



A Shepherd's Story

Pastor's Desk

This Christmas allow yourself to reflect from the perspective of the shepherds. The shepherds were looked down on by everyone else. They had a dirty, thankless job and no one considered them worth much, yet God chose to reveal the greatest gift of all-the coming of the Messiah to the lowly shepherds. Hear the account of one shepherd:

“Listen to what happened tonight. You’re never going to believe it, but it’s all true. I’m not making up any of it. We were out in the fields, just outside Bethlehem like every other night. We had to stay awake, or at least take turns staying awake to keep the sheep calm enough to rest and safe from the wild animals just looking for an easy snack.

I had settled in by the fire to wait out the long dark hours of night. Our presence among them made the sheep feel secure enough to quiet down. I wrapped my cloak around myself and slid a bit closer to the warmth of the fire. Suddenly the night sky lit up and an angel started talking to us. I rubbed my eyes, but I was awake; this was no dream. It was like the glory of the Lord Almighty filled the sky and a bright light shone down on us in that field. I was terrified and started to shake. What was happening?

Then the angel spoke and told us not to be afraid. I lifted my head a bit to take a quick peek. As the angel was talking my fear left and I started to get excited about the message. The angels said there was good news for everyone. The Messiah – the Savior we’d been waiting for was here – in Bethlehem. But it was also rather strange because the angel told us we would know it was the Savior because He would be a baby, wrapped in cloth and lying in a manger. Before I could realize how crazy that sounded, the whole sky filled with angels sing-

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**St. John's
United Church of Christ**
409 North Wooster Avenue
Dover, OH 44622

Rev. Dr. Cassandra Granados
Senior Minister
Call for an appointment

Pastor Dotty Hartzell
Pastor of Visitation
Call for an appointment.

Sunday Morning Schedule:

9:00 AM Sunday School
10:00 AM Fellowship
10:30 AM Worship

Church Office

Office Hours:
Monday through Friday
8:30 AM - 4:00 PM

Telephone answers
24 hours a day.
(330) 364-4458
Fax: (330) 364-4459
Website: [http://
doverstjohns.org](http://doverstjohns.org)

E-mail Addresses:

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ing Glory to God in the highest and on earth peace,
good will to men.

Peace would be nice. The Romans kept us under their thumb. The people didn't trust us shepherds. Life was hard. This beautiful sight and the amazing singing filled me with wonder and hope and then they were all gone. How dark and silent the sky was, only stars twinkled overhead. Yet in all of this, our sheep felt no fear. They kept resting.

'Come on, let's go! What are we waiting for? I shouted to the others. Let's see for ourselves if this is really true.'

I jumped up and ran to Bethlehem, to the stable the angel had told us about. To think that the Savior of the World was that tiny baby in the manger. I told Mary and Joseph everything – all about the angel and the heavenly chorus. I can still hardly believe that God told us first – lowly shepherds. He sent us to see His Son, to be the first visitors to worship Jesus. Our Savior is here – in that stable, lying in a manger. Praise God for His arrival. Thank you, God, for giving us the message of hope. Thank you, Lord Almighty, for letting me come and worship Your Son."

Glory to God in the highest. His Peace has come to the earth.

Pastor Dotty



SOCKO-CLAUS



The elves at Socko-Claus headquarters are getting very excited about hanging out socks on our Giving Line. They are looking forward to all the different sizes and colors you can find. Many of you have already donated and that is much appreciated. This year we are asking that you put the socks into clear plastic bags (one pair of socks per bag please.) We will start hanging them on the Giving Line during the week of **December 18th** so please have your socks into the office by **Friday December 15th**. The number one thing homeless people ask for is socks because if your feet are cold, you're cold all over!

Christmas Eve Services



Sunday
December 24
10:30 a.m.

Join our candlelight service in our beautiful sanctuary at **4:30 p.m.**



Stay Warm

The Scarf Project was a huge success. With your generous help, we were able to hang out more than 130 items including scarves, hats, gloves, and mittens. Our neighbors will be a lot warmer this winter thanks to your kind generosity. A special thank you to Marilyn Brown whose hands are never still. This year she knitted over 50 of the items herself! Never too soon to get started on next year's project.



