



JACKSON CENTER
—UNITED METHODIST CHURCH—

202 East Pike St.
Jackson Center OH 45334
(937) 596-6919
jcumc2@swohio.twcbc.com



December 2021
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Worship Schedule

Sunday School

9am

Service

10a.m.

Live on Facebook each Sunday.
Sermon uploaded to YouTube
and website on Monday

Any member may stop in to the office at any time to see full financial reports and a full copy of the council minutes.

Opportunities to Serve

- A/V Tech—any Sunday
- Staffing at the clothing closet
- Sign up to be a Lay Reader/Usher/Money Counter!

From the Pastor’s Desk

“A Blue Christmas”

I’ll have a blue Christmas.....(yes, I stole that). Did you know that the four Sundays of Advent leading up to the celebration of Christmas was originally a 40 day long period called “Winter Lent” that was later shortened to the four Sundays we celebrate now? In the Roman Catholic tradition, it was originally called Quadagesima Sancti Martini (St Martin’s Lent). The Eastern and Oriental Orthodox Churches still hold to the tradition of a full 40 day fasting period before Christmas called the Nativity Fast. This period is similar to the liturgical season of Lent the church celebrates for 40 days leading up to the celebration of the Resurrection (a.k.a. Easter). According to Wikipedia, the season of Advent is a time of “expectant waiting and preparation for both the celebration of the Nativity of Christ at Christmas and the return of Christ at the Second Coming.” Also the original liturgical color of Advent (just like Lent before Easter) is purple, which symbolizes penitence and repentance. Another ancient tradition uses the liturgical color of blue to make Advent stand apart from Lent. Blue symbolizes Mary, is used for the birth of baby boys (like Jesus!) and also represents hope and anticipation. According to an article published in the Washington Post, the use of the color blue for Advent is neither new nor inappropriate and can be traced all the way back to the 8th century!

During this Advent season, let us both joyfully celebrate the first coming and anticipate the second coming of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ!

Grace and Peace (2 Peter 1:2),

Pastor Randy

pastorrandy@jcumcoh.org

Council Corner

The JCUMC Administrative Council met on November 11, 2021. Wendy handed out copies of the church financial reports. There was a discussion on adjustments that had to be made to the 2022 budget, those changes were approved by the council. Jack gave the FLC report. Those reports are available in the office. Amanda reported that outreach is moving along on the clothing closet, and are gearing up for the Angel Tree. Pastor Randy reported that the worship committee decided to remove all the roping from the pews, opening all pews back up for Advent. Offering plates will be available at the back of the sanctuary before service, and will also be passed during the offertory. Nominations are being finished up for Charge Conference. Ron Ludwig is working with the insurance companies to get the back corner of the church fixed, he will update as more information becomes available. Pastor Randy has decided to revive the Prayer boxes that we used to have around town. He will be replacing the locks and checking them weekly. The outside doors and clothing closet have been painted at the Family Life Center. Jack gave all the pop cans that were stacked up in the garage of the FLC to the boy scouts for their can collection. Ed Maxwell is getting pricing on replacing the outside light on the east side of the church to help to light the parking lot. The town has asked for our tree on the corner to use for the village Christmas tree, and after discussion, and speaking to Wanda, it was decided to donate the tree to the village. We will turn that corner into a memorial to the veterans who have served our country from our church. With no other business, the meeting was adjourned by Chairman Eric Voress. The next council meeting will be December 9th, 2021 at 7pm.

VISIT US ONLINE AT www.jcumcoh.org

Upcoming Events

Monday, Nov 29th, December 6th, 13th, 20th: Pastor's Advent Study 7pm

Saturday, December 4th: Lotz/McGowan Christmas in fellowship hall

Sunday, December 5th: Family Life Center Open House 2-4pm, Christmas caroling @ tree lighting/ Christmas in the Village

Thursday, December 9th: Church Council meets @ 7pm

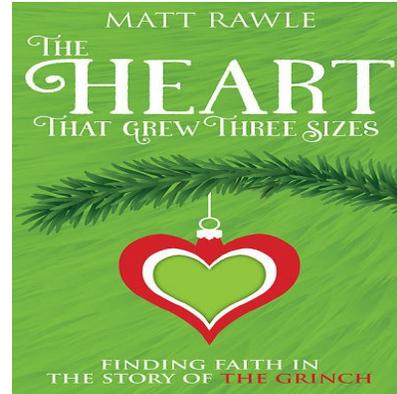
Saturday, December 11th: Kay Hunt family in fellowship hall

Sunday, December 12th: 4H meets @ 6pm

Sunday, December 19th: Christmas Cantata during worship; Boy Scouts meet @ 6pm

Friday, December 24th: Christmas Eve Service @ 7pm

Friday, December 31st: Drake Wedding



It's not too late to join the Advent study! This year it will be "The Heart that Grew Three Sizes: Finding Faith in the Story of the Grinch". Pastor Randy will lead this study on Monday nights at 7pm in the fellowship hall.

