

NOVEMBER 2023

CROSSBEAMS

Cheviot United Methodist Church

Thanksgiving, Communion, and Belonging: A Season of Togetherness

Dear Friends,

As the vibrant colors of October give way to the warm, earthy tones of November, our hearts naturally turn to a season of gratitude. With Thanksgiving just around the corner, it is a time when we gather with family and friends to celebrate the blessings in our lives. But it is also a season to reflect on our deep sense of belonging, togetherness, and the profound significance of communion within our faith.

As a Christian, the concept of belonging is at the core of our beliefs. We understand that we are not just part of a church community; we are part of the larger body of Christ. In 1 Corinthians 12:27 (NRSV), Paul beautifully articulates this idea: "Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it." We are not isolated individuals; we are intricately woven into the fabric of God's family.

This sense of belonging is essential, especially during the season of Thanksgiving. As we gather around our tables to share meals and stories, it is an opportune time to remember that we are not only part of our earthly families but also part of God's family. Our gratitude extends beyond the blessings we receive to the very essence of who we are as children of God.

Communion is another powerful symbol of our togetherness and belonging. When we partake in the Holy Communion, we remember Jesus's sacrifice, and we also celebrate our unity with one another as part of the body of Christ. In 1 Corinthians 10:16-17 (NRSV), Paul emphasizes the profound significance of communion: "The cup of blessing that we bless, is it not a sharing in the

blood of Christ? The bread that we break, is it not a sharing in the body of Christ? Because there is one bread, we who are many are one body, for we all partake of the one bread."

When we come to the Communion table, we not only remember Jesus's sacrifice but also affirm our connection with each other. It is a tangible reminder of our togetherness and belonging in Christ. Just as a family gathers around the Thanksgiving table to partake in a meal, we gather at the Lord's table to partake in the spiritual feast of communion.

As we reflect on these themes of communion, togetherness, and belonging, let us also extend our gratitude to the broader community in which we find ourselves. Our church is not just a place where we come to worship; it is a place where we belong, where we find a spiritual home and a supportive family. It is a place where we share our joys and sorrows, break bread together, and strengthen our bonds with one another.

This November, let us celebrate not only the blessings we have received but also the gift of togetherness and belonging in this faith community. In our Thanksgiving celebrations and in our Communion services, may we be ever mindful of our interconnectedness as the body of Christ.

Blessings,

Rev. Thomas Hargis

SAM (Senior Adult Ministries)

Please join us for a turkey dinner in Fellowship Hall on **Friday, November 17 at noon**. The cost is \$8 per person. RESERVATIONS ARE REQUIRED by Friday, November 10. A Thanksgiving-themed program by Bones of Cincinnatus, a trombone ensemble, will begin at 1 pm.

Bring a friend! Make your reservation by calling the church office (513-662-2048) or respond to SAMChair@cheviotumc.com.

Hope for the Holidays

Presented by Neidhard-Minges Funeral Home
3155 Harrison Ave, Westwood
Sunday November 12, 2023, 1:00-3:00 pm

This program is designed for all of our grieving friends who may need encouragement and insight as the holiday season approaches. Suggestions and resources will be offered for working through the difficult times surrounding the holidays following a death. Together we will explore the possibilities of healing with hope, honesty, and even humor.

Facilitated by Jan Borgman, LISW, CGC, PT. Jan is a licensed Independent Social Worker, a Certified Grief Counselor and a Fellow in Thanatology from the Assoc of Death Education and Counseling. She has over 30 years of experience in providing individual, family and group counseling for those dealing with issues of grief and loss.

Please feel free to bring a friend that may benefit from this program. No charge-reservations appreciated 661-3022.

Janet Seiffert-McGrath, Bereavement Care Coordinator for Neidhard-Minges Funeral Home. For questions, please contact Debbie Lueders.

Lydia Circle

Lydia Circle is a women's fellowship group supporting each other and the missions of the church. Meetings are in Werner Lounge the second Tuesday of the month from 1:00-2:30 pm.

Our November 14 program is "Symbols." Contact Sue Kindervater (513-353-1629) for more information. All women are welcome!

