

Parish Paragraphs

DECEMBER 2017

Born in a stable, cradled
in a manger...
He lived for us, and He
died for us.
What can we, in
return, give to

Him?

-Thomas S. Monson



DeseretNews.com

*Please join us for
Worship Christmas Eve
Sunday, December 24th*

10:30am
*Simple Worship and
Children's Christmas
Program*

5:30pm
Special Music

6:00pm
Candlelight Service

What's Inside

*Congregational
Budget Meeting
Growth Groups
Advent Series*

*Opportunities to
Serve and Donate in
the Community
Calendar*

*Christmas VBS
Financial News
Children's Christmas
Program*

**POINT PLACE
UNITED CHURCH OF
CHRIST**





LETTER FROM THE PASTOR

As we come to the close of our 100th year, I first want to express gratitude for all of those who took time and energy honoring and celebrating this church's century of ministry. Personally, I learned a lot about what we've done, but even more about our DNA. It is fascinating to me to see the threads that connect us now to our founders and even beyond.

Our theme this year has been "Go with God." I hope this theme has helped to place our story within THE STORY and connect us with this ongoing call God has given to his people to Go...always with God. We have seen how this call played out in the faith journeys of the Old Testament saints and the ministry of Jesus, as well as in the lives of the Reformers and in the ministries of our first 100 years.

Now as we close the calendar year and begin a new church year (with the Advent season), we ask again how God is calling us to GO. As the Leadership Team has met in recent months, we find ourselves using the language of a ministry called "Fresh Expressions." Just meditating on the name is inspiring, in my opinion. How will the Gospel of Jesus Christ be expressed in fresh ways in our time and place?

Over 100 years, the Word of God has been preached, hospitality has been practiced, children have been taught, and neighbors have been served...but how might these core values and calling be expressed in fresh ways in years to come?

The Advent season is about waiting and watching for God. And Christmas tells us that God often shows up in places the most religious among us hadn't thought to look. This Advent, may our eyes and ears be re-attuned to see where Christ is already showing up, and may we have the courage of the Magi and Shepherds to seek out and embrace these fresh expressions of the Good News.

~ Pastor Jon

The shepherds said to one another, "Let's go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about."

Luke 2:15

WHAT'S COMING UP IN WORSHIP



December 3rd: 1st Sunday in Advent

10:30am: Worship w/ Communion

11:30am: Final 2018 Budget Vote

Genesis 18, 20: "Waiting With the Saints of Old"

December 10th: 2nd Sunday in Advent

10:30am: Worship

Hebrews 10:36-39: "Waiting...in the Age of Christ"

December 17th: 3rd Sunday in Advent, Celebrate Worship

10:30am: Celebrate Christmas Worship

1 Corinthians 1:7-9: "Waiting on God's Promises Now"

December 24th: 4th Sunday in Advent & Christmas Eve

10:30am: Children's Program and Simple Worship

5:30pm: Special Music

6pm: Candlelight Christmas Eve Service

Luke 2: Already, Not Yet

December 31st: 1st Sunday of Christmas

10:30am: Worship with Communion

Psalms 85: Anticipation

~ Two opportunities to worship at Genesis HC this month ~

Thursday 12/7/17 & Thursday 12/28/17 at 10:00am





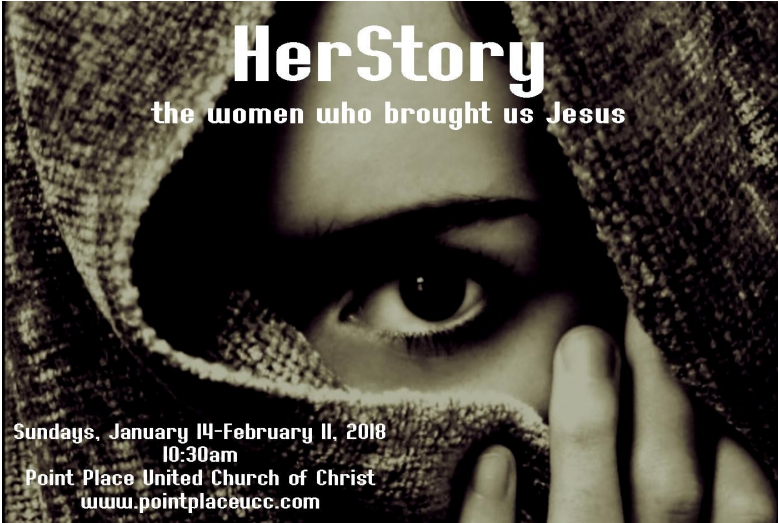
What are we waiting for?

