



What's Up Wickliffe!

DECEMBER 2024

CHRISTMAS

Christmas is celebrated on December 25 and is both a sacred religious holiday and a worldwide cultural and commercial phenomenon. For two millennia, people around the world have been observing it with traditions and practices that are both religious and secular in nature. Christians celebrate Christmas Day as the anniversary of the birth of Jesus of Nazareth, a spiritual leader whose teachings form the basis of their religion. Popular customs include exchanging gifts, decorating Christmas trees, attending church, sharing meals with family and friends and, of course, waiting for Santa Claus to arrive. December 25—Christmas Day—has been a federal holiday in the United States since 1870.

'A Christmas Carol'

Also around this time, English author Charles Dickens created the classic holiday tale, *A Christmas Carol*. The story's message—the importance of charity and good will towards all humankind—struck a powerful chord in the United States and England and showed members of Victorian society the benefits of celebrating the holiday.

The family was also becoming less disciplined and more sensitive to the emotional needs of children during the early 1800s. Christmas provided families with a day when they could lavish attention and gifts on their children without appearing to “spoil” them.

As Americans began to embrace Christmas as a perfect family holiday, old customs were unearthed. People looked toward recent immigrants and Catholic and Episcopalian churches to see how the day should be celebrated. In the next 100 years, Americans built a Christmas tradition all their own that included pieces of many other customs, including decorating trees, sending holiday cards and gift-giving.

Although most families quickly bought into the idea that they were celebrating Christmas how it had been done for centuries, Americans had really re-invented a holiday to fill the cultural needs of a growing nation.

Christmas Facts

Each year, 25-30 million real Christmas trees are sold

in the United States alone. There are about 15,000 Christmas tree farms in the United States, and trees usually grow for between four and 15 years before they are sold.

In the Middle Ages, Christmas celebrations were rowdy and raucous—a lot like today's Mardi Gras parties.

When Christmas was cancelled: From 1659 to 1681, the celebration of Christmas was outlawed in Boston, and law-breakers were fined five shillings.

- Christmas was declared a federal holiday in the United States on June 26, 1870.

The first eggnog made in the United States was consumed in Captain John Smith's 1607 Jamestown settlement.

- Poinsettia plants are named after Joel R. Poinsett, an American minister to Mexico, who brought the red-and-green plant from Mexico to America in 1828.
- The Salvation Army has been sending Santa Claus-clad donation collectors into the streets since the 1890s.

Rudolph, “the most famous reindeer of all,” was the product of Robert L. May's imagination in 1939. The copywriter wrote a poem about the reindeer to help lure customers into the Montgomery Ward department store.

~History.com Editors

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DECEMBER SCHEDULE

- December 1** 1st Sunday of Advent
 ♦ Communion
 ♦ Hubbard FPC to Join Us
 ♦ Welcome New Members
- December 8** 2nd Sunday of Advent
- December 15** 3rd Sunday of Advent
- December 22** 4th Sunday of Advent
 ♦ 6:00 PM Service w/Renewal Trio
- December 24** Christmas Eve Worship Service
 ♦ At Hubbard Church
- December 29** 1st Sunday of Christmas

Church Office Hours:

Monday - 9:00am - 12:00pm

Tuesday - Closed

Wednesday - Closed

Thursday - 9:00am - 12:00pm

Friday - Closed

(Hours may vary. Please contact the office for an appointment if you need in the church)

Church Website: www.wickliffepc.com

Secretary's Email: wickliffepc@gmail.com

Wickliffe Presbyterian Church

45 Idlewood Rd.

Austintown, OH 44515

P: 330-792-6441 F: 330-792-1006

TLCC Daycare and Preschool

Director, Norma Johnson

330-792-9048



Happy Birthday!

- December 2 Rich Truslow
- December 2 Sandie Wayland
- December 8 Barbara McKinney
- December 15 Al Bagoly
- December 15 Glenn Johnson
- December 17 Patti Cramer
- December 20 Jamie Bryant
- December 21 Marty Mayer
- December 22 Edith Muzenic
- December 23 Neil Truslow





2024 Per Capita remains \$32.50. Per Capita information flyers are available at the church.



IN STEP WITH SESSION

Your Session met for the last time in 2024. We were small but mighty in attendance but operated with a quorum present. Rev Meta Cramer moderated.

