



# The Pulse

December 2017

## of Rocky River Presbyterian Church



### Our church's financial outlook for 2018

#### Update on 2018's "PLANT MANY SEEDS" Stewardship Campaign

Thank you, members who have responded to our stewardship campaign for next year. Here's a snapshot of where we stand through Nov. 28:

- 128 pledges received so far; over 220 packets were mailed.
- 2018 pledges total \$329,778.32 so far. For comparison, this year's target for pledges is \$356,000.
- To meet our goal, we hope for additional pledges totaling over \$26,000.

For the Session to know what to expect for next year's church budget we still need to hear from about 90 individuals or households. So dig out that pledge packet from the stack of newspapers and magazines and mail and shopping lists. Need another pledge card? Just call Crystal in the church office or print one from the church website [www.riverpres.org](http://www.riverpres.org).

—John Eyre, Chair,  
Stewardship Committee

### How does our church get decorated for Christmas?

#### All ages can help "Deck the Halls" of our church Sat., Dec. 2, 10 a.m.

Whether you like to climb ladders or keep your feet on "terra firma," whether you're 8 or 80, there's a task for you!

Come help prepare our church sanctuary and building for Advent and Christmas. With our deacons at the lead, the big job goes by very quickly. In fact, we're usually ready for lunch by 11:30 a.m. And at 11:30 a.m. that's exactly what our deacons will offer: a selection of hearty soups, fresh salads, and mouth-watering breads.

Call the church office to let us know you're coming, or just show up—meet some church members you're not acquainted with as you help "Deck the Halls!"

—Board of Deacons

### Inside this Issue:

• From Your Pastor	2
• Birthdays / Thank you	3
• Christian Ed. & Youth	4
• Presbyterian Women PEP Wish List	5
• Library Lingo	6
• Healthy Happenings	7
• Christmas Flowers	8
• RRPPreschool Events	9
• December Calendar	10

### Advent worship series

#### Discover the "Four Blessings" of Advent that you've heard all your life

You probably could repeat from memory what the angel said to the shepherds abiding in the fields of Bethlehem: "Don't be afraid! I am here with good news for you, which will bring great joy to all the people" (Luke 2:10). In one sentence the Christmas angel enumerates four blessings that are so important to us. In worship this Advent discover those blessings: "No fear!" and "Good news!" and "Great Joy!" and "All people."

—Worship Committee

## Holiday Service Schedule

All these services occur on Sundays:

Dec. 3<sup>rd</sup> **1<sup>st</sup> Sunday in Advent**—Communion

Dec. 10<sup>th</sup> **2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday in Advent**

Dec. 17<sup>th</sup> **3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday in Advent**—Christmas Pageant

Dec. 24<sup>th</sup>

- 10:30 a.m. **4<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Advent**
- 5, 7, 10 p.m. **Christmas Eve Candlelight Services**

Dec. 31<sup>st</sup>—"Family Room" Worship at 10:30 a.m.

- *Around tables in Fellowship Hall*
- *Breakfast served starting at 10 a.m.*
- *Like being in your own family room or den!*
- *An original Christmas story in place of a sermon, again this year offered by Jim Pierce*

Jan. 7<sup>th</sup> **Epiphany**—"The Day of the Wise Men"

### 1 of 3 nationwide offerings each year

#### Give "Christmas Joy" Sun., Dec. 17

The Presbyterian Church (USA) collects just a few denomination-wide offerings each year. On Dec. 17 your special gift to the "Christmas Joy" Offering benefits two groups:

- retired ministers and their families
- students at PC(USA) racial ethnic schools and colleges.

Use the special envelope in your offering packet or the Christmas Joy envelopes available at church.

—Mission Committee

From Your Pastor

Decorating for Christmas

As I write this a few days after Thanksgiving, I'm making a mental note to pick up and take home my first Christmas decorations of the year: the wreath I ordered from our preschool's fundraiser. I've not done any other decorating at home yet. I usually start that sometime after the First Sunday of Advent, but with Advent starting so late this year, I'll probably ignore my personal "rule" about not decorating before the start of Advent and decorate our house on my day off later this week.

