



Bell Chapel UMC Newsletter
 A publication of Bell Chapel UMC
 Ringing out with the Good News
 The Gospel of Jesus Christ
December/January



From Pastor Jeff Proya's Desk

Bell Chapel UMC
Our Schedule
Sunday

Prayer
 Time.....9:30am
 Worship:.....10:00am
 Fellowship.....after service
 Sunday School:....10:15am
UMM Bible Study
8:00am
 Dec. 22nd
 Jan. 12th
 Jan. 26th

Office Hours:

Monday - Friday.....8:30-1:00
 Phone:.....740-283-2239
 Fax:.....740-283-2692
 Website:
www.bellchapel.org

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Dear Jonathan,

Once again as God would have it, I find myself surrounded by things that while cherished matter little in the scheme of things, sitting in this place that I first introduced you to nearly two decades ago. Hard to believe so many wonderful moments as well as seasons have slipped out of sight, yet little has changed in this room, everything still in place though a couple new images have emerged. There is much to see and discover in this thing we call life, and along the way if we pay attention we may catch glimpses of ourselves and others in the treasures we collect or should I say that collect us. Images that reflect other moments, all of which have passed, yet somehow in some small way we could not completely let go of them even as they have yet to release us. The same I think can be said of this thing we call Christmas, which is once again upon us. Listen it's not just the numerous boxes of decorations dug out of the attic and basement, strange isn't it where the treasures that dress up the season and our lives spend most of their time. Packed away in a darkened often ignored space that we seldom frequent only to be retrieved and reintroduced to a venue of our choosing

and a time convenient to the cast. Well now the living room tree is up and decorated, thanks to your grandmother's enthusiasm for this season and of course my willingness to play the role of the donkey (I could have used another term but it is Christmas after all) in this annual pageant. It's as if the mystery of this extraordinary event can be captured only for a short time and on our terms, as the whole dog gone thing intrudes on the patterns that are our lives! How like God young man who while present in all those treasures that surround us, that occupy so much of our lives and hold us captive to our patterns and systems and structures, well is it any wonder there was no room to accommodate the Christ or at least that's my understanding of the original narrative. So we do what we humans do best, which is to work God into our lives, according to the season we find ourselves living in and what may or may not be surrounding us at the time cherished or not. Don't think for a moment this is just another baa humbug tale told by another soon to be off the plank journeyman whatever I am. On the contrary young

man" I am as light as a feather, I am as happy as an angel, I am as merry as a school boy, I am as giddy as a drunken man." to quote Charles Dickens. That young man is the reality of Christmas for God burst into the world, at the most inopportune time, and unimaginable way disrupting the patterns of scholars, shepherds and yes even reluctant plank walkers like myself. Some of what I cherish in life is packed up and has passed me by, most of what I cherish I carry with me even as I carried you in those early moments of life, and all of it would be worthless without Christmas! That's just how significant it is young man so Merry Christmas!!! "What's that Kathy - yes I know right where those bulbs are princess be there in a minute! Hey before you criticize the end remember this letter comes out before Christmas!

Love,
 Pap



BIRTHDAYS

Erma Gribben	Dec. 1st
Janie Fiala	Dec. 7th
Cain Noble	Dec. 10th
Carol Smith	Dec. 11th
Rachael Bellville	Dec. 18th
Susan Birrell-Post	Dec. 19th
Morgan Lesnansky	Dec. 19th
Ralph Monte	Dec. 22nd
Lily Fulmer	Dec. 23rd
Linda Marker	Dec. 23rd
Greg Smith	Dec. 25th
Lisa Anderson	Dec. 26th
Steve Thomas	Dec. 26th
Joann Watts	Dec. 26th
Kevin Burch	Dec. 29th
Maya Fulmer	Dec. 29th

