

Circuit Rider

Saybrook United Methodist Church

"People trying to live like Jesus"

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MERRY CHRISTMAS!

December 2022



Dear Friends,

My words come together with Thanksgiving leftovers still calling out to me and my thoughts go well beyond Christmas and on into New Years. Just as thankfulness reaches far beyond Thanksgiving, the Christmas story reaches far beyond Bethlehem's manger.

As a child, youth and even as a young adult, I gave very little thought to this season we find ourselves in called Advent, defined as the "Season of Preparation." On occasion I will think back on events or aspects of life. One such example could be the birth of our first child. All those many years ago we thought we were all prepared, our child was due in mid February, Karen's water broke and the plan of action began. The only problem was the sitter we had lined up to watch the three foster children never heard the phone ring. Thankfully a neighbor came to our rescue and off we went to a hospital an hour away in a snowstorm. Evan was born healthy but jaundiced, Karen was released in two days but not our child. In time we were told he would need a blood transfusion, which sent us rushing off to Cleveland. Thankfully prayers were answered, Evan was fine, all chalked up to a small hospital mis-diagnosis. Three and six years later our two daughters, both born in December, well into Advent, "The Season of Preparation."

I wonder what thoughts come to your mind when you think of the birth of Jesus, Advent, and this sense of preparing ourselves once again to receive the Christ Child. Possibly like many your thoughts run along the lines of a tiny baby boy, in a manger, with adoring parents at his side as well as all the other characters of the modern day image of the nativity scene.

The truth is, when God sent His Son into the world, the scene was far less inviting. Mary's birthing room was a stall hurriedly cleaned out, with nothing more than armfuls of hay tossed upon the floor. How Mary's heart must have dropped when Joseph led her into the dark and dingy place, as she knew she

was about to deliver the Savior. Soon, she would know that the crude animal's eating trough was to be the cradle to hold the Lord of Lords, King of Kings. It could not have made sense from Mary's point of view or ours, but from God's perspective it was perfect. Each year we are given these precious moments to stand in amazement at His personal love for us.

This is the joy of heaven come down. We see John 3:16 in a new way. For God so loved us that he came as a baby so that he could live and walk among us. The central message of Christmas is that through His Son, the Lord Jesus Christ, we can have eternal life, joy, & peace.

As Christians, our entire life, who we are and what we do, needs to be caught up in the person of Jesus Christ. By right, He could come as a mighty King demanding our submission, but He came as a man seeking our love and devotion. We have the gift of the Immanuel (God with us). Let us each give gifts of love in return. When we walk with Jesus we are in the company of perfect love. When we claim Him as our own, we begin to see ourselves as God does, objects of His love.

Consider that you and I are objects of the love of the one eternal, creator and redeeming God. His greatness and His best, He desires to give to us, His Son Jesus Christ. If this Advent/Christmas season you have never said YES to Jesus and His offer of salvation, I pray that you do so now. Acts 4:10-12 states, "there is no other name under heaven by which we are to be saved than the name of Jesus." Why not give Jesus the gift of your total self?

It is both Karen and my deepest desire for you and yours to experience afresh and anew, the unconditional love of our Lord and Savior this Christmas.

May all the joy of a Christ filled Christmas be yours!

Love, *Pastor Vernon & Karen Palo*





- 11 Betty Cochran
- 11 Roy L. Stiltner II
- 15 Jerry Richmond
- 15 Rev. Donna Van Trees
- 15 Seraphina Cadence Colvin
- 21 Betty Hansen
- 21 Cheryl Wakeman
- 22 Ed Hawk
- 23 Sue Miklos
- 27 Lindsey Stoneman



- 9 Harold & Susan Miller
- 11 Hal & Audrey Loudermilk
- 16 Jerry & Amy Richmond
- 31 Shane & Sara Butler
- 31 Denis & Sandra Wolff

It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice in wrongdoing, but rejoices in the truth. It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. Love never ends”

Cor. 13:4-8a



Karen & I wish to express our deepest thanks and appreciation for your offering collected throughout all of October and presented to us on the first Sunday of November.

