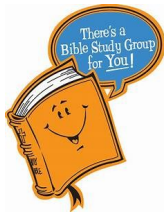


Springfield Cornerstone



DECEMBER, 2018

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		Every Sunday morning 9:30 am Sunday school 10:30 am Worship Service				1 Eastwood Craft Show 9 am-4 pm
2 Advent Meal, noon, Caroling 1st Sunday of Ad- vent, Poinsettia order due	3	4 Bible Study, 6-7 pm	5 Ladies Bible Study 10 am	6 Choir Practice 7 pm	7	8 District Birthday Party for Je- sus at camp 9 am—noon
9 Giving Tree gifts due	10	11 Bible Study, 6-7 pm	12 Ladies Bible Study 10 am	13 Choir Practice 7 pm	14	15
16	17	18 Bible Study, 6-7 pm	19 Ladies Bible Study 10 am	20 Choir Practice 7 pm	21	22 Cookie Bake, 10 am—12 pm
23 Children's Program 9:30 am Poinsettia Sunday Candlelight Ser- vice, 6 pm	24 Christmas Eve	25 Christmas Day	26 Ladies Bible Study 10 am, Newsletter Deadline	27 Choir Practice 7 pm	28	29
30	31 Youth New Yrs. Eve Blowout, 7 pm—11 am	MISSION STATEMENT: “Following Jesus for the glory of God and our neighbors good”				



Bible Study Bible study meets Tuesday evenings from 6-7 pm in the room next to the kitchen. Everyone invited. Contact Becky Burtoft for more info.

Ladies Bible Study The ladies study group meets for Bible Study on Wednesdays at 10 am. All women are welcome.

Choir Practice is on Thursday evenings at 7 pm. All are invited to attend.

There will be no commission or Executive Committee Meetings in December.

Candlelight choir practice is every Sunday evening at 5 pm until the program on December 23rd. Anyone interested in singing is welcome to attend. We'll be learning 2-3 songs.

Christmas Candlelight Service will be held Sunday, December 23rd at 6:00. Please feel free to invite friends and family to this special service. Refreshments will follow the service. Fellowship and Recreation Commission will have a sign-up sheet in the back of the church for finger food and sweet treat donations.



We offer our prayers for BVSer, Elyssa Kline. She is beginning our BVS project work in N. Ireland. Here is her address should you like to remember her this Christmas. Pray for her safety and protection. Elyssa Kline, c/o incredABLE, 162 Portadown Road, Richhill Co., Armagh BT61 9LJ, NORTHERN IRELAND

Cards to BVSers -- There is a listing of addresses for all BVSers on the back table should you like to remember them this Christmas with a card.



Offering Envelopes If you want offering envelopes and don't already receive them, please contact Bernita Shorb.



Cookie Bake

It is time to begin baking cookies for the Christmas Cookie Bake on December 22, 10 am—noon. Please find a sheet on the back

table to sign up for baking cookies. Thank you.

Advent Meal - Our advent meal will be today, Sunday, December 2nd following worship. Menu:



Advent Dinner

Chicken and jojos, salad, vegetable, dessert and beverages. All is provided; we just need you present to make the dinner perfect. Please meet in the fellowship hall.



Joy to the World!

Christmas Caroling Caroling is a wonderful opportunity to show our love to those who cannot get to church during this season. We will leave the church following our advent meal on Sunday, December 2nd to bring the music of Christmas to the homes of some of our church friends and members. Please consider making this part of your Christmas giving this year!!

Giving Tree We have the opportunity to sponsor 5 children for Christmas this year. Their wish lists are on the tags on the Giving Tree in the back of the sanctuary. If you are interested, please take a tag, purchase the gift and return it by Dec. 9 with the tag attached. Gifts can be wrapped if you wish. Thank you!



Children's Program There will be a children's Christmas Program this year on Sunday morning, December 23rd during the Sunday school hour.

Volunteers needed to do Advent candle readings during worship. Anyone interested can talk to Becky Kline or to Pastor George.



THANKS



Thanks from Josie Matulis

Springfield Church, Thank you to everyone for the prayers and cards during my illness. Please continue to pray for me. Josie Matulis.

Thanks from the Mills Jim and Pat Mills thanks the congregation for all the warm wishes, prayers, cards and meals brought to them recently. They appreciate so very much your love and thoughtfulness.

A very nice “Thank you” note was received from Jeff Carter thanking us for the donation to Bethany Seminary and his appreciation to the church for being able to celebrate with us. He also encouraged us to continue our witness.

