



THE CHIMES

VOLUME 1 ISSUE 9 DECEMBER 5, 2014

ADVENT SERMONS

Christmas from the Cross

There were many witnesses to the birth of Jesus Christ. They lived their lives in his shadow and were with him in the shadow of the cross. What do these voices have to tell us about the journey from Bethlehem to Golgotha? Join us this Advent as we hear their stories and how Jesus changed their lives.

November 30, 2014 The Inn Keeper's Blessing
 Luke 2:1-7

December 7, 2014 The Shepherd's Tale
 Luke 2:8-14

December 14, 2014 Joseph, Man of God
 Matthew 1:18-23

December 21, 2014 Mary, Mother of God
 John 19:25b-27

December 28, 2014 Balthazar, the Magi
 Matthew 2:1-9



The one real tradition we have at First is the Christmas Eve midnight service. This service was begun back in the 1950's (I think) and continues to day. Congregational carol, choir anthems, the ringing of bell, poems and Scripture combing to provide a holy perspective on the birth of Jesus. The closing candlelight service, filling the darkness of this world with the light of Christ, has been viewed by thousands over the decades.

You are invited to join us on Christmas Eve at 10:45 PM (when the bells begin to chime) and bring your family and friends, as we celebrate the true reason for the season.

Special Points of Interest

- *Advent sermon series*
- *Hymn Sing*
- *Youth Stuff*
- *Grapevine*
- *Thank you*
- *Calendar*

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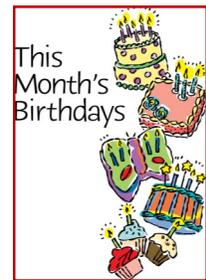


The Kenton Ministerial Association is planning a Community Carol Sing for Sunday, December 14th at 6:30 pm at the Kenton Middle School. All churches are invited to provide special music, and there will be much congregational carol singing.

Additionally this year a Community Choir is being planned for anyone-even if not in a choir-who would like to sing. The group will meet at 4:30 at the school to rehearse two Christmas anthems to be presented at the program. Scott Barrett will be conducting the choir. For more information contact the First United Methodist Church at 419-673-3205. All are invited.

Prayer Concerns

Dennis Alexander, Marilyn Arn, Laura Ballenger, Pat Brutzer, Allison Buehler (friend of Linda Wuethrich), Susie Elsasser, Bonnie Amweg-Hammer, Teresa Haudenschild (daughter of Carrol and Janet Boecher) Karlee Hooker (Norm Guinn's granddaughter), Dale Kendrick, Deb McEntee, Jane McGee, Brian Mulligan (friend of Bruce Levally), Janet Ralston, Kellie Rogers, Karrie Shumate, Jim Smith (father of Courtney Smith), Christine Stahler (wife of Kevin), Jan Tregoning, Sonny Weatherholtz (father of Chris Heilman), Sawyer Wright (nephew of Robin and Dana). Bobbi Tandon, Jack Rogers, Winogene Rogers, Mike Stephens, Peggy Wills, Susie Heilman. Clair Latham, Helen Waaland, Nancy McLean (Candy Callinan's sister) Margie Osburn, Chase Newman, Emmy Dunbar, Karl McNeal, Kevin Plott, Ruth Haushalter, Jim Parrott



12/1 Charlotte Bell
12/3 Beverly White
12/9 Peggy Shick
12/11 Herb Oberlitner
12/11 Reba Coats
12/15 Mildred Reed
12/20 George Smith
12/31 Norma McCullough



Our preschoolers are so ready to learn! We have many interesting and valuable activities planned for the children as they continue their preparation for kindergarten. "You are my Sunshine" is only one of the favorite songs the children are learning this month. "Jingle Bells" and "Away in a Manger" are other favorites. Our Christmas program will be **December 16th at 6:00pm** in the sanctuary. A reception will be immediately following the program in the church basement where refreshments will be provided. At the reception, you will have an opportunity to see some of the projects our preschoolers have been working on. Friends and family are welcome! We wish to extend to each of you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Ms. Lauren and Ms. Lacey

YOUTH HAPPENINGS

The year is coming to a close and a new one is about to begin. God has been at work in amazing and wonderful ways this year. We can be sure that he will be at it again! Here are the things the children and youth have grown from in the past year and our plans for 2015.

