



ADVENTures a weekly newsletter

Advent Episcopal Church ◇ 3760 Dover Center Road ◇ Westlake ◇ OH ◇ 44145

January 20, 2019 ◇ The Second Sunday after the Epiphany

POSTPONED UNTIL JANUARY 27

Advent's Annual Meeting

Our Annual Meeting will be held **today**, Sunday, January 20, following the **ONE service at 9:00 a.m.** After the service, the meeting will commence in the Sanctuary, followed by a potluck lunch in the Parish Hall. We will present positive financial results for 2018, vote on an in-the-black 2019 budget, elect new vestry members, respond to questions and issues of concern to the congregation, and enjoy some fellowship time. Hope to see everyone attend!

POSTPONED UNTIL FEBRUARY 17

GIFT...GROWING IN FAITH TOGETHER

...AT ADVENT

On January 27, our **GIFT** DVD series "Goliath *Must* Fall" returns. January's topic examines the giant of rejection. Rejection is painful. It can take different forms. Whether we are rejected for a prospective job; entrance into the top college of one's choice; a writer submitting an article or book to a publisher or any other number of reasons--rejection is painful. It is the pain of rejection we feel from someone we are close to that dwarfs all the other forms. Just a few words or the lack thereof, from a key person in our world such as a parent or spouse, can shape how we view ourselves for our entire lives. The giant of rejection brings along its cousins—insecurity, inferiority, being driven by perfectionism or compulsiveness. We need to break free from the clutches of rejection. Fortunately for us God can defeat rejection. God accepts us, it is through this realization that the giant of rejection *will* fall. Pastor Louie Giglio (www.louiegiglio.com) will guide us through this month's session "Rejection *Must* Fall". We will see how David resisted the pull of rejection and learn how God extends the invitation to us to embrace the acceptance that he offers us! Please join us on January 27 as we learn together that whatever giant there may be in our lives, the key to living free from our giant is by keeping our eyes on the one and only giant-slayer: Jesus. Put your hope in him, and watch Goliath fall. We will meet for one hour following the 10:00am service. Please feel free to bring your own packed lunch with you if you so choose to eat as we

Preaching this Morning at Advent

Advent welcomes Pastor Paul Laursen to our 8:00 a.m. and 10:00 a.m. services today. Pastor Laursen will be with us through January and beyond.

Financial Statements

2018 Financial Statements are available on the small table in the back of the church near the Ushers' stand. Please contact JoAnn in the Church office if you have any questions concerning your statements.

A Letter to Bishop Love

Bishop Love,

I write to offer you the prayers and whole-hearted support of Advent Episcopal Church, Westlake, Ohio in your appeal of the disturbing but not surprising action taken by the Presiding Bishop of the Episcopal Church, The Most Rev. Michael Curry, to partially restrict your ministry in the Diocese of Albany in any matter that pertains to same-sex marriage. Advent believes theologically, as you believe, that "Christian marriage is a solemn and public covenant between a man and a woman in the presence of God." (BCP 422). You artfully and eloquently expressed your opposition to General Convention Resolution B012 in your November 10, 2018 Pastoral Letter and Pastoral Directive to your Diocese. Your office provided Advent a copy.

We ask that God the Father through the power of the Holy Spirit sustain you in your courageous spiritual battle as you stand firm on Biblical truths. Do not waver. Do not grow weary. Your Advent flock holds you up in prayer and asks for the Spirit's sustaining power and strength to empower you and overwhelm your adversaries. You can do all things through Christ who strengthens you.

In Jesus Name we pray.

Richard McCormick

Senior Warden

This Week at Advent

Today, January 20

9:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist
10:00 a.m. Annual Meeting

Monday, January 21

Tuesday, January 22

Wednesday, January 23

7:00 a.m. Men's Bible Study at Advent
9:00 a.m. Wednesday Morning Prayer Group

Thursday, January 24

7:00 p.m. Choir Practice

Sunday, January 27

9:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist
10:00 a.m. Annual Meeting

Prayer Request

Health and Recovery

Lillian Kwasny	Irv Frank	Joan Joye
Mary Lou Dixon	Marilyn Decker	Velta Sanborn
Bob Allen	Karen Zolar	Rose Walker
Barb Frank	Lois Zolar	Arthur Beel
Julie Cratcha	Michael Uhrich	
George Belinsky	Bill & Judy Arkley	

Friends of Advent

Toni Kulma, wife of Pastor Kulma
Eliza Jennings residents
Sylvia Little, Bishop Little's wife
Kaylene Say Niece of Max and Barbara Gage
Jack Morgan

Please contact the church office if you would like your name added or removed from our list.

