

Currents

Newsletter of Harmony Creek Church



November, 2021

Service Auction Reminder!

We can't wait to see you at our Service Auction! Check in starts at 6:00 the evening of Saturday, November 13th and the Silent Auction kicks off the festivities at 6:30. Admission is \$10 (\$5 for donors), payable at the door. Questions? Call or text Kathy at 937-479-9632.



Crafty Saturday November 13 at 10 am

What are you crafting for Fall? Are you starting your holiday decorating? Join us!

To join us by computer, click link below:

[Crafty Sat Link](#)

To join us by phone, Dial:
+1 646 558 8656 US (New York)

Meeting ID: 882 1890 1788
Password: 517181



November 20 at 10:30 am Celebration of Life for Pinkie Lee Buechter Please join us for a remembrance service.

Pinkie Lee Buechter, (nee Bridgewater), 101, of Kettering, OH, born November 14, 1918, to Samuel Bridgewater and Myrtie Comer of Columbia, KY. She passed away of natural causes, Sunday, July 26th at Centerville Health and Rehab. She is preceded in death by her sisters, Marjorie Whiteside, Edna Burns, Dorothy Prueitt, and Mary Martha Awbrey. Beloved wife of the late George Buechter. A successful business woman, she owned and operated a hair salon for many years. Her greatest sorrow was the loss of her children, Barbara Breitenstein, Joyce Huffman and Michael Timothy Nash. Survived by three grandsons; and 6 great-grandchildren and 2 great-great-grandchildren. Lee was loved and will be missed by all her friends and family. A Celebration of Life was planned for November 14, 2020, on what would have been her 102nd birthday. Instead it was postponed to a year later on November 20, 2021.

From Where I Sit ...

Happy November! The busy, wonderful holiday season is here! And Harmony Creek is buzzing with energy and exciting things to participate in. On November 6 is our SONKA Association Meeting, via Zoom, where we will have the opportunity to hear Robyn Meyers. Check out the SONKA website for more information and register soon!

In the first part of the month we have our Service Auction, November 13, which promises to be a good time for all!

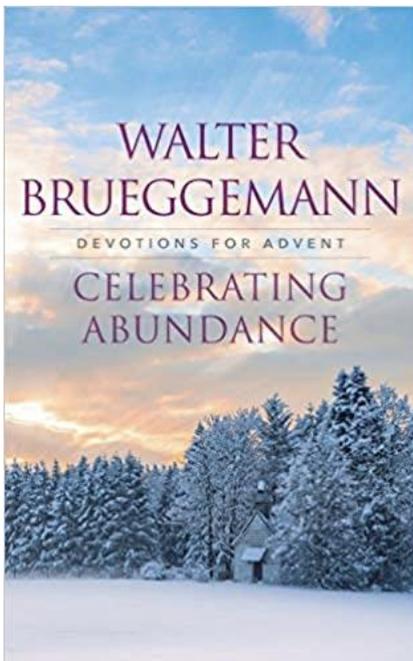
The end of November brings Thanksgiving, and we have much to be thankful for. Join us on Sunday, November 21 for our Annual Giving Thanks Celebration after the 10:30 am gatherings. We are not sure about having lunch as of this writing, but something will be going on for sure!

Advent follows the very next Sunday and we will be ringing in December in joyful anticipation of Christmas. Our theme is "Come, O Christ the Light!"

Please read all of the very important articles this month. We will be having forums about our building options, gathering your thoughts and feelings and we need all of you to let us know how you feel. Mark your calendars for **December 5, our Annual Meeting**, which will have a full agenda of important decisions for your consideration.

I wish you a blessed November full of your favorite things.

Devotional Book for Advent - Celebrating Abundance



To "prepare for Christmas" in our society is to be sucked into a vortex of indulgence, from decor to gifts to calorie-rich foods. Layer upon layer of tinsel, lights, and wrapping paper create the illusion of abundance, disguising the feeling of emptiness in our souls. The arrival of the Messiah, by contrast, is true abundance disguised by the impression of scarcity.

