



**Open Hearts, Open Minds, Open Doors**

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## DECEMBER AT KING AVENUE



Gay Men's Chorus *JOY* Concert

Friday, December 5 at 8 p.m.

Saturday, December 6 at 2 p.m. and 8 p.m.

*tickets on sale now*

Advent Communion Service

Sundays, December 7, 14<sup>th</sup>, and 21<sup>st</sup> at 10 a.m.

Youth Christmas Party

Saturday, December 13

Christmas Cantata

Sunday, December 14 at 11 a.m. service

Advent Healing Service

Sunday, December 14 at 7 p.m.

Annual Christmas Pageant, *Open Doors*

Sunday, December 21 at 4 p.m.,

followed by the Children's Christmas Party

Christian Gay, Lesbian & Friends

Holiday Luncheon and Trash & Treasure

Sunday, December 21 at noon

Christmas Eve Candlelight Services

Wednesday, December 24

at 5 p.m., 7 p.m., and 11 p.m.

Merry Christmas!

Church is closed on the 25<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup>

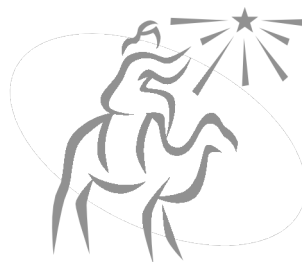
All Church Lunch

Sunday, December 28 at noon



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## **CHRISTMAS IS NOT YOUR BIRTHDAY; IT IS JESUS' BIRTHDAY**

By JOHN KEENY

*Senior Minister*

What to get people for Christmas this year? A church in the Dayton area announces, "Christmas is not your birthday; it is Jesus' birthday." This church asks its members to determine what they will spend on Christmas presents and give a matching amount to its mission in Darfur. Last year the church raised over one million dollars. What has happened in the church is that, over the last several years, the members' Christmas giving has been shaped. Presents of sweaters and shirts have been replaced by donations to food pantries. Gifts that weren't needed by the "person who had everything" were transformed into checks to disaster relief. Christmas is not about consumption; it is about the gift of life.

Every year people talk about putting Christ in Christmas. Maybe this is the most tangible way to do it. Our Christmas giving puts Christ in our hearts, in our relationships, in our communities, and in the world. Last year I searched and searched for the perfect gifts for the staff that had everything. I think that they had mixed feelings about the Chia pets they received. This year they will get different animals. Susan and I have purchased a sheep and a goat from Heifer International in their honor. I wonder if they'll get the joke that there is a little bit of sheep and goat in each of them. The serious part of the gift is that the sheep and goat will be given to poverty stricken, third world family to provide milk and warmth. That family will be asked to share this gift with the members of their community. They are blessed to be a blessing.

So are we. This month's Carillion lists many Christmas giving opportunities to those in need. Let's remember. Christmas is Jesus' birthday; not mine.

### **KING AVENUE PRAYER LIST**

If you wish to have someone listed in the monthly newsletter or have their name remain on the list, you will need to contact the church office **each month** at 424-6050 or [rebecca@kingave.org](mailto:rebecca@kingave.org). Please pray for Vicki Brigham, Edwina Gregory, Nancy Heber, and Lynn Taylor.

If you would like to send messages of support to Edwina Gregory, who was deployed in October, you may email her at [edwina.gregory@us.army.mil](mailto:edwina.gregory@us.army.mil).

## LET US JOIN THE SHEPARDS

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By LINDA MIDDELBERG

*Associate Minister*

Wow! Here we are again coming to the end of another year. Remember when we were so excited about bringing in a new millennium? And now we are welcoming in 2009! Almost a decade has passed.

It has been quite a year, with bad news in abundance. But in the midst of the tragedies of natural disasters, financial disasters, and continued violence around the world there is always a word of hope.

*There were shepherders camping in the neighborhood. They had set night watches over their sheep. Suddenly, God's angel stood among them and God's glory blazed around them. They were terrified. The angel said, "Don't be afraid. I'm here to announce a great and joyful event that is meant for everybody, worldwide: A Savior has just been born in David's town, a Savior who is Messiah and Master. This is what you're to look for: a baby wrapped in a blanket and lying in a manger."*

*At once the angel was joined by a huge angelic choir singing God's praises:*

*"Glory to God in the heavenly heights,*

*Peace to all men and women on earth who please him."*

(Luke 2:10-14, The Message)

We don't know what 2009, will bring, but we do know that whatever it is, we can meet it unafraid because we know that Christ goes to meet it with us.

In the midst of our busy holiday schedules, let us join the shepherds, who not only heard the good news but then went out and spread it to others "glorifying and praising God."

