



Good News

DECEMBER 2023

From the Rector

Another season of Advent is upon us-the season when we clean house, literally and spiritually, in preparation for the revelation to come, Emmanuel, God with us. Of course, God in Christ is always with us, knowingly or unknowingly - this is what we believe and know by faith to be true. The question we must ask ourselves going forward into this Advent season is this: Are we with God?

How might we intentionally order our lives in the days to come to better connect with the Holy One who is here and not yet?

One simple way to connect with God is to connect with one another each Sunday at church. When we share Holy Communion together, our Savior is with us. This is the grounding of our faith and our source of consolation, inspiration, revelation, and strength. Who couldn't use more of these experiences right about now?

Join us on Sundays at 10:30 a.m. this Advent to feed your spirit and to share your unique light with your siblings in Christ. Let's begin again, together, to love and serve Emmanuel, God with us.

Advent, our new beginning, is near!

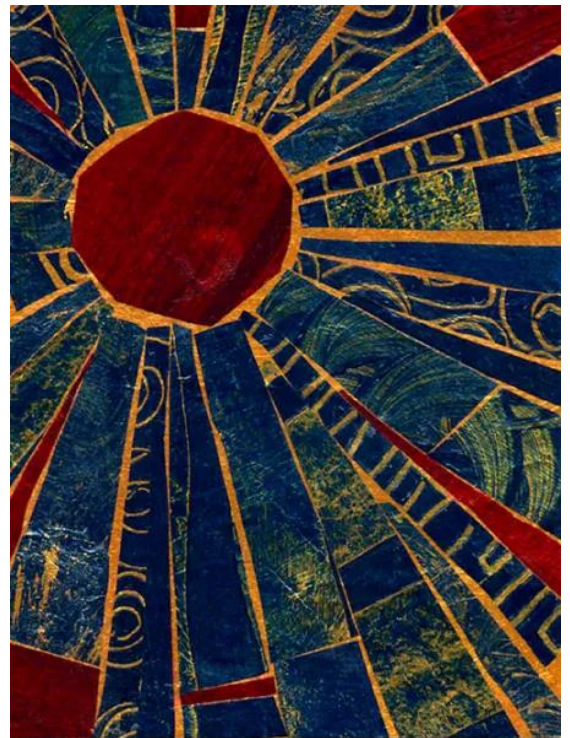


Figure 1: *Magnificat* by Jan Richardson



LADIES BIBLE STUDY

ATTN BIBLE STUDY LADIES!

Our last Monday Bible study will be December 18!

We had a great year together and I'm sure the Lord is very happy with all our commitments, learning, and sharing we did with each other, and most importantly, a greater understanding of what scripture has to say to each of us as we travel through a little of life each Monday! I will be back in April and we will continue our study of Paul!

God Bless you and keep you and your families safe until we are together again!

Peggy Sturm



Important Dates In December

- 02 Jingle Bell Jam 7:30 pm
- 03 Sunday Worship 10:30 am
Advent Begins
- 03 Food Pantry 1-3 pm
- 04 Ladies Bible Study 1-2 pm
- 06 Contemplative Prayer Group
10:30 am
- 06 Budget Committee 6:30 pm
- 07 Food Pantry Delivery 11 am
- 10 Sunday Worship 10:30 am
- 11 Ladies Bible Study 1-2 pm
- 12 Food Pantry 1-3 pm
- 13 Contemplative Prayer Group
10:30 am
- 13 Finance Committee 6:30 pm
- 16 Altar Guild All Clean 9:30 am
- 17 Sunday Service 10:30 pm
- 17 Christmas Caroling
- 18 Ladies Bible Study 1-2 pm
- 20 Contemplative Prayer Group
10:30 am
- 20 Compline 6:30 pm
- 20 Vestry 6:45 pm
- 22 Flower Guild 11:00 am
- 24 Lessons and Carols 10:30 am
- 24 Christmas Eve Service 7:00 pm
- 25 Christmas Day Service 9:30 am
- 27 Contemplative Prayer Group
10:30 am
- 31 Sunday Worship 10:30 am



ALTAR GUILD – ALL CLEAN

Just a reminder, please note on your calendar that Altar Guild will be cleaning for Christmas at 9:30 on Saturday, December 16. And we always welcome anyone interested in giving of their time to help us clean.

June Webb



Our Caroling Tradition Continues

at St. Andrew

Sunday, December 17th

CHRISTMAS CAROLING

Ever since we started St Andrew's Fire, the contemporary music group at our church, we have spread Christmas cheer each year by caroling to the homebound and folks in nursing homes. We always invite everyone to join in and this year's no different!

