

# Hello December!



## 2020 Emmanuel UCC Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2	3	4	5
<b>Advent 6</b> 2nd Sunday Hanging of the Greens buckeye orders due	7	8	9	10	11 Buckeye Making 6-9pm	12 Men's Breakfast 8 am Lulu's
<b>Advent 13</b> 3rd Sunday <b>Communion</b> Make Buckeyes	14 Consistory 6:30pm	15	16	17 Staff Meeting 7pm	18	19
<b>Advent 20</b> 4th Sunday Christmas Sweater Sunday	21	22	23	24 <u>Christmas Eve</u> <u>Service</u> Family 6pm Candlelight 9pm	25 	26
27 Pajama Sunday	28	29	30	31 New Year's Eve		

### Birthdays

12/02 Jack Burrell  
 12/05 Val Eikenbary  
 12/06 Gunner Wyman  
 12/08 Xavier White  
 12/12 Lucy Caskie  
 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 Wyatt Matter  
     Alexander Moser  
     Norm Reichenbach  
     Sean Williams  
 12/24  
     Daryl Reichenbach  
 12/25  
     Elaine Sommers  
     Eileen Falk  
     Ava Schmutz



*Message from the consistory*

I cannot believe that we are approaching the end of the year 2020. When I was nominated as Consistory president at the beginning of the year, I had no idea what I was getting into. Thanks to the help and support of Bev Shepler (previous Consistory President), Pastor Jeremy and the rest of the Consistory members, they were able to guide me and helped me develop some leadership skills. I feel that the Consistory was able to get a lot of things accomplished even though COVID threw a wrench in some of our plans. Thanks to the help of Jeff Bowlus, we are now able to broadcast the online services. This is something that we plan to continue with even after the pandemic is over. Rain spouts were added to the shelter house, the parking lot was topcoated and patched, the drainage issue in the parking lot was repaired, some dead trees were cut down in the woods, and we allowed Chase Eikenbary to use the fellowship hall to hold Jazzercise classes with her making a monthly donation to the church.. We recently held our first drive thru Fish Fry that ended up being very successful. We ended up serving over 300 people. Thank you to all who helped get supplies, set up inside & outside, fried the fish, prepared the sides, served the food, washed dishes, sold tickets, directed traffic, cleaned up, gave a monetary donation and to those of you who purchased a meal. **I am amazed and so thankful for all of you that have helped and volunteered your time and talents this year. It is greatly appreciated.**

With the rise of outbreaks of COVID in our area and a recommendation from the Heartland Conference and our Association to temporarily close our doors and move to online services, the Consistory members have been in discussion if this is something we want to do at this time. We know how important it has been for people to attend services and to get back to a somewhat normal routine. As I am writing this letter today on 11/23, the Consistory feels that due to the smaller congregation attending each week and the guidelines we have set forth regarding COVID safety, we would remain open for the in-person church service on 11/29 (which is the annual Budget meeting). After this service we will then reevaluate our options. Again thank you to Connie & Dick Baker for keeping the church clean and sanitized for our weekly services. For those of us who are attending services we must remain vigilant and wear a mask in order to protect others and ourselves from COVID 19 and continue to practice social distancing. If you are attending with immediate family you can sit side by side, otherwise please space out at least 6 ft from each other and try not to congregate before and after services.

To me December is one of my favorite times of the year. I love Christmas music, and I feel that people seem to be happier, friendlier, and more giving. I will be sad if we would need to shut down the in person services during the holiday season, but I realize that we need to take into consideration that our own health and the safety of others should be our main concern. **Until we do make a final decision, if you feel more comfortable attending the online services, it is totally understood.**

One of my biggest fears in being the Consistory President was having to reach out to our members to ask for money, especially during these trying times. With that being said, December is normally the biggest month for our church's offerings. With the pandemic this year, our attendance is significantly less which means our offerings have been less. With a threat of having to close down again, I am afraid that we may fall short of meeting the 2020 budget. In 2 Corinthians 9:7, (NLT) the verse reads: *"You must each decide in your heart how much to give. And don't give reluctantly or in response to pressure. 'For God loves a person who gives cheerfully.'*" I would like to remind you that we do offer the GIVEPLUS+ option for making your offering online or you can mail your offering to the church's address at 8375 Phillips Rd, Bluffton, OH ATTN: Michele Geiser. The GIVEPLUS+ option can be found on the church's website: [emmanueluccluffton.com](http://emmanueluccluffton.com). Scroll to the very bottom of the page and click on the GIVEPLUS+ button to set up your account. This will allow you to automatically withdrawal money from your account directly to the church's account.

Again, thank you for your support in 2020. Please feel free to contact me with any questions or concerns at 419-236-3030. I hope that you remain healthy and have a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Julie Oberly, Consistory President



Thank you!

12/06 – Mark 1:1-8 (Messengers of Hope)  
12/13 – John 1:6-8, 19-28 (Shouts of Joy)  
12/20 – Luke 1:26-38 (Birthing a Promise)  
12/27 – Luke 2:22-40 (Long-Awaited Gift)

**To the people who helped make the fish fry a wonderful success. \$1,800.00 was raised to go into the improvement fund. This task was accomplished through monetary donations, the people who worked and lots of prayers**

**To the people who brought in food for the community assistance program for Thanksgiving.**

## Christmas Eve Services

6:00pm Family Service  
9:00pm Candlelight Service



Buckeye Sale Starts Nov. 15 and runs thru Dec.6

\$8.00 a box

They make wonderful Christmas gifts. If you would like to order and are not in church, contact Sherry Stratton (419-231-1435) or the church (419-358-1561)

Buckeye making days December 11 (6 – 9:00pm)

December 13 (11:00am til done, may be subject to change)

Women’s Outreach met November 16. Christmas cards were made. There will be no December meeting.

