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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

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9 AM—3 PM Mon.—Fri.
Telephone: 252-6705

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



Christ

The center of life

Love, Hope, Joy, Peace

WORSHIP LEADER:

Bob Colvin—Dec. 22
Frank Lakins—Dec. 29
Bob Beall—Jan. 5

GREETER:

Dixie & Cindy Archer-Dec.

The History of the Candy Cane

You know I can remember as a kid one of the favorite things about Christmas was the Candy Cane. We would put Candy Canes all over the tree and the greatest part was being able to eat them during the season. One Christmas Morning we could be assured we would find one of those big Candy Cane Poles in our Stockings. Those would last forever and usually mom would break it up into small pieces and places the pieces in a candy dish. All the peppermint hanging on the tree would give you an evergreen/peppermint smelling tree. As a child the Candy Cane was just a seasonal piece of sweet joy that people gave away in different sizes during the Christmas season.

It would later in my life when I would learn the story behind that delicious red/white striped cane that would appear each year at Christmas time. I'm sure you have heard it before but it never hurts to be reminded again of the reason for its appearance during the Christmas season. I found this version of the story by Helen Hailde and it is said to be a true story – enjoy!

It had to be special to be a gift for the King of Kings, thought the humble candy maker from Indiana. Not just any piece of candy would do. I had to be hard candy because the church is built on solid rock and God's promises area firm foundation, It would be formed in the shape of the Good Shepherd's staff. A J that would also stand for the precious name of Jesus. But it had to say more. White stripes would symbolize the virgin birth and sinless nature of Christ. Three small red stripes would represent the scourging Jesus suffered on His way to the cross. One large red stripe would remind those with eyes to see and ears to hear of the blood Jesus shed as payment for our sins. It would be a gift of love that would tell His story –the greatest story ever told.

A candy maker in Indiana wanted to make candy that would be a witness. So he made the Christmas Candy Cane. He incorporated several symbols for the birth, ministry, and death of Jesus Christ. He began with a stick of pure white, hard candy: white to symbolize the Virgin Birth the sinless nature of Jesus, and hard to symbolize the Solid Rock, the Foundation of the Church and firmness of the promises of God.

The candy maker made the candy in the form of a **J** to represent the precious name of Jesus, who came to earth as our Savior. It could also represent the staff of the Good Shepherd with which He reaches down into the ditches of the world to lift out the fallen lambs who like all sheep have gone astray. Thinking that the candy was somewhat plain, the candy maker stained it with red stripes. He used three small stripes for the blood shed by Christ on the cross. So that we could have the promise of eternal life.

Unfortunately, the candy became known as the Candy Cane. It became a meaningless decoration seen at Christmas time. But meaning is still there for all those who "Have eyes to see and ears to hear." We pray that this symbol will again be used to witness to the wonder of Jesus and His great love that came down at Christmas.

The Ingredients Can Be Found In The Following Scripture

- HARD CANDY** – Reminds us that Jesus is like a "Rock", strong and dependable – Psalm 31:3
- PEPPERMINT** – Is like the gift of spices from the wise men. – Matthew 2:11

Attendance - Dec. 8 & 15 '13

8:45 — 19, 17
10:45 — 71, 71
Sunday school — 17, 19

Offering—operating income

(Monthly budget need is \$14,958)

	Income rec'd	+/- Amt.
Dec. '12	\$13,272	-1,686
Jan. '13	\$10,411	-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
Nov. '13	\$15,017	+ 59

Happy Birthday

Anna Ybarbo—Dec. 23
Carol Vires—Dec. 24
Mychaela Janzow—Dec. 25
Margaret Dill—Dec. 27
Ray Urbanas—Dec. 27
Orrin Bailey—Jan. 1
Ashley Steinbrunner—Jan. 2
Kelley Hager—Jan. 6
Matt Julien—Jan. 6
Pasko Evanoff—Jan. 8



In Our Prayers

Liz Ancil	Kevin Bader
Parker Lee Balsan	Cheryl Barnett
Russell Berk	Glenda Boddie
Ginny Breckler	Charlene Brown
Jim Coleman	Michelle Conn
Ceci (Cobb) Cole	Dennison family
Michelle Earwood	Terry Furnas
John George	Jamie Geswein



Dawn Gilmore	Ken Hambrick
Bill Hine	Don Keltner
Dustin Knowlton	Onu Kolossova
Kelly McRonney	Bob McCray
Marcella Miller	Hilda Mobley
Naysa Morgan	Karolina O'Donnell
John Parnell	Cindy Romano
Pat Reeger	Calire Riccos
Deb Richey	Tom Scheit
Beverly Smith	Diana Smith
Wayne Stolic	Paul Stutz
Gloria Van Camp	Gina Van Camp
Evelyn Wheeler	Pat White
Mary Willett	Cathy Winn

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 grand-son)
Sam Rogers— USA (Jen Roger's son)
Casey Ryan - USA (Weyrauch son-in-law)