Thank you for your generosity in providing supplies for the hygiene kits that will be sent to World Church Service.

From the Hawk family — To our church family, Thank you so much for your loving support you showed Mom with cards, visits and prayers and for all your caring support given our family with her passing. Having a caring church family makes difficult times much easier. Also, a special thanks to those who prepared and served us a delicious meal. Thank you and God bless. The Hawk Family.

Thanks from Letha Hatherill — I want to thank the members of Springfield Church of the Brethren for all your prayers and cards during my recent health problem. Your concern meant so much to me. May God continue to bless you all as a church family. Fondly, Letha Hatherill



My dad, **Doran Young**, wishes to thank the congregation for the cards sent to him. I know that he appreciates each one and each person who sends them. Please continue to remember Dad as Christmas comes around, with cards and prayers. He gets lonely sometimes being so far away. Rose Conner

The staff of Inspiration Hills thanks us for our continuing support of the camp ministry. They thank us for our recent contribution of \$170.00 saying what a blessing we are.

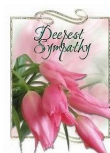
Manchester University thanks us for our recent gift of \$125.00 saying it is a testimony of faith in their mission and strengthens their ability to provide diverse resources to meet student needs.

Thanks from the Merrell Buckles family. “I’m so grateful for all of you and how you welcomed and embraced my brother, Merrell Buckles, this past year. What a fabulous group of Christians you are. I can’t say enough how your love, fun, caring, inclusion, & support of Merrell enhanced his life & meant so much to him, and therefore to me also. The funeral meal, the flowers, the show of respect, Pastor O’Reilly’s services, the stories of Pat Mills rides and ice cream, choir practices.....help ease the pain of our loss. I know God will continue to bless all of you for the light you shine in this world.” With much love & appreciation from Patty Genetin & all of Merrell’s family.

Congratulations to Howard & MaryAnn Ludwick who are celebrating their 64th Wedding Anniversary.

Congratulations to Kevin & Lauren Bowling who are celebrating their first anniversary.

Congratulations to Nikki & Cory Hornish who announced their pregnancy.



Condolences to the family of Marybelle Hawk, 91, who passed away November 4th. Her memorial service was held here at the church on Thursday, November 8th.



District Birthday Party for Jesus—Camp Inspiration Hills, December 8th from 9 am – noon. All ages welcome.

New Year’s Youth Retreat, Dec. 31-Jan 1st 7 pm -11 am – Camp Inspiration Hills. Cherry Lodge, \$35 before Dec. 15th

Mission Sunday Ashland CoB, 122 E. Third St. in Ashland, OH invites area churches to a Mission Sunday, December 16th. At 9:30 am –making grape leaves & discussion of the Ukraine. At 10:30 am a guest speaker will talk about how God is moving among this Muslim people group which is followed with a potluck dinner.

Camp Wednesday Work Days (9 am—3 pm) Volunteer your time at camp: any skill or talent that you might have will be used in our ever growing “to do” list. Mowing, gardening, cleaning, office work are a few options. Free lunch is served. Call Dale Allen at 330-621-4574.

Christmas Greetings

Instead of sending Christmas cards to your church friends, consider donating money you would spend on the cards and stamps to the our church Emergency Fund. This fund helps those in our congregation as financial needs arise. Please fill out the form below and place it in the offering plate, along with your donation, **no later than Sunday, December 18**. Thank you. The list will be in the December 25th bulletin.

Your Name _____

(as you want it to appear in the bulletin)

Donation Amount \$ _____

General Church Board 2019

Christian Education	Becky Burtoft, 2020 (1) Chair Clarajean Knepp 2021 (1) Dawn Conner 2020 (1) Secretary Tammy Pavoli 2019 (1)
Fellowship and Recreation	Kim Winston 2019 (1) Chair Milton Kurtz, 2019 (1) Jean Garcia, 2020 (1) Secretary Pat Mills, 2021 (1) Rita Snyder 2021(1)
Finance	Pat Beach 2019 (2) Chair Ranay Hatherill, 2020 (1) V. Chair Joyce Mohler 2019 (1) Secretary
Music and Worship	Becky Kline,, 2021 (2) Co-Chair Christine Kline 2019 (1) Co-Chair Karen Fergus, 2021(1) Sam Courie, 2020 (1) Secretary Glenn Grunder, 2020 (1)
Trustees	Dale Burtoft, 2021 (3) Chair Duane Hawk (2019) (2) V. Chair Bev Bridger, 2021 (2) Secretary Chris Kline, 2020 (1) Ron Cordier 2020 (2)
Witness	Kim Morckel, 2020 (1) Chair Dee Kinsey, 2020 (1)V. Chair Teri Tucker, 2021 (1) Secretary Faye Reed 2019 (1) Dick Putt, 2019 (2)

