

# Otterbein United Brethren in Christ Church



Connecting  
Affirming  
Reaching  
Equipping  
Sending

146 Leitersburg Street, Greencastle, PA 17225

[www.greencastleub.org](http://www.greencastleub.org)



A Church That  
C.A.R.E.S.

# The Lord's Day

## December 24, 2023

A sign appeared  
in heaven.  
A woman...  
she was pregnant.

Then another sign  
appeared.  
An enormous red  
dragon...

PRELUDE  
UNITY CANDLE  
ANGELS WE HAVE HEARD! (132)  
SCRIPTURE READING  
INSTRUMENTAL (Caitlin Horner)  
KIDS KORNER  
WORSHIP MUSIC  
BIBLE MESSAGE  
O COME, ALL YE FAITHFUL! (145)  
BENEDICTION

On this day before Christmas we are conscious of many folks, many Christian believers, whose security, families, communities, and livelihoods have been upended or torn apart by war, storms, disease, or death. We pray that the Christ who came to Bethlehem may come to their town, into their terrible circumstances and bring his peace and salvation. AND we are so grateful that we may gather here today in peace... to worship Him!



If you have not already participated in our OUB Christmas program, we hope you will do so TONIGHT!

ROOM IN MY HEART FOR YOU (6:00)

\* Closing with candles! Bring your family! Drama & Music!

### NEXT SUNDAY?

- 9:30 - A combined service... sermon & songs! "MY GIFT"
- 6:00 - Music. Testimony. Holy Communion. NEW YEAR'S EVE!

\* From the OUB staff: THANK YOU for your gifts of money and goodies and cards! May you have a blessed Christmas also!

? Were you ever deposited in a church nursery as an infant?

? Did you ever place your baby in the nursery as a young parent?

? Have you been in a service where no nursery was available  
and wished (for someone's sake!) that there was?

OK. You figured it out! We NEED helpers because we do take this need seriously. It isn't rocket science. It's love! Service! A bit of sacrifice and a WHOLE LOT of reward. Please speak with Cindy Rawley (717) 597-3211.

**Pastor:**

David Rawley

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**Youth Pastor:**

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Hours 9 to 4 Tues/Wed/Thurs.

**Building/Van Scheduling:**

Holly Ressler

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(717) 597-8525

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**Prayer Group:** 717-977-7751

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	<i><b>This Week</b></i>	<i><b>Next Week</b></i>
<b>1<sup>st</sup> Nursery</b>		
<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Nursery</b>	No service	No Service
<b>Acolyte</b>	Callie Witmer	Aubrey Fleming
<b>Prelude</b>	Jack Ressler	Becky Sipes
<b>Greeters</b>	Tony & Heidi Myers	Ed & Trudy Norris

<b>Last Week...</b>	12/17/23
<b>Attendance</b>	247
<b>General</b>	\$ 11,207.75
<b>Missions</b>	\$ 2,061.50
<b>Building Fund</b>	\$ 1,526.50
<b>Sunday School</b>	\$ 327.75

The 2024 Commissions & Committees Listing is on the upper lobby desk.

The 2024 Nursery Sign Up Sheets are in the upper lobby by the fountain.

Self-Confrontation Sign Up Sheet in the upper lobby by the fountain.



1 Liter, 2 Liter, Gatorade and more  
Common Ground wants the bottle caps  
from Soda and Water Galore!

We are on a mission to help out our  
brother and sister churches in Mexico by  
collecting plastic bottle caps and shipping them down. 1k  
plastic bottle caps = 1 chemo treatment for a cancer  
patient.



With a new year fast approaching, now  
is a good time to contact the church  
office if you need a church mailbox or  
offering envelopes. The mailbox is a  
great way for friends to leave you a  
card or for you to drop off something  
for someone else. The offering  
envelopes are helpful if you need a tax  
letter for your tithes at the end of the  
year.

