



Cross Beams

News from Cedarville U.M. Church
"Changing Lives with Jesus"

December, 2016

Preparing, Celebrating, and Rejoicing!

In this season, as we prepare our hearts again for the coming of the Christ-child, I hope that you will join the church family in using the daily Advent devotional, *Savior of the Nations. Come!* Read the brief devotion and spend some time reflecting about what it has to say to you. Each day, we will know that our sisters and brothers are meditating on the same devotion. The devotions begin on Sunday, November 27 and continue through Christmas Day.

You can pick up a copy (regular or large print) in the Sanctuary and Family Life Center lobbies. Or you can go to our website, www.cedarvilleumc.org, and go to the Advent Devotionals 2016 at the right side of the page, or you can use this link: https://www.luthersem.edu/advent/GC1030-16_2016_Advent_Devotional.pdf or for the large print version: https://www.luthersem.edu/advent/GC1030-16_2016_Advent_Devotional_LARGE.pdf

When we arrive at the last two devotions, it will be Christmas Eve and Christmas Day! And, we will gather to worship—both days!! (See info elsewhere in this newsletter regarding service times.)

In her blog post entitled, "An Inconvenient Christmas", Bishop Peggy Johnson share some of the comments she has fielded in recent days due to the fact that Christmas falls on a Sunday this year:

"It is so inconvenient when Christmas is on a Sunday."

"No one comes, and people are tired from Christmas Eve services the night before."

She says, "I have been asked if it would be alright to cancel church services on Christmas Day and perhaps even on New Year's Day a week later, since the same kind of holiday issues exist. Few churches observe a Watch Night service, however; so the New Year's Day concern is more about late-night celebrations than holy exhaustion.

Read her entire article here:

<http://bishoppeggyjohnson.blogspot.com/2016/11/an-inconvenient-christmas.html>

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Pastor's Message - Continued

In case you were wondering, the answer is YES! Here at Cedarville UMC, we will gather for worship at four Christmas Eve services, AND on both Sundays - Christmas Day and New Year's Day. We will hold ONE worship service each of those Sundays (Lord's Days) at 10:00 a.m.

If you are not traveling, I encourage you to come out and worship with your church family. Come and celebrate our Savior's birth on SUNDAY, December 25, as we examine the ABC's of Christmas. The service will be family-friendly and include some interaction for the children (and the young at heart), while honoring and celebrating the birth of the Christ-child -- Emmanuel, God with us!! The service also will include familiar carols as we sing our faith.

The following week, be in the Lord's house with your church family as we celebrate God's love and grace at the start of the new year on SUNDAY, January 1. As we continue in the season of Christmas through January 6, the service will include additional songs that celebrate our Christmas faith, along with other beloved music.

And, by the way, the youth will once again hold the Annual Pork and Sauerkraut Dinner (see article elsewhere) as one

of their 2017 Mission Trip fundraisers. So, following the worship service on January 1, 2017, you can enjoy this traditional New Year's meal, which begins at 11:00 a.m., and thereby participate in supporting our youth as they prepare for mission in our Lord's name. (See details elsewhere in this newsletter)

Blessings to all

*as we journey through this season of Advent and prepare for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ,

*as we celebrate the holy birth, and

*as we rejoice in the gift of a new year in which to praise our God together!

Preparing, celebrating, and rejoicing with you!

Pastor Sherry



Cedarville Nights December Menus

Dec. 7 – Mac-n-cheese, Sausage, Peppers & Onions, Stewed Tomatoes, Vegetable Medley, Salad, Rolls and Dessert

Dec. 14 – Roast Beef Sandwich, Parmesan Potatoes, Salad, Dessert

Dec. 21 & Dec. 28: No Cedarville Nights – Christmas Break



To Beautify the Sanctuary for Christmas Services
\$9.00/each
Order Deadline: December 14
Order Forms Can be Found in the Narthex



Sunday, December 4,
5:00 p.m.