There will be two families for Adopt a Family.

One Family has a family of 7 (mom, dad, grandma and four kids)

The other family is a family of 5 (mom, dad, two children and an “aunt” that lives with them)

The Christmas tags were hung on the tree with care and all the tags were taken except for one, so Thank you! Thank you!! Gifts are due back to the church by Dec. 15.

Monetary donations are still needed for gift cards and food. You can give online through the [GIVEPLUS+](#) button, send a check or cash donations are accepted. Presents and food can be left at the tree at the back of the church.

Flower Chart for 2021 is up

Any questions call the church 419-358-1561 or Renee Caskie 419-890-6213

# NEWS Around the CHURCH

For unto us a Child is born,  
Unto us a Son is given;  
And the government will be upon His shoulder.  
And His name will be called  
Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God,  
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

Isaiah 9:6

### CHRISTMAS FUND SPECIAL MISSION OFFERING

Throughout the month of December you will find a purple 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.giveplus.com) app on the website <https://www.emmanueluccbluffton.com/> located at the bottom of the page.



### Prayers for

Fred Arnold  
Janice Brewster  
Linda Steele  
Raelene Wilch  
LouAnn Leiber  
Sean Burrell  
Ed Parkins  
Sally Fruchey  
Rick Bassett  
Lane Rossman  
Wren Stumbo  
Sharl Steiner

Congratulations to Lauren Parkins and Mitchel Ault who were married October 24





*The Poinsettias Are Donated By The Following*

Norm & Linda Reichenbach  
Dave & Mary Fett  
Tony & Teresa Pinks  
Wade Oberly  
Jay & Sherry Stratton  
Denny & Jayne Caskie  
Bev & Eddie Shepler  
Dick & Connie Baker  
Jeremy & Jen Mann  
Tom & Rose Harvey  
Deron & Michele Geiser  
Amy Muniz  
Travis & Sara Music  
Gene Balmer  
Dan & Renee Caskie  
Ron & Canda Schmutz

In Honor Baby Jesus  
In Memory of Wayne & Janet Matter, and Maurice & Eula Fett  
In Honor of Haley and Tanner Pinks  
In Memory of Carolyn Oberly  
In Honor of The Birth of Jesus Christ  
In Honor of Aunt Esther Spar  
In Memory of Carolyn and Dan Oberly  
In Memory of Cecil & Edna Judy and Richard Baker  
In Honor of Carrol and Grace Kramer  
In Memory of Harold & Helen Andrews  
In Memory of Arlene Geiser and Shirley Moronski



# Holiday Tunes

- Away in a Manger
- Choir of the Bells
- Dominick the Donkey
- Frosty the Snowman
- Holly Jolly Christmas
- Jingle Bell Rock
- Jingle Bells
- Let it Snow
- Little Drummer Boy
- Little St Nick
- O Holy Night
- Rudolph
- Santa Baby
- Silent Nigh
- Silver Bells
- The Christmas Song
- The First Noel
- Winter Wonderland



S	G	R	D	A	M	A	F	C	I	F	Z	Z	X	F	K	U	H	J	X
W	A	W	A	Y	O	B	R	E	M	M	U	R	D	E	L	T	T	I	L
C	K	M	B	H	P	L	O	D	U	R	J	T	G	J	I	H	Z	N	O
Z	D	W	T	Z	E	D	S	Y	E	L	C	B	Y	R	T	G	C	G	K
G	N	O	S	S	A	M	T	S	I	R	H	C	E	H	T	I	J	L	L
Q	A	N	K	O	I	D	Y	A	L	F	D	G	I	R	L	N	B	E	D
X	L	S	O	X	Q	R	T	B	T	I	N	W	X	N	E	T	O	B	J
D	R	T	J	T	I	R	H	V	A	A	H	X	I	P	S	N	A	E	W
F	E	I	F	W	V	T	E	C	M	B	E	U	U	B	T	E	S	L	S
N	D	T	U	C	C	H	S	A	Y	A	A	I	N	S	N	L	C	L	Q
B	N	E	V	X	E	G	N	X	I	L	M	T	R	I	I	I	Y	R	W
F	O	L	N	I	A	I	O	Z	T	K	L	I	N	X	C	S	J	O	U
B	W	V	E	S	Y	N	W	K	M	G	F	O	O	A	K	T	E	C	N
G	R	O	K	A	C	Y	M	V	Z	E	U	A	J	Y	S	L	D	K	U
M	E	Q	W	Q	O	L	A	O	H	K	P	I	T	Y	K	B	N	M	Q
G	T	A	P	U	I	O	N	T	S	L	L	E	B	E	L	G	N	I	J
L	N	F	G	C	Z	H	N	S	L	L	E	B	R	E	V	L	I	S	E
I	I	Y	E	K	N	O	D	E	H	T	K	C	I	N	I	M	O	D	S
L	W	B	T	K	S	L	L	E	B	E	H	T	F	O	R	I	O	H	C
U	I	M	U	Y	F	C	J	H	B	X	B	V	R	U	M	Q	C	Y	B