

Cridersville Chronicle

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December 2018

From the desk of Pastor Mark Hollinger

Christmas is here and it came earlier this year than it did last! I am sure that it will manage to come earlier next year. The date hasn't moved but the sales promotions, holiday music and the Christmas specials have moved to an earlier date of airing and offering than in the years past. I suppose it may always be this way until we actually have Christmas in July and then where will those Christmas in July parties and promotions be then?

I should be happy that our society wants more of Christmas. But of course the disconnect with our society and we as Christians is the meaning and purpose of Christmas. The songs are great—although they're pretty much all secular with little mention of Jesus or Lord or God's true might. ("The River" in Toledo, 101.5 FM, started playing Christmas music the first of November and yesterday I intentionally listened to the songs until I heard some mention of God and it took five songs until that happened). I don't mind the sales and specials because gift giving and thinking of others is a good part of where Christmas is centered. But so much is lost on the "me" doing and getting for Christmas rather than the Lord's giving and us praising the greatest of all gifts, love coming down to us in the person of Jesus, Christ.

Christmas is a very busy time of year for a pastor. We are not only trying to make sure that Christmas celebrations of the church traditions are good and to the glory of God. But we are also tending to the business of the coming year and the organizations of the ministries of the church and the activities for the coming year. As well as our family Christmas celebrations and of course gift giving and buying. But I still love Christmas. I don't get pressed over Christmas, much. (Well, alright—maybe just a little bit here and there). When I do get stressed I truly do remember that Christ is the meaning of Christmas and no matter what else happens I know that God loves us and wants us to have joy and peace that extends far beyond outside trappings and possessions.

Our Advent sermon series is "The Characters of Christmas" and we will be looking to and learning about shepherds, angels, Mary and Joseph and the Wiseman. We will see how that first Christmas two thousands touched their lives and challenged their spirit.

I would encourage you to embrace the true meaning of Christmas and be sure to be generous not to just your own but to those outside the church. We just had Operation Christmas Child and our church received over 80 gift boxes for children who might not have Christmas without those donations. We will be adopting some families for Christmas and Ch-Ki-Lo will have both their thanksgiving baskets and Christmas basket. In all of these we have an opportunity to give and thus be a reflection of God's giving to us the greatest gift that is the meaning of Christmas. Our traditional Christmas Eve service is at 7 pm in the church sanctuary and it will be a wonderful celebration of music, with a challenging message and the warmth of Christmas Eve traditions.

So, when you start to get stressed and pressed during this "Holiday," remember to take a moment and regard the true meaning of these "Holy days." Love came down from God's throne of grace to show us His magnificent grace and love so that in our lives—we know hope, peace, joy and love.

Liturgist

- 2) Jim Lucas
- 9) Youth
- 16) Jim Schroeder
- 23) Kathy Krites
- 30) Mary Kay Smith

Nursery

- 2) Dan & Heather Gowanlock
- 9) No Nursery
- 16) Josh & Kari Houser
- 23) Jill Wierwille/ Youth
- 30) No Nursery

Power Express

- 2) Communion— No Power Xpress
- 9) No Power Xpress
- 16) Youth
- 23) Youth
- 30) No Power Xpress

Ushers

- Jim & Debbie Schroeder
- Bryan & Stephanie Strombaugh

Greeters

2) Ernie & Jenny
Numbers
Jean Fox
Jane Bowersock

9) Youth

16) Gene & Neita
Border
George & Kathy
Krites

23) Mel & Sue
Numbers
Billy & Janet Pack

30) Sandy Spillman
June Reichelderfer
Sue Hinegardner
Connie Rees



Come and enjoy the Christmas story on

Sunday, December 9

from 6-8 PM

through the Living Nativity at the Westview Campus.
If you would like to participate in this community outreach,
please contact Betsy Wagner or Megan Rumbaugh.

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

Children will have a dress rehearsal for the Christmas play on Saturday, Dec. 08 from 10:30 am-Noon. The children's Christmas play will be Sunday, Dec. 09 during worship.

The nursery will not be staffed with volunteers on Sunday, Dec. 09 (due to the Christmas play) however, it will still be open and available for families that need to use it.

On Sunday, Dec. 24 during the Sunday school hour all children (nursery and Power Xpress) are invited to a Birthday party for Jesus taking place in the Power Xpress room.

Please note that there will not be Power Xpress or the nursery available on Sunday, Dec. 31. Children are invited to enjoy the service with their families.