YOU are invited to meet us in the Narthex on Sunday, December 17th after the 10:30 worship service for a little caroling practice and instructions for our caroling route. Please wear some festive clothing and bundle up for the weather. Jingle

bells, antler headbands and stocking caps are encouraged.

All ages are welcome! Each family is asked to bring one small gift to give along the way, like a poinsettia plant, candy or some homemade baked goods.

We car pool together and make 6-10 stops on our route, which usually takes a few hours. If you have a neighbor or friend who is homebound and would love us to visit them, please let me know, so we can include them on our schedule. Also, please RSVP if you are joining us for caroling, so I can make sure we have enough song books.

Marybeth Primeau
mbprimeau@gmail.com
Text 440-476-4873

"Fa-La-La-La-La-La, La-La, La-La!!!"


RIDES REQUESTED

In the last several months at least two of our formerly active parish members have been forced to give up driving and, as a result, have lost their ride to church. Can you help? If you would be willing to give a ride to one of our non-driving church members please contact the church office. Lisa+ can often give the member a ride home if needed, so you'll not do double duty.

GIVING TREE

Every year we receive requests for assistance from neighbors (many of whom are pantry guests) who need financial help during the holidays. The last few years we've collected gift cards (Walmart, Giant Eagle, VISA/Mastercard, Target) on our giving tree outside the narthex to share with these neighbors. These gift cards have meant the world to families struggling to make Christmas merry for those they love.

During the next three weeks please consider gifting your neighbors in need with a gift card. Just take a gift card invitation from our giving tree and purchase a gift card for our friends who need them. Then drop off your gift card to the parish office. If you would prefer to give a financial gift to the rector's discretionary fund (used to pay utility bills and address other pastoral emergencies) please mark your donation for this purpose and drop it in the offering plate on Sunday.



December Celebrations

BIRTHDAYS

- 02 Samantha Heim
- 03 Deborah Dittebrand
- 04 Barbara Sopko
- 06 Carol Pengov
- 07 Bonnie Semenik
- 07 Betsy Lee
- 11 Shawn Dittebrand
- 14 Joe Papaleo
- 16 Chris Peshek
- 19 Brian Sandacz
- 22 Beth Brown
- 27 Lily Sitkowski

ANNIVERSARIES

- 28 Kevin and Erin Koehler
- 31 Stephan and Megan Grau





WINTER CONVOCATION

Save the Date! The Diocese of Ohio's Annual Winter Convocation will be hold on February 2 – 3 at Kalahari Waterpark Resort in Sandusky.

FLOWER GUILD INFORMATION

Christmas Flowers: St. Andrew is collecting for Christmas Poinsettias and Candles through Sunday, December 17th. To donate, fill the Christmas Flower form out and either mail it to the church or place in the collection basket along with your donation.

Altar Flowers: Events and memorials can be commemorated at St. Andrew by purchasing altar flowers for a Sunday service in 2024 (note that flowers are not used during Lent and Advent.) J. D. Ballentine's Flowers and Gifts in Mentor creates beautiful arrangements for us for a quite modest amount. The amount for the past almost 20 years has stayed the same at \$50 for 2

arrangements. Unfortunately, due to inflation, that amount for 2024 will increase to \$60 for the 2 altar arrangements.

To commemorate an event with altar flowers, please fill out the form and either mail it to church or place in the collection basket. Forms will also be available at church.

If you have questions or want to see if a particular date is available, please contact Janna Penkowski at janna.penkowski@gmail.com or by phone at 440.477.9084.

Thank you very much for all the faithful donations you make to decorate our church home for Sunday services and the Holidays!

Janna Penkowski, St. Andrew Flower Guild



MAKING THE HOUSE READY FOR THE LORD

Dear Lord, I have swept and I have washed but still nothing is as shining as it should be for you. Under the sink, for example, is an uproar of mice — it is the season of their many children. What shall I do? And under the eaves and through the walls the squirrels have gnawed their ragged entrances — but it is the season when they need shelter, so what shall I do? And the raccoon limps into the kitchen and opens the cupboard while the dog snores, the cat hugs the pillow; what shall I do? Beautiful is the new snow falling in the yard and the fox who is staring boldly up the path, to the door. And still I believe you will come, Lord: you will, when I speak to the fox, the sparrow, the lost dog, the shivering sea-goose, know that really, I am speaking to you whenever I say, as I do all morning and afternoon: Come in, Come in.

