

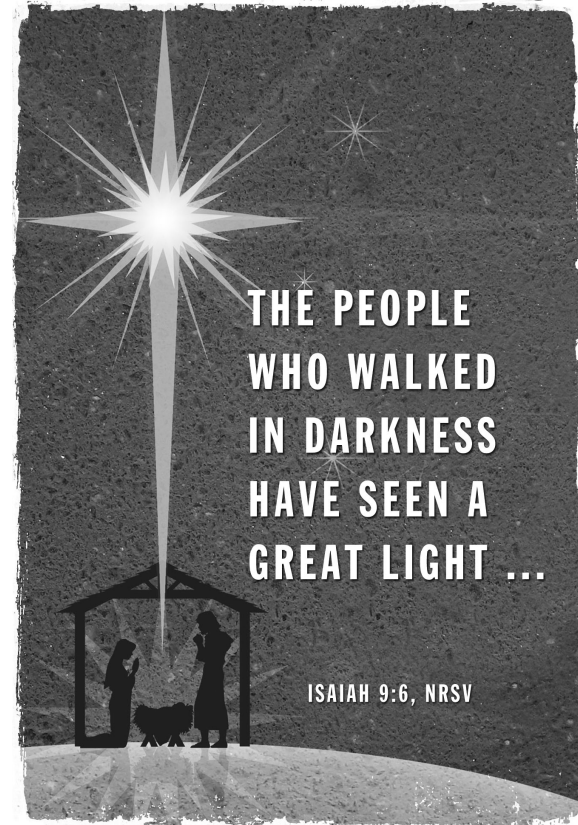
Christ's United Lutheran Church
437 Airport Road
Ashland, PA 17921
www.christsumited.org

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Life Together at Christ's United Lutheran Church



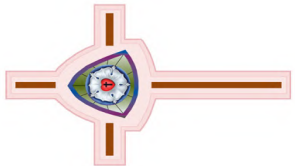
Join us

for Wor-

ship

Saturday 5:00 p.m. & Sunday 9:30 a.m.
Sunday School (September thru May) 10:45
& Fellowship 10:30

Life Together at Christ's United





Christ's United Lutheran Church

One God. One People. One Purpose.

437 Airport Road, Ashland, PA 17921

www.christsunited.org

(570) 875-1591

December 2019

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The December Newsletter is sponsored in Memory of Parents & Grandparents by Ruby, Amy, Anita & Doug Fegley



CHURCH COUNCIL 2019

council@christsunited.org

	Phone	Term Expires
Erik Tice President/VP	570-875-2681	Feb. 2020
Beth Andrews Secretary	570-874-2381	Feb. 2022
Ted Ambrose	570-449-2193	Feb. 2022
Dr. Kay Berner	570-875-1035	Feb. 2020
Jim Gruber	570-875-2805	Feb. 2021
Suzanne Peel	570-875-2218	Feb. 2021
Terry Shilling	570-875-0412	Feb. 2021
Barbara Stepanchick	570-875-1114	Feb. 2022
Steven Wolfgang	570-875-9660	Feb. 2020

PASTOR

Rev. Laura A. Csellak

570-652-1951

pastorlaura@christsunited.org

STAFF

Parish Administrator office@christsunited.org Office Hours: Monday-Friday 9:30-3:00	Deb Hall 570-875-1591 570-789-9722
Director of Music	Jamie Johnson 570-590-1678
Treasurer	Ann Marie Dillman 570-449-2021
Indoor Custodian	Susan Herb
Outdoor Custodian	Bill Price 570-875-4272
Financial Secretary	Christine Brennan 570-875-0720

Status of Accounts as of October 31

Balance in Checking Account.....\$ 7,721.93

Amount needed in offerings per month to meet our 2019 Annual Budget of \$203,448.31 is **\$16,954.03**

October income was \$13,943.74

Expenses for October were \$17,131.33

Benevolence Gifts through October\$10,374.00

(64% of our Benevolence goal of \$16,320.00 for 2019)



Life Together at Christ's United



Christ's United Ministry Teams

Christian Education

Evangelism/Outreach

Lutheran Church Men (LCM)

Social Ministry

Stewardship

WELCA

Worship & Music

Multimedia Ministry

Christ's United Committees

Auditing & Finance Committees

Endowment Fund

Mutual Ministry

Nominating

Personnel

Property

Christ's United Lutheran Church

Mission Statement

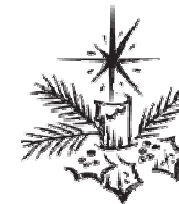
We the members of Christ's United Lutheran Church, Ashland, desiring to be blessed together with Word and Sacrament and to become more perfectly the Body of Christ in our world, do hereby commit ourselves to a mission which includes a creative re-examination of our worship life; a quality educational program for all ages; intentional witnessing; a serving spirit; and an integrated support system which will undergird our program and the maintenance of our facilities as it encourages improved stewardship.



Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

I still vividly recall being invited to my friend's birthday party when I was six years old. Every waking moment I daydreamed about the party favors, cake and ice cream, games, and the fun of watching my friend open each gift. The days seemed to drag on endlessly. I thought the party day would never arrive. Of course, it finally did, but the wait was agonizing for this young child. As an older adult now, the days seem to fly by. The pace is accelerated by technology including the "Alexa" echo device that allows you to get any question answered in a matter of seconds. While there are advantages to being able to retrieve information that quickly, there are also drawbacks, especially for Christians.

Waiting is a major feature of Christianity. The call to *wait on the Lord* appears at least 21 times in the Bible. The season of Advent gives us four weeks of waiting – not only, or even predominately, for Christmas, but for Jesus' return. I especially love the *Reverse Advent Calendar* our congregation will offer this year. It involves adding a different food item to a box each day, then donating it on Christmas Eve to our Christ's Cupboard. This certainly stands in contrast to the top Google search of Advent Calendars that announces: "Wine, Beer, Cheese and More!"



Pastor Laura

Susan

Jamie

Chris



On behalf of the Staff and Pastor: May the miracle of Christmas give you joy and peace this holiday season and everyday. Jesus, Our Saviour is born!

Bill

Deb

Ann Marie

Life Together at Christ's United



— continued on page 4

Waiting has been a challenge for many throughout history, and especially in now in this fast-paced world. Our Advent waiting will be aided by weekend worship and mid-week Advent services, family and friends gathering items for the Reverse Advent Calendar, and lighting candles to chase away the darkness

We wait on the Lord who always comes in his own time and way. Thanks be to God!

Pastor Laura+



Prayers please for Pastor Laura for hip surgery on 12/30. During her recovery during the month of January we will be blessed by worship leadership by our Assisting Ministers, Pastors Bob Hoenich and Mark Swanson, and seminarian Luke Csellak Swanson. Best wishes for a speedy recovery, Pastor Laura.

WELCOME New Members

During worship on December 8, we will receive Larry & Jean Wolfgang, Kimberly Miller & children Zeke Shingara and Wyatt & Jax Miller into membership of Christ's United. If there is anyone else who would like to join at this time, please contact Pastor Laura.

December Council Contact of the month is Kay Berner

The Council Contact of the Month is the "on call" member of council, the person to call if you have any concerns (other than pastoral concerns), or need access to the building.

If you need to contact Kay, she can be reached at 570-875-1035



Council Member
of the Month



Communities Coming Together



American
Red Cross

Community Blood Drive Christ's United Lutheran Church

Social Hall
437 Airport Road (Gordon) - Ashland

Monday, December 9, 2019

Communion and Contribution Records

Please assist the church in making an accurate report of all active, communing and contributing members of Christ's United.

As we approach the end of our calendar year, it is important that everyone take a moment to complete one communion card and one offering envelope with your name and address. Either one or both can be found in the pew racks at any of our upcoming services.

Thank you for assisting the record keepers as we begin the church year with the Holy seasons of Advent and Christmas.

New offering envelopes for 2020 will be available soon.



New
Offering
Envelopes



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Life Together at Christ's United





PUZZLE

Symbols of the *season*

Many traditional decorations convey the meaning of Christmas.

Directions: Use the picture clues to the right to complete the words. Then write the boxed letters in order to complete 2 Corinthians 9:15, NIV.



shepherd's staff _ _ _ _ _

tree that keeps its leaves _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _

shines to lead the way _ _ _ _

green for eternal life, _ _ _ _ _ &
red for Jesus' blood _ _ _ _ _ _

sounds to announce _ _ _ _ _
good news

has no beginning or end _ _ _ _ _

Th ks b to od fo is
indesc ba le gif !