BIRTHDAYS

Alice Birrell	Jan. 1st
Lisa Brown	Jan. 1st
Bob Smith	Jan. 7th
Owen Lenkner	Jan. 10th
Calla Groman	Jan. 13th
Bethany Gump	Jan. 13th
Kristy Sampson	Jan. 14th
Deborah Close	Jan. 15th
Victoria Davidson	Jan. 15th
Dominic DeFrances	Jan. 15th
Bill VanNuys	Jan. 15th
Marge Wise	Jan. 15th
Bob Bratt	Jan. 17th
Suzanne Hope	Jan. 18th
Anthony DeFrances	Jan. 19th
Joyce Zimmerman	Jan. 20th
Betty Hilderman	Jan. 21st
Darlene Pasco	Jan. 21st
Rachelle Search	Jan. 21st
Glen Furbee	Jan. 22nd
Butch Gorby	Jan. 22nd
Shannon Daugherty	Jan. 23rd
Butch Smith	Jan. 25th
Karen Taylor	Jan. 26th
Linda Birney	Jan. 28th
Natalie Groman	Jan. 28th
Tiffany Mills	Jan. 28th
Ralph Wise	Jan. 28th
Ron Auch	Jan. 31st
Gena Brown	Jan. 31st
Larry Lissi	Jan. 31st

**PLEASER PRAY FOR****Constant Prayers**

Little David	Robbie
Brandon	Marissa
Valerie	Preston
Sydney	Joe
Dave S.	Mary
Bob	Eva
Calla	Evie
Faith	Mary Jane
Patty	Bill N.
Grace	Devon
Jim and Clara	
Jonathan	Tammy
Janet and Dan	Rhonda
Leslie	
Lori	Sally
Cathy	Ben
Peggy	Helen
Chanoski family	Lynnette
Mike and Linda	Joe
Simone	Terri
Ian	

Our Shut-ins

Richard and Vera
Tim
Teresa and family
John and Nancy
Esther

**SERVICE PERSONNEL**

Aaron Ensminger	Justin Louk
Gene Zrinyi	Brock Taylor
Lt. Col. Dave Irvin	Richard Davis
Wesley Streblo	Corey Thomas
William Burns	Major William Booth
John Steedman	Ryan Gorby
Josh Bain	Daniel Decker
Jeff Toney	Jasen Pederson
David DeGarmo	Bill Prosko-Army ranger
Lt.Col. Glenn Reinhold	Major Rich Saphore
Pt. Ian Fulmer	
Staff Sgt Garrett Waller	
Brian Furbee	Sabrina Chwalek

ANNIVERSARIES

Dave and Suzanne Rothacker	Dec. 11th
Ralph and Cindy Monte	Dec. 11th
Perry and Nancy West	Dec. 19th
John and Nora Tressler	Dec. 20th
Mark and Kim Yeoung Clark	Dec. 21st
Kevin and Shannon Daugherty	Dec. 22nd
Dan and Marty Holt	Dec. 28th

USHERS AND GREETERS December



2nd

Greeters: Rachael Bellville and Mona Chandler

Ushers: Joe Ross, Debbie Parsons, Dave Rothacker and Jesse Hill

Liturgist: Frances Furbee

9th

Greeters: Bob Smith and Dave Rothacker

Ushers: Tammy Lemasters, John Rhine, Glen Furbee and John Dennis

Liturgist: Tammy Lemasters

16th

Greeters: Jesse Hill and Delbert Furbee

Ushers: Karen Taylor, Kathy Proya, John McCullough and Ralph Wise

Liturgist: Stan Kavanagh

23rd

Greeters: Volunteers

Ushers: Debbie Gump, Gary Glover, Rachael Bellville and Delbert Furbee

Liturgist: Delbert Furbee

30th

Greeters: Volunteers

Ushers: Linda McCullough, Sonja Rhine, Joe Ross and Jesse Hill

Liturgist: John Rhine



January



6th

Greeters: Bob and Tresa Bratt

Ushers: Bob Smith, John Dennis, Tammy Lemasters and Karen Taylor

Liturgist: Wayne Fulmer

13th

Greeters: Olivia and Aiden Ferguson

Ushers: Glen Furbee, Dave Rothacker, Gary Glover and Debbie Parsons

Liturgist: Glen Furbee

20th

Greeters: Tammy and Harold Lemasters

Ushers: Jesse Hill, Kathy Proya, Joe Ross and John McCullough

Liturgist: Nancy West

27th

Greeters: Mona Chandler and Rachael Bellville

Ushers: Debbie Gump, Ralph Wise, John Rhine and Wayne Fulmer

Liturgist: Wayne Fulmer



Thank You

I would like to thank the congregation for remembering me on Pastor Appreciation month, though not just for the gift which I am grateful for that would be silly I think. I am thankful for your willingness to partner with me in the proclamation of the Gospel, for caring for others, for giving of yourselves in service. I have been blessed with so very much in life, for friendships and experiences some only guess at. For those who have stayed the course, I can't tell you how appreciative I am for your love and loyalty.

