



O Come, Let Us Adore Him

Seems like we have barely cleared the plates from Thanksgiving, and we're jumping right into the Advent Season.

We're quickly aware of expectations, memories, gift lists, recipes, and wondering how to make time for family, friends and self-care.

Soon we will sing the hymn "O Come, All Ye Faithful" and the repeating chorus will stay with us, "O come, let us adore Him, Christ the Lord."

In the mix of preparation and expectation, we receive the invitation to adore Jesus. Adoration is worship. It is the posture of praise and expression of deep gratitude. All else seems to fade in comparison and yet all else is brought before the One we adore.

This One whom we adore is the One who is our Savior and Lord. Jesus is the One who welcomes and nurtures us. Jesus is the One who teaches and leads us. In other words, the weight of the world and the burdens of life are not ours to bear alone.

As we adore Jesus, we offer not only our praise, but we also offer our life, our cares, our hopes and dreams. We sift through the many words rambling in our minds and give voice to heartfelt expressions like, "thank you, help me, heal me, bring peace, I love you."

O come, let us adore Him, Christ the Lord,

Tom



You're not alone.
God cares about you. So do we.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

DECEMBER CALENDAR

December 4

Youth Christmas Party
4pm—Trinity Hall

December 6

Women Connect
7pm—108/109

December 11

Christmas Concert & Youth Cookie Reception
4pm—Sanctuary & Trinity Hall

December 12

Session
7pm—Trinity Hall

December 13

Evening of Remembrance
7pm—Sanctuary & Online

December 19

Night in Bethlehem Live Nativity
6pm—North Parking Lot & Trinity Hall

December 20

Women Be Still
7pm—Sanctuary

December 27

Community Meal
5:30pm—Drive-thru



DECEMBER HYBRID WORSHIP

December 4

Communion Sunday

Rev. Dr. Tom MacMillan
Esther 4:12-17

Do we notice the potential packed into the present moment?

Amid the Cold of Winter - Choir

December 11

Healing Prayer

Rev. Dr. Tom MacMillan
Isaiah 42:1-9

What do we need to be saved from and freed for?
Comfort and Joy - Choir

December 18

Rev. Dr. Tom MacMillan
Matthew 1:18-25

Do we trust God?

Away in a Manger, One Small Child - Bell Choir

December 24

Christmas Eve

6 pm Christmas Eve Family Service
'Family Friendly Christmas Eve Worship'

8 pm Traditional Christmas Eve Candlelight Service
'Hymns, Candlelight, Traditional Feel'

December 25 (in-person only)

Christmas Day

Rev. Dr. Tom MacMillan
Titus 3:4-7

The goodness and loving kindness of God .

CHRISTMAS CONCERT 2022

JKPC will present a special Christmas program featuring the multi-talented musicians of the John Knox family next Sunday, December 11, at 4pm in the Sanctuary. Concert will include performances by the Chancel Choir, Bell Choir, Flute Ensemble, and other small ensembles from our talented musicians. Join us in person or online. Reception will follow in Trinity Hall and will include a hot chocolate bar and cookie decorating.

Donations accepted as youth fundraiser.



CHRISTMAS COOKIE EXCHANGE

Please join us for a "homemade cookie" exchange! Come to our "baking party" in the kitchen
11am-4pm Wednesday,



December 14, to bake, decorate, and pack Christmas cookies, or bring two dozen of your homemade cookies to the church kitchen by noon, December 14 so the cookie packages for all participants will be ready for pickup starting around 4pm. Contact Valerie for more details: vlvons@prodigy.net or text/call 216-236-3898.

WHAT'S UP AT JKPC?

SESSION HIGHLIGHTS

November 14th, 2022 MEETING

- Heard report from Terry Jones on a proposed plan for paying off the mortgage debt over the next three years. A committee will be formed to prepare information for a debt reduction campaign starting in May of 2023. Session approved the motion from finance committee to authorize use of a portion of the unrestricted funds and the Morris bequest as matching funds for the campaign and to move forward with the mortgage debt reduction campaign plan.
- Heard report submitted by Treasurer, Mindi Schibley, that regular offering received in the month of October was still 10% below the targeted level of about 83% at this point in the year. Also heard that so far, we are at 57% of our 2023 pledging goal. Average pledge giving has increased, but there are a number of people that have not pledged yet. Mindi will continue to monitor the progress and connect with pledge givers and donors encouraging support for the 2023 budget.
- Approved motion from Worship Committee to hold communion the first Sunday of each month, except for January when it will be the second Sunday. On these Sundays communion will be taken to homebound members of the congregation. Additionally, communion will be served on Maundy Thursday, during retreats, and mission trips.
- Approved motion from Personnel Committee to approve the position description for Director of Family Ministry and proceed with the search for candidates for this position.
- Approved motion to set the Congregational Meeting for January 29, 2023 – to accept the year-end report for 2022, approve the terms of call for the pastors for 2023 and to conduct any other business. The meeting will be in hybrid format.
- Discussed benefits of hybrid worship service. A lot of people know friends or family members that worship with us on-line now. Many are not local and some out of state. Several of the new members became interested in coming and joining after seeing the on-line worship service.
- Discussed the concept of discernment. Session will be discussing where God is leading JKPC in the next five years and will be spending some of the meeting time in future Session meetings on strategy and road mapping.

