

December 2024

Grace & Truth

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Contact Us...

Grace Lutheran Church

Office Hours –

9:00am-4:00pm, M-Th

9:00am-1:00pm, F

Phone: 419-332-1558

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Web page:

www.gracefremont.org

Hope
Peace
Joy

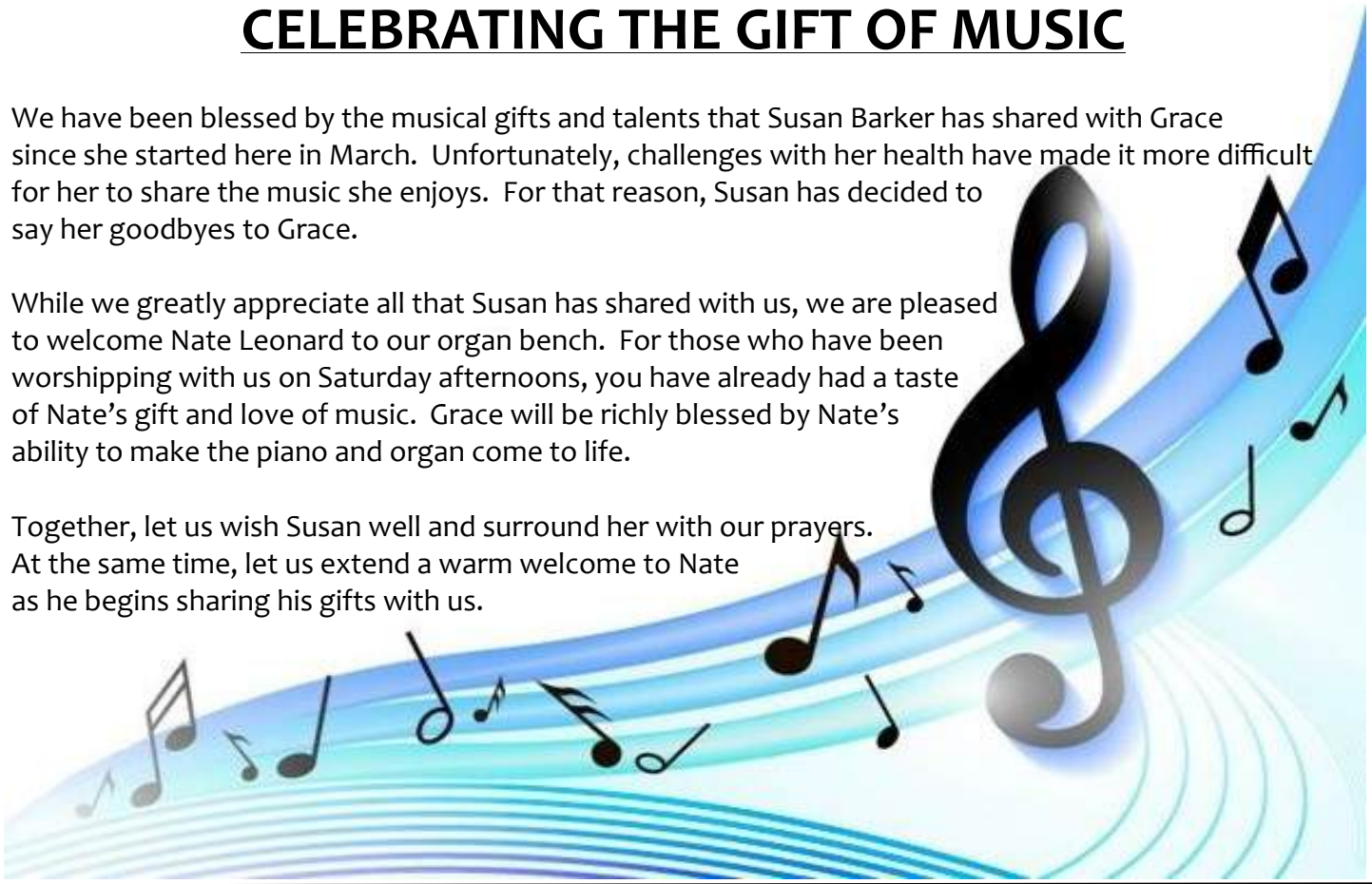


CELEBRATING THE GIFT OF MUSIC

We have been blessed by the musical gifts and talents that Susan Barker has shared with Grace since she started here in March. Unfortunately, challenges with her health have made it more difficult for her to share the music she enjoys. For that reason, Susan has decided to say her goodbyes to Grace.

While we greatly appreciate all that Susan has shared with us, we are pleased to welcome Nate Leonard to our organ bench. For those who have been worshipping with us on Saturday afternoons, you have already had a taste of Nate's gift and love of music. Grace will be richly blessed by Nate's ability to make the piano and organ come to life.

Together, let us wish Susan well and surround her with our prayers. At the same time, let us extend a warm welcome to Nate as he begins sharing his gifts with us.



THE SEASON OF ADVENT IS HERE! Join us for mid-week Advent worship beginning Wednesday, December 4 at 6:30pm in the Sanctuary.

The Holden Evening Prayer service will follow this schedule:

- | | |
|-------------|-------|
| December 4 | HOPE |
| December 11 | PEACE |
| December 18 | JOY |

*Hope
Peace
Joy*



OFFICE HOURS FOR THE UPCOMING HOLIDAY SEASON

Thursday, November 28	Thanksgiving Day, Office Closed
Friday, November 29	Office Closed
Tuesday, December 24	Christmas Eve, Office Closed at Noon
Wednesday, December 25	Christmas Day, Office Closed
Thursday, December 26	Office Closed
Tuesday, December 31	New Year's Eve, Office Closed at Noon
Wednesday, January 1, 2025	New Year's Day, Office Closed

A note from our pastor ...



As we turn the page on yet another month, we may be asking ourselves how did we get to December so quickly? I have no doubt that it's been an amazing, crazy, busy, and exciting year! Just as the entire year has been

quick to pass us by, it is likely that December will do just the same. Yet, we are called, at least within our faithful lives, to step back, pause, and contemplate the blessings of this holy and precious time of year.