Jeff

CHURCH CANCELLATION POLICY

In case of bad weather :

Call the church (740-283-2239) to hear a recorded message concerning an altered service schedule.

If there is no electricity there will be no church services.

(Just a note: If you call the church and the answering machine does not come on, there is no electricity at the church.)

If the county issues a Level 2 or Level 3 Emergency Notice there will be no church services.



Turkey Fund Results

Total Collected
\$600.00

When Jesus told us to love and do for our neighbors, that is exactly what we do here at Bell Chapel UMC. In Romans 8: 28 it says "all things work together for the good of those who love God and are called according to His Purpose. Thank you one and all and God Bless you.



Angel Prayer Tree

Our Praise Tree will be replaced by our Angel Prayer Tree starting Sunday, Dec. 9th and running through the 16th. The angels will be in your bulletins on Sunday morning. Write your prayers down and hang them on the trees surrounding the manger. out in the lobby of the church. Hooks will be sitting beside the trees. After the Christmas Eve Service please take an angel off the tree so you can pray for that person.





Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2 Worship Service @ 10:00am Sunday School @ 10:15am Youth Group at Four Seasons Hanging of the Greens @ 6:00pm	3 Small Group Mtg @ 6:00pm @ the Four Seasons Ministry Coffee Shop	4 Busy Needles @ 9:30am Choir @ 6:00pm	5 UMW/UMM Christmas Dinner @ 6:00pm	6	7 Food Pickup @ 8:00am	8 Breakfast with Santa @ 9:00am-11:00am
9 Worship Service @ 10:00am Sunday School @ 10:15am Youth Group @ Four Seasons Ministry	10 Trustees mtg. @ 6:00pm Good Samaritan Mtg @ 6:00pm Finance Committee Mtg @ 6:30pm Ad Council Meeting @ 7:15pm	11 Packing Food Boxes @ 8:30am Busy Needles @ 9:30am Choir @ 6:00pm	12	13 Food Distribution @ 8:00am	14	15 Youth Group Christmas Play
16 Worship Service @ 10:00am and Sunday School @ 10:15am NO Youth Group	17 Small Group Mtg @ 6:00pm @ the Four Seasons Ministry Coffee Shop	18 Busy Needles @ 9:30am Choir @ 6:00pm	19	20	21	22 UMM Bible Study @ 8:00am
23 Worship Service @ 10:00am Sunday School @ 10:15am NO Youth Group	24 Candlelight Christmas Eve Service @ 7:00pm	25 Merry Christmas	26	27	28	29
30 Worship Service @ 10:00am Sunday School @ 10:15am Youth Group Mtg	31 Silent Communion @ 7:00pm-10:00pm	1 Happy New Year	2 UMM Meeting @ 7:00pm	3 UMW Meeting @ 2:00pm	4 Food Pickup @ 8:00am	5

Jan.



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 Happy New Year	2 UMM Meeting @ 7:00pm	3 UMW Meeting @ 2:00pm	4 Food Pickup @ 8:00am	5
6 Worship Service @ 10:00am Sunday School @ 10:15am Youth Group Mtg	7 Small Group Mtg @ 6:00pm @ Four Seasons Ministry Coffee Shop	8 Busy Needles @ 9:30am Choir Practice @ 6:00pm	9	10	11	12 UMM Bible Study @ 8:00am
13 Worship Service @ 10:00am Sunday School @ 10:15am Youth Group Mtg	14 Trustees Mtg @ 6:00pm Good Samaritan Mtg @ 6:00pm Finance Mtg @ 6:30pm Administrative Council Mtg @ 7:15pm	15 Busy Needles @ 9:30am Choir Practice @ 6:00pm	16	17	18	19
20 Worship Service @ 10:00am Sunday School @ 10:15am Youth Group Mtg	21 Small Group Mtg @ 6:00pm @ Four Seasons Ministry Coffee Shop	22 Packing Food Boxes @ 8:30am Busy Needles @ 9:30am Choir Practice @ 6:00pm	23	24 Food Distribution @ 8:00am	25	26 UMM Bible Study @ 8:00am
27 Worship Service @ 10:00am Sunday School @ 10:15am Youth Group Meeting	28 Small Group Mtg @ 6:00pm @ Four Seasons Ministry Coffee Shop	29 Busy Needles @ 9:30am Choir @ 6:00pm	30 Newsletter folding @ 11:00am	31	1 Food Pickup @ 8:00am	2
3 Worship Service @ 10:00am Sunday School @ 10:15am Youth Group Mtg	4 Small Group Mtg @ 6:00pm @ Four Seasons Ministry Coffee Shop	5 Busy Needles @ 9:30am Choir @ 6:00pm	6	7	8	9 UMM Bible Study @ 8:00am

Feb.

