

The Courier

DECEMBER 2013 VOLUME 10, ISSUE 12

The Season of Advent at Cornerstone

Sunday Services

Traditional Service

9:30 a.m.

Sunday School

10:30 a.m.

Contemporary Service

11:00 a.m.



The word Advent is from the Latin word *adventus* meaning "coming". This season is a time of preparation, expectant waiting, and hope for the celebration of Jesus Christ's birth. We've got wonderful opportunities for all ages throughout December to prepare ourselves for this exciting season.

Dec 1st 9:30 & 11:00

Waiting on Christ this Christmas

Luke 2:8-20 (NIV)

Pastor Tim

6:00 P.M.

Hanging of the Greens

Dec 8th 9:30 & 11:00

Jesus Christ: Our Hope, Way, Joy and Peace

John 14:1-6 Pastor Tom

4:30 Cornerstone Kids—We're Celebrating Jesus!

Nativity, Craft Making, Christmas Cookies, Sing Along

Dec 15th 9:30 & 11:00

The Conflicts we face this Christmas

Isaiah 40:31 Pastor Tim

6:00 P.M. Christmas at Cornerstone

Music to Stir Your Heart!



Dec 22nd 9:30 with the Cornerstone Symphonic Band

Knowing Christ this Christmas

Pastor Tim

Philippians 2:1-10

11:00 Contemporary



Portsmouth West Choir

The Portsmouth West Choir will be singing at Cornerstone on the 15th in the 11:00 Service.

Pastor Tim will share a message, and one of the finest choirs around will share some Christmas music. Invite your friends!

Dec 24th Christmas Eve

Pastors Tim and Tom

God with us this Christmas

7:00 P.M. Family Candlelight Service

11:00 P.M. Candlelight and Communion Service

Dec 29th 9:30 & 11:00

What Time Is It?

Ecclesiastes 3:1-8 (NIV)

Pastor Tom

December Worship Highlights

December 1	Waiting on Christ this Christmas	Luke 2:8-20	Tim
December 8	Jesus Christ: Our Hope, Way, Joy and Peace	John 14:1-6	Tom
December 15	The Conflicts we face this Christmas	Isaiah 40:31	Tim
December 22	Knowing Christ this Christmas	Philippians 2:1-10	Tim
December 24	God with us this Christmas	Matthew 1:18-23	Tim
December 29	What Time Is It?	Ecclesiastes 3:1-8	Tom

Leadership Board Highlights November 11th

- Discussed how we are communicating information as a church. Communication survey will be given to congregation.
- Rejoicing in Recovery update on it's remarkable growth.
- New Ministry will begin in December called the Alternative Christmas Market
- Fall Stewardship evaluation and update
- First draft of the Guiding Principles discussed
- Employee handbook discussed
- New Ice Machine is installed
- Sound Panels for behind the drums are en route and will be installed soon
- Held a Charge Conference. Voted Unanimously to acquire 1539 Ninth Street