Please make sure that you are sending any changes for address,  
telephone numbers and email addresses to the church office. While we  
are discussing directory needs, we would love to include your picture in  
the directory. This will not be seen by anyone outside the church. See  
Pastor David or Holly Ressler and they can snap your photo. You can  
also take your own and send it to Holly Ressler. Pictures really help  
people to know each other and contribute to the feeling of being a part  
of a church family.

Josh will be taking some vacation days during the last week of  
December. If you can't reach Josh, please call Gary Murray with any  
CG questions. (717) 597-8830

# CHRISTMAS... as seen from Heaven

(Revelation 12:1-5)

CHRISTMAS is a SIGN that God's rescue is under way. He has initiated OPERATION INCARNATION to set free every captive kidnapped by Satan and bound by sin. Events on earth were playing out greater evens in heaven! And those heavenly events were SIGNS of a cosmic conflict made possible by God's gift to his creation of "free will." A sign of Satan's savage DESIRE to steal God's universe and God's resolute DETERMINATION to crush this rebellion.

**WOMAN**     • Jesus was born to an earthly mother... wife of Joseph... \_\_\_\_\_  
                     • Jesus was born from an earthly people... God's wife... \_\_\_\_\_

In one sense those labor pangs were the long, convoluted journey of God's earthly partner, Israel.

Mary's labor symbolized the agony/expectancy/longing/waiting for the Messiah.

**DRAGON**     The drama and danger of Bethlehem was far greater than simply:

- hostile government     • no place to lodge     • unsanitary conditions

Seeking to kill the baby was a savage, fierce, bloodthirsty (red!) "dragon

Aware that God must \_\_\_\_\_ flesh in order to \_\_\_\_\_ flesh, the Devil tried to halt it before it could happen. The earthly version was attempted by \_\_\_\_\_.

*\* This was the warfare with the "woman's seed" foreseen by God following the very first sin (Gen. 3:15). The serpent had come to the Garden and God knew the dragon would come to the stable!*

**MALE CHILD**     This is desperate, demonic danger for the son. Why?

- The birth of Jesus meant the \_\_\_\_\_ for the dragon... total \_\_\_\_\_
- The birth of Jesus meant a \_\_\_\_\_ > \_\_\_\_\_ > \_\_\_\_\_

The son was born! Throughout his life the dragon snarled and snapped. It seemed (at one point) that it had devoured its victim. *Execution... Grave* But a 3-day death was suspicious! The Male Child emerged holding the keys of death and hell. The dragon had been overpowered! Then... the Male Child was "snatched up" (ascended) to heaven.

\*Soldiers go home when they have won. Work done! Victory!

**12:6-17** = world history since the ascension of Jesus

- persecution of the \_\_\_\_\_ people through whom Christ came to the world (13-16)
- persecution of the \_\_\_\_\_ (the "rest of Israel's offspring") (17)

*\* This baby boy ... do not take him for granted! (vs.5)  
The power of God is in those tiny fists! He will achieve what he wishes.  
No pleasant prospect for the dragon!*

From Heaven's View = **GOD WINS the hearts of those made in his image!**

## January Birthdays and Anniversaries

1 - John/Janet Helman

2 - Sharon Baumbaugh

4 - Josh Lance

7 - Ryan/Brooke Eberly

9 - Shelby Rife

11 - Jamie Lytle  
Michelle Norris  
Cole Tracey

12 - Rachel Thompson  
Wayne/Sharon Baumbaugh

13 - Sylvia Clement

14 - Dolan Starr

15 - Mitchell Florence

16 - Mason Keller  
Joyce Try

17 - Malachi Gour

18 - Gary Stockslager  
Kevin/Lorena Davis

19 - Lydia Gruver

21 - Phyllis Ames  
Jeff Bitner

24 - Tom Lytle  
Dane Ruelas

25 - Delores Oberholzer  
Dale/Darlene Hostetter

**Any additions or corrections  
let the church office know.**