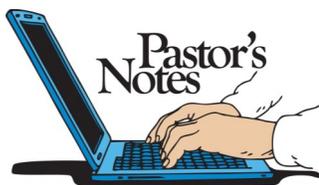
Our Middle School Small Group has been meeting regularly. This year Molly Pfoff and Mila Hershberger have been helping lead on Wednesdays. We are studying the Bible to learn how God worked in people's lives, and using these examples to look for God to work in our lives today. Our Middle School also went to Winter Jam at the beginning of the year, which is a fun retreat and concert for them. They will be going again this year and enjoying activities and Bible study at Marmon Valley Farms. Many of our students have no church home outside of small group, so it is an important part of their learning and understanding of God's will for their lives. Please pray that the students will find a church home, choose to follow Jesus wholeheartedly, and see God at work in their lives.

Kids' Club enjoyed another successful year. The children's program meets on Wednesday nights and offers fun, friendship, and teaching about following Jesus. We have many kids participate that do not attend church outside of Kids' Club. The adults that help, called Buddies, encourage them to learn more about God and invite them to attend church. It is our hope to see more children and their families begin attending church through these growing relationships on Wednesday nights.

The High School Youth Fellowship has been active both through small group and community outreach. This past year we attended Lakeside for Youth. Several students were moved to make specific commitments to follow Jesus closer. Three students gave their lives to Christ for the first time! Lakeside is always a time that draws youth to God. We also were involved in a community outreach to Kenton Village. Our students joined other youth groups to help collect clothes, and put on a day of fun at the apartment buildings. It was a great way to meet needs and share Christ in our own community. Our youth also spent time every Sunday getting closer to each other and God. We have studied the book of John and hung out at Zoombezi Bay. We are learning that whatever we do or wherever we go we can make Jesus the focus of lives.

This coming year the Youth Fellowship will again be going to Lakeside. This summer is also a mission trip year. We will be spending a 4 day weekend in Athens, Ohio at Good Works. Our mission trip will focus on serving God and others as a form of worship. Earlier in the year we will be taking a retreat to Marmon Valley Farms. This will be a chance for students to get away from the rat race and focus on God in the middle of their busy school year.

Finally, our Sunday Schools have been busy learning about and following Jesus. This past year our classes gave their offering to the purchase of Bibles for children in Kenton and Mexico. We were able to share God's word with an orphanage near Monterrey, Mexico. This gift was greatly appreciated. We also gave 60 Bibles to children at our VBS. Every child who received Bibles did not already own one. It is our prayer that God will use what we taught at VBS and His Word to bring Children in Kenton to Him. This coming year our Sunday Schools will be partnering with Hardin Hills. We already have visited to bring Thanksgiving pies and wishes to the residents there. We will continue to collect an offering, so that we can bless Hardin Hills through the Holidays and year to come.



Here are some random Christmas thoughts for you to ponder in your heart:

- 1) Christmas without the cross is just the holidays; Santa, Rudolph, and jingle bells. I'm certainly not against these things. I just don't worship them at Christmas.
- 2) Are you buying a gift for Jesus this year? Shouldn't his be the best gift of all? After all, it is his birthday.
- 3) I always wish people a Merry Christmas. Why not? It is what I want them to have.
- 4) I gave up getting excited about all the chatter that "they" are taking Christmas out of the holiday. I have enough on my plate keeping it in my own.
- 5) The best gift you can give someone this Christmas is Christ. Is he on the list for someone you love?

Merry Christmas to all and to all, Rejoice!

Pastor Lorán



Thank You

First Methodist Preschool
and Church,

Thank you for your thoughtful and generous contribution to the Jerry Cross Memorial Park. It is wonderful to have more green space dedicated for our young children. My family and I are pleased of your continued community support.

Sincerely grateful,
Judy and family

First of all I am sorry this is so late. I want to thank all of you for your prayers, visits, kind words, helping this family in every way you could. I don't know how to find the words to thank each and every one of you. You all have helped in so many different ways, this family is so very blessed to be part of this church. This past two years have

Been the toughest years I have had and all of you have helped not knowing us at all. But was right there with open arms to help us. Everyday I don't know how to keep going but I find the strength through God and this wonderful church. I am so very blessed. Thank you very much and we appreciate everything you have done. I can't think of that saying it is something like "it takes a village to raise children". It takes the people of First United Methodist church to make all the difference in the life of Chase Newman and the life of his brother, Derrick Newman, his grandmother, Alicia Young and his father, Nick Newman. All of us are so grateful to each and everyone of you.

Alicia Young

Thank you to Pastor Miracle and the ladies who prepared the meal and everyone who helped for Heather Streets funeral. Heartfelt thanks again and blessings to you all.

Jeff Streets and family

Thank you so much for supporting the band meals mission. It has been a real blessing to be there with the students to see how much they appreciate the food and love from our church.

Thank you,
Lisa Oberlitner

Thanks for the recent financial gift to support the ministry of Shine FM. We hope to have the broadcast issue resolved soon.

