

NORTH BENTON CHURCH

NEWS



North Benton Presbyterian Church

Web Site: www.northbentonchurch.org
www.facebook.com/northbenton.church.1

December 2025
Vol. 51, Issue 12

December Greetings to you all,

As we enter the Advent season this year, my prayer is that it will be a very blessed one for each of you and your family!

Advent is a gift that reminds us we must take time for waiting, reflection and hope. Advent is a busy time but during all of that, we seek to find the real "Reason for The Season!" God speaks through Isaiah to tell the people of Israel that God wants to comfort His people. In fact, He doubles down on it: "Comfort, comfort My people, says your God. Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and proclaim to her that her hard service has been completed, that her sin has been paid for." -Isaiah 40: 1-2.

Comfort is a word that carries deep meaning during Advent. It is so much more than cozying up in a fuzzy blanket. God gives us divine assurance that reminds us that, even more in times of uncertainty, God draws us near to Him.

The word "comfort" has two root words. The first is "Com-" meaning with, together, thoroughly." Whatever follows it means that it will be there for you. The second part is "-fort," means strong, as in a fort or fortified. God told Isaiah that He was providing what they needed to be strong.

We will have what we need to do what God wants us to do.

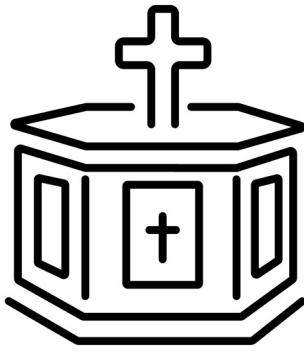
This season is also an invitation to do something real special. Not only can we reflect on how God comforts ourselves, but to come together to comfort others. "Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of compassion and the God of all comfort, Who comforts us in all our troubles, so that we can comfort those in any trouble with the comfort we ourselves have received from God." (Second Corinthians 2: 3-4).

As we wait for Christmas and the birth of Jesus, let us remember that comfort is found in knowing that God is with us (Emmanuel), now and always, Let us open our hearts to the peace that Advent offers and share that comfort with the world around us.

Wishing you all a blessed and comforting Advent season! Blessings,

Pastor Herb





Let's Celebrate

Here are our sermon titles, scripture and themes for Advent this year:

December 7, 2025. Second Sunday of Advent. Matthew 3: 1-12 is the basis for the sermon "Where is Jesus When the Waiting Hurts?" John the Baptist

speaks to a world awaiting? We are in the same situation today. His message is for us also.

December 14, 2025. Third Sunday of Advent. "Where is Jesus When the Need is Deep and Great?" is the title of a sermon based on Matthew 11: 2-11. John the Baptist is now in prison. He cries out a cry that at times we cry also.

December 21, 2025. Fourth Sunday of Advent. Joseph's life plan was a set up. Then, well then, not so much! "Where is Jesus When Life Turns Upside Down?" Matthew 1: 18-25 will help answer the question.

December 24, 2025. Christmas Eve. We have been asking questions this Advent season. Now we have "THE ANSWER!" to all of our questions found in Luke 2: 1-14 and 15-20.

December 28, 2025. First Sunday of Christmas. "Ten Times!" is the title of a sermon based on Psalm 148. As we come to the end of the year 2025, we will see that maybe ten times is really not enough.

December 2025

Birthdays & Anniversaries

12/1 Beth Smith
12/2 Lillian Hickman
12/4 Matthew Baldwin
12/7 Greg Gaines
12/10 Maeo Bates
12/10 Beth Leininger
12/11 Zack Hamilton
12/16 Jason Eshelman
12/19 Chris Gamble
12/23 Lisa Myers
12/26 Kimberly Evans
12/26 Mark Ruffier
12/11 Mike & Colleen Hammond
12/30 Russell Miner
12/31 David Franklin



OFFERING/ATTENDANCE

October 2025

	Offering	Attendance
10/5/25	1998.54	38
10/12/25	2286.50	35
10/19/25	937.50	42
10/26/25	1652	34

DEACON GREETERS

December 2025

Cindy Ruffier

Kathy Eshelman

Coffee & Pastry

December 7, 2025

9:00 a.m. - 9:30 a.m.



