

PASTOR'S PONDERINGS

PEACEFUL REST

Moving into this Advent season of the coming birth of the savior Jesus Christ, there are plenty of activities to do. There is Christmas joy and excitement around every corner. During the Christmas season the weather changes to snow. Doing Christmas shopping has us travel all around looking for the perfect Christmas gifts for loved ones. While out Christmas shopping there are plenty of Christmas treats to eat.

During the Advent season leading up to Christmas it can become a busy time that can bring about a host of feelings and anxiety with all that needs to be done. Before you know it, you are in the heart of Christmas drinking eggnog and hoping you have enough time to buy everyone Christmas gifts before December 25th.

One of the gifts that is being sold this time of year and frankly the rest of the year is a new bed or mattress that guarantees a good rest. There are a host of manufactures that make mattresses that claim to provide rest. Bed makers such as Sleep Number, Purple, Tempur-Pedic, Sealy, and a ton of other makers.

In this Advent season we need to take some time to catch our breath and to rest well knowing that the Messiah Jesus Christ came into the world as a child to bring God's peace, hope, and love for the world. Read and rest upon the words in *Luke 2:8* And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. ⁹ *An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified.* ¹⁰ *But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people."* ¹¹ *Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord.* ¹² *This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger."* ¹³ *Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying,* ¹⁴ *"Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests."*

Luke 2:10-11 and tell angel tells the shepherds not to be afraid because there is good news that a child has been born that is the Messiah of the world. In Luke 2:14, we know that we have rest in Christ the Savior. As followers that proclaim that Jesus Christ is the Messiah, we know that the good news is that Christ grace and love bring us hope, peace, and joy in the season of Advent and all the glorious seasons of life. When Christ grace and love rest upon us we know a peaceful rest in the business of this life and the life to come eternal. We know that the Messiah of the world Jesus Christ has brought God's love into the world and into relationship with us.

Rest well in this Advent season knowing that Jesus Christ has come into our lives and has brought life into the world.

Pastor Paul



MISSIONS

"They have distributed freely, they have given to the poor; Their righteousness endures forever;
Psalm 112:9

Thank you, Church, for your generosity for all the donations to the seniors through Akeso Health Care.



DECEMBER MISSION SPOTLIGHT

Monetary donations being collected the month of December over and above your normal tithes and offerings.



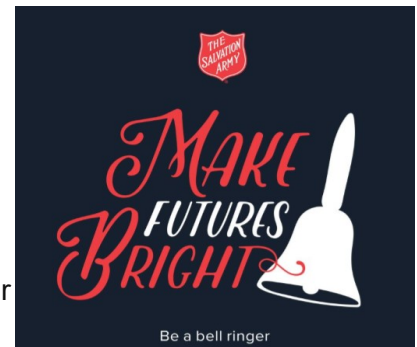
DOING THE MOST GOOD



DECEMBER MISSIONS

This December we are asking for monetary donations above and beyond your normal tithes and offerings to the Salvation Army.

We will also be ringing bells for the Salvation Army at the Walgreens in Poland on **Thursday, December 14th and Friday, December 15th**. Times are one-hour slots starting at **10:00 AM concluding at 4:00 PM**. There is a sign-up sheet in the Narthex or you can call the church office. Let's fill up our time slots. If the Salvation Army does not fill their time slots, they have to pay folks to ring for them.



POLAND INTERFAITH FOOD PANTRY

Serving by distributing food monthly to local families in need. Distributions are the last Tuesday and Wednesday of every month and is drive through only. Last month the Poland Schools had a food drive and donated a huge amount of food for the pantry. Volunteers are from PUMC, Holy Family, and Poland-Presbyterian.

POLAND INTERFAITH

Food Pantry



PUMC LIVE NATIVITY

We will continue to receive cash gifts for the Live Nativity production. Please be generous.

God Bless you all and always give thanks to our Lord for all He has done for you!!!

"For I was hungry, and you gave me something to eat..." Matthew 25:35

PUMC Cabinet



TRUSTEES

Nehemiah 2:18

Once again, the Steeple project is almost complete! Scaffolding is gone and Verizon has told us they will begin removing the temporary cell tower on December 4th. Please pray that the work is completed, and we can open the Wendy Lane entrance for the Live Nativity.

