

December 2015



What's Happening

Movie Night

Dec 5 Polar Express

Special Events

Dec 10 Ladies Christmas Party

Dec 13 Christmas Program –
Bethlehem Bound
ONE service
@ 10:30 am

Dec 17 Senior's Christmas Lunch

Dec 24 Christmas Eve Service

Dec 25 Christmas Day

Dec 31 New Year's Eve



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December 2015 Minister's Column by Rev. Craig Pinley

When I was a kid, my focus during the holidays was what I was going to GET for Christmas. Most of the best gifts came on Christmas Eve after our 10 p.m. worship service at church. We had a smorgasbord in the early evening and once our company left, we'd trudge off to church and try to stay awake until the service ended. Sometimes I nodded off, but by the closing hymn I'd be back in "the gift recipient zone." Somewhere around 1 a.m. on Christmas Day, the presents would be all over the floor and the kids would be off to bed, satisfied with the bounty we'd received. Christmas Day I received a couple of presents from grandparents, but it was usually clothes (flannel collared shirts anyone?) and it was sort of a letdown.



And it probably had a little bit of that feeling my whole childhood; because what I really needed to GET was some perspective. The biggest dose of that perspective came at Christmas of 1997. I was in youth ministry in San Diego and the church I was serving had been integrating Sudanese refugees into our congregation. Now, along with the difference in skin color (my church was pretty Caucasian until the Sudanese came) and the dialect of English spoken, there was a difference in theology, particularly around the notion of what they expected of people who HAD enough to live on. In Sudan, you might have to walk 50 miles to a village, so, when you got there, the expectation was that the village would take care of every need of the one who'd traveled there (and, of course, it would be reciprocated when they visited the other tribe's village.

So when the Sudanese arrived in San Diego, they had nothing but the clothes on their backs and we had all this stuff and so they asked for assistance...and asked...and asked...and we tried our best to respond to their need for their people in the apartment complex that housed some 3,000 Sudanese about a mile from our church. But over time, our church knew we'd run out of resources; not only that, the Sudanese (in living in the U.S.) needed to understand that our society wouldn't always be able or willing to provide what they needed – we had to empower them to learn skills, find jobs, understand systems that could assist them for the long haul. And we did that faithfully.

In mid-December of 1997, the leaders of the Sudanese contingent asked if they could make Christmas dinner for our church. In their tradition, they'd make a cornmeal/rice combination with some meat and greens and serve it to their families and then go out into the neighborhoods where they lived and have a parade around the area and celebrate Christmas. I remember the joy they exuded in the celebration and the smiles etched on the faces of people who'd appreciated our efforts to give to them and offered us what little they had (which really was a lot of enthusiasm for Jesus). It felt good and right for me to GIVE of myself – my vulnerability, my resources, my misconceptions - to them and to God that Christmas. And it's changed me forever.



My thoughts center far less on what I'm going to GET for Christmas, but what I'm going to GIVE for Christmas. And my hope is that Redeemer Church can give a lot to folks, as we have a lot to offer.

One of those ways is through a couple of worship experiences we have on tap.



At 10:30 a.m. on December 13th, we'll combine for our annual Christmas program, with our kids having a part and our choir participating with its Cantata during morning worship. We appreciate the early and enthusiastic response for participants and I think we'll enjoy what transpires that morning. For those participating, we'll have a rehearsal at 10:30 a.m. on Saturday, December 12th and a dress rehearsal at 9 a.m. the morning of December 13th before our service.

On Christmas Eve, we'll host a worship service at 8 p.m. I know this has been a meaningful part of the holidays for people and look forward to sharing it with you.



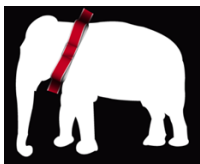
Our Wednesday night ministries (kids program and adult Bible studies) will occur on December 2nd, 9th, and 16th and we'll take the 23rd and 30th off for Christmas break. We'll also be offering (as per usual) a free senior adult meal at noon on December 17th. If you would like to help in any way, please call the church and we'll get your name to those in charge.

Blessings to you and your families and you celebrate with Redeemer this Advent season.

IN CHRIST,

Pastor Craig

Our church has a very sweet shut in, her name is Phyllis Dickson, who lives in Walden Ponds. Phyllis would be very appreciative of a ride to first service. If you have questions or are interested in joining a rotation, please speak to Lori Lohrer (482-1737) or Sam Lohrer. Thank You.



All ladies of the church are invited to a White Elephant Christmas Party. All you need to bring is a covered dish (signup located in front hallway) and a White Elephant Gift (A wrapped, unwanted item from your home that you want to "Gift" to someone else.) And be ready to laugh! See Karen Schumm with any questions.
Dec 10th 6:00 pm @ Redeemer Church

Thank You



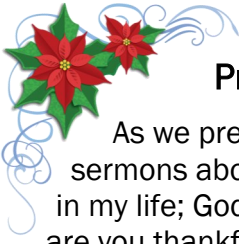
To Mary and Ellie Pinley, Brent, Lisa and Grace Clark, Linda and Brad Hoover, Nancy Henry, Faye Muddell, Bill Grubbs, Carrie DeFevers, Carol Moore, Stephanie Tillman, Sharon Grammel, Mike and Diane McIntire,

Denise Barger, Nathan and Debbie Khulenberg, Charlotte Burkhardt, and Sam Lohrer...thanks for all your hard work on November 21 to get the Hanging of the Greens project completed. Our Advent celebrations wouldn't be the same without your efforts.