Green Space Dream Getting Closer

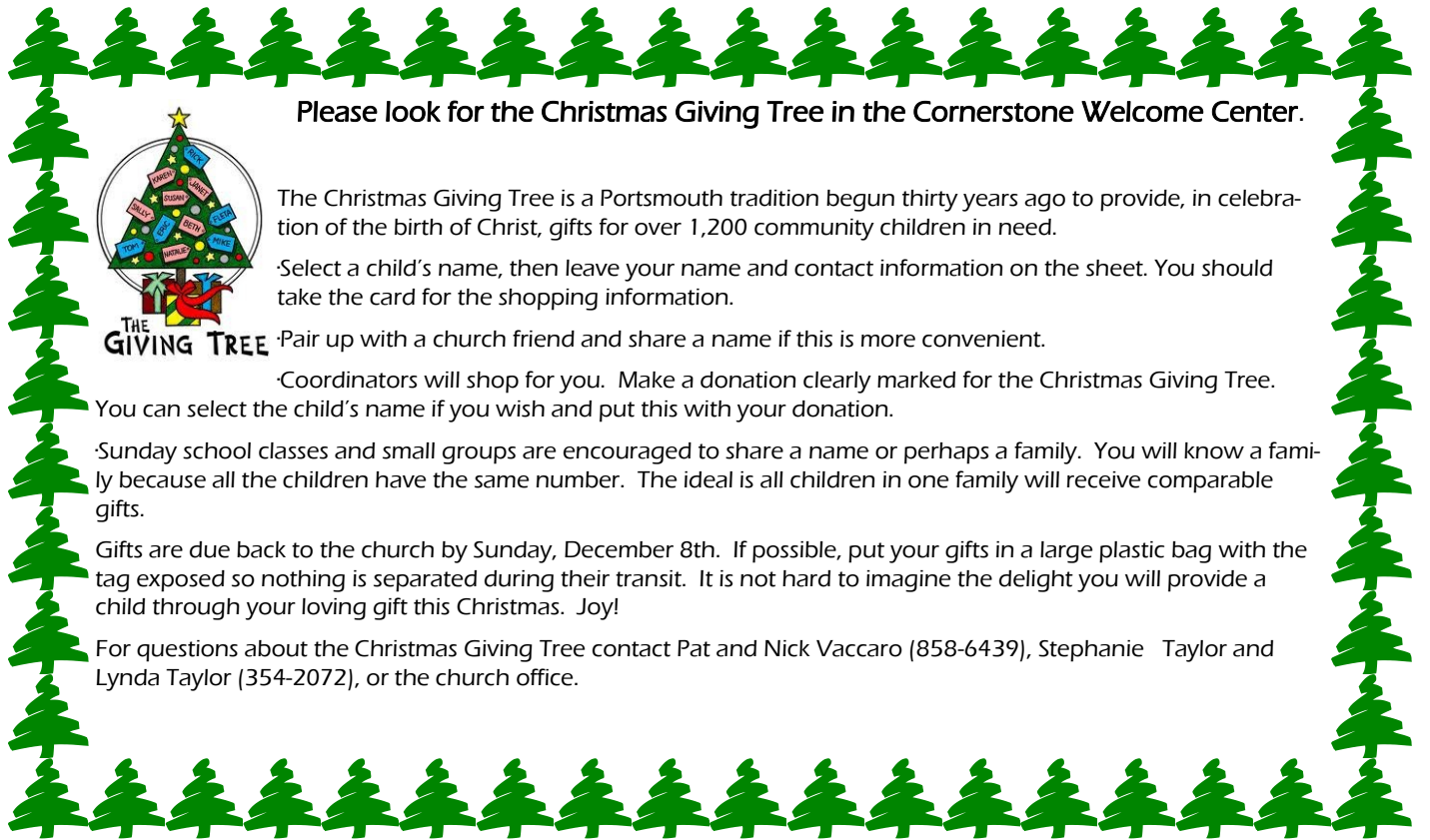


A charge conference was held on November 11th to acquire 1539 Ninth Street. The vote was unanimous in favor of purchasing the property. This is amazing news! Cornerstone has been dreaming for years of having a green space for church picnics, upwards soccer, our children and youth, and whatever God has in store! We purchased the property for around \$30,000. We could use help if God puts it on your heart to offset the cost.

Christmas Offering

This year's Christmas offering will go toward two great causes.

- 1) Honduras Mission-JARDIN DE GRACIA (Garden of Grace) MISSION SCHOOL is a ten year old mission, located in Honduras. This mission was formed to serve the very poorest of the poor in this area through educational programs. Without help, these devastatingly poor children would probably receive no education at all. Cornerstone is going to Jardin De Gracia in July 2014.
- 2) Upwards Sports-Cornerstone hosts over 250 kids every winter in basketball and cheer leading. The experience is fun for the kids and they hear the message of Jesus every week in practice and games. Many kids cannot go without help in the form of scholarships.



Please look for the Christmas Giving Tree in the Cornerstone Welcome Center.

The Christmas Giving Tree is a Portsmouth tradition begun thirty years ago to provide, in celebration of the birth of Christ, gifts for over 1,200 community children in need.