A special Trustee thanks again to Tom Semer and Budd Barger who found a leak in the combustion chamber and worked with Prout Boiler to fix it. Next project will be the installation of a backflow system in the plumbing which is now required by state law. Aqua Ohio has given us only 30 days to comply.



Also “thank you” to Sandy Beckwith, Shannon Paris, Sandy Kerr, Candy Morgan, Larry Warren and Pastor Paul for their work cleaning and decorating the sanctuary and Tom Long, Doc Resch, Marty Malenic and Marty Mattison for their help working on some mechanical issues on doors. If we have missed anyone please forgive us. There is always work to be done and volunteers are needed in all areas of worship, maintenance and audio visuals.

Thanks to you all.

PUMC Cabinet

MISSION TRIP

I wanted to **THANK** everyone that donated to our Bake Sale during the Fall Fest!! We had a wonderful turnout of donated items and people to purchase them. Thank you to Sister Circle for helping me with the sale.

For anyone that may be interested in helping with or going on the trip. Pastor Paul has been talking with Canfield and Boardman United Methodist churches and we are going to do a combined trip. We are looking at going the end of June to the Stubenville / West Virginia area to do home repair.

Please talk to Pastor Paul or Eileen Crites for more information .

We will be having a meeting with more details and to talk about future fundraising first of the year.

Thank you
again,

Eileen Crites



Christ Birthday

Moving through December with thankful hearts helps us to prepare a place for the coming birth of God's Son Jesus Christ during the Advent Season in December. Remember in the months of November and December to be thankful for the gift of Jesus Christ coming in the flesh to be with us and the world to share the gift of God's grace and love. Ponder and think about how you can support the gifts of God's Ministries in the Poland United Methodist Church through giving of your time and financial gifts to support ministries that reach people with the gift of Jesus Christ grace and love.

In this season of Advent and the birth of the Messiah Jesus Christ, reflect on this passage in 2 Corinthians 9:6-10 NIV *Remember this: Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously. Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to bless you abundantly, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work.*

During the Advent Season in December, I will be preaching on Mike Slaughter's book, ***Christmas is Not Your Birthday***. The church will be sending out pledge cards at the end of November for the 2024 Year of Ministries. During the Advent Season in December pray over the cards at home and examine what God puts on your heart to give financially to support ministries in the new year of 2024. On January 14th we will collect the prayer cards at church and pray over them.

Moving into this new year we need people to give of their time to help with children's ministries, youth, and adult ministries. The church needs people to help with the audio-visual technologies of the church as we do worship. There will be lots of ways for people to serve and connect in ministries next year as we look to encourage new people to be part of the church.

God calls us to give out of what he has put on our hearts, and we are responding to the gift of Jesus Christ grace and love that we have received from God. God calls us to share the Good News of Jesus Christ through the ministries and missions of the church. Let us pray together as a church that we would be thankful in our giving and support of ministries that reach new disciples for God's Kingdom. **Pastor Paul**



GLANCE AT FINANCE

	<u>OCT</u>	<u>YTD</u>
Monthly physical contributions	\$30,463.00	\$178,789.00
Monthly on-line contributions	\$ 2,284.00	\$ 20,039.00
Other revenues	\$ 2,830.00	\$ 25,933.00
Less monthly expenses	<u>\$17,725.00</u>	<u>\$238,211.00</u>
Net impact to Budget	(\$17,852.00)	(\$ 13,450.00)

Let's Honor The Lord With Our Giving

"Remember this, whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly.
And whoever sows generously will also reap generously."
2 Corinthians 9:6





Kids Klub

Our fall session of Kids Klub wraps up December 6 with our children's program & a visit from Santa. Everyone is welcome. This session has gone by so fast; we have been learning about the life of Jesus; with fun songs in choir; we had our Charlie Brown Thanksgiving Feast and hung our thankful chain in the Narthex; and we filled 8 Operation Christmas Child boxes. We are proud of our kids for being so willing to share with others. Our next session begins January 17. We wish you all a Merry Christmas!



