

The Messenger

Building a more diverse and open community
of committed Christian servants.



Dear Friends and Members of Worthington UMC,
Trees are up, lights are ready to twinkle, boxes of food are being assembled, gifts being purchased, the Advent Wreath set with candles ready to be lit, and this is only the beginning --- **Advent begins on Sunday, December 3**. This year we have an extra week between Thanksgiving and the start of Advent, and that means that when Advent begins, Christmas will quickly follow.

Please read carefully this Messenger and Program Brochure. They are packed with opportunities. And please check out the tri-folds each week, the eblasts, the bulletin boards, website and facebook page as new opportunities for sharing the Christmas Spirit pop up quickly and we want to work to make you aware as we are. 2017 has been a good year in many ways for this congregation. We have heard witnesses from persons who have been touched by the way God works through you. I challenge you to think in your own life where you have experienced the fruits of God's Spirit alive and growing. Celebrate this as we journey through Advent, and into Christmas.

This time of the year questions arise as to how are we doing financially. We aren't there yet, but with the help of everyone sharing a generous Christmas offering – an extra \$10, \$50, \$100, \$1,000 or whatever feels generous to you – we can finish 2017 well and be ready to enter 2018 with strength.

One of my favorite Christmas songs is *O Holy Night* which focuses on the *Night when Christ was born*. It was composed by Adolphe Adam in 1847 to the French poem "Minuit, chrétiens" (Midnight, Christians) by poet, Placide Cappeau (1808–1877). John Sullivan Dwight, a minister and editor of *Dwight's Journal of Music*, created a singing edition based on Cappeau's French text in 1855. Some of the words feel very appropriate for 2017.

.....*O holy night! The stars are brightly shining,
It is the night of our dear Saviour's birth.
Long lay the world in sin and error pining,
Till He appear'd and the soul felt its worth.
A thrill of hope, the weary world rejoices,
For yonder breaks a new and glorious morn.
.....The King of Kings lay thus in lowly manger;
In all our trials born to be our friend.
He knows our need, to our weaknesses no stranger,
.....Truly He taught us to love one another;
His law is love and His gospel is peace.
Chains shall He break for the slave is our brother;
And in His name all oppression shall cease.*

Remember, the birth of Christ in our lives does not just happen on Christmas Eve, not just in Advent, but each and every moment of our lives as we allow God's Spirit to work and grow within us and give birth even through us to the Love of Christ in the world – a love that is there for all, knows no bounds and lasts forever.

Remember to invite others to join in the journey – the **What It's Really All About** - -- *Unwrap the true meaning with us this Christmas* postcards are available for you to use as an invitation.

Your staff looks forward to the Advent journey with you.
Cyndy

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Snow Emergency Sunday

Cancellation Policy

In case of an announced Snow Emergency in Franklin County on a Sunday, the Church Service Cancellation Policy is:

Level 1 Snow Emergency –

Sunday Services will continue as planned; please use caution.

Level 2 Snow Emergency –

Only the LAST Sunday Service of the day will be held.

Level 3 Snow Emergency –

All Sunday Services are cancelled.

In the case of **weekday** snow emergency, please contact the church office, at 614-885-5365, or check the church's website.

The Messenger is published monthly by Worthington United Methodist Church, P.O. Box 307, Worthington, OH 43085 (614-885-5365). **Friday, December 15** is the deadline for the **January Messenger**. To submit your article, drop it off or email it to Jessica Sapp at jessica@worthingtonumc.com.

Parish Concerns and Joys

We express love and sympathy:

- To friends & family of **Claude Farrell**, at his death on October 31.
- To **Dave Marshall**, at the death of his father, **Tim Marshall**, on October 31.
- To **Stephen Entler**, at the death of his father, **Dick Entler**, on November 2.
- To **Jim Lawrence**, at the death of his mother on November 5.
- To **Brian Wingerter**, at the death of his father, **Hal Wingerter**, on November 14.

We express joy and congratulations:

- To **Todd & Anna Bitters**, at the birth of their daughter, **Emily Marie**, born on November 7. Proud grandparents are **Dave & Sharon Bitters**.
- To **Suzanne & Chad Smoak**, at the birth of their daughter, **Nora Sanger**. Proud big sister is Emilie; proud grandmother is **Linda Wacker**.



Deborah Circle will have their annual Christmas program December 14 at 1 p.m. in the Browning Lounge and Potter Chapel.

