



THE CONTACT

Midway Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)

December, 2007

Church Staff:

Rev. Heather McColl

Minister

Amanda Hatfield

Student Associate

Melissa Askew

Music Director

Ainsley Wagoner

Pianist

Rhonda Rankin

Secretary

Jestine Johnson

Custodian

Sunday Worship

9:30 AM: Sunday School

10:55 AM: Worship

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The Backward Christmas Pageant

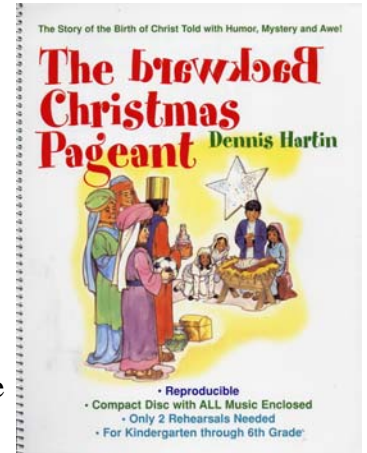
By Dennis Hartin

Sunday, December 16

6:00 pm

How do we tell the story of how the birth of Christ changed things long ago and how it continues to change things today? Tell the story backward! Time doesn't matter in this story—God's grace is timeless—always ahead of current events in our life and world.

A reception will follow in fellowship hall.



Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

Monday, December 24 @ 10:00 pm



Church Office Closed

The church office will be closed December 24 thru December 28.

Budget Update

Budgeted to date: \$61,493.57
Received to date: \$60,489.03

A Pastoral Word

“It’s Christmas Season again! Buy, Buy, Buy!!”
 “You’ll ruin Christmas if you don’t have the perfect gift.” “Buy the new items (tools, cars, toys, etc) and you’ll make their Christmas merry!” **BUY, BUY, BUY!!**

These slogans have been ringing in my ears for the last few months. It started back in October while I was shopping in a few stores and I noticed them there earlier in a few other stores. The chorus of “Buy, Buy, Buy” or “I Want, I Want, I Want” are trying to drown out the choruses of “O Come, O Come Emmanuel.” The sound of “Ch-Ching” and dollars signs are trying push Mary and Joseph along or even out of the way as we journey along to Bethlehem.

Buy, Buy, Buy!

During this time of year, we as consumers hear the hypnotic sounds of sales and deals. During this time of year, we as Christians, hear a different message. We hear the chorus of angels singing “Gloria in excelsis Deo!” We hear the promises of peace and hope for all of God’s children. We hear the good news that a child is born who will bring us goodness and life!

Joy, Joy, Joy!

We come to the time of year that is one of the most sacred times for the church: Advent. A time when we remember God’s promises to God’s people and a time when we eagerly await the fulfilling of those promises. A time when we celebrate the anticipation of God’s Kingdom.

Peace, Peace, Peace!

We begin our celebration of Advent on Sunday, December 2 by decorating our sanctuary with wreath, placing greens in our windows, and hearing the prophet Isaiah remind of us God’s promises to God’s faithful people. And continue our advent journey for four Sundays until we celebrate the birth of the Christ child on Christmas Eve.

Love, Love, Love!

During the season of Advent, we as Christians are called to prepare our hearts for the coming of Christ through study and prayer. We as Christians are called to journey to Bethlehem, eagerly anticipating the Good News that is to come. We are called to recognize that our Savior will come again one day and all things will be made right in our world. There will be no more wars. There will be no more hunger. There will be no more hate or hurt.

Hope, Hope, Hope!

During the season of Advent, we as people of faith claim the journey to Bethlehem. During the season of Advent, we as people of faith tell the consumer side of Christmas, “No more!” During the season of Advent, we celebrate and anticipate the vision of what will be.

Each week, we get a little closer to the manger. Each week, we light a candle on our Advent wreath, reminding us of the warmth of God’s Holy light. Each week, we hear the promises of the prophets overpower the consumerism of Christmas so that we can hear the cries of a baby born to us, wrapped in swaddling clothes and lying in a manger.

