

LEDGEWOOD LIGHT

Ledgewood Christian Church
(Disciples of Christ)
A BEACON ON THE HILL"



Rev. Heidi L. Barham, Pastor
Ruth Logan, Pianist



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HAPPY NEW YEAR 2022!

IT IS A NEW SEASON

The start of another new year tends to bring a renewed sense of hope and promise of better things to come. And given all that we have experienced over the past couple of years, in particular, I am sure we are all looking forward to a new season. Who would have imagined that the world would remain in such a state of upheaval as the result of a global pandemic that has been compounded by political unrest and economic hardship?

But in spite of all the challenges that we have been faced with, one thing remains certain and that is God's unconditional and everlasting love for us. Some might question; however, why we have to go through these challenges if God loves us so much. Why doesn't God just fix it and make everything better? Well, perhaps there is something that God wants us to learn from our situation that we otherwise might not learn without the benefit of going through these difficult times. I truly believe that nothing in life is wasted if we are willing to learn from it and come out better on the other side.

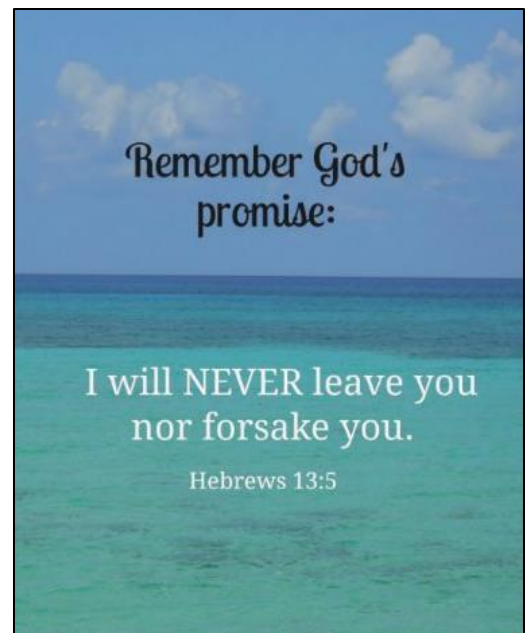
As we look back over the past year, there are a few questions we would do well to consider. What are some of the lessons as well as the blessings that we have received? What do we want to take with us into 2022? And what will we gladly leave behind?

Whatever this New Year has in store for us, let us walk into it with the confident assurance that we do not walk alone and whatever comes our way, God has promised to be there with us every step of the way!

Blessings to you all!

With much love, your Pastor and friend,

Pastor Heidi



'Tis the Season!

After COVID-19 put a damper on our ability to gather during the holiday season last year, it was wonderful to be able to join together for our annual Hanging of the Greens service on the Friday after Thanksgiving. Following a short service, the tree was once again adorned with the beautiful handcrafted Chrismons that were lovingly made by Joan Malcolm Dryer. Afterwards, we gathered for a time of food and fellowship in the Multi-Purpose room. We are so grateful for the opportunity to come together for this special time in the life of our church family!



Handcrafted Chrismons made by Joan Malcolm Dryer are used to decorate the sanctuary Christmas tree each year.



This beautiful olive wood Nativity scene came from Israel and is on display in the narthex.



The Joy of Baptism

Persons become disciples of Christ when they are moved by God's Holy Spirit to turn away from sin and evil, make a profession of faith, and receive God's renewing grace through the sacrament of baptism; thereby becoming one with the whole people of God.

And on Sunday, December 12, 2021, the members and friends of Ledgewood Christian Church were able to bear witness to the baptism of Erin Marie Angle which was performed by Pastor Heidi Barham and our Regional Pastor and President, Rev. Allen V. Harris. This is one of the greatest moments in the life of the church when someone dedicates their life to Christ in the presence of the body of believers. We are grateful to God for Erin and for her commitment to serving the Lord, here at Ledgewood and beyond! Congratulations Erin!



Pastor Heidi and Rev. Harris conducted the service of baptism.



Family and friends were present for the joyous occasion and fellowship that followed.

Showing God's love: A tale of two churches

So many people are searching for hope and a little help. But it's not always easy to find. Church World Service (CWS) partner congregations like First Presbyterian and Cascade View Presbyterian Churches in Everett, Washington have the heart to serve. When hope and help seem scarce, they are always there — answering the call with love and compassion.

