

St. Paul's News ~ December 2020

For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. ~ Isaiah 9:6

~ Merry Christmas ~

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

Welcome to the Holy Season of Waiting...Advent. This year, more than any year's past, I think of waiting for Jesus in a new way. The ancient people waited for the Messiah's birth; they waited for light to come to their dark world. I have a greater appreciation for waiting for brighter days after having experienced this past year.

The pandemic has been so challenging. Each day, I see posts about how this year is almost over and the new year is coming and change will come with it. Sadly, January 1, 2021 will arrive, and I fear that most things will remain the same. Maybe I shouldn't say sadly...because what remains the same is our hope!

We have hope in Jesus. We have hope in the Light of the World. We have hope in the King of Kings and the Lord of Lords. We have hope in Jesus the Messiah. Hope in Jesus the Savior. We have hope in the mercy and grace offered to us by God and given through Jesus. We have hope in the power given to us by the Holy Spirit of God.

No matter what comes in the remaining days of 2020, we have hope. No matter what comes in the new year, we have hope. We have always had hope and will always have hope as long as we hold onto Jesus, the giver of hope.

Hebrews 11:1 "Now faith is confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see."

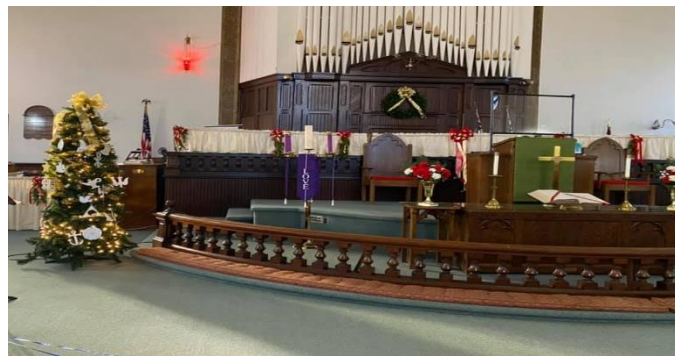
A virus that we cannot see has dominated much of our year in 2020. As we look forward to the new year, let us lean on God's word that reminds us that faith calls us to confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see.

We cannot see God's Spirit, but it is more powerful than any force that surrounds us. We cannot see God's mercy, but it has saved us from what we deserve. We cannot see the grace offered by Jesus, but it has pardoned us.

Let's move into the new year with a confidence in the HOPE that we have and with a sure assurance of what we do not see. Let these things dominate our thoughts and our lives.

Practice hoping while we wait, it is kind of like building strength in a muscle...strengthen your hope muscles church! Jesus is coming.

***Blessings,
Pastor Charlene***



Because Seneca County has had a dramatic increase in COVID-19 cases and has been declared a Red county according to the State of Ohio Alert System, the worship and trustees committees have decided to offer online worship only for Advent. Please know that this difficult decision was made for the health and safety of all who are part of our faith community.

During our online worship, we will be blessed to hear Laura play familiar Advent/Christmas songs on our organ and we will be blessed by Maria's singing. Thanks to them for bringing comfort and familiarity to our online worship.



December birthday celebrations:

Norina Martin - December 6th

Faye Eley - December 13th

If you are over 80 years old and would like your birthday listed so we can celebrate you, please let the church secretary know. Thank you!



This year for Christmas the Salvation Army has once again requested we purchase clothing for children. They want to be able to give each child a complete outfit. They would like an assortment of sizes in clothing for boys and girls, as they have many children in need.

We will still have paper angels on our Missions Christmas tree, you can take an angel to help as a reminder. The suggested limit is \$20 with a return date of **December 9th**. The gifts can be placed under the Missions Christmas tree or in the office. **(please do not wrap, leaving in the store bag is fine).**

If you have any questions or need someone to do the shopping for you, feel free to call Sandy Arnold at (419) 447-6145.

*~ Sincerely,
The Missions Committee*

St. Paul's Ecumenical Sharing Kitchen

The Sharing Kitchen will not be having their annual Christmas party in the traditional sense as they have in the past. **It will be slightly different as they will be doing a giveaway during a normal Sharing Kitchen day, handing out bags already filled with personal items for the adults whom they serve.** Donations are needed to fill the bags, items for men only such as: underwear, t-shirts, men's small tools (tape measure, screw drivers, etc.), socks, and throws. If you would like to help with donations of these items, **the deadline for donations is December 13th. Thank you!**



Acolyte Ministry

*If your son or daughter is in Third grade or older
and would like to serve as Acolyte,
please contact Jill Lindhorst at (419) 443-0273.*



Christmas Poinsettia's

6" pot = \$4.95

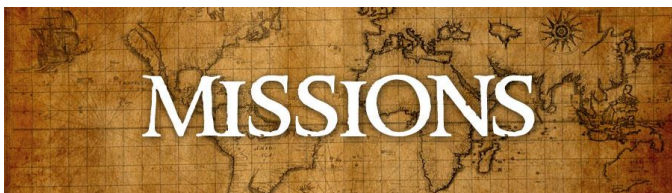
8 1/2" pot = \$12.75

Colors available:

Burgundy, Red, Marble, Glitter, Pink, White

Place your order by December 13th either by calling the church at (419) 447-1743, emailing the secretary at secretary@tiffinstpauls.org or send your order into the church.

Poinsettia's will be placed on the altar for Sunday, December 20th and Christmas Eve, December 24th.



The Operation Christmas Child project is now completed. We turned in 26 boxes to the local collection center. They are on their way to one of 8 processing centers in the United States and from there to destinations around the world, changing lives, one Shoebox at a time. Believe.

Our final project this year is the Angel Tree. We participate with this in coordination with our local Salvation Army. The angels are not specific to a child. They are reminders to purchase an outfit for a boy or girl, any size, spending no more than \$20. The clothing is not to be wrapped but just turned in, in the store bag is fine. Project leader, Sandy Arnold, will turn these into the Salvation Army and they will take care of the rest. They are due by December 9th.

Prayers for a safe, healthy, and happy Christmas and New Year to our church friends.

~ *Denise Lawson, for the Missions Committee*



A Different Kind of Advent Study:

I had prepared to teach an Advent study using the book Incarnation by Rev. Adam Hamilton. Because of our gathering limitations, we are unable to meet to discuss the book. This give us the awesome opportunity to discuss the book virtually and in a new way. I will be posting questions on our Facebook page about Sunday's sermon and the chapter of the book that we are in. Please comment and discuss the questions, just as you would if we were in person. If you don't have Facebook and are interested in an e-mail chain discussion, we can also do that. Let's chat!

Commitment Cards were mailed last month to all members and regular attenders of Tiffin St. Paul's. Please return these cards to the church office as soon as possible. These cards offer us vital information for ministry planning for the new year. We appreciate your prayerful consideration and return of your commitment card.