•Select a child's name, then leave your name and contact information on the sheet. You should take the card for the shopping information.

•Pair up with a church friend and share a name if this is more convenient.

•Coordinators will shop for you. Make a donation clearly marked for the Christmas Giving Tree.

You can select the child's name if you wish and put this with your donation.

Sunday school classes and small groups are encouraged to share a name or perhaps a family. You will know a family because all the children have the same number. The ideal is all children in one family will receive comparable gifts.

Gifts are due back to the church by Sunday, December 8th. If possible, put your gifts in a large plastic bag with the tag exposed so nothing is separated during their transit. It is not hard to imagine the delight you will provide a child through your loving gift this Christmas. Joy!

For questions about the Christmas Giving Tree contact Pat and Nick Vaccaro (858-6439), Stephanie Taylor and Lynda Taylor (354-2072), or the church office.

Staff Christmas Gifts!

As in the past, envelopes for staff Christmas gifts will be available in the Narthex. We are starting a little early this year to give everyone ample opportunity, plus we plan to give the gift a little earlier as well. You can put the envelope in the offering plate or send your donation to the church office. Be sure to designate "Staff Christmas Gift" on your checks or envelopes. We ask that all monies be turned in no later than December 15th.

~Thanks

Pastor Parish Team

Cornerstone Kids-We're Celebrating Jesus!

Come join us on Sunday, December 8 at 4:30 in the gym.

We will have:

- *Story * Music *Live Nativity
- *Cookie Decorating *Bingo *Crafts and more



We want YOU to join us to celebrate the miracle of Christ's birth. There will be activities for kids of all ages. See you there!

Kids Schedule

December

		Preschool		Elementary	
		First Service 9:30-10:30	2nd Service 11:00- 12:00	First Service 9:30- 10:30	2nd Service 11:00- 12:00
Dec. 1st		<i>Teacher: Courtney Adkins Assistant: Brandon Lamma</i>	<i>Teacher: Jennifer Roth Assistant: Bekah Keys</i>	<i>Teacher: Robbie Shugert Assistant: Linda Berry</i>	<i>Teacher: Jessica James Assistant: Robbie Shugert</i>
Dec. 8th		<i>Teacher: Ann Dissinger Assistant: Brenda Covert</i>	<i>Teacher: Beth Rice Assistant: Joanne Charles</i>	<i>Teacher: Lisa Kepler Assistant: Robbie Shugert</i>	<i>Teacher: Robbie Shugert Assistant: Kerri Galloway</i>
Dec. 15th		<i>Teacher: Robbie Shugert Assistant: Jodi Bickett</i>	<i>Teacher: Robbie Shugert Assistant: Jessica Schoppe</i>	<i>Teacher: Kendra Tener Assistant: Tener Kids</i>	<i>Teacher: Tiffany New- some Assistant: Cassie Morris</i>
Dec. 22nd		<i>Teacher: Robbie Shugert Assistant: Rochelle Barney</i>	<i>Teacher: Robbie Shugert</i>	<i>Teachers: Matt Taylor Assistant: Emily Taylor</i>	<i>Teacher: Jim & Angie Bowling Assistant: Jayla Bowling</i>
Dec. 29th		<i>Teacher: Robbie Shugert</i>	<i>Teacher: Robbie Shugert</i>	<i>No Class</i>	<i>No Class</i>



Foodbank

These are some of the ways you can help Cornerstone's growing list of families to be served during the December 20th foodbank:

1. Donate canned vegetables, yams, package of dressing, cereal, peanut butter or other non perishable food item. Look for the container in the Cornerstone Welcome Center. Donate funds so these and other items can be purchased.
2. Wear a red top or Christmas sweater and distribute food on December 20th 9:15 to 11:15 AM. Bring your Santa hat! Be prepared to sing carols and spread Christmas cheer.
3. Share a sweater or coat you no longer need. Bring to the church in advance or the day of the foodbank. Look for the box by the coat rack near the church office.
4. Help set up the night before the foodbank. This requires heavy lifting.
5. Celebrate the generosity of Cornerstone's congregation in providing for a growing number of families and seniors with food insecurity. Every month guests comment Cornerstone's generosity is making a real difference in their lives.