"Thank You"

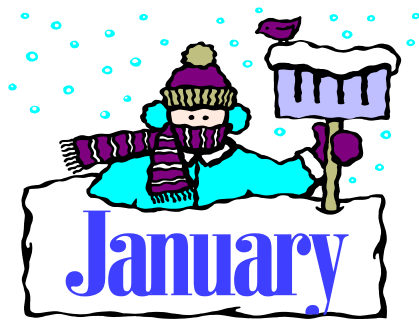
Thought about you guys while I was in church today, at Lincoln Park. Thanks for your cards and prayers. Your kindness is special—and so are you! Love, Charlene Brown

Dear Friends,

The Golden Acres Ministry wishes to express sincere appreciation for your annual monetary support of our Ministry. Your generous contribution, \$150, makes it possible to provide services to our local community.

Thank you to all who were Greeters this year. You have greeted our guests and members each week. Thank You.

- Membership/Fellowship Committee



Prayer for the New Year

Lord, I give up all my own plans and purposes, all my own desires and hopes, and accept thy will for my life. I give myself, my life, my all utterly to thee, to be thine forever. Fill me and seal me with thy Holy Spirit. Use me as thou wilt. Send me where thou wilt, and work out thy whole will in



"But you are a chosen people... that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light."

1 Peter 2:9

WHITE CANDY – Stands for Jesus as the holy, sinless Son of God – I John 1:7
CANE – Is like a staff used by shepherds in caring for sheep, Jesus is our "Good Shepherd." – John 10:1-18, 27-30
THE LETTER J - Is for the name of Jesus, our Savior – Matthew 1:21
THE RED COLOR- s for God's love that sent Jesus, and for Jesus' love in giving His life for us on the cross - John 3:16 and Revelation 1:5
THE STRIPES – Reminds us of Jesus' suffering – His own crown of thorns, the wounds in His Hands and feet, and feet, and the cross on which He died. John 19:1-30.

Share a Candy Cane with someone you love and maybe someone who needs to hear the Gospel this Christmas season. What a "sweet way" to tell someone the meaning of his birth, life, death, and resurrection.

May you and your family be blessed this Christmas and celebrate a prosperous New Year in 2014.



From my family to yours,
Rev. Dr. Robert Smitley
Interim Pastor

"Staff Gifts"

If you would like to give an appreciation gift to the Staff for their good support to the church over the past year, staff gift envelopes were handed out on Sunday, Dec. 15, and will be available on the table at the back of the sanctuary. You may return your gift in the offering plate over the next several Sundays. Thank you and Merry Christmas from the Staff Committee



**Youth Christmas Program
"The King's Birthday"**

Dec. 22, 9:45 AM

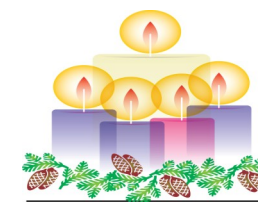
The youth invite all the church to attend their Christmas Breakfast and Program, during the Sunday School hour in the Donut room. A light breakfast will be served including egg casserole, donut holes, juice and coffee, followed by a Christmas program. This time was chosen, so all church members might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

The Church Christmas ornament will be handed out at the end of the program.

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 were sent in the last



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.

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.**

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



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.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT OF OUR CHRISTMAS BASKET FAMILIES

We will be helping to provide a happier Christmas for 180 families this year. We appreciate all your support in giving to these families.

Your hats, gloves, mittens, socks help warm these families, while the food provides nourishment. And the toys, games and books bring smiles and lighter hearts as families experience happy times and fun together.

Please lift these families up in your prayers that they feel the HOPE of God in their lives through these gifts and come to know and experience the best gift of all, Jesus Christ. - Food Pantry Volunteers

We Give God Thanks for the support already received for the Food Pantry.

The Meijer's Store is sending out the first installment of the money raised through their, 'Simply Give' campaign. We will receive \$5,670 that included their double-double giving days in November. We appreciate all the communities support. The giving campaign continues through January 4, 2014. These funds will go a long way in helping the food pantry serve families into the coming year.

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

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.

Mitten & Card Tree

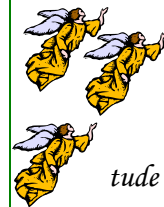
We Thank all those who stayed to help decorate the church for Christmas. We have a mitten/ glove and card tree up in the upper Gathering Place area, for those who wish to share warm clothing items for the Christmas baskets or to share Christmas greetings with the church family. Just bring your card or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

And it came to pass -



And the Angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a savior, which is Christ the Lord.

And this shall be a Sign unto you: Ye Shall find the babe Wrapped In swaddling Clothes, lying in a manger.



And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying, Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men.

*- Merry Christmas from your
Chimes Staff
Linda George, Peggy Goldberg,
Barb LeBlanc, Arlene Uldrich,
& Nova Kigar*

*(this is the last issue of the Chimes,
until the new year)*

