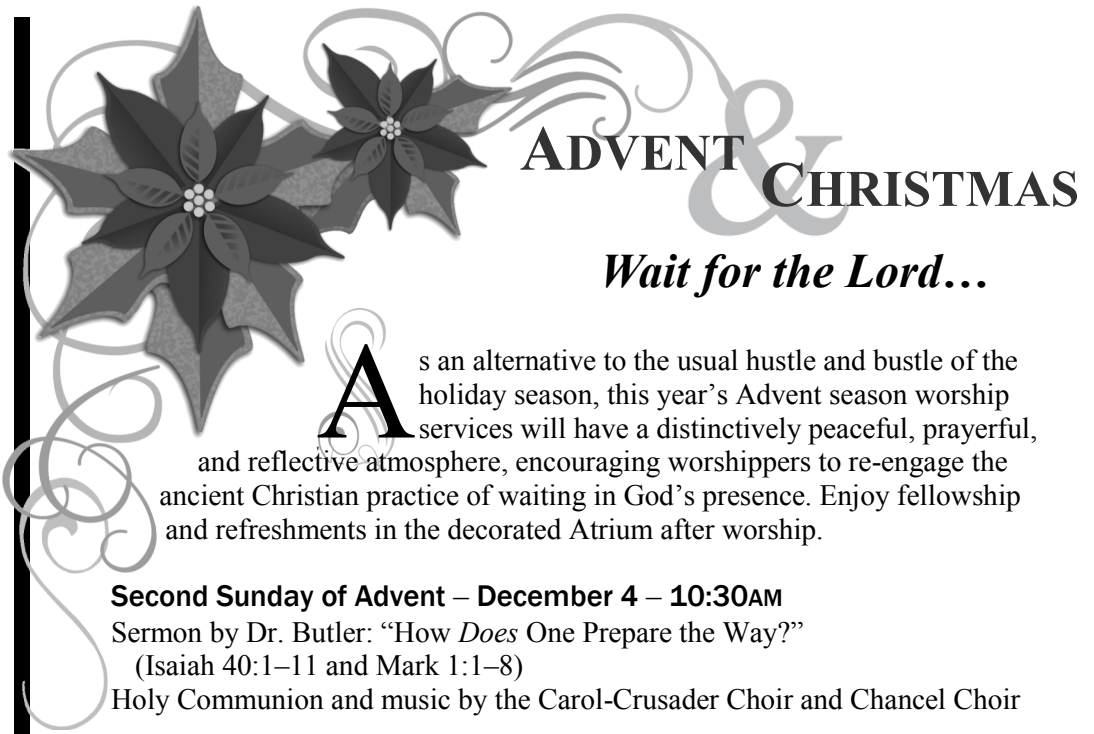




LAKWOOD
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH

Open Door

Hope • Friendship • Service



ADVENT & CHRISTMAS

Wait for the Lord...

As an alternative to the usual hustle and bustle of the holiday season, this year's Advent season worship services will have a distinctively peaceful, prayerful, and reflective atmosphere, encouraging worshippers to re-engage the ancient Christian practice of waiting in God's presence. Enjoy fellowship and refreshments in the decorated Atrium after worship.

Second Sunday of Advent – December 4 – 10:30AM

Sermon by Dr. Butler: "How *Does* One Prepare the Way?"

(Isaiah 40:1-11 and Mark 1:1-8)

Holy Communion and music by the Carol-Crusader Choir and Chancel Choir

Third Sunday of Advent – December 11 – 10:30AM

Enjoy a delightful Children's Christmas Pageant with readings and carols

Music by the Chancel Choir and Chancel Bell Choir

Fourth Sunday of Advent – December 18 – 10:30AM

Sermon by Dr. Butler: "Whistling in the Dark?" (Luke 1:26-38)

Music by the Chapel Bell Choir and Chancel Choir singing "Magnificat"

"Christmas Joy" Offering collected (see page 2)

Children's Christmas Eve Candle Lighting Service – 7PM

Abbreviated service appropriate for children featuring a special Christmas story reading, familiar carols, the Celebration Singers, and lighting of the Christ candle
Christmas Cookie Fellowship Time in the Atrium hosted by our Youth

Christmas Eve Candle Lighting Service – 10PM

A festive, traditional service featuring a wide variety of instrumental and choral music, beloved carols, nativity readings, a message by Dr. Butler, and the lighting of the Christ candle

Christmas Sunday – December 25 – 10:30AM

Sermon by Dr. Butler: "Good Ol' Joe" (Matthew 2:19-23)

Familiar carols and special seasonal music by Chris Trotman



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Coming in January:

- Sunday, January 1 – Worship 10:30 am
- Monday, January 2 – New Year's Day observed – Church closed
- Monday, January 16 – Martin Luther King, Jr. Day – Church closed
- Sunday, January 22 – 4 pm Good Company Concert – Sanctuary

A Message from the Pastor

— The Rev. Dr. James C. Butler

Our congregation is blessed with a beautiful and welcoming building. It is actually comprised of three different buildings that were masterfully joined together during the 2007 Second Century building renewal and Kilgore Ministry Center project. Perhaps the most visually stunning aspect of the church, however, are the contemporary stained glass windows in the Sanctuary, designed by the late Douglas Phillips and installed in 1964. During some routine exterior masonry work, it was discovered that several of the almost fifty-year-old windows were in need of repair and refurbishing. Azure Stained Glass Studios, the successor firm to Mr. Phillips', was engaged to fully restore the windows in three phases at a cost of almost \$80,000.00. Last June, after having received three major gifts, I asked the congregation to prayerfully con-

sider supporting the much-needed project with contributions so that the church's landmark windows will be preserved. I am pleased to report that over \$80,000.00 has been received, the bulk of which came from four major gifts.

The first two phases will be completed by early winter. Work on the final phase will commence during the spring months. Sections of the windows have been and will continue to be temporarily removed for short periods. Once again, I am astounded by the generosity of this congregation, and want you to know how deeply I appreciate your financial support of this and other important capital projects. I extend to everyone my very best wishes for a blessed Advent Season and a Merry Christmas with the people you love. ❖



Saints Alive! Living Generously

—1 Corinthians 16:1-4 (NRSV)

Status of 2012 Pledges

As of late November, 109 pledges totaling \$271,000 have been received. Pledges tend to be received until early January. Eleven new pledges were received, 42 pledges were increased and 15 were lowered. ❖

Christmas Joy Offering

This offering is one of four that is sponsored by the Presbyterian Church USA in which our donations are combined with those of Presbyterians across the country. Half of the funds are used to help ministers and their families in times of unusual need through the Assistance Program of the Board of Pensions. These funds may help them remain in their own homes or move to retirement facilities through the Housing Supplement program. The Shared Grant program is intended to help both current and retired church workers with one-time emergency needs.

The other half of these donations provides scholarship assistance to hundreds of

minority students otherwise unable to access the educational benefits of the racial ethnic schools and colleges of the PC(USA). These students represent groups including Hispanic, Native American, and Afro-American. There were 1,644 stu-

dents in the six designated colleges who were supported by the Christmas Joy Offering in 2010.

The Christmas Joy Offering has been a cherished Presbyterian tradition since the 1930s and the needs are as

great as when it was established. In December, bulletin inserts will tell the unique stories of some of the recipients of the Christmas Joy Offering. Take the time to read them and see how these funds have changed lives. A donation envelope is included in this mailing for your use. We will collect the offering on December 18, but would welcome your contribution at any time during the month. ❖

Educational opportunities for minority students at Presbyterian-related schools and colleges



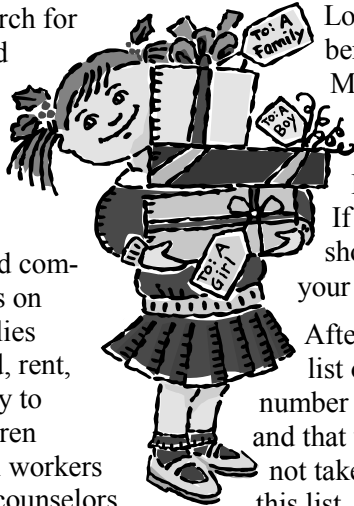
Sharing Our Blessings

Hats and Mittens (Men's Please!)

It's time for our annual collection of hats, scarves, mittens and gloves. We will happily accept any that you would like to donate and make sure they get to someone who can use them. However, we have been made aware of a special need through Old Stone Church for items that are suitable for men and would like to fill that if possible. Look for a collection basket in the Atrium through December 18.

Christmas Gifts for Children

There are many children in the Lakewood community who will receive few, if any, gifts on Christmas morning. Money in their families must be spent on necessities such as food, rent, and medical care. LPC has an opportunity to brighten the holiday for 25 of these children through our annual gift collection. Social workers employed by the City of Lakewood and counselors at Lakewood Youth Services will identify the children and youth and give us some ideas of what they would like to receive. Each child will receive an item of clothing and something fun. These same social workers and counselors will deliver the wrapped gifts to the families



in time for Christmas. They find that it often helps them become closer to the families and gives them an entrée in the future.