Elizabeth Circle will meet on Monday, December 4, 6:00 - 9:00 p.m. We will be meeting at Inspiring U for our holiday party and to prepare the Homebound gifts for the church. See next page for more details!

Naomi Circle will meet Wednesday, December 13, 6:30 pm, at the home of Nancy Ollila. Dinner will be a potluck of appetizers and dessert, followed by a Christmas devotional.

Riverside Sewing Guild will meet Wednesday, December 6, at 9:30 a.m.

WUMW and the Buckeye Military Moms (Blue Star Mothers)

The WUMW continues to endorse our local Blue Star Mothers in the provision of items for Ohio soldiers who are serving around the world. **Now is the time for the provision of Christmas cards.** The cards will be a reminder of our appreciation of their service at Christmas time, a difficult time to be away from family and friends. Also, consider providing blank cards and envelopes which allow the soldiers to send a card or two home. Including a pen is helpful.

The following are other suggested items to provide during the fall and winter months:

baby wipes	canned foods, pull-top lids	crossword puzzles
batteries: AA & AAA	snack cracker packets	magazines (sports, science, etc)
hand warmers	hard candies	deck of cards
muscle ache cream	protein bars	dental supplies
foot powder	Pringles	travel-sized games
travel-size mouthwash	oatmeal packets/boxes	phone card
duct tape	crackers, cheese/peanut butter	
travel-size packets of laundry detergent		

The donation box and a more complete donation list are located in the church office. Thank you for your continued support and HAPPY HOLIDAYS!

Cookie Sampling Sunday

On December 31, we will be celebrating our 6th annual "Cookie Sampling" Sunday. Please bring some cookies or goodies that you would like to share with others. We will have our goodie bags ready for those who wish to take some home to enjoy or share. Of course, you can always sample cookies with your morning coffee or tea, too. Members of Ruth Circle, UMW and the Cookie Coordinators will be hosting Sunday Fellowship on December 31st - Reminder this is a blended service so cookies need to be brought to the Dixon Lounge before the service.

The December Elizabeth Circle meeting will be on Monday, December 4, 6:00 - 9:00 p.m. We will be meeting at Inspiring U for our holiday party and to prepare the Homebound gifts for the church. At 6:00 we will begin working on the homebound gifts. I hope to be finished by 6:30. At that time we will start our painting project. We will be painting crosses on canvas as an art project for you to take home. I have 2 different styles and lots of different paints, so if you don't like the colors I've used, you can feel free to choose different colors. I have a stencil for the cross, so no drawing skills are required! Here are the pictures we will be painting:



The cost for the painting class is \$20 per person, which is a discount from what I normally charge. I have set up a Private Party for the "WUMC - Elizabeth Circle" on my website. Please register for the painting party by going to the website: [Inspiring-u.com](http://inspiring-u.com)

Here is a link that will take you directly to the Private Party page- <http://inspiring-u.com/parties.html> . Just scroll to the bottom of the page and click on the "December 4th, 6:00 - 9:00 p.m." that is listed under the WUMC Elizabeth Circle party.

The UMW cookbooks will be on sale in the Ministry Hallway on Sundays, December 3 and 10, and in the church office thereafter. If you are looking for a gift for the holiday season, this would be a good the time to purchase our 2016 cookbook. The books will be on sale for \$15.00 each and the proceeds will be used for UMW missions.

Congregational Art Show

The Congregation Art Show will be held during the month of January this year. Please plan to share your artistic expressions with the community then. Bring your two dimensional art to the office by January 3. Pieces should be ready to hang. Remember that saw tooth hangers do not work with our hanging system. We are sorry that we can't handle three dimensional work. Don't be timid! Share your gift with the congregation!

At 7:30 a.m. on October 21, 2017, six members of the WUMC and one member of Maple Grove UMC left for a one day adult mission trip to Camp Otterbein. Camp Otterbein is one of the United Methodist church camps. It is open all year round. There was another group of ladies at the camp for a weekend retreat.

We met Scott Seese, the Camp Director, behind the dining hall. After everyone had a chance to get coffee or water, Scott got us started on the project. We were the first group of volunteers working this fall.

The volunteers from our church were Brad Arensberg, Ken Evans, Jerry Knorr, Jim Lawrence, Russ Line, and Duane Snyder. Andy Garnes from Maple Grove UMC was our other volunteer. Our project was painting.

