



Crossbeams

A Cheviot United Methodist Church Newsletter

December 2022

What Are We Preparing For?

*"A voice of one calling in the wilderness,
'Prepare the Way For the Lord,
Make Straight Paths for Him."
Mark 1:3*

It is safe to say that December could be called the "Month of Preparation." If you are a person who likes to prepare in advance, you might already have your gifts purchased, your tree up, and the Christmas cards sent out. I admire you and strive to be like you every year. But somehow, with the ministry demands that happen in November, no matter how far in advance I try to prepare, I often find myself unprepared and scrambling to catch up when Christmas finally comes.

Whether you are one of those people who prepares in advance or feels chronically unprepared when the time rolls around, God has a different kind of preparation in mind for all of us at Christmas. As we read through the Advent scriptures, we discover that preparing for Christmas was not really the most important thing that God wanted us to do. Preparing for Jesus was the central purpose for the season of Advent. The primary way that God wanted his people to prepare for Christmas was to prepare for Jesus. And if we prepared for Jesus, that was the only kind of preparation that really mattered.

Preparation for the coming of Christ was so important to God that he sent a special person ahead of Christ to help people prepare for his coming. That was John the Baptist. The story of John's birth and ministry as the one who would "Prepare the Way For the Lord" is included in every one of the Gospel accounts. No figure in scripture is more closely associated with waiting and preparation than John the Baptist. And yet, John the Baptist can often be overlooked in our race to Christmas morning and the celebration of the Christ child.

This year, we are going to take a step back and look carefully at the message and ministry of John the Baptist. In the four weeks of the Advent season, we will be learning the 4 ways that God wants us to prepare for the coming of Christ. They are: *Preparing to Be Answered by God, Preparing to Enter Silence with God, Preparing for Repentance with God, and Preparing to Bear Fruit with God.* Finally, on Christmas morning, we will be learning the most important kind of Preparation; *Preparing a Place For Christ in Our Hearts.*

To prepare for this season of Advent, here are 4 questions that you can be pondering:

- 1.) Do I Expect God to Hear and Answer My Prayers? If not, why not?
- 2.) In What Ways Can I Create Stillness and Silence During this Advent Season? What Makes This Hard for You?
- 3.) How Do You Feel About Repenting of Sin in Your Life? Why Do You Feel This Way?
- 4.) Does Jesus Live in Part of Your Heart or All of It? Why or Why Not?

These questions and more we will be exploring this Advent season as we Prepare for the Coming of The Lord. I hope that you can join us each Sunday through December 25th.

See you *in-person* in December.
(or online) !



Pastor Carne



December Birthdays to Celebrate

7-Dec Larry Benken & Nancy Mohr
11-Dec Evelyn Frischmann
17-Dec Tim Krebs
26-Dec Marilyn Pepple



December Anniversaries to Celebrate

3-Dec Mark Woodward & Vicki Groh
5-Dec Tim & Julie Krebs
18-Dec Walt & Paula Long

Women's Ministries

Thank you to all who participated in the Lydia Circle quarterly food collection for Westfed Pantry and Elizabethtown UMC last month. Your support is greatly appreciated by the needy in our area who struggle to adequately feed their families and provide basic hygiene supplies.



December Mission Offering

Scarlet Oaks Assisted Living is a 100% Medicaid Wavier facility. Many residents are there due to unfortunate circumstances and/or life choices. While rent, meals and medicines are covered, they only receive \$50.00 a month for personal expenses. This donation will be utilized in part to obtain needed supplies and OTC products not covered by Medicaid.



Cheviot United Methodist Church How to Reach Us

Pastor	Reverend Carrie Jena pastor@cheviotumc.com
Prayer Requests	Paula Long office@cheviotumc.com
Church Secretary	Paula Long office@cheviotumc.com
Music Director	Carol Gangwer MusicDirector@cheviotumc.com
Communications & Social Media	Lisa Sinclair SocialMedia@CheviotUMC.com
Bells and Pianist	Marcia Lucas AdultBells_Pianist@cheviotumc.com
Children's Music Coordinator	Anne Schummer ChildrensMusicCoord@cheviotumc.com
Custodian/Facility Manager	Lindsey Bethel custodian@cheviotumc.com

Worship with Us...

Blended Service

****10am****
in the Sanctuary

Bible Studies

See our website or call the office for information and to learn how to join our online studies during the week.

