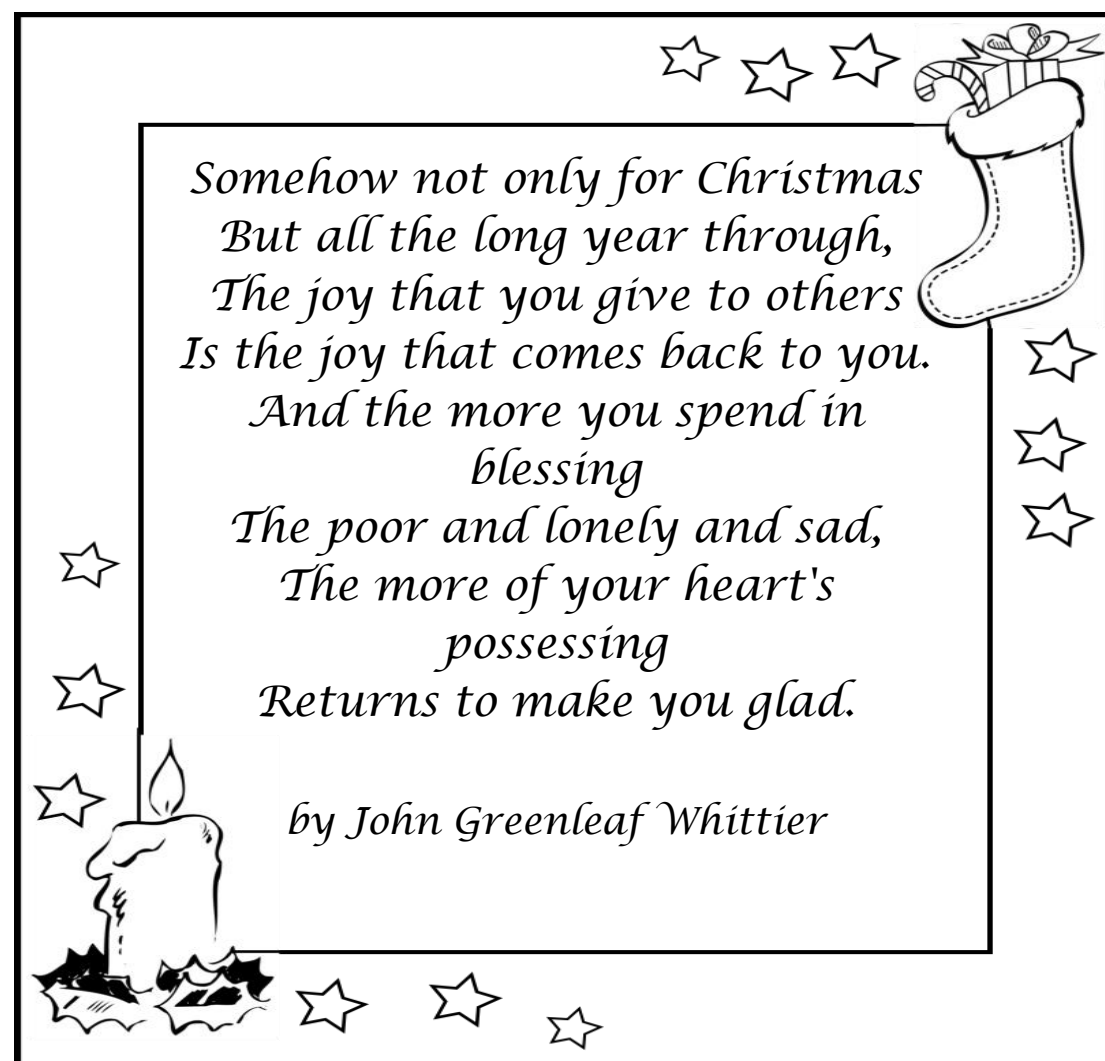


becomes just one of many others that merge together to form a seemingly endless and barren field of snow or in the worst case is swallowed by the ground and never seen again. Unfortunately this analogy is true of our society, many of us lose our individuality when we fall to the ground, merge and become part of the snow field, rather than a complex community of individuals which God intended us to be. Life can take away the snowflake in all of us if we allow it to happen. We follow the crowd instead of the light of God with the blessings and gifts He has given us. One of our many gifts is individuality. That spirit and energy of singular essence that determines who we are among all the other snowflakes that have come and gone before and after us. On this whole planet there is NO ONE quite like you.

The moral of this story is to tread softly as you make your way through the snow fields of your life ... and remember to step gently so as to not damage other snowflakes who may, for a time be beneath your feet. Because the time may come when someone may have to walk on YOU!

May the peace of Christ, God with us, Emmanuel, be with you in these days.

