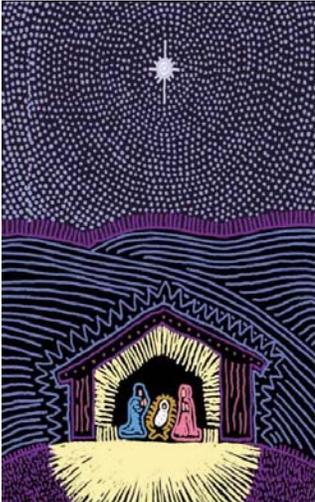


THE CHIMES

DECEMBER 2017



CHURCH of
the SAVIOUR
United Methodist



Christmas Eve
SERVICES
4:30pm · 7:30pm · 11pm

4:30 and 7:30pm feature Nativity Pageant
11pm Lessons and Carols with Communion

SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP SCHEDULE

December 3, First Sunday of Advent
Worship at 8:30 a.m. in Myers Chapel, 9:30 a.m. in the Great Hall and 11:00 a.m. in the Sanctuary, Rev. Andy Call preaching "Waiting with Purpose: Hope". (Isaiah 64:1-9)
Holy Communion at all three services.

December 10, Second Sunday of Advent
Worship at 8:30 a.m. in Myers Chapel, 9:30 a.m. in the Great Hall and 11:00 a.m. in the Sanctuary, Rev. Gregory Kendrick Jr preaching "Waiting with Purpose: Peace". (2 Peter 3:8-15a)

December 17, Third Sunday of Advent
Worship at 8:30 a.m. in Myers Chapel, 9:30 a.m. in the Great Hall, Rev. Andy Call preaching "Waiting with Purpose: Joy". (John 1:6-8, 19-28) Celebration of Carols in the Sanctuary at 11:00 a.m.

December 24, Fourth Sunday of Advent, Christmas Eve
Morning Advent Worship at 10:00 a.m. in the Great Hall, Rev. Andy Call preaching "Waiting with Purpose: Love". (Luke 1:26-38).

December 31 New Year's Eve
Worship at 8:30 a.m. in Myers Chapel, 9:30 a.m. in the Great Hall and 11:00 a.m. in the Sanctuary, Rev. Gregory Kendrick Jr preaching "All We Can Do is Sing". (Luke 2:22-38)

MIDWEEK ADVENT SERVICES

Taizé, December 6 at 7 p.m.

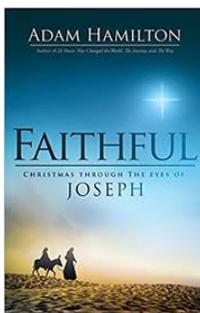
Come enjoy a quiet, reflective worship service in the Sanctuary with candle lighting, prayers, silence, simple song and communion.

Longest Night, December 20 at 7 p.m.

This worship service in the style of Taizé is a time of remembrance and reflection. The Holiday Season is not always joyful, especially for those who have experienced loss or are disconnected from others during the darkest time of year. We gather to be in God's presence.

SPIRITUAL GROWTH IN ADVENT

This Advent season consider joining a three week Advent Book Study Sunday mornings from December 3 through 17. The group will meet at 10:45 a.m. The Book for the study will be Faithful by Adam Hamilton. As the publisher notes, "Joseph's place in the Nativity story is sometimes overlooked. But Joseph's life contains valuable lessons for all of us. His courageous actions were crucial to the birth of Christ and God's salvation plan for humanity."



For more information or to purchase a book for \$5, contact the church office.

WATCH NIGHT SERVICE, DECEMBER 31

Join us for Watch Night, a service of celebration and anticipation as well as an opportunity to renew our covenant with God.



**Watch Night
Worship**

12.31.17 @ 7PM

CHURCH OF THE SAVIOUR



From the Lead Pastor

The Advent season is upon us. Advent literally means “a coming into being,” characterized by a posture of anticipation and hopeful waiting. We are waiting the birth of Christ when we celebrate this season.

The birth of Jesus, for Christians, is nothing less than the *incarnation of God*, God coming into human form and living among us. The angel said that his name would be Emmanuel, which means “God is with us.” It means that God chose to become humble and live in the same world as God’s creation, knowing forever what it meant to be human – frail and vulnerable, just like the rest of us. God knows intimately what it is like to struggle in this life. In Jesus, God offers us the gifts of love and reconciliation, a being-made-whole as a part of God’s family. *In short, the incarnation means hope.*

And yet, all is not as it should be. There is much more work to be done. We need the hope of Christ in our world, the hope that the incarnation brings, because it reminds us in the midst of struggle that God still desires to be with us, strengthening us for the work of faith.