"We don't know why the Grinch hated Christmas. We just know he did. In this new Advent study, Matt Rawle explores the faith themes in the Christmas classic, *How the Grinch Stole Christmas!* including, how did the Grinch's heart grow three sizes come Christmas morning? How did Christmas save the Grinch? Could it be that the very thing we think we hate is the one thing that changes our lives? This Advent and Christmas season, look at a familiar classic through the lens of faith and see how Christ speaks to us through our culture." *—from Cokesbury*



- 2nd:** Shia Akers
- 3rd:** Kaeden Frye
- 4th:** Jeanne Williams
Sean Wren
- 11th:** Mike & Kathy Myers
Marc Wahrer
- 14th:** Presley Reese
- 15th:** Mark & Kathy Bunke
- 17th:** Austin Shaffer
- 18th:** Kathy Lotz
- 20th:** Ann Bell
- 25th:** Jim Dodge
- 26th:** Rita Hurley
- 30th:** Lola Clevenger

Giving

As we continue to navigate through this difficult time, please don't forget your faithful giving to the church. We have several ways in which you can give—in person, by mail, or by signing up for our online giving. There is a link on our website to sign up for the e-offering, and you can always come into the office if you need assistance. Amanda would be happy to help.

Weekly giving needed to sustain our ministries: \$2365.00

Average weekly giving (year to date): \$2087.00



December Servants

Lay Readers:

12/5: Jack Toomey

12/12: Barry Elliott

12/19: Bev Wren

12/24: Karen Sprague

12/26: Wendy Carter

Money Counters: ?

Communion Steward: Terri Hejduk

Ushers: Lotz Family

Pew Angel: Erin Pence



Church Leadership Spotlight

Accompanist Edition

Branita Bratka

What worship songs move your heart closer to Jesus? Anyone who really knows me knows that I love hymns. I love a good mix of praise and worship music as well. One song I really love that puts everything in perspective is "Jesus At The Center Of It All."

What's a familiar Bible verse you return to in times when you need it the most? My life verse is Jeremiah 29:11 "'For I know the plans I have for you,' says the Lord, 'to give you a future and a hope.'" I also love Psalm 139 and Isaiah 53.

What might someone be surprised to know about you? Of course I'm still getting to know everyone, but I love to do floral work, and I actually love driving the most....anytime....anywhere!

What's the best flavor of pie? I'm not much of a pie person, but probably pumpkin pie. Other than that I love lemon cake.

Join us each month as we feature a new church leader!



Knitworthy

Clothing Closet

A HUGE thank you to all who have helped out with the clothing closet so far! Jack and Marta for painting the room, the outreach committee for helping to get everything sorted and out, Pastor Randy for all his hard work, everyone who has donated clothes or items to fill our closet! A special thank you to Maplewood United Methodist for their generous donation of coats! We will be holding an open house from 2-4 on December 5th for people to check out the clothing closet along with the rest of the Family Life Center, we hope you'll come and check it out!

Clothing Closet



There are still a few items that we need, plastic tubs, a couple more clothing racks and a lot of plastic bags. Please contact the office if you have any of these that you'd like to donate, or drop them off at the church anytime the office is open.

We are very excited for this new ministry, and we hope you are too!!

Around the Church

UMW

The UMW had two successful events over the past month. The Smorgasbord in late October and the Election Day Meal in November will allow us to further God's work through monetary contributions within the church and local missions. A BIG thank you to everyone who helped to support these events. As a reminder we will be meeting at the church on Tuesday, December 7th at 5:30pm to travel to Ann Bell's for our Christmas dinner.

The UMW meets on the first Tuesday of each month, with the exception of July & August. Anyone with questions can see Sharon Zimpfer.