KIDS KLUB KANDIES

We are still accepting candy orders for the next few days.

Buckeyes, caramel corn, nut fudge, chocolate nut clusters, reindeer chow & more.

Order forms are available with pictures & prices.

**Pick up dates will be Dec 10 & 17, unless needed before.

Thank you for supporting our Kids Klub ministry.




SAVE THE DATE
santa
6:00 pm
December 6
Everyone invited
Goody bags for the kids
Cookies for all




PUMC Children's Nativity Program

★ ★ ★ ★ ★
Sunday, Dec. 3rd @ 11:00 am Service



Church-wide Fellowship Lunch To follow



Questions: pattiprentiss@zoominternet.net or (330) 770-2148



A DRIVE-THRU EXPERIENCE

A stylized illustration of a nativity scene. In the center, a large, bright white circle represents the moon. To its right is a small, four-pointed star. Below the moon, three camels are silhouetted against a dark, cloudy sky. To the right of the camels is a simple wooden manger structure. Inside the manger, a baby is lying down, and a woman is kneeling beside it. The entire scene is set against a dark blue background with some light rays emanating from behind the moon.

Live Nativity

LIVE ANIMALS AND CHARACTERS

Dec
10th

4PM
To
7PM

Poland United
Methodist Church

Our Christmas gift to you!
Witness the true meaning of Christmas from the comfort of your own car.

FREE ADMISSION
ENTIRE COMMUNITY WELCOME!

1940 Boardman Poland Rd, Youngstown, OH 44514 | polandumc.org

Laymen's Quest

We have started a six-part DVD series entitled "**The Christmas Experience**" by **Kyle Idleman**. This small group study examines the Christmas story in detail as we prepare for the Christmas season. Please join us at our new time of 9:50am on Sundays in person in room 307 (across from the balcony) or via Zoom. Please email blaiseprentiss@zoominternet.net if you are new to the class so we can email you the video link & worksheet before class.

All adults are welcome.

Blaise Prentiss



Christmas Eve Services

10AM & 4PM Combined Services at Canfield United Methodist Church
7PM Combined Candlelight Service at Poland United Methodist Church



NEW YEAR'S EVE

COMBINED SERVICE @ POLAND UMC @ 10AM

SPORTS

PUMC

Open Gym @ PUMC

Wednesdays
7-9PM

Ages High School
On Up!



Poland UMC | 1940 Boardman Poland Rd. Poland OH | polandumc.org



FUTSAL @ PUMC

NEW!

Begins Jan 11th
Free!
Thurs 7-9PM
Ages High School on Up!

Poland UMC | 1940 Boardman Poland Rd. Poland OH | polandumc.org

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News from last month:

In the Teddy Bear class they experienced units on Shapes and Colors and then spent two weeks celebrating Fall Harvest and Thanksgiving. They ended the month learning about their many EMOTIONS and how to develop strategies for managing their emotions, so that they can build social-emotional skills.

In the Rainbow class they participated in units on Pumpkins, Fall Leaves, Acorns, and Thanksgiving. They ended the month with a unit on TRANSPORTATION.

In the Kindergarten Readiness classes they had units on the Letter A (and learned about Alligators), the Letter T (and learned all about Turkeys), and the Letter P (and Planted seeds and learned about sequencing with Plants). They also learned about HEALTHY FOODS, and HELPING OTHERS.

We still have a few spots left in each class---for more information call the child care office at 330-757-9747 or email at pbccc@polandumc.org.

We would like to thank the food pantry for donating some items for our children's snacks this month---it was very much appreciated!

Any 100 % fruit juices

1% milk

Crackers: **Generic brands are acceptable

Examples are:

Whole wheat crackers, saltines, ritz , goldfish, cheese its, other cheese crackers, peanut butter crackers, graham crackers, teddy grahams

Other items:

Vanilla wafers, Granola bars, Animal crackers, Pretzels, Tortilla chips, Low sugar cereals, Chex mix

*** also napkins and 5 ounce plastic cups are needed

Monetary donations are always accepted!

SNACKS NEEDED

polandboardmanchildcarecenter.com