As we journey through my favorite season of the church year, did you know that there are actually three different "advents" that we are called to celebrate throughout these four Sundays?

"Advent" by definition means: 1) the beginning of an event 2) the invention of something, or 3) the arrival of a person. Within the church, the third part of this definition fits best as we await the arrival of the Christ Child at Bethlehem. This is the first "advent" that we celebrate, and it is typically the most obvious part of our journey through December. I think we might all recognize Advent as a countdown to Christmas where we join in sharing the joy of the angels and the eagerness of the shepherds as Christ is born.

The second "advent" reminds us that this season is also a time of expectation and waiting. Will it be this year? Will it happen within our lifetime? When will that great and glorious day be when Christ will come again? God alone knows the hour and the day. So it is that we are called to wait with great anticipation. For the day is surely coming when all the pain, suffering, greed, envy, and sorrow of this earth will come to pass. Until that time comes, we wait with joy in our hearts as each day draws us closer to that great and glorious day when Christ will make all things new.

The third "advent" often goes unrecognized, as it is the Advent of Christ within us. In the midst of this chaotic and busy season, this may be the hardest advent to recognize. Our days are full of shopping, wrapping, card writing, cooking, cookie baking, and party going. By the time the month is over gifts will be exchanged, and we have hopefully enjoyed the company of our closest friends and family. This season can be fun! It also can be exhausting! Yet, in the midst of it all, we may lose sight of the true meaning of the season. I believe we can all recognize that the Christ Child born in Bethlehem and our anticipation of the great day to come often gets lost in the midst of everything else going on throughout the month. For this reason this third "advent" is likely the most important as we are reminded to invite Christ to come and still our hearts. This "advent" challenges us to open ourselves to the work of the Spirit within us.