Each week, The First Presbyterian Church welcomes over 150 people into their sanctuary to make sure they have a good meal to eat. But guests don't leave with just a full stomach. By partnering with CWS, the church gives a physical reminder of love and hope that people can take with them —hygiene kits and warm blankets to ease the chill of the winter air.

While First Presbyterian gives blankets, other congregations, like Cascade View Presbyterian Church hosts Blanket offerings. "We have a church that believes strongly in how God calls us to love and reach out," explains Cascade's Pastor, Luke Hyder. "We, as a church, want to make tangible differences for those in need."

And those tangible differences are needed and appreciated. "They are so valuable and a gift from God," shares First Presbyterian mission chair Dottie Villevik. Whether giving money or giving blankets, generous congregations and individual donors turn hope into action and make the sharing of these blankets and kits possible. (Source: <https://cwsblankets.org/downloads/>)

Ledgewood Christian Church's annual blanket drive will start January 9th. We will once again transform the Chrismon Tree into the Blanket Tree as part of the CWS annual campaign to Blanket the World with Love. Miniature blankets that represent each \$10.00 donation given will replace the Chrismons on the tree. The donations will be used to purchase blankets that will provide warmth to victims of tornadoes, hurricanes, wildfires and other natural disasters. The blankets will also be used to provide bedding for guests in homeless shelters and as gifts of welcome to newly arrived refugees and migrant workers. In 2021, Ledgewood Christian Church was able to purchase 160 blankets because of your generous gifts. With your help, our prayer is to provide even more blankets in 2022. Special envelopes will be placed in the bulletin each week or you can donate online using Givelify. Please be sure to indicate your donation is for CWS Blankets. Thank you in advance for your support!



What a Difference Does a Blanket Make?

Being alone and wishing for security,
Blanket you are our comforter.

Living hard, no home of our own,
Blanket you are our carpet,
our towel, our tablecloth,
and our cushion.

Aching with fear and cold,
Blanket you are
our warmth, our coat,
our cover.

Needing privacy,
Blanket you are
our wall, our curtain,
our shade.

Knowing I can take only what I can carry,
Blanket, you are my carrier,
my travel companion,
my helper.

Evening time, black night settles
on my shoulders.
Blanket you are our shelter,
our safety.

Trusting – there are many who care,
whose gifts travel so far.
Blanket, you are our lifeline:
the Lord and the people
whose love you send.

by Sherry L. Byrne

"We love to reach out and help those locally but we also love to reach out to organizations like CWS who in turn reach out to those around the world... We as a church want to make tangible differences for those in need. It's hard to know what impact you can make around the world so through this, we know we are helping those who have been displaced, are refugees, or disaster victims and when you have that helpless feeling during these times, I can look at what CWS is doing and can say, 'hey, I can support that!'"
— REV. LUKE HYDER, FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, EVERETT, WA

23,610 blankets

800 emergency cleanup buckets

1,380 school kits

7,500 hygiene kits

CWS
KITS AND BLANKETS
IMPACT REPORT
JANUARY - JUNE
—2021—

"Volunteering for Church World Service as a Kit Depot Coordinator brings me joy! I enjoy meeting and talking with the other kit donors who are involved with CWS. I am always impressed seeing all of the faithful donors and many kits they assemble each year. It really is amazing and astonishing—so thank you!"
— PHYLLIS METZ, CWS KIT DEPOT COORDINATOR
ST. PAUL LUTHERAN CHURCH, ZELIENOPLE, PA

PHOTO CREDITS: BLANKETS: CWS, SEAN HAWKEY | BUCKETS: PRESBYTERIAN DISASTER ASSISTANCE, CRAIG THOMPSON/DISCIPLE DESIGN | HYGIENE KITS: MID-DIAD FOOD COLLECTIVE, BOAT PEOPLE SOS-HOUSTON | SCHOOL KITS: CWS, COURTESY AMY EDELMANN

A Walk to Remember...

CROP Hunger Walks are community-wide events that are sponsored by Church World Service and are organized by local congregations or groups to help raise funds to end hunger at home and around the world. This year's *Greg Weemhoff/Geauga CROP Hunger Walk* took place on September 26, 2021. This annual local event was renamed several years ago in honor of Greg Weemhoff who has participated in the Geauga CROP Walk for 42 years! This is no small feat for someone who has had Cerebral Palsy since childhood. Although Greg needs caregivers to push him along the walk route, he does not let that deter him from interacting with the other participants. He has also not let that stop him from being the top local fundraiser year after year. This year, Greg raised \$5,890 of the \$8,800 total that was collected. Of the total funds raised, 25% will remain in Geauga County to support the Hunger Task Force and the county food cupboards.

