

WEEKLY ANNOUNCEMENTS / December 2, 2018

GOVERNANCE & STEWARDSHIP

Second Collection

When the Congregation met November 18, it was approved as part of the budget that we would hold a second collection one Sunday each month. Our intent is to close an \$8,000 gap over the 10 remaining months of this budget. To that end, we will be holding this second collection on the **SECOND SUNDAY** of each month. Our first collection date will be **SUNDAY, DECEMBER 9**. Thank you for your generosity.

WORSHIP NEWS

Making Advent Calm & Bright

An iconic moment in the worship life of a congregation, even among those who rarely come to church, is the lighting of candles and singing of *Silent Night* on Christmas Eve. Something mystical occurs when we hold up the flickering lights and sing, "all is calm, all is bright."

In this 200th anniversary year of that beloved carol, we will focus our worship during the Advent season on *Silent Night's* message of finding peace in the midst of the worry, fear and chaos of our lives today. Join us each Sunday during this beautiful season of expectation as we pause, center ourselves, and concentrate on finding a bit of calm and joy in the midst of the hectic pace of this holiday time. Just as the bright star lit the way for shepherds and wise men to find their way to the newborn baby, so will our worship time – and our lives – be illumined by God's steadfast and abundant love.

Gift Cards Help Our Church!

Each week, in the parlor, you can place an order for gift cards to pick up the following week OR you can purchase gift cards on a cash and carry basis.

Everybody I know eats and needs groceries. The purchase of ONE \$100 card a month to either Giant Eagle or Heinen's nets the church \$4.00. If **100** people bought **ONE \$100 card** for their groceries each month, we would receive **\$400/month or \$4800/year**. There are well over one hundred additional gift card choices. This is something we can all do to help OUR Church.

Now with the holiday season upon us, remember to buy gift cards from our list. You can give them directly as gifts or use them for your shopping (great way to stay in budget, too).

The Southwest Community Chorus,
under the direction of
Thomas M. Foley
with accompanist *Carol Konet*,
presents

CAROL ME SWEETLY

Sunday, December 2 at 3:00 pm
United Methodist Church of Berea
170 Seminary Street, Berea

Tickets: \$15 at door; \$12.50 pre-sale*
Children 12 & under free

*contact Patricia Vislosky (440.582.0522)

CHILDREN AGES 0 - 7TH GRADE

First Sunday in Advent! Today is the beginning of the season of Advent. During the next four weeks we will wait and watch for signs of Jesus' birth. Literally, *advent* means "arrival" and is the time when we prepare to celebrate the birth of the Christ child.

Next Sunday, 12/9:

Kid's Club Update! Sunday, December 9th from 6:00 – 7:30 pm we will have a joint meeting of the new **2nd – 4th grade club and our 5th – 7th grade D.O.G. Club!** All in 2nd – 7th grade are welcome! Looking forward to seeing you there!

OUTREACH & SERVICE

Holiday Bake Sale

Our annual Holiday Bake Sale to fund hospitality efforts* is coming up fast! We need **BAKERS** to donate their best holiday sweets (pretty cookies, bars, etc.) to be made into festive treat trays for sale. That also means we need **EATERS** to buy these goodies. Bakers, drop off your yummys to the church kitchen on Friday, December 7 from 9am - 3pm, or Saturday, December 8 from 9am - Noon. Eaters, you can buy the treat trays on Sunday, December 9 from 8am - Noon in the Parlor.

*Among other things, it allows us to come alongside grieving families by helping with lunches following memorial services. It is a gesture of loving hospitality provided for those who may be struggling to cover expenses in the wake of their loss.

YOUTH 8TH - 12TH GRADE

Sign Up for Remind

We have set up a *new* Remind system so if you want to be in the loop, **please send a text of @mhc-youth to 81010**.

New Form for Youth Parents

If you haven't been on our website lately, you may have missed the new parent consent and emergency form posted at the top of our Youth page (mhcucc.org/youth). This form is an update on previous forms and needs to be filled out and returned so your youth can participate in upcoming events and activities. Thank you! Questions? Contact Halldor at youth@mhcucc.org.

Church Street Ministries (CSM) News

Thanks to all who donated turkeys and other holiday meal items. More than 100 turkeys with all of the trimmings were distributed. Thanks also to all who contributed cereal, peanut butter, canned meats, pasta and sauce throughout the year. In October, 1208 individuals and 874 children were served at the CSM Food Pantry. For many of us, the fact that so many of our neighbors from near and far are food insecure may be a shock. The need is real and the CSM Food Pantry provides food assistance with help from all of you who donate food, who donate items to the 2nd Mile Shop and those who make purchases at the 2nd Mile Shop.

Needed: Turkeys, hams and holiday foods. Please bring your donations to CSM Wednesday – Saturday, 9-5.