I've been in homes where Christmas décor is carefully coordinated to carry out a particular look or theme: a Dickensian Victorian Christmas, perhaps, or "Christmas in the Country," or a motif of angels or Santas or even, yes, penguins! The White House displayed its Christmas décor on the news last night. Their decorating theme had everything in white and silver and gold, so far as I could tell.

That's not what Christmas looks like in the Fancher home. Our decorations are eclectic. You'll find candles and statues and ornaments that we purchased or were given over the years. We have decorations from various churches we've been part of. We have little reindeer ornaments and angel ornaments and other things the boys made when they were young. Some things are contemporary, others pretty traditional. Decorations portray both sacred and secular Christmas: stars and angels and the Holy Family have their place, as do Santa and reindeer and mice and candy canes. At the Fancher household the theme for our Christmas décor is "whatever we've collected over the years."

The thought came to me, "What if someone were to decide to try for a 'Bethlehem'

theme for their Christmas decoration?" What might that look like?

You might think of manger scenes with animals and stars and angels. That's the mental image you may have from the biblical story of the birth of Jesus.

But that's not what you'd see if you were to go to Bethlehem in Israel/Palestine today. First, you'd see few decorations of the kind we're accustomed to. Reindeer? No. Frosty the Snowman? Nope. Santa? Well, you might see his image here and there. You'll also see a few lights formed in the shape of angels or bells or stars, and some strings of lights strung along the town center called "Manger Square."



But in Bethlehem today you're more likely to see run-down apartment buildings and storefronts with retractable steel doors. You'll see military police

toting rapid-fire rifles as they walk through groups of children playing soccer between parked cars on a side street. You'll see an enormous 25-foot high wall snaking around the city—a pre-formed concrete "security barrier" that separates Palestinian Arabs from Jewish populations, and sometimes splits Palestinian neighborhoods in two. You'll see public works and education systems for the native Palestinians that are far below the standards that the Israelis enjoy on the other side of the wall.

If we were to adopt a "Bethlehem" theme for Christmas this year, would we spend as much money on decorations and celebrations? Or would we find a way for that money to do good rather than merely make our homes look good and our taste buds feel good?

◇ Instead of baking dozens of cookies and setting out bowls of Christmas candy,

would we resolve to put together bags of healthy groceries for the Rocky River Assistance Program every month?

◇ Instead of spending money to dress our

pets for Christmas, would we use those dollars to buy shoes and school uniforms for children in Liberia or Nicaragua?

◇ Instead of sending Christmas cards to people we see everyday, would we send letters to legislators urging more diplomatic effort toward peace negotiations and increased foreign aid for families who have lived in refugee settlements for generations?

◇ Would we spend as much on fine wine and craft beer and champagne? Or would we give some of that money to non-profits working to bring reliable sources of fresh water to remote villages in other countries?

Don't get me wrong. I'm not a Scrooge. I enjoy many aspects of the modern observance of Christmas. God's choice to come and live among us in Jesus the Son *is* cause for great celebration. But our celebrations shouldn't cause us to forget that Jesus dwelt among us to urge us to care for one another.

How might we be able to bring more "Bethlehem" into our Christmas observances? We can start by remembering why God came into flesh in Jesus: to show us how to love with God's all-embracing love.

See you on Sunday...

...and twice on December 24<sup>th</sup>!