Our annual Family Christmas Dinner will be held on December 4, at 5:00 p.m. in the Family Life Center.

Entertainment will be provided by "The Lady and the Tramp, a singing duo from Pennsburg, PA. They offer a mix of gospel, country and pop songs covering many artists, while sharing jokes, poems, and sing-alongs. You will certainly be entertained by this duo!





Nifty-Fifty+ Christmas Dinner

The Nifty-Fifty+ Christmas dinner will be held on December 8, 12:00 noon. The dinner will be catered by Coventry Parlor. Menu includes Roast Pork, Sweet Potatoes, Vegetable and rolls. Price is \$9.50 each. Order deadline is December 1. A program will be presented by harpist, Betsy Chapman.

Live Nativity Sunday, December 18, 2016 5:30 p.m.-8:00 (Weather permitting)

Please plan to come to the Live Nativity and bring your family and friends. You will walk with a Shepherd Guide; following the star of Bethlehem and visit seven scenes that tell the story of Jesus' birth. The scenes are outside, so please dress accordingly. The event is handicapped accessible. Following the tour there will be refreshments, music and children's crafts in the Family Life Center.



Ladies' Christmas Tea

The Women's Fellowship Christmas Tea will be held on Tuesday, December 13th, 7:00 p.m. in the Family Life Center. Please bring your favorite cookies to share or finger foods. Program will be presented by Harpist, Betsy Chapman. Sign-up sheets are located in both lobbies.



December Events and Services

December 4 – Christmas Dinner, 5:00, Family Life Center
December 8 – Nifty-Fifty+ Christmas Dinner, 12:00, FLC
December 11 – 9:00 Contemporary Cantata, “*O Night Divine*” FLC
11:00 Traditional Cantata, “*Ceremony of Candles*” Sanctuary
7:00 Re-Creation Christmas Concert, FLC
December 12 – Miller-Keystone Blood Drive, 2:00-7:00 p.m. Family Life Center
December 13 – Ladies' Christmas Tea, FLC
December 18 – Live Nativity, 5:30 p.m. Grounds of Cedarville and Family Life Center

December 24 – Christmas Eve Candlelight Services:

4:00 – Children and Family Service with children's re-enactment of the nativity, Sanctuary
6:00 Contemporary Service in the Family Life Center
8:00 Traditional Service with Handbells, Brass and Chancel Choir, Sanctuary
10:00 Traditional Service with Special Music and Communion, Sanctuary

December 25 – One Service only at 10:00



January 1, 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. in the Family Life Center.

Youth are hosting this dinner as a fund raiser for the Youth Mission Trip in June. The cost is \$9.00 per adult, \$4.50 per child and \$3.00 for child's hot dog meal. Tickets available prior to the dinner from Kris Roberts, John McCormick or Susan Morris in the church office. Tickets will also be available after each Sunday service during the month of December and at the door.





Missions and Outreach

A Mission Moment

As the end of the year draws near, the Mission Committee would like to take a moment to express appreciation for all the missional efforts you have engaged in for the past year. The church has been very generous in monetary giving for special offerings for Mother's and Father's Day. Through budget support you have allowed us to continue the Fun Fair and provide our college students with a small remembrance gift, at finals, from their church family.

Your ongoing donations of food items to the Cluster and Operation Backpack continue to make a positive difference to those who have need of those services in our community. The Uniform Project and the Marie Heimbach Memorial Mitten Project are always well received and supported.

The Sunday Afternoon Shelter is in full swing. Please consider going to the website to sign up to host a Sunday afternoon. You can contact Cindy Cebular with any questions about this project.

As we look forward to a New Year, there will be additional ways to give and serve and show our love outside the walls of Cedarville UMC.

May God bless everyone This Christmas season, may we

grow to be more like His Son every day.

The Mission Committee



Marie Heimbach Memorial Mitten Project

Please remember to return all your Mitten gifts to the church by December 11 – place in Fellowship Hall.