Officers and Organization 2019

Moderator	Paul Bozman
Assistant Moderator/ Board Chair	Doug Kline
Church Clerk	Jean Garcia
Church Treasurer	Jean Nesbitt
Financial Secretary	Bernita Shorb
Pastor	George O’Reilly
Church Secretary	Beckie Ebie





Advent 2018: Entering the “Waiting Room” — *From Pastor George O’Reilly*



“Advent is a season observed in many Christian churches as a time of expectant waiting and preparation for the celebration of the Nativity of Jesus at Christmas, as well as the return of Jesus at the second coming. The term is a version of the Latin word meaning ‘coming’.” (*source: Wikipedia*)

We come each year to this season as we approach Christmas and the celebration of the Birth of the Christ Child. And each year many of us have difficulty waiting for Christmas. For example, my wife and I already have lights burning on our house — Christmas lights, of course. Even as the days shorten and the weather becomes more wintery, we are quick to interject some bright blue gleaming lights to express our joy as the Christmas season begins to emerge.

In contrast, in the definition above, Advent is seen as a “time of expectant waiting.” Ah, this may even bring to mind other waiting, such as waiting for the birth of our own children over months of change, adjustment and frankly discomfort. Expectant waiting. (Perhaps waiting in pregnancy could inform our thinking?)

In an interesting article entitled “*Advent: The necessity of waiting.*” Scott Garber pens several thought provoking lines about this waiting.

“Waiting is not some kind of purgatory on the way to glory. It is not the dead space between God’s will and my lack of faith. It is not a teaser designed to enhance the ultimate victory. ...Waiting is grace and is, therefore, the permanent dynamic of the Christian life, a key to the most abiding virtues.

If we are seeking God we are always waiting on multiple fronts. And when God resolves one of them, there will soon be something else to take its place. Without waiting there can be no hope, for you cannot hope for that which you already possess.

Without waiting there can be no true love for God. We all experience warm, fuzzy feelings when we get what we want right away. But when we have to wait, when we have to question our own desires, when God seems distant - then love must mature.”— (*Scott Graber; Washington, D.C.*) .

In fact, I would say that failing to perceive this as “a season of waiting” is to fail to perceive the nature of the passages we use so much at this time of year. When we read the genealogy of Matthew, or the story of Zechariah in Luke, do we see this as a part of a story running across ages or centuries? When we hear again our favorite Scriptures from Isaiah, do realize the People of God waited for generations for the fulfilment of those promises?

In our time, we most often mix in some of the “birth songs” with the “waiting songs” — “While shepherds watched their flocks” with “Come Thou long expected Jesus.” We put some of the lights up early! I will not oppose that.

But we do well to consciously “enter this time of waiting,” and to reflect on the amazing persistence and patience of God over the ages, bringing to readiness a people able to welcome the Messiah into His created world. We do well to recognize the anguished waiting of God’s People over the centuries, hoping to see the arrival of the promised Coming One to bring God’s glory and love to fruition in human lives. We do well to understand that our God always calls His People to expectant waiting for the next “Coming.” Indeed, having been given already the Birth of the Christ Child, having been delivered already by the resurrection of the Crucified Lord, we wait now for the Coming of the Triumphant King and the final fullness of God’s Kingdom. Will you wait with me?



Springfield Church of the Brethren

3500 Albrecht Avenue, Akron, OH 44312 (330) 628-3058

Church email: Springfieldcob@sbcglobal.net

Church web address: Springfield-cob.com



*Continuing the work of Jesus.
Peacefully. Simply. Together.*



We Invite You

- to join with us in the fellowship of a Christian family.
- to join us in our journey to a deeper faith in our Lord Jesus
- to strive with us to "Live for the Glory of God and our neighbor's good."



Interim Pastor: George O'Reilly
Phone: 402-619-7099
Email: pastorgeorgeoreilly@gmail.com

Church Secretary: Beckie Ebie
Church Office: 330/628-3058
email: Springfieldcob@sbcglobal.net

**Sunday Hours
of Worship:**
Sunday School, 9:30 am
Worship, 10:30 am