*Jon*



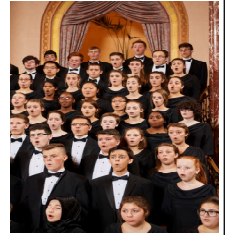
December Birthdays

December 1	Barbara Prudhoe
	Morgan Williams
December 2	Mike Matile
December 3	Jim Bennett
	Ethan Heald
December 4	Karen Allport
	Joshua Showalter
December 6	Greg Ahren
December 7	Scott Krizman
December 8	Carol Bennett
December 9	Vic Erml
	Sue Chaney
	Ian McGorray
	Christian Kirchner
December 10	Jeanne Frier
	Dennis Gresh
December 12	Gary Eisner
December 13	Clay Hoon
December 15	Paul Busby
	Sara Gresh
	Seth Purohit
December 17	Emily St. Pierre
December 18	Christine Wilson
December 19	Marian Ryel
	Holly Pattison
December 22	Heather Daina
	Michael Roberts
	Colin Jones
	Kathryn Urban
December 23	Bridget Hustek
	Cecelia Roche
December 24	Kendall King
	Natalie Cashmere
December 25	Kelley Gillespie
	Joey Furry
December 26	Hannah Jennings
December 27	Chris Standing
	Brian Beer
December 29	Will St. Pierre
December 30	Wally Pattison
	Zachariah Carmack
December 31	John Magnus
	Halle McGorray

Saturday, December 9 at 7:30 p.m.

**Artist Concert Series presents...  
Cleveland Orchestra Youth Chorus**

What a privilege to hear some of the finest high school voices from across northeast Ohio! Come to a free concert by the Cleveland Orchestra's famed Youth Chorus on Sat., Dec. 9 at 7:30 p.m. in our sanctuary. The concert will be under the direction of Acting Director Daniel Singer.



"COYC" was founded by the Cleveland Orchestra in 1991 to raise awareness of choral music-making in the schools of north-eastern Ohio and to encourage more students to continue their choral activities through college and into adulthood. The 80 members of the Youth Chorus are among the finest high school choristers in northeast Ohio; representing some 40 schools and communities, they are chosen through competitive auditions.



We thank you, our church family, for the encouragement, cards, food and prayers, after Nancy's surgery in November.

In Christian love,  
Nancy & Dave Clash

**Church directory changes....**

1. Change Brenda Fahrenkopf's name to **Brenda Peterson**.
2. Delete the home phone number for Jon & Mary Fancher.  
Add these cell numbers to your directory:
  - Jon: (440) 263-8872
  - Mary: (440) 263-8873

—Church Office

**\*\*If your birthday is missing from our birthday list, please contact Office Administrator Crystal Duffield at: [info@riverpres.org](mailto:info@riverpres.org) or (440) 333-4888.**



**Please refer to the website calendar for any updates which may post after the published Pulse date. Thank you.**

**The Mitten Tree is back...!**

Our high school fellowship group will once again put up their popular mitten tree for Advent. We will be collecting hats, scarves, mittens and gloves for folks of all ages. This year, we will be donating our items to The City Mission.



The tree will go up on December 3 and will stay up through December 24. Thanks so much for your continued support of this mission project!

**Our church's children offer their gift: Christmas program in worship Sun. Dec. 17**

On Sun., Dec. 17 the children of our church will present the Christmas story, complete with costumes, Christmas carols and scripture. Children through grade 6 are welcome to participate.

**There will be a rehearsal during worship on Sunday, December 3 in Walker Chapel.** All children will be in worship that day until the children's choir sings. They will then be dismissed to the chapel.

Adult & teen helpers are needed for either Dec. 3 or 17—it takes many hands to get those little people into their costumes! If you can help, contact Dir. of Christian Education Lisa Watts.

Your presence in worship also supports the children of our church as they bring their gifts to our worship service! Questions about the program? Contact Lisa Watts.



**High School retreat a meaningful, fun weekend "Different but United Through God"**

Our High School fellowship group had an amazing and spirit-filled weekend November 10-12. We travelled to Camp Frederick for our annual retreat. It was a frosty weekend, but 9 youth and 4 adults spent time in God's creation, talking about how we function together as a community of God's children. Time for us all to unplug a little, hike the beautiful 100 acre camp, play games, cook great food, and share some great discussion. The seeds have been planted for Youth Sunday 2018!