Recently, when talking about Advent and all the preparations that come in the life of the church, my friend Dave Scavuzzo reminded me that “Jesus comes, whether we expect him or not. Even when we try to avoid him, he still seems to show up.” Are we watching for his arrival?

Howard Thurman, the great pastor and poet, said that though “Perfect Love seems long delayed, Christmas is waiting to be born: in you, in me, in all mankind.” Let us remember, friends, that we do not wait idly; we wait with purpose. God comes to us in Christ.

Rev. Andy Call

Thurman, Howard. *Howard Thurman: Essential Writings*. Edited by Luther E. Smith, Jr. Maryknoll, NY: Orbis Books (2006), 83.

LIVE STREAM COMING SOON

We are beginning to live stream the 9:30 worship service starting Sunday, December 3. For those unfamiliar with this term, it means anyone on the internet will be able to access a live feed of our worship through the church’s website or Facebook page. The Church of the Saviour Foundation generously funded a request last spring to provide this capability. Since then we have been upgrading the infrastructure and preparing. You may be asking, why are we implementing live video broadcast of our worship? Our goal is not to create a large online worshipping community nor do we want to encourage our current members to worship with us in their pajamas from the comfort of their living rooms.

Instead Paul instructs us to be in the world but not of the world, picking up on Jesus’ theme in the Gospel of John. Research confirms that most American adults investigate churches online before they choose to visit. People in our community spend time online and they make decisions about where they are going to go based on their internet experiences.

Live stream will allow our congregation members to stay connected when they are traveling or cannot otherwise join us in worship and allow us to keep current with sermon series topics and Biblical teaching when we cannot physically be present. We look forward to rolling out live streaming for our 11:00 Sanctuary Service as well in the Spring of 2018. There are many roles to fulfill this ministry. If you have any interest in being a part, please let Eric Lewis or the church office know.

Church Financial Update

The month of October was a strong month financially. Although we are still slightly behind in income from offerings (pledges and contributions), we are closer to the year-to-date budgeted projections. Expenses remain significantly below budget. The total result is that we are currently ahead of budget \$46,000 on the year. If we can continue the present course, we can fully meet our financial needs and connectional obligations.

Receipts compared to Budget:

Contributions, Pledges and Loose Offering: \$948,787 / \$959,519

All Other: \$159,223 / \$146,915

Total \$1,108,010/\$1,106,434

Expenses compared to Budget:

Actual \$1,061,856 / \$1,130,839



With the Holiday season fast approaching, I wonder if you aren't like me, and the stress of the season..gifts, parties, meals, family visits ...sometimes edges out the real reason for the season, God's greatest gift to us, Jesus. If you are thinking it would be great if you could get some of the things on your list done while keeping the focus on others and serving God, the Advent Festival can help fill that gap for you. It is a time to come together with our church family and community members to spend time in fellowship and bring some purpose to the commerciality of the holiday season. We may not be able to avoid gift giving altogether, but what if your gifts could support programs and organizations that serve those in need around the world and close to home?

There is something for everyone at the Advent Festival. Kids can participate in our crafts that make great gifts for their families from 9:30 to 11:30am. Everyone can purchase some great fair trade products from any of our amazing vendors, give an alternative gift for the person who has everything, and get some delicious cookies from the infamous cookie walk. We can all bid on the silent auction items that range from tickets to sporting events and theatre and musical productions to the priceless gifts of baked goods, complete meals cooked with love, or lessons or music performed. All proceeds from the Silent Auction will support Flat Rock Homes, which has been in existence since 1864 and became affiliated with the East Ohio Conference of the UMC in 1968. Flat Rock's mission is to transform lives of persons with intellectual and developmental disabilities and their families through a dedication of caring and excellence that demonstrates Christian values.

If you want to find a purpose to all the hubbub of the season, COTS is a great place to help us focus on what truly matters. Joining us on Saturday, December 2 from 9am-1pm for the annual Advent Festival is a great way to start December off right!

- Jesse Cunion



OPPORTUNITIES TO SHARE IN ADVENT

Christmas Music Program Presented by UMW



All women are invited to join UMW for their December 12 program: Christmas Music with Jennifer and Andy Call. A holiday buffet brunch will follow the program. If you know that you can attend, please let the church office know by Sunday, Dec. 10, reservations are appreciated but not required.

In keeping with the spirit of the season, you may bring an unwrapped gift for West Side Community House or OhioGuidestone or place a check in the basket for either organization. Childcare is available upon request, please reserve by calling Debbie Jones at 216-382-5929.

