

**Hey Bakers!** The youth groups will once again be hosting their annual **Cookie Sale on Sunday, December 16<sup>th</sup>**. They will gladly accept donations of cookies from the congregation of any kind (except chocolate chip). You can bring your cookies to the church office Monday through Friday, **December 10<sup>th</sup> - 14<sup>th</sup>** from 9:00 AM - 2:00 PM, *or* Saturday morning from 9:30 - 10:00 AM in the greeting area. All donations need to be turned in by 10:00 AM on Saturday, December 15<sup>th</sup> as they will be assembling the trays.

**The Giving Tree is up!!** You will find tags from the Mars Home for Youth, VOICE, The Pittsburgh Project and local families in need. Please help us make this Christmas a happy one for those who are struggling! When you select a tag, please fill out the orange slip of paper with your name and phone number so that we can keep track of the tags. All gifts should be returned unwrapped by Sunday, **December 16<sup>th</sup>**. If you have any questions, please contact Dara Marner ([dlmarner@zbzoom.net](mailto:dlmarner@zbzoom.net)).

**Blue Christmas.** No one likes to be sad at Christmas time, and yet, so often, it can be hard to claim the joy of the season. Whether we've experienced the loss of a loved one, are separated from family, or things just aren't the way we think they ought to be, sometimes joy is hard, and that is magnified at Christmas. And yet, Christmas is a time of promise and hope. In conjunction with Hope Lutheran Church, CCUPC will be participating in a special "Blue Christmas" worship service. This service is designed to help those who struggle, for whatever reason, while still pointing to the hope and peace that is ours through Christ. If you feel as though you could benefit from that service, we hope you will join us on **Sunday, December 16<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 PM at Hope Lutheran Church** on Rowan Road. Or, if you know of others who may find comfort from that kind of worship, we hope that you will extend the invitation to them. There are postcard invitations on the Spiritual Growth table in the greeting area for you to use.

*For the well-being of our Nursery Volunteers, if your child has a bad cold, please refrain from taking them to the nurseries. Thank you for your consideration.*

**SCRIP GIFT CARD NEWS!** The SCRIP Gift Card table has stocked up on all of our most popular gift cards for you to purchase and use immediately. Each card you buy earns the church a percentage of the amount which is used for various improvements around the church (think new carpet in the Sanctuary!) If you wish to buy gift cards at Giant Eagle to get the double fuel perks (which ends 12/5/18), you can buy Giant Eagle gift cards here at church and use them to pay for other gift cards at Giant Eagle/GetGo.

Could you help out in the **Infant/Toddler nursery on Christmas Eve** during the 5:00 or 7:00 PM worship service? We often have new families visiting our church, some for the very first time, and we can only offer a nursery if we have loving caregivers, like YOU! Sign up by writing "CE-5" or "CE-7" in the sign-up box on the registration sheet. Christina Taylor, the Nursery Coordinator, will then contact you.

The administrative expenses for the Presbyterian Church (USA) are covered by Per Capita funds. The **2018 Per Capita amount is \$40.69 per confirmed member**. Our Session has chosen to designate the total amount of per capita received for the work of Beaver-Butler Presbytery unless you specify otherwise. If you have any questions you may talk with Pastor Jim.

**The Spiritual Growth Committee** is encouraging our students (in lieu of individual Sunday School Teacher gifts) to make a donation to the "**Sunday School Project**" that will benefit area families who are in need this Christmas. The church office receives calls every year from parents who are unable to purchase gifts for their children for Christmas. You can purchase Giant Eagle or WalMart gift cards from the Scrip Gift Card Center. Place the gift card(s) in a pew envelope and write "**Sunday School Project**" on the front.

**A Special Request.** . . please be considerate of our retired members, those with special needs, and visitors of our congregation as you choose your parking space on Sunday mornings.

### **Visitors...Please Help!**

If you are a **visitor** worshipping with us today, we'd like to ask you to do us a big favor. Help us discover which of our advertising dollars are doing the most good by telling us how you found our church. When the register pad is passed to you, please fill out not only your contact information, but also check the appropriate box that tells us how you heard of us. It will be a big help.

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