Second Annual Laity Day of Service

The second annual Laity Day of Service was held on October 16, 2016. Over 120 members of Cedarville UMC entered the Mission field in order to be the hands and feet of Jesus, and to witness to service as a verb, an action, not an hour on Sunday morning.

Activities were conducted outside the building like park clean up and clean up for the building being renovated by the Cluster, pet services were performed, yard work was done for some folks who greatly appreciated the efforts of young muscle, food was sorted, shoes were sorted and cleaned for redistribution to those in need. Additionally, this year some services were performed inside our walls and will be sent where needed. Birthday box kits were assembled and greeting cards were created, lap quilts were worked on, disaster buckets

were assembled and these items will greatly benefit the recipients.

A We also benefitted from the work of those who served to make lunch, provided nursery coverage and who prayed during the time of service.

Thank you to all those who worked and served in whatever form the labor took. When we became members of the church, we took a vow to uphold it with our prayers, presence, gifts, service and witness. That day was a testimony to fulfilling those vows in Christ's name.

Looking forward, if you have an idea for a project for 2017, and would be willing to serve as the contact person, it is never too late to start planning. Please contact Vicki Miller, Frank or Cindy Cebular.

Opportunity to Continue Serving the Community at the North Coventry Food Pantry

On our day of service, Oct. 16, I was part of a group who went to help at the North Coventry Food Pantry. We packed bags and boxes of food for participating families. The task was organized in an efficient assembly line, and it only took us about an hour to complete the work. It was rewarding and fun! I told the director (in faith!) that I was sure I could get 10-12 volunteers from Cedarville every month to do this job. If I can compile a list of volunteers, it might only mean a

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Opportunity to serve at North Coventry Food Pantry – Continued

commitment of 3 or 4 times a year for individuals. Our first assignment is scheduled for Tuesday, January 31st at 6:30 PM. If you are interested in being part of this team, please call (610-327-8508) or e-mail me (sgparavis@aol.com). Please join me in this endeavor. We can "Be the Church" in our community.

Sue Paravis



Children and Youth



Cedarville Nursery School

We are thankful for..... words often spoken but not reflected on. This month we focused on what those words mean and the abundance that surrounds us. When you ask young children what they are thankful for it almost always includes their parents. We reflected on this and came to the realization that what most people are truly thankful for is love. Our parents give us an abundance of love and so does God. We therefore felt it was the perfect opportunity to feature psalm

26:4 "Your steadfast love is before my eyes!"

We also studied Native Americans. We learned how each tribe was unique and how varied their culture was and how they adapted their life style in accordance with where they lived. We also saw a common thread among all the tribes which was their love of family, community, Earth, and God. Just like us! These Native Americans were a very grateful people. They thanked God before and after a big hunt, for favorable weather, and bountiful harvests. We can learn so much about being grateful from them. The children learned about Native American symbolism and we made totem poles!

We are thankful for our school home here at Cedarville and all the beautiful moments we get to share with amazing children! We hope the beauty of each day leaves you inspired and you think of us upstairs playing and learning and it makes you happy that you have given a space for more love to grow!!

Nancy Dorward and Melanie Crawford

Confirmation Sessions 2017

All 8th and 9th graders, along with parents or guardians, are invited to a Confirmation Orientation gathering on Sunday, January 15th at 1:00 p.m. in the youth room. Come and learn about the confirmation process and bring your questions.

At this point, I plan to hold confirmation sessions on Wednesday afternoons from 4:00-5:00 p.m. However, this timeframe is not set in stone. Classes will be held February-May, leading up to Confirmation Sunday, when all who have completed the process and choose to join the church, will be confirmed.

Please contact the church office (susan@cedarvilleumc.org or 610-326-4173) to register your attendance at the Orientation session on January 15.

Mark your calendars or save the date in your phone now for Sunday afternoon, January 15, 2017 from 1:00-2:00. I look forward to an exciting journey of exploring faith and life questions with you through the confirmation process!

