



Jefferson United Methodist Church  
125 East Jefferson Street  
Jefferson, OH 44047  
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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

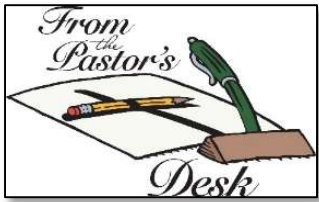
Office hours are 8:30 - 2:00 M-F  
Office closed 11:30 – 12:00 daily for lunch.

**Our Mission: To make disciples of Jesus Christ  
for the transformation of the world.  
Our Motto: Love God ~ Love Others ~ Serve the World**

**December, 2024**

**Volume 125**





In the holiday movie, *Jingle All the Way*, Arnold Schwarzenegger and Sinbad play fathers Howard and Myron – fathers who always seem to disappoint their sons by putting their work before their families. Therefore, they both set out on a mission to buy the season’s hot holiday toy – Turbo Man – for their sons for Christmas day. The problem is, they both forgot about it until the day before Christmas. Thus, the movie finds them using any means necessary to battle the crowds on Christmas Eve and get the toy before it’s too late. They fight off others who covet the same toy, run from store to store attempting to get it before the store sells out, and just do some plain nasty things to each other – only caring about themselves more than others. Why in one scene, Howard even goes as far as to think about stealing the gift from under his neighbor’s tree – meant for his neighbor’s son. And Myron uses a fake bomb threat to get his way at the local radio station. All this for a gift!

Every year it amazes me how crazy everyone gets around the holidays, and for the wrong reasons. I guess it shouldn’t surprise me now, seeing as it happens every year, but yet I still find myself amazed at how we all get so frazzled, stressed, and hectic this time of year – myself included. Yes, even though we make that promise every year that this is going to be the year we don’t get caught up in it all, it just never seems to happen. The holidays are just naturally a hectic, harried, and chaotic time of year – largely because we have such expectations and we go crazy trying to make sure those expectations are met. So much so, in fact, that sometimes we find it hard to believe that God can bless this chaotic and congested time – or that God can even be found. But the thing is, God can’t be contained by society’s rules and customs. Yes, God works outside human conventions to create bridges where we cannot even imagine them.

So, as we come once again into this season of expectations, I encourage you this year to expect the unexpected. Instead of getting bogged down on the traditional expectations and on the chaos which comes with the Christmas season, allow God to work through you and bring new possibilities to you. Be like Mary when she was visited by the angel Gabriel and accept the unexpected. Have faith and let God show you miracles beyond your imagination. Change your expectations and understand that God cannot be contained by a box. Thus, neither should we. In other words, instead of looking for the superficial, we should look for the magnificent and the extraordinary.

See, part of expectation involves promise. For Mary it was awaiting the promised birth of the Son of God. She had to wait nine months – a long time to wait for something so magnificent. But she believed enough to keep waiting. She had expectation.

What are some promises of God that excite you? What are some things you are waiting for from God? How can we *all* be more alert and expectant of God's unfathomable ways? This holiday season, I encourage you to not be bogged down by the normal expectations. Expect the extraordinary. Allow God to take shape in your lives. Instead of waiting for Christmas to happen, be awake and ready, and go make Christmas happen for others. And prepare for the greatest gift of all – the gift of Jesus Christ.

*“For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace” (Is. 9:6, NRSV).* Come, let us welcome our Savior into the world once more!

FOR TO US A CHILD IS BORN,  
TO US A SON IS GIVEN,  
AND THE GOVERNMENT  
WILL BE ON HIS SHOULDERS.  
AND HE WILL BE CALLED

WONDERFUL  
*Counselor,*  
MIGHTY  
*God,*  
EVERLASTING  
*Father,*  
PRINCE OF  
*Peace.*

ISAIAH 9:6, NIV



# DECEMBER

*Birthdays*

- |    |                    |
|----|--------------------|
| 1  | Jim Krieg          |
| 2  | Billy Beckwith     |
| 3  | John King          |
| 5  | Kiden Housel       |
|    | Tristan Osborne    |
|    | Lynette Seith      |
| 8  | Lori Ford          |
| 17 | Mike Fenton        |
| 21 | Carin Roseberry    |
|    | Mindy Kerzic       |
|    | Judy Ebersole      |
| 22 | Joey Misinec       |
| 25 | Courtney Leininger |
| 26 | Melynda Litwiler   |
| 28 | Jack Howe          |
|    | Dale Christ        |
| 29 | Danielle Jackson   |
|    | Michael Brail      |



HAPPY  
*Birthday*





## Verse of the Day

He knew what they were thinking and said to them, “Every kingdom divided against itself is laid waste, and no city or house divided against itself will stand.”