View Pastor Carrie's Sermon Message

- * Go to *youtube.com*
- * Type: **CheviotUMC** in the Search box

...this December

Church Office
513.662.2048
office@cheviotumc.com

Our mission is to create a Jesus-Centered community where individuals and families in every stage of life can thrive and grow spiritually, physically, and relationally in Christ.

John had willed his truck to me and I gave it to my nephew. My nephew and John had a special bond together. My nephew surprised me when he had a special decal put on the back window with praying hands and written "In loving memory of John Hartley". He then began to put different things in the truck that were uniquely his. One day I said to him that this truck now has his signature in it. What he put in it identifies that it is uniquely his. All of a sudden God's Holy Spirit spoke to me and said that our whole universe shows God's signature in it. Like a famous artist whose work is immediately recognizable, so God's universe and this world of His creation shouts that it belongs to God and was created by Him.

We see items in the store these days that identify that product as being a signature product of a certain store. Signature is defined as: that which shows ownership, distinction, authority, uniqueness to a certain person or group. The Bible talks about God's signature in **Romans 1:19,20**. It says that "*what may be known about God is plain to us because God has made it plain to us. Since the creation of the world, God's invisible qualities-His eternal power and divine nature have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made, so that people are without excuse.*" The Heavens declare the glory of God and the earth shows His handiwork. All of creation shouts, here is God's signature, there is God's signature. The other night the moon was so full and beautiful and I said to the Lord, "there is Your signature"!

Yes, the Heavens and Earth do declare God's glory, but there is one particular signature of God the Father that outshines all else.

Hebrews chapter 1:1-3 tells us what that is. "*In the past God spoke to our ancestors through the prophets at many times and in many ways, but in these last days He has spoken to us by His Son, whom He anointed Heir of all things and through Whom He also made the universe. The Son is the radiance of God's glory and the exact representation of God's being. He sustains all things by His powerful Word!*"

The greatest signature of God the Father is His Son, Jesus. **Philippians chapter 2:1-11** tells us that Jesus was with the Father from the beginning and had glory and honor. Yet because of our sin and the lost relationship that became ours, God the Father showed us His greatest love and gave us a gift in sending us His only Son, Jesus. We read it and quote it so often, but do we really understand what the Father and the Son gave us? **John 3:16**: "*For God (the Father) so loved the world that He gave His only Son (Jesus) so that whosoever believes in Jesus will not perish but have Everlasting Life.*" "*When the time was right an angel appeared to Joseph, Mary's soon to be husband. The angel told Joseph that Mary would have a Son through the Holy Spirit and that the Baby was to be named Jesus for He would save His people from their sins.*"-- **Matthew 1:20,21**

David Jeremiah, seen on TBN and also radio, has a documentary coming out this Christmas entitled, "Why the Nativity?" We get all excited in preparing for and celebrating the Christmas season. But why Christmas? Why the Nativity? Could it be that in the midst of a world gone crazy that the answer to its peace and yes, ours, lies in the birth, life, death and resurrection of God's Greatest Signature ever? God the Father loves the world that He created so much that He Himself through His Son Jesus, came to this earth to be our Savior?

I close with this simple illustration:

It was Christmas eve and his family bundled up to go to church. But the father did not go. He did not believe in this Jesus. Life had been hard for him. As he was alone and looked out the big window it began to snow. All of a sudden he heard a loud thud, again and again. It was a bird flying toward the light in his living room, trying to find shelter. The father got upset the more the little bird kept hitting the window. Finally he dressed up warmly and went out in the snow and cold toward his barn. Opening the barn door he put on the light and waved his arms, calling to the little bird. Here was help, here was shelter, here was peace. But all to no avail. He said to the little bird, if only I could become one of you, a bird like you, I could tell you where to find shelter and peace. All of a sudden the church bells began to chime and all at once the thought came into the father's mind and heart. This is exactly what Jesus came to this earth for! He came to rescue us, to save us, to give us His peace. He became one of us!! And in coming, He showed us the Father's love and died on a cruel cross to be our Savior and save us from our sins. It was a glorious reunion when the family came home that Christmas eve and heard the awesome news of their father and husband inviting Jesus, the Savior, into his heart.

Why the Nativity? His name shall be called Jesus, for He will save His people from their sins!