CONTINUED PRAYER

Nursing Home/Homebound**Dan Rowe**

(Essex #1 Salem, Rm. # 210, Salem, OH 44460)

Ongoing Health ConcernsDenton Herron, Jim Hilles, Stan Jozwiakowski,
Sandy Jozwiakowski, Val Winters, and Paul Bates

FAMILIES FOR PRAYER BECAUSE WE CARE

December 2025



Adam & Amanda
Lewis & Family




MISSION CAUSE FOR PRAYER

Youth Initiatives/Ireland - Doug Smith

Campus Crusade - Lisa (Smith) Wyss

Vacation Bible School

**Special Dates for December 2025**

Second Sunday of Advent, December 7, 2025

Third Sunday of Advent, December 14, 2025

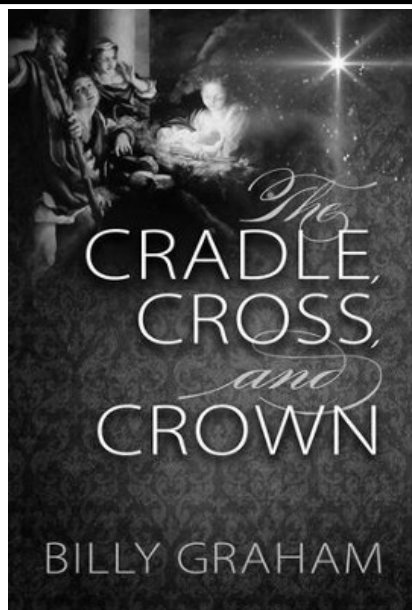
First Day of Winter, December 21, 2025

Fourth Sunday of Advent, December 21, 2025

Christmas Eve, December 24, 2025

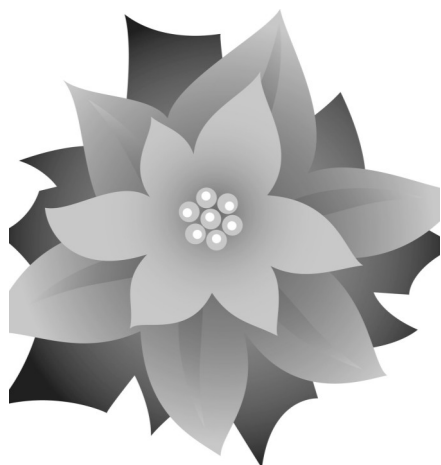
Christmas Day, December 25, 2025

New Year's Eve, December 31, 2025



Book Review

Discover how to wade through worldly holiday diversions - and find Christ in Christmas! Drawing from a lifetime of writings, Billy Graham takes you back to the time when heaven descended to earth - the place where Jesus was born. Included in his Advent message are excerpts from This Christmas Night, Scripture, favorite carols, and poetry by Ruth Bell Graham. 64 page booklet.



CHRISTIAN SYMBOL

POINSETTIA — This shrub, native to Mexico, is at the heart of legend about a poor girl who wanted to bring Baby Jesus a gift one Christmas Eve. As she walked to church, she gathered a bouquet of weeds — which Jesus miraculously transformed into lovely red flowers. Thus the poinsettia (named for Joel Poinsett, the U.S. ambassador to Mexico who first brought the plant to America) is known in Mexico as la flor de la Nochebuena (flower of the Holy Night). The poinsettia is also an ideal Christmas symbol because its leaves turn red when deprived of sunlight and its flowers (the red inner buds) bloom in December.

Favorite Recipes of Old

Recipes are chosen at random from the North Benton Church "Favorite Recipes" cookbook.

The cook is unknown for this one...

HOLIDAY GLOW POTATO SALAD

1/4 cup non-fat plain yogurt	4 small red potatoes
1/4 cup reduced fat mayonnaise	3/4 tsp. celery seed
1/4 cup red wine vinegar	2 tsp. celery seed
1-2 packs Sweet & Low or Equal	2 tsp. dry mustard
1 small carrot, shredded	1 stalk celery, diced
3 T. diced onion	1/8 tsp. paprika
1/2 cup red, or yellow sweet pepper diced	

Cube cooked potatoes cooled in bowl with yogurt, mayonnaise, celery seed, mustard, vinegar and Sweet & Low or Equal. Chill in refrigerator 4 hours. Serve on lettuce leaves. Serves 6.