As we celebrate this Season of Advent, with all of its fun, busyness, party going, and gift exchanges, I ask you to consider which "advent" do you long for most? I pray that it may be the same for you as it is for me, that we might find ways to still ourselves enough to allow Christ to enter in.

Blessed Advent!

Pastor Bailey



Fremont, Ohio

ADVENT TOUR OF CHURCHES

SUNDAY AFTERNOON
1-4 pm

DEC | 15th | 2024

You drive past them and wonder, now come and see.
More info at LIFTCHURCHES.ORG



GRACE is participating in the LIFT Advent Tour of Churches on December 15 from 1 - 4 pm. We would like to include a display of nativity sets. If you would like to show off your nativity set please bring it into the church on Saturday, December 7 or Sunday, December 8 when you come for worship.

We would also like to offer cookies to our guests while they are here for the tour. If you are willing to bake a dozen cookies please contact Maureen.

TIME TO REST BIBLE STUDY

Do you feel overwhelmed? Is your life busy? Could you use some more rest? Join us **December 8, Noon (12:00 pm)** at MoonShine Nightclub, 109 Front St, Fremont. as we start the Northwestern Ohio Synod's *A Time to Rest Bible Study*. During this meeting we will go through lesson two.

Questions may be directed to :
Pr. Matthew Wheeler matthew.wheeler612@yahoo.com,
Pr. Bailey, pastorcbaily@gmail.com or
Heather Hawn- HeatherRHawn@gmail.com

BRONDOS MISSIONARY NEWS - Keep up with the latest news from our missionary, Pr. David Brondos by visiting www.sites.google.com/site/dbrondos or via email at david.brondos@elca.org

LET'S BUILD BEDS IS COMING!

When? September 13, 2025

Who is participating? LIFT Congregations: Grace, Hayes Memorial UMC, St. John's, St. Mark and Trinity UMC

When can we volunteer or donate? Now! Just let Maureen know.

Who will get the beds? Children in our area who do not currently have a bed to sleep on. Do you know someone who needs a bed for their child? Let Maureen know.

Watch for more information in January 2025!

THE BRIDGE OF HOPE FOOD PANTRY NEEDS OUR HELP! On November 30 & December 1 we will receive donations for the Bridge of Hope Food Pantry at Hayes Memorial UMC. They are in need of the following items: breakfast cereals, canned meats, rice, dried pinto beans, cans of tomato sauce, pasta, paper towels and diapers. These gifts may be placed in the grocery carts located at the entrances to the sanctuary. Thank you for your help!

MAUREEN'S MONDAY WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY will take a break for Advent and Christmas. We will meet again on January 6, 2025.

MAUREEN'S WEDNESDAY NIGHT SLAM GROUP will not meet in December. We will meet again on January 8, 2025.

SPOUSAL GRIEF SUPPORT will meet on *December 16 at 6 pm* in the lounge. During this time we share a devotion, prayer and mutual support through discussion. Questions? Call the church office.

FOOD PANTRY CHALLENGE

Bring your donations to worship on *December 14 & 15*. This month we will collect mashed potato flakes and noodles.



A special thank you to Jan Harris for taking our gifts to the Sandusky County Food Pantry each month.

Please place your donations in the grocery carts that are located in the Narthex and by the Baker Street entrance.

GRACE GATHERS is a fellowship group that meets monthly. The next gathering will be on *December 19 at 6 pm*. We will meet at the Chateau Vineyard and Winery in Helena. Please call the church office if you plan to attend.

JUGGLING ACT will not meet in December. We will look forward to seeing you in the new year.

SAVE THE DATE & SPEND VALENTINE'S DAY WITH US!

The Let's Build Beds team will be offering a delicious Valentine's Day dinner here at Grace on Friday, February 14, 2025.

This is a fundraiser for the Let's Build Beds event that will take place on September 13, 2025.