Rev. Walter Coy



# Joyful Noiz

December 11, 2020 - January 8, 2021 Newsletter



Zion United Church of Christ  
139 North Fifth Street  
Steubenville, OH 43952  
Church Phone: (740) 282-1793  
Church Fax: (740) 314-5452  
Rev. Walter Coy, Pastor

E-mail: [church.zionucc@gmail.com](mailto:church.zionucc@gmail.com)

Web address: [www.zionuccsteubenville.com](http://www.zionuccsteubenville.com)

*No matter who you are or where you are on life's journey, you are welcome here.*

## WHAT'S GOING ON AT ZION?

[www.zionuccsteubenville.com](http://www.zionuccsteubenville.com)



### IN OUR CIRCLE OF PRAYER

Mary Hoover, Bill Bertram, Dakota Miller, Marlene Rhueff, Barb Mottice, Al & Elaine Panyi, BethAnn Postlewait, Pat Loyszczuk, Doug Lewis (Joyce Coy's brother), Jay Taylor (Relative of Rev. Coy & Joyce), Tom Caves (Relative of Rev. Coy & Joyce), Alan Hunt

➤If you would like to be remembered in prayer or know of someone who would appreciate being included in this list, please contact the church office.

### PASTOR COY

If you would like to meet with Pastor Coy, please make an appointment with the church office at **740-282-1793**. If you would like to get a hold of Pastor Coy directly, his cell number is **330-301-0551**. Pastor Coy has **office hours Mon, Wed, & Thurs**.

### WORSHIP SERVICE

**We have resumed having our regular 11 AM service!** We have **cloth and disposable masks available**. We ask that you please observe social distancing in the sanctuary. To God be the Glory!

### OFFERING ENVELOPES

The 2020 Offering Envelopes will be available for pick up on **December 13<sup>th</sup>**. If anyone desires envelopes and has not received them in the past, please contact the church office and they will be made available to you.

### COUNCIL MEETING

The next council meeting will be **January 3, 2021, after worship**.

### SHUT-INS CHRISTMAS VISITATIONS

Pastor and Joyce Coy will be trying to visit our shut-ins the week before Christmas. Those visited will be offered communion, given a copy of the Upper Room, and a basket of goodies, including tissues, lotion, hard candy, etc... Last year, all those who received baskets were extremely appreciative!

### CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE

Council has decided to have a Christmas Eve service at **Noon**. Masks and social distancing are **required**.

### MEMORIAL POINSETTIAS

Poinsettias will be in place for our **December 13** church service and can be taken home after the **December 24<sup>th</sup>** service.

## *Pastor's Pen*

### The Promise of Advent

In Advent we are called to take the risk of birth. We can avoid such a practice by over scheduling ourselves, an easy feat this time of year. We can avoid such a practice by making our way through the season singing the familiar carols. But we are called to take the risk of birth. This might lead us to make room in our own lives for the stranger who comes in the form of the Christ Child.

The fulfillment of the promise of Advent is the celebration of Christmas. This grounds our belief in the Incarnation, the word made flesh, full of grace and truth (John 1) We are more familiar with the Christmas stories in Matthew and Luke, which focus on Joseph and Mary, respectfully; from these accounts we recall the dreams and visions, the birth of Jesus and the manger, the gifts of wise men and the praise offered by shepherds.

The story of Christ's birth is told in somewhat different fashion, however, in the Gospel of John. The central message of early Christianity, the Incarnation, was scandalous, especially to the Gnostics, who would not believe that God would take human form. This core Christian belief, that God enters into the material world of human flesh, takes on an ironic meaning at Christmas. We are often urged to avoid, protest, and rebel against the creeping materialism of the season; we are encouraged, instead, toward more "spiritual" pursuits. Such advice is ironic in light of the essential meaning of Christmas: that Jesus is the incarnation of God, the word become flesh.