ALL CHURCH CAROLING



This could be the most meaningful gift you give this year! Join our church family to share the joy and good news of Christmas by caroling at area retirement homes from 7 to 9 p.m. on Friday, December 15. We'll meet at the church for prayer and then carpool to our caroling venues.

COOKIES FOR MISSIONS



Since 2001, COTS has had a special relationship with Fairfield Children's Home in Zimbabwe. Our Volunteers in Mission group saw firsthand the need as well as the wonderful work done there with orphaned children. Each year at the Advent Festival we hold a Cookie Walk to support this mission. Church members bring batches of their prettiest and tastiest cookies, and we sell them by the pound with all proceeds going to the orphanage. Please bring labeled cookies to the Parlor kitchen on Friday, December 1. For information please contact Gwen Biggins at gwenickdave@att.net.

GIVING THE GIFT OF WARMTH



Cleveland gets COLD. Church of the Saviour is partnering with The Salvation Army East Cleveland to provide 150 children in the East Cleveland community with winter hats, gloves, and socks.

Place your donated items on the branches of the tree in the Great Hall between November 27 through December 24.

SPIRITUAL GROWTH IN 2018

The 2018 study book for the UMW Spiritual Growth is titled *Living As A Covenant Community* by Evy McDonald. For more information contact the church office or our church Librarian, Kathleen Szabo.

WEBSITE AND PODCASTING chsaviour.org

MINISTRY TEAM

Andy Call, Lead Pastor
Gregory Kendrick, Jr., Pastor of Connections
Lois Annich, Pastoral Counselor
David Gilson, Director of Music
Brian Smart, 9:30 Worship Leader
Robert Day, Organist
Curt Campbell, Director of Youth Ministries
Lydia Stephens, Director of Children's Ministries
Penny Neisen, Properties Manager
Loretta Dahlstrom, Business Administrator
Cris Hicks, Administrative Assistant
Debbie Johnson, Administrative Assistant
Jill Barr, Newsletter Editor
Leslie Myers, Wedding Coordinator
Dr. Charles D. Yoost, Pastor Emeritus



THE CHIMES
CHURCH of
the SAVIOUR
United Methodist
2537 Lee Road
Cleveland, OH 44118-4136
(216)321-8880

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Cleveland, Ohio
Permit No. 862

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

THE CHIMES is published monthly by Church of the Saviour (United Methodist), 2537 Lee Road, Cleveland, OH 44118-4136. Postage paid at Cleveland, OH. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to THE CHIMES, Church of the Saviour, 2537 Lee Rd., Cleveland, OH 44118-4136.

OUR CHURCH FAMILY'S BULLETIN BOARD

Heartfelt condolences to the family and friends of **Margaret "Twink" Naylor** who passed away in Southern Pines, NC on November 8.

SAVE THE DATES

Advent Festival: December 2, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.; Children's Craft Workshop 9:30 to 11:30 a.m.

Advent Book Study: Sundays, December 3 through 17
9:30 & 10:45 a.m.

All Church Caroling: Friday, December 15, 7 to 9 p.m.

UMW Christmas Music Program: December 12 at 10 a.m.

Longest Night Service: December 20 at 7 p.m.

ECHO Service Day at Saint Philomena: Saturday,
December 23

Christmas Eve Services, December 24:
4:30 & 7:30 services feature Nativity Pageant
11 p.m. Lessons & Carols with Communion

Watch Night Worship: December 31 at 7 p.m.

NOTE OF APPRECIATION

What a blessing it has been to partner with Church of the Saviour for another successful East Cleveland Day of Service. November 4th will be a day that will not soon be forgotten!

The hands of God were extended in special, creative and unique ways as we served residents at the McGregor and Candlewood Assisted Living Facilities; weatherized windows at Bessie's Angels; and as we performed clean-up duties in various neighborhood locations. It is without a doubt that indelible imprints of God's love were left upon the East Cleveland community. The t-shirts added an undeniable touch that helped distinguish Service Day participants as God's ambassadors.

We extend our heartfelt gratitude and sincerest appreciation to Dr. Dearborn and the other amazing members of the COTS Day of Service Committee. It is without a doubt that we at New Life Cathedral anticipate the next opportunity for us to collaborate on ways to personify the true meaning of Matthew 25:40: *"Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me."*

What a privilege & honor God has granted us to serve with you.

Again, thank you.

Sincerely,

Shawn Braxton, Senior Pastor

Stacy Braxton, Executive Pastor

New Life Cathedral