Mark Boyer

Thanks so much for allowing us to use the sanctuary for our memorial service. We are so grateful for the support Kenton First has given us over the past 26 years. We would not be able to continue our mission without friends like you.

Hardin County Hospice

Thank you so much for being the hand and feet of Christ. Every month you generously donate to the need of feeding people in Kenton. Thank you for all you do to support the NOC. Lastly, thank you for setting the example of how to be the hands and feet of Christ for our youth, who also does their part (helped unload over 2500 items of food).

In His service,
Robin Oates, pres. NOC

Thank you so much for the prayers, flowers, cards and letters of encouragement, visits and phone calls during my recent hospital stay. I am feeling much better and looking forward to being back in church. Thanks again. This is an awesome church family.

Emmy Dunbar

NOC Donations for December: Donor's choice



THANK YOU! THANK YOU!
THANK YOU! THANK YOU!

Are you a Christmas Angel?

Are you an angel who spreads the love of God by actions, not necessarily by words?

For over seventy years the Kenton churches had a Community Vacation Bible School. Today we have rooms and teachers for our DVBS. We thank the angels who keep this going.

Bless the person who took over the job of writing to service people after Mrs. Steele died.

Bless the angels who are involved with providing music for the worship services.

Bless the angels who teach Sunday School classes or keep the program going.

Bless the various committee angels who keep church programs coming.

Bless those angels who keep the church clean or work to keep church business going.

Bless the many angels who fill the after service snack tables or help with various dinners.

Bless those who send cards and letters to those who are "sick in the bulletin" and to shut-ins.

Bless those who make the "cookie walk" a success.

Children bless those who decorate the mitten tree.

How about the angels leading Kids club? UMYF? The Scouts?

Bless those who visit the shut-ins or provide meals for the sick.

Those who receive prayer shawls bless the knitters.

Bless the angels we call "God's Gardeners."

We thank those angels who are involved with the community Lenten services and advent sing.

Thanks to those in "Band-Aid" who have fed the KHS band before away games the last two years.

We thank the angels who work and/or provide food for the needy and rooms for the homeless.

We thank those angels who helped with shoe fund and candy for the service people.

Bless the angels who transform the sanctuary for Christmas, Easter and regular worship.

We thank those angels who work on committees to serve the community in various activities.

Thanks to those who give funds or labor for redecorating various parts of the church building.

It's amazing how many are sharing God with their neighbors. Bless you angels.

Forgive me for not knowing all the many things done by our many unknown angels. We have so many angels who quietly do so much for God and don't ask for thank yous in return.

If you are wanting to be God's angel, look for a need, pray, and quietly go to work for God. We are not a church who sit on our hands. We quietly, without needing thank yous, visit the sick, provide for the various needs God asks for us to handle. God is proud of the angels we have who are without "pomp and circumstance" doing God's will. When you see someone in action, quietly tell them thank you angel.

Be God's angel for Christmas!

By Ruth Klingler



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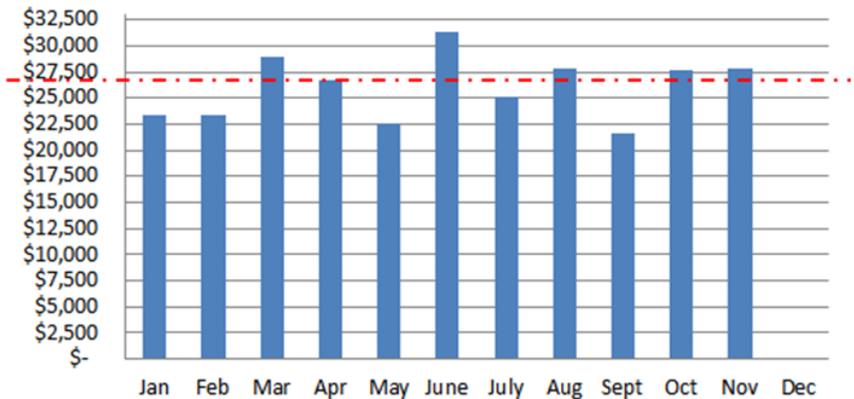
WE'RE ON THE WEB!
WWW.KENTONFIRST.ORG

NOVEMBER ATTENDANCE

	9:00	11:00	Total
Nov. 2	90	117	207
Nov. 9	71	101	172
Nov. 16	72	101	173
Nov. 23	78	113	191
Nov. 30	60	139	199

2014 Offering by Month

\$27,250 needed each month



At the end of November we have received \$287,101 in offering (Thank you!!). Our 2014 Budget is in the amount of \$328,000 so we are really cutting it close. At this time, we are behind in our Conference Apportionments (still owe \$18,247) and in order to pay the bills and meet salary, we may find that we are unable to meet this obligation by the year's end.