Cedarville Youth

Dec. 4 - In lieu of evening Youth Group, all members are encouraged to attend the Cedarville Christmas Dinner at 5:00 in the FLC.

Dec. 11 – Youth Group in the Youth Room from 6:30-8:00 p.m. Favorite Christmas movies on the big screen, food, games...join us!

Dec. 17 – Live Nativity Setup from 9:00 a.m. -11:00 a.m. – Help if you are able!

Dec. 18 – No Youth Group – Live Nativity

Dec. 25 – Merry Christmas!



**Cluster Item
Of the Month (For
Holiday Food
Baskets)
Cans of Condensed
Milk (12-14 ounce
size)
Need 200 Cans
Place on shelf in
back of Fellowship
Hall – Deadline is
December 4th**



To My Cedarville Family,

I appreciate each card and message received from you after retiring. I pray that Jesus keeps his loving arms wrapped around each of you and keeps you safe.

*Love,
Karen Baum*

Dear Cedarville Family,

I am overwhelmed by the outpouring of love and best wishes from all of you as I celebrated my 90th birthday.

*Thank you to the sewing group for my birthday party, complete with balloons and cake (special thanks to Cindy Wilde for baking the cake and Joetta Learn for the flower arrangement on the cake). Also, thanks to CedarSowerz for the beautiful lap quilt. Thanks to the Women's Breakfast Group for the altar flowers, and thanks to everyone who sent cards and flowers. I am truly blessed to be part of the Cedarville Family.
Doris Loscig*

*Dear Pastor Sherry &
Cedarville Friends,*

We thank you, from the bottom of our hearts, for the love you encircled our mom, dad and family with over the many years, and especially during these difficult times.

*Carol, Susan, Pamela &
Families (of the Warren Mauger family)*

To the Congregation,

I wanted to express our deepest thanks for your willingness to support "Operation Backpack". During the 2016/2017 school year we will be serving Pottstown, Pottsgrove, Spring-Ford and Boyertown school districts. We sent out over 3,000 backpacks last year and hope to send out many more this year. You have gone above and beyond to help us meet this need.

Your generous donations of food items and supplies provide the needed resources to continue feeding our local homeless and hungry students. You have collected 1133 individual servings of food! Your

donation provided the needed resources to fill approximately 76 backpacks!

*Blessings,
Lisa Heverly
Founder & Executive Director of
Operation Backpack*



<u>Name</u>	<u>Date of Death</u>
Dahn. E. Crandall	01/27/2016
Harold E. Wagner Sr.	04/05/2016
Paul D. "Chip" Egrie	04/10/2016
Casey Acri	06/25/2016
Eric M. Hunter	08/11/2016
Alex J. Hartzell	08/26/2016
Marsha Lehman	05/25/2016
Betty R. Oplinger	09/20/2016
Joan Y. Shantz	09/21/2016
Patricia A. Glanski	10/26/2016
Warren E. Mauger	10/30/2016

**Supply of the Month:
Tissues
Place in Bins at the
back of Fellowship Hall**

**A Devotional by Walter
Mouse**



Matthew 2:1...After Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea...

This year our church had a Live Nativity. It was marvelous! Shepherd-Narrators led small groups past four scenes: The Entrance to Bethlehem, The Manger Scene, Shepherds and Angels in the Field with their sheep, and grandparents reading the Biblical story of Christ's birth to their grandkids. The Narrators also offered a short commentary on each scene, inviting folks into a deepening relationship with Christ. The beauty of a Live Nativity is that it contains living people and animals portraying Jesus' birth. Jesus longs to be a part of another Live Nativity as well—one within your heart. Let Christ be born anew in you this Christmas!!!

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Read other devotions at
WalterMouse.com

For inclement weather cancellations

Please check our website (www.cedarvilleumc.org), Facebook page, or Twitter feed. If you would like to be added to our email or phone call notification lists, please contact Susan in the church office, susan@cedarvilleumc.org, 610-326-4173, and give her your email and/or phone contact info.



