

What's Up Wickliffe!

December
2017



We are in the midst of Thanksgiving and Christmas. And the images and memories of a table full of Thanksgiving Food and Gifts under the

Christmas Tree entertain our minds. Many call this season; the Season of Joy, the Season of Glad Tidings, or perhaps, the Season of Goodwill. Which are all true. But, our knowledge and joy should go beyond these images and memories.

True, through history and tradition, we have brought forth and adapted these seasons to commemorate our pilgrim history and the birth of Jesus Christ. But, the celebration of the events as we observe them do not always disclose the holidays full meaning. Yes, our pilgrim journey began at Plymouth Rock. And the birth of Jesus Christ began with the birth of a historical person often referred to as Jesus of Nazareth. But, beyond the traditions and celebrations, there are divine meanings with eternal implications.

The celebration of Thanksgiving is a time for giving thanks. All of us have many things to be thankful for: bountiful provisions on our table; family and friends; a home and transportation; a financial means of sustaining our every-day life. And we have life itself to be thankful for. Yet, honestly all of this -is temporary. We are truly thankful for all the immediate provisions which sustain our daily life. But, this life and its provisions do have an end.

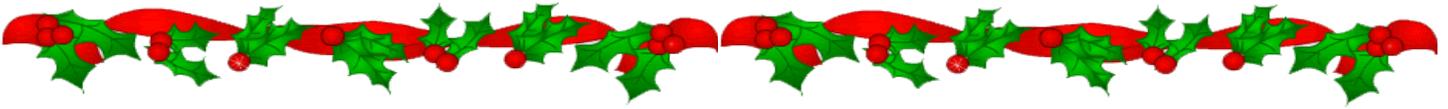
Psalm 100 is a psalm of thanksgiving. The first and second verses state we should

actually "Shout with joy." "Worship the LORD with gladness" and "come before him with joyful songs." This is referring to our worship of God. And many would assume this means our worship in Church which it does. But, it also means our personal and private worship. This could be our individual devotional time. Or, it could be those divine moments in the midst of our daily tasks when we are strangely tapped or touched by something that hints to us an experience of knowing God's presence in our lives. God does not want our thanksgiving, our gladness and our joy to be a secret. No, shout and sing with joy to the Creator of all the earth. God's greatness and goodness are not secrets to be concealed.

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Verse 3 states, "Know that the LORD is God. It is he who made us, and we are his; we are his people, the sheep of his pasture." Our pilgrimage of life on earth began in God. Before the rock at Plymouth, Massachusetts our life journey began in the mind, heart and will of God. The only rock which is eternal. This life by itself is not eternal. Our flesh is temporary. Our daily struggle on earth is, again temporary. So, if our life's pilgrimage began in the will of God. But, if our attitude of thanksgiving stops at Plymouth Rock which is temporary. Then are we missing what is eternal? For a moment, I will skip verse 4 and come back to it.

The Psalmist wrote in verse 5: "For the LORD is good and his love endures forever; his faithfulness continues through all generations." As we sit at the Thanksgiving Table, our minds will recall the memories of our loved ones we once shared the table with. Many families around the table will also be waiting in eager expectation of the anticipated birth of new family members soon to be born. We are the present generation the Psalmist wrote about. But, there were generations before us. And there will be generations after us. But, the God who is eternal is faithful to -all generations. So, in addition to giving thanks for the family and friends who are presently with us. Remember to give thanks to the eternal God who has been faithful to generations before, generations here and now and the generations yet to come.

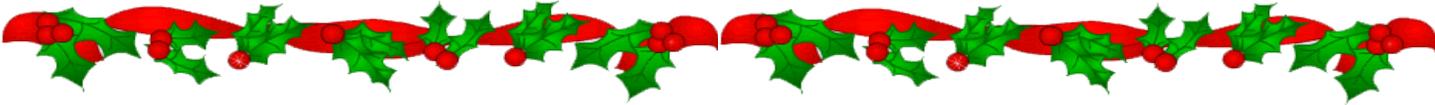
Now, I would like to return to verse 4. My passing by verse 4 was not an accident or oversight. Verse 4 of the 100th Psalm is also about thanksgiving. But, verse 4 adds another activity to thanksgiving. Verse 4 adds giving "praise" when we are giving thanks. Also, please notice that our giving "thanks" and "praise" does not occur at Plymouth Rock. No, verse 4 announces that we are to "Enter his gates" and "his courts." These are of course, God's eternal gates and eternal courts.

