual congregational meeting will take place on Sunday, **January 27, 2019**, for the purpose of reviewing the 2018 Annual Report and the 2019 Church Budget and to vote on Pastor Cliff's 2019 terms of call. The meeting will be held in the Sanctuary immediately following our 9:30 AM worship service.

FINANCIAL SUMMARY - Quarter 4 2018

	BUDGETED YR TO DATE	ACTUAL YR TO DATE	YR TO DATE 83.3% of year
<u>INCOME</u>			
Loose	\$3333	\$2687	67.2%
Pledges	146700	141839	80.6
Presby Foundation	4166	2348	47.0
Non-Pledged Giving	3333	8926	223.3
CPC Endowment	6000	6000	83.3
CPC Housing Fund	13000	13000	83.3
Other	833	833	83.3
TOTAL INCOME	\$177366	\$180734	84.9
<u>EXPENSES</u>			
Administrative	\$14639	\$12347	65.1%
Maintenance	24854	30923	103.7
Mission	6554	4648	54.7
Program	13958	6602	39.4
Pastor's Expense	64338	64096	83.0
Staff Salary	58718	57891	82.2
TOT EXPENSES	\$183063	\$176510	79.6%
NET BALANCE	-\$5695	\$4224	

The Deacons invite the congregation and community to a free pancake breakfast on Saturday, December 15, from 9:00 - 11:00 AM. Rumor has it a Jolly Old Man in a bright red suit will be making an appearance...





Join us for our Christmas Eve worship service as we celebrate the coming of Christ into the world. Music begins at 7:00 PM with worship at 7:30.



Pastor Cliff will be celebrating the holidays with family out of state the week between Christmas and New Year's. Rev. Dave Tackett will be our guest minister on December 30. We invite you to join us for 10:30 worship in the Fellowship Hall on the final Sunday of 2018.



Membership Committee

The Membership Committee has on its agenda each month the need to find ways to increase attendance and, ultimately, membership in Central.

Surveys show that personal contact is the most effective way by far of getting someone to attend church. Think back in your life and how you first came to Central. Did someone invite you the first time?

So we have concluded that our plan to get visitors, and, hopefully future members, to come to Central is for someone they know to ask them in person. This being the case, each of us should be asking un-churched neighbors and friends to come to a service and see what, with God's help, might develop. Most potential visitors probably will not come if they are not invited in person by one of us. This is not the job of our pastor; it is our job. The next step is yours to take.

As our committee continues to find approaches for our church's membership, we would be pleased to have your ideas so we can discuss them. Let me know your thoughts.

Karl Ayers
Chairperson, Membership Committee

FROM THE PARISH LIFE COMMITTEE



We hope that everyone had a Happy Thanksgiving with their family and friends. Now we begin the season of Advent.

Our church hosted the Presbytery at their meeting on November 10th. Several members of the Session were there also to assist in different areas, i.e., parking, registration, etc. Parish Life members were kept busy in the kitchen preparing a delicious lunch menu which consisted of three homemade soups (vegetable, tomato bisque, and mushroom) which were served with a choice of three sandwiches (sloppy joe, turkey and cheese, and tuna salad). Many participants stopped by the kitchen to give us kudos as they were leaving. The final count was 86 lunches served.

We are now preparing for the annual Christmas carry-in luncheon to be held on Sunday, December 9th, following the choir's cantata and a brief business meeting. **We will furnish the meat and everyone is asked to bring a dish or two to share (vegetables, salads and desserts).** Please make sure you join us then for some good food and fellowship.

We wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Submitted by: Barb Webner, Co-Chair

Committee Members: Tom Oole (Co-Chair), Marsha Dues, Betty Hurley, Diora Randolph, Randy Webner, Nancy Westfall, and Tom Troxell (Session Rep)



We are looking for volunteers to serve as "Emergency Response" team members for our church family. Volunteers will receive training, led by Captain McGill of the Miami Township Police, on Saturday, January 12, from 9:30 to 11 AM. The purpose of the training is to create a group from our membership that could take appropriate action in the event of fire, tornado, medical emergency or armed intruder. At this time, we have four volunteers. Our goal is twelve. If you see yourself being a member of this group, please contact Bill Awsumb, Bob Westfall or Karen in the church office. Bill or Bob will be glad to answer any of your questions.

A meeting on this subject for the entire congregation, providing a summary of our planning and answering any questions, will take place following worship at a later date.

