



What's Up Wickliffe!

DECEMBER 2023

~THE STORY OF THE CANDY CANE~

As the story goes, a Christian candymaker living in Indiana was driven to express his love of Jesus Christ, his strong Christian belief and desire to contribute to the celebration of the birthday of Jesus Christ. After a long process of eliminating several ideas, the candy man chose the candy cane as his witness to Jesus Christ during the Christmas season.

At first, the candymaker chose a stick of white hardened sugar as his choice. For him, the white stick symbolized the virgin birth and sinless life of Jesus. The hardness of the sugar stick symbolized the rock solid foundation of the Church, the strength of God's promise to save humankind and the unconditional love of God has for each person that has ever lived or will live.

The white sugar stick went over very well! However, the candymaker felt something missing from his candy cane. The candymaker added three red stripes to signify Jesus' scourging on humankind's behalf when the Roman soldiers whipped him with the three-pronged whip of bone, glass and metal. The large red stripe symbolized the blood shed of Jesus on the Cross for the salvation of humankind from its sins.

The last chemical or physical element added to the candy cane by the candymaker was the peppermint. Peppermint is a flavor very similar to hyssop. Hyssop is a member of the mint family that was used during and before the time of Jesus by the Hebraic peoples for purification and sacrifice. In the mind of the candy cane maker, who knew his history, Jesus was and is the pure lamb of God who came into the world to be a sacrifice for the sins of humankind.

Lastly, the candymaker formed the candy cane in its current shape not for the Christmas tree but in the form of a "J" to give honor to the Sacred Name of Jesus. This "J" accomplished another symbol but the candymaker never anticipated. When the "J" shape is turned the other way then it would be in the shape of a shepherd's staff. This would symbolize Jesus as the "Good Shepherd". Shepherds used their staffs to reach out to lift a wayward fallen lamb that fell in a hole or to pull them out of the many small caves that a man or small person could not crawl through in the Judean plains and valleys. So when you see, give or eat of a candy cane, remember that it symbolizes Jesus Christ, the Good Shepherd, Savior who was and is sinless and who suffered and died for the sins of all humans for all times.

Taken from Faithwriters.com by Stephen A. Peterson

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DECEMBER SCHEDULE

- December 3 1st Sunday of Advent**
 ♦ 11:00 AM Worship-Hubbard FPC
 ♦ Christmas Potluck
- December 10 2nd Sunday of Advent**
- December 17 3rd Sunday of Advent**
- December 24 4th Sunday of Advent**
 4:00 PM Christmas Eve Worship
 ♦ Communion
- December 31 1st Sunday of Christmas**



- | | |
|-------------|-----------------|
| December 2 | Rich Truslow |
| December 2 | Sandie Wayland |
| December 8 | Barb McKinney |
| December 15 | Albert Bagoly |
| December 15 | Glenn Johnson |
| December 17 | Patricia Cramer |
| December 20 | Jamie Bryant |
| December 21 | Marty Mayer |
| December 22 | Edith Muzenic |
| December 23 | Neil Truslow |

Church Office Hours:

Monday - 9:00am - 12:00pm

Tuesday - Closed

Wednesday - Closed

Thursday - 9:00am - 12:00pm

Friday - Closed

(Hours may vary. Please contact the office for an appointment if you need in the church)

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

TLCC Daycare and Preschool


Director, Norma Johnson

330-792-9048






2023 Per Capita is \$32.50. Per Capita information flyers are available at the church.



The Deacons are so blessed to have all the congregation's support to make our missions possible. First we made \$307.00 at our Soup and Sloppy Joe Lunch! This allows us to support many missions at Christmas financially. Next, eight Christmas Shoeboxes were delivered to be sent to needy children in the world. One Thanksgiving food basket was lovingly prepared for a needy family. And finally we are still collecting toys and gifts for Protestant Family services and items for the Hat and Mitten tree. It really is true, if we all give a little it touches a lot of people especially at the holidays. Thanks again for being so generous.

Love and Merry Christmas, Wickliffe Deacons



Wonderful Women of Wickliffe,
Please join our December 2 World Community Day Celebration here at Wickliffe! Registration form is supplied here in the newsletter (see page 7). The donation is \$15.00 for program, speaker, lunch, and supplies. Looking forward to celebrating with you all!

Donna Cooper, Cor. Sec. Church Women United Board




T.L.C.C. Preschool has been chosen to be part of the **CELEBRATION OF THE FESTIVAL OF TREES** at Fellows Riverside Garden. This is an incredible opportunity for our school and the children to help sprinkle some holiday magic and bring joy to our families and also to our community this Christmas. We have chosen a theme and children of all ages will be making the ornaments to decorate the tree.