Our thanksgiving and praise continues, carries on, does not stop, is realized and fulfilled in the eternity of Heaven's gates and Heaven's courts. This temporary life finds its fulfillment in the eternity of Heaven's realm. This is when we truly realize the gift of eternal life and how precious and unequalled the gift of eternal life is.

Gift-giving and receiving gifts are special moments. Christmas is especially exciting because we are giving and receiving gifts. Yet, the gift of eternal life is a unique gift. We receive this gift from God alone. The gift is signed by the blood of Jesus Christ. The gift is delivered at the most critical of moments; exactly at the time of greatest need.

The gift of eternal life could only come from one source: our Creator of life. It just so happens the Creator God who gave us life and gives us eternal life. Also, is a God who loves thanksgiving and praise. I hope everyone has a wonderful Thanksgiving and Christmas Holiday. And I pray all of you will be filled with good food, the giving and receiving of great gifts and experiencing the fullness of Joy the holidays are meant to bring. And remember the greatest of thanksgiving and gift giving celebrations are God's promises that will not pass away. Give thanks to God for the gift of Jesus Christ who made certain the gift of Eternal Life is ours to have and know. Happy holidays everyone. Amen.

~ Pastor Mark



DECEMBER SCHEDULE

- Dec 3 First Sunday of Advent**
 - ◆ Moment for Mission - Christmas Joy Offering
- Dec 10 Second Sunday of Advent**
 - ◆ Moment for Mission - Christmas Joy Offering
 - ◆ Sick & Shut in Caroling
- Dec 17 Third Sunday of Advent**
 - ◆ Communion
 - ◆ Christmas Joy Offering
- Dec 24 Christmas Eve / Fourth Sunday of Advent**
 - ◆ No morning or evening service at Wickliffe Presbyterian Church
 - ◆ Christmas Eve Service - 7pm at Christ Church
- Dec 31 First Sunday after Christmas**
 - ◆ Benevolence Offering



☆ ☆ ☆ ☆ ☆ *Sunday Schedules* ☆ ☆ ☆ ☆ ☆

Greeters

- Dec 3 Bill & Donna Cooper
- Dec 10 ***Volunteer Needed***
- Dec 17 Jamie & Jeff Bryant
- Dec 24 No Services at Wickliffe
- Dec 31 ***Volunteer Needed***

Worship

- Dec 3 Shirley McMahan
- Dec 10 ***Volunteer Needed***
- Dec 17 ***Volunteer Needed***
- Dec 24 No Services at Wickliffe
- Dec 31 ***Volunteer Needed***

Acolytes

Volunteers are needed for weekly acolytes.

Ushers

- 1st Week - Dennis McMahon, Nancy O'Hara, Bill Schoenfeld, Neil Truslow
- 2nd Week - Kevin Yacucci, Sherry Yacucci, Bill O'Hara, Ricky Witt
- 3rd Week - Bev Bagoly, Barb McKinney, Bill Wayland, *Volunteer Needed*
- 4th Week - Jamie Bryant, Debbie Marshall, *Volunteer Needed*, Bob Fabian
- 5th Week & Evenings - Bill O'Hara, Ron Salo, Dr. David Ritchie, Gary Booher
- Alternates - Bill O'Hara, Bev Bagoly, Nancy Truslow

2017 Per Capita is \$32.00. Per Capita informational flyers available at the church.

Church Office Hours:
Tuesday - Friday 10am - 2pm
Church Website: www.wickliffepc.com
Secretary's Email: wickliffepc@gmail.com

Wickliffe Presbyterian Church
45 Idlewood Rd.
Austintown, OH 44515
P: 330-792-6441 F: 330-792-1006 (call first)

TLCC Daycare and Preschool
Director, Norma Johnson
330-792-9048

Needle's Eye Soup Ministry
Beginning in May, large cans of beans and large jars of peanut butter are needed for Needle's Eye End of the Month care for the Elderly.
Check for your initials this month!
This month's initials are: A - C
Thank you for your generosity!
Donna Cooper