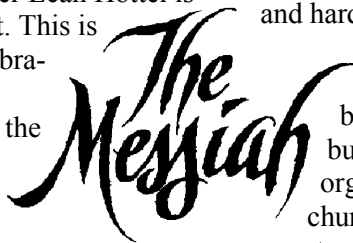
Gift requests will be available in the Atrium after church on Sundays, November 27 and December 4.

Look for the wooden Christmas tree and the member of the Mission, Outreach & Justice (MOJ) Ministry who will be there to help. You can choose a specific gift(s) that you will purchase, wrap, and return to church by December 11. Each gift should cost approximately \$20-\$25. If you would like to help but find it difficult to shop, MOJ members would be happy to accept your contribution and do the shopping for you.

After you select your gift recipient, there will be a list on which to place your name and telephone number so that we can make sure all gifts are chosen and that we can get them returned on time. Please do not take a gift suggestion unless you are able to sign this list. There will be instructions available as a reminder of the schedule for gift return. We hope that all of the gift suggestions will be chosen by the end of Coffee Hour on December 4. Won't it be fun to wake up on Christmas morning knowing that a child is enjoying an exciting moment because you shared your blessings? ❖

Attention Lovers of Handel's "Messiah"

Love to sing or hear Handel's "Messiah"? You will have an opportunity to do either on Sunday, December 11, at 7 p.m. at Oberlin College's Warner Concert Hall, 77 W. College Street. This event is sponsored by Credo Chamber Music, a non-profit organization in Oberlin, where LPC member Leah Hottel is executive assistant. This is a free Advent celebration with a free-offering to benefit the MedWish Foundation. Credo is especially interested in having church choirs and church members attend this event. You will not be on stage as a singer, but in the audience. Or



you may simply sit and listen. Soloists and the orchestra will be select students from Oberlin College. Scores will be available to rent at the door for \$5, but if you would like to borrow an LPC score, see Kathy Sands.

Staff Christmas Fund Needs Your Gift!

In appreciation of their faithfulness and hard work, staff members (non-clergy) are given a cash Christmas gift made possible through voluntary contributions of church members and organizations which meet in the church building. It is a wonderful way to express our thanks for their service and ministry. Contributions to the Staff Christmas Gift Fund should be clearly marked, made payable to

the church, and sent to Beth Ann Starks, Financial Secretary. Thank you for your generous support.

From the Financial Office

Pledge Envelopes for 2012 will be available in the Narthex beginning December 11 through the end of the month. If your pledge number is between 1 and 69, please stop and pick up your box. After the first of the year, they will be available in the Church office. If you do not receive envelopes and wish to have them, please notify the church at 216-226-0514.

For those who wish to pay their 2011 pledge or prepay their 2012 pledge by the end of December, please note that the envelope must be received or postmarked no later than December 31, 2011. Books will be closed on that date. ❖

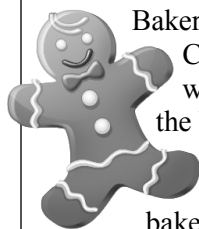
Preparing for Christmas



Greening the Sanctuary

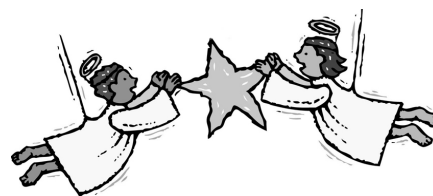
The Worship Ministry needs your help in decorating the Sanctuary for Christmas. Please come help make our Sanctuary look festive at 1:30 p.m. on Saturday, December 3. Cookies will be served in the Atrium. There might even be some Christmas caroling while we work!

Looking for Christmas Goodies



Bakers are needed for our Christmas Eve reception which will be hosted by the Youth Group. Please consider sharing one dozen homemade or bakery Christmas cookies or candy for this fellowship reception. The baked goods can be dropped off at the church on Sunday, December 18 or prior to the first service on Christmas Eve, December 24. If you bring them in on Sunday please make sure they are tightly wrapped. If you bring them in on Christmas Eve, please have them on a plate or in a tin, ready to serve.

Christmas Pageant



The Christmas pageant will take place during worship on December 11. All children, youth, and adults who wish to participate in the pageant should come to a brief meeting on Sunday, December 4 in the Journey's room at 9:30 a.m. to receive a part and costume. Then on December 11 we will have a brief walk-through at 9:30 a.m. in the Journey's room as well. This is a very low stress and fun-for-all pageant; there are absolutely no lines to learn. Children and parents may participate together for moral support and fun. *Special News:* This year we have some PINK shepherd girl costumes and new adorable stuffed lambs to carry!