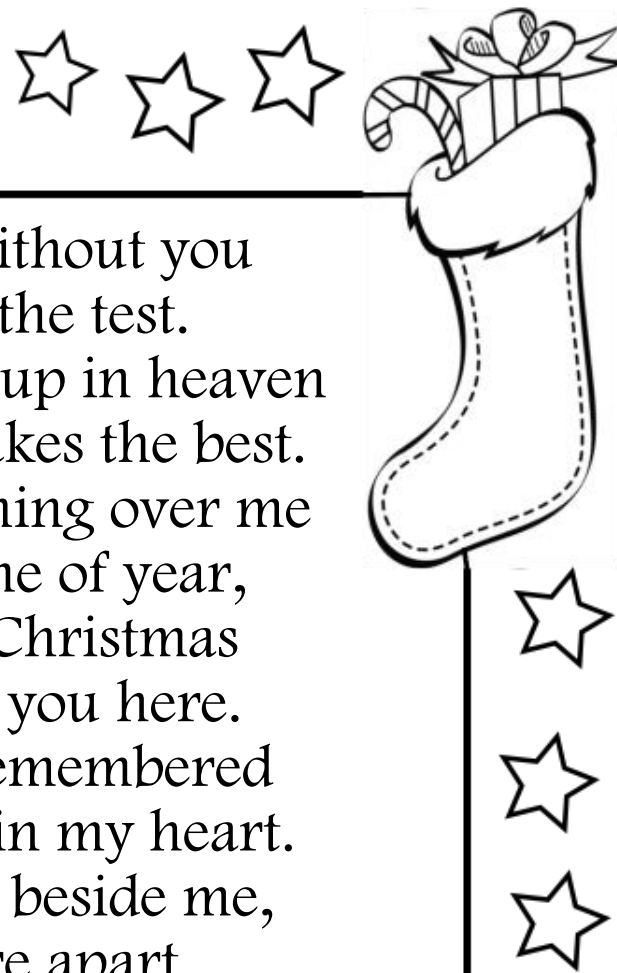
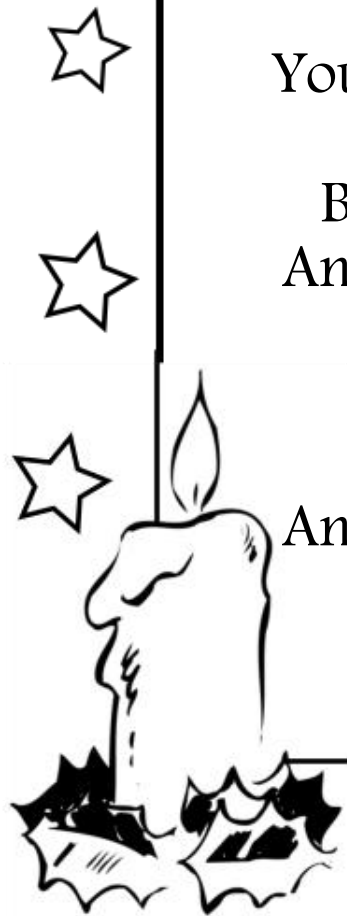
What might it mean for us, during the season of Christmas, to fully embrace the Incarnation? We might begin to see our material acts of gift-giving as occasions to express human love, or gifts of charity as demonstrations of our faith and representative ministries. We can envision our participation in the material world as a response to a God who comes to live among us, and calls us to follow Jesus.

I read a story by Jeannie C. Williams. The gist of the story is we come into this world like newly created snowflakes falling freely and effortlessly from the sky. As you know each snowflake is different, each snowflake has its own unique structure, just as we are all unique in our differences and, just like each snowflake we are all subject to extreme changes in temperature, humidity, wind and relationships with other snowflakes as we continue our journey, spiraling slowly but sometimes swiftly to our destination. Our journey through infancy, childhood and adolescence develops our individuality even more and it is hoped that a true sense of identity is established before our snowflake hits the ground, because and it is unfortunate, that in many instances an individual snowflake

Zion  
United Church of Christ

ALTAR  
POINSETTIAS  
2020

Christmas here without you  
Will put me to the test.  
But I know you'll be up in heaven  
Because God only takes the best.  
I know you're watching over me  
You loved this time of year,  
But a little bit of Christmas  
Has died without you here.  
You'll always be remembered  
And you're always in my heart.  
I know that you're beside me,  
Although we are apart.  
You touched the lives of those you love  
And we wanted you to stay.  
But you were needed up in Heaven  
And God whispered "Come this way".  
On Christmas when I feel lonely  
And this smile becomes a frown.  
I'll look up to the sky above  
And they'll be an angel looking down.





## **Altar Poinsettias 2020**

Rev. Walter and Joyce Coy in memory of parents **Alma & Walter Coy and Louise & George Lewis.**

Rev. Walter and Joyce Coy in honor of **Children & Grandchildren.**

From John Diekmann in memory of **Jeffrey Knauff.**

From John Diekmann in memory of **Estella and Lewis Diekmann.**

From John Diekmann in memory of **LaDonna Weinman.**

Debra Fuller in memory of **Jack Cook, Thelma Cook, Sidney Cook, Cindy Cook Haynie.**

Debra, Chad, and Carly Fuller in memory of **Frank Fuller.**

Rev. Mel Humes and Carlene Christ in memory of **Martha Kress, Dorothy Kress Humes.**

Rev. Mel Humes and Carlene Christ in memory of **Charlotte (Humes) Sullivan and Barbara Humes-Mott.**

Deborah Cole-Kahriman in memory of **Wayne E. Cole and Donna Cole-Ramsey.**

Carole Kirkendall in honor of **all my friends at Zion.** You are one of God's many blessings.

Carole Kirkendall in memory of **Loved Ones.**

From Brother Bill Knauff and Brother-in-law Ken Willareth in memory of **Jeffrey Knauff.**

From Nephew Brian Knauff, Kelli, and Kids in memory of **Jeffrey Knauff.**

John and Patricia Loyszczyk in memory of **Rob Loyszczyk, Valarie Loyszczyk, Roy & Mary Pifer, Steve & Mary Loyszczyk.**

Al and Elaine Panyi in memory of **Loved Ones.**

Barb Ross in memory of **George and Aimee Ross.**

Betty Sparr in memory of **Loved Ones.**

Betty Sparr in memory of **Jeff Knauff.**

Renea Starkey-Hunt and family in Loving memory of **Robert Starkey & all those who've gone before us.**