Have a blessed Christmas celebrating Jesus!





Men's Bible Study

The Men's Bible Study meets in the Community Room - a **TEAMS** option is available-Saturday's at 8am.

e-mail Mark Woodward:
markwoodward082@gmail.com
for the link.

Sandwiches for Our Daily Bread



Hi, Everyone!!!

Thanks to all who made sandwiches in November. If there is anyone who might be interested in joining the "Sandwich Warriors", I will be glad to tell you all about this mission project.

Our next "sandwich day" for Our Daily Bread Soup Kitchen will be Thursday, December 22.
Please contact Barb Scheibling or the Church Office: 513.662.2048
if you plan to make sandwiches by *December 18*.

ODB also welcomes individually wrapped snack cookies and crackers, chips, *etc.* and oranges and slightly green bananas to include with the sandwiches--this might be of interest to those who may not have time to make sandwiches. These items can be left on the kitchen island, labeled **Our Daily Bread**, by December 22. *Please save your Kroger plastic bags!*
Thanks for all that you do!!!

Thank you, and Blessings!
Women of Hope

Remember to Send a Christmas Card to Our Homebound

Please remember our homebound members with a card for Christmas.

They are so appreciative of your gift of remembrance.

Eileen Annest
5553 Westwood Northern Blvd
Cincinnati OH 45211

Milt McCamey
4921 North Arbor Woods
Unit 101
Cincinnati OH 45248

Shirley Durbin
5175 Scarsdale Cove
Cincinnati OH 45248

Tom Peefer
Northgate Park
9191 Roundtop Road
Apt 503
Cincinnati OH 45251

Don Francis
3602 Homelawn Ave
Cincinnati OH 45211

Gerald & Ruth Simmons
5530 Westwood Northern Blvd.
Cincinnati OH 45248

Jim Harris
3692 Ripple Grove Drive
Cincinnati OH 45251

Bill & Phyllis Jenkins
3984 Trevor Ave.
Cincinnati OH 45211

Beulah Streifhau
2953 Gilligan Avenue
Cincinnati OH 45233

Marge Kugele
Hillebrand Nursing and Rehab
Center
4320 Bridgetown Road
Cincinnati OH 45211
Room 330

Evelyn Widner
Twin Towers
1208 South Ridge Drive
Cincinnati OH 45224





Do you watch out for others? How are ways we can help others in need? These were a couple of questions we talked about in November when we studied the life of Job. He was a good man and was committed to following God's teaching. Satan wanted to prove Job would change his dedication to God if bad things happened to him by testing his faith. God let Satan test Job, causing Job to lose everything. Job was so down and upset because he felt God had deserted him. Job's three friends came to visit to see what they could do to help him. In big and small ways, they helped him realize that it wasn't God who made the terrible events happen, but Satan. With that, Job continued in his good and faithful ways following God. Job was rewarded once again for his faithfulness.

After five weeks of studying how we can be faithful like Job and help others in need, the kids put together "Blessing Bags" to be handed out to those who are struggling or homeless. The bags included cheese crackers, socks, canned fruit, candy, toothbrush, toothpaste, tissues and water enough for 50 bags. All the items were donated by the JAM families and the Jam leaders. After service November 20th, the children had them ready to give to our congregation. The kids asked our church friends to keep them in their cars to distribute when they saw someone in need. We think this is a great way for the kids to experience helping others. If anyone who took any of the bags would like to share their experience with the children, we would appreciate you letting us know.

We have big news for December. JAM decided to host their first family event December 10. We have wanted to do something to bring families and kids together for special activities. Our goal to do this was planned a year ago, but with starting new, our time has been consumed getting the basic program going. The JAM team feels it is a great way to reach out to the community and GROW our program.

December 10, 1pm to 3pm, we will host the first ever **GINGERBREAD FAMILY EVENT!** The goal is to create gingerbread Nativities instead of gingerbread houses. (For the sake of disclosure, it will be made out of graham crackers so the leaders are not up all night baking gingerbread!) In addition to making the nativity, there will be a game, Christmas music, refreshments and special visitors-- Mr. and Mrs. Claus! Watch your e-mail for more information. The event is free to families attending.

For us to do this, we will be asking for help in several ways. That information will be coming via e-mail and Sunday morning worship. We are excited about this. It is a big undertaking, but we have faith since this idea came from God!

