

Reminders for 2022!



As we begin this new year of 2022, we once again have some things we should be working on and against by living a life full of Christ. This picture encourages us to connect with God in all we do. We do this through follow Christ and Christ's ways.

Look at the picture for each encouragement. First, in our happy moments we praise God, because we know that all good things come from God. (John 1:17) In difficult moments we seek God, because we know that He is able to take care of anything. Psalm 9:9 says that "God is our fortress in the time of trouble." In the quiet moments we worship Him. Job was told in Job 37:14 to "Listen ...; stop and consider God's wonders." We can trust God in our painful moments. We are assured of this in Isaiah 53:4-5; "Surely he took up our pain and bore our suffering, yet we considered him punished by God, stricken by him, and afflicted. But he was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was on him, and by his wounds we are healed." We should thank God in every moment, for we are told in 1st Thessalonians 5:16-18, "Rejoice always, pray continually, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus."

This is a wonderful way to begin the year, and it is the best way to continue throughout the year to stay connected to God in all ways.

Blessings,
Pastor Ruthie Trigg



Thank you to everyone for the cards and gifts for my birthday and Christmas! They are all very much appreciated!
Pastor Ruthie

Christmas Baskets:

Christmas Baskets were given out on December 18, 2021 to 102 families. Families received boxes filled (to overflowing) with canned goods, perishables, toys for the children, and certificates to IGA for additional shopping. A huge thank you to all who helped do this wonderful project. It took many hands to complete. You all are very appreciated.

A special thank you to Dale & Lydia Stahl who are the right hands in helping to organize. To Sharon Chipps for her constant help as our Treasurer. Sandy & Chad Gasser for helping to purchase additional foods & blankets. Scott & Debbie Adkins who helped so much with packing and preparing the boxes. The 8th Grade class who came to fill boxes one day, almost completing it in an hour! For the help in delivering from the Rittman Fire Department and EMS. Finally Lee, for helping out whenever I needed his strong arms!

We couldn't do this project without the leadership, label making, and list complying of Becky, our secretary. She deserves a big **THANK YOU**, as well as Pastor Ruthie for answering all sorts of questions throughout December.

As you can see it takes many to do this project, and all of you were such a great help. Again, thank you for all that each did. God Bless you Church.

Betty Winchell



Joys

~90 at Christmas Eve Service with Choir & Praise Team singing

Beautiful "O Holy Night" special by Larissa Richards

Christmas Baskets went well thanks to the leadership of Betty Winchell

& all others who helped make it a success

Bruce & Ruthanne were blessed by help from their children and grandchildren
with outside clean-up & decorating.

Also their granddaughter is home safely from clinicals in Utah.

Herb Jones - Transfer of membership from Berea UMC

Baptism of April Lynn Birow

Engagement of Sheila Stoll's granddaughter, Mallory Browne to Michael Ford

Safe travels

Concerns

Traveling mercies

Sandy Batson's grandson Christopher & family as they move to Germany (military)

Family members with Covid and other illnesses

Disaster & Violence victims

Our country & area communities

Health

Ruthie Schumacher - recovery from fall and brain surgery

Judy King & baby Cora (Becky's family)

Lovell, Bruce L's sister - cancer

Debbie B. (& her husband, Rev. David B.) - stroke recovery & cancer

Chris B. (& Steve) - back pain

Anita (& Don V.) - nerve damage in leg

Pastor Joyce Williams (& Jack) - cancer

Butch & Nancy Mc.

Dick & Dorothy G.

Harry & Nancy B.

Pat M. & Robin K.

Pauline R.

Pam H.

Rae S.

Annibale & Mohr families, Mary Lynn

Fred Kohring (Pastor Ruthie's brother)

Melton 9 yr. old daughter - terminal brain cancer

Grant H. (Pam H.'s cousin) - cancer

Our sympathy to the family & friends of:

Mel Chipps

Dolores Bauman

The Oppy's

Fireside Chat



Dear Church Family,

Since the church ended the year with bills and obligations up to date, Martha is taking some time off from writing her column to enjoy her wingback chair and the cozy fire in her fireplace. She'll be back next month in *Points to Ponder* but she will see many of you in church on Sunday mornings.