The display runs from December 2nd through January 2, 2024. What a wonderful opportunity to inform the public about our Preschool while spreading holiday spirit!

Miss Norma



IN STEP WITH SESSION



As we opened with prayer it was with a grateful heart that all our Session members were in attendance. I am thankful for all of them and all they do to support our Church. Rev. Meta Cramer has been our moderator for a year now and has given us very good advice when needed.

I read the rolls which included 60 members at this time. Our Annual Congregational meeting will be held on February 11th in the Fellowship Hall. Meta unfortunately cannot attend and will try and find someone else to moderate the meeting. We are planning to install the new officers on March 3rd.

Jamie presented the budget to Session. After some discussion, a motion was made to accept. Changes may occur but overall, the figures stand as written.

Donna reported that The Church Women United will meet at Wickliffe on Dec 2nd. Registration will be at 10:30 AM with the Service at 11 AM. Please see Donna if you would like to attend. Information is in our current Newsletter.

Janelle spoke on Nominating. Three Elders are stepping down: Bill Wayland, Janelle Truslow and Jamie Bryant. Three will be coming on: Nancy O'Hara, Tracy Martin and Grace Brown. Deacons: Two will be stepping down: Nancy Truslow and Marcy Clark. Three will coming on: Bev Bagoly, Carolyn Lewis and Kathleen Kirchner. Still trying to find one Board member for TLCC. Janelle will stay on to find Pastors, etc. for Pulpit Supply. We will invite the new Elders to attend the January mtg.

Jeff reported that we have a major leak in the fellowship hall. Basically around the windows and down the walls. He will be searching for three bids and compare these bids to cost if he were to complete the work himself. Also trying to find a company to repair outside light. Jeff is also going to sand the doors to the Deacons closet and repair.

Other Comments: Bill Wayland suggested we have the hanging of the greens on a Saturday next year. Comments made that we may not have enough help but we will discuss this in Session at a later date. Ruth also would like to have Special Music on occasion for 2024. See Ruth if you would like to sing or know of someone that would be willing.

Lastly but more importantly, on Dec 3rd, we will be meeting at the Hubbard Church for a joint service and Potluck. I know this is short notice appearing in this article, but announcements and a Potluck chart has been passed around as to what you would like to bring. The Service is at 11 A.M. Bonnie Dutton will be preaching. I hope you plan on attending. A possible next joint event will be held at our Church in the same joint fashion on Feb 18th. More details to come.

With Love and Blessings, we, as your Session, would like to wish our members, those reading this Newsletter and beyond a wonderful Holiday Season.

Merry Christmas, Nancy O'Hara, Clerk of Session




**GOODTIMERS will meet Wednesday,
December 6 at 11:30 AM at
Amen Corner in Girard.
~Grace Brown**


**DISCOVERY GROUP will NOT meet
in December.
~ Grace Brown**


Holy Humor
The Wise Men were truly wise men. Unlike most men, they stopped to ask for directions.
~Excerpt from The Joyful Newsletter~
Submitted by Sherry Yacucci

Needle's Eye Soup Ministry
Thank you! Thank you! Thank you for all the donations for October and November!
Please remember to donate cans of soup, or jars of peanut butter for our Good Neighbors at Needle's Eye. We can add joy to OTHERS and OURSELVES when we do simple acts of kindness by donating. If everyone brings one can or one jar, just think how much we will give to Needle's Eye!
Thank you in His Name! Donna Cooper



A PRAYER FOR PEACE

Lord Jesus Christ, You are the true King of peace. In You alone is found freedom. Please free our world from conflict, especially in the Mideast and Ukraine. Bring unity to troubled nations. Let Your glorious peace reign in every heart. Dispel all darkness and evil. Protect the dignity of every human life. Replace hatred with Your love. Give wisdom to world leaders. Free them from selfish ambition. Eliminate all violence and war. Glorious Virgin Mary, Saint Michael the Archangel, every angel and saint: please pray for peace. Pray for unity amongst nations. Pray for unity amongst all people. Pray for the most vulnerable. Pray for those suffering. Pray for the fearful. Pray for those most in need. Pray for us all. Jesus, Son of the living God, have mercy on us. Jesus, hear our prayers. Jesus, I trust in You! Amen.