And as we journey towards Bethlehem, our ears are ringing with the chorus of “Hope, Peace, Joy, and Love. With each step on our journey, we are reminded that God will come to us again.

“O Come, O Come Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel, that mourns in lonely exile here, until the Son of God appear.

Rejoice, Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.”

Hope, Peace, Joy, Love!

Heather

Worship News and Notes

Worship Themes

You are encouraged to read the text for the day in advance



December 2—Hanging of the Greens

First Sunday of Advent

Scripture: Isaiah 2: 1-5

Sermon: “In Days To Come”

December 9

Second Sunday of Advent

Scripture: Isaiah 11: 1-10

Sermon: “Standing As A Signal”

December 16

Third Sunday of Advent

Scripture: Isaiah 35: 1-10

Sermon: “Sing For Joy”

December 23

Fourth Sunday of Advent

Scripture: Matthew 1: 18-25

Sermon: “Dismissed Quietly”

December 24—Christmas Eve

Scripture: Luke 2: 1-20

Title: “Expecting A Child”

December 30

First Sunday after Christmas

Lessons and Carols Service

Serving This Month

Elders

Adele Dickerson

Dan Roller

Deacons

Jim Nance, Virginia Ballenger, Ouita Michel, Sue Roberts, Bob Rouse, Mary Beth Rouse, Bob Settlemire, Jeanne Sturgill, Kit Walden

Junior Deacon

Steele Rouse

Worship Leaders:

December 2—Nate Hill

December 9—J.T. Batts

December 16—Sheila Redmond

December 23—TBA

December 30—TBA

Lessons and Carols Service

It seems as though we never get around to singing all of our favorite Christmas hymns during this season so on Sunday, December 30 during our morning worship service, we will be having a Lessons and Carols Service. We will once again read the Christmas story and sing a few of our favorite Christmas hymns. If you have some favorite Christmas hymns that you would like to sing, please call the church office so that we can include them in our service. Due to the special nature of the service, there will be no choir anthem or sermon this Sunday. We will receive our morning lesson through the hymns of Christmas.

Acolyte Schedule

December 2—Nate & Jack

December 9—Betsy & Jordan

December 16—Sam & Preston

December 23—Noelle & Faith

December 30—Will & Marcus



Children's Ministry

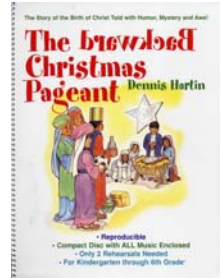
Please make plans to attend *The Backwards Christmas Pageant* on December 16th at 6:00. We are still looking for volunteers to help with costumes, props, lighting, the reception, and that all important 'moral support.' Talk to Amanda if you would like to get involved. The practice schedule is as follows:

Sunday, November 25th

Sunday, December 2nd

Sunday, December 9th

All practices will be held at 2:00 in the sanctuary. We will finish by 4:00 at the latest.



Family Game Night is Saturday, December 8th at 5:30. Come spend a relaxing evening with your church family before the Christmas season becomes even more chaotic. Supper will be provided; everyone is encouraged to bring favorite movies and board games. Did someone say Romans and Christians? You'll have to come to find out.

Attention Chi-Rho Members and Parents: What activities are being planned for the middle-schoolers of Midway Christian Church? Are there retreats and other regional events on the horizon? What does 'Chi Rho' mean, anyway? Learn the answers to these questions and more at the first meeting of Midway CC's Chi-Rho group on Sunday, January 6th at 4:00 in the Fellowship Hall.

As the weather gets colder, the children's Sunday school class will be moving 'south for the winter' from the youth room over the sanctuary to Amanda's office. We will still be gathering first in the Fellowship Hall for the sharing of joys and concerns.

Worship & Wonder Greeter Schedule

December 2—Margaret Easton

December 23—Adele Dickerson

December 9—Amanda Hatfield

December 30—Gretchen Arehart

December 16—Pat Settlemire

Summer Camp Dates Are Available!

Please mark your Calendars now! More information to come later! All dates are for Camp Wakon Da Ho.