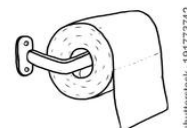


**Toilet paper for OhioGuidestone**

Did you know that some families have to make a choice between buying food and toilet paper? This surprised the middle school and high school fellowship groups. Based on this need, the fellowship groups have chosen to help the families that use OhioGuidestone's services by holding a toilet paper drive. From now until December 24 we will be collecting wrapped toilet paper. Our goal is to collect enough toilet paper to stretch from the sanctuary to the nursery school. Please help us to reach our goal by dropping off your donations in the narthex under the TP sign.

OhioGuidestone serves over 23,000 families throughout the state of Ohio. Founded in 1864 this faith-based organization offers clients a variety of health, skill building and prevention programs for children and adults. To find out more visit their website at [www.ohioguidestone.org](http://www.ohioguidestone.org).

Thank you for supporting High School and Middle School Fellowship



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**PRESBYTERIAN  
WOMEN**

**Semi-Circle**

Semi-Circle will meet on **Monday, December 11<sup>th</sup>** at **12:00 p.m.** at the church in the West Room. If you have questions you may contact Carolyn Watilo 440-799-4779 or Nancy McGillicuddy 440-724-1738. Newcomers are always welcome!

**Priscilla Circle**

Priscilla Circle will be meeting on **Sunday, December 17<sup>th</sup>** at the home of Karol Hoeffler in Bay Village. All are welcome! If you have any questions you may contact Gretchen Koch or Sara Gresh .

**Expressions of Faith**

Our group will only meet **Tuesday, December 12<sup>th</sup>** this month because of the holidays, at **9:30 a.m.** in Room D-3,4. We welcome anyone who knits or just enjoys a cup of coffee with friends. For more information contact Mary Murphy (440-785-8614).

**Koinonia**

Join us **Wednesdays at 10:00 a.m.** in the Parlor for Koinonia Prayer & Bible Study Group. For December only we will meet on **Dec. 6<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup>**. Our prayer time is personal and confidential within the group, with no obligation to pray aloud. Questions may be directed to Jane Doughman, Nancy Clash, Jo Naretto, Mary Murphy, or Carolyn Watilo.

**Women of Grace**

We will meet on **Tuesday, December 12<sup>th</sup>** for our Christmas meeting & dinner. We will meet at 6:00 p.m. at A.J.'s Grill. If you have any questions you may contact Lisa Watts.



**Help "Positive Education Program" for troubled children and youth**

**"PEP" Christmas Wish List**

**a project of our Presbyterian Women's "Semi-Circle" group**

**Look for the bin outside the Sanctuary!**

Toy items- ages 6-10 girls or boys (Legos, Matchbox cars, craft kits)

Ages 1-5 – pull toys, puzzles, stuffed animals

Kids PJs-size 5-14 boys or girls

Art supplies and Craft kits  
Adult coloring books and colored pencils

Boys underwear – Boxers sizes 5-18

White T-shirts – sm., med., Lrg., X-Lrg., XXL

Girls underwear – size 4-14



**MISSTION:  
POSSIBLE!**

**Toiletries**

Deodorant (men's/ women's)  
Toothpaste,  
toothbrushes  
Shampoo  
Bar Soap

**Gift Cards:**

Target  
Marc's  
Walmart  
Marshalls  
Any Food

Sweatshirts and Hoodies – all sizes

Ear buds and cases for phones, tablets, etc.

Basket balls, foot balls, pumps

Nail kits and polish

Play dough and Kits

Fidget Spinners

Wrapping paper, tape, bows





## DECEMBER 2017 LIBRARY LINGO

Mary Schulz, Librarian



### DISPLAYS:

Christmas books for children and adults

### NEW ITEMS FOR TEENS:

#### **Nonfiction:**

If God Loves Me, Why Can't I Get My Locker Open?