The kitchen in the dining hall had been remodeled. As a result of the remodeling there was wood on the outside of that area that needed to be painted in order to blend in with the other paint on the building. We had to paint one side of the kitchen that extended back to the rear of the building. This was a little complicated because of all the electrical wires that came out of that wall and ran down the side of the building. The far back of the building was also complicated because it was an "A" frame. We used a large stepladder and an extension ladder to reach the peak and other parts. There was also another partial "A" frame that extended out about 5 feet from part of the building. This provided a roof that we could stand on to paint some of the main "A" frame. The two hardest parts of the painting were the soffit and the facie board since these were the highest parts to reach. We completed all the painting on the side section and both "A" frames.

Scott provided us and the group of ladies with a nice lunch, and we returned to Worthington about 5:35 p.m.



SAVE THE DATE! THERE IS PLENTY OF TIME TO PLAN. We are now accepting applications for the next Adult Mission Trip. The dates are February 24 – March 3, 2018. We will be staying in Grand Bay, AL, which has been our base of operation for the last few trips. At this time we are not sure what projects we will be working on, but most likely it will be projects at individual's homes where service work is needed. Please join us for a time of fun and fellowship while we are carrying out God's work. This will be our eighteenth trip to Alabama. Some people may wonder why we aren't working around here. That's because it's a lot better working down there in the winter time. We are not going to Florida or Texas because it is at least another day of travel time both ways. I guarantee that you will have a good time and that the food will be great (don't plan to lose any weight). Don't feel that you have to have a lot of skills in order to participate in this trip. We do the best we can with the skills that the members of the team have, and there is always something that everyone can do. The final sign-up date for this trip is January 31, 2018. For more information, contact Russ Line.

Book Review: New in the WUMC Library

Bass, Diana Butler. ***Christianity After Religion***. New York: Harper Collins, 2012.
ISBN 978-0-06-200373-7

In ***Christianity After Religion***, the author seeks to understand the declining relevance of institutional Christianity. Dr. Bass draws upon findings of scholarly research as well as insights gained through visits with members of hundreds of Christian churches. She proposes that Christianity should return to a more experiential faith that is based on Jesus and His mission.

This historical understanding of religion persisted for centuries, and then began to evolve. It was altered significantly by the thinking of the Enlightenment (18th century), which held that science and logic were superior to tradition and religion in helping society to flourish. The philosophy of the Age of Reason undoubtedly stimulated progress; however, it was uncritically applied to religion and reframed it as less mystic. The result, in many cases, was the establishment of dogma and doctrine guided by the authority of the church. Dr. Bass believes that this structured view of religion as dogma persists and that it is an unrecognized source of discontent with religion in the present.

The author advocates a reawakening to the traditional meaning of religion as experience. Although some modern people differentiate between religion (institutionalized beliefs) and spirituality (experience/transcendence), it is a false dichotomy. The word religion (*religio*) means "...a particular way of seeing and feeling in the world..." (p. 97) Evidence of the accuracy of this historical definition can be seen in the lives of Jesus' followers who altered their perceptions and their way of life while in His company.

Bass proposes that today's Christians refocus on religion as a discernable way of life, practiced in community, that is based on an encounter with God. This proposal de-emphasizes doctrine and would precede institutional change. "What do I believe?" could become less important than, "How can I imitate Christ?"

While to some, ***Christianity After Religion*** may be frightening, it is mostly hopeful because it explains the importance of revisioning Christianity. The book is very informative, is well written, and is thought provoking regardless of the reader's current belief system.

Reviewed by: *Fay Carol Reed*

Christmas Eve Worship Schedule

- 9:30 a.m.** Traditional **Worship Service** to celebrate the Fourth Sunday of Advent
- 11:15 a.m.** **Emerge Worship Service** to celebrate the Fourth Sunday of Advent
- 4:00 p.m.** **Family Christmas Eve Worship:** Our Family Service features a children's Christmas Pageant and festive holiday music.
- 6:00 p.m.** **Youth Christmas Eve Service:** Join the youth as they lead a blended Christmas Eve Service, combining old and new traditions.
- 8:00 p.m.** **Lessons and Carols:** The Service of Lessons and Carols features our Chancel Choir. The Prelude begins at 7:40 p.m. Come, hear the glorious music of the season!
- 11:00 p.m.** **Christmas Candlelight Communion:** Receive God's gift of the Christ Child with candles, music, and prayer.