Camp 101 (grades 1-2) plus a parent or guardian: May 31-June 1 or July 19-20

Mini Camp (grade 3): June 6-8

Junior Camp (grade 4-5): June 9-13 or July 14-18

Chi Rho Camp (grade 6-8): June 30-July 5 or July 7-12

CYF Camp (grade 9-12): June 16-21 or June 23-28

College Outreach Week (ages 19-29): August 7-10



Fellowship News and Notes

Board Meeting

The Board will meet Sunday, December 2, immediately following the worship service. Lunch will be provided.



Keenagers

Wednesday, December 12th @ 11:30 a.m.

The Keenagers will travel to Boone Tavern on Wednesday, December 12th at 11:30 a.m. We will leave the church at 10:30 a.m. Please call the church office to RSVP by Wednesday, December 5th.

Christmas Open House

Saturday, December 8
1:30 pm—4:00 pm

Hosted by Mike & Heather McColl

Everyone is invited to attend!

Ten Thousand Villages Items for Sale!

The Men's Group is hosting a store in Georgetown for the Christmas Season that will sell items from Ten Thousand Villages. The store is located at 151 East Main Street Georgetown, KY. This is a great opportunity to support our church and third world artisans. It is also a great way to find Christmas gifts for those people who are hard to shop for.

And starting Sunday, December 16th, we will have these items available in our fellowship hall to purchase. You can make your checks out to Midway Christian Church. Please remember to add sales tax.

Disciples Women



Sunday, December 9

@ 12:30 pm

The Disciples Women will meet on Sunday, December 9 at 12:30 pm at Holly Hill Inn. We will meet for Christmas brunch. The cost is \$15 plus tax. If you plan to attend, please call the church office by Wednesday, December 5.

Disciples Men

On Saturday, December 15, the Disciples Men will meet to pack up the items from Ten Thousand Villages. Please meet at the store at 8:30 am. The Disciples Men will bring the items back to the church and set them out through the remaining Christmas season.

O Come All Ye...Carolers!

Sunday, December 9 @ 4:30 pm

Join us for Christmas caroling at the Midway School Apartments on Sunday, December 9. We will meet at the church at 4:30 pm to "practice" and head over to the apartments at 5:00 pm. We will then come back to the church for pizza and a movie, "A Charlie Brown Christmas Special". Come and join the chorus! Help us spread Christmas cheer! Please call the church office if you are planning on caroling.



2007 Christmas Special Offering

Your gift to the Christmas Offering supports our regional church's fund operations and helps provide programs like summer camps, women's and men's retreats, regional assemblies, and other ministries. 100% of this special offering stays in Kentucky. We will be collecting this offering on Sunday, December 16th and December 23rd.

Mission News and Notes

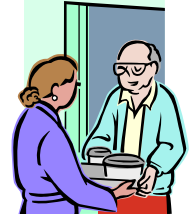
Mission Night

The next mission night will be Wednesday, December 12, 2007. The Cabinet will meet at 5:45 pm and the Committee's will meet at 6:30 pm.

Meals on Wheels

Many thanks to the Meals on Wheels team that served the week of November 12: Charlann Wombles, Pat Settlemire, Priscilla Crutcher, Pat Wilson, Buddy & Gertrude Johnson

The next Meal on Wheels delivery will be the week of December 10, 2007.



Shoebox Christmas for Northside Elementary School

Midway Christian Church's Shoebox Christmas for Northside Elementary students will help to bring joy to local needy children through gift filled shoe boxes. This mission project provides an opportunity for members of Midway Christian Church of all ages to become involved in a simple hands on mission project based upon the true meaning of Christmas – the greatest gift, the birth of Jesus Christ.

The Family Resource Counselor at Northside Elementary School has provided us with a list of nineteen (19) children who are in need of assistance. You can make a difference in the life of one or more of these children through a simple gift filled shoebox or your donation to the project. The shoe boxes filled with school supplies, small toys, and personal items will bring joy and much needed personal items a local child. God can use your gift to make a difference.