We Are Not Alone



After Tova Sullivan's husband died, she began working the night shift at the Sowell Bay Aquarium where she forms a relationship with Marcellus, a giant Pacific octopus who is living there. Remarkably Bright Creatures by Shelby Van Pelt is a compulsively readable exploration of friendship between species. It will leave you smiling and weeping with a sense of hope for all "remarkably bright creatures" humankind included. Join the Bad Girls on **Monday, December 11 at 6:30 in the Conference Room** in order to feel remarkably bright!

Heritage Home Christmas Tour of Homes 2023



The sanctuary of St. John's will be a featured stop on the Christmas Tour of Homes this year. **Sunday, December 10th from 12pm to 5pm.**

Christmas Advent Festival & Luncheon



The entire church family, no matter your age, is invited to this year's Advent festival and luncheon, as we prepare for the celebration of Jesus's birth. We will be gathering for a soup and sandwich lunch on **Sunday, December 3**, in the Social Hall immediately after church. Please bring a dessert to share. After lunch, we will enjoy time painting windows, playing games, completing crafts, and enjoying a time of fellowship together.

This is one of the many family events sponsored by the Board of Christian Education and everyone is in the family. Please sign up in the church office no later than **Sunday, November 26** if you plan on coming.

Hope to see you there!



Live Nativity



St. John's will once again be sharing with the community our Live Nativity performances both **Saturday, December 16 and Sunday, December 17 at 7:00, 7:30, 8:00, and 8:30.**

This beautiful musically narrated story of the birth of God's gift to the world has become a tradition and gift to the community from St. John's.

Please stop by and share in the Christmas story as portrayed by the youth of St. John's.

St. John's Music Ministry



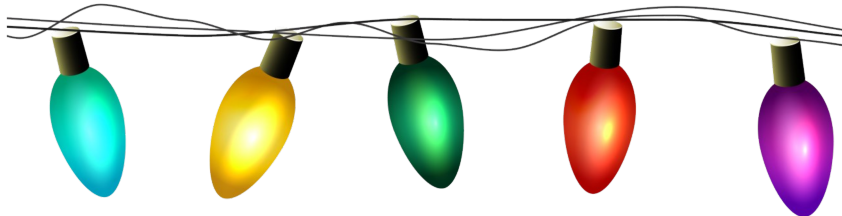
St. John's Chancel Choir will be participating in the Lessons and Carols service at St. Joseph Catholic Church on **December 10, 2023** beginning at 6:00pm (Prelude at 5:30 pm).

This community Advent service includes local church choirs that individually share their music as we anticipate and celebrate the birth of our Lord. We hope that you will be able to attend this meaningful and special Advent service.

Our St. John's Chancel Choir will soon be in rehearsal preparing for the Advent season. We are sending a very Special invitation to any man or woman that enjoys singing, to join us as we prepare for this special season. **Rehearsals are on Wednesday evenings at 7:00 pm.** Bring a spouse, a friend or both as we continue our own Music Ministry at St. John's.

HOPE TO SEE YOU SOON!

*"LET EVERYTHING THAT HATH
BREATH,
PRAISE THE LORD" Psalm 150:6*



A Salute



A big salute and a huge thank you To Mr. Bob Baker for leading the congregation in the Pledge of Allegiance on Veterans Sunday. St. John's can be very proud of all the men and women from this church who have served in the military services of the United States. It was heart warming and inspiring to see all the veterans who showed up for the service. Mr. Baker is 99 years old and a World War II veteran. There are not many of those left. How lucky we are to have our very own! Thank you all for your service, for defending our country, and keeping us safe.

Hand Bells

Handbell Choir



Hand bells practice has resumed on **Sunday mornings at 8:00 am**. Recalling all past ringers and inviting any new ringers to join us. Adults and children grade 6 and up are welcome. Some music knowledge is helpful, but not mandatory as the music will be numbered and color-coded. Practices are on

Sunday mornings.

We only ask for a commitment month by month, so members can ring part-time or full-time. Come try it out!!! Any questions---call Nancy Smith at 330-364-2195.

St. John's UCC Church Council Meeting November 14, 2023 at 7:30 pm

The meeting of St. John's United Church of Christ Church Council was called to order on November 14th, 2023 at 7:30 pm by President Dan Dummermuth. There were 15 Council members in attendance including Pastor Dottie Hartzell. Rev. Granados is on vacation.

President Dan lit the Christ candle and Pastor Dotty offered an opening prayer.

The October 2023 minutes were approved as submitted.