"POP TABS—Reminder"
Ronald McDonald House
This is a reminder that you take time to collect **Pop Tabs** for our **RONALD McDONALD HOUSE Outreach**. You will find the tall plastic container in the Narthex. Let's please see how fast we can fill the jug this time. Blessings to all for your support of this worthy cause!
~ Nancy O'Hara, Clerk of Session

REQUEST FROM JEFF—Reminder
Jeff Bryant is collecting **aluminum cans** for a project with the VFW called "**Cans for Vets**". Please bring your cans to the church (garbage can is placed near the door). Jeff will be collecting the cans for the remainder of the year. Thank you in advance for your Christian generosity!




CHRISTMAS JOY OFFERING



Each year during Advent and the Christmas Season, we Presbyterians turn our eyes to Bethlehem and celebrate the wondrous gift of Jesus Christ, our Savior. God has blessed the Church with incredible leadership. But those leaders often need to be supported.

Since the 1930's, the Christmas Joy Offering distributes gifts equally to the Board of Pensions, Presbyterian-related schools and colleges of communities of color, and assistance programs providing critical financial support to church workers and families.

Presbyterian-related schools and colleges provide education and leadership development while nurturing racial and ethnic heritage. Many students of these schools become long working church leaders.

Wickliffe Presbyterian takes up the Christmas Joy Offering at our Christmas Eve worship service which will be held at 4 pm on December 24.

Grateful thanks, Donna Cooper

~A SPECIAL NOTE FROM YOUR SESSION~

On December 3, 2023, Wickliffe has been invited to First Presbyterian Church (Hubbard) for a joint service. This is a chance for combined Christian Fellowship and to get to know one another. The Service will begin at 11AM with a Potluck Luncheon following. Please plan to make your favorite dish to share. There will be a signup sheet in the Narthex so we don't bring too many duplicate dishes.

The address for First Presbyterian is:

22 Westview Avenue

Hubbard, Ohio, 44425

Please feel free to reach out to Janelle Truslow or myself with questions.

**God Bless,
Jamie Bryant
WPC Elder**



Coping with Holiday Blues

- Keep expectations for the holiday season manageable.
- Make a list and prioritize the most important activities. Be realistic about what you can and cannot do.
- Remember that the holiday season does not automatically banish reasons for feeling sad or lonely. There is room for these feelings to be present.
- Let go of the past. Don't be disappointed if your holidays are not like they used to be. Life brings changes.
- Do something for someone else.
- Enjoy holiday activities that are free, such as driving around to look at Christmas decorations.
- Don't be afraid to try something new. Celebrate the holidays in a way you have not done before.
- Spend time with people who are supportive and care about you.
- Find time for yourself. Don't spend all your time providing activities for your family and friends.

Source: The National Mental Health Association



**CHURCH WOMEN UNITED
ANNOUNCING
WORLD COMMUNITY DAY SERVICE**

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 2, 2023

"Labor of Love: A Heart to Care" Matthew 25:37-40

WICKLIFFE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
45 Idlewood Rd.
Austintown, Ohio 44515

REGISTRATION 10:30 am

SERVICE 11:00 am

SPEAKER: CHRYSTAL ECHMAN, RESCUE MISSION OF THE MAHONING VALLEY

LUNCH TO FOLLOW SERVICE \$15.00 Donation for Lunch, Program and Materials

REGISTRATION DUE MONDAY, NOVEMBER 27, 2023

MAIL TO: Donna Cooper 1003 Collins Ave. Austintown, 44515
Phone: 330-799-0190 or 330-651-3253

MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO CHURCH WOMEN UNITED

Please bring a donation of personal care items or canned goods for The Rescue Mission of Mahoning Valley

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

PHONE _____

NUMBER ATTENDING _____

AMOUNT ENCLOSED _____



December 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2 11:00 AM 
3 11:00 AM Worship Service Hubbard FPC Potluck Brunch 8:00 PM AA Mtg.	4	5	6 11:30 AM Goodtimers Amen Corner Girard, OH	7 5:45 PM Tops	8	9
10 10:00 AM Worship Service 8:00 PM AA Mtg.	11	12	13	14 5:45 PM Tops	15	16
17 10:00 AM Worship Service 8:00 PM AA Mtg.	18	19	20	21 <u>No TOPS Mtg.</u>	22	23
24 4:00 PM Worship Service Communion 8:00 PM AA Mtg.	25 	26	27	28 <u>No TOPS Mtg.</u>	29	30
31 10:00 AM Worship Service 8:00 PM AA Mtg.						