



THE METHODIST MOSAIC

Volume 67 Number 12

The United Methodist Church of Kent—*A Place to Grow*

December, 2025



2025 Advent - Christmas Resources

Advent – Christmas Worship Series:

“Holding onto Hope, Daring to Dream”

First Sunday of Advent – Epiphany Sunday

(November 30 – January 5)

The Gospel of Luke begins Jesus’ story with this opening line: “In the days of King Herod...” (Luke 1.5, NRSVue). Although this detail may seem minor to modern readers, it reveals layers of information about the fearful world Jesus entered: a world filled with rampant oppression, economic disparity, uncertainty, and instability—a world, that is, not unlike our own. And yet, throughout the stories of Jesus’ birth, the whispers of God’s messengers, both prophets and angels, deliver a surprising message: “Do not fear.”

Together during worship this Advent and Christmas, we’ll take seriously this message and trust that Christ’s birth truly is good news of great joy for all people. We’ll consider our fears and how we can follow the example of Mary, Joseph, the shepherds, the magi, and others, who did not deny their fears but who moved through them with hope and courage. Fear can be used to divide and paralyze us; holding onto hope and daring to dream can cultivate courage and move us toward God’s more beloved world.

Every Advent and Christmas, we begin the new church year by lighting candles, singing carols, and praying for Christ’s coming because we believe God entered a frightened world to bring transformative good news. This year, let’s insist on hope and keep trusting in the good news of God’s love that is greater than all our fears.

Youth Ministry News

December 2025

Late fall is always a busy time in the lives of our youth. On November 1, the youth of our church together with our friends at the UCC had an afternoon of fun at Maize Valley Farm including a corn maze, hayride, jump area, apple gun, pumpkin cannon demonstration and a campfire complete with hot dogs and s'mores.

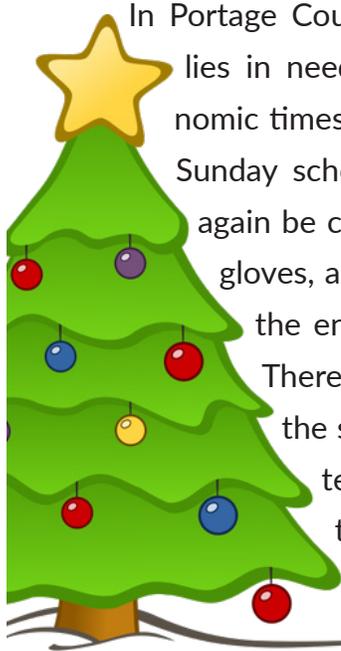
On November 16, 390 of our fellow Methodist youth and adults descended upon Pierson Hall to package 28,800 meals to be sent as hurricane relief to Jamaica. A special thanks for the success of this event goes to our praise team for leading opening worship, the Midwest Mission, and our custodial staff of Terry Horton and Charlie Britton for making this event possible with all the set up that was required.

Thinking about next year, I am excited about all the things we have yet to come. Planning has already begun for our mission trip. We are preparing to participate in the Conference Young Leaders retreat at Camp Asbury, then there is Youth Sunday, and so much more. I am grateful for the way that the youth have taken ownership of their own youth group with the understanding that programming doesn't grow a youth group, the willingness to invite friends does. It makes me excited to see what God has in store for the future of our youth.

Shalom,
Rick<><

DECEMBER YOUTH CALENDAR	
SUNDAY 7	6-7 ZAMARingers 7-8:30 Youth Fellowship
SUNDAY 14	No ZAMARingers 7-8:30 Youth Fellowship
SUNDAY 21	No Youth Activities
SUNDAY 28	No Youth Activities

CHRISTMAS MITTEN TREE:



In Portage County there are many families in need during the current economic times. In an effort to help, the Sunday school department will once again be collecting mittens hats and gloves, and we would like to invite the entire congregation to help. There is a mitten tree outside the sanctuary to place the mittens on. Also, please keep the adults in mind as well by supplying gloves and hats in adult sizes.

Acolytes Needed

Due to the fact there will not be a confirmation program this year, we are asking all active youth to volunteer as acolytes. To sign up, visit the "Acolyting" section of our website at www.kentmethodist.org/volunteer.

Thank you

On behalf of the people of Grundy County and the staff at the Mountain T.O.P. ministry, I'd like to say thank you for the many, many coats that were given by the members of our church to this year's fall festival. Our church donated over 360 coats, combined with the coats remaining from previous years giving us a total of 592 coats that were distributed to the 300 plus community members that came through the gates on October 25th. Additionally, 224 pairs of shoes were distributed along with 270 hygiene kits, 370 lunches, and over 2500 books!