We accomplished the following: Review of rolls, decided on direction to take as we make a decision on when to have our next Congregational meeting, installation of officers and officer training. We will discuss the communion dates at our next Session meeting in January.

Thank you, Jamie, for attending the meeting as she guided us through not only the October Financials but also answered any questions we had pertaining to the 2025 budget. The budget was then approved and adopted.

We took time to hear Jamie's take on the committee that is trying to solve issues on finding a Pastor for Wickliffe. We are working with Hubbard and Heritage who also are looking for a Pastor. In my opinion, we need to have either Jamie or Janelle inform our members of the latest actions or discussions taking place at least once a month (preferably during a Minute for Mission). Until this happens, please address your concerns to Jamie and/or Janelle. Know that Worship met as a committee and Session is allowing the committee to make any changes they deem necessary for our Worship service. We did not have a representative at the Zoom Presbytery meeting.

Grace, who is recovering from her knee replacement, wanted to let her volunteers know how much she appreciates them. She now has a list of 8 women who are willing to teach the Children's Sunday school. Jeff, who was also not in attendance, reported that the cost to repair two gas lines amounted to a little over \$800. Also Rob from Robs heating and cooling will be retiring due to health issues. A card from Session with a Gift card included will be sent to him with our appreciation for all he has done for our Church. Donna is working on a date for the Annual Church Picnic this coming summer. Thinking of having it on the Church grounds instead of at the Austintown Park. Still in planning stages.

I believe this covers all as we move into the Holiday Season.

Merry Christmas to all. We hope to see you at our Renewal Trio Concert on Dec 22nd at 6 PM. Bring your family and friends!

Blessings to all, Nancy O'Hara, Clerk of Session



~A SPECIAL NOTE FROM YOUR SESSION~

On **Christmas Eve, December 24**, Wickliffe has been invited to First Presbyterian Church of Hubbard for a joint worship service.

The Service will begin at 4:00 PM and Communion will be served.

Please plan to attend! The address for the Hubbard Church is:

**22 Westview Avenue
Hubbard, OH 44425**





THANK YOU FROM THE DEACONS OF WICKLIFFE!

A huge thank you to all our members who supported the Deacons in any way during this holiday season. We delivered 14 Christmas Boxes to the children.

The Hat, Mitten and Glove Tree is filled and gifts are being purchased for Protestant Family Service. Please bring those unwrapped gifts by December 8, 2024. Thanks for everything!!

Happy Holidays to you,
The Deacons of Wickliffe

A REQUEST FROM JEFF BRYANT, CHAIRMAN WPC SERVICE COMMITTEE

If you need to enter the church, please don't do so after dark. This is for your safety!

If you need to do so, contact Jeff at 330-402-4498 and he will meet you there.

Thank you!



THE MEANING OF THE SNOWMAN

The **white snow** represents God's forgiveness of our sins.

The **circular snowballs** show the everlasting life God promises us.

The **carrot nose** shows us that God has given us the Earth and all living things.

The **black coal mouth** reminds us to give God praise.



The **scarf** keeps us warm, just as God's love does.

The **top hat** reminds us to honor God above all things.

The **twig arms** are open to hold us the way God does when we need Him.



A middle-aged man went on a Caribbean cruise alone. The first day

he noticed an attractive woman on deck about his age who smiled at him in a friendly way. That night he managed to sit near her at dinner. As the conversation developed, he commented that he had seen her on deck that morning...and had appreciated her friendly smile. When she heard this she replied, "Well, the reason I smiled when I saw you was that I was immediately struck by your strong resemblance to my 3rd husband". At this, his ears perked up and he said, "Oh. And how many times have you been married?" She looked down at her plate, smiled demurely, and said, "Twice."

~ Donna Cooper



Would you like to nominate someone or yourself for a position of Elder, Deacon or to be on the Board of TLCC Day Care?

If so (or if you have any questions as to what your duties would be), please contact Bev Bagoly.

You can also contact Janelle Truslow, Patti Cramer or Tracy Martin.