Miller-Keystone Blood Center will be here on Monday, December 12th, 2:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m. in the Family Life Center. Please contact Karen Baum 610-323-5352 to schedule an appointment or go online to register at GIVEaPINT.org using sponsor code 4234. Take time to save lives.



If you're looking for a hands-on small group, you might want to try the Knitting Circle. Its official name is "Chicks with Sticks...and a Rooster." That's because we have a man in the group. Most of us knit, but we

have one woman who crochets, and we've had others who did various other forms of handwork (cross stitch, needlepoint, car kit assembly, and embroidery). We meet every Wednesday from 10:00 a.m. to noon. Folks come late, leave early, stay the full time...whatever works for their schedule. If you can't knit, but would like to learn, we'll be happy to teach you! If you have any questions, contact Pam Frame at pam@cedarvilleumc.org.



The best of all gifts around any Christmas tree: the presence of a happy family all wrapped up in each other.
~ Burton Hillis



Gifts of time and love are surely the basic ingredients of a truly merry Christmas."
~ Peg Bracken



May the spirit of Christmas bring you peace,
The gladness of Christmas give you hope,
The warmth of Christmas grant you love.
~ Anon



December Worship Leaders

8:00 Worship Service

4 – Larry Frame
11 – Jean Arbogast
18 – Larry Frame
25 – Christmas Day – 10:00 service only

11:00 Worship Service

4 – Frank Cebular, Elaine Armstrong – Scripture
11 – Cantata
18 – Elaine Lambert, Mary Viera – Scripture
25 – Christmas Day – 10:00 service only

10:00 Worship Service on December 25

Gene Hohl – Worship Leader

9:30 Scripture Readers

4 – Sue Paravis
11 – Cantata (Service at 9:00)
18 – Susan Youst
25 – Christmas Day, 10:00 Service only

December Ushers

8:00 Traditional

Dave & Jo-Ann Hohl

9:30 Contemporary

Rene & Jen Fernandez

11:00 Traditional

Rob Mutschler – Head Usher

December Flowers

4 – Michelle M. Zieser
11 – Suzanne Yorgey
18 – Howard & Doris Loscig
25 – Karen & Gene Baum

CedarKidz Teachers

4 – Diane Cherico
11 – Sandie Armstrong
18 – Susan Morris
25 – No CedarKidz

KidzWorship Teachers

4 – Patti McClimon
11 – Kim Geller
18 – Sue Paravis
25 – No KidzWorship

9:30 Nursery

4 – Cindy Cebular
11 – Melissa Burg
18 – Linda Waclawsky

11:00 Nursery

4 – Danelle Kline
11 – Julie Laum
18 – Nancy Guenther

10:00 Nursery on December 25: Jen Fernandez, Emilie Atkinson, Sue Klinedinst



Pastor:
Rev. Sherry Lantz
sherry@cedarvilleumc.org
Church Office: 610-326-4173
Office Administrator:
Susan Morris
susan@cedarvilleumc.org
Nursery Coordinator 9:30 –
Joyce Thiessen
Sexton: Steve Krasley
Youth Leader:
John McCormick
Website & Social Media:
Lori McCormick
Web Page:
www.cedarvilleumc.org
Music Staff:
Chris Vogel, Organist & Director of Contemporary Worship
chris@cedarvilleumc.org
Kathy Ballein, Choir Director
Lori Snavelly, Handbell Director
Bradley Shupinski, AV Coordinator
Servant Staff:
Treasurer: Randy Beidler
Assistant Treasurer: Jay Meloy
Pianist: Jean Arbogast
Shephelah Coordinator: John Waclawsky
Photographer: Brent Miller
Prayer List Coordinator: Sheila Hardin,
TUCKERSFAMILY@aol.com
Prayer Chain Coordinator: Elaine Lambert
CatchAcat2@aol.com
Pet Prayer Chain: Pam Frame
pawprints@cedarvilleumc.org
Altar Flower Coordinator: Pam@cedarvilleumc.org