As some of you know Karen won 9 or 10 tickets to a destination location and she choose Dollywood.

This last Thanksgiving weekend we were able to coordinate all twelve of our children and grandchildren and go and I must say no easy task with all the many schedules. We picked up the cost of hotels and lunch and dinner out.

Your gift was shared into many lives for some precious family time.

*As a local United Methodist Congregation we promise to honor God with:
Our Prayers*

Our Churches, Shut Ins, Military, Our Pastor & Family,
Missionaries, Ed & Linda Gray, Richard Clugh, River, Betty Hansen,
Jim & Phyllis Wright, Dean Moore, Howard Hewitt, Erik Pimentel, Kurt Brindley,
Linda Johnson, Sarrah Brown, Mary Lewis, Stoneman Family, Jackie McKee,
Jim McKee, Keith Youngberg, Louise Ebetino, Chuck Ebetino, Kelly Forren,
Monna O'Connor, Lisa Buck, Virgil & Carol Hammonds,
Gary & Debbie Munson, Ron McIvaine, Charlene Hopkins, Mike Greenwood,
Marilyn Wenner, Kathy Feiler, Dixie & Larry Leggett, Billy Hudson, Sue Hogan,
Robin Nagle, Lou Buck, Bill Swanson, Edie Ann, Denny & Bobbi Heil,
Diane (Swiger), Don & Mary Clugh, Diana Cheryl McLaren, Shelley Didonato,
Chris Stiltner, John, Tim Cambell, Rick Arnold, Leo, Janet Renard, Laura Lorelli,
Harold Miller, Rev. Joe Platt, Hobart Shiflet, Kent McLain, Mallory Wickert,
Kelli Nelson, Patty Moore

Our Services

SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP

9:30am Contemporary Service
10:45am Traditional Worship
8:30am Plymouth UMC

WEDNESDAY NIGHT SERVICE

6:00pm WOW

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES

Christmas Eve Service at 5pm at
Saybrook UMC.
7:00pm at the Plymouth UMC

CHRISTMAS DAY

10:45am at Saybrook UMC
9:30am at Plymouth UMC

NEW EVE DAY SERVICE

10:45 at Saybrook UMC
8:30am at Plymouth UMC

Our Gifts

General Budget Jan 1—Oct.31

Donations \$173,305.83

Expenses -\$201,810.15

Deficit of -\$28,504.32



Pledge
Sunday

You will be
receiving a
Stewardship
letter and a

pledge card in the mail. Please return
your pledge card by mail or bring it
with you to church. Don't forget,
even if you are not pledging we still
need to know the number of tithing
envelopes you would like for 2023.

Thank you and God Bless

If you would like to send your tithes
through your bank account, you may do
so. If you need help with this please let
me know. It is the Andover Bank
Routing# 041208719 / Acct# 007037465

and Our Witness

Some Thoughts from *Betty Cochran*

It's Stewardship time at the church
the Theme this year is
Every Perfect Gift.

**Prayers, Presence, Gifts, Service,
Witness**

God gives all of us perfect gifts!

Of course I picked Witness to talk about. I started writing in the Newsletter when Sharyn Kovalesky moved. I didn't know what to write so I prayed before I did. Yes! God did give me the words I needed.

There are many ways to be God's Witness.

- 1 Telling stories about what God has done in your life or in someone else's.
- 2 Witnessing about the Missions and the love that is shared through your church.
- 3 Identifying the needs in a community and taking action.
- 4 Leading a Christian life by example is huge. Whether it's acting with integrity in the workplace, showing compassion to neighbors, or helping others embody the love of Christ through advocacy and outreach.
- 5 Witness through your tithing by giving to the church to do God's work.

Pray and talk to God about your Gift, wait and listen. God will lead you down the right path



Anyone wishing to give **Christmas Cards** to others who attend Church may do so and save on postage.

Cards need to be addressed with a **first and last name reference** to help with the sorting process.

Cards may be dropped off in the narthex, beginning the first Sunday of Dec.