TEEN 242.63 PET

It can be hard to keep God on your mind when so many people think that being Christian means you're weak, naïve, or un-cool. But you don't need to prove yourself to them. God's opinion is the one that really matters. He is the one who completely understands you and wants to help. This book is filled with devotionals for a year to help you hold fast to your values.

### NEW ITEMS FOR ADULTS:

#### **Nonfiction:**

The Courage to Give: Inspiring Stories of People Who Triumphed Over Tragedy to Make a Difference in the World

179.9 WAL

The Vanishing Power of Death

236.1 LUT

This honest discussion about the end of our earthly lives- and the beginning of our glorious, eternal lives- will comfort and encourage, as we learn how Christ has replaced death's terror with triumph.

Spiritual Champions: Why Children Should Be Your Church's #1 Priority

248.845 BAR

The author says that churches must begin now to come alongside parents and equip them to provide their children, at the earliest age possible, with biblical precepts that will protect them from a barrage of worldly ideas and teaching that is hostile to the biblical worldview.

A Place to Dig In: Doing Evangelism in the Local Church

253 HIN

The author, a pastor, shows how the pastor and the people can become effectively involved in a comprehensive evangelism effort. He shows how churches can set realistic recruitment goals, and describes innovative ways that those goals can be met.

Following Christ in a Consumer Society : The Spirituality of Cultural Resistance

261 KAV

This is a penetrating diagnosis of our culture of consumerism as contrasted to the personalism of the Gospel.

Date Night in a Minivan: Revving Up Your Marriage After Kids Arrive

306.874 CRA

With stories, road-tested tips, and plenty of humor, this is your handbook for reclaiming that friendship, teamwork, and va-va-voom that you enjoyed before the kids arrived.

Your Time-Starved Marriage: How to Stay Connected at the Speed of Life

646.78 PAR

The moments you miss together are irreplaceable. These relationship experts show you how to reclaim the time you've been missing and how to maximize the moments you have together- how to be more connected. After resolving communication meltdowns, finding time together is the #1 relational need of most couples.

#### **Biography:**

Martin Luther: Rebel in an Age of Upheaval

B LUT

The author, one of Germany's leading social and political historians, gives the reader a rounded view of a difficult, contradictory character who changed the world by virtue of his immense will.

HAPPY READING AND VIEWING!!

(All descriptions have been taken from book jacket, title page verso, or review article)

# Healthy Happenings

## ... Notes from the Parish Nurse

Dear Friends and Family,

Greetings! Why do we need to talk more openly about suicide? Suicide is a difficult topic and one that we often avoid talking about. Perhaps if we did talk about our thoughts and feelings, we would realize that we are more similar than different and we aren't alone in how we are thinking and feeling. Most importantly, we would realize that there are people in our lives who love us unconditionally. If only we were all open to sharing our internal conflicts, then maybe so many people wouldn't see suicide as an option for escaping their pain. Simple, real conversations may just make the difference between life and death.

More people including teens die by suicide than from homicide. For youth ages 10 to 24, suicide is the second-leading cause of death, with approximately 16 American youth taking their lives each day, according to the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention. Experts warn that U.S. youth suicide rates are increasing. Research presented at the 2017 Pediatric Academic Societies meeting in San Francisco showed that youth admitted to children's hospitals for thoughts of suicide or self-harm have more than doubled during the last decade. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention reports that the suicide rate among adolescent girls ages 15 to 19 years continues to rise and hit a 40-year high in 2015. The rate isn't just increasing with girls; boys are affected, too. Suicide rates for adolescent boys and young men have increased by 30 percent between 2007 and 2015.

Why are so many youth resorting to suicide? One possible answer may be that stress levels are on the rise. The inability to cope with stress in healthy ways can exacerbate and even lead to suicidal thoughts. Being subjected to violence can also raise one's risk for suicide. According to the CDC's suicide prevention guide, exposure to violence, such as child abuse, bullying and dating violence, is linked with increased risk of depression, post-traumatic stress disorder, anxiety, suicide and suicide attempts. Many of today's youth are exposed to cyberbullying and other malicious forms of online cruelty as well. The increase in suicide rates is also driven, in part, by changes in how teens carry out suicide, according to the CDC. Teens are using lethal methods such as firearms, suffocation (including hanging and strangulation), and poisoning to end their lives.