Christmas Eve Worship Services

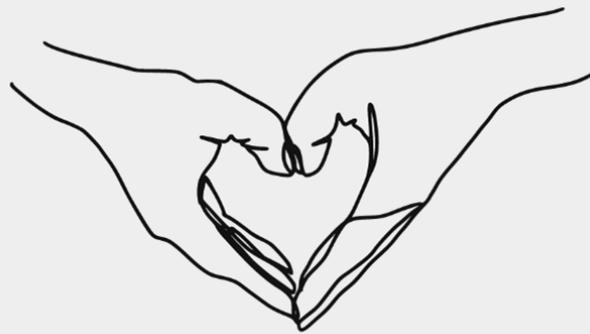
Wednesday, December 24

3 pm at The KentRidge Senior Living

6 pm and 9 pm in our Sanctuary

Worship with us at 3 pm, 6 pm, or 9 pm on Christmas Eve as we celebrate the gift of God's presence with us in Jesus Christ. The 3 pm worship service will be with our neighbors at The KentRidge Senior Living (5241 Sunnybrook Road, Kent). The 6 pm worship service will be in our Sanctuary with music led by our modern worship band. The 9 pm worship service will be in our Sanctuary with music led by the organ and the sanctuary choir; choral music will begin at 8:30 pm. Each worship service will conclude with candlelight and singing "Silent Night." Please invite your friends, neighbors, and family, and join us for one or more of these worship opportunities on Christmas Eve.

Yard signs with this year's Christmas Eve worship services will be available beginning Sunday, November 23. Please take one to place in your yard as an easy way to invite our neighbors to celebrate God's presence with us.



LOVING OUR NEIGHBORS

"Loving Our Neighbors" Collection for December

Throughout the month of December, we are collecting hats, scarves, and gloves to support our neighbors through the ministry of the County Clothing Center. Please place your donations on the tree outside the back of the Sanctuary. Thank you for your generosity!

Lighting Candles on the Advent Wreath

Sundays of Advent and Christmas Eve

On November 30 this year, we will begin counting down the Sundays leading to Christmas, and in our worship together, we will light an additional candle each Sunday on the Advent wreath. This is a great opportunity especially for families with children to participate in a tangible ritual, but of course, individuals, friends, or any other groups are more than welcome, too. For more information or to sign up to offer a short reading and light the candle(s) on the Advent wreath this year during any of our three Sunday morning worship services from November 30 through December 21 or during either of our Christmas Eve worship services in the Sanctuary (6 pm and 9 pm), please contact Pastor Nathan (nathanhowe@kentmethodist.org).



The Longest Night

December 21, 7 pm

The Longest Night Worship Service:

“Keeping Vigil for Hope”

Sunday, December 21, 7 pm

Chapel

The holiday season can be especially difficult for some of us, a painful reminder of what has been lost or of what has never been. All are welcome to worship with us in the Chapel on the longest night of the year as we affirm God’s presence with us both in darkness and in light. Our worship will begin at 7 pm and will include scripture, prayer, music, candlelight, and Holy Communion. Invite others, also, and join us.

Poinsettia Delivery Volunteer’s Needed

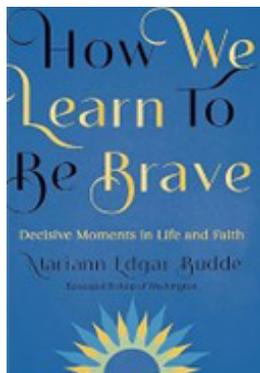


Each year a group of volunteers deliver some of the poinsettia’s that beautifully decorate the sanctuary during

Christmas. If you would like to help deliver poinsettia’s you can sign up in the atrium or contact either Bob Machovec or Judy Smith.