Martha Baillis, Financial Chair

Trustee's Corner



Items since last month:

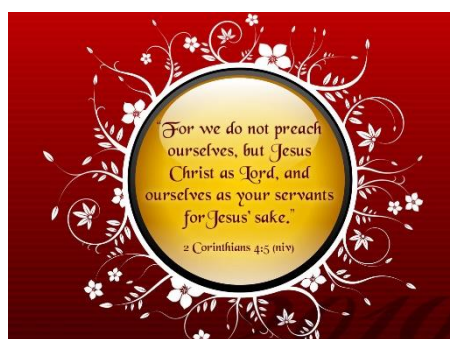
- Confirmed Jon Imhoff will plow/salt parking lot, he donated last years services. Installed driveway/lot markers.
- Replaced bulb in south steeple light, sanctuary roof.
 - East Ohio Conference, IGS Natural Gas Aggregate costs going up 36% for 2022 to \$5.66/MCI; FYI, December Gas Bill was \$827.
 - Repaired wire connections on parsonage garage door safety sensors.

New Year – New Life

The person you were before Christ came into your life should be gone.
The habits and attitudes that defined you then should be changed.
You are a new creature.

Every characteristic that defines Christ can now define you;
love, compassion, concern for others, honesty, justice, and self-sacrifice.

Begin each day this New Year by asking the Lord to help your new person
shine over the old person. Ask Him to shine through you so the new
is shining through and the old is gone.



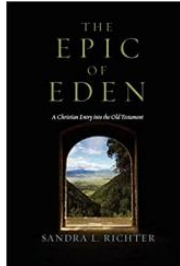


Men's Bible Study

Meeting on Thursday evenings at 6:30pm led by Pastor Don Trigg.
They are currently studying the Book of John. Come and join in.

Women's Bible Study

There is always room for more! Join us for a great chance to learn more about God's Word and a wonderful time of fellowship! We are pleased to have new members from the Sterling UMC. There is always room for more!



The Epic of Eden: A Christian Entry into the Old Testament

By Sandra L. Richter

(Approximate Dates) Feb. 3rd - April 21st (12 sessions)

Meeting on Thursdays: 10:00am in person led by Pastor Ruthie,
& at 6:30pm one led by Sara Ullman and Betty Winchell.
Contact Pastor Ruthie or Betty, if you need a book.



January

7 th - Nancy McMillian	13 th - Joe Staley
14 th - Dan Baker	17 th - Kathy Berg
20 th - Pauline Rastofer	24 th - Ruth Schumacher
25 th - Cris Emerson	28 th - Robin Ryland
17 th - Pastor Ruthie	
30 th - Lori Ullman	
Scott Turnbow	



The Irene Hopton Family wishes to thank everyone for your prayers, cards, meal and support. It's great to have the support we have received!

*Bless you
Bob Hopton and Family*

Mary's Meanderings – January 2022

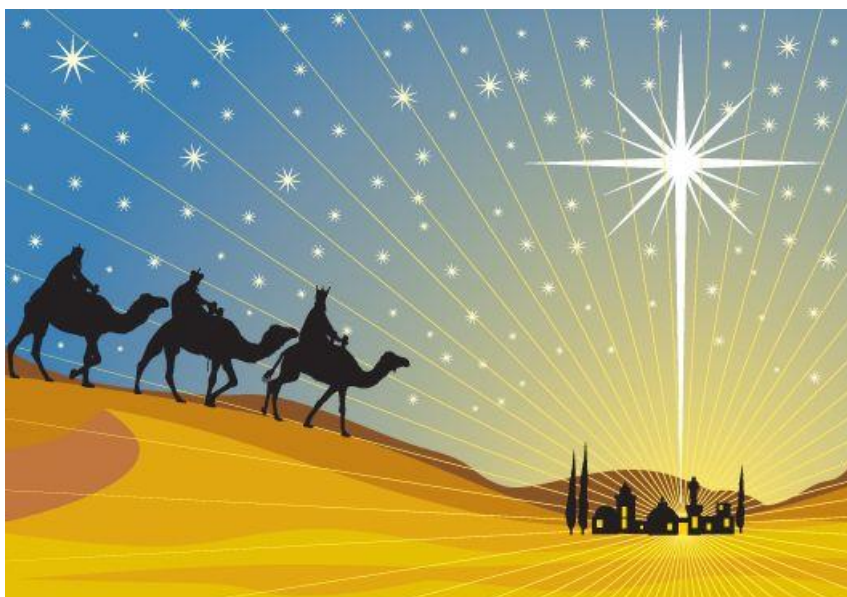
The Three Kings

Now when Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judaea in the days of Herod the king, behold, Wise-men from the east came to Jerusalem saying, Where is He that is born King of the Jews? For we saw His star in the east, and come to worship Him. And when Herod the king heard it, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him. And gathering together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Christ should be born. And they said unto him, in Bethlehem of Judaea: for thus it is written through the prophet. Matthew 2:1-5.

