

---

# THE BELLRINGER



December 2018

---

## Pastor's Study

Advent goes against the grain of almost everything. In a culture that trains us to pack our schedules and hurry, hurry; Advent calls us to leave gaps in our schedule for contemplation and rest and to slow down long enough to notice what God is doing in our midst. In a culture that is full of words that fly, Advent calls us to choose our words carefully. In a culture of human certainty and self-reliance; Advent calls us to stand before God and realize that there is much we do not know. In a culture of instant gratification; Advent calls us to wait, and to find the joy in doing so.

Advent is so counter to our everyday routines and expectations that it can make us uncomfortable. Advent hymns don't resonate with many of us like Christmas hymns do. And the sights and sounds of Christmas are so appealing and engaging that we surround ourselves with them, rather than wait in the bare wilderness with John the Baptist, or hear the urgent cry of the Gospel of Mark to keep awake. Advent is not Christmas, but it comes with many gifts if we are willing to stop and take note of them; to unwrap what Advent holds.

- Advent brings the gift of memory and hope, of past and future, and of what God holds for us in both. In Advent we are living in between the first and second comings of our Lord. We are expectantly waiting for the One who already came, and celebrate the righteous branch that God raised up. We also look for Christ's return, and long for the peace, justice and restoration that is still unfolding and is to come.
- Advent brings the gift of slowing down. Advent invites us to make a short term commitment to slow our schedules, to take time for reflection, to open ourselves to what God holds.

### INSIDE THIS ISSUE

1 Pastor's Study

2 Session highlights

5 Peacelight

7 Calendar

8 Prayer List

- Advent brings time and opportunity for families to share devotions, pray, and worship together. There are a host of resources available both at church and online for individuals and families to use in study and worship this season.
- Advent brings a little discomfort that we might more fully receive the comfort that Christ brings. Advent hymns, the scripture readings of Advent, the waiting and more waiting; they are likely not things that we would rush to choose. But through them and in them God speaks to us in different ways than God speaks through Christmas, and by spending some time in the stuff of Advent, we are better prepared for the gift of Christmas.

---

Wishing you space and time for a deep and fruitful Advent journey this year, and for deep joy as you arrive at the manger on Christmas. Christ's peace- Diane 

# Session highlights

At Session's regularly scheduled meeting during the month of November a report of the:

**Trustees** was received; the doors of the church have been painted (THANK YOU!).

**Treasurer's** report included a review of the Connectional Support of TBPC to the Presbytery and other denominational bodies, and a draft budget for 2019 based on pledges, input received, and past year's data. The Session spent considerable time discussing an approach to the budget, as revenue is estimated to be less than expenses. The possibility of reducing some budget lines was considered, as well as using the investment account to balance the budget. Because the By Laws of the church require the budget to be presented as balanced, it is difficult to get a clear financial picture. Ways to make the information more clear were discussed. A separate meeting to work on the budget was scheduled.

**Clerk** reported that two new members were received in November. The Annual Meeting of the church will be 1/20/19. The rolls of the church are being reviewed in accordance with year end procedure.

**Ministry** reports included **CE's** need for teachers in December. **Mission** is planning on Beans to Go for 2/3/29.

A report of the pastor was received and reviewed. The then upcoming meeting of Third Thirty was also noted.

The Session and Treasurer have been at hard work prayerfully putting together a budget for the coming year. Following the regularly scheduled meeting, Session met twice to continue work on the budget. Information will be forthcoming regarding the budget for 2019. Thank you to all Ministry leaders who have already submitted input and budgets for this process. Opportunities for discussion about the 2019 budget will be scheduled prior to the Annual Meeting. 

## Did you see the sign?

Between six and ten THOUSAND cars drive in front of The Bellbrook Presbyterian Church each day (Ohio Department of Transportation estimate). For those cars traveling in front of the church, our church sign is an opportunity to reach out, engage and invite people in. But our current sign has challenges: it must be manually updated each week (in rain, sleet, snow and heat), has limited space for messages, and cannot be efficiently changed or updated to reflect the breadth of offerings that this church has.

To support outreach to and engagement with the community, the Communications Ministry (Joe Steuver, Ron Hearrell, and Mike Seiler) researched electronic signs and made a recommendation to the Trustees and to Session regarding the purchase and installation of an electronic sign. All groups unanimously agreed that this would be a good investment for the future of the church.