United Methodist Women United Methodist Men

This year is coming to an end. As we close out this year our Christmas Dinner with the UMM, as our guests, will be held Dec. 5th at 6:00pm. Our Teddy bear Collection will begin on Nov. 25th and continue until Dec. 23rd. All Teddy Bears will be delivered to Nursing Homes and Shut-Ins. Please get your medium sized bear and put them in the Sanctuary. You will know you are helping to make some shut-in happier. Our winter meetings will be held in the afternoon because of weather. January 3rd will be the next meeting at 2:00pm, weather permitting.

Merry Christmas!

Four Seasons Ministry

2018 has been one of Four Seasons best years yet! We not only grew in renters but has even created some jobs in our community. FSM now houses 5 different businesses with at least 8 jobs as well as home to different services with around 20 volunteers. The latest addition is the Christian Counseling Associates out of Greensburg Pa. FSM is the 52nd office they have. The first in Ohio. They are going to actually open a second office soon at the community center. The first office has about 100 clients. The Board has personally met with the founder and several staff members and we really like what they do and we believe that CCA will benefit not only FS but also our community.

Our finances continue to grow through rentals and donations which we truly appreciate. FS continues to be a light in our community by being involved with our youth, seniors, and family units. We have added more L.E.D. lighting and added some new circuits in rooms. We continue to work with renters such as Shelly Irvine to make his business not only better for him but so that he can create new steel drums for our youth, local and distant schools. FS helped him get a new garage door for 1 of his rooms and encouraged him to expand his business in our building. We believe that investing in our renters will not only help them but ourselves too. The Clothes Closet continues to serve our community as well as our Coffee and Gift Shop. Our Prime Time people continue to grow with even them helping out with several jobs at the community center. We have a new addition by the name of Bob Bratt who with the help of Charlie Hayes are doing lots of landscaping and making of a new sign in the front of the building. We have sent letters to all local churches inviting them to our facility, trying to show them that we want to help our community and are, in no way trying to compete with their church. With God's help we truly believe that FSM will continue to grow and be another light on the hill!

Thank You

The Board of Four Seasons Ministries and Community Center.

We wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

The UMM meet the first Wednesday of each month to go over things that have been done and things that have been planned. Your input is important. Mark your calendar for Saturday, Dec. 8th for Breakfast With Santa from 9:00am-11:00am. There will be lots of foods and kids. Pictures will be taken with Santa and there will be gift cards for the kids. The cost is by donation. But most of all is the fellowship with one another.

In the month of January the UMM will be putting all the dates for all the fundraisers for the year on the calendar. If anyone has something to say we would like to have your ideas. Your ideas are important. The Bible Studies for December will on Dec. 22nd at 8:00am. Each and everyone is invited. For January they will be on Jan. 12th and Jan. 26th at 8:00am.



Christmas Decorations Sale

During our Youth Group Christmas Play on Saturday, Dec. 15th at Four Seasons Ministry there will be a sale of Christmas Decorations. All proceeds will benefit Four Seasons and Bell Chapel Youth Group.

FUDGE FOR SALE



Chocolate and Peanut Butter Fudge will be for sale in the Fellowship Hall on Sunday, Dec. 2nd, Dec. 9th and Dec. 16th. The cost will be \$10.00 a lb. Two dollars from every pound will go to the Good Samaritan Fund to help with Christmas for our food distribution families. Please put your money in the fudge box in the fellowship hall. You can get the fudge anytime. Fudge will be delivered on the days listed above. Fudge may be picked up on Sundays or throughout the week when the church office open. There will be a box for you to put your money in.

Poinsettia Sale

To add to the beauty of our Christmas Worship services, the Choir will be selling Poinsettias. We are offering our congregation the opportunity to purchase a plant in memory of someone, in honor of someone, or as an expression of love. The plants will be \$10.00 each, and will be for our services during Advent. The last day to order is Dec. 9th. Please include your payment with the order form. Make checks payable to the Bell Chapel Choir.