Happy Birthday!
December 2 - Rich Truslow
December 2 - Sandie Wayland
December 3 - Pat Sywy
December 6 - Susan Burnett
December 8 - Barb McKinney
December 8 - Dave Gilbert
December 15 - Albert Bagoly
December 20 - Jamie Bryant
December 22 - Edie Muzenic
December 23 - Neil Truslow
December 31 - Shirley McMahon

Happy Anniversary
December 27 James & Margaret Davies

Dear Church Family,

Thank you so much for the beautiful flowers sent to the funeral home.
Also, many thank yous to all of you who made the journey to Eric's calling hours, who sent cards with such comforting messages and who kept us in your prayers during such a difficult time for our family.
We are so blessed to have you in our life.
Many heartfelt thanks,
Pastor Mark, Ingrid
and the Thompson family



In Step with Session

The Holidays are upon us and we even had our first dusting of snow... Yuck! We decided to move our Session meeting up a week. Thank you Pastor Mark. I talked about the stress as individuals and Church Leaders last month. One stressful item to check off our Elders list, a meeting right before Thanksgiving.

Just a reminder to all members that our Annual Congregational meeting will be held on January 28th. We will follow the same plan we did last year. Meeting will follow our Worship Service with a Luncheon immediately afterword. All are to bring a dish to share. Anyone responsible for reports, please have them to Kathy by Jan 7th.

Also be aware of all the venues that announce that we will not have Christmas Eve morning Service at Wickliffe which falls on Sunday this year. Our evening service will be held at Christ Church @ 7:00 P.M. We are asking that you spread the word to family and friends. Thank You. We will be willing to shuttle anyone who doesn't feel they want to travel the distance. Just let one of our Elders know ahead of time.

Please take notice of all the glass blocked windows that have been installed throughout the Church. What an upgrade! Also, if you haven't looked in the Conference room (AKA-Blue room), another upgrade has been made. Thank you Shirley and Dennis.

We will be welcoming a new Elder in 2018 (Janelle Truslow). Thank you for stepping up again with your willingness to fill the vacated slot. Ricky Witt has served 7 years as an Elder and we sincerely want to thank him for his service. At the same time, we have made a decision to delete the Tech team as a Session Committee. Tech will now be placed under the umbrella of Worship, so Ricky can never retire.

Pastor has been working on a mid-week service of prayer and praise. We will be addressing this outreach in the months to come. New ideas were brought to the table. Sounds exciting.

Also, on Dec 12th, a Program entitled "Marriage Relationship Video I" will be held at Christ Church. This is open to anyone who wants to attend. Listen to announcements for exact times.

Hopefully by the reading of this article, the Church will be sparkling for the Holiday. The hanging of the greens was scheduled for Nov 26th. So, in the theme of the holidays, Session wishes all our members and readers of this newsletter a Very Happy and Blessed holiday Season. Just remember "Jesus is the reason for the Season".

Prayers to you and yours, Nancy O'Hara, Clerk of Session

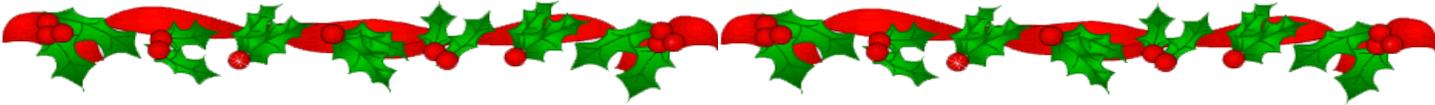


As our tradition of partnership continues, we will be joining Christ Church this year for our Christmas Eve Service.

Please plan to attend and celebrate Christ's birth.

Christ Church - 1933 Canfield Road - Youngstown, OH 44511

There will be no morning or evening worship at Wickliffe Presbyterian.