Pastor Ruthie told us last Sunday that there were two Bethlehems in Israel which was new to me. What was that star? It's been said that it was the North Star. The North Star, Polaris, sits above the North Pole. Western tradition holds that there were three kings. Others say there may have been more, possibly twelve. According to some writings, the Kings were Melchior from Europe, Caspar from Arabia, and Balthazar from Africa. They travelled by horse, camel, and elephant to present the baby Jesus with three symbolic gifts: gold, because Jesus was royalty, frankincense which represented the baby's holy nature as the Son of God, and myrrh to signify Jesus' mortality.

In the United States we do not make much of a deal over the three kings but it is actually commemorated in churches every year on January 6, which is the twelfth day after Christmas, thus the song The Twelve Days of Christmas. In places that celebrate it there is a traditional holiday bread. The bread is round in shape as a symbol of a king's crown. Baked inside of the bread is a clay or porcelain baby Jesus figurine. Whoever finds it must then host a party on Dia de la Candelaria, or the Day of Candles, February 2. I think all we know of February 2 in Ground Hog's Day!

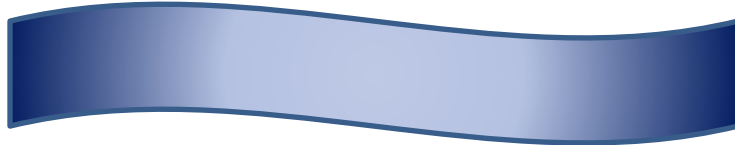
The three kings or Magi were both real and symbolic. As real men the three kings confirmed ancient prophecies about Jesus being the Messiah and as symbols, they showed that He came to save all people, rich and poor, learned or unschooled, from anywhere in the world. As wealthy travelers they were on the opposite end of the social and economic spectrum as the shepherds who had visited right after His birth. The wise men traveled thousands of miles to worship Jesus. Wise people acknowledge their need for a Savior and seek to find Him. Foolish and evil people like Herod get upset with Him and seek to be rid of Him. How far will you go to follow Jesus?





We are blessed! With the donations that come in regularly from you and the community, we have been able to continue to supply the needy with food and supplies. **Our first food pantry/community dinner for 2022 will be January 19th, 2022.** Worship at 3:30pm and Food Pantry/Community Dinner - 4-5:30pm. Set-up will be on Tuesday, January 18th at 6:00pm. We can always use help!

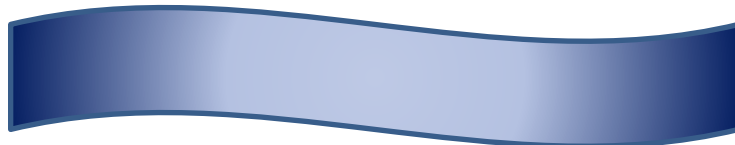
Sign-up sheet for community dinner will be available *Sundays, Jan. 9th and 16th.*



♥ Welcome to
Preschool!

It's hard to believe that we are already halfway through the school year. We spent the 5 days we were with children in December talking about the birth of Jesus, working on the letter N, and helping the children make homemade gifts for their families. We also sent home assessments for the first half of the year.

We will continue on letter recognition and letter sounds, rhyming, phonemic awareness, patterning, number recognition, and counting. We are also going to rotate some toys from the classroom with those in storage to allow the children to have new/different experiences.



**New Canal District Contact Information
As of January 1, 2022**

Rev. Angela Lewis, District Superintendent

Megan Myers, District Administrator

(Debbie Bryant is retiring as of Dec. 31st)

Address: Canal & Tuscarawas District Office
8800 Cleveland Ave NW, North Canton, OH 44720

Phone Number: (330)499-3972, ext. 106

Email: CanalTuscDistOffice@eocumc.com

My New Year's Prayer...

*Grant me the strength from day to day
To bear what burdens come my way.
Grant me throughout this bright New Year
More to endure and less to fear.
Help me live that I may be
From spite and petty malice free.
Let me not bitterly complain
When cherished hopes of mine prove vain,
Or spoil with deeds of hate and rage
Some fair tomorrow's spotless page.
Lord, as the days shall come and go
In courage let me stronger grow.*

*Lord, as the New Year dawns today
Help me to put my faults away.
Let me be big in little things;
Grant me the joy which friendship brings.
Keep me from selfishness and spite;
Let me be wise in what is right.*

*A happy New Year! Grant that I
May bring no tear to any eye.
When this New Year in time shall end
Let it be said I've played the friend,
Have lived and loved and labored here,
And made of it a happy year.*

~Edgar A. Guest