**-Matthew 12:25**

## Voice of the Day

Now, more than ever, the illusions of division threaten our very existence. We all know the truth: more connects us than separates us. But in times of crisis the wise build bridges, while the foolish build barriers.

**- King T’Challa, “Black Panther” (2018)**

## Prayer of the Day

In a world where division threatens to tear us apart, help us to remember that unity is our strength.



Thank you to all of you for your generosity in our loose change offerings, Sunday School offerings and donations to the Change the World Fund. You’ve seen and heard from and about those who we are helping this year and you’ve responded! Thank you to all! In January, 2025, we’ll let you know what we’ve sent to each group. There is still time to contribute through the month of December.

When we started this fund, many years ago, our goal was that people would contribute an equal amount to what they spend on their own Christmas—to remember that it’s Jesus’ birthday and not our own or our families’. Thank you again!



**MISSIONS  
MEETING**

There will be a Mission Committee meeting on Mon., Dec. 30 at 6:30 to allocate our Change the World funds.



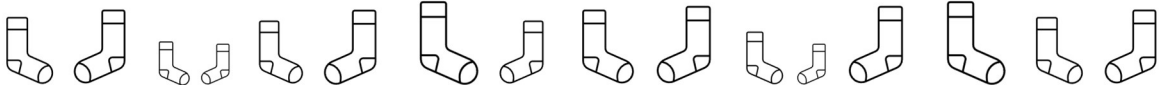
# SUSANNA'S CUPBOARD



Thank you so much for your generosity in the protein drive. You will feed many families in the cold months ahead. I will tell you the exact inventory of donations in the next newsletter.

NEXT UP...

This month our request is for plain white crew socks. Many times they are on sale at the holidays, so find a great deal and share it with our neighbors. Last year you donated enough sock that we were able to put out 2 pairs every day all the way to late spring!!! Just think how many feet you comforted at school, at work, waiting for a bus, and many other places feet need socks! Thank you, and HERE WE GO AGAIN! Go for it, JUMC!



AND, YES, we still need donations of hats, mittens, gloves, and scarves. Especially if they are new or look new.



Are you dealing with the loss of a loved one, or some other type of loss, this holiday season? Are the holidays always a difficult time of year for you, for whatever reason? Does the stress and craziness of this season burden you? Is the wide range of emotions which come with this time of year hard for you to handle?

If so, then the Longest Night Service is for you. Or even if you aren't feeling any of these feelings, we all could use a reminder of the hope Jesus brings to us in our loneliness and during the holiday season. All of us could serve to bear in mind that Jesus came to us at Christmas as light to a darkened world.

Jefferson United Methodist Church (125 E. Jefferson St.) is holding a Longest Night Service on **Tuesday, December 17, 2024 at 6:00 p.m.**

Come experience this service of light in the midst of darkness!!!



Our Senior Ministry coordinator, Barb Heath has been hard at work planning the annual R & R Christmas celebration. On Thursday, December 19<sup>th</sup> at noon, there will be a catered luncheon, followed by a concert by the Jefferson High School stage band. We will be collecting hygiene items for *Homesafe* on the day of the luncheon. The cost is \$8 per person, or \$15 per couple, and reservations are required by Dec. 16<sup>th</sup>. Please contact the church office or Barb (440-576-5716) to RSVP, or with any questions.



### **Christmas Eve Service of Lessons and Carols**

Tuesday, December 24 at 7:30 p.m.  
Come celebrate the birth of Christ through Scripture, carols, music, message, Holy Communion, and candlelighting!!!



This year, the finance committee has decided to designate our Christmas Eve offering to the JUMC campership fund. In 2024, we supported the UMC camp experience for 5 kiddos. It is our hope to continue encouraging the faith development of our youth. However, it has been several years since we have held a fundraiser for this purpose. So, as we celebrate the beautiful gift of God's earthly presence, we invite you to help our youth experience Him through the love of their counselors and the beauty of His creation at summer camp. Envelopes are available in the sanctuary and in the office.



