



Senior Citizens Christmas Dinner

**Come Hear the Reason we're Inspired to **Serve Together****



*Birthday Party for Jesus*

Welcome to



**“The Church on  
the Corner Whose  
Cornerstone is Christ”**

*We are a community of faith founded upon God's Holy Word, preaching salvation through believing in Christ as Savior. We seek to live in God's truth, being obedient to His Word and following in His ways.*

# Welcome to our Worship of God! Fourth Sunday of Advent

Enter to Worship God in the Fellowship of Others

*Please offer a prayer for yourself, those around you, and those leading worship.*

Lighting of the Altar Candles and Ringing of the Tower Bells

*The lighted candles symbolize God's presence, and Christ, the Light of the World.*

Welcome, Announcements, Scripture and Prayer of Invocation

Isaiah 7:10-14 (p. 681)

Prelude

Emma Nafziger

“Bring a Torch, Jeannette Isabella”

The Nativity Scene – The Stable – #157, verse 1

“Away in a Manger”

Lighting of the Advent Wreath – The Candle of Love

Kevin & Angie Neuenschwander (8:00am)

Jon & Jan, Jennifer and Jessica Lindsay (10:30am)

Responsive Carol – page 7, fourth verse

“Now It’s Time to Light the Candle”

†Litany of Love (N –north side; S –south side)

N: Lord God, we are thankful for the hope, peace, and joy that come from you.

S: ***We gather in your love this morning, for love is your very nature.***

N: In you, we live and move and have our being. We exist because of your love.

S: ***Humanity rejected you, but in love you made a way to restore our relationship with you.***

N: Love made a way. That love is Jesus Christ, Immanuel, God-With-Us.

S: ***Born in a stable, laid in a manger, Jesus entered the world in humility.***

N: Jesus lived, was crucified, died, and was resurrected from death, all for love.

S: ***Your love conquered death and we know Jesus Christ as our Lord and Savior.***

N: It is his example we live by: self-sacrificing love. And we know that “Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It is not rude, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs...”

S: ***“... Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres. Love never fails.”***

N: May our hearts be illumined with the light of your love.

S: ***Our love for you, Lord, calls forth our worship; we praise you in song, word and deed.***

†Hymn of Joy – #144

“How Great Our Joy!”

Children’s Message

Advent Prayer and The Lord’s Prayer (debts/debtors)

Chancel Choir

“Run to the Manger”

Scripture Reading

Revelation 3:14-21 (p. 1217)

Advent Message

“Mr. & Mrs. Apathy”

Prayer of Dedication and Sharing Our Offerings and Tithes

Offertory

“Sing Noel, Noel”

Second Offering – Imagine Your Faith Building Capital Campaign

Maggie Enderle

†Closing Carol – #151

“Good Christian Men, Rejoice”

†Spoken Benediction

†Benediction in Song – #163, verse 4

“As With Gladness Men of Old”

†Postlude



**Welcome . . .**

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### **Guests and Visitors**

Welcome, welcome, welcome, to SJCC! We are so glad you have chosen to join us as we worship the Lord together and enjoy fellowship. We hope you have felt God’s love in a new, refreshing way. So that our pastor may follow up with you, please fill out one of the pew cards and drop it in the offering plate later in the service.

### **St. John’s Christian Preschool**

A learning, Christian ministry geared for children 3-5 years of age. Four sessions offered: Tues/Thurs morning and afternoon, and Mon/Wed/Fri morning and afternoon; and run from September through May. More information is available at [www.stjohnsarchbold.org](http://www.stjohnsarchbold.org).

### **Mother’s Room / Diaper Changing Station / Nursery Care**

We have a Mother’s Room located near our sanctuary – just ask an usher for its location. A diaper changing station is in our nursery room just down the hallway from our sanctuary. Nursery Care is offered during our 10:30 worship service for infants and pre-kindergarten children.