This project will require about \$10,000 which will enable us to build 50 beds for children in our community who currently do not have a bed of their own to sleep on. More information will be available after the first of the year!



ACOLYTES at Grace serve during the 9 am Sunday worship. We encourage acolytes to sign up at least every other month and dates are available through February. You may sign up using the QR code in this announcement. Acolytes that do not sign up will be assigned a weekend.



HEY KIDS! Kids Zone is for youth in Pre-K through 5th grade and meets during worship. Children are excused following the Children’s Message and will return before communion. This year our teachers will be Cornelia Star and Penny Russell.

PLEASE NOTE YOUTH COMMITTEE will meet at **5:30 pm on December 4** in the youth room. Parents & youth are welcome to attend and bring their ideas for activities. A light meal will be served.

BELL RINGING for the Salvation Army will take place on **December 14 from 10 am - 2 pm** at Wal-Mart. Register to help by scanning the QR code.



Lift
LIVING IN FAITH TOGETHER

BREAKFAST IN BETHLEHEM

DEC. 7 9-11 AM

Sharing the story of long ago with our children today, we explore through the nativity story with games, crafts, biblical costumes and breakfast.

St. John's Lutheran Church
212 N. Clover St.

Please bring a canned food item that will be donated locally. For more information contact HeatherRHawn@gmail.com

VOLUNTEER

CHRISTMAS PROGRAM

Our annual Children’s Christmas play will be presented to the congregation on **Saturday, December 14 at 4 pm and Sunday, December 15 at 9 am.**

Children or adults who would like to help with the program can contact Heather Hawn at HeatherRHawn@gmail.com.

Short rehearsals will be held after worship in the auditorium on Sundays in December. Our program this year will be *T’was the Night Before Christmas.*

SAVE THE DATE - SUMMER 2025 MISSION TRIP

We are working on putting together a mission trip for youth in grades 8 - 12 and adults next summer to help with disaster relief in North Carolina. The trip will be July 6-11, 2025, through Lutheridge Camps. We have 15 spots reserved currently but will need to secure those spots with a deposit. Interested individuals should contact Pastor Bailey or Heather as soon as possible.

SANDUSKY COUNTY COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS - We will be sponsoring a family for the Sandusky County Community Christmas. Watch for a tree with gift tags to go up after Thanksgiving. Gifts must be returned to the church office by December 13.

If you or someone you know needs help with Christmas, applications for Community Christmas Program can be found at <https://www.glcap.org/sandusky-county-community-christmas/> The deadline for applications is 4 pm on December 2. Families must be residents of Sandusky County to apply.

THANK YOU! THANK YOU!

We just wanted to give a Big Shout of thanks to the congregation for all the support that you've given to the GLCW (Grace Lutheran Church Women) projects! Thanks to your generous donations this past year we were able to send out 24 quilts, 35 school backpack kits and 19 fabric kits to Lutheran World Relief. What an awesome accomplishment!

This year we will be working on several projects. We will continue making quilts. But, we will distribute these locally. We will donate the quilts to the Build-A-Bed project that will take place in September 2025. This will keep us busy as the project could use 35 quilts.

Our goals for our 2024-25 LWR season will be to concentrate on Personal Care Kits and School Backpack Kits. Our dream is to gather enough items to fill 35 school kits and 20 personal care kits. Watch for a list of items needed for these projects.

As always, all are welcome to participate in any GLCW activities. Please consider joining in on the fun.

Joy Circle meets every third Tuesday at 2:30 pm in the church lounge for Bible study and fellowship. Project days are the first and third Monday mornings during the school year from 9 - 11 am. These mornings we work on putting together quilts. Please note that no special skills are needed to participate. This information is available in the church bulletin and the calendar included in the Grace and Truth about our events.

When we work together much can be accomplished. God's Work, Our Hands.