May God bless you with the true gifts of Christmas – Hope, Peace, Love, and Joy – now and always.

### PREACHING SCHEDULE

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Worship with us on Sundays, 9 a.m. Morning Blend & 11 a.m. Traditional Service

<p><b><u>December 7</u></b>  <b>Rev. John Keeny</b>            Mark:1:1-8            Isaiah 40:1-11</p>	<p><b><u>December 14</u></b>  <b>Rev. Linda Middelberg</b>            John 1:6-8,19-28            Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11</p>	<p><b><u>December 21</u></b>  <b>Rev. John Keeny</b>            Luke 1:46b-55            Luke 1:26-38</p>	<p><b><u>December 28</u></b>  <b>Rev. Linda Middelberg</b>            Isaiah 61:10-62:3            Luke 2:22-40</p>
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## NEW LIFE PARTNERSHIP

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By CHRIS PRESPARE

*New Life Liaison*

**clothing room:** Thank you to those that donated or volunteered at the Winter Coat Extravaganza in November. 909 coats were received. 207 neighbors (136 men and 71 women) shopped and received 322 coats. 69 volunteers, representing 10 churches, worked to support the Extravaganza including several members of KAUMC. New Life Clothing Room will be closed Tuesday, November 25 and Wednesday, November 26 for the Thanksgiving Holiday. New Life Items of the Month: Men's Clothes, especially larger sizes, and jeans, size 30 and 32. Also, the Clothing Room needs Toothbrushes. Clothing Room donations can be placed in the New Life box off the Milling Area.

**youth ministry:** New Life Ministries Annual "Make-and-Take" Christmas Gift Workshop will be Saturday, December 6, from 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. Children will make and wrap craft gifts. Other Youth Ministry volunteer opportunities are Tuesday night tutoring (6-8), Thursday night choir and Bible study (6-8), Friday Night Live - - Fourth Fridays (resuming in January, 6-8), Fun First Saturday events (10 a.m.-1:30 p.m.). Those interested contact, please Pastor Laura 294-0134.

**health care ministry:** New Life Ministries Health and Wellness Center is still looking for Doctors and Nurses willing to serve one rotation per month on Sunday mornings from 7:30 – 9:30 a.m. working in the Free Health Clinic, which operates during the free Breakfast. We are also looking for prayer ministers. Those interested, please contact Chris Prespare at 405-7955.

## ADVENT COMMUNION SERVICE

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By LINDA MIDDELBERG

*Associate Minister*

For four Sundays, November 30 – December 21, we will offer a short service of prayer, song, and communion at 10 a.m. in the chapel.

This service which will concentrate on preparing us for the celebration of Christmas by allowing Christ to be incarnated through our lives just as God became incarnate to the world through Jesus Christ.

Currently, in addition to trying to spread the word about the service, I am also looking for people who would like to participate as readers, musicians, or communion servers. Contact me at [linda@kingave.org](mailto:linda@kingave.org) or 426-6050.

## ADVENT HEALING SERVICE

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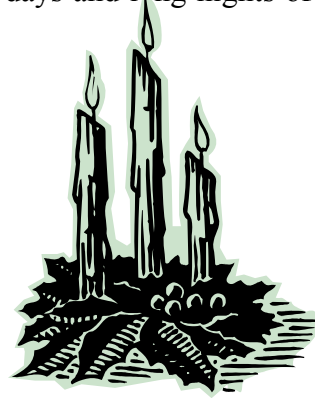
By LINDA MIDDELBERG

*Associate Minister*

### **Are the Holidays a Difficult Time?**

Instead of being merry, many people find themselves facing depression for the holidays. Perhaps you are grieving the loss of a loved one this year and just can't imagine Christmas without them. Maybe family gatherings bring back painful memories or reopen old wounds. Or maybe the short days and long nights of winter just drag at your soul.

We invite you to bring whatever is haunting you this season to an Advent Healing Service on Sunday, December 14 at 7 p.m. Through prayer and communion we will offer our grief and pain to Jesus Christ who came to bring life and light to the world.



## CARE CALLERS

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By JOHN KEENY

*Senior Minister*

Have you forgotten to sign the friendship cards for a few weeks, or have you been missing due to traveling, Sunday work obligations, family illness, or medical problems of your own? If so, you may be the recipient of a Care Call. The Care Call committee was formed last spring to provide outreach to absent members. Care calls are not a request for money or for volunteer obligations, but are for the sole purpose of letting people know that they have been missed, and King Ave. cares.