The proposed sign will have a black background and red letters, and comes encased in a cover to prevent damage to the light panels. It can be changed very easily from a phone or computer, allowing us to provide more information - - and very current information - - to the community about

*Continued no page 9*

# December Happenings



Our newest neighbors in Bellbrook/ Sugarcreek Township will be receiving an invitation to worship with us during the Advent and Christmas season, as we seek to be light and salt in our community. To make sure we are ready to welcome visitors, a cleaning party is planned for Saturday, December 1<sup>st</sup> beginning at 9:00 a.m. If you have 30 minutes or a couple of hours that you might be willing to contribute, we will be dusting and tidying throughout the church, as well as beginning the hanging of the greens. (If you can come, please bring cleaning rags if you have them available. We will have extra ready to go too!) Then, on Sunday, December 2<sup>nd</sup> (the first Sunday of Advent) we will finish hanging the greens and enjoy lunch after worship together. (See below)



**Please join us Sunday December 2<sup>rd</sup> as we begin the celebration of Christmas.**

The Worship Team will host a soup luncheon instead of Fellowship Hour following the 1<sup>st</sup> Advent service with the Hanging of the Greens after the luncheon. During this time the Tyke shop will be open for the little ones to start their Christmas shopping. Please sign-up to bring a side dish or dessert to share and join in the decorating.



**We will be planning an evening at the Cedarville University annual Community Christmas Celebration, December 2, 2018, at 6 p.m.** Set aside time to relax and enjoy Cedarville University's musical gift to you! The annual Community Christmas Celebration features the sights and sounds of the University's choral and instrumental ensembles. Your heart will be stirred by powerful renditions of classic carols including a special performance by a mass choir and symphonic band of the 'Hallelujah Chorus' from Handel's Messiah. Please join us for a musical celebration of our Savior's birth! *If you have any questions contact Alice Wiseman at 862-6021. Sign up at the church.*



The Mitten Tree is waiting for your donations of gloves, hats, and underwear in the

Fellowship Hall. These items will be given to Interfaith Hospitality of Xenia and the Sugarcreek Resource Center. Monetary donations will also be accepted in the office.



We will again adopt-a-family this Christmas. A Christmas Tree will be hung up with ornaments stating the wishes and needs of each family member. If you have any question please contact Alice Wiseman @862-6021.

## Peace light

The peace light will be available for sharing on the following dates and times.

<b>Sunday December 9</b>	<b>11-2</b>
<b>Wednesday December 12</b>	<b>4-6</b>
<b>Sunday December 16</b>	<b>11-2</b>
<b>Wednesday December 19</b>	<b>4-6</b>
<b>Sunday December 23</b>	<b>11-2</b>
<b>Christmas Eve</b>	<b>5-7</b>

If you would like to help distribute the light during one of these times, please contact Pastor Diane or the church office @ [secretary@bellbrookpc.org](mailto:secretary@bellbrookpc.org)

**Interfaith in Xenia** is in need of cleaning supplies for the upkeep of their building. If you are able to help out, please bring bathroom and kitchen cleaners along with sponges and paper towels and drop them in the baskets at the entrance of the sanctuary. As always- thank you for your donations!

**Mark your calendar** for our Christmas Eve Candlelight Service at 7:00pm.



**As we are in the full swing of cold and flu season, please remember the best ways to prevent cold and flu are:**

- \*Practice other good health habits
- \*Cover your mouth and nose.
- \*Clean your hands.
- \*Avoid touching your eyes, nose or mouth
- \*Avoid close contact.

and most important stay home when you are sick.