2 CORINTHIANS 9:15, NIV


Answer: candy cane, evergreen, star, holly & berries, bell, wreath, Thanks be to God for his indescribable gift! 2 Corinthians 9:15, NIV

Church Council Highlights from November:

- Two generous donations totaling \$750.00 were given to Christ's Cupboard. Harvest Home donations totaled \$98.00.
- Knaughty Knotters finished knotting 58 quilts which are in the process of being bound.
- Youth news—A Hershey Bears Hockey game and a SWB RailRiders Baseball game are planned for next spring. Everyone invited (not only for Youth Group).
 - > Hockey game - March 14, tickets \$26 (includes free t-shirt).
 - > Baseball game - April 25, sign up on bulletin board for baseball game for ticket count.
- Directory update: The team went over and edited the directory. Carla Mae sent corrections to LifeTouch.
- We are looking to replace one of the freezers for the food pantry that is not working correctly. Social ministry has \$850.00 remaining from a grant in the Memorial Account. If the cost is more than \$850.00, LCM approved paying half of the remaining balance and WELCA will pay the other half.
- Funeral guidelines were reviewed and approved with no changes.

Give Electronically
Checking/Savings Credit/Debit Card
Christ's United accepts electronic donations

Electronic Giving is a convenient way to provide consistent financial support to our church. Go to www.christsunited.org or scan the QR code to learn how you can participate.






- 2 Nancy Lindenmuth
- 3 Hiram "Tommy" Green
- Asea Kraha
- 4 Benjamin Geedey
- Cheryl Weikel
- 5 Janna Gregis
- Kristen Toldt
- 6 Daniel Cascarino
- 7 Beryl Stitzer
- 8 Anita Fegley
- 9 Robert Pennypacker
- 11 Cory Krise
- Christopher Olson
- 12 Daniel Witner
- 13 Karleigh Economy
- Shea Moyer
- Bruce Pirie
- 14 Joey Anczarski
- Tammy I. Harris
- 15 Ralph R. Johnson
- Arlene Krise
- Jessica Nagle
- Leslie Shadle

- 16 Tammy L. Harris
- Stefan A.C. Swanson
- 17 Linda Brennan Panikkar
- Cheryl Klinger
- 18 April Brennan
- Lynn Dillman
- Raven Marlow
- Samuel Troup, Sr.
- Regan Kratovich
- 20 Richard Edmondson
- Rachel Pancher
- Regan Kratovich
- 22 Jeff Brennan
- 23 Robert Carl
- 25 David Hall
- Daniel Cunningham
- 27 Brody Baker
- Zackary Coward
- 28 Bonnie Dillman
- Donald Klinger
- 29 Beth Andrews
- William Cook
- Jessica Gregis
- Mike Stepanchick
- 30 Stephen Harhigh
- Noelle Steinbauer
- 31 Lori Fox



- 12/05/08 Breann & Daniel Barker
- 12/07/02 Randy & Angie Lucas
- 12/11/93 Stephen & Tami Wagner
- 12/11/99 Erik & Sally Tice
- 12/28/10 Stephen & Brittany Harhigh

Advent & Christmas Events:



Midweek Advent Services:

- Wednesday, Dec 4 7:00 p.m.
at Christ's United
- Wednesday, Dec 11 7:00 p.m.
at Zion's Reformed U.C.C. Ashland
- Wednesday, Dec 18 7:00 p.m.
at Simpson United Methodist, Gordon

Congregational Christmas Meal - December 8, 2019 following worship

A Blue Christmas Worship Service will be held December 1, 3:00 p.m. at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church

This service recognizes that you may feel "blue" During these holidays because of the death of a loved one. This worship will include opportunities to express grief and pain as well as focus on the promise of hope in Christ our Lord.



Live Nativity - December 14, 2019 - 6:00 p.m.

Christmas Worship with Holy Communion
Candlelight Service

Life Together at Christ's United



Women of the ELCA

Women of ELCA Meeting
Tuesday, December 3rd at 6:00 pm
(note change of day and time)

Learning Ministries Day 2020 Vision 2020

There's something for everyone
(not just Christian Education people!)
Saturday, January 25, 2020
(snow date Saturday, February 1)
9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Union Lutheran Church, Schnecksville
Keynote Speaker: The Rev. Brenda Smith,
Program Director, ELCA Faith Practices and Book of Faith

The workshops will have to do with the ELCA Vision 2020 themes of A Thriving Church, An Equipping Church, A Welcoming Church, A Visible Church, and a Well-governed, Connected, and Sustainable Church.