FINANCIALLY SPEAKING

DONATING SECURITIES AT YEAR-END

For those of you who wish to donate securities to John Knox Church, we can accept these gifts through our account at Charles Schwab. This is an easy and low-cost way to fulfill your operating pledge, make an additional gift to reduce the mortgage debt, or a year-end gift. To transfer broker-held securities, contact your broker indicating your wish to gift securities to John Knox Church. You will need to provide 3 pieces of information to initiate the transfer:

1. Our NEW Schwab account number: 9820 - 3777;
2. Schwab's DTC number: 0164; and
3. Your request to transfer the securities to Charles Schwab & Co., Inc.

Please inform our Finance Manager, Mindi Schibley of your plans at mschibley@johnknoxpc.org, or call if you have any questions.

Play Your Part in Gods Story

Stewardship 2023

The John Knox community has come together to create a great foundation on our Stewardship campaign goal. We are thankful to those of you who have already turned in your Estimate of Giving pledge cards, and we are eager to see how God will use you to help support the many ministries at John Knox.

As of the time of this writing (Nov. 30), we have received 131 pledges with commitments totaling \$576,300. While this is praiseworthy, this remains to be only 60% of our pledge goal of \$957,214.

Why do I need to pledge? I am glad you asked.

Pledging helps us plan for the coming year and adjust our budget accordingly. There are many other ways to give, and we are grateful for those, but the pledge is a unique way for us make sure we have enough money to plan to support the good work God is doing here at John Knox. Without sufficient pledges, Session, which meets on Dec. 12, will begin to discuss reductions to the programs, ministries, and ways we support God's mission in anticipation of a lower pledge amount.

By committing your financial pledge to John Knox, you can equip our church with a responsible budget that will allow us to honor how we live out our Vision of *Extending radical hospitality, Building authentic community, and Joining God's transforming work in the world.*

Will you play your part by taking a moment to fill out your pledge and send it in? Help us prepare for our Session's budget meeting by sending it in soon. If you have any questions concerning your pledge or ways to give, please contact Mindi Schibley, our Finance Manager, at 440-777-3744 x102 or mschibley@johnknoxpc.org or visit our website for more information.



COME LET US ADORE HIM

Advent at JKPC

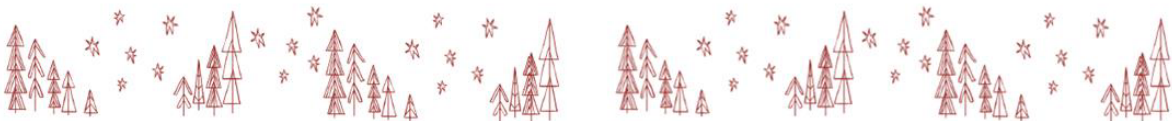
- | | | |
|--------------------|------------|---|
| December 6 | 7pm | Women Connect
Room 108-109 |
| December 11 | 4pm | Christmas Concert/ Youth Cookie Reception
Sanctuary and Livestreamed |
| December 13 | 7pm | Service of Remembrance
A night to remember those we have lost
Sanctuary and Livestreamed |
| December 19 | 6pm | Night in Bethlehem Live Nativity
Live animals, crafts, and snacks
North Parking Lot and Trinity Hall |
| December 20 | 7pm | Women Be Still
Sanctuary |

Christmas Services

6 pm Christmas Eve Family Service
'Family Friendly Christmas Eve Worship'
Sanctuary and Livestreamed

8 pm Traditional Christmas Eve Candlelight Service
'Hymns, Candlelight, Traditional Feel'
Sanctuary and Livestreamed

10 am Christmas Day Service
Sanctuary Only





Women's Group Advent Offerings:

Women Connect

Tuesday, 12/6, 7-8 PM

Room 108/109

All women are welcome to attend as we celebrate Jesus' birth with a Holiday Party! We will have fun together playing some silly games, eating cookies, drinking cocoa and telling stories. No pressure, no traffic, no lines, no signup. Just come as you are and take some time for yourself. Invite a friend or two. Bring some cookies to share if you wish.

Women Be Still

Tuesday, 12/20, 7-8 PM

JKPC Sanctuary

All women are invited to spend one hour being still before the Lord and soaking in God's Word. It's setting aside space to be still in the midst of a busy holiday season – something every woman can benefit from.