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CRAVE

Nov 25	5-7 pm Deck The Halls/Hanging of Greens
Dec 2	5-7 Crave
Dec 8	6-8 Live Nativity
Dec 16	5-7 Crave
Dec 23	5-7 Crave
Dec 30	5-7 Crave



FESTIVE FIESTA

Our children's ministry is currently seeking donations for our Festive Fiesta with our friends at Forest Park UMC on Friday December 28 from 6-8pm.

ITEMS TO DONATE:

Utensils (for about 75 people)

Cups

2 cans of whip cream

5 containers of icing

36 rolls of toilet paper

Plates

Napkins

1 bottle of chocolate syrup

5 containers of sprinkles

4 rolls of masking tape

Please bring your donations to the Power Xpress room by Sunday December 23. Please see Courtney with any questions.

Congratulations IT'S A GIRL!!!!

Kyle and Kelsey West are proud to announce the birth of their daughter, Elowyn Parker West, on November 2nd. They would like to thank everyone for all the prayers and well wishes.



December Birthdays

- 4) Chloe Richardson
- 5) Judy Eversole
Charles Martindell
- 6) Sam Wagner
- 9) Kyle Wagner
- 11) Ora Seese
- 12) Kim Greer
- 13) Ashley Plummer
Rachel Plummer
- 14) Frank Oen
- 16) Nathan Houser
- 17) June Reichelderfer
Milo Stubbs
- 18) Peyton Stombaugh
- 19) Ryleigh Erb
- 20) Emma Emrick
- 21) Jean Arnold
Christy Tomsett
- 25) Mary Harrod
- 26) Jill Wierwille
- 31) Dick Smith

December Anniversaries

- 18) Howard & Nola Heilman
- 19) Brad & Emily Plummer
- 27) Bryan & Joyce Beecher

Ch-Ki-Lo Food Pantry



CH-KI-LO's Thanksgiving distribution on Monday, November 19th was a success, with many hard-working volunteers serving food for a holiday meal to over 80 families. Thank you to all who contributed and volunteered their time. We are already busy working on the Christmas distribution, scheduled for Thursday, December 20th, and additionally, are collecting hats and gloves for those who need them. If you would like to contribute to this mission, please leave them in the Ministry Center in back of the sanctuary. Our annual Angel Tree program is also starting up, and if you would like to help with our CH-KI-LO clients' Christmas, please take an angel off the tree and buy a \$10 present for that angel, wrap it, and attach the angel to the package. Please have the presents back under our tree no later than Sunday, December 16th. Our clients truly appreciate the help to provide a present for their children to open on Christmas. Thank you so much for your generosity!

Christmas-time Adopt-a-Family

Again this year we will adopt 2-3 families based on information given us by Cridersville Elementary School. The school provides a list of needs and wants for these families along with sizes and ages. In past years we have included older siblings from the middle and high schools and the parents. With your generosity we have been able to gift them well. Please help again this year by placing your donations in one of the pew envelopes and mark it "Adopt-A-Family". (We take Kohl's cash, too!) We'll **need** your **donations by December 2** to facilitate our shopping, wrapping and delivery efforts. Any questions, ask Jeff Reichelderfer or Mary Kay Smith. Thank you.

Angel Tree Gifts



ANGEL TREE
christmas

We're helping some children from the community with Christmas gifts through our Angel Tree Ministry. The "tree" is in the Ministry Center with descriptions of the age and gender of those we are helping with Christmas presents. "Adopt" one of the "angels" by taking the Angel decoration from the tree, and providing the gifts for that child. Gifts should be in the \$10 price range. Wrap the gift and place the "Angel" Gift Tag securely on the package. Place the gift under the Angel Tree by Sunday, December 16 to be ready for our Christmas distribution. Thank you to those who help share these signs of God's love with the children of our community.

October Attendance & Offerings

Date	Attendance	Sunday School Attendance	General Fund Offering	Capital Improvements
October 28	95	44	\$1705.00	\$50.00
November 4	133	36	\$5787.00	\$120.00
November 11	135	47	\$2628.00	\$40.00
November 18	125	40	\$3445.00	\$30.00

“PEANUT BRITTLE BRIGADE”

Once again we had a successful peanut brittle year. Gary and I want to thank you all for your dedication and hard work for eight weeks. Each and everyone of you make this project the success that it is. Gary and I also want to thank you for your generosity of gift cards that we received.

God's blessings to you all

Gary and Judy



CHURCH FAMILY

Gary and I would like to thank everyone for their support of the Peanut Brittle fund raiser. This year was another successful year. As of November 16th Peanut Brittle income was \$8,508.30. This is not the final total because there is still some money that has not been turned in. I would also like to thank all of you who took the peanut brittle to your workplace, beauty salons, card clubs and barber shops. Your work was also a part of our success. Thanks again to all

Merry Christmas and have a Blessed New Year.