**Carols and Cocoa** –  
**Tuesday, December 10 at 6:30 p.m.** in Wesley Hall.  
Bring some Christmas cookies, enjoy some hot cocoa, and sing your favorite Christmas carols. A fun time for all!!



**Come Join Us  
For An Evening with Mrs. Claus**

crafts

photos

desserts



music

stories

Friday, December 6  
5:30-6:30 p.m. - sensory friendly  
6:30-8:00 p.m. - open for ALL

Jefferson United Methodist Church  
125 E. Jefferson St.  
Jefferson, OH 44047

(440) 576-4561 or  
[admin@jeffersonumc.com](mailto:admin@jeffersonumc.com)  
to register





## Health Ministry Focus

I am continuing my campaign to have additional folks take a CPR class. After the holiday season is but a distant memory, I will work towards having some group CPR classes to encourage your participation. Consider for a moment: you and a close friend/ relation/ significant other are at home and that person collapses. You determine that the person does not respond to you, and you can't get a pulse. Panic quickly

sets in. What do I do? You call 911. But how soon will help be there? 4 minutes? 6 minutes? 15 minutes? What if both units are out on other calls? Time is critical. We know that the first 4-6 minutes are crucial and will likely determine that person's ability to survive.

You have thought about taking a CPR class in the past, but you've never gotten around to doing anything about it. Besides, they are so close to where you live. It will be OK.

Keep in mind, the average response time of an EMT team is 4-10 minutes. That can be too long. My goal is to get a sign-up process going in the New Year to have some group classes. Stay tuned for more information. Look for that famous clipboard coming around. Make this a New Year's resolution; take the class. What if 2 hours spent in the class could save the life of your spouse, your child, your parent, your best friend? Think about it. If you have questions, please contact me.

Blessings for a healthy and joyful holiday season.

### Heartsaver CPR and AED Classes

#### JERD

(Jefferson Emergency Rescue District)

11 South Market St

Jefferson, OH

December 3<sup>rd</sup> 12pm-2pm

December 19<sup>th</sup> 5pm-7pm

#### SCAD

(South Central Ambulance District)

3100 US Rt 6

Rome, OH

No December dates posted

*Martha Haluszka, Health Ministry 440 862 2331*

# Susanna Wesley Ministries

Phnom Penh, Cambodia

Susanna Wesley House

Shine Project

Children's Ministry

## We Welcome a Team from Korea *(Written by Nya - GMF)*



It was a privilege to welcome a team from Korea visit our Susana Wesley House. We are very thankful for their love and support, and we also had the opportunity to share more with them about our program. And we are so proud of Malin, one of our students, who

shared her testimony in English for the first time.

Every Monday we also have our English class. We can see that our students are really improving with their English, and we are so proud of them.



## Movie Night at SWH *(Written by Nya - GMF)*



This month, we had our first movie night. It was a great opportunity for us to spend time together and enjoy each other's company. This helps keep our relationships stronger as we live together. And we can not stop giving thanks to our Lord who loves and is behind every moment in our life.

## Prayer Requests *(Written by Nya)*

- We praise God for our students' exam results and continue to pray for them as they start their next semester.
- Please keep praying for our students who are not believers yet. We can excited to see that they are starting to be open their hearts to God.



# Shine Project - Vocational Training Program

Sopheavy is a young woman from Siem Reap province that is about 180 km from Phnom Penh. She rode her moto (motorcycle) to Phnom Penh which took about 8 to 9 hours (we do not know that she was driving by herself). We are so proud to see that she really committed herself to taking this opportunity to study Khmer foods to change her future life. So please keep her in your prayers because she is new to the city and also she is looking for a job to support herself. We are hopeful that through this skill, she will be stronger and better. *(Written by Youlika)*



## Children's Ministry

## We Need More Support!



This is an exciting month for our Sunday school curriculum team. Our Youtube channel ([www.youtube.com/@lovemcc](http://www.youtube.com/@lovemcc)) has hit 10,000 subscribers!!! We really appreciate all of you for your support and prayer for us. Some of our music has more than 350,000 views! It is great that people are using these Christian music videos and Bible lessons for children. In total, it costs about \$200 to make one

music video. Please check out this [link](#) to see how our videos are made and how churches are using them. Please support this ministry by giving to the [Cambodia Mission Initiative](#) (Advance #00230A). Be sure to note "Music Videos" when you're giving so that 100% of your donation can be used for this ministry!

