



Community Christmas News

Community Meal

Thursday, December 16
at Senior Citizens

(Food by Emmanuel UCC)

Sign-up sheet available or call church 419-358-1561 if you would like to bring a crockpot meal, dessert or volunteer to help

Cruising with a Claus
TOY DRIVE

Please donate new, unwrapped toys for
Bluffton Community Assistance Program

Drop off events:

Date	Time	Location
Nov. 27	At 4p	In Front of Town Hall
Dec. 4	9a-12p	In Front of Town Hall
Dec. 8	6p-9p	In Front of Greenhorn On Vine St.
Dec. 17	5p-7p	At Southgate Lanes Parking lot

Accepting Donations Through
Friday, December 17

Community Drop-off Location:
Sielschott, Walsh, Keifer, 113 N. Main St.
Regula & Sherer, CPAs Bluffton OH 45817

Sponsored by:
Jazzercise Bluffton
&
Bluffton Police Dept.

2021 Bluffton Church Christmas Services

Bluffton Presbyterian Church

Dec. 12th- Youth Christmas Service at 10:15 am

Dec. 24th- Candlelight Service at 7 pm

Emmanuel United Church of Christ

Dec. 19th- Children's Christmas program

Dec. 24th- Early Service at 6pm, Candlelight service at 9 pm

English Lutheran Church ???

First Mennonite Church

Dec. 19th- Children's Christmas Program at 9:30 am

Dec. 24th- Christmas Eve Service at 6:30 pm

First United Methodist Church

Dec. 24th- Carol singing at 6:30 pm, Candlelight service at 7 pm

St. John's United Church of Christ

Dec. 24th- Christmas Eve Service at 7 pm

(Possible longest night service)

St. Mary's Catholic Church

Dec. 20th- Preschool Christmas Presentation at 6 pm

Dec. 24th- Children's Mass at 4pm and Christmas Eve Mass at 8 pm

Dec 25th- Christmas Mass at 10 am

Hello December!



2021 Emmanuel UCC Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	1	2	3	4
Advent 5 buckeye orders due Women's Outreach	6	7	8	9	10 Buckeye Making 6-9pm	11 Men's Breakfast 8 am Lulu's Make Buckeyes
Advent 12 Christmas Lunch Communion	13 Consistory 6:30pm	14	15	16 Community Meal	17	18
Advent 19 Christmas Sweater Sunday Lights Trip	20	21	22	23	24 <u>Christmas Eve</u> <u>Service</u> Family 6pm Candlelight 9pm	25 
26 Pajama Sunday	27	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
 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 Wyatt Matter
 Alexander Moser
 Norm Reichenbach
 Sean Williams
 12/24
 Daryl Reichenbach
 12/25
 Elaine Sommers
 Eileen Falk
 Ava Schmutz



I cannot believe that we are approaching the end of the year 2021. I am so thankful that we were able to attend services in person this year. We held the budget meeting on 11/14/21. The budget was approved as were new consistory members being elected to serve starting in 2022. Logan Fruchey & Jesse Owsley were nominated to fulfill the deacon positions and Jaret Geiser, who is a current deacon, was nominated to fulfill the Elder position. Thanks to Bev Shepler and Erin Stark who have served on the consistory. They have put in a lot of their time and worked hard for us these past four years. I feel like every member should serve on the consistory at some point in time.

The buildings and grounds committee installed a door and sidelight on the rear of the parsonage this past month. This allows access to the patio from the house instead of going out into the garage. Travis Music also contacted AEP regarding a lighting issue we were having in the parking lot.

The fall fish fry was held on Friday November 12. We have 16 bags leftover fish to sell. You can purchase a bag for \$16. Contact Bev Shepler or myself if you are interested in purchasing a bag. We ended up making \$1581.00 on the fish fry so far. In December we will be making buckeyes and will start practicing for the Christmas program. Let me know if you would like to participate and I will get you details.