Treasurer Adam Herman reviewed the financial report. General Fund income for October 2023 was \$28,875. Expenses were \$29,371, resulting in a net loss of \$497 for the month. General Fund income year to date is \$240,182 and Expenses year to date is \$309,648 resulting in a shortfall year to date of \$69,466. We have transferred \$58,405 from investments in 2023 to cover General Expenses. \$22,568 has been disbursed from the Capital Improvement Fund for repairs to the fire alarm system in the church building, the fire suppression system in the kitchen, repairs to the Cloister roof, carpet cleaning and HVAC repairs. M/S/C by Jean Paddock and Holly Gonter to approve the Treasurer's Report.

SENIOR MINISTER REPORT - Rev. Cassandra will be on vacation in November (6th-19th) and will be attending an Educational Conference for the Academy of Homiletics annual meeting (Study of Preaching) in Atlanta, November 27th- December 3rd.

PASTOR OF VISITATION REPORT- Pastor Dotty reported a Chamber official visited the office and informed her that a new restaurant is going in a building on 4th Street. The church had to be informed, that they are wanting to apply for a license to sell alcohol. Council discussed this issue and noted that there are many other businesses in the same

area that already sell alcohol. M/S/C by Tim McCrate and Doug Peterman to not oppose the business selling alcohol.

130 scarves were donated for the scarf project. Most of them were homemade. Marilyn Brown donated 50 scarves to the project. Thank you to everyone who made and donated the beautiful scarves. Dottie said that socks are already coming in for the Sock Project this winter.

Dottie reported that ProVia donated a truckload of food for the Blessing Box. Jen Conkle and her friend applied to the company for this food project. ProVia is always very supportive of the community with a wonderful donation such as this. Thank you to ProVia for the donation and Jen for the filling out the application. What a nice surprise.

BOARD REPORTS

ELDERS REPORT- Jon McIlvaine reported the following:

- 1) Christmas Eve falls on a Sunday this year. The Elders and Rev. Cassandra announced there will be the normal 10:30am service and an evening Christmas Eve service to be held at 4:30pm. Elders are investigating advertising options. There will be no communion on Christmas Eve. The first Sundays of the month will continue with communion.
- 2) Pastor Dotty is organizing the Advent Lantern List.
- 3) The Elders are going forward with the hiring of a Director of Christian Education in the next few months.

DEACONS REPORT- Sally McCombs reported the ushers and communion servers for December have been secured.

TRUSTEES REPORT – Doug Peterman reported on three future projects. 1.) An estimate of \$27,000 was received for caulking

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where there is water damage in the church. They will get another estimate but it has to be done soon. 2.) Lighting Issue. A \$2900 estimate from Wood Electric to install lighting was received. Mark Hughes has volunteered his services for part of that installation. Thank you Mark. 3.) Front of Church Concrete Replacement. There is an issue with uneven concrete at the front entrance of the church. The Trustees are concerned that people could easily trip and fall. They have a \$5400 estimate for replacement. They will discuss with the Landscape Committee about the planted island.

COMMITTEE/TASK FORCE REPORTS –

Finance Committee- The Proposed Budget will be voted on at the Congregational Meeting after the church service on Sunday, November 19th.

Nominating Committee- President Dan reported the Nominating Committee is moving forward with candidates for positions on Council. So far many who have been asked are willing to serve.

Christmas Eve Candle Lighters- Dan reviewed the four who have agreed and several other Council members were added to the list.

CONGREGATIONAL SOLICITATIONS- Sale of Christmas Greens.

OLD BUSINESS- None

NEW BUSINESS- 1.) A love offering will be collected for Christmas Gifts for our St. John's staff.

2.) With the many events that are being held at our Fourth & Faith Building, Bev Smith expressed the need for cleaning between events. The Trustees will handle the communication with staff about the additional hours that would be needed to do this. Eight to ten volunteers will be needed in January for a major cleaning of Fourth & Faith.

UPCOMING EVENTS-

Bev Smith reported the following activities: December 13th- Card Party, Fourth & Faith, 1pm. The November Card Party had 110 in attendance.

No Taco Thursdays in November and December.

The November 4 - Craft Show and Bake Sale raised \$1,106.50. The money raised was from the Bake Sale and Food Stand.

Advent Fest- December 3 - after church. Bring a dessert, soup and sandwiches will be provided. There will be painting of the windows, crafts and great fellowship and fun.