Blessings,
Jan Harris
GLCW President

Thank you to Pr. Paul Bailie for Angela Gierhart's funeral service. Pastor Paul was a great comfort in this time of grief. We also thank the members of Grace for all your prayers.

Ron & Karen Gierhart

The latest from Noah's Ark...

The year is going great. We just enrolled another student to our M-W-F class, and we also have another family interested in our Tues/Thurs class! We are excited for our continued growth! Our students had their pictures taken by Alicia May Photography last month and they turned out great! We had a fantastic visit from Captain Mike Mezinger from the Fremont Fire Department to talk to the kids about fire safety. They also showed us their fire truck and all the different components that allow them to help during an emergency! The kids had a blast with that! We will continue to bring in different community helpers from our town! We love their support and we can't wait to see who is next. Thank you again for the continued support from the congregation and if anyone has any questions or concerns please email us at noahsark.fremont@gmail.com.



Thank you,
Andrea Hirt, Director
Noah's Ark Preschool

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Happy Birthday to those who are celebrating 75 years and more!

December 1	Mary Nossaman	42 Linda Dr.
December 3	Nancy Mills	1677 Celek Dr.
December 7	Barbara Klohn	1740 Co. Rd. 226
December 7	Linda Wadsworth	1730 Port Clinton Rd., #52
December 9	Richard Burkett	1170 Muskellunge Rd.
December 10	Patricia Gallagher	532 S. Pennsylvania Ave.
December 10	Nancy Lawrence	699 Rambo Ln.
December 12	Edwin Lamalie	1519 Co. Rd. 129
December 13	Thomas Antesberger	2621 St. Rt. 412
December 13	Jean Watts	1117 Morrison St.
December 15	Candyce Wingard	2240 E. State St.
December 19	Bill Schling	822 Bush St.
December 25	Bill Armstrong	2124 Martin Ave.
December 26	Martha Lantz	1923 Castalia St.
December 26	Judy Overmyer	541 Elizabeth St.
December 29	Nancy Balsizer	12040 145 Lane North, Largo FL 33774

Happy Anniversary

*Celebrating 50 or more
years of wedded bliss!*

- December 1, 1962** - Ronald & Helen Jess,
4666 W. Lakeshore Dr.
Port Clinton, 43452
- December 28, 1973** - Robert & Janet Dorr,
1799 Port Clinton Rd.
- December 30, 1972** - Bill & Linda Armstrong,
2124 Martin Ave.
- December 31, 1960** - Gerald & Patricia Gallagher
532 S. Pennsylvania Ave.



REMINDER: To our friends who are heading to a warmer climate for the winter months, don't forget to let the church office know your "Winter" address. We want to keep you updated on Grace happenings.

(The Post Office does not forward the newsletters, so if we do not have your current address or if you leave an order of "Temporarily Away", we are charged postage when your mail is returned to us. If this happens, it will be necessary to take your name off the mailing list until we are notified of your return, to prevent recurring charges.)

With Sympathy

*Albert Stokes
Donna Dabrunz*

**FINANCIAL REPORT
AS OF OCTOBER 31**

	<u>2024 ACTUAL</u>	<u>2024 BUDGET</u>	<u>2023 ACTUAL</u>
Year to Date Total Income	\$478,835	\$410,599	\$688,004
Year to Date Total Expenses	\$514,600	\$459,884	\$723,688
Year to Date Income Less Expense	\$ -35,765	\$-49,285	\$-35,684