**Deadline for card collection is
December 18th.**

No cards will be mailed from the church. Make sure to mail your own cards to those who may winter elsewhere or who are not currently attending church at this time. If you need addresses you may call the church office or Rev. Palo for the most current names and addresses available. **Volunteers will be needed to weekly to sort the cards for our church attendees.**

Another idea that has come up in recent years, is the **ONE CARD**, If for whatever reason doing several or many cards is difficult, simply address a card to '**My Church Family**' sign the inside and place on the table in the Narthex.

Your card will then be displayed on the bulletin board and your name with other listed in the bulletin **Sunday December 25th and January 1st**

**UNITED METHODIST WOMEN
DECEMBER 10TH. AT 10:00am**

Share the Fellowship and Music of Christmas
and get into the Christmas Spirit with the
United Methodist Women
on the 10th. at 10:00 am.

Light Refreshments will be provided



A warm and sincere **Thank you** to all who contributed toward the Thankful Baskets and the ones who donated there time at the Saybrook Giant Eagle to help raise money for the Salvation Army!



A Heartfelt thank you to all who donated to the Samaritan Purse Shoe Boxes this year! Because of the kind and generous souls of the congregations we have sent \$1,440.00 in monetary donations this year, plus 150 shoeboxes to send in. You are a blessing to those children that will receive the Christmas shoeboxes this year. For a year of many trials, you can still see the love of God in serving worthwhile causes that make this world a better place.

Thank you and God Bless,
The Mission Committee



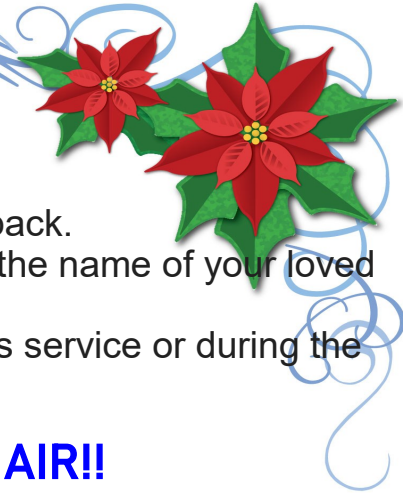
What's red, white, pink, speckled, or a variety of other colors?

Why, poinsettias, of course!

Anyone who would like to bring in their own poinsettia or would like Karen Keesler to purchase one on your behalf please do or by December 18. Please ask for a tag to put your name on it so you be sure to get yours back.

A small card is next to the tags, If you would like the name of your loved one in the Christmas insert, please fill one out.

You may pick your poinsettia up after a Christmas service or during the week. Thank you and God Bless



CHRISTMAS IS IN THE AIR!!

Sunday December 4th. From 12:30-2:30

The Education Committee is Sponsoring a fun Sunday afternoon full of Christmas Cheer!

Join us for a **Movie, Food** and a **Christmas Craft.**

Children of all ages are welcome

You are welcome to stay for the fun, take advantage of the time and do a little Christmas shopping while your child is safe with us or

volunteers are also welcome to help in the basement with the

Adopt a Family Christmas Project.



When you shop Amazon this year, please remember to go **Amazon Smiley!** At the end of your purchase you can ask for Contributions to go to the Saybrook United Methodist Church.

There is NO Extra charge to you! Amazon has hundreds of organizations to choose from. So if you find it in your heart **please** choose us!

**Saybrook United Methodist Church
Annual Basement Sale**

**Saturday, December 3, 2022
Saybrook United Methodist Church
3900 S. Depot Road, Ashtabula, OH 44004**

Across the Street from St. John's School's Craft Fair

**Early Bird admittance from
7:00 AM – 9:00 AM - \$5.00 per person**

**9:00 AM to 3:00 PM everyone welcome
no admittance charge**

**Come in and browse for a variety of Great treasures
Christmas items including an assortment of decorations, pots & pans,
small appliances, toys, books, DVDs, tools, furniture, jewelry,
Electronics, other items too numerous to mention.**



***All sales are for the benefit of the Ministries of
Saybrook United Methodist Church***

Christmas Family Food Drive

Donations of food items, cleaning supplies and personal hygiene products can be placed on the cart located inside the church rear entrance.