Fortunately, there are some immediate actions that we can take to protect our youth and prevent suicide, and it begins with knowing the warning signs. The American Psychological Association notes that, annually, 1 in 5 teens seriously contemplate suicide, according to data collected by the CDC. Of these kids, 4 out of 5 present clear warning signs and risk factors that signal their need for help.

Would you be able to recognize these signs?

- Threatening suicide or expressing a strong wish to die
- Being preoccupied with death and talking about dying or not being around any longer
- Talking about being a burden to others, telling loved ones goodbye and giving things away, like prized possessions
- Taking unnecessary risks, behaving recklessly and increasing alcohol or drug use
- Exhibiting rage or anger, mood swing, acting anxious or agitated, isolating or withdrawing oneself from others
- Referring to death via poetry, writings or artwork
- Exhibiting poor hygiene, changes in eating or sleeping patterns
- Declining academic and work performance

Risk factors for suicide include:

- Presence of a mental illness, such as depression or anxiety
- Access to weapon, alcohol or drugs
- Previous suicide attempts or family history of suicide
- Personal failure, such as failing a class or not making a sports team
- Recent death or anniversary of the death of a close friend or family member
- Recent loss by death, divorce or separation, moving to a new location, breakup with a dating partner, or breakup of a friendship
- Lack of peer social support, such as few or no friends, or being bullied

You can proactively assist a teen who may be having suicidal thoughts by watching out for the warning signs and trust your instincts. If you believe something is wrong, don't second-guess yourself. Speak openly about your concerns. Let the teen know how much you care and that you are there to help and listen. Listen attentively. Be open to hearing what the youth says. Suicide is a serious issue that is worthy of discussion. Ask direct questions. Don't worry about planting any seeds; if the troubled teen is contemplating suicide, asking about it isn't going to cause it to happen. Help the youth get professional help. Use resources; ask a school counselor, school social worker or medical provider to point you in the right direction. If you discover that the youth has put thought into a plan to carry out the suicide, or has recently attempted suicide, act immediately. Do not leave him or her alone. Remain by the youth's side until he or she is safe. If the threat is imminent, call 911 or go to the emergency room.

### Christmas Gifts to Your Church: Flowers... In His Name.. Endowment



At Christmas time, we like to make a special gift in honor or memory of loved ones. Rocky River Presbyterian Church (RRPC) offers three ways to remember someone special. We print these remembrances in the Christmas Sunday bulletin.

**The deadline for Christmas contributions is Dec. 12, 2017.**

1) *Holiday Flower Fund* - Contributions to the *Holiday Flower Fund* provide plants for our sanctuary (suggested minimum donation \$10 for a plant). The RRPC Deacons' sanctuary decorating group purchases adequate plants for a tasteful display. Following the last

Christmas Eve service we encourage donors to pick out a plant (there will be plants of varying sizes and styles) suitable for giving to someone who is sick, shut-in or needing a lift in spirit! (Added bonus: *Flower Fund* money remaining, after buying Christmas flowers, is used for sanctuary flowers on Sundays without flower donations!)

2) *In His Name (IHN) Fund* - This is a discretionary fund used by the pastor to address appeals for emergency assistance, special mission support and other unmet needs within or outside of our congregation. Donations to the *IHN Fund* may be in any amount.

3) *RRPC General Endowment Fund* - This fund is an *abiding endowment* which is never decreased. All contributions add to the fund and generate increased interest income for the church. Donations to the *RRPC General Endowment Fund* may be in any amount.

### *Holiday Flower Fund, In His Name and RRPC General Endowment Funds*

(Contributors to the RRPC *Holiday Flower Fund* may select a plant after the last Christmas Eve service.)