Bible Buddies

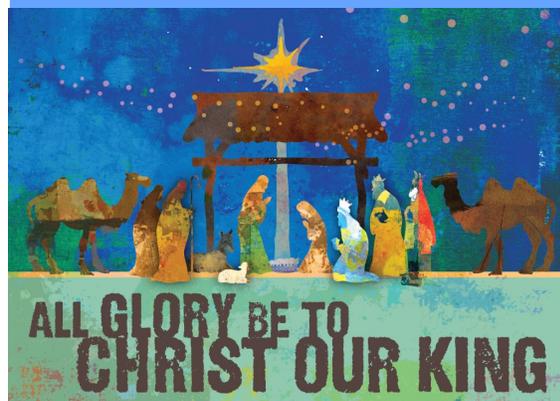
Due to the holidays, and the lack of kids, we are suspending Bible Buddies until January. The children's ministry will be offering a free movie night sometime in December, food and movie to be provided, offering parents a night out. More info to come—be sure to watch Facebook for the details!

Audio/Visual Tech

We are still in need of team members for the a/v table on Sunday mornings. There will be training offered, either in a group or one on one. Although it looks intimidating, everything is set up and ready to go on Sunday mornings, all you have to do is mute and unmute mics, turn on live, and work a power-point slide show. If you would like to know more, please contact the office. Thanks!

Worship Servants

Have you thought about serving in some capacity during worship services? We are in need of an usher for November, money counters for December, communion stewards, pew angels, and lay readers. If you are interested in any of these, please let Amanda know by December 12. Thanks!



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PO Box 577
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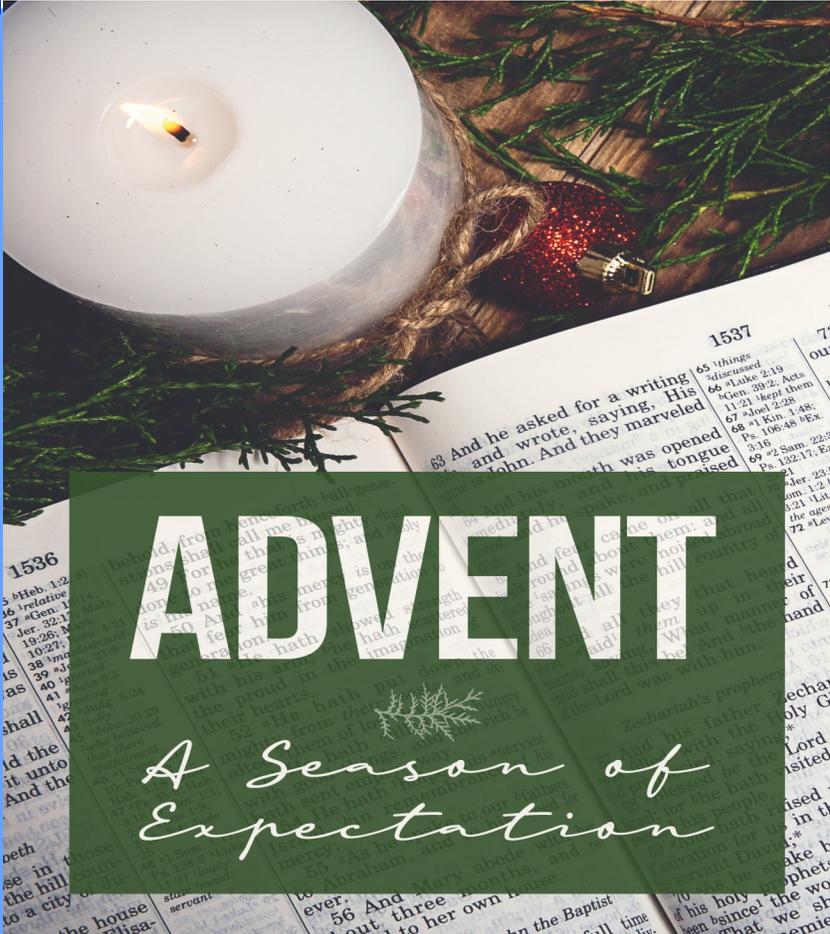
Jesus loves...



In Our Community

Christmas In The Village

Christmas in the Village will be December 5th beginning at 5:30 with caroling and a tree lighting in the school courtyard. Santa will make his appearance, and there will be crafts and other activities for the whole hfa



Fish Pond Food Pantry

The Fish Pond Food Pantry is located at 310 Davis St. in the Family Life Center building. They are open the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays each month from 11am-2pm. Outside hours are available by calling the church for an appointment. The food pantry is open to all residents of Jackson Center and Botkins school districts.