Check out the Synod website for this and other synodical events:
<http://nepasynod.org>

Monday, December 2nd at 9:00 a.m. we will decorate the church for Christmas. Any and all help will be greatly appreciated.



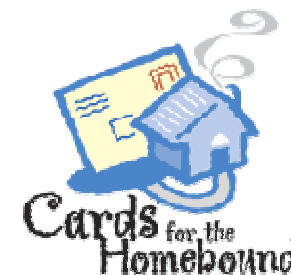
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The following donations were given to Christ's United since the last newsletter:

*A Donation in memory of Dorothy Shadle
by Friends of Sch. Parks & Recreation*

*During this Christmas
Season please remember our
homebound members with visits,
cards, greetings, and prayers.*



Tommy & Rachael Green, 246 Airport Rd.,
Ashland, PA 17921
Jim Hepler, 501 Main St., Ashland, PA 17921
Nancy Kessler, Serenity Gardens Assisted Living,
135 Vermont Dr. Kulpmont PA 17834
Anna Neumeister, Providence Place, 24 Hikes Hollow Rd.,
Pine Grove, PA 17963
Oscar Troutman, Serenity Gardens Assisted Living,
135 Vermont Dr. Kulpmont, PA 17834
Betty Waldick, 400 E. Biddle St., PO Box 5, Gordon, PA 17936
Linda Zerby, 42 Bryn Mawr Ave., Pottsville, PA 17901

Perfect as is

Who can add to Christmas? The perfect motive is that God so loved the world. The perfect gift is that he gave his only Son. The only requirement is to believe in him. The reward of faith is that you shall have everlasting life.

—Corrie ten Boom



CONGREGATIONAL CHRISTMAS MEAL



DECEMBER 8th

following morning worship

The menu that will be prepared by Jim and Ellie Chappell includes:

BREADED CHICKEN BREAST / BAKED HAM
SOUTHERN STYLE POTATOES / GRAVY / ROLLS
COFFEE, TEA, COLD DRINKS

Please sign up to attend and include what you will bring as a side dish to share. Indicate what specifically you will contribute:

HOT VEGETABLE (yams, corn, green beans, etc. / FILLING
SALADS (cole slaw, cranberry, broccoli, potato, veggies, etc.) / DESSERT

Ashland's "Old Fashioned Christmas" will be held on Saturday, Dec 7th at 5th and Centre Streets. Our choir will be singing with the Ashland Community Choir.



Trunk or Treat



I would like to Thank everyone who volunteered their time and/or gave donations for this years Trunk or Treat held on Saturday October 26, 2019. This years event had over

130 children who went trick or treating, had their picture taken, went through the haunted hallway and of course had some delicious treat. Again thank you to everyone who volunteered their time as well as everyone who came out to be a "trunker."

Thank you,
Aaron Stepanchick and the
Trunk or Treat Committee



PRAYER CHAIN



Each day members of Christ's United bow their heads and lift their hearts in prayer for the ministries of this congregation and people in need. For the past several years these Prayer Teams have been silently serving God, the world, and us.

If you are committed to the power of prayer, please join one of these teams. Prayer lists are available at worship services each weekend, and a phone chain notifies you of immediate needs. Please call the church office for more information.

2020 Sponsorships

The new sponsorship sign up sheets are now posted on the bulletin board. Sign up for:

Altar Flowers \$25.00
Palms for Palm Sunday \$12.00
Worship Bulletins \$15.00
Special service bulletins \$10.00
Sanctuary Candle \$10.00
Children's Bulletins \$10.00
Monthly Newsletters \$40.00.



Payments for Altar flowers should be given to Cathy Troutman. All other payments should be made out to the church and given to Deb Hall in the church office.

Christmas Poinsettias!

Options and prices for this year were not available from the florist yet when newsletter was printed. Check bulletin board or call the church office for information.



Please sign up on the bulletin board.
Make checks payable to Cathy Troutman.
The deadline to order is December 15th.

We Offer our Prayers to...