December 2017 Outreach Calendar

Join us as we "Make a Difference"!

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Bethlehem on Broad Street (BOBS) XMAS Food Boxes	Advent Giving Angel Tree for Worthington School Families	Advent Giving Grooming Kits for NNEMAP Food Pantry	Advent Giving Socks & Underwear for New Life Clothing Room	PROJECT MORE 30 Minutes any Monday – Thursday	1 NNEMAP Pantry 9 am – noon	2
3 Operation Sandwich New Life Clinic 7 am – 9 am PODS Drop off BOBS 9:00 – 12:30	4 NNEMAP Pantry 9 am – noon Worthington Pantry 9 am – 3 pm	5 NNEMAP Pantry 9 am – noon New Life Clothing Room 9 am – 11:30 am	6 NNEMAP 9 – noon New Life 9 – 11:30 Worthington Pantry 2 pm – 8 pm	7	8 NNEMAP Pantry 9 am – noon	9 BOBS Delivery to BSUMC 10 am - noon
10 Operation Sandwich New Life Clinic 7 am – 9 am	11 NNEMAP Pantry 9 am – noon Worthington Pantry 9 am – 3 pm	12 NNEMAP Pantry 9 am – noon New Life Clothing Room 9 am – 11:30 am	13 NNEMAP 9 – noon New Life 9 – 11:30 Worthington Pantry 2 pm – 8 pm	14	15 NNEMAP Pantry 9 am – noon	16 BOBS XMAS Party at BSUMC 10:10 – 11:30 am Worthington Pantry 9:30 am -12:30 pm
17 Operation Sandwich New Life Clinic 7 am – 9 am	18 NNEMAP Pantry 9 am – noon Worthington Pantry 9 am – 3 pm	19 NNEMAP Pantry 9 am – noon New Life Clothing Room 9 am – 11:30 am	20 NNEMAP 9 – noon New Life 9 – 11:30 Worthington Pantry 2 pm – 8 pm Mat Ministry Plarn Party 1 – 4 pm	21 Friendship Dinner 5 – 8 pm	22 NNEMAP Pantry 9 am – noon	23 Gates Fourth UMC Breakfast 8:30-10 Worthington Pantry 9:30 am -12:30 pm
24/31 Operation Sandwich New Life Clinic 7 am – 9 am	25 Christmas Holiday	26 NNEMAP Pantry 9 am – noon New Life Clothing Room 9 am – 11:30 am	27 NNEMAP 9 – noon New Life 9 – 11:30 Worthington Pantry 2 pm – 8 pm	28	29 NNEMAP Pantry 9 am – noon	30 Gates Fourth UMC Breakfast 8:30-10



Sunday Schedule at Worthington UMC
 9:30 a.m. Worship in the Sanctuary &
 11:15 a.m. Emerge Worship, in the Potter Chapel;
 Sunday School at 10:40 a.m. for children, youth & adults
 Childcare for infants & toddlers at 9:30 & 11:15 a.m.;
 Children's Church at both services
 Fellowship Time is 10:30-11:15 a.m. in the Dixon Lounge;
 Youth Impact is on Sundays at 6:00 p.m. unless otherwise noted.