**Children’s and Large Print Bulletins** are available on a table in the sanctuary narthex.

**Hearing Assistance** is provided by our system for hearing aids with a “loop system” switch position.

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**Congregational Prayer** – O Lord God, how wondrous you are! As Mary sang of her glorifying you, may my own heart be stirred with her words. Thank you for reminding me that I am your servant, your instrument, and may I be humbled by your call upon my life. Whatever the circumstance, I ask your Spirit to fill me with courage and conviction, that I too would say, “May it be to me as you have said.” In awe and praise of your wonder. Amen.

## **Sermon Notes**

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### **Merry Christmas!**

May the blessings of God's hope, peace, joy and love fill your Christmas celebrations and gatherings. From Isaiah 9 we know that the zeal of the Lord Almighty accomplished what had been foretold – a child was born, a son was given! For the salvation of the world! How awesome and awe inspiring is our God! May you rest in His glory this Christmas. Hallelujah, Amen!

### **Grief Support Group:**

If you or someone you know is dealing with grief and loss there is support available at Shalom Counseling and Mediation Center. The group meets on the first and third Thursday evenings of each month at our Bryan office located at 05030 Co. Rd.15 Bryan, OH 43506 at 7:00 p.m. Call 419-445-1552 or 419-636-1713 for more information.

## WEEK OF December 22 At St. JOHN'S CHRISTIAN CHURCH

Sun	8:00AM	Worship Service (Sanctuary)	
	9:15AM	Confirmation / Sunday School	
Mon	11:00AM	Staff Meeting (Office Closed)	
Tues	9:15AM	Bible Study (Fireside Room)	
	4:00PM	Laundry Buddy Ministry	
	5:50PM	Hand bell Practice	
	7:00PM	Christmas Eve Candlelight Service	
Wed		<b>Merry Christmas!</b>	
		Office Closed	
	10:30AM	Christmas Day Worship (Chapel)	
	11:45AM	Caroling at Fairlawn	
	1:00PM	Community Christmas Meal (Meal at St. Martin's Lutheran Church)	
Sun	8:00AM	Worship Service (Sanctuary)	
	9:15AM	Confirmation / Sunday School/Faith Village	
	10:30AM	Worship Service (Sanctuary)	



### Next Sunday – December 29, 2019

Sermon – “A Guiding Hand” by Pastor Erich Christman

Scripture – Matthew 2:13-23

**Offering Envelopes** are available for pick up in the sanctuary narthex. If you do not find a box with your name on it, please let the office know.

**Discovery Daily Devotional Guides** – Discovery Daily Bible Guides are available in the literature rack outside the Associate Pastor’s office (suggested donation \$6 each).