Canned Vegetables (Pull top lids preferred)

Corn
Peas
Green Beans
Baked Beans
Tuna

Canned Fruit (Pull top lids preferred)

Mixed fruit
Pineapple
Peaches
Pears

Easy Meal Prep Items

Hamburger Helper
Macaroni & Cheese
Spaghetti
Spaghetti Sauce
Noodles
Spaghetti 'O's (Pull top lids preferred)

Soup (Pull top lids preferred)

Tomato
Chicken Noodle
Mushroom

Children Snack Items

Pudding Cups 4 pk
Jello Cups 4 pk
Fruit Cups 4 pk
Peanut Butter
Jelly

Christmas Dinner Items

Stuffing Mix
Gravy
Chicken Broth/Beef Broth
Cranberry Sauce (Pull top lids preferred)
Cake/Brownie Mix
Frosting
Other Items
Pancake Mix
Pancake Syrup
Cereal

Household Cleaning Products

Laundry Detergent
Household Cleaner
Cleanser
Dish Detergent
Paper Towels (2 pk or larger)
Spray Sanitizer (Lysol)
Disinfecting Wipes

Personal Hygiene

Bar Soap
Shampoo
Deodorant
Toothbrush (Individually sealed)
Toothpaste
Kleenex
Toilet Paper (4 pk or larger)
Hand Sanitizer





2022 CHRISTMAS FAMILY ADOPTION PROGRAM
IS UNDERWAY
HERE ARE SOME DATES AND INFORMATION
PLEASE PRAY

Prayer throughout this entire project is most important since we are a church family doing our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ's work. We will also be giving each of the 21 families a New Testament.

PRAYER: Throughout this entire project, prayer is most important since we are a church family doing our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ's work.

NOW Sock mitten hat tree is in the hallway across from the small nursery waiting for your donations

Nov 15-Dec 7 Food and personal items are being accepted in room 4 (Or just outside the door if the room is locked)

Nov 15-Dec 7 Sign -up sheets for Turkeys and paper and cleaning products are On the bulletin board across from the large nursery.

Nov 15 -Dec 13 Donations of sheets, blankets and toys can be placed in room 8 on the second floor until Dec. 3rd. After the 3rd they can be taken to the fellowship hall. Monetary donations marked "Christmas Families" are accepted.

Nov 20 -Dec 11 Gift suggestion ornaments will be appearing on the gift tree. The sign up sheet for any ornament you take will be next to the gift tree on the bulletin board.

PLEASE MAKE SURE YOU SIGN YOUR NAME NEXT TO THE LETTER AND NUMBER ON THE ORNAMENT YOU TAKE

December 13 Deadline for all purchased and wrapped gifts along with the paper ornament need to be placed on the first table in the gift room (LG Nursery)

DECEMBER 17 2022 DISTRIBUTION DAY FROM 8AM TO NOON

Our Lord has Blessed this program for over 30 years through your service to Him. Thank you for all your help and generosity.

If you have any questions please contact

Community Christian Bible Study

EVERYONE WELCOME!

Advent

Hope - Peace - Love - Joy

* * *

Come and Enjoy an Hour of Christian Fellowship

Presented by Pastor Vernon Palo

Saybrook United Methodist Church

Location: The Little Pie Shop and Cafe
Corner of Highway 45 and Carpenter Road, Ashtabula, OH

Every Tuesday for 4 Weeks at 12:30pm

"The Redemption of Scrooge" by Matt Rawle

Date/Time:

Nov. 29 1:00 PM

Dec. 06 1:00 PM

Dec. 13 1:00 PM

Dec. 20 1:00 PM

Topics

BAHI HUMBUG!

"Our church gathers in the present
To ponder the past for a future hope."

The Remembrance of Christmas Past

"When Jesus entered the world
everything changed."

The Life of Christmas Present

"Jesus is the new way
God is choosing to be with God's People."

The Hope of Christmas Future

"Through faith in Christ, our present, our past,
and our future are held together in grace."



Isaiah 7:14

Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign: The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and will call him Immanuel.

Luke 2:7

and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no guest room available for them.