I am looking forward to December and all of the Christmas decorations, music and time spent with friends and family. Thanks to all of you for your financial support, volunteering and other donations you have made this past year. May you and your family have a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Julie Oberly, Consistory President

THE LEGEND OF THE POINSETTIA

A story is told of Pepita, a poor Mexican girl who had no gift to present the Christ Child at Christmas Eve Services. As Pepita walked slowly to the chapel with her cousin Pedro, her heart was filled with sadness rather than joy. I am sure, Pepita, that even the most humble gift, if given in love, will be acceptable in His eyes," said Pedro consolingly.

Not knowing what else to do, Pepita knelt by the roadside and gathered a handful of common weeds, fashioning them into a small bouquet. Looking at the scraggly bunch of weeds, she felt more saddened and embarrassed than ever by the humbleness of her offering. She fought back a tear as she entered the small village chapel.

As she approached the altar, she remembered Pedro's kind words: "Even the most humble gift, if given in love, will be acceptable in His eyes." She felt her spirit lift as she knelt to lay the bouquet at the foot of the nativity scene. Suddenly, the bouquet of weeds burst into blooms of brilliant red, and all who saw them were certain that they had witnessed a Christmas miracle right before their eyes.





Upper Sandusky Christmas Lights Trip
Sunday, December 19
Leave at 5:00
Eat out
Drive thru the Park's Christmas Light
display
\$5.00 per car

Thank you!

To the people who helped with
the fish fry !!!

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

NEWS Around the CHURCH

**Christmas Eve Services
Emmanuel UCC**
6:00pm Family Service
9:00pm Candlelight Service



Buckeye Sale thru Dec.5
\$9.00 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

Buckeye making days December 10 (6 –
9:00pm)
December 11 (11:00am til done, may be
subject to change)



Thank you to everyone that contributed alter flowers for our church services this past year.
Flower Chart for 2022 is up. If you are not in church and would like to sign up for flowers you can
call the church 419-358-1561 or Renee Caskie 419-890-6213(call or text)

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

12/05 – Luke 3:1-6 (Make Ready)
12/12 – John 3:7-18 (Look Forward)
12/19 – Luke 1:39-45 (Moving with Mary's Song)
12/26 – Luke 2:41-52 (Who is This Child)

Christmas Program

Sunday, December 19

The Christmas Story

"Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today,
and forever"



Prayers for

Fred Arnold

Janice Brewster

Linda Steele

Fred Andrews

LouAnn Leiber

Sean Burrell

Kathy Hobensack

Sherry Arnold



The Poinsettias Are Donated By The Following

Norm & Linda Reichenbach
Dave & Mary Fett
Dwain & LouAnn Leiber
Wade Oberly
Jay & Sherry Stratton
Bev & Eddie Shepler
Dick & Connie Baker
Travis & Sara Music
Deron & Michele Geiser
Jim & Jane Dunlap
Carolyn Shaw
Dan & Renee Caskie
Ron & Canda Schmutz

In Honor Baby Jesus
In Memory of Wayne & Janet Matter, and Maurice & Eula Fett
In Memory of Steven "Bear" Leiber
In Memory of Daniel and Carolyn Oberly
In Honor of The Birth of Jesus Christ
In Honor of our Families
In Memory of Cecil & Edna Judy and Richard Baker
In Memory of our Grandparents
In Memory of our Mothers, Arlene Geiser and Shirley Moronski
In Memory of Donald Dunlap and Alvin Schroeder
In Memory of Charlotte Anderson
In Memory of Troy Caskie
Hope, Peace, Love and Joy throughout the Christmas Season

The History of the Poinsettia

The poinsettia flourished in an area of Southern Mexico known as Taxco del Alarcon. The poinsettia may have remained a regional plant for many years to come had it not been for the efforts of Joel Roberts Poinsett, Poinsett was appointed as the first United States Ambassador to Mexico (1825-1829) by President Madison.

Poinsett maintained his own hothouses on his Greenville, South Carolina plantations, and while visiting the Taxco area in 1828, he became enchanted by the brilliant red blooms he saw there. He immediately sent some of the plants back to South Carolina, where he began propagating the plants and sending them to friends and botanical gardens.

Congress honored Joel Poinsett by declaring December 12th as National Poinsettia Day which commemorates the date of his death in 1851. The day was meant to honor Poinsett and encourage people to enjoy the beauty of the popular holiday plant.