 <h2>WORSHIP TOGETHER SUNDAYS</h2>	
	<p>On Worship Together Sundays, we encourage families to attend worship together. There will be no Sunday School. The nursery will be available for use.</p>
	<p>Sun Dec 28 Combined Worship Service 10:00 am Sanctuary</p>
	<p>Sun Jan 25 United Women in Faith Sunday 10:00 am Sanctuary Potluck to Follow in Pierson Hall</p>
	<p>Sun April 5 Easter Sunday 7:30 am Outdoor Chapel 8:30 am Chapel 9:30 am Palmer Gym 10:30 am Sanctuary</p> <p>United Methodist Church of Kent <i>A Place to Grow</i></p>

Upcoming Book Discussions

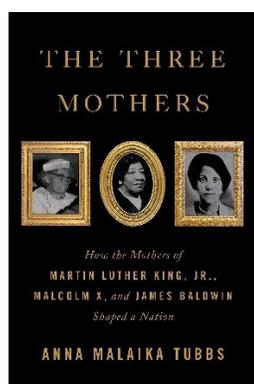


How We Learn to Be Brave: Decisive Moments in Life and Faith

by Mariann Edgar Budde

Tuesday, December 2, at 7 pm in the Conference Room

In this 2023 book, Bishop Budde—Episcopal Bishop of Washington, DC—explores key junctures of life that, if navigated with faith and discernment, pave the way for us to become our most courageous selves. Drawing on wisdom from a variety of sources, Bishop Budde weaves together personal experiences with stories from scripture, history, and culture, to provide encouragement and insight for anyone searching for a path forward during uncertain times.



The Three Mothers: How the Mothers of Martin Luther King, Jr., Malcolm X, and James Baldwin Shaped a Nation

by Anna Malaika Tubbs

Tuesday, January 6, at 7 pm in the Conference Room

Much has been written about Berdis Baldwin's son, James, about Alberta King's son, Martin Luther, and about Louise Little's son, Malcolm. But very little has been said about the extraordinary women who raised and helped to shape them. In her groundbreaking and essential debut, *The Three Mothers*, scholar Anna Malaika Tubbs celebrates Black motherhood by telling the story of the three women who helped to form some of America's most pivotal heroes.

Sunday Afternoon Walk

Sunday, December 14, 4 pm

Trail Lake Park

Enjoy the beauty of God's creation, both outdoors and in each other. Invite a friend or neighbor and join us. All are welcome as we walk the trails of Trail Lake Park (605 Ravenna Road, Streetsboro). We will meet in the parking lot of the park at 4 pm.



Advent – Christmas Devotional Booklet

*available beginning
Sunday, November 23*

Copies of this year's Advent – Christmas Devotional Booklet—prepared by “A Sanctified Art” and containing art, poetry, hymns, commentary, and reflection prompts—will be available on the table in the atrium beginning Sunday, November 23. These free booklets will help guide our way through the seasons of Advent and Christmas, all the way to Epiphany.

Advent Calendars for Children and Adults

*available beginning
Sunday, November 23*

This year's Advent calendars will include a calendar for children designed to be colored progressively throughout the season and then turned into a paper lantern and an adult and teen calendar containing a breath prayer for each day from December 1 through 25, inspired by a daily word or phrase. These free resources will be available on the table in the atrium beginning Sunday, November 23.

