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Greenmont-Oak Park
Community Church
1921 Woodman Drive
Kettering, Ohio 45420

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Chimes

Greenmont-Oak Park Community UCC



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Website: www.greenmontoakpark.com

Office Hours

1921 Woodman Dr
Kettering, Oh 45420
9 AM—3 PM Mon.—Fri.
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Pastor: Rev. Dr. Robert Smitley
PastorBob
@greenmontoakpark.com
937-307-7874

Office Manager: Nova Kigar
office@greenmontoakpark.com

Youth Leader: Sheri Parrett

Admin. Chairperson:
Jamie Fisher

Interim Choir Director:
Laura Von Holle

Organists:
Mary Jane McBride
Shelley Outlaw

Chapel Worship: 8:45 AM
Morning Worship: 10:45 AM
Sunday School: 9:30 AM
Bible Adventure: 10:45 AM

Ushers:
8:45 AM **10:45 AM**
Gary Etter
Arlene Uldrich
Charlene Brown



Dec. 15—our Day of Sharing the Advent/
Christmas Season: - worship—WHITE GIFTS

- Christmas Tea fellowship—12 noon
- Christmas Caroling - 6 PM

WORSHIP LEADER:
Anna Slaidins—Dec. 8
Brian Parrett—Dec. 15

GREETER:
Dixie & Cindy Archer-Dec.



The Oneness of Twoness

Romans 14 : 4-13

If anyone still doubts that we are living in a post-Christian, even anti-Christian culture, you have only to open your eyes to the fights going on about how to handle the "Christmas" season.

I can tell people stories from my own life and ministry about how things have changed and these stories don't seem to register.

Here's one story: It used to be that if you wanted to attract people to you, you'd carry a Bible on a plane. Nowadays, want to keep people away from you? Carry a Bible on a plane.

Here's another: At a wedding rehearsal not too long ago, a 7-year old girl stood outside the church, crying hysterically at the top of her lungs: "I DON'T WANT TO GO IN THAT PLACE."

If you would have told me at the beginning of my ministry that I would live to see the church as a scary place for a large portion of the population, I would have laughed in your face.

But those are just stories for most Christians who live bubble-wrapped lives inside their Christian bubble.

Christmas seems to bring the reality of this post-Christian culture close to home and to heart. Is our greeting "Merry Christmas" or is it, as at Wal-Mart, "Happy Holidays." Is it a "Christmas tree" or is it a "Holiday Tree?"

This year for the first time since our girl has been in the public school system, the kids in some systems are putting on a "holiday concert" that includes actual Christmas carols. Yes, Rudolph and Jingle Bells are highlighted the most. But mixed in the program are traditional carols that ask "What Child is This?" or that describe the journey of those "Three Kings." There are also a couple pieces being sung in Spanish that I don't recognize but have the name "Jesus" in them.

Of course, the elementary students are also going to sing about Chanukah, and perform a "dreidle song." But after many years of banning Christian customs and carols, the school districts apparently decided that instead of pretending no one is celebrating anything in particular, they will let the kids sing a little bit about everyone's festivals and festivities.

Who knows: maybe the thought here is that since they cannot possibly please everybody, they might as well offend everybody!

Who could have predicted: but in these dawning days of the 21st century, the favorite seasonal image, the most popular "pitchman" used by advertisers, and analysts, is NOT Santa. It is NOT Christmas trees or holiday hearths. It is NOT menorahs, starlights or candlelights.

It is . . . the Snowman.