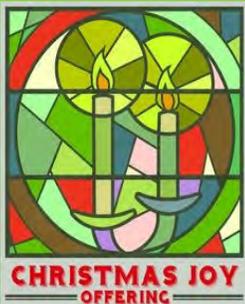


Wickliffe Presbyterian Church Financial Report - October 2017

09/30/17	Total Available Funds (checking/savings)	\$122,730.99
	Total Cash Received	7,061.24
	Total Expenditures	7,024.64
	Total Interest	3.44
10/31/17	Total Available Funds (checking/savings)	\$122,771.03

Account Balances:	<u>Savings</u>	<u>Checking</u>	<u>Benevolence</u>	<u>Memorial</u>
Balance as of 09/30/17	\$45,787.20	\$76,943.79	\$1,250.43	\$5,699.48
Deposits	0.00	7,061.24	28.24	0.00
Interest Received	3.44			
Withdrawals	0.00	7,024.64	0.00	0.00
Balance as of 10/31/17	\$45,790.64	\$76,980.39	\$1,278.67	\$5,699.48

Per Capita ~ Received - \$971.00 Paid - \$971.00



Christmas Joy Offering

The Christmas Joy Offering celebrates the birth of Jesus Christ, the truly "Indescribable gift", as well as the gifts of church leaders – past, present and future. The Christmas Joy Offering has been a cherished Presbyterian tradition since the 1930's.

The offering distributes gifts equally to the Assistance Program of the Board of Pensions and to Presbyterian-related racial ethnic schools and colleges. The Assistance Program provides critical financial support to church workers and their families. Presbyterian-related schools and colleges provide education and leadership development while nurturing racial and ethnic heritage. This has been a Presbyterian commitment for nearly 140 years.

Wickliffe Presbyterian's offering will be collected on Sunday, December 17. Please give as generously as possible. Sincerely, Donna Cooper



- * Soup and sloppy joe luncheon was successful and raised \$126 for Deacon's mission work.
- * Christmas Caroling to the sick and shut in will be on December 10.
- * A small Angel tree will be added with gift suggestions by the Youth in addition to the Giving Tree and Mitten Tree.
- * Christmas Baskets for the needy will be packed on December 18.

Submitted by Debby Fabian



MISSION NOTES FROM RWANDA!

THE REV. KAY DAY,

One of the international Mission Co-Workers we are getting to know!

Below you will find Kay's latest letter from Rwanda.

Please continue to hold her in prayer!

You may follow Kay's work at Kaydaysdiary.blogspot.com

You may also email her at mkayday@gmail.com

Dear Friends and Family,

Reformation greetings from Rwanda. As the world celebrates the 500th anniversary of the Reformation, PIASS joined in the commemorations with a symposium on Tuesday, Oct. 31 to mark the anniversary. I presented a paper on the influence of the Reformation on the United States. It has been both an educational and enjoyable exercise, but I think that the greatest preparation that I have had for the celebration was preaching on Reformation-- Sunday at a local chapel just outside Huye.

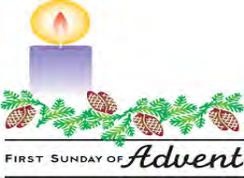
I have taken some challenging and rewarding trips to preach, but this one ranks among the top two or three. The chapel (a kind of satellite worship location) is only about 6 miles from my home. The challenge was the road and the transportation. My translator and I were traveling on motorcycles. The rains came heavily on Saturday and even around my house, there were standing pools of water. It rained again early Sunday morning, just to renew the mud. The dirt road to the chapel is through a low-lying valley that routinely floods. Our first challenge was that the "motos" on which we were riding not slide down the steep mud-slicked hill to the valley. The second was to pass through about 20 yards of 2 to 3 inches of water that rested over 3 to 4 inches of mud. The trick was to go slowly, but not too slowly to get stuck. A moto makes one much more vulnerable than riding in a car. We only slid once. The third challenge was to climb out of the valley on the muddy incline to the top of the ridge. A moderate speed had to be maintained. We had excellent drivers and succeeded. We then maneuvered across the ridge, dodging pools of water to reach the remote chapel. We stopped twice to confirm directions. Just as we arrived, the rains began again.