The shoe boxes with a gift tag indicating the gift is for a boy or girl; the child's age, grade and suggested gift items will be in the narthex 5. We invite you to take part in this unique outreach project. As you fill your shoebox, please pray for the child who will receive your gift. We ask that you return your gift filled shoe boxes to the church anytime before Sunday, December 16. The shoe boxes will be delivered to Northside Elementary School for distribution before Christmas break.

If you have any questions please contact the church office, Wilda Caudle or June Mitchell.



Kroger Gift Cards

Midway Christian Church is beginning a new fundraising event. This one is very simple. Many of us shop, fill prescriptions and buy gasoline at various Kroger stores. You can purchase a \$5 Kroger gift card and add whatever dollar amount you want onto your card and each time you make a purchase at Kroger, Midway Christian Church will earn money. When the cards are recharged at the store, we will earn a 4% rebate from Kroger. Do not throw away your card after each purchase, you simply recharge it anytime you need to. Gift cards may be recharged up to \$100 at the register, however if you want to add more than that you must do so at the service desk before you begin shopping. It is important to keep activity on gift cards for us to earn money because a gift card with a zero balance for 90 days will be voided out of the system. If you are using Kroger gift cards for other organizations you should label each card because there is no way of determining each card. If you lose your card you can purchase another one from the church only. We will be using the money initially to help pay for the historical marker, which is about \$1400. After that, we will use it for various projects. Please stop by the church office to purchase your gift card.

Community Notes

Future of the Faith Project Update

Since the beginning of the Capital campaign in 2002 we have completed several projects, i.e. new HVAC in both buildings, fellowship hall bathroom improvements, parsonage repairs, round stained glass window in the narthex was removed and repaired, and roof repair, just to name a few.

Due to the extent of the hidden damage to the front of the Sanctuary and weather conditions, it has taken much longer than expected to complete this work. Work has been stopped for the winter and will resume in the spring.

Some of the future projects will include adding a handicap ramp and other improvements to make Midway Christian Church handicap accessible. Painting the exterior and upgrading the steps and handrails leading into the narthex.

Contributions and fundraiser revenue will continue to flow into the church to fund these future projects. We have learned a lesson—Our historic building is our legacy to the future and we must take care of it!

Contribution Notes

- ◆ Check with your tax preparer about donating shares of stock to Midway Christian Church. The tax write-off is for the current (higher) value, not the original purchase price.
- ◆ To count your donation on your 2007 taxes, we must be dated, and mailed (or delivered) on or before Dec.31, 2007.

Welcome New Members

Marjorie Evans joined our congregation by transfer of membership on November 4. Notes may be sent to 343 South Main St., Versailles, KY 40383.

Carole Munson joined by transfer of membership on November 18. Notes may be sent to at 113 Prater Dr., Georgetown, KY 40324.

Karoline Munson also joined by transfer of membership on November 18. Notes may be sent to 106 Pelican Way, Midway, KY 40347.

Ten Thousand Villages Store



The Ten Thousand Villages Store in Georgetown is up and running and doing great! We have had really good support from the church, however we still have a few dates/shifts that need to be filled: Sunday, December 2 from 4-6 pm, all day Saturday, December 8 and Sunday, December 9 from 2:30 to 5pm.

Christmas Family Adoption

Midway Christian Church is adopting a local family, a single mother with three children, so that they might experience the joy of the holidays.

The 10 year old girl is interested in anything related to Hannah Montana, Carrie Underwood, High School Musical or Cheetah Girls. Her pant size is 10/12, shirt size is large and shoe size is 5.

The 9 year old boy is interested in anything related to Hot Wheels, Wrestling, and country CD's. He would like Transformer movies. His pant size is 10, shirt size is large and shoe size is 4.

The 8 year old girl would like anything Care Bears or Bratz dolls, a high chair or car seat for baby dolls, and a pogo stick. Her pant size is 8, shirt size is medium and shoes size is 3.

Please bring gift cards or any unwrapped presents to the church office by Sunday, December 16.



Midway Christian Church

PO Box 4548

Midway, KY 40347

Nonprofit Organization

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Midway, KY 40347

Return Service Requested