*Advent Worship Sundays at 10:30am
Point Place United Church of Christ
www.pointplaceucc.com*

Advent Series: What are we waiting for?

We're all waiting for something, but we may not know exactly what it is we should be looking for. Join us on Sundays during Advent as we train our eyes to see what God has done, is doing, and will do in this world to fulfill his promises.

A Sneak Peek at what's coming in January...



HerStory

the women who brought us Jesus

Sundays, January 14-February 11, 2018
10:30am
Point Place United Church of Christ
www.pointplaceucc.com

TWAS THE LIGHT BEFORE CHRISTMAS

A COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS VBS*

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 9, 2017

9AM TO NOON

HOSTED BY POINT PLACE UCC (4920 297TH ST)



REGISTER PRE-K THROUGH 5TH GRADE STUDENTS FOR A FUN-FILLED MORNING ALL ABOUT THE TRUE MEANING OF CHRISTMAS.

REGISTER:

LIGHTVBS2017EVENTBRITE.COM OR CALL 419-726-7390

*THIS EVENT IS A COLLABORATION OF THE POINT PLACE CHURCHES

What can you do?

- Call the office to sign up as a volunteer. We need 1) Registration, 2) Preschool Shepherds, 3) Other help with groups
- Register your kids/grandkids at LightVBS2017.eventbrite.com or use the form included in the Paragraphs
- Invite your neighbors, family, friends, classmates, etc.





*Women's Growth Group
Begins September 21
Meets every other Thursday
7pm in the Lounge*

*spend a season of your life
seeking to fill your mind with
thoughts that bring you joy*



Think on These

A Women's Growth Group about How We Think. The group meets every other Thursday (November meetings will be the 2nd, 16th, and 30th at 7pm in the lounge) to focus on Paul's encouragements in Philippians about what thoughts fill our minds.

Monday Growth Group



Our Monday night Focus Group is finishing up our book study on "Seamless." This is a wonderful study on learning how the stories and characters in the Bible are intertwined into a beautiful story and understanding it better. We meet the first two Mondays of the month and take part in book studies, bible studies, mission work, and fellowship.

All are welcome.

On the 4th we will meet at Susan' Korecki's home and on the 11th, we will meet at Kathy P's for our Christmas gathering. In January, we will be start a new study of one of the books in the Bible. If you have any questions about the group, please contact Susan at 419-297-4674 or sdkorecki@gmail.com.

Ongoing Growth Groups

Elizabethans Women's Group

December 4, 2017 at 6:30pm

The Elizabethans meet on the first Monday at 6:30pm in the conference room. All women are welcome to this "small but mighty" fellowship group.



December 7, 2017 8:30am

The **Retired Men's Group** meets the first Thursday of the month at 8:30am. Please join us for coffee and donuts in the youth room at the church. All men are welcome

Something Brewing December 1st at 7:00pm

This men's group meets at Black Cloister Brewing (Monroe & Erie St. downtown). You don't have to have a beer to enjoy conversation about what God has brewing in our lives and the world around us.



Congregational Meeting

Sunday, December 3rd

Immediately following worship

All members are encouraged to attend this meeting as we conclude the vote on the 2018 budget.



FEED YOUR NEIGHBOR

We will pass out bags on Sunday December 3rd and collect them the following week on the 10th.