Good Samaritan Christmas Food and Gift Distribution

We at Bell Chapel are currently serving 55 families with our food pantry. Within these families are numerous children.

There are two sign up sheets on the welcome center desk—a gift list and a food list. If you would like to help with our Christmas project just sign whichever, or both lists.

The Good Samaritan Committee will be meeting on Nov. 30th to make the lists of what is needed. Slips will be passed out on Sunday, Dec. 2nd.

Items can be brought to the church Sunday, Dec. 9th or by Wednesday Dec. 12th before 12:00pm. Gifts will be given out with the Food Distribution on Thursday, Dec. 13th.



Teddy Bear Collection



Beginning Nov. 25th and running until Dec. 23rd we will be collecting Teddy Bears to be given out at the area nursing homes for Christmas.

If you would like to help with this project please bring in a medium sized teddy bear and leave it in the pew in the Sanctuary. Thank you for your help with this ministry.

HANGING OF THE GREENS

Sunday, Dec. 2nd
at 6:00pm

Come join us as we decorate the church for the Christmas season.



UMW/UMM

Christmas Dinner

Wednesday, Dec. 5th
6:00pm

Christmas Eve

Candlelight Service



Monday, Dec. 24th
At 7:00pm



Breakfast with Santa

Saturday, Dec. 8th
9:00am-11:00am

Pictures will be taken with Santa.



Christmas Cantata

Sunday, Dec. 16th
During our 10:00am

Service

Our Bell Chapel Choir presents
"It Was A Starry Night"

Silent Communion

Monday, Dec. 31st from 7:00pm-10:00pm
Members of our Small Group will be here to greet you.

3419 State Route 213
Steubenville, OH 43952

Phone: 740-283-2239

Fax: 740-283-2692

Website: www.bellchapel.org

Email: cindy@bellchapel.org

Electronic Service Requested

Non-Profit Organization

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Steubenville, OH 43952

“Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit...”

—Matthew 28:19

Please Paste Label Here

Merry Christmas

BRUISED APPLES

A few years ago a group of salesmen went to a regional sales convention in Chicago. They had assured their wives that they would be home in plenty of time for Friday night's dinner. Well, as such things go, one thing led to another. The sales meeting lasted longer than anticipated.

Their flights were scheduled to leave out of Chicago's O'Hare Airport, and they had to race to the airport. With tickets in hand, they barged through the terminal to catch their flight back home. In their rush, with tickets and briefcases, one of these salesmen inadvertently kicked over a table, which held a display of baskets of apples. Apples flew everywhere.

Without stopping or looking back, they all managed to reach the plane in time for their nearly missed boarding, all but one. He paused, took a deep breath and experienced a twinge of compassion for the girl whose apple stand had been overturned. He told his buddies to go on without him and told one of them to call his wife when they arrived at their home destination and explain his taking a later flight.

Then he returned to the terminal where the apples were all over the floor. He was glad he did. The 16-year-old girl at the apple stand was totally blind! She was softly crying, tears running down her cheeks in frustration, and at the same time helplessly groping for her spilled produce as the crowd swirled about her, no one stopping or to care for her plight.

The salesman knelt on the floor with her, gathered up the apples, put them into the baskets, and helped set the display up once more. As he did this, he noticed that many of them had become battered and

bruised; these he set aside in another basket. When he had finished, he pulled out his wallet and said to the girl, "Here, please take this \$20 for the damage we did. Are you okay?" She nodded through her tears.

He continued on with, "I hope we didn't spoil your day too badly."

As the salesman started to walk away, the bewildered blind girl called out to him, "Mister..." He paused and turned to look back into those blind eyes. She continued, "Are you Jesus?"

He stopped in mid-stride, and he wondered. Then slowly he made his way to catch the later flight with that question burning and bouncing about in his soul: "Are you Jesus?"

Do people mistake you for Jesus? That's our destiny, is it not? To be so much like Jesus that people cannot tell the difference as we live and interact with a world that is blind to His love, life and grace. If we claim to know Him, we should live, walk and act as He would. Knowing Him is more than simply quoting Scripture and going to church. It's actually living the Word as life unfolds day to day.

You are the apple of His eye even though we, too, have been bruised by the fall. He stopped what He was doing and picked you and me up on a hill called Calvary and paid in full for our damaged fruit.

John

Happy New Year