IN CHRIST,

Pastor Craig





President of the Congregation

As we prepare for the Advent season Pastor Craig has started our journey with sermons about "Attitude with Gratitude." I have been very thankful for many things in my life; God, family, blessings, health and Redeemer Church to name a few. What are you thankful for? How will you be a blessing to others? As we all become busy with the upcoming Christmas season take the time to ask God how you can be a light in the darkness and touch someone for Him.



Hanging of the Greens was a fantastic time together transforming the church with the many decorations for all to enjoy. The morning started with food, drinks and fellowship and finished with a church building prepared for the Advent season. We encourage those interested to "jump in" next year and enjoy the time together.

With the weather changing we need assistance ensuring that the building and grounds are ready for all to use. Last year we were lucky with the snow and only had to clear the sidewalks and parking lots 4 times but with the building being used several days/nights each week Redeemer needs folks to assist in clearing the snow. If we could have a rotation of people scheduled to assist that would be best to spread the work load. Please let me know if your interested and we'll get you on the schedule.

I would continue to encourage anyone who has questions, concerns or suggestions to contact me or another person on the leadership team. Rumors get started with bad information and can spread faster than a wild fire resulting in hurt feelings, anxiety, anger or worse. Let's all work together to make communication a top priority this year.

In Christ.

Sam



The youth, teens and adults have been hard at work getting ready for what should be a wonderful Christmas Program. Invite your friends to *Bethlehem Bound*. And remember there's just one service that Sunday. Dec 13th @10:30 AM



Bible quiz

When Jesus was born, which two earthly rulers were in power?

- A. Quirinius
- B. Pontius Pilate
- C. Caesar Augustus
- D. King Herod

Answer: See Page 4





**REMEMBER
OUR SHUT
IN'S**

Redeemer Church has a number of members who are either confined to their homes or residing in Care Centers. Please remember them with a card or call. Remember, if you send a card please be sure to add "Redeemer Church" after your name!

Norma Gammell
Heartland of Woodridge
3801 Woodridge Blvd Apt B-402
Fairfield, OH 45014

Evelyn Warner
c/o Andrew Lamp
130 Farmington Drive
Hamilton, OH 45013

Charles Caldwell
Ohio Veterans Home
3416 Columbus Ave
Sandusky, OH 44870

Willard & Hester Childs
2877 Long Pine court
Hamilton, OH 45011

Serving in Worship

Liturgists

- Dec 6 Brent Clark
- Dec 13 Dan Childs
- Dec 20 Bill Hyatt
- Dec 27 Amy Dermen

Prayer Intercessors

- Dec 6 Gary & Carolyn Maschmeyer
- Dec 13 Joan Riley & Mary Van Lieu
- Dec 20 Charlotte Burkhart & Lori Lohrer
- Dec 27 Duane & Claudia Cantrell

Flower Chart

- Dec 6 still available
- Dec 13 still available
- Dec 20 still available
- Dec 27 still available



*You're a
Blessing!*

Ushers

1st Service

- Dec 6 Jim & Pam Miller,
David & Lorrie Newmister
- Dec 13 Dewayne & Sharon Grammel,
Richard & Joan Riley
- Dec 20 Larry & Charlotte Kachner,
Duane & Claudia Cantrell
- Dec 27 Carol Moore, Karl Oakley,
Faye Muddell, Bill Grubbs

2nd Service

- Dec 6 Carol Hahn
- Dec 13 Duane & Claudia Cantrell
- Dec 20 Don & Judy Miller
- Dec 27 Lee Skorupa & Jenny Zellars



Community Corner

KROGER

Redeemer Church has been approved as a Nonprofit Organization in the new Kroger Community Rewards Program. Please visit www.krogercommunityrewards.com to register your Kroger Plus card.

Redeemer's NPO # is 80053.

This such an easy fundraiser for Redeemer. It costs you nothing...simply register Redeemer as your charity of choice and Kroger pays us based on how much you spend doing your normal shopping.

If you have any questions about registering, please contact Linda Hoover or the church office.

Birthday list

- | | |
|----------------------|------------------------|
| Dec 1 Sharon Grammel | Dec 22 Roseann Hoes |
| Dec 2 Carolyn Keenan | Hayley Otto |
| Dec 3 Norma Gammell | Dec 23 Marjorie Mobley |
| Dec 5 Erin Bowling | Brad Hoover |
| Dec 7 Diana McIntire | Dec 27 Willard Childs |
| Amanda Bowersox | Dec 30 Terry Ashdown |
| Dec 10 Anil Shah | Jenni Sexstone |
| Liani Tirado-Crespo | |
| Dec 11 Sam Byrd | |
| Dec 12 Susan Cheek | |
| Amy Dermen | |
| Tyler Schuppie | |
| Jake Roberts | |
| Dec 13 Don Meyer | |
| Dec 15 Anita Towne | |
| Dec 16 Ken Hopkins | |
| Andrea Richardson | |
| Chris Carter | |
| Dec 18 Shane Jones | |
| Dec 21 Dan Wittmer | |

This
Month's
Birthdays



Bible Quiz Answer: A and C (See Luke 2:1-2.)