December Focus: Baking supplies and Pantry Items. Also, please remember we are collecting additional items such as warm coats, hats and gloves as the weather turns to winter.




Birthdays

- 1 Lois Fallon
- 6 Michael Motter, II
- 8 Kim Boldt
- 8 Marilyn Miller
- 9 George Hathaway
- 11 Alicia Mockbee
- 17 Shanna Mockbee
- 19 Erin Montague
- 25 Richard Berry
- 30 Renee Trudeau-Pledge

Anniversaries

- 28 Bob and Kathy Placzkiewicz
- 31 Matthew & Anna Armstrong

If your birthday or anniversary is not listed, please contact the office.



The Birthday Club will celebrate our December Birthdays on Thursday, December 14th at 11:30am @ KT's Diner.

Please RSVP to Ruby Usher or Cindy in the office if you would like to attend.

"If you love me, feed my sheep."
John 21:15-19

| <u>Monday, Dec 11</u> | <u>Tuesday, Dec 19</u> | <u>Tuesday, Dec 26</u> |
|------------------------------------|--|-------------------------------|
| Dinner at RiverPoint Ministries | Turkey & Dressing Mashed Potatoes Vegetable, Dessert | Spaghetti Salad Dessert |
| 2862 131 st Street | Coffee, Juice, Water | Coffee, Juice, Water |



The Gift

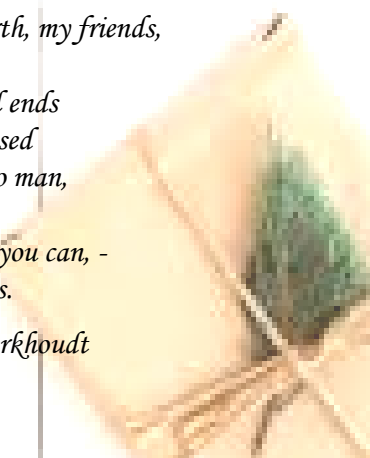
*The winds of winter solstice
Blow brisk about our ears
And bring with them the mem'ries
Of happy childhood years.
The long awaited Christmas morn, -
What joy, what jubilation!
As children reveled with new toys
In homes across the nation.*

*Any yet, what was the real gift,
The reason for this love?
'Twas the Word made flesh, Incarnate,
As promised from above.
This wondrous Child of prophecy
Was given to mankind
To mark the path of mercy
For all of us to find.*

*His simple message: love and peace,
It seems, has been distorted.
Blatant custom without surcease
True meaning all but thwarted.
Tinsel, lights and presents, -
With parties to excess,
Have blocked our vision of the Word
And caused us much distress.*

*The priceless Gift's full worth, my friends,
Can still be realized
By turning from commercial ends
Whose hollow worth disguised
The love of God expressed to man,
And each for one another,
Embrace your family while you can, -
And all mankind as brothers.*

~ by Richard F. Berkhoudt



connecting with community



TOWER OF TOYS

As part of the Point/Shoreland community, we are asking YOU to donate a toy (or 2) that will be given to the children of the 43611 area through Mustard Seed (our local food bank).

Drop off at RiverPoint UMC

2862 131st Street

419.726.1888

Monday – Thursday... 10a to 3p

Toys due by December 11th



Christmas Gift Cards Every year, we provide Meijer gift cards to families who might need them in our congregation. Please talk to Jim Armstrong if you would like to give to these cards. Please talk to Pastor Jon if you could use one this year.

SIBERIAN SOLSTICE

A Trans-Siberian Orchestra Tribute Band
and

ONE SPIRIT GOSPEL QUARTET

present

THE ANGEL'S GIFT

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 9

with host & emcee
Denny Schaffer
of Q105FM

Doors open at 6:30pm
Show starts at 7pm

100% to benefit
Cherry Street
DONATION \$25

CHERRY ST.
MISSION MINISTRIES

Life Revitalization Center
1501 Monroe Street
Toledo 43604

Come enjoy a musical Christmas evening at the Life Revitalization Center 1501 Monroe Street on December 9th.