Directory Update

The Boyce Family
36286 Capri Lane
North Ridgeville, OH 44039
440-406-9202

Server Schedule

Today, January 20

8:00 a.m.

Chalice Bearer/Lector None

9:00 a.m.

Chalice Bearers Dick McCormick & Bunny Meriam

Lector Scott Duennes

Suffrages Anne Crothall

Acolytes Kaylei Evans

Ushers Teddi Augustine

Intercessory Prayer Sharon Rice

Altar Guild Jennifer Meckes & Anne Crothall

Coffee Hour Annual Meeting

Close Advent Ray Busony

Counter / Date Marcia Duennes (1/22)

Next Sunday, January 27

8:00 a.m. Morning Prayer

Dick McCormick

10:00 a.m. Morning Prayer

Dick McCormick

Lector Denise Geyer-Keller

Suffrages Denise Geyer-Keller

Acolytes None

Ushers Jan & Jerry Nagy

Intercessory Prayer Ray Busony

Altar Guild Cynthea Sabolich & Karen Edwards

Coffee Hour GIFT

Close Advent Denise Geyer-Keller

Counter / Date Anne Crothall (1/28)

Note: It is your responsibility to contact another volunteer directly to take your place. Please call the office with all changes. Thank you.

“The Church in Babylon” Bible Study Starts February 3, 11:30 a.m.

What does today’s culture have to do with Babylon 600 years before Christ’s birth? What is relevant today from these musty Old Testament writings from Daniel, Lamentations and Chronicles? What can we learn from those Jewish exiles about “how to be witnesses for Christ” in our 2019 darkness? Why should I come to this Bible study anyhow?

Dr. Erwin Lutzer is Pastor Emeritus of historic Moody Church in Chicago and served as its senior pastor from 1980 – 2016 (36 years!). We will read and discuss pertinent Old Testament passages and use his book, DVD, and study guide entitled “The Church in Babylon” to understand how we are to be salt & light in this world. No homework is required to participate and missing a session won’t nullify the following ones.

Lutzer writes “America is polarized politically, racially, morally, and religiously. Common ground among Americans seems to have vanished. We are angry, hostile, even violent. Someone has said that we are a nation addicted to rage. Yet it is into this atmosphere of shrill voices that we have been called to represent Christ. The message we have and the lives we lead ought to permeate society and be a beacon of light in the approaching darkness.” That’s enough to get my attention!

But, there’s more. Here are the 10 Sessions we’ll study:

- Session 1: Welcome to Babylon
Finding God in Enemy Territory
- Session 2: Conflicts of Conscience
Keeping the Faith in a Hostile Work Environment
- Session 3: When the State Becomes God
Standing Strong While Others Bow
- Session 4: The Church, Technology, and Purity
The Courage to Confront a Deadly Enemy
- Session 5: Transgenderism, Sexuality, and the Church
Calling out the Lies of the Culture
- Session 6: Islam, Immigration, and the Church
Balancing Compassion and Security
- Session 7: Five False Gospels within the Evangelical Church
Defending the Faith Once Delivered to the Saints
- Session 8: Taking the Cross into the World
Shamelessly Sharing the One Message That Can Save Us
- Session 9: Jesus at the Church Door
Prayerless Pulpits. Satisfied Saints, and Spiritual Blindness
- Session 10: The Church That Will Survive Babylon
Prevailing in a Hostile Culture

Please decide to join us for this lively study of God’s Word as we learn how to apply it in our culture today.

“The Church in Babylon” – **11:30 a.m. Bible Study**: Here is what some respected Christian leaders today have to say about the series we will be starting on **February 3**.

“Erwin Lutzer has his finger on the pulse of the culture and the church, providing sage insight in a balanced, biblical manner. Every page of this book will engage your mind and stir your heart. It will enlighten you, warn you, and equip you to discern and withstand the siren song of Babylon that surrounds us.”

“This book is a call for Christians to engage the increasing darkness in our world with the penetrating and victorious light of Christ. And more importantly, he tells how this engagement is put into practice. I’m impressed with how he takes us from despair to a solid hope in the power of the light and the ultimate victory we have in Christ.”

“Christians are “called out” to represent Jesus in this sinful world . . . for every one who seeks to navigate the turbulent, secular times in which we live while seeking to maintain a biblical worldview and witness for Christ. Dr. Lutzer forthrightly and biblically addresses current controversial, societal topics without pulling punches, yet does so in a warm and kind manner.”