

**GRACE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**

**1401 WEST MAIN ST**

**SPRINGFIELD, OH 45504**

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**Luke 2:10: “And the angel said to them, “Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people.”**

All of us, whether we are old or young, rich or poor, healthy or ill, long for the same thing: we long to know that we are loved. During this Advent time as we prepare our hearts and minds to celebrate the birth of Jesus, let us remember that Jesus’ birth, life, death, and resurrection is the story of God’s love for humanity. Consider **John 3:16, “For God so love the world that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believes in him shall not perish but have ever lasting life.”** In this scripture we find affirmation of God’s love for humanity and for each of us as part of the great sea of humanity. Because God gave Jesus to save the world’s people, we know we are greatly loved. Because we know ourselves as loved by God, we know there is nothing to fear.

Because of the birth of Jesus, God coming into the world in human form, we know how very precious we are to God. This is wonderful and marvelous good news!

Advent is a time for us to think about our love and longing for God. It is also a time to think about God’s love and longing for us. God’s great desire for a relationship with us is embodied in the person of Jesus, Emmanuel; God with us. When the angels told the shepherds to “Fear not”, those words echo across the centuries to us. When we know deep in our hearts that God loves us and is with us, there is no reason to fear.

So, this Advent season as you decorate trees, wrap presents, bake cookies, and wrap gifts, stop for a time of reflection and give thanks for the best gift, the only gift that lasts forever. Together, let us thank God daily for the gift of hope, peace, love, and joy that Jesus brought to the world and we celebrate Jesus each week as we light the Advent wreath during church.

This is truly a busy time with much to do, even so may God help us to find the time to celebrate Jesus. If we make ourselves quiet in our Lord’s presence and invite God’s help, divine love will calm our hearts and make peaceful our minds.

Merry Christmas and God’s blessings to us, everyone. - *Pastor Vicki Downing*

## Newsletter Scriptures

Dec. 1	Psalm 29:2
Dec. 2	Peter 3:3-4
Dec. 3	Ezekiel 34:27
Dec. 4	Galatians 5:1
Dec. 5	Psalm 80:14
Dec. 6	Zechariah 8:12
Dec. 7	Isaiah 40:3
Dec. 8	Matthew 7:24-25
Dec. 9	Matthew 9:27-30
Dec. 10	Isaiah 40:1-2
Dec. 11	Mark 1:1-4
Dec. 12	Isaiah 35:3-4
Dec. 13	Matthew 18:12-14
Dec. 14	Matthew 11:28-30
Dec. 15	Isaiah 41:19-20
Dec. 16	2 Peter 3:8-9
Dec. 17	Isaiah 61:1-2
Dec. 18	1 Thessalonians 5:16-18
Dec. 19	Psalm 25:4-5
Dec. 20	Matthew 1:1-2, 15- 16
Dec. 21	Luke 1:13-15
Dec. 22	Luke 7:14
Dec. 23	Luke 1:26-29
Dec. 24	Luke 1:30-31, 38
Dec. 25	Luke 1:41-44
Dec. 26	Luke 1:46-49, 52-53
Dec. 27	Luke 2:1, 4-5
Dec. 28	Isaiah 9:2, 6
Dec. 29	Luke 2:6-7
Dec. 30	Matthew 2:11
Dec. 31	John 1:1-5

## Prayers Needed:

Jack Yeager

Millie Luttrell

Phyllis & Larry Garber

Jeanne & Shelley Powell

Lois Strobel



## Shower of Blessings

Recipient for July:

**Lois Stroble**  
**3107 Willow RD**  
**Springfield, OH 45502**





Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
					6PM Silent Auction	
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
7 pm NA	7 pm Men's BS	7 pm NA		6:30 pm Holiday Painting Class		
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
7 pm NA	7 pm Men's BS	7 pm NA				
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
7 pm NA	7 pm Men's BS	12 pm Women of Faith 7 pm NA				
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
9:30 AM Christmas Service 7 PM Christmas Eve Service	Office Closed	7 pm NA	6 pm In-Between Party			
31						
7 pm NA						

## December Worship Participants

<u>Position</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Name</u>
Acolyte	December	Greg Hosier
Communion Set-up	Dec. 3	Pastor Vicki
Communion Servers	Dec. 3	Betty Prosser & Kim Stehle Pat & Gene Hart
Communion Clean-up	Dec. 3	Betty Prosser
Greeter - Front Door	Dec. 3 – 10	Pat & Gene Hart
	Dec. 17 -24	Barb & Mike McCoy
	Candlelight Service	Betty Prosser
Greeter – Sanctuary Door	Dec. 3 – 10	Kim Stehle
	Dec. 17 –24	Donna Layne & Greg Hosier
	Candlelight Service, 7pm	Pattie Mumma & Gary Blevins
Liturgist	Dec. 3 – 10	Connie Mitchell
	Dec. 17 -24	Pattie Mumma
	Candlelight Service, 7pm	Pattie Mumma
Advent Readers	Dec. 3	Betty Prosser & Mary Olmstead
	Dec. 10	Mary Ahlborn & Kim Stehle
	Dec. 17	Becky Frantz & Mary Ahlborn
	Dec. 24	Pat & Gene Hart
Ushers	Dec. 3 – 10	Larry Campbell & Greg Hosier
	Dec. 17 -24	Ramona & Robert Keeton
	Candlelight Service, 7pm	Kim Stehle & Donna Myers

### Counters

Dec. 4	Mary Ahlborn & Jackie Gregory
Dec. 11	Cindy Yeager & Jennifer Sabo
Dec. 18	Marilyn Martin & Mary Ahlborn
Dec. 26	Mary Ahlborn & Jennifer Sabo

### Special Music

Dec. 3	Jayme Tatro
Dec. 10	Jim Mayhugh
Dec. 17	Choir
Dec. 24	Jayme Tatro
Candlelight Service	Pattie Mumma

## December Logic Puzzle

If you solve the puzzle, email your favorite Christmas Tree decorations to [graceumchurch@sbcglobal.net](mailto:graceumchurch@sbcglobal.net) to be entered for a prize.

I'm planning to decorate four Christmas tree, each with it's own ornament theme, lighting scheme, and in the right order.

Can you figure out my plan?

I want to finish the tree with the blue and white lights before the tree in the kitchen, but after the tree decorated with colored balls.

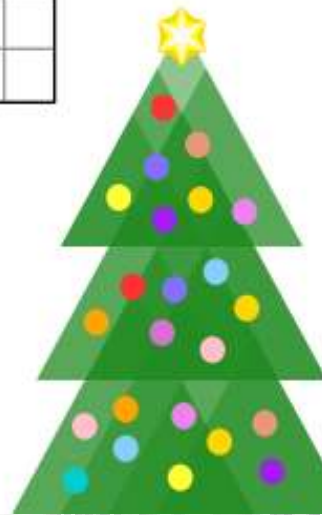
The tree in the living room will have lights with mixed colors, but not glass ornaments.

I won't decorate the tree with icicles last, the tree with colored balls won't be in the entryway

The tree in the dining room will only have white lights.

I will finish the tree decorated with glass ornaments before the tree with red and white lights, but after the tree in the entryway.

	Colored Balls	Icicles	Natural Materials	Glass Ornaments	First	Second	Third	Fourth	White	Mixed Colors	Red & White	Blue & White
Dining Room												
Entryway												
Living Room												
Kitchen												
White												
Mixed Colors												
Red & White												
Blue & White												
First												
Second												
Third												
Fourth												



## November Puzzle

### Winner

Congratulations to Pattie Mumma for being the first to solve last month's puzzle!