Invite a friend or two.

What the event will look like:

- A welcome and opening prayer.*
- Music to prepare the heart.*
- Slow Scripture readings with time to reflect, meditate, or journal between each reading.*
- Singing Silent Night together with a candle lighting at the end.*

STEPHEN MINISTERS

STEPHEN MINISTRY'S EVENING OF REMEMBRANCE

Our beautiful and reflective, Evening of Remembrance, will be on Tuesday, December 13, at 7:00 pm. This is an evening for members of our John Knox congregation and the community who have lost loved ones in past years. More and more members and friends of John Knox Church have discovered this service to be a most meaningful remembrance of their loved ones. This very special meditative evening in the Sanctuary involves a candle lighting service, music, readings, and a meditation by Rev. Dr. Tom MacMillan. A reception will follow in the Gallery. Please contact the church office to give the name of your loved one being honored at 440-777-3744, info@johnknoxpc.org, or mail the form below.



Service of Remembrance
Tuesday December 13, 2022

I am planning to attend:

My Name: _____

Person(s) I am remembering _____

Number of people attending including myself _____

I am planning to participate at home _____

Please return this card to the church office and/or mail to: John Knox Church
25200 Lorain Rd
North Olmsted, Ohio 44070

If you prefer, you can call the church at 440-777-3744 on or before **December 6, 2022**. Thank you.

MISSION

NEWS FROM GUATEMALA

The Medical and Water teams have had a time to gather since we last reported and wish to share several exciting observations:

*The health conditions of the children are much improved since our visit in 2019. This is due to the extra efforts of Fundenor who received funds from Guatemala Family Development to support their *Food for Malnourished Children* program.

* The over-all health of the families was much better with fewer major issues for the doctors. This is due to the *Gardens Project* encouraged by Fundenor.

The team met the seven young girls who are in Fundenor's educational residence where they live and receive schooling. Also, the team met several of the 25 girls in the communities that have received scholarships. These girls helped with translating and shared their appreciation for the opportunity to receive education through the scholarship funds we raise.

Thank you for your continued support and prayers. We look forward to returning next year.

COMMUNITY MEAL - NOVEMBER

A very big “thank you” to all the people who donated, cooked, and carved a total of 30 turkeys to provide the basis for a great turkey dinner! A special thank you goes to Julius and Laura Mirecki who cooked 12 turkeys on Saturday to prepare for Bob Wheeler’s “Carving Class” on Sunday afternoon. Another big thank you to the bakers who provided an amazing 200+ loaves of homemade quick breads – many were amazingly creative! Also, grateful for the volunteers who drove to the Cleveland Food Bank (Glenn Ploegstra and Pastor Tom MacMillan) and the team who unloaded the trucks and packed over 100 bags of groceries. The kitchen teams put together a delicious “home-made” Thanksgiving dinner of sweet potato casserole, green bean casserole, cornbread dressing and mashed potatoes and gravy.

The volunteers made the event spectacular including new folks that have begun worshipping with us, wonderful scouts and their parents from our scout troop, ROTC students from Debbie Turner’s school, and our great base team of leaders to guide them all! The food was filled into containers by two assembly lines led by Barb Forslund and Barb Brown to make 480 take-out containers! The volunteer teams were then invited to a sit-down dinner in Trinity Hall. The students took home some food for their families.

We gave out 366 meals at the “Drive Thru” along with over 100 bags of groceries by a “pit crew” like no other who efficiently kept the cars moving through with very little wait!

A fantastic team of dish-washers – including scouts, friends from the community, and new church visitors, led by Steve Twining left the kitchen sparkling clean!

The rest of the packaged meals were delivered by Bob and Cheryl Johnson to St. Malachi’s and St. Herman’s churches for hot lunches the next day.

Our Thanksgiving Meal served over 500 meals and gave our community many reasons to be thankful!



SERVICE & OUTREACH

FOOD PANTRY NEWS

A warm thank you to the John Knox community for your continued support of our food pantry. We have provided food to so many people in need in North Olmsted as well as many other areas of Northeast Ohio. Your gifts of nonperishable foods and your financial donations have really helped! If you are interested in volunteering in this ministry, please email the office, info@johnknoxpc.org.

During the month of December, the food pantry request will be for protein, jelly, and reusable plastic bags. These items are much needed and often are overlooked when making purchases to donate to food pantries. Thank you for continuing to support this very important ministry.

Canned Chicken

It's simple to toss this non-perishable item into soups and casseroles or add it to a sandwich or cracker. Its versatility and high protein content make it a popular item.

Canned Fish (Tuna and Salmon)

Canned fish has vitamins, omega-3 fatty acids and protein, and it makes for a quick and easy meal.