Gary and Judy

Book Notes

Attention all you Amish readers! We have a new book written by Wanda Brunsteter **THE FARMERS' MARKET MISHAP**. Twin sisters - one (Thelma) marries; the other (Elma) is now solely responsible for running their General store. With both parents gone and Thelma's time taken up with her pregnancy and her own home, Elma has her hands full. Enter Ben Wagler. Can you guess what happens?

We have a couple Debbie Macomber books added to our library. She is always a good read!

Are you interested in making your own Christmas Cards or Christmas tags? Check out "One Hundred Fast & Festive Cards & Tags. Note the words "**Fast**" and "**Festive**"! Enjoy!

Merry Christmas!



LOVE to make your memories brighter...

PEACE to make your heart rest...

JOY to make your

celebration ...

wonderful & blessed.



Advent Bible Study

COME JOIN OUR

BIBLE



Study

YOU are invited—to be part of the 4-week Advent Bible Study "The Miracle of Christmas" by James W. Moore. It begins *Monday, November 26th* at 5:30 pm. It will be held at the Calvary Campus on Sugar St., behind the car wash. It will be a fun, interesting study. For a copy of the book and more info, contact Nola Heilman at 419-236-6861 or Janet Pack at 419-234-8236.

Cookie Walk

Christmas Cookie Walk

Saturday, December 8

8:30 – 11:30 a.m.

Purchase your favorite home-made Christmas cookies by the pound



Don't forget to sign up in the Ministry Center if you would like to bake cookies for the Cookie Walk or fill out the bulletin insert and return to the office.

The Wrappin' Elves are at it again

Saturday, December 8, during the Cookie Walk, 8:30 - 11:30 a.m., you will have the opportunity to have your Christmas gifts wrapped by a top-notch wrapping team. Just bring your gifts to the fellowship hall and we'll do the rest. Then gather your cookies while you wait, or you may return later to pick up your wrapped gifts. All wrapping supplies are provided. Any donations received for the wrapping service will be given to the Samaritan House, shelter for homeless women and children. If you would like to schedule a time for your gifts to be wrapped, contact Nola Heilman, 419.236.6861 or hheilman@bright.net





Holiday Planning

Let all that you do be done in Love *Corinthians 16:14*

- November 24– Santa Breakfast sponsored by Lion’s Club
- November 25 - Hanging of the Greens
- December 8- Cookie Walk sale to support mission ministries
- December 8- Cridersville Christmas on Main- Church open with Nativity sets
- December 9- Youth Group Special Ministries for Sunday Worship
- December 9 - Children’s Program during Sunday worship
- December 9 – Living Nativity 6-8 pm
- December 23 – Church Service 9:30 am
- December 24- Christmas Eve Worship at 7 PM
- December 25-27— Food Pantry Closed
- December 30— Church Service 9:30 am

Christmas Music

Christmas music will soon fill the air here at the church. If you (or someone you know) would like to provide special music during worship on the Sundays of December or on Christmas Eve, please contact Mark Chambers 419.303.0827 or email at pastor-moc@gmail.com. **To participate on Christmas Eve, please contact Mark no later than Tuesday, December 18th.**

Christmas on Main Street

Nativity Scenes Needed

The youth would like to invite the congregation to bring in nativity scenes to display the Christmas story to the community for Christmas on Main Street on December 8.



The nativity scenes can be brought to the sanctuary on Sunday, Dec. 2 and on Fri, Dec. 7 from 6-7 pm. Or During Office Hours on December 6 or 7th.

We would like to leave them up for display through Sunday, Dec. 9th.

The Nativity Scenes can then be taken home after church on the 9th.



Operation Christmas Child

A HUGE thank you to those of you who packed a shoebox for Operation Christmas Child! We packed a total of

81

Way to Give Cridersville UMC!!!

That is almost double from last year. Think of all the children with happy faces this Christmas because you gave and the hope that will be offered through your generosity!

Commitment Sheets

Ministry handbook and ministry commitment sheets are still available at the welcome center, please be sure to register your commitments to our 2019 ministries and place them in the basket at the welcome center.



2019 Offering Envelopes will be available the first Sunday of December. If you do not see your name but wish to have envelopes, please contact the office and a number will be assigned to you! If you would like monthly envelopes instead of weekly envelopes for the next year (2020) please contact the office as these are ordered in January to receive the best price.

"Christmas waves a magic wand over this world, and behold, everything is softer and more beautiful."

—Norman Vincent Peale