Training our eyes to see through the rough stable, the adolescent mother, and the anxious escape to Egypt, we can see in that poverty and powerlessness the wonder of God's abundant life and grace coming down to dwell among us.

This powerful devotional by best-selling author Walter Brueggemann includes daily reflections on the Scriptures and stories of Advent in order to invite us to see beyond the world's faux extravagance and

realize the true feast laid out before us. Twelve prayers are also included for the twelve days of Christmas.

Pastor Ruth will lead an **Advent Wednesday night zoom on our daily devotional readings at 7 pm every Wednesday, December 1, 8, 15, and 22, and 29**. If you are interested, please let Pastor Ruth know by November 28. 10 books are available, but we can get more!!!! The book is free.

November Birthdays

- 1 Elijah Schaffnit
- 6 Addy Perkins
- 7 Mark Kennedy
- 9 Laura Boyd
- 10 Heather Denchik
- 11 Nathaniel Tims, Jill Spurlin ,
Micah Harry
- 16 Denny Priser
- 17 Sonya Kirkwood-Williams,
Joel Chaney
- 19 Sarah Engel, Claire Denchik
- 20 Cinda Tyler
- 22 Amy Karnehm, Amanda Grieve,
Austyn Daniel-Blyth, Marvin
Bracy
- 26 Jasmyn Beech
- 28 Erin Kobs
- 29 Haley Donegia

Don't see your birthday? Maybe we don't have it on file. Please contact the church office to update your information.

Harmony Creek Families

Children's Ministry

We are looking forward to a busy Fall for our Children's Ministries, full of fun events and activities. I kicked off the Fall season with a Stewardship BINGO competition, hoping it would encourage our congregation to help others and find ways to connect with the people of Harmony Creek. We will soon see who the lucky winners are! Next, I hosted a fun Game Night where people could come and play board games, listen to music, and have pizza and snacks. My friend and I had a great night at the event!

Additionally, as a way to reach out to families within our community, I will be hosting a booth at Tristate Rim and Wheel's Trunk or Treat event. There will be tons of families there and I will work to get our name out there and let people know what amazing things we do at HCC!



Great Adventure has been a blast and I have so much fun each week! We have recently been working on our "Bible Books" where we learn a new bible story each week and create a story book page about it to add to our collections. So far, we have learned about Noah's Ark, Zacchaeus, Jonah and the Big Fish, Moses and the Red Sea, and Jesus feeding the 5,000. In upcoming classes, I plan to have some fun activities surrounding Thanksgiving and gratitude, and then for even later, I have some awesome supplies for Advent. Please continue to support the children's ministries and always be on the lookout for children who would enjoy coming to Great Adventure!

Harmony Creek Youth

November is the month of gratitude. And I am so very grateful for our young people, and the sacredness and silliness that we share together. On October 17th, the youth group gathered at the hospitable home of Tom and Jan Harry. Together we engaged in the practice of Visio Divina (*if you are jealous and / or don't know what the heck that is, read about November's Christian Education opportunities, found within this Currents article*). Our youth group had an epic evening of food and fellowship. And to supplement the spiritual practice of our time together, we engaged in the very theological debate over whether a hotdog is a sandwich or a taco. The youth group remained divided on this particular topic. Our other activity that was scheduled for this month, our mini golf outing at The Magic Castle, was unfortunately rained out for the month of October. Never fear, though. We are going to try it again this month.

Up Next:

Youth Group Mini Golf

When: November 7th from 2:00 to 4:00 pm, *weather permitting*.

Where: Magic Castle (4990 Wilmington Pike, Dayton 45440)

Fee: \$7 per person, if we have 12 or more attending. Adults, siblings, and friends welcome.

Youth Group Gathering

When: November 14th from 6:30 to 8:00 pm

Where: Tom and Jan Harry's House (Address to be emailed out closer to date.)