We need your festive talents

We will be having a special Christmas program (December 24) at our regular Sunday 10 am worship. Our music director invites you to be a part of that event with no further commitments! We are looking for:

- Singers (Rehearsals for Christmas music will be Wednesday evenings from 7:00 pm until 7:45 pm beginning November 8 and rehearsal recordings will be available online for those wanting extra practice.)
- Children (for a Nativity presentation that requires ZERO rehearsal! Adults are also welcome, so feel free to accompany small children.)
- Bell Ringers (our group rehearses on Sundays at 11:20 am & you are welcome to join, and if there is enough interest, we can set up a second rehearsal time and group)
- Instrumentalists (Rehearsals are TBA)
- Creative people to organize simple costumes/props for the Nativity presentation.

If you would like to join in the fun, please call the office at 513-662-2048 extension 104, or e-mail musicdirector@cheviotumc.com.

FREE!

Concert Series

IN THE SANCTUARY



SERENITY FISHER & THE CARDBOARD HEARTS

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 19 | 3:00 PM

ELDER HIGH SCHOOL STEEL PAN BAND

SUNDAY, JANUARY 21, 2024 | 3:00 PM

**... PLUS MORE TO COME!
INVITE YOUR FRIENDS!**

**QUESTIONS? ASK MUSIC DIRECTOR, ANGELA
BIRKHEAD-FLIGHT FOR MORE DETAILS!**

Christmas Services

Something for everyone
this Christmas season.

Sunday, December 24

10:00 am - 11:30 am

Extended Sunday Worship, featuring music
from CUMC Vocal Ensemble, Bell Choir & a No
Stress, No Fuss Christmas Pageant.

10:30 pm - 11:00pm

Christmas music from CUMC Vocal Ensemble

11:00 pm - 12:00 am

Christmas Eve Service

Leadership Board

Dick Becker - Trustee

TrusteeChair@cheviotumc.com

Ken Boesherz - member-at-large

LdrshipBrdMember1@cheviotumc.com

Sue Duebber - Lay Leader

LayLeader@cheviotumc.com

Rick Hinds - Finance

LdrshipBrdFinance@cheviotumc.com

Joe Hoff - SPR

LdrshipBrdSPR@cheviotumc.com

Bobbi Ostermeyer - member-at-large

FinancialSecretary@cheviotumc.com

Kathy Reeme - member-at-large

LdrshipBrdMember2@cheviotumc.com

Emily Smith - Secretary

LdrshipBrdSec@cheviotumc.com

Tom Kindervater - Chairperson

LdrshipBrdChr@cheviotumc.com



CHARGE CONFERENCE

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 26

4:00 PM | SANCTUARY

ALL ARE WELCOME TO ATTEND

Give Thanks to the Lord for He is Good

by Lois Schalk-Hartley

My most favorite time of the year is Fall. I love the changing color of the leaves, the chill in the air that says it's sweat shirt weather. I love the smell of wood burning in the air, of pumpkins and candy apples, the smell of apples and cinnamon baking in the oven. I love the season of Thanksgiving.

I'm always reminded of an incident that happened to me some years ago. Three of us were headed to Amish country in Adams County. We had stopped at a small Amish store along the way. When we came out of that store and I could not find my car keys I knew I had left them in my trunk.

I did not know what to do. The store was in the country and we walked up the road to an English house to use their phone. I called AAA and they would come but it may be awhile. We went back down to the store and waited and waited. An Amish gentleman named Mo who was at the store came out and I told him the problem. He said that if I was willing to let him cut the seat belts in the backseat he would pull out the seat and a smaller Amish boy could get in the trunk and find my keys. It did not take me long to say yes. Mo took the seat out, the young boy climbed into the trunk and soon came back out with my keys! I wanted to give Mo something for helping me but he would not take anything. But what he did say was very important. He told me to "pass it on". It fits the adage that says, "do unto others as we would want them to do to/for us."

This is the month for giving thanks to our Lord for all of the good things He has given to us. Even in the midst of the craziness that is going on in our world, we have much to be thankful for.

Some time ago I led a Women's study group using a book entitled "One Thousand Gifts". The author had found one thousand things in her life to thank the Lord for. We got our notebooks and began to make our individual lists. No one reached one thousand by the time our classes were over. But later I did hear of one woman who had been in our group and she had reached one thousand gifts that she was thankful for. Good for her!

You will be surprised of all of the blessings that have been a part of your life from the big blessings to the smaller blessings. Some of the blessings I wrote down include: Jesus, God's amazing grace, the whispering wind, real honey, walking in the woods, the change of seasons, pills that bring healing, the gift of my pets, corn in season, baby fawns, paper, pens, clean beds, warm water, the light of candles, belly laughs, sweet memories, doggie kisses, quiet moments, tears that cleanse, forgiveness, this old house, sunsets, God's Truth, doctors, nurses, pizza, clean clothes, my computer, Christian music.