The Snowman (not limited to "Frosty") is used to sell everything from diamonds to dishes, sports cars to surfboards. The Snowman is the perfect, perky, yet bland image loved by everyone and offensive to no one. The politically correct

Attendance - Nov. 24, Dec. 1 '13

8:45 — 14, 21

10:45 — 87, 74

Sunday school — 18, 19

Offering—operating income

(Monthly budget need is \$14,958)

	Income rec'd	+/- Amt.
Dec. '12	\$13,272	-1,686
Jan. '13	\$10,411.91	-4,547
Feb. '13	\$10,323	-4,635
Mar. '13	\$14,314	-644
Apr. '13	\$8,745	-6,212
May '13	\$10,436	-4,522
June '13	\$10,768	-4,190
July '13	\$11,204	-3,754
Aug. '13	\$9,635	-5,323
Sept. '13	\$13,100	-1,858
Oct. '13	\$10,685	-4,273

Happy Birthday

Megan Weyrauch—Dec. 9

Patti King—Dec. 11

Jessica Parrett—Dec. 12

Diane Yost—Dec. 12

Cheryl Barnett—Dec. 13

Alyssa Erbes—Dec. 15

Craig Kigar—Dec. 16

Don Keltner—Dec. 19

Adam Donovan—Dec. 22

Sean Humphrey—Dec. 22

Jamie Medlin—Dec. 22



In Our Prayers

Liz Ancil

Parker Lee Balsan

Russell Berk

Ginny Breckler

Jim Coleman

Norm Conn

Dennison family

Terry Furnas

Kevin Bader

Cheryl Barnett

Glenda Boddie

Charlene Brown

Michelle Conn

Ceci (Cobb) Cole

Michelle Earwood

John George



Jamie Geswein

Ken Hambrick

Don Keltner

Onu Kolossova

Bob McCray

Hilda Mobley

Karolina O'Donnell

Cindy Romano

Deb Richey

Beverly Smith

David Stockton

Paul Stutz

Gina Van Camp

Pat White

Cathy Winn

Dawn Gilmore

Bill Hine

Dustin Knowlton

Kelly McRonney

Marcella Miller

Naysa Morgan

John Parnell

Calire Riccos

Tom Scheit

Diana Smith

Wayne Stolich

Gloria Van Camp

Evelyn Wheeler

Mary Willett

As prayers are answered—please let the church office know, so we may give God thanks with you.

Those in Nursing Care

Mary Lou Chaney – Bethany Vlg.

Margaret Cobb – Walnut Creek

Margaret Dill – Masonic Home

Doris Greenwood—Grand Court

Ginny Hambrick—Walnut Creek

Vern Hine—St. Leonard Center

Lottie Jaeger – The Oaks, West Kett

Lena Patterson – Liberty Woods

Vera Westfall—Elm Croft, Washington

Tnsp

Military

Ian Bader - USA, (Brown's grandson)

Kirby Brooks— USA (A Brooks son)

Scott Certain –Afghanistan (Jay's son-in-law)

Adam Reeves -S Korea (Edna's grandson)

Sam Rogers— USA (Jen Roger's son)

Casey Ryan - USA (Weyrauch son-in-law)

In Sympathy

We extend our prayers to Cletta & Allen Dicks upon the passing her brother Paul White. May God comfort the family at this time of loss.

Cards may be sent to:

4480 Bucksport Ct, Kettering, Oh 45440

"Thank You"

Dear Friends in Ministry,

On behalf of all we serve in Appalachia through the ministry of the Christian Appalachian Project, I sincerely thank you for the gift of \$450. Your generous gift, has touched many lives—sowing seeds of hope. Our ministry is only possible through continued partnerships with churches and so many people of faith. We deeply value your friendship.

Your support is helping a child develop a love for reading, giving parents the skills to work with a developmentally delayed child, providing transportation of an elderly person to a doctor's visit, ensuring food on the table for a family, or making a home more energy efficient and safer for a family on a fixed budget.

Your involvement is a very important link in this chain of service. Thank you again for your support and prayers. May God continue to bless your ministry! With a grateful heart, Sister Robbie Pentecost, OSF

Dear Greenmont-Oak Park Community Church,

Thank you so much for your generous investment in the Lord's work. Your contribution of \$150, is bringing the ministry of Christ to the City of Dayton and its residents. Kenneth Clarkston, Chaplain/ Director

Dear Friends,

Thank you for your gift of \$150 to Homefull. As we celebrate our 25th anniversary, we are reminded that we would not be where we are today without people who share our vision of a community where there is no homelessness. We are still passionate about our mission to work to end homelessness by providing housing, services, advocacy and education and are hopeful that with your continued support we can eliminate homelessness in Dayton and Montgomery County.