Live Nativity-December 16 & 17, 7pm, 7:30pm, 8pm and 8:30pm

ADJOURNMENT AND LORD'S PRAYER

Dan led the Council in the Lord's Prayer, and the meeting was adjourned at 8:06pm.

October Financial Report	
Actual Income	\$28,875
Actual Expenses	\$29,371
Average Worship Attendance 100	



Elder of the Month
In an effort to better meet the needs of the congregation, we will be printing the contact information for the Elder of the month. The purpose of doing this is to provide another contact person, in addition to Rev. Cassandra and Pastor Doty, should you have a personal or family emergency.
Jean Paddock 9728 Konrad Kohl Rd. NW Bolivar, OH 44612 330-987-8608

Looking Ahead...

ANNUAL REPORT

Reminder to all Committee Chairs, Class Leaders and Department Chairs that it is time to begin preparations for your year-end reports for the **2023 Annual Report**.

The Christmas Fund



The Christmas Fund for the Veterans of the Cross is an annual UCC offering that expresses thanks to retired and active UCC pastors and lay church workers and their families, providing direct assistance to supplement pensions, medical insurance costs, and funds to meet emergency needs. Most congregations receive the Christmas Fund on Christmas Eve.

This year's Christmas Fund theme is:
 "Grace upon grace," from John 1:16:
"From Christ's fullness we have all received, grace upon grace."

Join with others in the United Church of Christ to return "grace upon grace" to those who have given so much to each of us and to our churches.

Gifts to the Christmas Fund make an immediate impact on those who have so faithfully served us over the years. Thanks to the generosity of UCC members and congregations, no request goes unfulfilled.

Items used in Blessing Box

Kraft Mac & Cheese
 Packaged Mashed Potatoes...
 different flavors
 Packaged Rice...different flavors
 Applesauce Cups
 Fruit Cups
 Canned Fruit
 Canned Vegetables
 Spaghetti Sauce
 Spaghetti
 Bagged Noodles
 Peanut Butter (creamy)
 Jelly or Jam
 Ramen Noodles
 Dinty Moore Beef Stew
 Canned Chicken
 Small cans of Tuna
 Canned Baked Beans
 Canned Soup
 Cereal
 Flavored Oatmeal Packets
 Fruit Bars
 Toaster Pop Tarts
 Granola Bars
 Kool-Aid
 Juice boxes or Pouches
 Laundry Detergent
 Dryer Sheets
 Toilet Paper
 Toothbrushes
 Toothpaste
 Deodorant
 Hand Soap
 Dish Soap

Items Not Used

Canned Cream of...Soups
 Bagged beans of any kind
 Canned beans (except Baked Beans)

Pre-K Registration

preschool registration



Registration for the 2024-2025 school year **for St. John's members** will begin on **Monday, December 4, 2023** in the church office.

ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS:

Pre-K 5's - child must be 5 years old by January 1, 2024

Pre-K - child must be 4 years old by September 1, 2024

Wee Three - child must be 3 years old by Sept. 1, 2024 and potty trained

REGISTRATION FEE: **All Classes - \$50.00 (non-refundable)**

*MONTHLY TUITION and CLASS SCHEDULE:

Pre-K 5's \$ 185
Monday - Friday
9:00 - 11:45 am only

Pre-K 4's \$ 120
Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday
8:45 - 11:30 am
1:00 - 3:45 pm