December 2022

Merry Christmas

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
AA Meet Sun & Tues at 7pm				1	2	3 Basement Sale
4 Advent 2 Worship 9:30am 10:45am 8:30am Plymouth	5 10:00am Mission	6 Bible Study 12:30pm Pie Shop 6:00pm Plymouth	7 6:00pm WOW	8	9	10 10:00am UMW Christmas Cheer
11 Advent 3 Worship 9:30am 10:45am 8:30am Plymouth	12 6:00pm Plymouth AD Council Meeting	13 Bible Study 12:30pm Pie Shop 6:00pm Plymouth	14 6:00pm WOW	15	16	17 Christmas Family Distribution
18 Advent 4 Worship 9:30am 10:45am Plymouth 8:30am	19 Food Distribution at the Plymouth UMC 1-5	20 Bible Study 12:30pm Pie Shop 6:00pm Plymouth	21 6:00pm WOW	22	23	24 Christmas Eve Service 5pm Saybrook 7pm Plymouth
25 Christmas 10:45am Plymouth 9:30am	26	27	28 6:00pm WOW	29	30	31

East Ohio Evangelical Fellowship

Chairperson: Mike Grant
Treasurer: Don Lare

Secretary: Doug Beggs
Past Chairperson: Jeff Gindlesberger

November 2022

Chairperson's Note:

No Room In The Tent

When my wife and I were newly married, we bought a three person tent. We thought that it would give us plenty of room for our twin size air mattress and our stuff. The first time we went camping, we were really surprised. Our twin air mattress went from wall to wall in the tent. There was no room for our things, and certainly would not have had room for a third person. Even without the air mattress, I don't have any idea how three people could have fit in there. We kept all our things in the car and couldn't help but feel like we were sold a bill of goods. What was promoted as being a big enough tent, really wasn't. I fear that is becoming the story of the United Methodist Church and it breaks my heart.

We are being told again and again that there is room for all in this Big Tent called the United Methodist Church. There is plenty of room under the canvas for Progressives, Centrist, and Conservatives (Traditional Christians) alike. We can all live together in harmony as long as we give one another permission to live as we choose. I'm just not seeing it. We seem to be putting up a tent just big enough for Progressives and Centrists, but the Traditional Christians have to sleep in the car.

This is not surprising, because the ground cloth of Pluralism has never been a good base for a tent. I have heard Seminary Professors, Church officials, and Bishops say for 35 years that we are not a doctrinal church. The Bishops keep quoting that we have Articles of Religion, but for decades, many have chosen not to acknowledge or uphold them. If Pluralism (Big Tent) theology is your base, friends, every time it rains, water is going to come into the tent.

The lack of room under canvas for Traditional Christians was not only on display, it was flaunted and celebrated in the recent Jurisdictional Conferences. I watched what I could of our North Central Jurisdiction on line and I have read about the others. Let me share some of the things that were done to marginalize or keep more traditional believers out of the tent.

There were 13 Bishops elected in the United States. To the best of our understanding, none of them are Traditional in their theology. The Western Jurisdiction, in violation of the Book of Discipline, elected Cedrick D. Bridgeforth as the second married, openly gay Bishop. He was introduced with his husband to great celebration and applause.

All five Jurisdictions passed a resolution clearly targeting Conservatives. The resolution encourages those who may at some point leave the UMC (Conservatives) to voluntarily remove themselves from all committees, boards, and agencies, as well as delegations to General and Jurisdictional Conference. There is no recognition that one can serve faithfully where they are, even if at some point they may choose to serve faithfully somewhere else. Conservatives are expected to leave leadership, while those Progressives and Centrists who are on record as being unwilling to uphold the book of Discipline, are given a pass. This resolution was titled Leading with Integrity. It does not promote real leadership or true integrity.

Each of the Jurisdictions passed a resolution entitled: Queer Delegates Call to Center Justice and Empowerment for LGBTQIA+ People In The UMC. This resolution calls for the Bishops to set aside the legislation passed in 2019 around marriage and ordination. It encourages Bishops to ignore, or resolve without punishment, all those who disobey the Book of Discipline on LGBTQIA+ matters. It also asks that Jurisdictional leadership not pursue complaints against Bishops if they disobey their covenant in these areas alone.