+ Mary Oliver

A NOTE FROM THE BENCH

Advent Greetings!

Advent is a wonderful time to reflect on what it means to be a dreamer, and to live as one who dreams. We see countless examples of what it means to be a dreamer recorded in scripture through the examples of Elizabeth, John the Baptist, Mary, Joseph, Simeon and Anna – as well as the shepherds in the fields and the Magi too. Each was open to receiving and discerning God's dreams for the world. Advent is a time of invitation

for us to be open to receiving and living out God's dreams for the world in our lives, at St. Andrew, Mentor, and in the world we inhabit.

Biblical dream theory, according to Savary, Berne, and Kaplan-Williams (1984), is that *God makes contact with people through dreams and visions* (p.16). They note that if a dream were a letter, there must be a sender – our connection to the Divine. The word dream appears 87 times in the Old Testament, and 8 times in the New Testament. In addition, the word vision appears 86 times in the Old Testament and 17 times in the New Testament.

One of the visions we hear about this Advent is found in Luke's Gospel.

In the sixth month, God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a town in Galilee, to a virgin pledged to be married to Joseph.... the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid. Mary... you will be with child and give birth to a son, and you are to give the child the name Jesus."

Luke 1:30-31

The archangel Gabriel appears in dreams and visions in both the Old and New Testaments – an *archetypal* figure transcending time and space. Gabriel brings the message of the birth of John the Baptist as well, appearing to Zachariah in the temple. Gabriel is a revealer and bringer of reassurance,

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as well as interpreter of dreams (Haden, 2010).

Another gift of Advent is moving from darkness toward light (of Christ). One of my favorite authors, Rev. Barbara Brown Taylor, Episcopal priest and professor says there are many things she has learned in the darkness that she could not have learned in light – and describes looking for a *celestial brightness*, and almost missing it because it didn't look as she expected it to look (p. 121) – what might we miss this Advent season because it doesn't look just as we thought it would look? A dream? A vision? Our call to serve? The birth of Jesus? We tend to want to avoid our own inner darkness. How might some of our beliefs about darkness need to be changed? How can this Advent, with all its visions and dreamers invite us to be dreamers too, discerning God's dreams for the world, and then *doing something* to help live out God's dreams in the world?

Carl Jung, the founder of analytical psychology says, *As far as we can discern, the sole purpose of human existence is to kindle a light in the darkness of mere being.* May this be our call this Advent – to **be** that light the world so desperately needs, discerning and sharing God's dreams for the world.

*Rank on rank the host of heaven
spreads its vanguard on the way,
as the Light of Light descendeth
from the realms of endless day,
that the powers of hell may vanish
as the darkness clears away.*

*Hymn 324, Let all mortal flesh
keep silence, The Hymnal 1982.*

May we receive the *Light of Light* this Advent and always.

Advent Blessings, and Christmas Joy!

John Spiesman, Organist

Food for the journey:

Brown- Taylor, B. (2014). *Learning to walk in the dark.* Harper Publishing, NY.

Haden, R. (2010). *Unopened letters from God.* Haden Institute Publishing, Flat Rock, NC.

Savary, L.M., Berne, P.H., Kaplan Williams, S. (1984). *Dreams and spiritual growth.* Paulist Press, NJ.

PRAYER CALENDAR

Let's Pray for Each Other!

Introducing the Prayer Calendar, which will come to you each month in your newsletter. You'll note that there is a parish member designated for each day of the month on the calendar. Please take a moment to pray for that person on the day indicated, whether you know them or not! Prayer blesses the one who prays and the one who receives prayer, so incorporating this prayer calendar into your daily devotions is a win/win situation!

“Prayer is standing in the presence of God with the mind in the heart; that is, at that point of our being where there are no divisions or distinctions and where we are totally one. There God's Spirit dwells and there the great encounter takes place. There heart speaks to heart, because there we stand before the face of the Lord, all-seeing, with us.”