One Spirit Gospel Quartet is the group with Susan Korecki that shared their music at Point Place UCC this summer. Tickets are \$25 and can be purchased from Susan by calling her at 419-297-4674 or email sdkorecki@gmail.com. All proceeds will go to the Cherry Street Mission. This concert has already raised close to \$20,000 for Cherry Street Mission!



Feed My Sheep Notes

Community Ministry

Cold Weather brings extra needs!

Clean out your closets this season! We need:

- Hats, gloves, and scarves for those we serve downtown. As we cook and serve FMS meals twice a month in Paterson Hall, we also distribute 40-50 meals to those who live on the streets in downtown Toledo.
- Coats and warm clothing for Mustard Seed.
- Gently used shoes. Lori Winne and Nancy Bright are participating in a fundraiser for their Sweet Adeline Chorus. They need hundreds of shoes that will be sent to Haiti. Sandals, tennis shoes, kids' shoes, men's shoes, women's shoes. They need them all!

You may bring in any of these items and place them on the back table in Paterson Hall. Each Sunday, Lori Winne will take them where they are needed. As we thank God for His abundant blessings to each of us, let us share with those who have nothing.

News from Mustard Seed

Mustard Seed has been preparing for the upcoming holidays. They have already blessed 75 families with Thanksgiving baskets that the area churches put together. They will have a like amount of families in need for Christmas.

As always, they are need in of personal products (shampoo, deodorant, toilet paper, etc.) extra pantry items (salt, sugar, ketchup, snacks, etc.) They are also looking for a volunteer with a truck who could pick up food from the food bank about twice a month. Their hours are minimal (4-6 hours a month) and the payoff is amazing—more “Thank You”s than you can handle!

Sunday School Christmas Program



The Sunday School kids will use liturgical dance, singing, and music to present a short program titled, "The Littlest Star." Come watch them sparkle as they tell the story of the special star that led the wise men to the baby Jesus. They will shine during the morning service on Sunday, December 24th. You won't want to miss this!



Choir News



Come and enjoy the new music and have some fun! We are always looking for shiny new faces and any past members that want to be rejuvenated. On the 2nd Sunday of the month, our joyful choir joins the Worship Service. We practice at 9:15am on the 1st and 2nd Sunday of the month. Please contact Kevin at 419-392-3867 or kevin.korecki@gmail.com for more information.

Worship the Lord with gladness; come into his presence with singing. ~ Psalm 100:2

Financial Information for October 31, 2017

| | 10/31/17 | Year To Date (10/31/17) |
|--|-----------------|---|
| Total Income | \$ 9,556 | \$ 93,139 |
| Total Expenses | —\$ 10,089 | —\$ 126,761 |
| Net Income | —\$ 533 | —\$ 33,622 |
| **Endowment Supplements | | + \$ 14,951 (6/28/17) + \$ 20,000 (10/30/17) |
| Balance in General Checking Acct 10/31/17 | | \$24,214.50** |
| Money designated to Funds (FMS, Celebrate) | | (\$8.663.86) |
| Amount available in General Funds 8/31/17 | | \$15,550.64** |

Building Maintenance Fund

| | 10/31/17 | Year To Date (9/30/17) |
|---|-----------------|-------------------------------|
| Total Income | \$ 290 | \$ 4117 |
| Total Expenses | -\$ 215 | -\$ 2523 |
| Net Income | \$ 75 | \$ 1594 |
| Balance in Maintenance Fund 10/31/17 | | \$ 6603.68 |



Thank you! Thank you! Thank you!

For all the volunteers who participated in our annual Salvation Army "Red Kettle" bell-ringing day, I'd like to say a hearty "Thank you!" Point Place as a community is traditionally quite generous and your smiling faces and day-long bell ringing got folks in the holiday spirit. Thanks again.

~ Dick Berkhoudt

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UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST**

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Toledo, Ohio 43611

419-726-7390

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Address service
requested

*To care for one another
as God cares for us.*