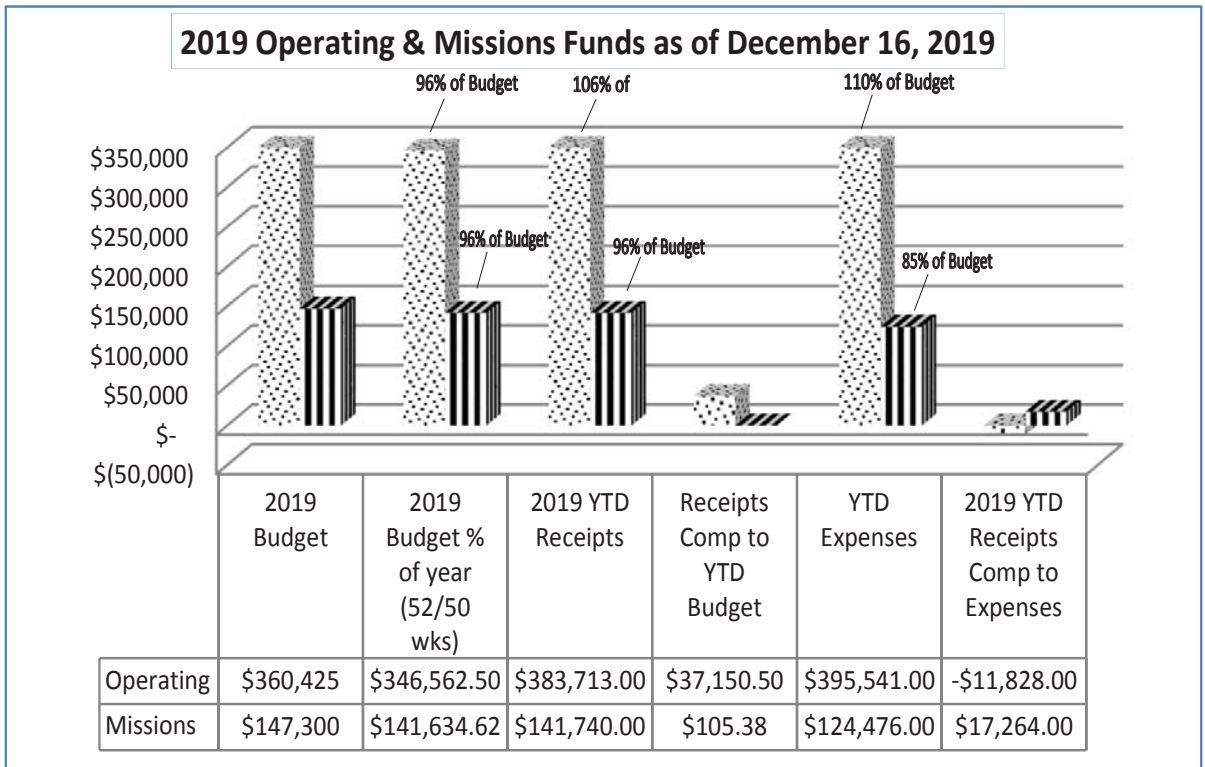
You can access this guide online at <http://www.scriptureunion.org/Bible%20Reading%20Discovery>. Below is the list of daily readings for this week:

December 23 - World Peace .....	Luke 2:1-14
December 24 - It All Checks Out.....	Luke 2:15-20
December 25 - The Waiting Game .....	Luke 2:21-35
December 26 - When Life Gives You Lemons .....	Luke 2:36-40
December 27 - Lost & Found .....	Luke 2:41-52
December 28 - Meaning & Significance .....	Ecclesiastes 1:1-11
December 29 - Sing a New Song.....	Psalm 33

## 2020 Community Meals

We're about to commence serving these meals for the 10th year! In 2019, an average of 188 people enjoyed food and fellowship each week. The meals are served on Tuesdays, from 5pm to 6pm. The meals are held at SJCC from January through March and July through September and at Zion Mennonite Church April through June and October through December. That means the meals are coming back to SJCC beginning on January 7th, so once again we are praying for and seeking volunteers to help set up before, serve during and clean up after each meal, as well as serve on one of our meal teams.

Meal teams from SJCC will serve up to 12 meals throughout the year, being responsible to choose the menu, purchase the ingredients (using budgeted funds), prepare the meal, serve the meal, and help clean up from the meal. We need people to help with table set-up (either on Monday afternoon/evening or Tuesday afternoon) and table take-down (Tuesday evenings), as well as sweeping the floor. We rely on a team of 5 to 8 to help with bussing tables, washing dishes, washing pots and pans, and putting everything away. Volunteers can serve however they want – once a month, four times a month, with just the tables, just the serving or just the cleanup. Talk with Pastor Erich if you're interested!



IYF Building Campaign Total Receipts as of December 16, 2019 - \$760,780.36

# Now It's Time to Light the Candle

REGENT SQUARE 8.7.8.7.8.7

Martha Spong, 2015

Henry Thomas Smart, 1867

The musical score is written in 4/4 time with a tempo marking of quarter note = 100. It features a treble and bass staff with lyrics in between. The key signature has two flats (Bb and Eb). The lyrics are arranged in three systems, each with four lines of text. The first system covers the first two lines of lyrics, the second system covers the next two lines, and the third system covers the final two lines. The music consists of a melody in the treble clef and a bass line in the bass clef, with lyrics placed between the staves.