November 24 – Betty Heinbaugh, Sue Harner (E. Tice)
Families of Joanne McAndrew (C. Varndell), George Gemberling (D. Wallace), Betty Zeplin, Brandy Grant, Gil Devine & James Barrett (B. Liem), Jesse Zerby

November 17- Deb Price, William O'Donnell (J. Denchak), John Schickram (J. Denchak), Family of Carol Romberger (E. Tice), Garth Swanson, Amy Kelly (E. Chapell)

November 10 – Janet Berner (K. Berner), Melvin Cappel (K. Berner), Lynn Korn (B. Liem), Family of Lynda Huhn (D. Zaharick), Children of the Mission of the Good Shepherd (WELCA), Garry Krise (L. Lute), Albert Stehr (L. Lute)

November 3 -- Jaden Leiby (E. Tice), Family of Patty Krieger (H. Wolfgang), Betty Waldick

Please continue to pray for: Carl (Mickey) Lute, Gail Lorady, Dan Grow, Minah Horan, Michelle Ambrose, Donald Bulla, Carol Stehr, Joe Ferraro Jr., Robert Beecher, Karyssa Wenrich, Elizabeth Brown & family, Judy Trautman (G. Marquardt), Doris McGurl (L. Lute), Lou Ann Olson (T. Shilling), Tina Alexander (D. Price), Jessica Brown (E. Tice), Ron James (V. Brown), Marian Kaufman (J. Deeter), Pastor Bob Hughes (J. Gruber), Donna Kuczawa, Anna James (V. Brown)

*Please note that those experiencing a traumatic event are placed onto the Prayer List and will be kept on for one month and then taken off. **Please provide updates to the office in order that the list is always current.** If you would like someone added, please call the office or write their name on the Prayer Request sheet found on the Prayer Podium.*

Praying Through the Directory

Each month we will be listing three of our church faith families. We ask that you take the time and uplift them in prayer for their needs and spiritual journey.

This month we pray for:

The Kosmisky Family - George & Jennie
The Shoup Family - Richard & Helen Brown
The Varndell Family - Gwendolyn



Eagle Scout

CONGRATULATIONS

Ralph H. Johnson on achieving rank of Eagle Scout.

His Court of Honor was held here at Christ's United on November 18th.



Join us as we celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ in our fifth annual Live Nativity! Food, decorations and an opportunity to meet the animal cast come together with the voices of local area congregational church choirs!

All donations benefit
Christ's Cupboard Food Pantry.
For more information call 570-875-1591

Save the
DATES!



Mark your calendars now for March 14, 2020. Our congregation will be attending a Hershey Bears Hockey game.

And April 25, 2020 - we will be heading to a Scranton-Wilkes Barre RailRiders Baseball game. Please sign up on bulletin board for ticket count.

Fun for young and old! Plan to attend!!

Christmas Tree of Sharing

We will begin collecting items for the Tree of Sharing on December 1st. This year we will be collecting clothing items, food items for "Christ's Cupboard", and ELCA good gifts.



Tags will be available on the table in the hallway beginning on December 1. After you pick your selection please place the "ornament" on the Christmas tree. All children's gifts are due back to the church by Sunday, December 15.

Other gifts may be purchased and brought in up until Christmas Eve. Please place gifts under the tree. Thank you!



Food Pantry

ADVENT CALENDAR

Each day add an item to a box. On Christmas Eve donate the contents to Christ's Cupboard Food Pantry.



DECEMBER 1 - CANNED SWEET POTATOES

DECEMBER 2 - CRANBERRY SAUCE

DECEMBER 3 - STUFFING MIX

DECEMBER 4 - BOXED POTATOES

DECEMBER 5 - CANNED GREEN BEANS

DECEMBER 6 - JAR OF GRAVY

DECEMBER 7 - BOX OF CEREAL

DECEMBER 8 - PEANUT BUTTER

DECEMBER 9 - MACARONI AND CHEESE

DECEMBER 10 - CANNED FRUIT

DECEMBER 11 - CANNED TOMATOES

DECEMBER 12 - CANNED TUNA

DECEMBER 13 - DESSERT MIX

DECEMBER 14 - JAR OF APPLESAUCE

DECEMBER 15 - BOX OF CEREAL

DECEMBER 16 - PACKAGE OF OATMEAL

DECEMBER 17 - PACKAGE OF PASTA

DECEMBER 18 - SPAGHETTI SAUCE

DECEMBER 19 - CHICKEN NOODLE SOUP



Food Collection

Life Together at Christ's United



SOCIAL MINISTRY



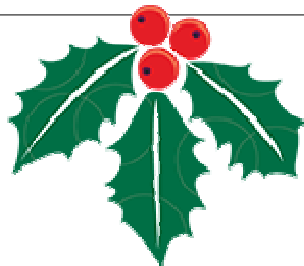
We will be collecting the following item for December:

Stuffing, Canned Sweet Potatoes & Gravy

Please place your donations in the shopping cart.