Thank you again for joining us in this work. Sincerely, Tina Patterson, CEO

Lost & Found

Lost— Nov. 1 wedding event -camera memory card with digital photos taken. Last seen in the Library room at the church, if found, please hand into the church office.

Found— 2 pair of black rimmed glasses. These have been here since Sept. and early Oct.

Also a nice cross necklace, found in the kitchen. Come to the church office about claiming. - Nova Kigar

"Snowman" can sell anything to anyone without crunching on any cultural toes.

The Christmas story is definitely not "a-cultural." As disciples of Jesus enter the second week of Advent, we should take note of where and to whom this journey takes us. The miracle of Jesus' birth is not just that "the Word became flesh." It is also that Jesus "dwelt among us" in such a way that we "beheld God's glory."

1. The Twoness of the Christmas Story
2. Paul's Call for Oneness

ChristianGlobe Illustrations, Inc., Leonard Sweet, ChristianGlobe Networks, Inc.

Shalom, Dr. B.



Nativity Gift graciously given.

The family of Flo Warner, has given the church a gift of a Fontanini Nativity Village scene. This special figurine and village nativity is a collectible set, with the Bethlehem street scene plus the nativity scene. There are many village characters, detailing daily life along with the blessed birth of Jesus.

We have displayed this beautiful nativity set in the Hilty room, please come enjoy exploring the birth of our Lord, Jesus Christ through these figurines.

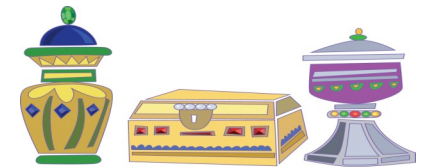
We thank Pasko Evanoff and Karen Hammonds for sharing this Nativity scene with us.

Welcome New Members

Last Sunday, Dec. 1, we received Andrew Cavin and Huggie Harshaw into church membership.

Andrew is father to Ashton ,age 5, who attends school here in Kettering. Andrew enjoys reading, baseball and yard work.

Huggie Harshaw enjoys life and going to church.



WHAT SHALL WE GIVE HIM?

Special Christmas Offering

We will combine this offering with the Thanksgiving Offering and equally divide it between: House of Bread, Daybreak, Big Bear Creek Mission, Veterans of the Cross, YWCA's Battered Women's program and Neighbors-In-Need, up to a value of \$2,100. Any amount in excess of \$2,100 will be given to the operating fund. Special Christmas offering envelopes are included in this Chimes issue.

Stewardship Challenge

One of our church families has made a challenge to us and will match all monies over and above pledged amounts through the end of the year. This is an exciting challenge that we gratefully accept. It is not too late to "Catch Up" on this year's financial commitment, and give more if we can. All we have is the Lord's. Let us return what we can to further His Kingdom. - Stewardship Committee

Fall Sunday School Schedule

The Fall schedule :

- 9:30 AM—High School/College
- lead by Bob Colvin
- 9:30 AM—Adult Bible class
- lead by Frank Taylor
- 9:30 AM—Adult Contemporary
- lead by Laura Von Holle
- 10:45 AM—Bible Adventure
(during worship - continues for all 4yr. Olds to 5th graders)
- 10:45 AM—Nursery (babies to 3yrs)

Youth Programs

- Jr & Sr High Youth** - meet every SAT. 8 to 11PM (7th to 12th grade)
- Crusaders/ Footprints** (K to 6th grade) - meet the 1st & 3rd Sundays following worship.