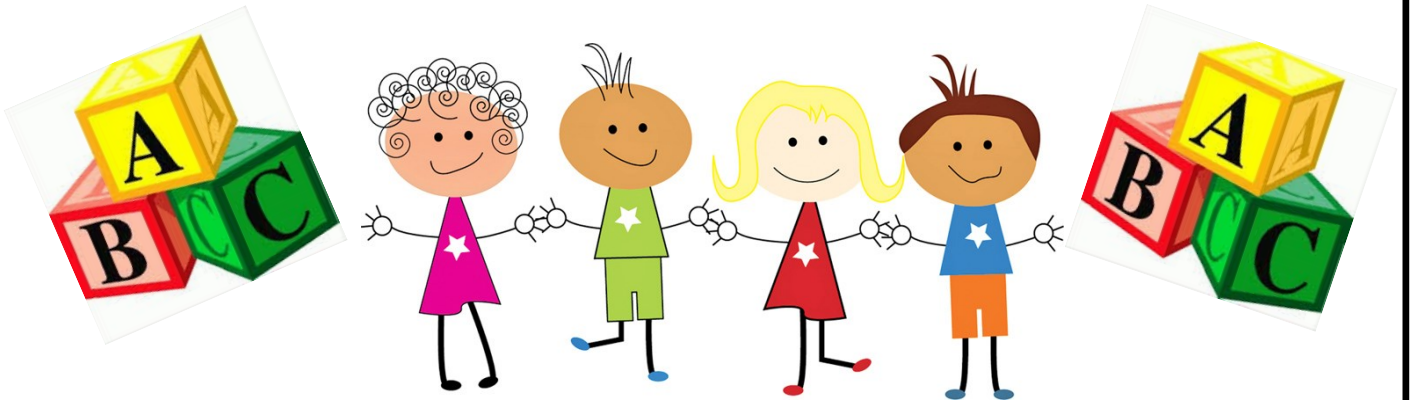


Wee Three \$ 85
Monday, Tuesday
1:00 - 3:30 pm

Wee Three \$ 85
Thursday & Friday
9:00 - 11:30 am

Registration is open to the public on **Monday, January 15, 2024** from **9 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.** in the **Pre-K rooms**. **Director & Teacher Amanda Jeffery; Teachers, Julie Van Fossen and Nichelle Edwards. Aides, Sharon Finnie, Kim Love, Melissa Deibel and Lillian Bucevac.**

**All fees are subject to change.*





December Birthdays

1
Ashley Creech
Kevin Ickes
Chad Perry
Lori Phillips

2
Joann Lorenz
Mark Perry
Beth Sexton
Kim Thomson

3
Matt Perry

4
Suzanne Nemetz

5
Heather Burrier

6
Mackenzie Immel
Nicole West

7
Kay Mattevi

8
Ruth Campbell
Holly Diefenbaugh
Scott Kinsey
Parker McMillan
Kathryn West

9
Benett Wallick

10
Tiffany Brown
Stephanie Krantz
Holly Nelson
Kelly Siegenthaler
Heather Smith

11
Jackie Kandel
Kayla Murphy

12
Brenda Froman

13
Kathy Deitrick
Deborah Bleininger

14
Nick Alleshouse
Erna Lou Goldsmith

15
Holly Geib

Trevor Welch
16
Marvin Schrolucke
Ian Sexton
17
Spencer Altier
Sara Daley
Melissa Kapper
Daniel Sickinger
Keegan Whitlach
Olivia Whitlach
Sara Whitlach
18
Brenda Goehring
Christie Locke
Kris Smith
19
Marc Brunner
Alice Minnis
Dylan Sayre
20
Chris Bitikofer
Chrissy Sickinger
Ann Swinderman
Conner Thomson
23
John Engelhard
24
Greg Arbogast
John Boynton
Jane Gingrich
Holly Gonter
25
Trevor Burrier
Brenda Lahm
26
Chris Becker
Cara Marburger
Patty McGinnis
Scott Shreiner
John Stalder
27
Linda Kilgore
Rhonda McCaslin
28
David Hanni
Madelyn McIlvaine
Livia Mines
Kristen Siegenthaler
29
Alice Coutts
Darsi Feller
Jeremy Harmon
Jill Lindberg
Jonathan Mason

Jon McIlvaine
30
Jillian Elton
Kristi Festi
31
Susan Blind
Earl Feller



December Anniversaries

1
Debra & Mark Hughes
Sandra & Rick Moss

5
Connie & Dan Burrier

9
Robin & Todd Altier
Odessa & Dale Peacock

11
Melissa & Buck Uebel
Alec & Maddison Hall

12
Melissa & Brian Poland

15
Robyn & Bryan Hughes
Mary Lou & Charles Orr

16
Kelly & Jason Wallick

17
Vicki & Edward Rufener

20
Casey & James Fisher

21
Linda & James Kilgore

22
Karie & Tim McCrate

25
Betty & Roland Davidson

26
Ginny & Ed Diefenbaugh

27
Patricia & Frank Ellwood
Carrie & Steve Preston

28
Beth & Rod Showers

30
Alicia & Nathan Bower

31
Maggie & Jason Geissinger

Family Members in Nursing Homes

Inn at Northwood
Norma Haglock

Park Village Asst. Living N.
Marjorie Auman
Jim Cotton

Hospital News

Members and friends of the St. John's family hospitalized between October 15-present include: Rod Showers and Gary Craig.