Thank You!

The next food distribution date is Thursday, December 12, 2019.



Serving Our Community of Faith in December:

Date	Lector	Ushers	Communion Assistants	Acolyte	Crucifer & Tag-a-long	Post Worship Greeter in Narthex	Post Worship Greeter at Door
Dec. 1 Advent 1	Steven Wolfgang	Terry Neumeister Ted Ambrose Bryce Weikel Dennis Wolfe	Erik Tice- AM Angie Berger Donna Lassen	Desiree Dengler	Jesse Cascarino	Kay Berner	Steven Wolfgang
Dec. 8 Advent 2	Amy Johnson			Kylie Mallams	Ava Hubler & Karolyne Towey	Erik Tice	Amy Johnson
Dec. 15 Advent 3	John Towey			Nelson Berger	Nathan Berger & Bryson Nagle	Donna Lassen	John Towey
Dec. 22 Advent 4	Cheryl Varn dell			David Cunningham	Jacob Tice & Patrick Monahan	Barb Anczarski	Cheryl Varn dell
Dec. 24 Christmas Eve 4:00	Mark Varn dell	Tyler Wolfgang Aaron Stepanchick Thomas Wolfgang John Wolfgang	John Towey - AM Maryanne Wolfgang Dennis Wolfe	Jordan Walter	Ryan Walter	Cheryl Varn dell	Mark Varn dell
Dec. 24 Christmas Eve 7:30	Beth Andrews	David Hall Darlene Stank Ted Ambrose Jim Gruber	Kay Berner - AM Becky Spencer Jo-Ann Young	Amy Johnson	Ralph Johnson	Jim Gruber	Beth Andrews
Dec. 29	Darcie Gruber			Marisa Seritsky	Danielle White & Kayla Werner	Darlene Stank	Darcie Gruber

The month that your committee serves please help out in the kitchen before and after the service. Also, please bring in baked goods or other items for the snacks. Thank you.

Committee Schedule

- December—LCM
- January—WELCA
- February—Social Ministry
- March— Church Council
- April—LCM
- May—WELCA
- June – Christian Education/Youth
- July—Choir/Worship & Music
- August—LCM
- September– WELCA
- October—Church Council
- November—Evangelism-Outreach/
Endowment/Stewardship



December 2019

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 Advent 1 Endowment Fund Offering 9:30 Worship w / Communion Endowment Scholarships 10:30 Fellowship 10:45 Sunday School for all 3:00 Blue Christmas Service-Good Shepherd, Ashland 5:00 LCM / 6:00 Property	2 9:00 Decorating of the Church for Christmas 7:00 Church Council	3 6:00 WELCA	4 10:00 Seniors 7:00 Mid-Week Advent Service - CULC	5 6:30 Choir Practice	6	7 5:00 Worship/Communion Old Fashion Christmas—Ashland
8 Advent 2 9:30 Worship / Receiving new Members 11:00 Congregational Christmas Meal	9 1:00 – 6:00 Red Cross Blood Drive 	10 9:00 Food Delivery & Set Up	11 10:00 Seniors 7:00 Mid-Week Advent Service-Zion UCC, Ashland	12 10:00 – 12:00 Christ's Cupboard 6:30 Choir Practice	13	14 5:00 Worship/Communion 6:00 Live Nativity 
15 Advent 3 Newsletter Deadline 9:30 Worship 10:30 Fellowship 10:45 Sunday School for all	16	17	18 10:00 Seniors 7:00 Mid-Week Advent Service-Simpson United Methodist, Gordon	19 6:30 Choir Practice	20	21 Winter Solstice 5:00 Worship/Communion
22 Advent 4 9:30 Worship 10:30 Fellowship 10:45 Sunday School for all	23	24 4:00 Christmas Eve Service 7:30 Candlelight/Communion Christmas Eve Service	25 Christmas Day 	26 6:30 Choir Practice	27 Newsletter Assembly	28 5:00 Worship/Communion
29 Good Samaritan Fund Offering 9:30 Worship 10:30 Fellowship 10:45 Sunday School for all	30 6:00 Grief Support	31				