For more information contact Jerry White 354-3428 or Lynne Rodeheffer 354-5467.

Exciting New Ministry During Advent

Cornerstone will be offering an Alternative Christmas Market for the first time in 2013. The Alternative Christmas Market provides an alternative to excessive commercialization of the holiday shopping experience. Honor those who have enough by giving to those in need both locally and globally. Follow these steps if you would like to participate.

- 1) Stop by the Welcome Center Booth and pick up a booklet listing options to give to locally and globally.
- 2) Check the box who you would like to give a gift to and return it.
- 3) Write a check to Cornerstone for the amount
- 4) Receive a card to give to someone as a present under the tree. The card will say a gift has been given in your name to _____.



MUSIC NOTES



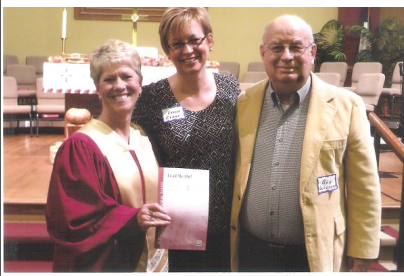
The CUMC Music Department will be busy during the Christmas Season. The Handbell Choir will play and the Praise Team will lead the singing for Hanging of the Greens on December 1, 2013.

On December 15 @ 6 PM the combined Music Department ensembles will present the Christmas at Cornerstone. This will include the Praise Team, the Chancel Choir, the Handbell Choir, the KYDS Choir, the BackRoomBelievers (BRB), and solos, duets, and small ensembles. It will be a wonderful evening of music of this special season. This is free and open to all!

On December 22 during the 9:30 service the Cornerstone Symphonic Band will once again fill the chancel area! This is one of the most anticipated events of the year. We have so much FUN and it is an amazing thing to see so many musicians of varied abilities and generations play together! GET YOUR INSTRUMENTS READY!!!

Rehearsal will be Saturday, December 21 at 10 AM and Sunday, December 22 at 8 AM in the sanctuary.

You can pick up your music from Becky Climer on Wednesday, December 4. We need YOU!! Don't overthink this, just come and play what you can!! You will be glad you were part of this!



Below is a photo of Bob Wilson, Lynn Wilson Clark, and Becky Climer holding the music that the Chancel Choir purchased in memory of Gerry. This beautiful number reminded us so much of our dear friend. If you would be interested in the choir dedicating a piece of music for a loved one, see Becky for details.

*** Southern Ohio Chrysalis ***

If you know a high school boy or girl you will want to know all about the upcoming Southern Ohio Chrysalis flights. The Girls' Flight is scheduled for Saturday, January 18 through Monday, January 20. The Boys' Flight is scheduled for Saturday, February 15 through Monday, February 17.

So..... "what is Chrysalis all about" you might ask! Chrysalis is a three-day spiritual experience for high school students. Here at Cornerstone we have made special arrangements to accommodate college students as well. The three-day experience, called a "flight" is designed to bring participants closer to Jesus Christ. There have been occasions where a young person accepts Christ for the first time during a flight. But, more often, participants re-affirm a previously made commitment to Christ and discern how God is calling them to use their gifts and graces now and in the future. The weekend consists of unique worship opportunities, prayer, fellowship, speakers, small group discussions, singing, great food, and just plain fun. The weekend leadership team consists of both youth and adults who have been well trained for the Chrysalis weekend. It has been a joy for the past sixteen years to observe both flight participants and team volunteers grow as Christian leaders.

If you are aware of high school students or adults who might be interested in learning more about Chrysalis, please refer them to Joanne Charles, Community Lay Director for the Southern Ohio Chrysalis community, or Pastor Tom. Contact information is as follows:

Joanne Charles, 740-354-4494, jcharles@shawnee.edu

Pastor Tom, 740-285-4494, charlest@mymail.shawnee.edu

Sing Along

We invite you to help ring in the holidays with our 4th Annual Christmas Carol Sing-Along at 6 PM Saturday, December 7th in the Welcome Center.