**How to Support:** An annual tuition for most of the universities in Phnom Penh is about \$600.

**Online support:** <https://advance.umcmmission.org/p-393-children-and-youth-scholarships.aspx>  
Children and Youth Scholarships - Advance # 3020791

**To donate by check:** Please make your check payable to **Advance GCFA** and write the **Advance # 3020791** on the memo line. (Address: Advance GCFA PO Box 9068 GPO New York, NY 10087-9068)

**Contact:** Reasey Long (Susanna Wesley Ministries Coordinator) - [reasey1155@gmail.com](mailto:reasey1155@gmail.com)

# December 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>9:30am - Worship</p> <p>10:30am - Fellowship</p> <p>10:30am - Sunday</p> <p>1pm - Private event</p>	<p>9am - Pickle Ball</p> <p>6:30pm - Scouts</p> <p>6:30pm - Yoga - Slow</p>	<p>10am - Ministry Team</p> <p>4pm - Christian Cafe @</p>	<p>11am - Advent Bible</p> <p>6:30pm - Handbell</p> <p>7:15pm - Choir</p>	<p>9am - Pickle Ball</p> <p>2pm - Community</p> <p>4:30pm - Girl Scouts</p> <p>6pm - Advent Bible</p>	<p>8am - WIC</p> <p>5:30pm - Evening with</p>	<p>8am - Men @ Mugs</p> <p>1pm - Village Church</p>
<p>9:30am - Worship</p> <p>10:30am - Fellowship</p> <p>10:30am - Sunday</p>	<p>9am - Pickle Ball</p> <p>12pm - Blood Drive</p> <p>6:30pm - Scouts</p> <p>6:30pm - Yoga - Slow</p>	<p>10am - Ministry Team</p> <p>6:30pm - Carols and</p> <p>6:30pm - Trustee</p>	<p>11am - Advent Bible</p> <p>5:30pm - Praise team</p> <p>6:30pm - Handbell</p> <p>7:15pm - Choir</p>	<p>9am - Pickle Ball</p> <p>12pm - Quilters</p> <p>2pm - Community</p> <p>4:30pm - Girl Scouts</p> <p>6pm - Advent Bible</p>	<p>8am - WIC</p>	<p>Private event WH</p> <p>8am - Men @ Mugs</p> <p>8:30am - Stephen Min.</p>
<p>9:30am - Worship</p> <p>10:30am - Fellowship</p> <p>10:30am - Sunday</p>	<p>9am - Pickle Ball</p> <p>6:30pm - Scouts</p> <p>6:30pm - Yoga - Slow</p>	<p>10am - Ministry Team</p> <p>4pm - Christian Cafe @</p> <p>6pm - Longest night</p>	<p>11am - Advent Bible</p> <p>5:30pm - Praise Team</p> <p>6:30pm - Handbell</p> <p>7:15pm - Choir</p>	<p>9am - Pickle Ball</p> <p>12pm - Senior</p> <p>2pm - Community</p> <p>4:30pm - Girl Scouts</p> <p>6pm - Advent Bible</p>	<p>8am - WIC</p>	<p>8am - Men @ Mugs</p>
<p>9:30am - Worship</p> <p>10:30am - Fellowship</p> <p>10:30am - Sunday</p>	<p>9am - Pickle Ball</p> <p>6:30pm - Scouts</p> <p>6:30pm - Yoga - Slow</p>	<p>7:30pm - Christmas</p>	<p>Office closed</p> <p>6:30pm - Handbell</p> <p>7:15pm - Choir</p>	<p>9am - Pickle Ball</p> <p>2pm - Community</p> <p>4:30pm - Girl Scouts</p>	<p>8am - WIC</p> <p>6pm - Wedding</p>	<p>8am - Men @ Mugs</p> <p>10am - Quilters</p> <p>12pm - Bugarsky</p>
<p>Loose Change Sunday</p> <p>9:30am - Worship</p> <p>10:30am - Fellowship</p> <p>10:30am - Sunday</p>	<p>9am - Pickle Ball</p> <p>6:30pm - Mission</p> <p>6:30pm - Scouts</p> <p>6:30pm - Yoga - Slow</p>	<p>10am - Ministry Team</p>	<p>6:30pm - Handbell</p> <p>7:15pm - Choir</p>	<p>9am - Pickle Ball</p> <p>2pm - Community</p> <p>4:30pm - Girl Scouts</p>	<p>8am - WIC</p>	<p>8am - Men @ Mugs</p>