The Peace Light from Bethlehem Arrives in Kent

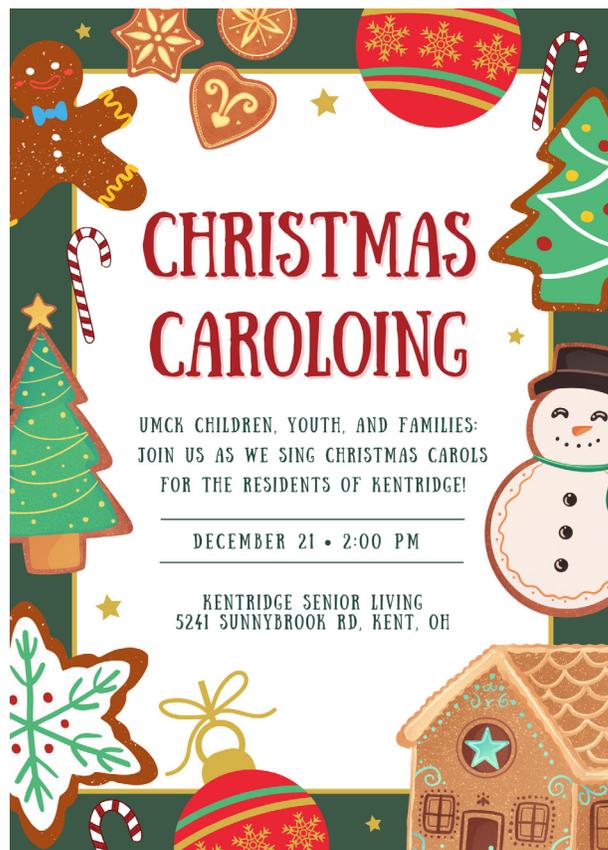
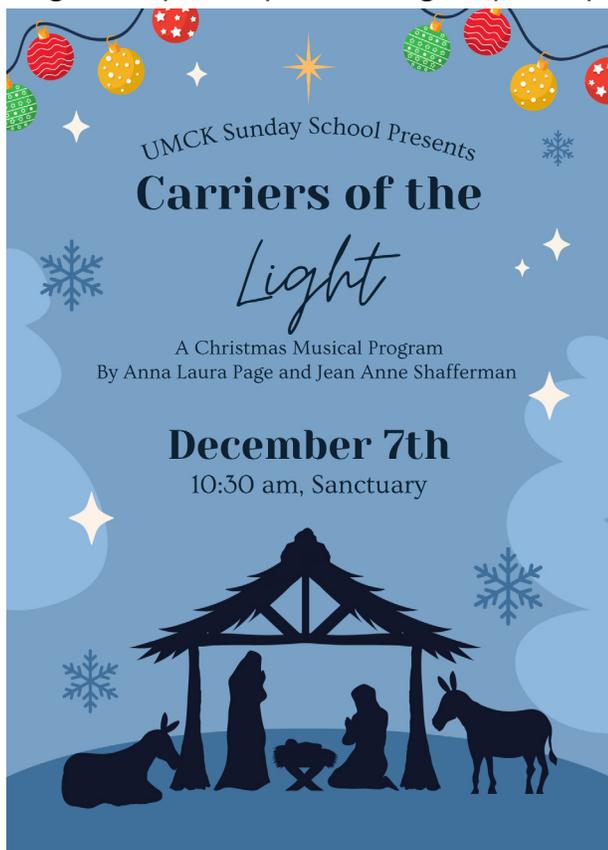
The Peace Light is a continuous flame originating in the grotto of Jesus' birth in Bethlehem. It is shared person to person throughout the world with a message of peace and friendship. The Peace Light of Bethlehem, symbolic of the Light of Christ especially evident at Christmas, is meant to promote peace, harmony and unity among all people of the world.

Each year in late November, a child from Austria lights a lantern from the continuously burning candle in the Church of the Nativity in Bethlehem, the site of Jesus' birth. The light, known as the 'Peace Light', stored in special explosion-proof lanterns, is then flown with a safety adviser back to Vienna, Austria, where it is shared with delegations from across Europe who distribute it with a message of Peace to their own countries for use at ecumenical services. Scouting organizations then take the light to houses of worship, hospitals, homeless shelters, nursing homes, and places of public, cultural and political importance—to anyone who appreciates the significance of the "gift".

In early December, Austrian Airlines representatives transport the Peace Light from Austria to New York, JFK International Airport. A distribution ceremony is held at the airport's Our Lady of the Skies Chapel to welcome the light of peace. The light's pilgrimage across the U.S. begins from NYC via volunteers, many of whom are Scouts and Scouters associated with the Boy Scouts of America and Girl Scouts of the USA, transferring and sharing it in their communities. Many other volunteers share the Light as it spreads across North America.

The Peace Light is a sign of hope. It has expanded from a small flame to a sea of lights and shines with its message to millions of people worldwide. The Peace Light will arrive in time for the 2025 Christmas season and will be part of our Christmas Eve worship service. If you would like more information about the Peace Light, or how you might get the candlelight for your home, contact bobmachovec@kentmethodist.org.

What starts as a small flame from the site of Jesus birth, spreads person to person across the world with the message of promoting peace, harmony and unity. In a world ravaged by war, we need to hear the message of hope and peace brought by a simple candle flame.



Christmas Eve Offering

This year's Christmas Eve offering will be shared between two organizations. Please give generously online or through the offering plate by designating your gift, "Christmas Eve."

"Feed Glenville with Grace" is an ongoing ministry of Cory UMC, located in the Glenville neighborhood in Cleveland. In early November, we received a letter stating, in part:

*To the Body of Christ, Called to Compassion and Justice,
Glenville is groaning. Families are hungry. Children are going without. Elders are rationing medicine to afford groceries. At Cory United Methodist Church, we believe discipleship is not passive—it is prophetic.*

We serve hot meals every Sunday at 12 pm and on the last 2 Wednesdays of each month at 4 pm. We serve on Sundays because there is no other place in Glenville that we know of where children can receive a meal that day.... This is not charity. This is a "means of grace." As United Methodists, we affirm: "The Church is called to support the poor and challenge the rich.... God's love is active, engaged, and justice-seeking.... We commit ourselves to the rights of children, the care of the elderly, and the healing of communities."