**Thank you for your consideration!!!
~ Tracy Martin**



Needle's Eye Soup Ministry

Grateful thanks to all who donated cans of soup and/or jars of peanut butter for our November collection. Let us be one of the perfect gifts that keeps on giving in December! Thank you!

~ Donna Cooper



GOODTIMERS CHRISTMAS PARTY will be held Wednesday, December 11 at 12:00 PM at Salvatore's Restaurant 4831 Mahoning Ave., Austintown, OH

~Grace Brown

The DISCOVERY GROUP will NOT meet in December.

~ Grace Brown

The M&M Christmas Story

"As you hold these candies in your hand, and turn them you will see the M becomes a W, an E and then a 3.

They tell the Christmas story, it's one I'm sure you know. It took place in a stable a long, long time ago.

The E is for the East, where the star shone so bright.

The M is for the manger where Baby Jesus slept that night.

The 3 is for the wisemen, bearing gifts they say they came.

The W is for worship, hallelujah, praise His name.

So as you eat these candies or share them with a friend, remember the meaning of Christmas. It's a love story that never ends." Pam Ridenour

Submitted by Sherry Yacucci





THE CHRISTMAS JOY OFFERING

What was the perfect gift you have received? Maybe I should say the Gift that keeps on giving! Of course, It is the Perfect Gift of Our Lord Jesus Christ! Fully human and fully God, Jesus became one of us! He came to offer us the Perfect Gift of Himself and through Him, Eternal Life!

Through the Christmas Joy Offering, we reflect God's Perfect Gift to us in our support of this offering to honor leaders in the Church - retired pastors, church workers and their families. And we honor emerging leaders like students in schools and colleges equipping communities of color who develop leadership skills and prepare to give their gifts in service to the world God loves so much!

The Christmas Joy Offering will be taken up on Sunday, December 15 since we will be at Hubbard Presbyterian on Christmas Eve. New leaders are needed to keep Christ relevant and working in our less than perfect world!

Thank you, *Donna Cooper*

DECEMBER 22, 2024 WORSHIP SERVICE SCHEDULE CHANGE

PLEASE NOTE:

**On Sunday, December 22nd,
our worship service will be
held at 6:00 PM,
led by Don Abrahams and the
Renewal Trio.
*No service will be held
at 10:00 AM.***

**Come Join us for a night of
Christmas Music and Great
Gospel Singing!**



CHURCH WOMEN UNITED

Our Wonderful Women gathered at Western Reserve Methodist Church on Saturday, November 9 to celebrate Human Rights/World Community Day. Following an introduction to the history of CWU, a Bible study of verses about peacemakers and elements of peace making, Bishop Joseph McNeal from The Hour of Prayer Pentecostal Church in Farrell, PA gave us information of a free workshop in Austin-town on Wednesday, November 20 about care giving. A yummy box lunch was served for our luncheon.

I especially thank **Ruth Capper** for sharing her gift of music with us as we sang some hymns. Also, thanks to **Sandy Wayland**, **Grace Brown**, and **Carolyn Lewis** for attending and enriching our discussion!

~ *Donna Cooper*

RENEWAL

Celebrating The Birth of Christ



Linda Abraham



Donnie Abraham



Becky Vignon

Wickliffe Presbyterian Church
45 Idlewood Rd. Austintown, OH 44515

Sunday Evening December 22nd at 6:00 pm

**Come Join us for a night of Christmas Music
and Great Gospel Singing**

For more information:
Call or text 330-519-7720 email – donnie9933@att.net

December 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 10:00 AM Worship Service Combined Service w/Hubbard *Communion 8:00 PM AA Mtg.	2	3	4	5	6	7
				5:45 PM Tops		
8 10:00 AM Worship Service 8:00 PM AA Mtg.	9	10	11 12 PM Goodtimers Christmas Party Salvatore's Restaurant Austintown	12	13	14
				5:45 PM Tops		
15 10:00 AM Worship Service 8:00 PM AA Mtg.	16	17	18	19	20	21
				5:45 PM Tops		
22 6:00 PM Worship Service with Renewal Trio 8:00 PM AA Mtg.	23 Newsletter Deadline	24 4:00 PM Christmas Eve Shared Worship at Hubbard FPC *Communion	25 	26	27	28
29 10:00 AM Worship Service 8:00 PM AA Mtg.	30	31				