HOSPITAL NOTE: We are no longer being notified by any of the area hospitals when our members are admitted due to policies involving patients' rights to privacy. Therefore, if you or a member of your family is admitted to a hospital and you would like the church to know and the minister to visit, you need to call or E-mail the church office with the information. Thanks for your help with this matter.



We wish to express our sympathy to the following:

- To the family of Anthony J. "Tony" Smith. Tony passed away November 2.

Church Office Closed

The church office will be closed **Monday, December 25**, in celebration of our Savior's birth. And also, on **Monday, January 1, 2024**, for New Year's Day.



MERRY CHRISTMAS

HAPPY NEW YEAR

Carillon Deadline

The deadline to get information and articles into the next regular issue of the Carillon is **Monday, December 11, 2023**. Please mark your calendar! This will be for the January 2024 Carillon. We want to continue to keep each mailing loaded with information, dates, articles, etc. pertaining to the life of St. John's. **Remember ... you can now send your articles, thank you's, etc. by E-mail to: church.secretary@doverstjohns.org**

Card Party



At Fourth & Faith

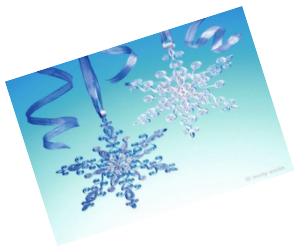
**Wednesday,
December 13**

Card Party

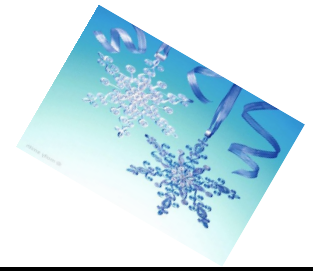
1 pm - 4 pm \$10.00
includes food.

Please contact Bev Smith
at 330-343-2231

Benefits the
Cancer Care Bags.



DECEMBER



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 	2 1:00 Fourth & Faith Reserved
3 8:00 Hand Bells 9:00 Sunday School 10:00 Fellowship 10:30 Worship/ Communion 11:30 Advent Festival/Soup & Sandwich 1:00 Fourth & Faith Reserved	4 9a-3p Pre-K Registration for members 10:00 Chair Yoga @ Fourth & Faith 7:00 Boy Scouts 7:00 Barbershop	5 2:00 Bible Study 6:30 Cub Scouts/ Webelos	6 7:00 Chancel Choir	7 	8	9 Sanctuary Preview/ Tour of Homes
10 8:00 Hand Bells 9:00 Sunday School 10:00 Fellowship 10:30 Worship 12p-5p Christmas Tour/Sanctuary 12:00 Fell. Ctr. Res. 6:00 Lessons & Carols @ St. Joe's	11 Carillon Deadline 10:00 Chair Yoga @ Fourth & Faith 6:30 Bad Girls 7:00 Boy Scouts 7:00 Barbershop	12 2:00 Bible Study 5:00 Social Hall Res. 6:30 Cub Scouts/ Webelos 6:30 Elders/Trustees 7:30 Council	13 1:00 Card Party @ Fourth & Faith 7:00 Chancel Choir	14	15 Socks due in Pastor Dotty's office for Sock-O-Claus	16 1:00 Fourth & Faith Reserved <i>Live Nativity</i> 7:00, 7:30, 8:00 & 8:30
17 8:00 Hand Bells 9:00 Sunday School 10:00 Fellowship 10:30 Worship <i>Live Nativity</i> 7:00, 7:30, 8:00 & 8:30	18 Sock-O-Claus 10:00 Chair Yoga @ Fourth & Faith 7:00 Boy Scouts 7:00 Barbershop	19 6:30 Cub Scouts/ Webelos	20 7:00 Chancel Choir	21	22 	23
24 8:00 Hand Bells 9:00 Sunday School 10:00 Fellowship 10:30 Worship 4:30 Candlelight service in the Sanctuary	25 <i>Merry Christmas</i> <i>Building & Office Closed</i> 	26 6:30 Cub Scouts/ Webelos	27	28	29 	30
31 8:00 Hand Bells 9:00 Sunday School 10:00 Fellowship 10:30 Worship 5:00 Social Hall Reserved						