— Henri J.M. Nouwen, *The Way of the Heart: The Spirituality of the Desert Fathers and Mothers*

December 2023 Prayer Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 Steve & Magan Grau	2 Patricia Grisdale Samantha Heim(B)
3 Joe & Kath Grudel <i>Deborah Ditterbrand(B)</i>	4 Louise Hassink <i>Barb Sopko (B)</i>	5 Wayne & Christine Heim (Nicholas, Samantha, Ivy,Emma)	6 Ted & Kim Herczog (Tim,Ben) <i>Carol Pengov(B)</i>	7 Dorothy Hickey <i>Bonnie Semenik(B)</i> <i>Betsy Lee(B)</i>	8 Tina Hall	9 Wendell & Abby Hitsley
10 Paula Kahl	11 Kathy King <i>Shawn Ditterbrand(B)</i>	12 Don & Sharon Koehler	13 Barb Kovacs	14 Tom & Joan Lally <i>Joe Papaloe(B)</i>	15 Betsy Lee <i>Barb Kovacs(B)</i>	16 Jake & Vistoria Leitch (Addalyn Vernon) <i>Chris Peshek(B)</i>
17 Lis Leitch	18 Mark Lemieux	19 Myrna Luskin <i>Brian Sandacz(B)</i>	20 William Kenneth Maloney	21 John Marrelli	22 Eunice May <i>Beth Brown(B)</i>	23 Sandra Marzelis
24 Candace McCreedy	25 Laurie Miller	26 Michele Miller	27 Sherrie Miller <i>Lily Sitkowski(B)</i>	28 Cliff & Janet Miskimen <i>Kevin & Erin Koehler(A)</i>	29 The Rev. Dawson Mooror	30 William & Meg Nemeth
31 Jenna & David Neuman <i>Stephan and Megan Grau(A)</i>						

LECTOR AND VOLUNTEER SCHEDULE

Volunteer Schedule for December 2023

	<i>Altar Guild</i>	<i>Coffee Hour</i>	<i>Sunday School</i>	<i>Chalice Bearers</i>	<i>Lectors</i>	<i>Acolytes</i>	<i>Ushers/ Greeters</i>	<i>Counters</i>
December 3 The First Sunday of Advent	Mary Provins, Margaret Sinclair, Brianna Rotz	TBD	TBD	Mary Provins	Randy Pengov, Dona Currutt, Barb Sopko, Kim Herczog	C-Dona Currutt	Andy Spiesman	Andy Spiesman, Kim Herczog
December 10 The Second Sunday of Advent	Carol & Randy Pengov, Susan Zuber	TBD	TBD	Judy Cudnik	Judy Cudnik, Bonnie Seminek, Ed Bridge, Brian Sandacz	C-	Andy Spiesman	Brian Sandacz, Andy Spiesman
December 17 The Third Sunday of Advent	June Webb	TBD	TBD	Mary Provins	Andy Spiesman, Dona Currutt, Barb Sopko, Debbie Pullman	C-Dona Currutt	Andy Spiesman	Kim Herczog, Jack Seminek
December 24 The Fourth Sunday of Advent Christmas Eve	Mary Provins, Margaret Sinclair, Brianna Rotz	TBD	TBD	Judy Cudnik	Peggy Sturm, Micki Rotz, Ed Bridge, Mary Provins	C-	Andy Spiesman	June Webb, Brian Sandacz,
December 31 The First Sunday after Christmas Day New Year's Eve	June Webb	TBD	TBD	Mary Provins	Judy Cudnik, Mary Provins, Debbie Pulman, June Webb	C-Dona Currutt	Andy Spiesman	Andy Spiesman, Kim Herczog

+ 10:30 am only lector order= 1st-OT, 2nd-Psalm, 3rd-Epistle, 4th-Prayers of the People
If you need to reschedule, please make arrangements with someone else and let the office know of the change.
Also, please check for your coffee hour Sunday.

PARISH CALENDAR

St. Andrew Episcopal Church

7989 Little Mountain Rd
Mentor, OH 44060
(440) 255-8842

standrewmentor@gmail.com

*If there is a pastoral emergency, contact
The Rev. Lisa O'Rear
Cell: 216-402-9860
Parish Office Hours:*