Music News



It's cold and dark and dreary and there are still branches down from that recent ice storm. Must be WINTER! As you all well know, I'm considerably happier in the chilly months than in the drippy, hot, humid months when YOU are all happy campers. That's why God blesses us with the varying weather...some months where you are truly happy with the climate, and some months when you are thankful that the wretched weather doesn't persist. Just be aware that your pleasure might be someone else's pain. As you enjoy those 90 degree days with 90% humidity, know that I am ready to move to Minnesota, or Alaska or the Antarctic.

The same is true with music. Styles of music vary greatly, and through some of us like it ALL (I truly do!), I recognize that most people have preferences for certain styles of music whether it be what you listen to at home, or the music you prefer at church. We are fortunate at Central that we have good musicians that span many

styles, and we get to experience those styles in our worship time. My hope is always that you hear music that aids you in your worship experience, and music that broadens your preferences.

We are entering into the Advent season, and music is such an integral part of worship during the holidays. Central Message will be featured for our first Sunday in Advent, and the music will span from contemporary to traditional. Our Cantata, "Come Now to Bethlehem", features many Christmas songs and Bible texts that are familiar, and the choir is looking forward to presenting it to you on Sunday, December 9. Music treats are in store for you all month including a special Monday Music program on December 17 at 1:00 PM featuring Leslie and her former student Kathleen performing Christmas music arranged for two harps. Our Christmas Eve service will be chocked full of beautiful Christmas selections and will lead us into the New Year hoping for a short winter (most of you, anyhow!) and something other than Christmas tunes. No worries! We'll work toward the Easter holiday with stellar new songs and traditional music that should bring joy to your soul.

Come join us as often as you can to hear the variety of music and good teaching that God has blessed us with at Central. I believe you will find it a blessing to your heart and soul.

Humming happily in the cold,
Leslie Stratton
Director of Music

Attention Committee Chairpersons !

It's time to start thinking about your report to be published in our 2018 Annual Report. The due date is Monday, **January 14, 2019**. Please contact Karen in the church office if you have questions or would like a copy of last year's report.





Altar Flowers

December 23 - **Frank & Beulah Armstrong**, in honor of their 65th wedding anniversary

If you wish to donate an arrangement on December 9, 16 or 30,
please contact Karen in the church office; each arrangement is \$30.

Furst designers create our arrangements using in-season flowers; however, Furst is happy to work with us to create an arrangement of flowers and colors to suit your desires (please note that some flowers and colors may increase the cost above \$30). Since the flowers are displayed in our Sanctuary, all special requests must be respectful of that environment.

2018 Sew Faithful Quilt Sale

The Sew Faithful quilt sale was very successful. The sale included about 300 quilts in addition to many other items. Approximately 38 people helped promote the sale, carry items from basement storage, set up tables and displays, put up signs, assist shoppers, provide food for the workers, and check out customers. In addition, a generous number of people made quick work of the take down! Members of Diane Dutton's family donated two special bird houses and Ellen and Janet each donated a special quilt for the raffle and silent auction.

We would like to thank Central Church members for assisting with the sale and making purchases. A special thank you to Kevin and Karen for all the extra work involved. Additional thanks to Sew Faithful members and friends Diane, Joan, Tommy, Nelva, Yvonne, Yvonne, Lynn, Phyllis, Brian, Iona, Sue, Don, Carolyn, Ken, Valerie, Julie, Mary, Tom, Sandy, Sandy, Del, Bill, Carol, Sue, Dave, Jim, Nancy, Ellen, Janet, Marc, Paula, and a friend from the YMCA pool.

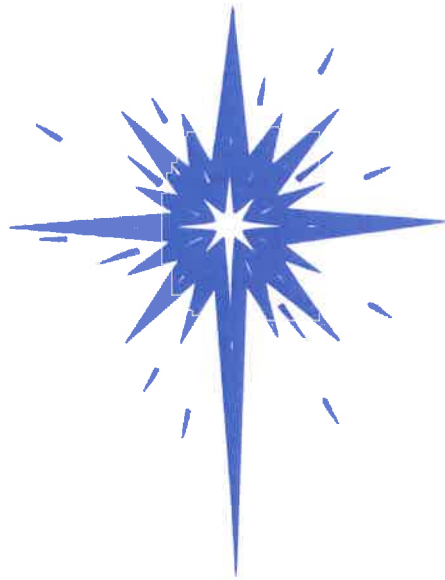
This year we are pleased to be able to donate one hundred percent of our sale profits to various organizations including Central Church, With God's Grace Food Pantry, West Carrollton Food Pantry, the River, and Presbyterian World Mission fund. Donations of unsold items will be donated to Agape for Youth, Southview Neonatal, Miami Valley Housing Opportunities, Animal Resource Center, Humane Society, the Wellington and Homefull.