Dedicated Funds transferred in to cover project expenses: \$114,908

CHURCH COUNCIL - Minutes November 11, 2024

- Budget planning for 2025 is underway
- Budget Hearing scheduled for January 13, 2025 at 5:30pm in person and via ZOOM
- GLC Constitution revisions complete; will be presented to Council for review & approval; then to Congregation
- New AED machine and life-saving equipment purchased and will be placed in Dining Room area. Additional life-saving device (for choking) for Noah's Ark will be purchased. All provided by anonymous donor.
- **MISSIONS/OUTREACH:** Advent Tour of Churches on Dec. 15 from 1-4pm, asking members to bring Nativities for display, also asking for cookie donations; "Pasta for Pillows" Valentine's Day fundraiser dinner for Let's Build Beds scheduled for Friday, February 14, motion approved to serve wine with dinner;
- **WORSHIP:** midweek Advent services start December 4; Christmas Eve services - Youth & Family at 4pm, Traditional service at 9pm
- **PROPERTY:** kitchen freezer not cooling, Randolph's contacted; women's restroom mirror defective, full replacement by Northwood Door, Zimmerman's will rehang; caution/anti-slip tape on exterior steps has been replaced; RSS Security costs reviewed; updates have begun on Pr. Bailey's office; THANK YOU to John Burmeister for refurbishing Conference room table - it's awesome! Will look into cabinet & signage for sanctuary AED machine.
- **STEWARDSHIP:** continuing work on "4 Sundays Stewardship Campaign"
- **YOUTH:** Craft & Crop fundraiser for Soup Kitchen brought in \$96; Breakfast in Bethlehem is December 7 at St. John's, we need volunteers; Salvation Army Bell Ringing is December 14 at WalMart from 10am-2pm; Christmas program scheduled for Saturday, December 14 at 4pm (dress rehearsal) and Sunday, December 15 at 9am; we will sponsor a family for Community Christmas.

NOISY OFFERING



First weekend of the Month!

NOISY OFFERING is received the first weekend of each month. The next collection will be **November 30 and December 1.**

Thanks to your generosity in November we collected **\$338.60** for the Back Pack Buddies Program. **"THANK YOU"** to everyone who helps make a **JOYFUL NOISE** each month!

END OF YEAR

CONTRIBUTIONS

MUST BE RECEIVED IN THE CHURCH OFFICE

BY 4PM

ON DECEMBER 30, 2024,

TO BE CREDITED

TO YOUR 2024 GIVING.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Pastor Clayton J. Bailey, Senior Pastor
pastorcbailey@gmail.com
Maureen Pump, Synod Authorized Minister
maureenpump2022@gmail.com
Nathan Leonard, Organist/Choir Director
nateykeys@gmail.com
Linda Baumer, Office/Financial Administrator
gracefremont@yahoo.com
Tricia Dabrunz, Secretary/Receptionist
dabrunztricia@yahoo.com
Heather Hawn, Youth Minister
HeatherRHawn@gmail.com
Andrea Hirt, Director Noah's Ark Preschool
noahsark.fremont@gmail.com

WORSHIP SERVICES

Saturday - 4:00 p.m.
Sunday - 9:00 a.m.

OFFICE HOURS

Monday - Thursday: 9:00 am - 4:00 pm
Friday: 9:00 am - 1:00 pm



**DEADLINE FOR NEWSLETTER
ARTICLES
IS WEDNESDAY,
DECEMBER 11, 2024**

The newsletter will be
assembled on
Thursday, December 19, 2024



**THE CHURCH OFFICE WILL BE CLOSED
THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 28 &
FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 29. REGULAR OFFICE HOURS
WILL RESUME ON MONDAY, DECEMBER 2.**