**Annual Committee reports Due by the first of January.**



## Reading through the Bible Scriptures for December

- Day 336 - Galatians 5:16-26; Ezekiel 1; Psalm 148  
Day 337 - Galatians 6; Ezekiel 2-3; Psalm 149  
Day 338 - Ephesians 1; Ezekiel 4-5; Psalm 150  
Day 339 - Ephesians 2; Ezekiel 6-7; Isaiah 40  
Day 340 - Ephesians 3; Ezekiel 8-9; Isaiah 41  
Day 341 - Ephesians 4:1-16; Ezekiel 10-11; Isaiah 42  
Day 342 - Ephesians 4:17-32; Ezekiel 12-13; Isaiah 43  
Day 343 - Ephesians 5:1-20; Ezekiel 14-15; Isaiah 44  
Day 344 - Ephesians 5:21-33; Ezekiel 16; Isaiah 45  
Day 345 - Ephesians 6; Ezekiel 17; Isaiah 46  
Day 346 - Philippians 1:1-11; Ezekiel 18; Isaiah 47  
Day 347 - Philippians 1:12-30; Ezekiel 19; Isaiah 48  
Day 348 - Philippians 2:1-11; Ezekiel 20; Isaiah 49  
Day 349 - Philippians 2:12-30; Ezekiel 21-22; Isaiah 50  
Day 350 - Philippians 3; Ezekiel 23; Isaiah 51  
Day 351 - Philippians 4; Ezekiel 24; Isaiah 52  
Day 352 - Colossians 1:1-23; Ezekiel 25-26; Isaiah 53  
Day 353 - Colossians 1:24-2:19; Ezekiel 27-28; Isaiah 54  
Day 354 - Colossians 2:20-3:17; Ezekiel 29-30; Isaiah 55  
Day 355 - Colossians 3:18-4:18; Ezekiel 31-32; Isaiah 56  
Day 356 - Luke 1:1-25; Ezekiel 33; Isaiah 57  
Day 357 - Luke 1:26-56; Ezekiel 34; Isaiah 58  
Day 358 - Luke 1:57-80; Ezekiel 35-36; Isaiah 59  
Day 359 - Luke 2:1-20; Ezekiel 37; Isaiah 60  
Day 360 - Luke 2:21-52; Ezekiel 38-39; Isaiah 61  
Day 361 - Luke 3:1-20; Ezekiel 40-41; Isaiah 62  
Day 362 - Luke 3:21-38; Ezekiel 42-43; Isaiah 63  
Day 363 - Luke 4:1-30; Ezekiel 44-45; Isaiah 64  
Day 364 - Luke 4:31-44; Ezekiel 46-47; Isaiah 65  
Day 365 - Luke 5:1-26; Ezekiel 48; Isaiah 66  
Day 366 - Luke 5:27-39; Genesis 1:1-2:25; Psalm 1 [Day 366]

# Peace light



This light is a flame that originates at the Grotto in Bethlehem, the place where it is said that Jesus was born. Each year an Austrian Scout flies from Upper Austria to collect the light. This is not a simple task. It means crossing borders and traveling through territory that can be hostile in order to reach the light and then to bring it back. The light is then flown back to Austria, and from Austria is brought to JFK airport in New York City where carriers of the light meet the light, receive it, and begin distributing the light as far as they are able to do so.

The Peace Light is truly a gift. And it is a gift that is meant to be shared. The Bellbrook Presbyterian Church is delighted to bring to you the Peace light.

**The Peace Light will arrive in Bellbrook on December 8th and be available to the public December 9,12,16,19, 23 and 24.**

**Wednesdays- 4-6**

**Sundays- 11-2**

**Christmas Eve – 5-7**

**The Bellbrook Presbyterian Church**

**72 west Franklin St. Bellbrook, Ohio 45305**

**Please contact our office with any questions- 937-848-2378**

**Or visit our website**

**[www.bellbrookpc.com](http://www.bellbrookpc.com)**

If you would like to help distribute the light during one of these times, please contact Pastor Diane or the church office @ [secretary@bellbrookpc.org](mailto:secretary@bellbrookpc.org) / **848-2378**.

Or you can sign up outside the church office.



- 6- Jana Harnish
- 11 - Harry Crowe
- 16 - Sharon Sawyer
- 19 - Carrie Carbone
- 23 - Bruce Garrison
- 24 - Nicole Smallwood
- 25 - Sharon Berryhill
- 29- Ray Aldrich



- 17 - Jim & Andrea Contestable
- 22 - Dennis & Donna Ruschau



### Special dates

- First Sunday of Advent, December 2, 2018
- Second Sunday of Advent, December 9, 2018
- Third Sunday of Advent, December 16, 2018
- First day of winter, December 21, 2018
- Fourth Sunday of Advent, December 23, 2018
- Christmas Eve, December 24, 2018
- Christmas Day, December 25, 2018
- New Year's Eve/Watch Night, December 31, 2018



We will be ordering poinsettias again this year at a price of \$10.00 each.

**Poinsettias will be white with gold foil!  
And delivered December 14<sup>th</sup>.**

Please fill out and place the order form below (along with payment) on the desk in the office or in the offering plate. Orders and payments must be received by **December 19.**

Checks can be made to  
The Bellbrook Presbyterian Church.

Please take your flowers home following our Christmas Eve Service.

Number of Poinsettias Ordered \_\_\_\_\_

In Memory of \_\_\_\_\_

In Honor of \_\_\_\_\_

Ordered by \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ I would like my poinsettia delivered to a homebound neighbor on December 23<sup>rd</sup> to be enjoyed over the holiday season.