Thank you again to ALL who help make this ministry a success!



The church office will not be staffed on the following dates:

- Tuesday, December 18
- Monday-Friday, December 24-28
- Monday-Tuesday, December 31-January 1



Christmas Joy Offering

This Advent and Christmas season, we reflect on God's greatest gift in the birth of Jesus, given to us all. Donating to the Christmas Joy Offering is one way we can celebrate and grow that gift, by supporting current and retired church workers in times of need and the education of future ethnic leadership of the Presbyterian Church U.S.A.

The annual offering, a Presbyterian tradition for over 70 years, will be received at our worship services during the four Sundays in Advent. A special offering envelope can be found in Sanctuary pews and hall tables, should you wish to contribute to this offering (*if donating cash, please remember to write your name on the envelope so that you are properly credited for your gift*).



4th Sunday of Advent
COMMUNION
Servers

Sarah Alverson, Bill Awsumb, Don Henry,
Marge Houston and Melanie Tullis



- January 13 - Baptism of the Lord
- March 3 - Transfiguration of the Lord
- April 18 - Maundy Thursday (7:00 PM)
- April 21 - Resurrection of the Lord
- June 9 - Pentecost (single service outdoors at 11:00 AM)
- July 21 - 16th Sunday in Ordinary Time
- August 18 - 20th Sunday in Ordinary Time
- September 15 - 24th Sunday in Ordinary Time
- October 6 - World Communion Sunday
- November 24 - Christ the King Sunday
- December 22 - Fourth Sunday of Advent

Ordained Elders or Deacons wishing to serve should contact Karen in the church office (karen@centralpreschurch.com or 298-2864, ext. 0).



7 - Ron Labatzky
 7 - Shirley Singleton
 8 - Pat Settles
 12 - Pam Beck
 14 - Gail Birden
 16 - Marilyn Ward
 21 - Jim Wilson
 30 - Sarah Alverson
 31 - Jeff Hemmelgarn



1 - Lois Awsumb
 1 - Florence Corey
 8 - Bob Westfall
 9 - Sandy Oole
 11 - Marlene Gagen
 13 - Boots Brown
 18 - Jim Hayman
 23 - Laurel Hemmelgarn
 23 - Brenda Uphouse
 26 - Joe Lucas
 29 - Madeline Haddox



4 - Geneva Hayman
 7 - Betty Hurley
 8 - Brian Miller
 11 - Sharon Fecteau
 12 - Austin Hemmelgarn
 12 - Paula Reams
 12 - Chad Terrill
 14 - Karl Ayers
 20 - Steve Gagen
 24 - Diora Randolph
 24 - Steve Uphouse
 25 - Tom Schneider

*If you have a December, January or February birthday and are not listed above,
 then we do not have your birth date on file in the church office;
 please contact Karen to update your membership file.*

CENTRAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

4699 LAMME ROAD

DAYTON OH 45439-3099

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Pastor: Rev. Cliff Haddox (revncliffie@gmail.com)

Clerk of Session: Sarah Alverson

Director of Music: Leslie Stratton (leslie@centralpreschurch.com)

Organist: Tom Guth

Childcare Provider: Suzie Harris

Treasurers: Joe Espelage and Marcy Wilson

Custodian: Kevin Duffy

Church Secretary / Bookkeeper: Karen Mitchell (karen@centralpreschurch.com)

Church Office Hours: Monday-Friday: 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM

Church Office Phone Number: (937) 298-2864, Ext. 0

Church Email: cpcoffice@centralpreschurch.com

Church Website: www.centralpreschurch.com

Traditional Worship: 9:30 AM (Sanctuary)

Christian Education for All Ages: 10:45 AM

Praise Worship: 11:30 AM (Fellowship Hall)

CENTRAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

...to **glorify** God through



**WORSHIPING
LOVING
TEACHING
MINISTERING**

that **Christ** may be made
known...

**WINTER
IS HERE**