The reward came when we arrived. The chapel is a small, mud-brick building about the size of my living room, with a deteriorating tile roof. The floor is constructed of pieces of bricks left over from the construction of the building. As people arrived, they brought benches with them for seating. When we arrived there were only 5 people present. By the time the service began, there were 12 but by the time we finished, there were 35. This is a new congregation of just 53 people that has been meeting together since May. They are led by an evangelist, Gideon, one of my mature students. He and his wife have 7 children, three grown. three still in school and the youngest just 3 years old. They have lived in this remote area since January, gathering and nurturing the congregation. He travels through that valley every week day to come to PIASS to study, to return and apply what he is learning to lead this small group of faithful people, about 15 families who are becoming a community of faith. I was the first ordained pastor to worship with them. I was deeply touched. The joy of their intergenerational choir of 7 set the tone for the worship. I had the privilege of sharing a Reformation message with them and to witness the reality of the transforming power of the gospel in their lives. After worship, we shared a simple meal of bananas and bread. We visitors were given hard boiled eggs, too. Their generosity was overwhelming. The moto ride back through the muddy valley did not seem so arduous after the warm fellowship. The conditions hadn't changed. My perspective had. I was filled with joy. What a blessed way to spend the 500th Reformation Sunday.

All of this was possible because of you and your faithful support of my ministry through PCUSA. Thank you. I could not be here were it not for your financial support. You are enabling me to be a part of the training of faithful men and women like Gideon. That is why, as we approach the end of 2017, I ask that you prayerfully consider, if you have not yet given financially, to please do so. If you have given, thank you and please continue. Please share with others what God is doing here, that they might join us. Above all, please continue your prayer support. This sustains me. You are part of this ministry in all your forms of support. Thank you.

Yours in Christ's love, Kay (Cathie to the family)

December 2017 Wickliffe Presbyterian Church

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday				
<p><u>Sundays</u></p> <p>9:30 a.m. - Worship Service (No morning or evening service on Sunday 12/24)</p> <p>10:30 a.m. - Sunday School (all ages)</p> <p>8:00 p.m. - AA</p>					<i>1</i>	<i>2</i>				
<i>3</i>	<i>4</i>	<i>5</i>	<i>6</i>	<i>7</i>	<i>8</i>	<i>9</i>				
 <p>FIRST SUNDAY OF <i>Advent</i></p>	<p>7:00 pm -ALANON</p>	<p><i>Presbytery Meeting @ CANFIELD PC - 10:00 am</i></p>	<p><i>Goodtimers @ DENNY'S (Austintown) - 11:30 am</i></p>	<p>5:45 pm - T.O.PS.</p> <p>6:30 pm - Girl SCOUTS</p>		<p>Girl SCOUTS Service Unit Christmas PARTY (5 - 7:30 pm)</p>				
<i>10</i>	<i>11</i>	<i>12</i>	<i>13</i>	<i>14</i>	<i>15</i>	<i>16</i>				
<p>Sick & Shut-In Caroling</p>  <p>2ND SUNDAY OF <i>Advent</i></p>	<p>7:00 pm -ALANON</p>	<p>Marriage Relationship VIDEO 1 @ Christ Church CHAPEL - 7:00 pm</p>	<p><i>Esther Circle @ AMEN CORNER - 12:30 pm</i></p>	<p>5:45 pm - T.O.PS.</p> <p>6:00 pm - CHOIR Practice</p>						
<i>17</i>	<i>18</i>	<i>19</i>	<i>20</i>	<i>21</i>	<i>22</i>	<i>23</i>				
<p>Christmas Joy Offering</p> <p>COMMUNION</p>  <p>Third Sunday of <i>Advent</i></p>	<p>1:30 pm - DEACONS Food Baskets</p> <p>7:00 pm -ALANON</p>			<p>5:45 pm - T.O.PS.</p> <p><i>CHOIR Practice @ CHRIST CHURCH - 6:00 pm</i></p>						
<i>24</i>	<i>25</i>	<i>26</i>	<i>27</i>	<i>28</i>	<i>29</i>	<i>30</i>				
<p>Christ Church will host Candlelight Communion Service @ CHRIST CHURCH - 7:00 pm</p>  <p>CHRISTMAS EVE</p>	 <p>MERRY CHRISTMAS</p>			<p>5:45 pm - T.O.PS.</p> <p>6:00 pm - CHOIR Practice</p>						
<i>31</i>	 <p>Benevolence</p>					 <p>Merry Christmas! <i>and a Blessed New Year</i></p>				