Nurture & Discipleship

"Snow Days" Bound

On Sunday, December 18 after worship the Youth will have an outing to Progressive Field for *Snow Days*. We need a definite number of those who will be attending no later than December 1 (*extremely firm date*) to reserve tickets. We must have a group of at least 15 in order to get the discounted rate of \$18 per person; so grab a friend and join the fun! All participating people (including adults) must complete an Indians Snow Days Waiver which will be turned in at Progressive Field. Kim Hook and Sharon Budin will be chaperoning the group, but we would like a couple extra adults to attend and drive as well.

Library Update

The Library Committee invites you to come in and enjoy the many books available on the Christmas season. Two new books have been ordered that were used during the Oktoberfest classes:

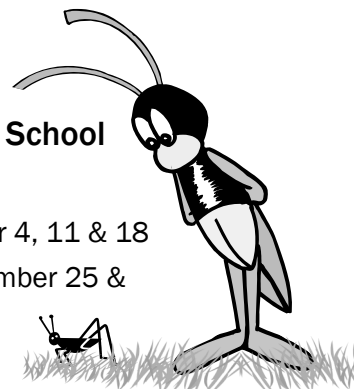
- *Listening for the Heartbeat of God*
- *Christ of the Celts*

Please come in and enjoy.

Faith Journeys Sunday School

December Rotations

- **Advent Angels:** December 4, 11 & 18
- **No Sunday School:** December 25 & January 1



November Session Highlights

- Approved 2012 budget and spending plan of \$491,000.00
- Approved Finance Ministry's recommendation to have Carnegie Capital manage the church endowment fund and pension fund beginning January 2012
- Transferred to Affiliate Membership roll
- Heard report from Session members who attended the Presbytery-sponsored "Creating Congregational Cultures of Generosity" seminar held at LPC

Fellowship & Small Groups

Acacia-Lydia Circle

Wednesday, December 14 at 1 p.m.

Thursday Night Dinner Club

Wednesday, December 14 at 5:30 p.m.—Thursday Night Dinner Club is open to men and women who would like to join others on the second Thursday each month. In December they will meet on *Wednesday, December 14*.

Men's Fellowship Breakfast

December 8 at 8 a.m.—Meet in Lawther Hall; all men welcome.

Psalm 139 Knitters

Wednesday, December 28 at 10:30 a.m.—Prayer Shawl Ministry meets

in the Reed Room. All levels of knitters and crocheters are welcome.

Dueteers

Saturday, December 17 — Christmas Party in Lawther Hall. Begins at 5:30 p.m. in the Atrium with hors d'oeuvres, followed by devotions (6:30), a dinner catered by Novotny's (7:00), and musical entertainment. \$20/person.

Dances of Universal Peace

Thursday, December 15 at 6:30 p.m.— Meet in the Reed Room for interfaith meditative moving prayer.

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We are an open and welcoming community of Christians committed to:

- ◆ Proclaiming Christ's message of hope and salvation
- ◆ Nurturing faith and the exploration of our beliefs
- ◆ Celebrating the faith we share in joyous worship
- ◆ Relieving poverty and oppression, and eliminating social and economic injustice
- ◆ Watching over and affirming one another in love

Church Staff

Pastor/Head of Staff	James C. Butler
Pastor Emeritus	Merton McKendus
Minister of Discipleship	Sharon Sherwin Budin
Organist	Paula Maust
Choir Directors	Karen Weaver, Bob Paraska, Natalie Welty, Sara Lindberg
Administrative Secretary	Marie Andrews
Financial Secretary	Beth Ann Starks
Childcare Provider	Kimberly Hook
Evening Receptionist	Becky Schneider
Newsletter Editor	Leslie Stewart

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14502 Detroit Avenue, Lakewood OH 44107
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www.lakewoodpresbyterian.org

Submission deadline for Open Door is the 15th of the month for the following issue. E-mail articles to lesliestewart@prodigy.net. Submissions are subject to editing for length and clarity.



Memorial poinsettias of red and white will again decorate the Sanctuary this Holy Christmas season. If you would like to donate a poinsettia plant in memory of, or in honor of, a loved one, please complete and return the form below by *Wednesday, December 14*. The cost of each plant is \$10.00. If you want to pick up your own poinsettia on January 1 after the church service, please indicate on the form.

Please consider a gift of your time. We will deliver poinsettias to our homebound friends the week of January 1. -*The Worship Ministry*

POINSETTIA ORDER FORM

Given in memory of _____

or

Given in honor of _____

By _____

Amount enclosed: \$ _____ for _____ plants.

Signature _____ Phone _____

I will pick up my plant on January 1.

I will deliver a poinsettia plant to our homebound the week of January 1.