$\text{♩} = 100$

Now it's time to light the can-dle, Soon God's prom - ise will be here.  
Now it's time to light the can-dle, Mes - sen - gers pre-pare the way.  
Now it's time to light the can-dle, In God's name we will re - joice.  
Now it's time to light the can-dle, Shin - ing love in Je - sus' name.

Young and old we wait to - geth - er For the Sav - ior draw - ing near.  
Wolf and lamb lie down to - geth - er; Right - eous - ness marks God's new day.  
Bells and or - gan play to - geth - er, We will shout in one loud voice!  
When all peo - ple join to - geth - er Earth will nev - er be the same.

Light will o - ver - come the dark - ness: See the hope the Christ Child brings.  
Light will o - ver - come the dark - ness: Live the peace the Christ Child brings.  
Light will o - ver - come the dark - ness: Sing the joy the Christ Child brings.  
Light will o - ver - come the dark - ness: Be the love the Christ Child brings.

Words: © 2015 Martha Spong; Music: Public domain (1905 Methodist Hymnal #113)

## Prayer Joys, Concerns, Requests - Please Pray For:

- Sue Ruffer had a second outpatient operation on Friday, on her arm, due to an infection.
- Emma Hall returned home on Wednesday, a week after her hip surgery. She's to "lay low" for six to eight weeks – please pray for her healing, her patience, and encouragement.
- Audrey Smith remains a resident at the Defiance Area Inpatient Hospice Center.
- Mike Henry had a stent inserted in his upper right chest to address the swelling and blood flow in his right arm and wrist.
- Jane Short has moved from Fairlawn Assisted Living to the Fairlawn Care Center.
- Brenden Bostelman, stationed in Alaska (Army) (Grandson of Bill & Kathy).
- Kohl Collins, at Ft. Benning Georgia (Army) (Grandson of Nan Neill).
- Kyle Ducey, at Suffolk, VA (Navy) (Son of Kelly & Betsy).
- Jared Kuntz, Washington D.C. (Army) (Son of Keith & Kelli).
- Eric Magg, at Ketchikan, Alaska (Coast Guard) (Son of Joe & Sheryl Short).
- Shayne & Taylor Pitts, at Bolling AFB, DC (Air Force) (Granddaughter of Nan Neill).
- David Richardson, in Marine boot camp (Son of Shannon & Yesi).
- Joshua Richardson, at Naval Air Station Pensacola, FL (Marines) (Son of Shannon & Yesi).
- Steve Schink, at Port Angeles, WA (Coast Guard) (Son-in-Law of Ed & Julie Ruffer).
- AJ Short, at 29 Palms, California (Marines) (Son of Joe & Sheryl Short).
- Kyle Stuckey, at Killeen, Texas (Army) (Grandson of Nan Neill).
- Kollin Woolace, at Camp Lejeune, North Carolina (Marines) (Grandson of Larry & Melva).
- All our home bound and care center residents.

## Today's Worship Servants

Acolytes	(8:00) Jack Hurst	(10:30) Blake Grime
Ushers	(Head) Greg Walker	
	(10:30) Tom & Laura Johnson, Bill & Kathy Bostelman	
	(8:00) Doug & Nancy Rupp	
Nursery Staff	(10:30) Eric & Anna Yoder	(Dec. 29) Jeremy & Sarah Kinsman
Sound Tech	(8:00) Angie Neuenschwander	(10:30) James Grime
Video Tech	(10:30) Dean Sauder	
Song Leader	(Both) David Stuckey	
Computer Tech	(Both) Kelly Ducey	
Accompanist	(Both) Lynne Christman	

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## ST. JOHN'S CHRISTIAN CHURCH

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