The next resolution that was passed by all five Jurisdictions was titled: Supporting Formation of a US Regional Conference. This is been tried repeatedly by Progressives to disenfranchise the overwhelmingly traditional African vote and to let the majority Progressive United States delegates do what they want on matters of Human Sexuality. It is always presented as a way to not force the Central Conference delegates (those outside the US) to deal with US only matters. In truth, it is thinly veiled racism and colonialism. They are saying, without saying it, since we don't like your views on these things, we will exclude you entirely. The tent is not big enough for those outside the United States.

At the North Central Jurisdiction they had time set aside to hear speeches from an openly gay clergy member, who lamented her lack of full ordination, and a transgender individual whose speech ended with the rallying cry, "...let's queer the church!" This last comment received a standing ovation. They had a training on Christian Nationalism that implied it is possible to be patriotic, but that you may have gone too far if your church has an American flag in the sanctuary, occasionally says the Pledge of Allegiance, believes that we were founded on Christian principles, or honors the 4th of July in church. If any of these apply to you or your church, the Big Tent may just be too small for you.

For those who feel unwelcome in the Big Tent, there is a way to make a change. The process for disaffiliation under paragraph 2553 is currently available, but only for a limited time. The exit flap from the Big Tent is being zipped and padlocked in June. All disaffiliation votes, paperwork, and your payment must be made by May of 2023, so that your church can be considered by the Annual Conference in June. This may seem far off, but it is not. The East Ohio Annual Conference will not address any matters around disaffiliation from November 20th through January 1, 2023. In practice, it has taken up to 6 weeks to get your church disaffiliation payment amount from the conference office. After a Church Council votes to disaffiliate, the District Superintendent has up to 120 days to hold your Church Conference vote. We are thankful for Bishop Malone and the Conference Board of Trustees for not adding any extra requirements to Paragraph 2553. That is not the case in many areas of the church. At present, there is no plan for a special Annual Conference next fall before paragraph 2553 sunsets on December 31, 2023. If you are going to act, please act soon. The clock is ticking.

If you want further information, please look online at the East Ohio Conference website, the process is clearly spelled out. Please also talk to your District Superintendent for their requirements and expectations. You may also consider contacting the East Ohio Wesleyan Covenant Association (EOWCA), (330) 936-8531, email rick.corder@live.com. They have informed leaders who can talk to you or your church about the process. Please know the EOWCA will not speak at any church, nor will it come to any church without being invited by the pastor.

I have been a part of the Methodist church my whole life. I was President of my UMYF in High School. I went to a Methodist College. I have given over 30 years in ministry and service to Christ as a United Methodist pastor. I knew this before, but watching the Jurisdictional Conference, I had to finally make peace in my soul that my Traditional values and understanding have no place in the new UMC. There is no room in the tent for people like me.

Mike Grant EOEF Chair

Kory Rowland Awarded Robert D. Snyder Scholarship

Pastor Kory Rowland, currently serving at Uhrichville First, Midvale and Newport UMC's, was awarded the Robert D. Snyder Scholarship at the EOef Banquet in June. Congratulations, Kory! His letter of thanks is included below:

Pastor Kory Rowland 420 East 3rd St.
Uhrichville, Ohio 44683

August 5, 2022

Dear Robert D. Snyder Scholarship Committee,

Thank you all for selecting me for this award. It means a great deal to me to receive this award. I cannot even begin to express how much you have blessed me. I thank God for people like you who help those without significant financial means.

As a pastor, I do not have much money for college, and I know I can only attend graduate school because of generous gifts like this one. I cannot praise God enough for you all. Thank you for helping me follow God's calling.

This award is an answer to prayer. God got me through my bachelor's degree without taking out any loans. I praise Him every day for that, but I have always known that my calling to be a pastor meant needing a master's degree. So, I prayed God would provide a way for me to afford graduate school, and He has done that through the help of people like you. Thank you all for being agents of God's love and kindness. I pray that God blesses all of you just like you have blessed me.

Sincerely,
Kory Rowland



Merry
CHRISTMAS