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Include payment with form. Designate: *Holiday Flower, In His Name or RRPC General Endowment Fund* in your check's memo area.

Fund	\$ Amount	Exact wording for bulletin (In honor/memory/celebration of...etc)
<i>Flower Fund</i>		
<i>In His Name</i>		
<i>RRPC General Endowment</i>		



**Men need a place to talk.** That's been the premise of the Friday Morning Men's Group for over 10 years. We will be starting a new study after the first of the year and welcome new members. We meet every Friday Morning at 7:00 a.m. in the upstairs room at Starbucks on Detroit Road in Rocky River. We enjoy fellowship and tackle bible study and other topical books in a very relaxed setting. We're just completing a survey of world religions, which covered Judaism, Christianity, Islam, Hinduism, Buddhism and others. Please consider joining us in December or January, even if you can't make it every week. All are welcome! Feel free to contact Zack Hoon, Greg Ward, Lance Wilson, Jim Flynn or Rudy Gulstrand with any questions.





**Easier for you, more assurance for RRPC**

**Stop! Don't write that check!**



How many monthly payments do you make electronically?

Add your monthly church offering to the list—you can save the time and trouble of writing your offering check every month, and you won't have to wonder, "Did I remember to make that gift?"

Our Financial Secretary Dave Wolfe can assist you with setting up a monthly Electronic Fund Transfer from your bank account directly to the church. It's secure, easy and free:

- ⇒ Only one simple form to fill out
- ⇒ No fees to pay
- ⇒ You can adjust or stop the EFT at any time.

For information, just email or call our Financial Secretary Dave Wolfe at (440) 333-4888 or [dwolfe@riverpres.org](mailto:dwolfe@riverpres.org).

—Stewardship Committee

**Charitable contributions before year-end?**

Since Dec. 31st falls on a Sunday this year, you can put your year-end gifts in the offering plate that day and receive credit in tax year 2017. The church office will be open until noon on Friday, Dec. 29 if you prefer to drop off your gift. Make sure checks are dated for "2017."

—Financial Secretary Dave Wolfe

**Why does our church observe an "Advent Sabbath?"**

Every year Advent is a season in our lives for waiting... for waiting with purpose. And waiting with purpose—with expectation and hope—requires us to accept a change of pace.

That's why our Session sets an example every year by declaring an "Advent Sabbath." Our Advent Sabbath is a simple attempt to tell all of you active, committed, busy church folks to **slow down** so you can realize what God is doing in our world. During our Advent Sabbath we encourage church groups to refrain from their customary schedule of meetings in order to make space in our lives for some reflective time.

Please note that our Advent Sabbath is not a rigid and intractable decree; we encourage groups to have their social gatherings during December; we appreciate that our choir members give us the gift of rehearsal time in order to enrich our worship services; we realize that there will be occasions when a little "church business" must be transacted by some board or committee. But the concept remains helpful, reminding us to take time to reflect on how our world is blessed because we recognize God's indescribable gift of Incarnation (literally, "taking on flesh") by coming among us in the birth of Jesus of Nazareth.

—Worship Committee

**RRPPreschool news**

**Registration now open for the 2018-2019 school year**

Beginning November 1<sup>st</sup>, Rocky River Presbyterian Preschool **priority registration** was opened for all members of the church along with any returning families. Any child, ages 2½ through Kindergarten, may be enrolled in one of the half-day programs at RRPPreschool.

**If you ever buy food, you can help our preschool!**

Your purchases at Giant Eagle grocery stores can mean "free money" for RRPPreschool. Through their "Apples for the Students" program ("AFTS"), each time your Giant Eagle Advantage Card is scanned through March 16, 2018, your purchases can automatically earn funds for RRPP.

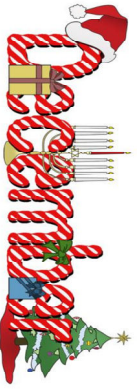


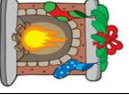
You just need to "enroll," and that's easy:

1. Sign up at [GiantEagle.com/AFTS](http://GiantEagle.com/AFTS)
2. Provide RRPP's "school ID" which is **6013**.
3. (This doesn't take away your "Fuel Perks.")