**Tuesday-Thursday 9am to Noon
(440) 255-8842**

**10:30 am 2nd & 4th Sunday Online
Worship with music
10:30 am Eucharist Service with Music**

December 2023 Parish Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Due to rain-Fit4Mom's will meet **8-9a Fit4Mom's	**9:30-10:30a Fit4Mom's **6-8:30p Fit4Mom's	**6:30-7:30p Fit4Mom's	**9:30-10:30a Fit4Mom's	**4:30 and 7p Fit4Mom's	1	2 7:30 Jingle Bell Rock Ping Pong 10-12:30Thai Chi 1-4 Recovery Intl 2-4 Truth & Love 7:30 Sat Nite Live AA
3 10:30a Eucharist w Music 1-3 Choice Pantry-Need Help	4 6:00 3 Legged Beginners AA 7:30 12X12 Little Mountain AA	5 12:15 AA 7-8 Augustine Flwshp 6-Den Mtg	6 8-5 Chris-W.R. 10:30 Contemplative Prayer 10:30-12:30 Thai Chi 6:30 Finance/Budget Meeting	7 11a Food Bank Delivery-Need Help 7p Choir	8 9:30a Fit4Mom's Christmas 12:15 p AA	9 Ping Pong 10-12:30Thai Chi 1-4 Recovery Intl 2-4 Truth & Love 7:30 Sat Nite Live AA
10 10:30a Eucharist w Music Online service	11 6:00 3 Legged Beginners AA 7:30 12X12 Little Mountain AA	12 12:15 AA 1-3 Choice Pantry Need Help 7-8 Augustine Flwshp 6-Den Mtg	13 8-5 Chris-W.R. 10:30 Contemplative Prayer 10:30-12:30 Thai Chi 6:30 p Finance 7:30p McD AA	14 8-5 Chris-W.R. 10-11a Music Therapy 7p Choir	15 12:15p AA	16 Ping Pong 9:30 Altar Guild All Clean 10-12:30Thai Chi 2-4 Truth & Love 1-4 Recovery Intl 7:30 Sat Nite Live AA
17 10:30a Eucharist w Music 11:30a Christmas Caroling 9-11- Union Local Mtg.	18 6:00 3 Legged Beginners AA 7:30 12X12 Little Mountain AA	19 12:15 AA 6-Den Mtg 7-8 Augustine Flwshp	20 8-5 Chris-W.R. 10:30 Contemplative Prayer 10:30-12:30Thai Chi 6-8p Choice Pantry +Christmas DinnerBag 6:30 Compline in Anticipation of Emmanuel 6:45p Vestry 7:30p McD AA	21 8-5 Chris-W.R. 11a Food Bank Delivery 7p Choir	22 12:15p AA 11:00a Flower Guild Christmas Decorating	23 Ping Pong 10-12:30Thai Chi 1-4 Recovery Intl 2-4 Truth & Love 7:30 Sat Nite Live AA
24 10:30a Service of Lessons and Carols for Advent 7:00 pm Christmas Eve Festive Eucharist	25 9:30 a Christmas Day Eucharist with Carols 6:00 3 Legged Beginners AA 7:30 12X12 Little Mountain AA	26 12:15 AA 6-Den Mtg 7-8 Augustine Flwshp	27 8-5 Chris-W.R. 10:30 Contemplative Prayer 10:30-12:30Thai Chi 6-8p Choice Pantry 7:30p McD AA	28 8-5 Chris-W.R. 10-11a Music Therapy 7p Choir	29 12:15p AA	30 Ping Pong 10-12:30Thai Chi 1-4 Recovery Intl 2-4 Truth & Love 7:30 Sat Nite Live AA
31						

**Free Admission
Donations Welcome!**



*Join Us for
St. Andrew's
Jingle Bell Jam*

*Featuring
Brent Kirby &
Friends*

- ◆ *Anita Keys*
- ◆ *Chris Peshek*
- ◆ *Ed Bridge*

*Including sing-a-longs
for kids of all ages!*

When: Saturday, Dec. 2

Time: 7:30 PM

Where: St. Andrew Episcopal Church

7989 Little Mountain Road, Mentor



CHRISTMAS FLOWER DONATIONS

Christmas Flower Donations

The St. Andrew Flower Guild is collecting donations for Christmas flowers and candles during Advent. There is no suggested or minimum amount for this donation.

To donate, please fill out the below form, put "Flower Guild" on the memo line and:

- Place it in the collection plate
- Mail it to St. Andrew, 7989 Little Mountain Rd., Mentor, Ohio 44060

Given By _____

In Memory of _____

In Memory of Loved Ones

In Thanksgiving (optional for _____)

Amount _____

Saint Andrew Episcopal Church: Altar Flower Contributions 2024

Given By _____

Phone Number _____

To the Glory of God and

In Memory of _____

In Memory of Loved Ones

In Thanksgiving (optional for _____)

Date Requested _____ First Choice

_____ Second Choice

Cost is \$60.00 for the two altar arrangements. Dates available are January 7 – February 11 and April 7 – November 24. Please contact Janna Penkowski at janna.penkowski@gmail.com or 440.477.9084 with questions.