



THE CHRISTIAN ALERT
December 17, 2018

In *Reader's Digest* Jimmy Stewart once shared an interesting observation:

This Christmas, a movie I was lucky to have had a role in is lighting up television screens all over America, as it does every year. The name of the picture is *It's a Wonderful Life*, and it is one of the greatest, most popular movies of all time. What accounts for the phenomenal success of a film about a small-town businessman who gets so desperate over losing what to him is a large sum of money that he thinks seriously about throwing away his life? I think it's because as the story unfolds, it becomes clear that *It's a Wonderful Life* is about hope, love and friendship....

Many writers have referred to the part in which Clarence the Angel tells George, "Strange, isn't it? Each man's life touches so many other lives, and when he isn't around, he leaves an awful hole, doesn't he?" As columnist Don Feder of the *Boston Herald* wrote: "In an increasingly impersonal world, this is an urgently needed message: that we count."

Another of this season's classic stories depicts an angel sharing a similar message with persons of seemingly little consequence. To frightened shepherds comes the Christmas Gospel: "Behold I bring you good news of a great joy which will come to all the people; for to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord."

As this story explores the meaning of this birth, it becomes clear that the coming of the Christ is about hope, love and friendship as well. It is still a message the world is desperate to hear.

Merry Christmas!

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Lord's Day Happenings – December 23, 2018

10:30 am Worship
 Scripture: Luke 1:39-56
 Sermon: "Surprised by Joy!"

TETELESTAI IS COMING!
MARCH 8-10

THIS WEEK'S MEETINGS AND EVENTS

Monday, Dec.17- 7 pm Youth Christmas party
 7 pm Trustee meeting
 Thursday, Dec. 20- 10 am Ladies Aid
 6:45 pm Bible Journaling
 7 pm Choir Practice

NEXT WEEK'S MEETINGS AND EVENTS

Monday, December 24- 7 pm Christmas Eve
 Candlelight service
 Tuesday, December 25- Happy Birthday Jesus!

CHURCH FAMILY

Barb Wilkinson – recovering from hand surgery

We extend our prayers of comfort to Carol Gordon upon the death of her friend Gene Wilson.

Our thoughts and prayers to Dale Hatch and family upon the passing of Carol.

Our sympathy to Jim Taylor and family upon the passing of his wife Bonnie Taylor.

ADDRESS UPDATE

Janet Brooks is now at Gillette Nursing and Rehab. Her address is 3310 Elm Rd. NE Room #623 Warren, OH 44483

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service



December 24th at 7:00 pm
 Candlelight Service and Communion
 Choir Cantata
 "Behold! A Savior"

CHRISTMAS SPECIAL OFFERING

Please consider giving to this year's special Christmas offering. Due to the financial situation of the Region, this offering is more crucial than ever. As you know, the Christmas offering is 40% of the Regional budget.

The Christmas Offering is an opportunity to support the regional ministry we work of Commission on Ministry Teams meeting with students and individuals preparing for commissioned and ordained ministry. It helps to send young people on the United Nations Seminar in New York and Washington DC.

It provides significant support for our excellent ministries at Camp Christian. It helps to provide training sessions for clergy such as Anti-Racism, Ethical Boundaries and Interim training. It helps assist congregations searching for their next minister. It provides opportunities for developing Spiritual Life among ministers and lay persons throughout the church. And so much more! Together we do ministry in the name of Christ.

THANK YOU

We want to thank the pastor and all our friends at Champion Christian Church for all the calls, visits, cards and letters during the last few months of our difficult time. To David Copenhaver for bringing us communion, and all the others who were so kind to us to keep in touch with our church family. We miss going to church.

Roger and Betty Lou Yost

SANCTUARY FLOWER CHART

The sanctuary flower chart for 2019 is now hanging on the wall. If you would like to reserve a date in honor or memory of someone, please write your name on the date. Each arrangement is \$15.00, payment can be placed in the offering tray in a marked envelope "Sanctuary Flowers"

Servers for Sunday, December 23, 2018

Elders – Nancy Countryman, Jerry Hixenbaugh

Diaconate –Janice Bruner, John Cligrow, Stacey Gardner, Pat Mollenauer, Dave Gargas, Vicki Gargas, Kylie Gardner, Natalie Gardner, Morgan Hardman, Kylie Teuscher, Karlie Klingeman, Shyanna Cerny

Prepare Only- Rayetta Smith

Worship Leader- Shellene Wilkinson

Communion Bread- Jean Smith

Greeters – Doug, Jolyn, Nicole,
Natalie & Nathan Emerine

Nursery – Chelsea Thomas

Children's Church-Sophia Elmore &Kylie Gardner

Acolyte- Anna Cokrlc and Nicole Emerine

Media –Sharon Armstrong, Karen York

Sound – Mike Keller

Counter Team – Jan and Tom Bruner

Captains – Barb and Mike Wilkinson

Servers for Sunday, December 24, 2018

Elders – Sharon Armstrong, Mike Wilkinson

Diaconate –Janice Bruner, John Cligrow, Stacey Gardner, Pat Mollenauer, Dave Gargas, Vicki Gargas, Kylie Gardner, Natalie Gardner, Morgan Hardman, Kylie Teuscher, Karlie Klingeman, Shyanna Cerny

Prepare Only- Rayetta Smith

Communion Bread- Jean Smith

Greeters – Doug, Jolyn, Nicole,
Natalie & Nathan Emerine

Nursery – Chelsea Thomas

Counter Team – Jan and Tom Bruner

Captains – Barb and Mike Wilkinson

ANGEL TREE THANK YOU!

Thank you to everyone that purchased gifts for our Angel Tree. We provided 33 children with 99 presents. A special thank you to Dave & Vicki Gargas, Jean and Bob Smith and Sue and Ron Criddle for all their help. Thank you also to Rebekah Circle and Ladies Aid for donating and shopping for scrolls.