

December Updates 2023



Christmas and New Year's Worship Services

December 17 - 10:30am Combined Christmas Program (Variety Christmas)
at Emmanuel

December 24 - 10:30am Combined Service at St. John's

December 24 - 6:00pm Combined Christmas Eve Service at Emmanuel
(One Service, Nursery provided)

December 31 - 10:30 Combined Service at Emmanuel

December 3 Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19
December 10 Isaiah 40:1-11
December 17 Psalm 126
December 24 Luke 1:26-38
December 31 Luke 2:22-40

Praying the
SCRIPTURES
etisapulliam.com

Sending Our
SYMPATHY

To the Family of Wade Oberly who went home to
join the great cloud of witnesses on November 27



Christmas Program
“Variety Christmas”
December 17, 2023
10:30am at Emmanuel



Come and hear the scriptures and listen to variety of Christmas performances by the children and adults: Onalee Shepler, Jenny Bracy, Joint choir from the women of Emmanuel and St. John’s, performances of the hand bells and more. The Christmas season is a wonderful time to come together and remember why we celebrate, “Our Saviors birth”



practice times:

Saturday December 9 (10 to noon)
Saturday December 16 (10 to noon)



ADOPT A FAMILY

Emmanuel has adopted a family for Christmas through the Community Assistance Program in Bluffton. There are a few ornaments on the tree by the North doors. Our family has 8 people: dad, mom, 17 year old girl, 13 year old boy, 10 year old boy, 9 year old girl, 8 year old boy, 5 year old girl. Monetary donations are accepted also. Donations need to be turned in by December 10. Thank you in advance for participating in this wonderful outreach. If you have questions you can call or text Canda Schmutz 419-549-0867 or Renee Caskie 419-890-6213.

The church will not be selling poinsettia this year, if you would like to bring a poinsettia in to put in the front of the church during the Advent season please do. They will be taken care of through the Advent season. There will be a sheet at the back of the church if you would like it in Honor or Memory of someone.



The Legend of the Poinsettia

There is an old Mexican legend about how Poinsettias and Christmas come together. There was once a poor Mexican girl called Pepita who had no present to give the baby Jesus at the Christmas Eve service. As Pepita walked to the chapel, sadly, her cousin Pedro tried to cheer her up. “Pepita”, he said. ”I,m sure that even the smallest gift, given by someone who loves him will make Jesus Happy”.

Pepita didn’t know what she could give, so she picked a small handful of weeds from the roadside and made them into a small bouquet. She felt embarrassed because she could only give this small present to Jesus. As she walked through the chapel to the alter, she remembered what Pedro had said. She began to feel better, knelt down and put the bouquet at the bottom of the nativity scene. Suddenly the bouquet of weeds burst into bright red flowers, and everyone who saw them were sure they had seen a miracle. From that day on, the bright red flowers were known as the Flowers of the Holy Night.

The shape of the poinsettia flower and leaves are sometimes thought as a symbol of the Star of Bethlehem which led the Wisemen to Jesus. The red color leaves symbolize the blood of Christ. The white leaves represent his purity.

<https://www.whychristmas.com/customs/poinsettia>

CHRISTMAS FUND SPECIAL MISSION OFFERING

Throughout the month of December you will find a brown Christmas Fund envelope for the Veterans of the Cross and the Emergency Fund on the table at the back or enclosed with this update. This fund provides direct financial assistance to retired and active United Church of Christ authorized ministers and lay employees and their surviving spouses, including pension and health premium supplementation, emergency assistance, and Christmas thank-you checks. A ministry of the Pension Boards, the offering is received annually during the Christmas season. This offering can also be given through the [GIVEPLUS+](https://www.emmanueluccbluffton.com/) app on the website <https://www.emmanueluccbluffton.com/> located at the bottom of the page.

**We Need your help - Have some fun
Come out and help make buckeyes**

Buckeye making days December 8 (6 - 9pm)

December 9 (9:00am til done)

Delivery of Buckeyes will be Sunday December 10



December 17 Sunday

See the Christmas lights at Upper Sandusky

Meet at the church for pizza at 4:45

Leave to go look at lights at 5:30. Arrive
around 6:30. Cost per car is \$10.00

There is a sign-up sheet or call the church
and let us know if you will be going, that way
we can get you included in the pizza count

Thank you!
We give thanks to
God for the bounty
He provides

Thank you to all the people who helped with the fish fry through their time, donations and prayers.

Thank you to all the people who provided food and helped with the community meal

To the people who brought in food and kitchen towels for the community assistance program and donations

We all live off his generous bounty, gift after gift after gift."

John 1:16 (MSG)

Consistory Update:

It was decided with the successful Bluffton football season this year the fish fry would be a carry out only. Thank you for your patience in this decision. At this time a profit of \$770.00 was brought in by fish fry.

Supplies were bought for both fall and upcoming spring fish fry were taken out as an expense. **There is leftover frozen fish to buy:**

Small Bag (2.5#) \$15.00 Large Bag (5#) \$30.00

If you are not at church and would like to purchase fish please call the church (419-358-1561)




The annual budget meeting and election of consistory members for 2024 was held during the announcements during the worship service. November 12th. Budget approved

The congregation also approved the following consistory members for 2024 will be: **Elder**-Ron Geiser, Kelli Fruchey, Amy Muniz, Logan Fruchey
Deacon- Sara Music, Nick Shepler, Jerilyn Neeper, Erin Burkholder

DECEMBER



Sunday Monday Tuesday Wed. Thurs. Friday Sat.

	<div>December 17 Christmas lights at Upper Sandusky</div>					1	2 Christmas practice 10-12
Advent 1 3 Hanging of the greens 9:00am	4	5	6	7 Staff Meeting 6:30 At St. John's	8 Make Buckeyes 6-9	9 Make Buckeyes 9-? Christmas Practice 10-12	
Advent2 10 Worship 9:00am Communion	11 Consistory 6:30	12	13	14	15	16 Christmas practice 10-12 Deliver gifts for Adopt a family	
Advent 3 17 Worship 10:30 Christmas Program	18	19	20	21	22	23	
Advent 4 24 Worship 10:30 joint service at St. John's	25	26	27	28	29	30	
<div>Happy Birthday Jesus!</div> 							
31 Worship 10:30 at Emmanuel (No potluck)	<div>Christmas Eve Candlelight Service Sunday, December 24 at Emmanuel 6:00pm</div> 						

December Birthday's

12/02 Jack Burrell
12/05 Val Eikenbary
12/08 Xavier White
12/12 Megan Fruchey
12/13 Danny Caskie
 Anthony Reichenbach
 Reese Fruchey
12/14 Kathy Fruchey
 Adrian Bricker
12/15 Julie Oberly
 Bev Shepler
 Dick Steele
12/17 Ron Schmutz
12/20 Tim Lehman
Gabriella Chatelain
12/23
Alexander Moser
Norm Reichenbach
12/24
Daryl Reichenbach
12/25
Jesus
Elaine Sommers
Eileen Falk
Ava Schmutz
12/29 Jack Neeper



**NOTE:
TIME CHANGE
STARTING
JANUARY 1, 2024
WORSHIP
10:30AM
ADULT FAITH
FORMATION
9:30**

Merry Christmas!

From Emmanuel UCC to you and your family

God Bless You at Christmas

God bless you at Christmas;
May the Light of the World
Shine on you and those you love
As you share this blessed, holy
season.

This poem was written By Joanna Fuchs