You can help! As a care caller, you would be given a list of 5-10 persons to phone each month. If you can help, please call the church office (424-6050) or mark your friendship card. Also anyone can help by letting us know if persons who used to sit near you regularly have been absent for awhile.

**“And this is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you.”  
John 15:12**

## OPEN TABLE & FELLOWSHIP NIGHT

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By LINDA MIDDELBERG

*Associate Minister*

Relieve your cabin fever this January with an evening full of food, fun, fellowship and faith formation. Each Wednesday night, **January 14 – February 18**, we will gather at King Avenue for our Open Table Fellowship Night.

Dinner begins at 6:20 pm followed by programming at 7 pm for all ages. For children, the nursery will be open as well as activities for preschoolers, early elementary, middle elementary, junior high, and high school students. For adults there will be a variety of classes and small groups to choose from.

Be sure to mark your calendar now and watch for more detail about the various offerings.

## CHRISTIAN GAY, LESBIAN & FRIENDS

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### *Trash & Treasure Luncheon and Auction*

**The annual Christmas tradition is set for  
Sunday, December 21 at noon in the Fellowship Hall.**

Bring your appetite and, if you choose, a wrapped item to be auctioned.

It's a lot of fun and all proceeds benefit homeless veterans.

The suggested donation for the lunch will be \$10.



**ALL ARE WELCOME!**

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## MUSIC NOTES

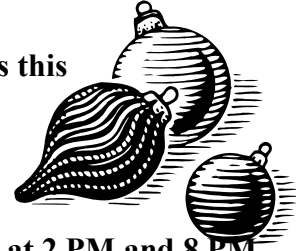
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BY CHRIS McMANUS

*Director of Music*

### *~~Christmas at King Avenue~~*

Don't miss all of the special musical events this  
Advent and Christmas Season!



**Friday, December 5 at 8 PM and Saturday, December 6 at 2 PM and 8 PM**

King Avenue hosts the Columbus Gay Men's Chorus  
for their annual *JOY!* Concert.

Tickets will be available on Sunday mornings or visit [www.cgmc.com](http://www.cgmc.com).

**Sunday, December 14, 11 AM--Service of Lessons & Carols**

The Chancel Choir presents a Service of Lessons and Carols featuring the music of  
Stroope, Britten, Hayes and more, and concluding with the beloved  
*Hallelujah Chorus* from Handel's MESSIAH.

The choir will be joined by an ensemble of brass, harp  
and percussion for this festive service.

**Friday, December 19 at 6:30 PM--Christmas Caroling**

Help spread holiday cheer to our friends and neighbors.  
Carolers should meet at the church at 6:30. We'll carol for about an hour,  
then return to the church for cookies and hot chocolate.  
All are welcome!

**Sunday, December 21, 4 PM—Christmas Pageant**

*"Open Doors"*

The children and youth of the church will present the annual Christmas Pageant.  
This year's production is based on the Hispanic tradition known as Las Posadas.

Join the journey to find a home for the newborn Jesus!

The Children's Christmas party will follow.

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## CHILDREN AND YOUTH

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By APRIL OLT

*Coordinator of Children and Youth Ministries*

Congratulations to the members of the 2<sup>nd</sup> through 5<sup>th</sup> grade Sunday school class along with their teachers — Debbie York and Aimee Bonner! They raised \$500 for the *Nothing but Nets* campaign. This purchase of 50 nets will help 50 families prevent Malaria, the leading killer of children in Africa. The class would like to thank the congregation for their support in this effort.

The annual Christmas party will follow the *Open Doors* Christmas Pageant on Sunday, December 21 at 4 p.m.

Beginning Wednesday, January 14, King Avenue will host a Wednesday dinner at 6 p.m., followed by classes and activities for infants through adults!

Plan to do your holiday shopping at the *Borders Books & Music* 4545 Kenny Road location on December 5, 5 – 9 p.m. and December 6, Noon – 6 p.m. The youth will wrap purchased items to raise money for the mission trip and service projects.

Additional activities are still in the works for the holiday break, so check out the website for updates or contact April Olt at [april@kingave.org](mailto:april@kingave.org).

## RUMMAGE ROUND-UP

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By MARGE HORROCKS

*UMW Member*

I was very remiss last month and missed the deadline. I do apologize. A very hearty and belated THANK YOU comes to everyone who helped with the October Rummage Sale. It was a very successful sale and our mission programs will have over \$9,500 to spend when we clear the treasury on November 19. We will post the proceedings so you can see where your donations will be shared. These monies are very much appreciated by all the receiving organizations from Columbus to faraway lands. Having the rummage sales is a very rewarding way to serve our Lord. We have much fun and fellowship and our experience is priceless! In all, from both sales we should have about \$20,000 to donate to missions. That is awesome and something we can ALL be proud of. Thank you all again!