Pizza included. Bring snacks and drinks. Youth Only Please.

If you would like to participate as a volunteer for youth events and activities, please let me know! Our Safe Church Policy is being updated, and we will be needing to update background checks for numerous people before the end of the year. Just let me know if you want to help!



Justice and Witness Ministries

Refugee Ministry



CHRISTMAS IS COMING!

It's been our custom to provide Christmas gifts for the Nondo refugee family that we mentor. While it would be hard to do our usual Christmas tree with ornaments for gift ideas with so many of us not in the building, we can share some gift ideas this way. But before thinking of Christmas, let me catch you up on some changes in the Nondo family lives. Binti birthed Aziza on August 20th. Aziza had a dramatic start by being hospitalized with RSV but she is now doing fine. She and Jan (3 yrs old) have the same father and he continues to be involved in their lives. Matisho is employed at Amazon and continues at Sinclair while she also takes driver's education. Nondo is on track to graduate from Ponitz Career Center this year in construction. Ungwa is particularly delighted to be in 7th grade at Wright Brothers Middle School. Nyengele and Bawili did amazingly well with their studies with remote learning last year. Now they are back at Kemp Elementary. The HCC refugee team has concentrated lots of energy on helping the children do well at school.



In visiting with the kids, we have some gift ideas to share. We envision 3 to 4 gifts for each one but have listed more ideas shared by the kids so you all have choices. If you prefer... Target, Walmart, and Burlington gift cards are always welcome for a fun shopping trip.

Matisho (19 yrs old) ... All ideas found on Amazon > Books: "I Wasn't Strong Like This When I Started Out: True Stories of Becoming a Nurse" by Ed Gutkind, "The Shift: One Nurse, Twelve Hours, Four Patients' Lives" by Theresa Brown, "Feeding the Souls (Because It's My Business): Finding Our Way to Joy, Love and Freedom by Tabitha Brown. Dermal Korea Collagen Essence Full Face Facial Mask Sheet Combo and Dofaoo Women's Fall Pants with Pockets, Winter Wide Leg Sweatpants, Elastic High Waist Drawstring Pants (Grey, Medium)

Nondo (17 yrs old) ... Shin guard strap for soccer, Northdeer shin guard/sleeves with optimized insert pocket; F.C. Barceloma Jacket (any kind) Size M; Congo Democratic hanging flag for window (current); Black running shoes (size 8 ½); men's long sleeve shirts in blue, yellow or orange (Size M)

Ungwa (14 yrs old) ... White sneakers (Size 7), socks, Whipped vanilla or cherry blossom Bodycology body cream on Amazon; books entitled "Middle School: Get Me Out of Here!" by James Patterson and Chris Tebbetts and "Looking for Alaska" by John Green, and gel pens

Nyengele (10 ys old)... Pink Hoodie (small), Pink sketch book, Tobi watch, pink leggings (size 8), Fidget toy set, Roblox gift card, Takis (size 5), chocolate candy, ring pop.

Jan (3 ½ yrs old)– Winter shoes (size 10), Socks (size 5T), Hat and gloves, Coat (size 5), Underpants (size 5)

Aziza (3 months old) – Diapers (size3 &4), Hat and gloves, socks, winter jacket, winter shoes

Please let Jan Harry know (tjharry@woh.rr.com) or 937-344-0046) what you select so it can be deleted from the list. Then wrap the gift with a gift tag. Also, please put a sticky note on the package with what is in the package to keep us organized. Thanks!!

Environmental Ministry

How Do We Recycle E-Waste?

If we want to be good environmental stewards, what can we do with those old smartphones, laptops, e-notebooks, electronic toothbrushes, and other gadgets? **The last thing you should do is toss them in the trash.** Many of your old phones and tablets are packed with components containing **rare metals** that are difficult to find and pull out of the landfill. Other kinds of e-waste, such as rechargeable batteries, contain chemicals that could pose problems for the environment or human health, according to the Environmental Protection Agency. And gadgets that contain non-removable batteries **could start a fire** if they get crushed in a trash compactor.