Grace Lutheran Church

705 West State Street
Fremont, OH 43420



Return Service Requested

Non-Profit
Paid
Fremont, OH
Permit #133

SERVING IN WORSHIP: DECEMBER 2024

**PLEASE NOTE: DEACONS ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR FINDING THEIR OWN REPLACEMENTS.*

DATE	SERVICE	ACOLYTE	GREETER: NARTHEX	GREETER: BAKER ST	COMMUNION ASSISTANTS	DEACONS/ CLOSERS	
NOVEMBER 30 & DECEMBER 1	4:00	————	T. O'BRIEN	————	————	————	MID-WEEK ADVENT DEACONS 6:30 PM DECEMBER 4, R. COOPER C. STAR DECEMBER 11, T. MICHLES P. KISER DECEMBER 18, J. LETZRING G. JESS CHRISTMAS EVE DEACONS 4:00 - C. AMOR A. FISHER 9:00 - C. BOUCHER J. BURMEISTER
	9:00		V. OHMS K. WATKINS	S. WATKINS	T. SCHLING B. BRADFORD	J. LETZRING T. MICHLES	
DECEMBER 7 & 8	4:00		V. SEVILLE	————	————	————	
	9:00	M. MOSS	S. BURMEISTER J. GUTHRIE	J. GANGWER	S. BRICKNER C. BOUCHER	C. STAR R. COOPER	
DECEMBER 14 & 15	4:00	————	T. O'BRIEN	————	————	————	
	9:00		L. HALM R. HAYNES	L. & J. OVERMYER	A. & B. FISHER	C. AMOR C. BOUCHER	
DECEMBER 21 & 22	4:00	————	V. SEVILLE	————	————	————	
	9:00		L. & B. MCELFRESH	D. & C. POLTER	B. PRASUHN K. WATKINS	J. BURMEISTER A. FISHER	
DECEMBER 28 & 29	4:00	————	T. O'BRIEN	————	————	————	
	9:00		K. & A. OVERMYER	D. ZILLES	J. OVERMYER T. SCHLING	G. JESS P. KISER	
JANUARY 4 & 5	4:00	————	V. SEVILLE	————	————	————	
	9:00		J. AVERS K. BURMEISTER	L. & M. WIDMER	G. & J. JESS	R. COOPER C. AMOR	

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	
1 NOISY OFFERING 9:00 Worship/Communion/Kids Zone/Bridge of Hope Food Pantry Collection	2 9:00 Project Day 7:00 Dartball at Grace	3	4 5:30 Youth Committee - Youth Room 6:30 Mid-Week Advent 7:15 Chancel Choir	5 11:30 Soup Kitchen 6:00 Wedding Rehearsal	6 7:00 Toledo Symphony Community Christmas Concert	7 9 - 11:00 Breakfast in Bethlehem, St. John's 1:30 Reed/King Wedding 4:00 Worship/Communion	
8 9:00 Worship/Communion/Kids Zone Noon LIFT Time to Rest Bible Study at Moon Shine Nightclub	9 6:00 Executive Board Meeting 7:30 Church Council 7:00 Dartball at Grace	10	11 G & T DEADLINE 6:30 Mid-Week Advent 7:15 Chancel Choir	12 11:30 Soup Kitchen 6:30 Noah's Ark Program	13	14 10 - 2:00 Salvation Army Bell Ringing at Wal-Mart 4:00 Worship/Communion/Youth Christmas Program/Food Pantry Challenge	
15 YOUTH CHRISTMAS PROGRAM/ FOOD PANTRY CHALLENGE (mashed potato flakes & noodles) 9:00 Worship/Communion/Kids Zone 1 - 4:00 LIFT Advent Tour of Churches 	16 6:00 Spousal Grief Group - Lounge 7:00 Dartball at Faith	17	18 6:30 Mid-Week Advent 7:30 Chancel Choir	19 G & T ASSEMBLED 11:30 Soup Kitchen 6:00 Grace Gathers at Chateau Vineyard and Winery	20	21 4:00 Worship/Communion	
22 9:00 Worship/Communion/Kids Zone	23	24 Office Closed at Noon CANDLELIGHT CHRISMAST EVE 4:00 Worship/Communion 9:00 Worship/Communion	25 OFFICE CLOSED 	26 OFFICE CLOSED	27	28 4:00 Worship/Communion	
29 9:00 Worship/Communion/Kids Zone	30 END OF YEAR CONTRIBUTIONS MUST BE RECEIVED IN THE CHURCH OFFICE BY 4 PM TO BE CREDITED TO YOUR 2024 GIVING.	31 Office Closed at Noon 	December 				2024