CROP stands for the Christian Rural Overseas Program which began back in 1947 under the auspices of Church World Service. Its primary mission was to help Midwest farm families to share their grain with hungry neighbors in post-World War II Europe and Asia.

On October 17, 1969, a thousand people in Bismarck, ND, raised \$25,000 to help stop hunger in what may have been the start of the hunger walks related to CROP. It is believed that the first walk officially called "The CROP Walk for the Hungry" took place in York County, PA— and that event has been continuous since 1970. Several other CROP Hunger Walks occurred soon thereafter, and before long there were hundreds of Walks each year in communities nationwide, including here in Geauga County.

CROP Hunger Walks help to support the overall ministry of Church World Service, especially grassroots, hunger-fighting development efforts around the world. The Walks help to provide food and water, as well as resources that empower people to meet their own needs. Currently, over 2,000 communities across the U.S. join in more than 1,300 CROP Hunger Walks each year. More than five million CROP Hunger Walkers have participated in over 36,000 CROP Hunger Walks in the last two decades alone. (Source: <https://resources.crophungerwalk.org/about-the-crop-hunger-walk-and-cws/>)

We are thankful to all those who contributed to the success of this year's *Greg Weemhoff/Geauga CROP Hunger Walk* and we are extremely grateful for Jane Gray's continued hardwork and dedication in support of such a worthwhile cause!



A Little LIGHT Refreshment:

Linda's Stuffed Pepper Crock Pot Soup

(Submitted by Linda Mislosky)

This is a crowd favorite at our Family Fun Fellowship nights!

Ingredients:

2 large (26 oz) cans tomato soup, plus each filled 1/2 with water

1 small (10 oz) can tomato soup, plus 1/2 can of water

1 large can tomato sauce

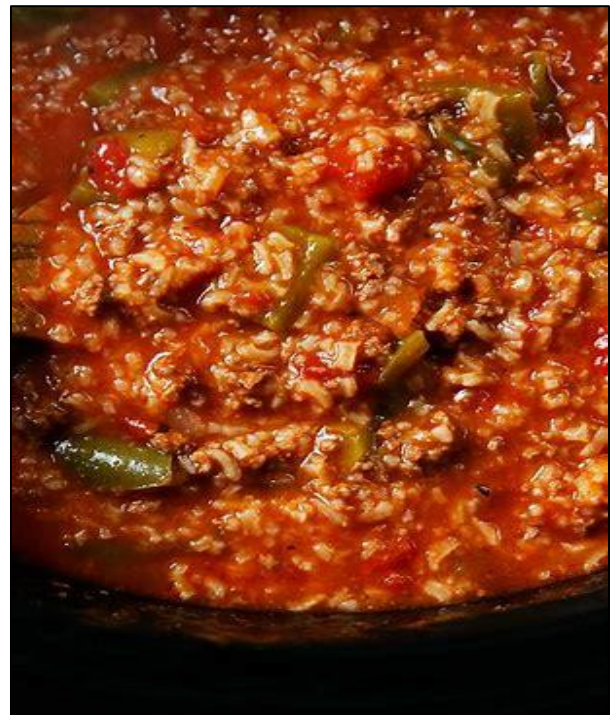
1 large green pepper, sliced

1 cup instant rice - uncooked (or more if you like)

2 1/2 # ground meat

Directions:

- Brown ground meat and drain.
- Add uncooked rice and mix.
- Place sliced green pepper in bottom of large crock pot.
- Add tomato soup and tomato sauce; then ground meat/rice mixture.
- Cover and cook on low for 6-7 hours.





MARK YOUR CALENDARS...

REGULAR SCHEDULE

Worship Service	Sundays – 11:00 a.m. <i>in person or via conference call at (339) 207-7394</i>
Official Board Meeting	Next meeting, Thursday, January 13 th at 7:00 p.m.
Fourth Friday Family Fun Fellowship	January 28 th at 7:00 p.m. (<i>tentative date</i>)

Thursday, January 6th *Epiphany* is a Christian feast day that celebrates the revelation of God incarnate as Jesus Christ. In Western Christianity, the feast principally commemorates the visit of the Magi to the Christ Child, and thus Jesus’ physical manifestation to the Gentiles. It is sometimes called “Three Kings’ Day,” and in some traditions is celebrated as “Little Christmas.”