Chili Cook-off

January 12th at 5:30 P.M.

Join this all church Cornerstone event for a great cause! We'll share food and fellowship and raise money for our mission trip to Honduras in July 2014. Consider looking up that favorite family chili recipe between now and January, and bringing a pot of it! James and Brittany Foster (the missionaries) will be joining us.

United Methodist Women



Thank you to all who helped make the 2013 Snowflake Bazaar a success! The silent auction trees were beautifully decorated by Alison Barrett, Sherrill Day, Connie Massie, Marilyn Albrecht, Susan McKenzie, Michal Duncan, Peggy Yuenger, and Dina Fraulini. Thank you so much ladies. Donna Chabot made holiday centerpieces for our dining area tables. We appreciate her creativity so much. Jackie Scott and her kitchen crew prepared the delicious luncheon. Thank you for all your time and effort in preparation for the meal. Everyone enjoyed it! It takes many hands, feet, and hours to get ready for this event. Thank you to Stephanie Wright, Bazaar co-chair, to Marge Otworth, our ticket chairperson, to all the workers, servers, persons who provided desserts for the luncheon, those who made goodies for the Sweet Shop, and persons who made articles for the Creations section. We do not have a final profit to report yet, but should be @ \$3000. Funds will go to support missions, globally, in our local community, and at Cornerstone UMC. God is good.

Helen Wolery, Freda Billiter, and Stephanie Wright attended the WOC United Methodist Women Annual Conference November 9 at Grove City UMC.

Mark your calendars! Tuesday, December 10 at 6 pm will be our annual Christmas Party at Cornerstone in the Welcome Center. It is a covered dish dinner. Meat, drink, and table service will be provided. Bring a side dish or dessert to share. Portsmouth Elementary Choir will entertain us and we will also install our officers for 2014. The 2013 UMW Woman of the Year will be honored.

As we begin the Advent Season and prepare to celebrate the birth of our savior, Jesus Christ, I wish everyone a very Merry Christmas and many Blessings in the New Year!

Carol Mascari



The Christmas holiday season is a time of excitement and anticipation. But for many the thought of the holidays without a precious loved one is almost too much to handle. This Christmas season Cornerstone is offering a time to gather to support one another and find encouragement and advice to survive the holiday season. Everyone needs relationship especially this

time of year so on Sunday December 8th from 4:30-6:30 we will meet at the church for a brief time of fellowship and share practical ideas on how to make this and any holiday a time of love, joy and warmth. If you or someone you know is struggling with grief this holiday season, come and be a part of this important ministry where you can share your pain if you like, be honest about the holidays, allow yourself to feel what you feel and find healing. There will be a signup sheet in the Welcome Center. For more information contact Greg or Carol Carter 740-820-5263. The cost for the required book is \$5.00.



Thy Kingdom Come

Huge thanks for great response to the Thy Kingdom Come Stewardship Campaign. Your faithfulness and generosity touches the lives of many. It is not too late to return your estimate of giving card to the church office or in the offering plate if you have not had a chance to do so. We are at 50% of our goal of our 500K budget. The best is yet to come.

Thanks Pastor Tim

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The Courier is a monthly publication of Cornerstone United Methodist Church. We welcome any suggestions and submissions for our newsletter. **The deadline for submission is the 15th of each month.** The editor reserves the right to edit all articles for content and space.



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Upcoming Events

December		January	
1st	Hanging of the Green	11th	Loaves and Fishes
7th	Christmas Sing Along	17th	Food Pantry
8th	Kid Christmas Celebration	17th-20th	Girls Chrysalis Flight
14th	Loaves and Fishes	20th	Office Closed in observance of Martin Luther King Jr. Day
15th	Christmas Concert	23rd	Chrysalis board meeting and HOOT
19th	Chrysalis Board Meeting & HOOT		
20th	Food Pantry		
24th	Christmas Eve Services 7pm & 11pm		
25th	Christmas - Office Closed		
31st	Youth Lock-In		

