

Revelations

Sharon Center United Methodist Newsletter December 2025



“Are you ready for Christmas?” How often do we hear that question asked of us in the month between Thanksgiving and Christmas? It is a great way to start a conversation this time of year. It sure beats comments on the weather. We do that the rest of the year and all we do is complain. But Christmas is different. We can speak joyfully about the plans we are making.

Sometimes, however, we are so caught up in our plans for the “mas”—the celebration or Mass —of Christmas, we forget to ready ourselves for the Christ of the holiday. We spend all our time shopping for presents for others because we feel an obligation to do so rather than out of generosity in our hearts. We fuss over our homes with extra cleaning and decorating. We put up the Christmas tree, spend hours wrapping presents, and risk our well-being on ladders hanging lights from our homes. Some of us go to parties to which we would not normally go because of a presumed social contract.

I am not saying all or any of these things are bad in and of themselves. There are many Christmas holiday traditions that bring joy to us, and we should definitely participate in those that draw us nearer to Christ and to others. The traditions that remind us of the true meaning of Christmas and those whose end results glorify Christ and the Father.

Advent is a period of waiting and of preparation. Instead of spending all of our Advent season looking outward and preparing our outward lives, we need to slow down and take time to look inwardly —preparing our hearts to receive the Christ child at Christmas. We do this during Advent because the Christ we are receiving is coming to us as a precious little baby and not the fierce warrior King of Christ the King Sunday —a representation of Christ at the end times when he returns as final judge and ruler of all.

Before we celebrate the Christmas holiday, we prepare our houses to receive guests by cleaning and decorating. We make the home feel cozier and more welcoming. We adjust our thermostats up a few degrees against the cold of outdoors. Some of us still make homemade candies, cookies, and cakes to have on hand for those guests who drop by. So should we be preparing our hearts to receive the Christ child. We need to sweep down the cobwebs of idleness in our hearts. We should be looking at producing

Did Someone Hand You This Newsletter?

If so, we're excited to share with you all the things going on in the life of Sharon Center United Methodist Church! Our church is a community that seeks to discover more about God and about who we are as the people God loves. We are truly a family of all ages, and there's always room for more! You're always invited to take part in all the activities and gatherings listed in this newsletter, as well as to join us every Sunday morning at 11am as we gather to worship and connect. Thanks!



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fruit for the King to enjoy when he arrives. We can get rid of ugly thoughts and desires in our hearts and replace them with beautiful, good works and love for our neighbors. We can warm up our hearts with a fire burning in our souls of the love of God. We can prepare to receive the Christ child into our hearts this Advent.

"So then, just as you received Christ Jesus as Lord, continue to live your lives in him, ⁷ rooted and built up in him, strengthened in the faith as you were taught, and overflowing with thankfulness." Colossians 2:6-7

Joining Church

If you are interested in joining Sharon Center UMC contact Pastor Wendy. She will set up a meeting for a Membership Sunday.

Grief Support Group

We will continue Grief Group on Monday nights at 7pm in the Conference Room. This is led by John and Lori Weiss.

East Ohio Conference Newsletter Link

Follow the following link to check out the East Ohio Conference Newsletters

<https://eocumcnews.com/2025/11/24/november-24-2025/>
(Nov. 24 edition)

<https://eocumcnews.com/> (Main page)

West Plains District Newsletter Link

Follow the following link to check out the West Plains District Newsletter.

[eastohio-email.brtapp.com/
viewinsite/73a65ef11b50a98a1524f4cdb4a9de46](http://eastohio-email.brtapp.com/viewinsite/73a65ef11b50a98a1524f4cdb4a9de46)

Hanging of the Greens

On November 29 at 11am we will have Hanging of the Greens to decorate the church. Following the decorating there will be a soup lunch. All are welcome to help decorate the church and enjoy some fellowship with our church family.

Operation Christmas Child Shoebox

Thank you to everyone who donated a OCC Shoebox this year! We donated 10 boxes.



Calendar

Regular Schedule:

Sun. 11am Worship

November

11/29 11am Hanging of the Greens

December

12/6 8am Men's Study at Bob Evans

12/8 7p Grief Group mtg

12/14 Poinsettia Orders due

Adopt-a-Family return deadline

12/15 7p Grief Group mtg

12/24 9p Christmas Eve Service

December Birthdays

4—Cayla Falconer
16—Christina Breese
23—Melissa Shaw
31— Ann Krautheim

December Anniversaries

Spiritual Growth Discussions

Our Daily Breads are available at the back of the sanctuary.

Granger Men's Study Group meets at Bob Evan's on Rt. 18 near i71 on the First Saturday of the month at 8am. Sharon UMC is invited to attend.



Christmas Eve Service

We will have a Christmas Eve Service on Dec. 24 at 9p. Please note the change in time.

Prayer Chain

We are starting a new prayer chain. If you are interested in being on the prayer chain, please contact Nancy Baldwin. Phone 330-350-0913.

Nancy's e-mail address baldwinwn@aol.com.

Please send your name, e-mail address and phone number. Nancy will contact each one of you after she gets a list together.

Community Events to Join in on

The Sharon Community Christmas Program and Tree lighting will be on Nov. 30 at 7pm at the Sharon Town Hall.

Pop Tab collection

Looking for a simple project to help out big? Collect pop tabs! These can be saved in a baggie and brought to the church and will be given to Ronald McDonald House. There is also a jar in the Gathering Space to drop individual tabs in.



Poinsettia Orders

It's that time of year! We will be taking Poinsettia Orders through Dec. 14. Please fill out the form and return to the office, to Nancy Baldwin or place in the offering plate. They will be \$13 and you are welcome to take them home after the Christmas Eve Service.

Adopt-a-Family Program

We will participate in the Adopt-a-Family program this year with details to follow. The return deadline will be Dec. 14.



Poinsettia Order Form

Our sanctuary will be decorated the Sunday before Christmas with Poinsettias ordered by members of our congregation in honor of, in memory of, or to celebrate loved ones. You can also purchase one to be given to a homebound individual. The names of donors will be listed in an insert in the bulletin.

Poinsettias may be ordered for \$13.00 each using the following form. You may place the order form with payment in the collection plate on Sundays, return to the office by drop off or email, pay online. If you pay online please let the office know and send form with info by email or drop off. Orders for poinsettias will be taken until Dec. 14th.

You may take the poinsettias home after Christmas Eve, Sundays following Christmas, pick up during office time at church, or have dropped off at your home by request.

Poinsettia \$13.00 Quantity ordered_____

In Honor of_____

In Celebration of_____

In Memory of_____

Given by_____

Blessing Box/ Food Pantry Collection

Please remember the Blessing Box in front of the Church. There are people in our community that go to that box for food on a regular basis. Please pick up some food items and place in box or put in the back of the church and we will add them to the box. This is an important ministry to our community and much needed in these hard times. Thank You for your help.



Contact Us

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Visit us on the web at:
www.SharonCenterUMC.org

Visit Us on Facebook!
Sharon Center UMC

Service time: Sunday, 11am

Christmas Eve Service

9pm

Sharon Center UMC

6407 Ridge Rd.

Wadsworth, OH