At the December 1st Lead Team meeting the 2015 Budget was approved in the amount of \$318,561.

Please contact a member of the Finance Team (Laurie Steinman, Julia Stalder Turner, Paul Herman, Chuck Rawlins) with your questions or concerns.

Your child is invited to be a part of our bell choir for Christmas. We will be celebrating Christmas with a Family Service on Christmas Eve and our children will be part of the celebration. We will be having both a bell choir and drama performing at this service.

We hope your children will be a part of this performance. We will begin practicing on Sunday, December 7th . Practices will take place during the 11:00 church service each week. We will perform during the 4:00 Family Christmas Eve Service on December 24.

To sign up please contact David Dakin





Heard it From the Grapevine:

By: Edison and Ruth Klingler

Carolyn Temple recently became a great grandmother.

Randy and Rhonda Cronley became the grandparents of Mikayla Rose Erma Boysel. Brandy (Bowman) and Justin Hunsaker are the parents.

Kenton High School athletic awards were given to; Breanna Alexander – tennis senior award; Carrie Morris – cross country front runner award; Jenna Moore – most valuable soccer player; Devry Moore won the soccer booster award.

Drew Hoppe, a member of the Kenton Galaxy which won the Beaver Creek Haunted Classic soccer tournament Boys 12/15 division.

Riley Hershberger, Abigail Oberlitner, and Jacob Jolliff were inducted into the Kenton Middle School National Honor Society.

Darren Fogle's Mother, Marion Anderson, a former member, celebrated her 90th birthday.

Colin Headings made the Ben Logan HS Honor Roll for the 1st nine weeks.

Beth Erter's third grade class was presented dictionaries by Goshen Community Grange.

Alex Haushalter was a raffle drawing winner at the Kenton Elementary School.

David Barnes has been promoted to Assistant to the Publisher at the Kenton Times.

Makena Barnes was a member of the R.S.C. United under 12 soccer team that won the Bowling Green Fall Force challenge. Her father, David, was a coach.

Mitch Jennings was a member of the 2014 Midget Football Tigers that claimed the National Championship for the varsity team and Rose Bowl trophy for the JV team. His father, Matt was a coach.

Brandon Asbury was named to the Ohio Hi-Point Honor roll.

Named to the Kenton High School Merit Honor Roll for the first 9 weeks were: Breanna Alexander, Brandon Asbury, Jenna Moore, Calynn Morris, Carrie Morris, Ryan Oberlitner, Kirsten Osborn, Heath Houser, Alexandra Haushalter, Morgan Kohl, Kobey Rawlins and Steven Stalder. William Barrett, Avery Collins, Hannah Heilman, Devry Moore, and Delaney Althausser made the Kenton high School Honor Roll for the first 9 weeks.

Riley Hershberger was named to the Kenton Middle School Principal's Roll for the first nine weeks. Named to the KMS Merit Roll were David Heiman, Drew Hoppe, Jacob Jolliff, Rocko Longbrake and Abby Oberlitner.

Inducted into the Hardin County Agricultural Hall of Fame were Ed Althausser, The late J. Ray Parrott (former member and father of Sharon Heilman), and Bruce McCullough son of former members the late Clair and Francis McCullough.



December 2014

Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

	1 7:30 AA	2 9:30 Healing Stitches 6:30 Bells	3 No Prayer and Praise service 6:00 Dinner 6:30 MS youth 6:30 Kid's Club	4 7:30 AA 7:30 Choir	5	6 10:00 Cookie Walk 11 AA
7 9:00 Worship 10:00 S. S 11:00 Worship 5:30 HS Youth	8 7:30 AA	9 6:30 Bells	10 6:00 Dinner 6:30 MS youth 6:30 Kid's Club 6:30 Bible Study	11 7:30 AA 7:30 Choir	12	13 11 AA
14 9:00 Worship 10:00 S. S 11:00 Worship 5:30 HS Youth	15 6:30 Children's ministry mtg 7:30 AA	16 9:30 Healing Stitches 6:00 Preschool Program 6:30 Youth mtg 6:30 Bells	17 6:00 Dinner 6:30 MS youth 6:30 Kid's Club 6:30 Bible Study	18 7:30 AA 7:30 Choir	19	20 11 AA
21 9:00 Worship 10:00 S. S 11:00 Worship 5:30 HS Youth	22 7:30 AA	23 6:30 Bells 6:30 SPR	24 Office closed 4:00 Family Christmas Eve Service 10:45 Traditional Candlelight Service	25 Office closed Christmas 7:30 AA	26 Office closed	27 11 AA
28 11:00 Combined Service	29 Office closed 7:30 AA	30 Office closed	31 Office closed New Year's Eve			