# December

1  
Library Cleaning  
9-11am

2 <b>Communion</b> 1 <sup>st</sup> <b>Sunday of Advent</b> 8:45 am Keystone Class 9:30 am Choir Practice 10:00 am Worship 10:20 am Children's Sunday School 11:00am Hanging of the Greens Luncheon / Tyke Shop	3 10:00am Deacons  Noon-Bible study  Winter's Library 5:00-9:00	4  Winter's Library 4;30-5:30	5 11:00am Bellcreek Seniors 6:00 pm Bible Study 7:15 pm Choir 7:00pm Troop 75 Peace Light 4-6	6	7	8  4:00pm Neil's Piano Recital
9 <b>Birthdays</b> <b>2nd Sunday of Advent</b> 8:45 am Keystone Class 9:30 am Choir Practice 10:00 am Worship 10:20 am Children's Sunday School 11:00am Fellowship hour Peace Light 11-2	10  Noon-Bible study	11	12 11:00am Bellcreek Seniors 1:00 Computer Class 6:00 pm Bible Study 7:15 pm Choir 7:00pm Troop 75  Peace Light 4-6	13  Trustees 7:00pm  Worship 7:00pm	14	15
16 <b>Anniversaries</b> <b>3rd Sunday of Advent</b> 8:45 am Keystone Class 9:30 am Choir Practice 10:00 am Worship 10:20 am Children's Sunday School 11:00am Fellowship Hour Peace Light 11-2	17  Noon-Bible study  6:30 Historical Society	18  Men's Breakfast 8:30 (BBC)	19 11:00am Bellcreek Seniors 1:00 Computer Class 6:00 pm Bible Study 7:15 pm Choir 7:00pm Troop 75  Peace Light 4-6	20  Session 1pm	21  Winter's Library 3:00- 6:00pm 	22
23 <b>4th Sunday of Advent</b> 8:45 am Keystone Class 9:30 am Choir Practice 10:00 am Worship 10:20 am Children's Sunday School 11:00am Fellowship Hour Peace Light 11-2	24 Peace Light 5-7  Christmas Eve Service 7pm	25 	26	27	28	29
30 8:45 am Keystone 9:30 am Choir Practice 10:00 am Worship 10:20 am Children's Sunday School 11:00am Fellowship Hour	31 					



Family of Penny Woods  
Dorothy Evans  
Border Crossing  
Bud Steuver  
Scott Doanlason  
William Harvard  
Art Remington  
Anji Erickson  
Family of Rose Greator  
Family of Troy Stites  
Larry and Doris Dumford  
Bud Steuver  
Diane Green  
Judy Muno  
Fires  
Sandy Duff  
Megan  
Dave Van Pelt  
Family of Kenny Kingston  
Katie Henry  
George Walker  
Capt. Edward Boncek  
Barb Wagner  
Alzheimer Patients + caregivers  
Traveling Prayers  
Cancer patients + caregivers



Terry Allen- 620-4811  
Dorothy Evans 317-5008 or 287-7219  
Kim Hensley 848-4756  
Allene Circle-Rader 848-8218  
Donna Ruschau 429-2107  
Sue Seiler 848-2043. 478-1426 or  
604-1426  
Call with assurance of confidentiality,  
love and prayer



Virginia  
Darlene  
Betty  
Bud  
Don  
Barb  
Larry and Doris  
Ben and Charlotte

To visit or send cards please check  
with office for addresses.



**Weather Closings and Delays:** During the winter season the Church will be closed whenever a Level 2 or Level 3 Snow or an Ice emergency has been declared for the local area. At all other times when the church is closed due to questionable travel conditions a message will be posted on the church answering machine. A closing announcement may also be seen on WDTN-TV Channel 2 or on its web site at <http://wdtn.com> under *Closings and Delays*. Whatever the situation, members should judge for themselves whether or not it is safe to travel to church services or activities in adverse weather conditions - even if they have a role or responsibility in that service or activity. 🛎

*Continued from page 2 – Have you seen the Sign?*

events, Bible studies, and other happenings at the church.

The cost of this sign is about \$ 14,000. We have applied for a grant of \$ 5,000 toward the cost of this sign and plan to apply for a second grant of \$ 5,000, also for the sign. Assuming we receive both grants, we will need to raise the remaining dollars in order to make this investment. Your input, feedback and thoughts about the sign are most welcome. Pictures of similar signs are available for review also if you are interested. Please see Mike Seiler, Joe Steuver, Ron Hearrell, or Pastor Diane if you have questions or need more information. 🛎



LUKE 2:11

*The Lord*  
WHO IS CHRIST  
**A SAVIOR**  
CITY OF DAVID  
— THIS DAY IN THE —  
**BORN**  
*For unto you is*

**Bellbrook Presbyterian Church**  
72 West Franklin Street  
Bellbrook, OH 45305-1903

BUILD RATE
US POSTAGE
PAID
PERMIT NO.
00000