We are making some changes in our storage areas now, but come December we will again be accepting items and begin our preparations for the May 2009 sale. It always comes faster than we think, so start clearing out attics, basements, and closets real soon!

## LAITY & MISSION

By JOHN WOODEN

*Campus Minister & Director of Events*

### **WORLD AIDS DAY SERVICE**

**Monday, December 1**

12 – 4 p.m. Luncheon and HIV Testing at

St. Dominic's Church

6 – 8 p.m. Candlelight Vigil at

Columbus Public Health Department

For more information: 800-332-AIDS

### **CIRCLE OF HOPE**

**Joining King Avenue on**

**Sunday, December 7**

Is part of the Community Development for All People and the Church for all people on Parsons Ave in Columbus. Circle of Hope (COH) employs men and women who often live on the margins of our society. The part-time employees create beautiful jewelry and gifts by hand from polymer clay in collaboration with local artists. The profits are re-invested solely into Circle of Hope to fund the mission. COH provides hope to its employees and builds a sense of community while teaching workers valuable, transferable job skills, to help them gain permanent employment.

King Avenue Literature Club

December's selection: ***On Chesil Beach***  
by Ian McEwan

The Lit Club will meet on Sunday,  
December 28 at 7 p.m. in the Parlor.

The Lit Club is open to ALL!

### **English as a Second Language**

This free ministry is dependent on volunteers. If you have an hour free on Monday evenings; please consider joining the volunteer rotation and help change a life. The ministry is offered on Mondays at 7 p.m. in the Centennial Room.

### ***Open Shelter Lunches***

*Help pack lunches for the homeless on Tuesday, December 23 at 5 p.m. in King Avenue's kitchen. Enter the church through the west entrance.*

## HAPPY BIRTHDAY!!!

If a birthday has not been listed, please contact the church office, 424-6050.

1 <sup>st</sup>	Vicki Brigham Michelle Holly	10 <sup>th</sup>	Mark McWhorter John Kwak	20 <sup>th</sup>	Donna Jean Janes 21 <sup>st</sup> Lori Fiske
2 <sup>nd</sup>	Karen Reitz Nancy Anderson Jim Stafa Jerrica Schultz	11 <sup>th</sup>	Elisa Bucci	22 <sup>n</sup>	Sue Swenor Sue Burt
3 <sup>rd</sup>	Kristen Bucci Teagan Micks Ethan Foster	12 <sup>th</sup>	Kathy Durfee	23 <sup>rd</sup>	Paul Andrus
6 <sup>th</sup>	David Boley	13 <sup>th</sup>	Roy Fish Trey Mitchell	24 <sup>th</sup>	Katie Shelley
7 <sup>th</sup>	J.B. Tingley Gayle Dillinger Bob Yano Keith Naas	14 <sup>th</sup>	Matt Estes	25 <sup>th</sup>	Marlene Wagonrod Jack Mellman Kathy Tenley
8 <sup>th</sup>	Lindsay O'Connor	15 <sup>th</sup>	Tyler Ruffner Henry Guerrera Mattison Cole	27 <sup>th</sup>	Kasey Wasson Keesha Mitchell Andrew Hill
9 <sup>th</sup>	Randy May Julie Hazelbaker Erin Vaughan	16 <sup>th</sup>	John Seilhamer Patty Lamb Luke Crisp Lizzie Woo	29 <sup>th</sup>	Chris Ruffner
		18 <sup>th</sup>	Allison Kristoff Audrey Norris	30 <sup>th</sup>	Cean Wilson
		19 <sup>th</sup>	David Dagg Andy Poole Alexandria Vallee	31 <sup>st</sup>	Barbara Austin Michael Cook



### Christmas Poinsettias

Poinsettias are displayed throughout our Sanctuary during the advent season. The cost of one poinsettia is \$7. Your donations will be included in the 7 p.m. & 11 p.m. Christmas Eve bulletins on Wednesday, December 24. Poinsettias are available to take home after the services. Submit your payment and the following necessary information by Sunday, December 14:

**NAME:** \_\_\_\_\_ **DAYTIME PHONE #:** \_\_\_\_\_

**EMAIL:** \_\_\_\_\_

1. In Memory or In Honor (circle one) of: \_\_\_\_\_
2. In Memory or In Honor (circle one) of: \_\_\_\_\_
3. In Memory or In Honor (circle one) of: \_\_\_\_\_