Teaching children to: KNOW GOD LOVE JESUS SERVE OTHERS

The JAM Team

Stewardship - Whatever It Takes

Our Stewardship campaign for 2023, "Whatever It Takes", focuses on ways to continue to grow in discipleship and ministry to create a Jesus-centered supportive community for people and families in all stages of life. Our goals for 2023 are: Implement a Church-Wide Multi-Generational Ministry; Engage in intentional Community Connections through Fresh Expressions; Grow Spiritually as disciples of Jesus Christ through focused Bible studies; and Provide Passionate, God-Centered, Multi-Generational Worship.

Even though the campaign is over, if you were not able to return your "Whatever It Takes" card or submit your commitment on the church website in November, it is not too late to do so. Your willingness to share your 2023 financial support goal with the Financial Secretary is extremely helpful as the Stewardship & Finance Committee works to develop a financial plan to continue developing our ministry programs and live our Vision in the coming year. The Financial Secretary does not share any names, only the amount of intended giving. Thanks to all our members for supporting God's Kingdom through their dedication of time, talent, prayers, and financial support, all of which enables CUMC to remain healthy, vibrant, and able to offer exciting ministry and mission opportunities for 2023 and beyond.

The Stewardship & Finance Committee



Sunday Morning Refreshments

Fellowship & Food

Hospitality is in need of finger foods for our Sunday morning fellowship hour, following the service. If you would like to contribute a "goody", there is a sign-up sheet in Werner Lounge which helps the Hospitality Committee to know whether we need to fill in with additional items, and allows for a varied selection of items.

Suggestions: cookies, donuts, coffee cakes, cheese and crackers, fruits and veggies, and other finger foods are welcome.

Your help will allow us to continue to have a nice reception on Sunday mornings.

Thanks to all who have shared with us in the past!!!

Hospitality Committee



Westfed Food Pantry Update

Thank you to all who've faithfully contributed to Westfed Food Pantry. This outreach to the local community would not be possible without your continued support. Donations may be left anytime in the Westfed baskets on the bottom shelf outside Werner Lounge.

Westfed requests for December are: crackers and toothpaste.

All unexpired food and toiletry items are gratefully accepted.

(no OTC vitamins or medications, please)

Westfed Pantry is open December 22 for Christmas distribution from 1:30pm to 2:30pm for residents in the 45211 and 45238 zip codes. *The pantry will be closed December 29.*

Located at Grace Lutheran Church, 3628 Boudinot Avenue;
enter from the back parking lot off Verdin Avenue.

Worship Service at Scarlet Oaks Nursing Home

Join us December 18, 1:30pm, as we provide a worship service to the residents on the last Sunday of each month.

Our prior visits with the residents have not only been rewarding, but heartwarming. We will be looking for greeters, worship service participants, fellowship time servers, communion distributors and above all, a smile and warm conversation with residents, many of whom have few family or visitors. This is truly a way of showing the love of Christ to them.

We will carpool from the church.

We will also be asking for fellowship time donations (cookies, brownies, etc).

CUMC Crafters Card Sale



The crafters have been busy creating cards for Christmas, get well, birthdays and more. They will be on sale in the Werner Lounge on Sunday, December 4 after the 10am service.

We appreciate your support.

Anyone wishing to join, feel free to come on Mondays,
1pm to 2:30pm,
or contact Linda Page.



"Sing aloud to God our strength, shout for joy to the God of Jacob"

January is a chance to begin a new activity----how about singing in the choir?

- * Singing together is like Christmas.
- * It's like hot chocolate on a cold winter day.
- * It's like good news we've been waiting for, the long-wandering family member we finally get to embrace at Christmas, the love we have longed to feel fully once again.
- * It's a party, it's a celebration, it is thrilling, it is FUN!
- * It's a relief and a blessing and I highly recommend it.

Join the choir, or at least sit in the pew and sing.

The joyful noise we are making to the Lord has never seemed so joyful.

~Lindy Thompson~



The Carnegie
1028 Scott Boulevard
Covington, KY

Tickets
\$20 per person
Call 859.957.1940

December 10
2pm* & 7pm

Sponsored by

 Louise Dieterle Nippert
MUSICAL ARTS FUND  OPEN BOX OUTLET

 Sweet Adelines
INTERNATIONAL