Calories 122, carbohydrates 22 g, protein 2 g, sodium 88 mg, fat 3g, cholesterol 0 mg.

Engage Your Mind

The Christmas Story

(1) TGLBEHME _____

(2) NEAGLO _____

(3) NRMEDAG _____

(4) ODEKSNY _____

(5) AMGYR _____

(6) OHESJIP _____

(7) EFJSUS _____

(8) ITEENMSW _____

(9) SPHHDSREEO _____


(10) EMCFAL _____

(11) TLSRA _____

(12) CSSNUEO _____

(13) HEVSPE _____

(14) ENIN _____



1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8
		9	10		11	12	13	14

Answers: Bethlehem (G), Angel (O), Manger (D), Donkey (S), Mary (G), Joseph (I), Jesus (F),
Wise men (T), Shepherds (O), Camel (F), Star (L), Census (O), Sheep (V), Inn (E), God's gift of love

“News from the Pews”

We are going to try doing “News from the Pews” again. Please submit you news with one photo to secretary@northbentonchurch.org

GOOD NEWS TO THE SHEPHERDS

Directions: Write the first letter of each picture on the lines.

”

Luke 2:11, NIV

Answer: "Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you." Luke 2:11, NIV

BIBLE QUIZ

Who told Mary that her child would be called “the Son of the Most High”?

- A. Zechariah**
B. Gabriel
C. Simeon
D. Joseph

Answer: B (See Luke 1:26–32.)



Sunday

December 21, 2025

10:45 After Worship Service

Church Fellowship Hall

Desserts and drinks provided



Wednesday

December 24, 2025,

7:00 p.m.

December 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7 Birthday Sunday 9:00 Coffee & Pastry 9:30 Worship Svc 10:45 Deacon's Mtg 10:45 Searcher's Class	8	9	10	11 7:30 Session Mtg (in person, at church)	12	13
14 9:30 Worship Svc 10:45 Searcher's Class	15	16	17	18	19	20
21 9:30 Worship Svc 10:45 Searcher's Class 10:45 Brunch with Santa	22	23	24 Christmas Eve Candlelight Service	25 Christmas Day	26	27
28 9:30 Worship Svc 10:45 Searcher's Class	29	30	31			



Sunday Service: 9:30 am Worship Service

"A church where everybody is somebody, and Jesus Christ is Lord"

DON'T DO THIS ALONE

As I opened the bookshelf assembly instructions with piles of boards and tools strewn on the floor before me, I viewed a set of instructional diagrams of what to do and what not to do. One diagram with a large X on top depicted a person staring at a pile of boards and tools with a bemused frown not unlike mine just a few minutes prior. On the right side was drawn the "correct" way to assemble. The only difference? A second person was there. Both figures now had smiles on their faces as they worked together.

So I got my husband. "The instructions say I need your help," I said, showing him the drawing. He laughed, and we assembled it together. I could have stubbornly tried to find a way to put it together

on my own. But the manual was right; the process wasn't meant to be done alone.

In Romans 12, Paul urges new believers not to try to do life in Jesus alone. Instead of seeing themselves as self-sufficient and thinking of themselves "more highly than [they] ought" (V.3), they needed to see themselves as part of an interdependent body, where every member needs each other's help (VV.4-8).

As Jesus helps us learn how to "be devoted to one another in love" (V.10), we can experience life "in harmony" with each other, where one another's needs, griefs, and joys (VV. 13, 15) are never carried alone.

- MONICA LA ROSE

**Why do you think we're
tempted to do life alone?
What helps you rely on
others?**

***Dear God, please help
me to rely daily on Your
Spirit to unite and guide
me in how to share life
together. Amen***

Reprinted from "Our Daily Bread"

December 1, 2025

*Our Daily Bread is provided FREE of
charge can be found on the
information counter in the lobby.*