Our financial gifts will help provide groceries, meals, and hygiene items to feed and support our neighbors in Glenville through the ministry of our siblings at Cory UMC.

HEAL Palestine is a non-political non-profit organization founded in January 2024 by a local Kent family to deliver urgent relief and long-term support to Palestinian children and families. Through their four pillars—Health, Education, Aid, and Leadership—they provide critical care and resources while centering grassroots leadership and community-led recovery. Visit www.healpalestine.org or view a recent segment broadcast on the PBS NewsHour (<https://www.pbs.org/newshour/show/children-wounded-by-the-war-in-gaza-share-their-stories-as-they-heal-in-the-u-s>) for more information. Our financial gifts will help support this essential work, including providing food, shelter, and care.



Order Your Poinsettias

You are invited to donate poinsettias to beautify the sanctuary for Christmas. Flowers will be distributed by Circle members to shut-ins from our church. Circle members may pick up the poinsettias December 24, after the 9:00 PM service or later. Please complete the information below, printing legibly, and mail it to the church office, or drop it into the offering plate on Sundays. All checks must be made payable to the United Methodist Church of Kent and returned with this form by **December 15**.

I/WE _____

WISH TO DONATE _____ PLANTS AT \$10.00 EACH

IN MEMORY OF _____

OR

IN HONOR OF _____

December 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 7 pm Small Group/Conference Room 7 pm Worship Band Rehearsal/ Palmer Gym 7 pm Bible Study/Parlor	2 8:30 am Tuesday Morning Work Group 12 pm Rotary Lunch/PH 6 pm Community Connections Team/Conf. Room 7 pm New Spirit/Choir Rm 7-9 pm Basketball/Palmer Gym	3 1:30 pm Rebecca Circle/ Pierson Hall 7:00 Small Groups/Rms 207 and 208	4 7 am Men's Discussion Group/Bob Evans 12 pm Lion's Lunch/PH 7:30 pm Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal/Choir Room	5	6 10 am-1 pm Haymaker Farmers' Market/Pierson Hall and Palmer Gym
7 Regular Sunday Schedule Children's Program at 10:30 worship	8 7 pm Small Group/Conference Room 7 pm Worship Band Rehearsal/ Palmer Gym 7 pm Bible Study/Parlor	9 8:30 am Tuesday Morning Work Group 12 pm Rotary Lunch/PH 6 pm Girl Scouts/PH 6 pm Community Connections Team/Conf. Rm 7 pm New Spirit/Choir Rm 7-9 pm Basketball/Palmer Gym	10 7:00 Small Groups/Rms 207 and 208	11 7 am Men's Discussion Group/Bob Evans 11 am Portage County Retired Teachers/PH 1 pm Grief Support Group/Parlor 7:30 pm Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal/Choir Room	12	13 10 am-1 pm Haymaker Farmers' Market/Pierson Hall and Palmer Gym
14 Regular Sunday Schedule New Spirit Cantata at 8:30 and 10:30 4 pm Walk at Trail Lake Park	15 7 pm Small Group/Conference Room 7 pm Worship Band Rehearsal/ Palmer Gym 7 pm Bible Study/Parlor	16 8:30 am Tuesday Morning Work Group 12 pm Rotary Lunch/PH 7 pm New Spirit/Choir Rm 7-9 pm Basketball/Palmer Gym	17 7:00 Small Groups/Rms 207 and 208	18 7 am Men's Discussion Group/Bob Evans 12 pm Lion's Lunch/PH 7:30 pm Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal/Choir Room	19 11 am Red Cross Blood Drive/Pierson Hall	20 10 am-1 pm Haymaker Farmers' Market/Pierson Hall
21 Regular Sunday Schedule 4 pm Goodyear Band Concert/Sanctuary 7 pm Longest Night Service/Chapel	22 7 pm Small Group/Conference Room 7 pm Worship Band Rehearsal/ Palmer Gym 7 pm Bible Study/Parlor	23 8:30 am Tuesday Morning Work Group 12 pm Rotary Lunch/PH 7 pm New Spirit/Choir Rm 7-9 pm Basketball/Palmer Gym	24 7:00 Small Groups/Rms 207 and 208	25 Christmas Day Office Closed	26 Office Closed	27
28 Worship Together: 10 am Worship Service in the Sanctuary	29 7 pm Small Group/Conference Room 7 pm Worship Band Rehearsal/ Palmer Gym	30 8:30 am Tuesday Morning Work Group 12 pm Rotary Lunch/PH 7 pm New Spirit/Choir Rm 7-9 pm Basketball/Palmer Gym	31	1 New Year's Day Office Closed	Regular Sunday Schedule 8:30 Worship Service/Chapel 9:30 Contemporary Service/Gym 9:30 Sunday School/Children's Choir/Childcare 10:30 Worship Service/Sanctuary 10:30 Sunday School/Childcare 11:30 Fellowship Time/Pierson Hall 12:00 Chancel Ringers (Adult Bells)/Sanctuary 6:00 pm ZAMARingers (Youth Handbells)/Sanctuary 7:00 pm Youth Fellowship/Gym and Pit	