That's it!



# December 2017

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						
<b>3 First Sunday of Advent</b> <b>Communion / Food Sunday</b> 9:00 a.m. Adult Education 10:30 a.m. Worship Service 10:30 a.m. Children's Program rehearsal 11:35 a.m. Time of Fellowship 11:35 a.m. Children's & Youth Choirs 11:45 a.m. Mission Committee Mtg. 7:00 p.m. High / Middle School Fellowship	<b>4</b> 7:00 p.m. Women's AA Mtg.	<b>5</b> 7:30 p.m. Alanon/Alateen	<b>6</b> 10:00 a.m. Koinonia Group Mtg. 7:30 p.m. Men's AA Mtg.	<b>7</b> 6:15 p.m. Bell Choir rehearsal 7:00 p.m. Priscilla Circle Book review 7:30 p.m. Chancel Choir	<b>8</b> 7:00 a.m. Friday morning Men's Group (RR Starbucks) 5:00 p.m. RR/Preschool "Parents Night Out"	<b>9</b> 4:00 p.m. COYC rehearsal 7:30 p.m. COYC in Concert
<b>10 Second Sunday of Advent</b> 9:00 a.m. Adult Education 10:30 a.m. Worship Service 11:35 a.m. Time of Fellowship 11:35 a.m. Children's & Youth Choirs 7:00 p.m. High / Middle School Fellowship	<b>11</b> 12:00 p.m. PW Semi-Circle 7:00 p.m. Women's AA Mtg.	<b>12</b> 9:30 a.m. Expressions of Faith Mtg. 6:00 p.m. PW Women of Faith Christmas Party	<b>13</b> 10:00 a.m. Koinonia Group Mtg. 5:30 p.m. RR/Preschool Christmas Program 7:30 p.m. Men's AA Mtg.	<b>14</b> 8:30 a.m. Senior Men's Bible Study & Breakfast 7:00 p.m. Priscilla Circle Book Review 7:30 p.m. Chancel Choir	<b>15</b> 7:00 a.m. Friday morning Men's Group (RR Starbucks)	<b>16</b> 7:00 p.m. Altered Attitudes
<b>17 Third Sunday of Advent</b> <b>Children's Christmas Program</b> 9:00 a.m. Adult Education 10:30 a.m. Worship Service 11:35 a.m. Time of Fellowship 12:30 p.m. PW Priscilla Circle Christmas 7:00 p.m. High / Middle School Fellowship	<b>18</b> 6:00 p.m. Women's AA Christmas Party (set-up at 5)	<b>19</b> 7:30 p.m. Alanon/Alateen	<b>20</b> 7:30 p.m. Men's AA Mtg.	<b>21</b> 7:30 p.m. Chancel Choir	<b>22</b> 7:00 a.m. Friday morning Men's Group (RR Starbucks)	<b>23</b> 7:00 p.m. Altered Attitudes
<b>24 Christmas Eve</b> <b>Fourth Sunday of Advent</b>  10:30 a.m. Worship / Nursery / Children 5:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Candlelight Service 7:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Candlelight Service 10:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Candlelight Service	<b>25 Christmas Day</b> <b>Church office closed</b> 7:00 p.m. Women's AA Mtg. 	<b>26 Church office closed</b> 7:30 p.m. Alanon/Alateen	<b>27</b> 7:30 p.m. Men's AA Mtg.	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b> 7:00 a.m. Friday morning Men's Group (RR Starbucks)	<b>30</b> 7:00 p.m. Altered Attitudes
<b>31 New Years Eve</b> 10:00 a.m. Breakfast 10:30 a.m. "Family Room" Worship 						

# “The Pulse”

the monthly newsletter of  
**Rocky River Presbyterian Church**

**December 2017**



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