**Chimes Article Deadlines are:
Dec 16 & Jan. 6.**



3 T's - Christmas Party

Please mark your calendar! The 3 T's will be gathering Tuesday, December 17, 2013, at noon at MCL Cafeteria. The Collins Connection will be entertaining us with their stringing and plucking and singing their hearts out for us. You won't want to miss it. Anyone 50 years old and older are cordially invited to join us for this festive lunch. Cheryl and Ben Barnett are the hostess and host. You all come have some fun with us. This is our Christmas Party.



We Are the Voices of the Living God

The Partnership of Ascension & Greenmont-Oak Park Churches invite you to share the joy of the Christmas Season with the "homebound" of our two churches, through **Caroling on Sunday, Dec. 15, 6 to 8 PM.**

We will meet at Greenmont church to organize into groups for Caroling. Bring one Christmas card to share with our "homebound". Refreshments will be served following the caroling in the Greenmont-Oak Park church basement. Donations of your favorite holiday treats gladly accepted.



Annual Church Christmas Tea Dec. 15

Join in the Christmas Tea fellowship following the 10:45 AM worship service, downstairs in the Donut Room. Let us share our Special Christmas treats and celebrate the Joy of the Advent-Christmas season.

Mitten & Card Tree

We Thank all those who stayed to help decorate the church for Christmas. We have a mitten/ glove and card tree up in the upper Gathering Place area, for those who wish to share warm clothing items for the Christmas baskets or to share Christmas greetings with the church family. Just bring your card or warm clothing items and place them on the tree.

The Kettering Meijer's store **donation campaign** benefits our **Greenmont-Oak Park Church—Neighbor-to-Neighbor Food Pantry, through December.**

Simply purchase a Meijer Simply Give \$10 donation card at the Meijers at Stroop & Wilmington. Give the card to the clerk at check-out. They debit you \$10 and return the card to you for your tax records. Meijer's will double the \$10 gift to make it a \$20 gift. Our Food Pantry will receive the proceeds at the end of the campaign period. Donation cards are available on the Pantry bulletin board in the Gathering Place or on the table at the back of the sanctuary.

Dec. 15—White Gift Sunday 180 Christmas Baskets

The Food Pantry committee wants to share that we have begun basket preparations.

These 180 families combined have 284 children that we help provide Christmas gifts for, as well as the food baskets for the families. Gifts of hats, mittens, scarves, socks, books, new or gently used toys or games, will be collected on White Gift Sunday, Dec. 15, during the offering time in worship. We appreciate your support of this community outreach.

As always, food items collected for the pantry, or baskets, is always appreciated. Canned fruits, soups, vegetables, spaghetti pasta & sauce, cereals, and bath soap and TP are needed most right now.

If you want to help prepare baskets, we need volunteers on Friday, Dec. 20 and Sat. Dec. 21st. A sign-up information poster is in the Gathering Place.



Youth Christmas Program

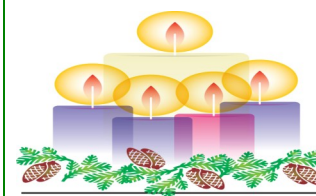
Dec. 22, 9:45 AM

The youth invite all the church to attend their Christmas Breakfast and Program, during the Sunday School hour in the Donut room. A light breakfast will be served including egg casserole, donut holes, juice and coffee, followed by a Christmas program. This time was chosen, so all church members might consider attending, as the children share the Christmas story with us. - Sheri Parrett



Poinsettias

A sign-up list is posted on the church bulletin board to purchase poinsettia plants. The cost is \$9.00/ ea. The plants will be used to beautify the sanctuary for the Christmas Eve service, and may then be taken home by the families who purchased them.



Christmas Eve

- Dec. 24, 11PM

We will hold our traditional communion and candle light Christmas Eve service at 11 PM on December 24. The Choir will sing and we will sing favorite carols. Come join us as we celebrate the birthday of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. He is the true light God sent into the World to save all those who believe, and confess that He is Lord.