USHERS AND GREETERS

Date	8:30/10:30
DECEMBER 7	1
DECEMBER 14	2
DECEMBER 21	3
DECEMBER 24	6:00 PM-4
	9:00 PM-5
DECEMBER 28	10:00 AM-6

If you are unsure of what team you are on, please call the office at 330-673-5879 x114 or email Cara at caradesko@kentmethodist.org.



Our sympathies to:

- Family and friends of Don Eckert
- Family and friends of Peg Arnold
- Patty Wiley and family upon the death of her mother

Recent Hospitalizations, Surgeries, and Illnesses:

Tim Bennett, Hal Hall, Jeff Hunter, Vern Pees, Mike Stiller

DECEMBER FELLOWSHIP HOUR HOSTS

DECEMBER 7	Mary Jacoby
DECEMBER 14	Christy Schjeldahl
DECEMBER 21	Melody Neumiller and Kathi Smith
DECEMBER 28	TBA



10:30 CAMERA SCHEDULE

DECEMBER 7	Andrew Alderson
DECEMBER 14	Eric Wertz
DECEMBER 21	Tom Lundberg
DECEMBER 24 6 PM	Eric Wertz
DECEMBER 24 9 PM	Tom Lundberg
DECEMBER 28	Eric Wertz

Fellowship Hour—Help Needed

If you would like to host fellowship hour, you can sign up at www.kentmethodist.org/volunteer/ or contact the office by phone at 330-673-5879 to schedule a Sunday. No baking is required! All refreshments are provided by the church.

DECEMBER LAY READERS

DEC 7	Judith Nedel
DEC 14	Pat Baldwin
DEC 21	Judy Smith
DEC 28	Krista Clavecilla

Thank You Notes

What a delightful surprise it was to greet Dottie Emerick at our door holding the beautiful flowers from the altar. It surely lifted my spirits and I really appreciate the love and concern of our connected congregation. Wishing you all a holiday season full of hope, purpose, and a grateful understanding that you are loved.

Peace!

Karen Beck



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Here

**The United Methodist
Church of Kent
PO Box 646
Kent, OH 44240**

**Church Office:
330-673-5879
Website:**

www.kentmethodist.org

**Rev. Nathan Howe,
Senior Pastor**

**Rev. Bob Machovec,
Minister of Pastoral Care**

**Rick Stout,
Director of
Christian Education and
Youth Ministries**

**Chelsea Alderson,
Director of Children's Ministries**

Mailing Label Here

Mailed November 29

**The Goodyear Band Christmas Concert is Sunday, December 21
at 4:00 PM in the Sanctuary**

Worship Calendar

Date	Week	Scripture	Special Event
December 7	Second Sunday of Advent	Isaiah 11:1-10; Psalm 72:1-7, 18-19; Romans 15:4-13; Matthew 3:1-12	Communion, <i>Chancel Ringers</i> , Children's Program
December 14	Third Sunday of Advent	Isaiah 35:1-10; Luke 1:47-55; James 5:7-10; Matthew 11:2-11	<i>New Spirit Cantata</i>
December 21	Fourth Sunday of Advent	Isaiah 7:10-16; Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19; Romans 1:1-7; Matthew 1:18-25	<i>ZAMARingers</i> , Longest Night worship service at 7 pm in the Chapel
December 24	Christmas Eve	Isaiah 9:2-7; Psalm 96; Titus 2:11-14; Luke 2:1-20	3 pm at KentRidge, 6 pm and 9 pm in the Sanctuary (choral music begins at 8:30 pm)
December 28	1st Sunday after Christmas	Isaiah 63:7-9; Psalm 148; Hebrews 2:10-18; Matthew 2:13-23	Worship Together: 10 am in the Sanctuary (one service only)