Here are a few ways to repurpose and recycle some of the tech taking up space in your life:

Smartphones

- **Smart alarm clock:** Turn an old phone into a smart alarm clock with apps such as “Alarm Clock for Me.”
- **Security camera:** Recycle an old phone into a makeshift security camera with apps such as Alfred. You can check the cameras remotely from your current phone or from the web.
- **Smart TV remotes:** Turn your old phone into a Roku or TV remote with the right app.

Tablets

Dedicated video call station: If your tablet has a front-facing camera, it could be turned into a

- video calling machine by loading it with Zoom, Facebook Messenger or Skype.
- **Digital photo frame:** Display your photos on your old tablet using Apple’s Photos app for iPads to create looping slide shows from pictures in an album, or the Google Photos website.



Computers

- **Media server:** Put your home movies or digital versions of films on an older computer and install [the media server app Plex](#). After a little setup, install the corresponding Plex app on your smart TV or streaming device, and you can watch all those classics on the big screen.
- **Donate it:** Some organizations accept donations of old computers for various causes. Charitable Recycling in Dayton collects empty ink and laser cartridges, old computer equipment, electronics, appliances, and many other items that can be recycled or reused to raise money for donations to the Dayton Childrens Hospital. They follow “the highest standards for data destruction (DOD 5220.22-m) offering destruction receipts upon request.” Also, you can choose to drop-off your items or they can arrange to have them picked up. Call (937) 591-0925 or email them at Donations@charitablerecyclingohio.org

Responsible recycling

If your old gadgets run slow, barely hold a charge, or are in some way damaged, consider recycling them.

- **Local programs:** To recycle electronic waste in Montgomery County, see the following link for the Montgomery County Solid Waste Transfer Station, which is available to all Montgomery County residents: https://www.mcoho.org/departments/solid_waste/electronics_recycling.php
- **Big box stores:** Best Buy lets you bring your aging tech into certain stores. Staples' recycling program works very similarly, while Office Depot and Office Max will sell you a box you can fill with old tech and bring it into a store for shipment and recycling by a third party.
- **Tech companies:** In some cases, you can send old devices back to the companies that made them. Apple will accept its own products for recycling, and in some cases will give you a credit that can be applied to new purchases. The computer maker Dell accepts shipments of old electronics of any brand to be recycled, although they have shipped old electronics to other countries in the past, in defiance of laws.

What about batteries?

Rechargeable batteries **should never go in the trash**; they should be taken to a facility where they can be handled responsibly. That's also true of many modern smartphones and other devices where the rechargeable batteries cannot be removed.

Single-use batteries also should not be thrown into the trash but should be disposed of at electronics recycling drop-offs, such as the Montgomery County facility noted above.

You can also check out Call2Recycle.org. This organization offers a handy tool that lets you find places to drop off rechargeable batteries for recycling, and will even show stores or facilities that accept single-use batteries if that's something your town supports. [Earth 911](http://Earth911) is also a great resource for finding local facilities and businesses that handle rechargeable and single-use batteries. And you can use both to find places where you can drop off old phones, whether they have removable batteries or not.



This article was excerpted and edited from the following, with local information added:

Velazco, Chris. "Your drawer full of old tech could have a new life — or start a fire. Here's how to handle it." *Washington Post*, 28 Sep. 2021.

Thanksgiving is November 25th

Prayer for Thanksgiving - (adapted from Bill Hoppe's prayer in the Abingdon Worship Annual, 2016)

**God, we were born with nothing but the breath you breathed into us.
All that we have become, all that we have created, and all that**

**we have worked for; all this was made possible through you.
We thank you for another beautiful, bountiful year. Amen.**

**The office will be closed for the Thanksgiving holiday
Pastor Ruth will be on vacation November 22, 23, 24.
(Her regular day off is Friday.)**