Canned Meat (SPAM and Ham)

Grab some SPAM or canned ham and drop it into a food donation bin. It's shelf-stable, doesn't require much prep or equipment to eat, and delivers a quick hit of protein to keep individuals feeling full for longer.

Peanut Butter

Kids and adults like it, and it's high in protein, making peanut butter one of the most popular items requested.



THANK YOU

For Making a Difference

Thanks to all who donated food for the Thanksgiving food drive for the Oxcart Pantry. Because of your generosity, we know that many families in North Olmsted had a delicious Thanksgiving dinner. I can tell you that I took at least 2-3 trips to the Oxcart pantry each week of the food drive with my trunk and back seat filled. The potluck approach rather than assigned foods has worked out so much better for us and Oxcart. Please accept my sincere thanks to all of you for your wonderful response. May God continue to bless our outreach to the community-Lillian Predota.

College Care Ministry--39 young people will be receiving an early Christmas present thanks to the kindness and generosity of the John Knox Family. On Oct.31st a box filled with cookies, popcorn, candy, snacks, Mio flavored water enhancer, and two gift cards were mailed. Also included was a wooden heart hug and notes of encouragement, letting them know they are not alone, God loves them and is always with them.

Thank you, John Knox, for making this program so successful! -Deacons

On behalf of Love Inc. and the Mission Committee, a big thank you to all who donated coats to the annual coat drive. We collected 14 large bags of children's, women's and men's coats. Your generosity and kindness is much appreciated. Thank you for your continued support.

John Knox Church

CHILDREN & YOUTH MINISTRY

We have had a fabulous month! A special highlight was the youth making gifts for our homebound members. A big thank you to Karen Dispirito and all of our youth who came together to make candy jars, chocolate spoons, and cozy lap blankets. Thank you also to the deacons who are delivering these.

Also, a big thank you to all who participated in the Hanging of the Greens paper bag Pageant. Congregational Life helped us have a truly intergenerational worship service where those of all ages participated as we told the Christmas Story together. We hope you will join us for these upcoming Advent events:

Christmas Concert Reception - Join us in Trinity Hall after the Christmas Concert on Sunday, December 11, for a cookie and cocoa reception. This reception is put on by the youth as a mission fundraiser. There will be cookies to decorate and eat, a cocoa bar, and a coffee bar with toppings. We hope you will join us!

Night in Bethlehem Live Nativity - Who doesn't love seeing the animals and the scene of the manger as we celebrate the Christmas season? This year we have a Christmas campout theme with an indoor "campfire." There will be the live nativity outside with inside activities of readings, crafts and a carol sing-along. This is a great event for all ages, invite your friends and come along on Monday, December 19, from 6-8pm.



JK PRESCHOOL

Thank you to everyone that supported us in our fall fundraisers. The preschool received \$583 from the pastry sale, \$57.00 from Dean's Greenhouse, and \$30 from AmazonSmile. AmazonSmile is an ongoing fundraiser where we receive a percentage of purchases made from those that have selected the preschool as their charity of choice. We can be found under JOHN KNOX PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH in NORTH OLMSTED.

We have teamed up with Danny Boy's Pizza in North Olmsted for a Dine-to-Donate event on December 14th from 4pm-9pm. Danny Boy's will donate 20% of dine-in, carry-out, and delivery orders back to the preschool. In order for the preschool to receive credit, a paper flyer must be presented. Please use the flyer below. Additional flyers are available at the Welcome Desk, on the bulletin board by the preschool rooms (room 134), and in the Mid-Week Blast.

If you have any questions regarding the preschool or the Danny Boy's event, please contact Nancie at director@jkpreschool.org or at 440-777-5878. Thank you again for your support of the preschool.

John Knox Preschool Thanks You!

JOHN KNOX PRESCHOOL FUNDRAISER!



Wednesday * December 14, 2022

WHERE: Danny Boy's Pizza
24129 Lorain Rd,
North Olmsted
#440-360-7800

WHEN: 4pm to 9pm
Dine-In * Carry-Out & Delivery

Please join us at Danny Boy's Pizza North Olmsted for

good food, friends & fun to support the John Knox Preschool Fundraiser! Danny Boy's North Olmsted will donate 20% of the fundraiser sales to John Knox Preschool! **Please bring in this flyer when you dine-in, carry-out or on delivery to show your support and contribute!** Flyers must be presented for fundraising donation (pictures on phone do not apply and flyers may not be passed out at Danny Boy's the day of the fundraiser) Coupons and other offers not valid with flyer.





JOHN KNOX
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

December 2022
Volume 119

KNOX NEWS



JOHN KNOX
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

25200 Lorain Road
North Olmsted, OH 44070

Phone: 440-777-3744
E-mail: info@johnknoxpc.org

Website: johnknoxpc.org



PLEASE
PLACE
STAMP
HERE