Maybe my list will give you the desire to start your own list and see what you find to be thankful for. And maybe if you have grandchildren you can help them get started on their own lists. And then keep your notebook handy and keep adding to your list. Why is it so important to give thanks to the Lord? It helps us to keep our mind on what is good and wholesome and remember how much God has blessed our lives. As well as adding to the list it also helps to go back over our lists from time to time. It helps to lift our spirits.

The Bible says for us to give thanks to the Lord for He is good, His love endures forever. Again, in the midst of all that is happening in our world today, giving thanks to the Lord for so many things and then meditating on them and on God can help us keep our hearts and minds on what is important. Go ahead, have a "thank you" fest with the Lord. I love the song, "Give Thanks"

"Give thanks with a grateful heart, give thanks to the Holy One, Give thanks because He's given Jesus Christ His Son.

And now let the weak say, 'I am strong,', let the poor say, "I am rich" because of what the Lord has done for us".

Give Thanks!



Giving Tree Coming Early November



Wesley Chapel Mission Center's Santa Shop will once again be the recipient of this year's Giving Tree. Every November their students begin to earn points, which they can then use to "purchase" Christmas gifts for their families. They earn the points by exhibiting good behavior, doing homework, learning Bible verses, etc.

Our Giving Tree gifts go to help stock their store shelves with items that have been recommended by Wesley Chapel's staff. Each tag on the Giving Tree will list 2 items (with a total value of about \$30). We are asking that you select a tag from the tree, purchase both items listed, and return them UNWRAPPED to church.

Since the items need to be delivered to Wesley Chapel by the end of November, we will need to get an early start. Tags will be available for two Sundays - November 5 and 12. Gifts will need to be returned to church by November 26.

If you have questions, please contact Bobbi Ostermeyer, RAOst@aol.com or 513-662-2841.

Westfed Pantry Update

Lydia Circle's quarterly food collection is Saturday, November 18 from 10 am - noon in the CUMC front parking lot.

- **Special requests:** canned hams (12 oz. or 16 oz.), cranberry sauce, and cake mixes for our holiday distribution.
- **Monthly needs:** canned fruit & vegetables, cereal, crackers, pasta & pasta sauce, toilet paper.

Monetary donations may be made online or put in the Sunday offering plate.

Westfed will be open for distribution on Thursday, Nov. 16 from 1:30-2:30 pm for needy residents in zip codes 45211 and 45238.

Thank you for your continued support of this local mission.



Please Join Us
Saturday, December 2
Starting at 9:00 a.m.
Questions, please contact
Emily Smith at 513-317-8486



November Birthdays

November 1 - Duff Moser
 November 9 - Laura Flight
 November 21 - Linda Page
 November 25 - Nikolaus Reber
 November 27 - Kathy Reeme



November Anniversaries

November 6 - Joe & Linda Hoff



Please remember the following members on their birthday this year. Our cards are so appreciated by our homebound members.



November 16
Tom Peefer
 c/o Mrs. Beth Fortner
 8630 Harrison Pike
 Cleves OH 45002

November Mission Offering



Red Bird Mission, Inc. has been providing ministries in this region of the Appalachian Mountains since 1921. Today the need remains critical in this isolated,

rural distressed area. Chronic poverty, lack of jobs, poor housing, and rugged mountainous terrain provide obstacles to a fuller life for the residents of this area. Red Bird Mission and Clinic strives to meet these needs through ministry in five areas: Education, Health and Wellness, Community Outreach, Economic Opportunity, and Community Housing Improvement.

Find out more at <https://rbmission.org/>.

Sunday Hospitality



Hospitality is in need of finger foods for our Sunday morning fellowship hour, following the service. If you would like to contribute, 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.

Suggestions: cookies, donuts, coffee cakes, cheese and crackers, fruits and veggies, etc. Thanks to all who have shared with us in the past!!!

CHURCH STAFF

Pastor	Rev. Thomas Hargis Thomas.Hargis@cheviotumc.com 336-682-8966 call or text
Director of Music	Angela Birkhead-Flight musicdirector@cheviotumc.com
Office Manager	Shelley Ritter office@cheviotumc.com
Communications	Lisa Sinclair socialmedia@cheviotumc.com
Bright Futures Westside Director	Holly McIntire brightfutures@cheviotumc.com



Cheviot
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Church Office: M-Th 9am - 2pm