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>Please continue to invite guests to join us for worship using the What It's Really All About, Unwrap the true meaning with us this Christmas postcards! We have postcards available in the office if needed!</p>					<p>1</p> <p>9:00 a.m.—Bulletin Assembly</p> <p>9:30 a.m.—Alzheimer's Support & Respite Care</p> <p>11:30 a.m.—Alzheimer's First Friday Meeting</p>	<p>2</p> <p>11:00 a.m.—UMW Christmas Luncheon</p>
<p>3</p> <p>See Sunday Schedule</p> <p>11:00 a.m.—Jubilee Ringers</p> <p>4:00 p.m.—JAM Christmas Celebration</p> <p>5:30 p.m.—Youth Choir</p>	<p>4</p> <p>10:30 a.m.—Prayer Group</p> <p>6:00 p.m.—Emerge Planning</p> <p>7:00 p.m.—Boy Scouts Troop 365</p> <p>6:00 p.m.—Elizabeth Circle</p>	<p>5</p> <p>7:00 p.m.—Welcoming & Inviting</p> <p>7:15 p.m.—Devotions</p> <p>7:30 p.m.—Trustees</p> <p>8:00 p.m.—Sr High Devos</p>	<p>6</p> <p>9:30 a.m.—Riverside Sewing Guild</p> <p>1:00 p.m.—Mat Ministry PLARN Party</p> <p>7:00 p.m.—Boy Scouts Patrol Leaders Meeting</p>	<p>7</p> <p>4:30 p.m.—Children's Bells</p> <p>5:00 p.m.—Children's Choir</p> <p>7:00 p.m.—Chancel Choir</p>	<p>8</p> <p>7:30 a.m.—Breakfast & Conversation</p> <p>9:00 a.m.—Bulletin Assembly</p> <p>6:30 p.m.—WUMC Singles Pizza & Cards</p>	<p>9</p> <p>7:30 a.m.—Men's Breakfast</p> <p>10:00 a.m.—Youth Breadmaking</p> <p>5:30 p.m.—ProMusica Concert</p>
<p>10</p> <p>See Sunday Schedule</p> <p>11:00 a.m.—Jubilee Ringers</p> <p>4:00 p.m.—All-church caroling</p> <p>5:30 p.m.—Youth Choir</p> <p>6:00 p.m.—Columbus International Children's Choir Concert</p>	<p>11</p> <p>10:30 a.m.—Prayer Group</p> <p>7:00 p.m.—Boy Scouts Troop 365 Court of Honor</p> <p>7:00 p.m.—CPC Board Meeting</p>	<p>12</p> <p>9:30 a.m.—Ruth Circle</p> <p>6:00 p.m.—Finance Committee</p> <p>7:00 p.m.—Boy Scouts Adult Committee</p> <p>7:05 p.m.—Ad Council with Church Conference</p> <p>8:00 p.m.—Sr High Devos</p>	<p>13</p> <p>6:30 p.m.—Naomi Circle</p> <p>7:30 p.m.—Taize Worship Service</p>	<p>14</p> <p>1:00 p.m.—Deborah Circle</p> <p>4:30 p.m.—Children's Bells</p> <p>5:00 p.m.—Children's Choir</p> <p>7:00 p.m.—Chancel Choir</p> <p>7:00 p.m.—Martha Crafting Circle</p>	<p>15</p> <p>9:00 a.m.—Bulletin Assembly</p> <p>10:00 a.m.—Prayer Shawl Ministry</p>	<p>16</p>
<p>17</p> <p>See Sunday Schedule</p> <p>11:00 a.m.—Jubilee Ringers</p> <p>5:30 p.m.—Youth Choir</p>	<p>18</p> <p>10:30 a.m.—Prayer Group</p>	<p>19</p> <p>1:00 p.m.—Immunization Clinic</p> <p>8:00 p.m.—Sr High Devos</p>	<p>20</p>	<p>21</p> <p>4:30 p.m.—Children's Bells</p> <p>5:00 p.m.—Children's Choir</p> <p>6:30 p.m.—Friendship Community Dinner</p> <p>7:00 p.m.—Chancel Choir</p>	<p>22</p> <p>9:00 a.m.—Bulletin Assembly</p>	<p>23</p>
<p>24</p> <p>See Christmas Eve Worship Schedule on opposite page</p>	<p>25</p> <p>Office Closed</p>	<p>26</p> <p>Office Closed</p>	<p>27</p>	<p>28</p> <p>9:00 a.m.—Messenger Assembly</p> <p>7:00 p.m.—Chancel Choir</p>	<p>29</p> <p>9:00 a.m.—Bulletin Assembly</p>	<p>30</p> <p>10:00 a.m.—Library Work Day</p>
<p>31</p> <p>10:00 a.m.—Blended Worship Service</p> <p>11:00 a.m.—Jubilee Ringers</p>						

The Messenger

Worthington United Methodist Church
600 High Street, P.O. Box 307
Worthington, OH 43085-0307

Volume 61, No. 12

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Dated material:
Please deliver by December 1, 2017



This Month's Happenings

- December 2 - UMW Christmas Luncheon
- December 9 - ProMusica Concert
- December 10 - Youth-Made Bread Sale
- December 10 - Columbus International Children's Choir Concert
- December 10 - All-Church Caroling
- December 19 - Immunization Clinic
- December 21 - Friendship Community Dinner
- December 24 - Christmas Eve
- December 25 - Christmas
- December 31 - Blended Worship Service