Monday, January 17th *Martin Luther King, Jr. Day* is celebrated on the third Monday of January to commemorate the birth of the slain Civil Rights leader. Dr. King campaigned against racial inequality through nonviolent resistance and was the youngest man to be awarded the Nobel Peace Prize. Perhaps his most famous speech, “*I Have a Dream*,” was delivered during the March on Washington in August, 1963. Although the holiday was officially signed into law in 1983, it was not observed by all 50 states until the year 2000.

Monday, February 14th *Valentine’s Day* originated as a Western Christian feast day honoring one or more early saints named Valentinus. Valentine’s Day is now recognized as a significant cultural, religious, and commercial celebration of romance in many regions around the world, although it is not a public holiday in any country.

Monday, February 21st “*Presidents Day*” is celebrated on the third Monday of February. Originally planned as a way to honor the births of George Washington (February 22nd) and Abraham Lincoln (February 12th), in more recent times it has become a day to celebrate all U.S. Presidents, past and present. Fun fact: Presidents Day never falls on the actual birthday of any American President.



JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

Chanelle Kazamek	January 3	Dawn Greene	January 9
Jeff Angle	January 6	Cedric McMillon	January 20
Dave Morris	January 7	Traci Gambino	January 29

FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

Carly Kurzawa	February 3	Monique Kazamek	February 21
Emily Marie Hardman	February 13	Brianna Kazamek	February 24

MARCH BIRTHDAYS

Mollie (Gray) Nye	March 17
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MARCH ANNIVERSARIES

Doreen & Al Jaite	March 19
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REMINDER

The Ledgewood Christian Church Youth Ministry continues their outreach efforts to collect donations for the on-going support of the Geauga County Hunger Cupboards and your help is needed more than ever. We continue to work in partnership with the Burton United Christian Church (the location of one of the county's seven food cupboards). At this time the Geauga Hunger Task Force is asking for:

- Ketchup
- Mustard
- Salad Dressing
- Mayonnaise
- Coffee/Tea
- Peanut Butter
- Vegetable Oil
- Sugar
- Flour
- Canned Vegetables
- Canned Fruit
- Cans of Soup/Stews
- Cans of Meat (Tuna, Chicken)
- Jelly
- Macaroni & Cheese
- Spaghetti Sauce
- Pasta
- Non-Sugar Cereal
- Jell-O or Pudding
- Juice
- Spices or Seasoning
- Crackers
- Spaghettios
- Syrup
- Pancake Mix
- Popcorn

Please call the church at (440) 338-5844 or call Pastor Heidi at (216) 376-8875 to schedule a time if you have items you wish to have picked up.

As always, your contributions of non-perishable foods, paper products and “special need items” are all greatly appreciated!

REMEMBER, HUNGER NEVER TAKES A HOLIDAY!



Food for Thought:

These helpful insights from people who have received donations from food banks were recently posted on Facebook:

- Everyone donates Kraft Mac and Cheese in the box. But keep in mind it requires milk and butter which is hard to get from regular food banks.
- Boxed milk is a treasure, as kids need it for cereal which the food banks do get a lot of.
- Everyone donates pasta sauce and spaghetti noodles.
- Recipients cannot eat all the awesome canned veggies and soup unless you put a can opener in also or buy cans with pop tops.
- Oil is a luxury but it is needed for Rice a-Roni which food banks also get a lot of.
- Spices or salt and pepper would be a real Christmas gift.
- Tea bags and coffee make people feel like you care.
- Sugar and flour are treats.
- Fresh produce donated by farmers and grocery stores is also a treat.
- Seeds are good during Spring and Summer because growing can be easy for some.
- Hamburger Helper goes nowhere without ground beef.
- Recipients rarely get fresh meat.
- Tuna and crackers make a good lunch.
- They get lots of peanut butter and jelly but usually not sandwich bread.
- Butter or margarine is nice too.
- Eggs are a real commodity.
- Cake mix and frosting makes it possible to make a child's birthday cake.
- Dishwashing detergent is very expensive and is always appreciated.
- Feminine hygiene products are a luxury and women will cry over that.
- Everyone loves Stove Top Stuffing.

