



# ADVENTures *a weekly newsletter*

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**September 6, 2020 The Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost**

Worship with the Diocese of Albany at <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCjVmrEwtur7R8akk7Drd9TQ>

## **At Advent**

Worship is scheduled for Sundays at 8:00 a.m. and 10:00 a.m. We will be celebrating the Holy Eucharist with a special service.

### *Matthew 18:15-20 (NASB) If your brother sins*

This week's Gospel deals with how to redemptively deal with conflict with a fellow believer when you perceive that another person has sinned. As I begin reflecting on this passage, it would be important to remember, that what I would like to see happen, should also be what I would want to occur if someone saw sin in my own life.

Corrie ten Boom worked to save Jews from the Nazis in Holland during World War II. She was arrested and taken to the infamous Ravensbruck concentration camp. She later wrote of her experiences, "The Hiding Place". She often thought back over the horrors of the Ravensbruck concentration camp. How could she ever forgive the former Nazis who had been her jailers? How could she ever forget the horrible cruelty of the guards and the smoke constantly coming from the chimney of the crematorium where more than 95,000 women were murdered?

Then in 1947 Corrie was speaking in a church in Munich; when the meeting was over she saw one of the cruelest male guards of Ravensbruck coming forward to speak to her. He had his hand outstretched. "I have become a Christian." "I know that God has forgiven me for the cruel things I did, but I would like to hear it from your lips as well. Fraulein, will you forgive me?"

A conflict raged in Corrie's heart. The Spirit of God urged her to forgive. The spirit of bitterness urged her to turn away. "Jesus, help me," she prayed. Then she told herself, "I can lift my hand." As their hands met it was as if warmth and healing broke forth. "I forgive you, brother, with all my heart," she said. Later Corrie shared that "it was the power of the Holy Spirit" who had poured the love of God into her heart that day. This is the only way true forgiveness can take place. Seeing failure in others, knowing the Lord's standard, can make it possible to seek restoration between two people who love the Lord and understand the importance of community. The first step toward such reconciliation involves listening. Sometimes what we hear is not actually what was said. A good example is gossip. Several different stories or rumors often result from one story or incident. True listening means going to the other person. In other words, we are to take the first step. This is often painful, but it is necessary if there is to be any hope of reconciliation, forgiveness, and peace.

If one-on-one efforts fail to resolve the problem, the next step is to involve two or three outsiders. Unfortunately, most people do this step first. People are often dragged into disputes as the parties involved look for allies. I've seen this happen many times. If the involvement of two or three outsiders fails, the next step involves taking the dispute to the entire church, usually thru the vestry, but sometimes thru a congregational meeting. This body has the final solution that can be used as a last resort exclusion from the congregation by means of suspension or expulsion.

Think about the core of Jesus' ministry; it entirely revolved around bringing outsiders into the kingdom by reconciling them to God. While it might appear that the church is forcing the offender outside its circle, it is, in reality, only acknowledging publicly that the offender has already placed himself or herself outside its circle. Jesus promises that God will support the church in this vital function. The hope is that the offender will be motivated to take steps to regain membership in the fold. While the church regards the offender as a Gentile or tax collector, Matthew's church regards Gentiles and tax collectors as a mission field.

Although reconciliation is a desirable goal, there are times when it is not possible or desirable. For example, it will be only a few days until the world marks the anniversary of the 9/11 terrorist attacks. On that horrible day, no one was seeking to forgive or reconcile with Osama bin Laden and his colleagues after they committed mass murder.

Our natural response when there is conflict is to wage war with the other person, but that's not part of the blueprint God has for our lives, and that blueprint is the Bible. God's blueprint for our lives includes having conflicting parties sit down face to face and reconcile.

Jesus promises to be with us in a unique and special way when we gather in His name for worship, service, and mutual encouragement. He is in our midst when we work together to right wrongs. Forgiveness and justice should characterize the Christian community. If it does, others will recognize something unique about the church and might even recognize Christ alive and active in our midst.

The Lord Jesus bless you this week, Pastor Paul Laursen

**This Week at Advent**

**Sunday, September 6**

**8:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist**  
**10:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist**

**Monday, September 7 Labor Day**  
**Church office is closed**

**Tuesday, September 8**

**Wednesday, September 9**

7:00 a.m. Men's Bible Study at Advent  
7:00 a.m. Wednesday Morning Prayer Group  
7:00 p.m. The Praise Community

**Thursday, September 10**

**7:00 p.m. Dar's Happy Hour Zoom Meeting**

**Sunday, September 13**

**8:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist**  
**10:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist**

**Prayer Request**

*Health and Recovery*

Lillian Kwasny	Dave Luptak	Joan Joye
Mary Lou Dixon	Marilyn Decker	Stacey Smith
Bob Allen	Karen Zolar	Rose Walker
Barb Frank	Lois Zolar	Arthur Beel
Michael Uhrich	Sharon Rice	George Belinsky
Bill & Judy Arkley	Steve Boyce	Shirley Moore
Marcia Duennes	Bruce Finch	Lucille Benedict

*Friends of Advent*

Toni Kulma, wife of Pastor Kulma	Fr. Richard Lutz
Ken and Jim	Betty Clark
Eliza Jennings residents	
Liz Schilling, friend of JoAnn Beck	
Pastor Joyce Williams, friend of Bev Cummings	
Stella, friend of Bev Cummings	
Tina, friend of Bev Cummings	
Residents of Pinzone Tower (2 residents have Covid 19)	
Will Hayes, friend of Cynthea Sabolich	

*Safety Protection*

David Arkley, Detective for Cleveland Police  
Son of Bill & Judy Arkley  
Rachel Moffitt, ER Nurse daughter of Bill & Judy Arkley

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

**Server Schedule Today, September 6**

**8:00 a.m.**

**Assistant** Kathleen Huffman

**10:00 a.m.**

**Assistant** Dick McCormick

**Lector** Dick McCormick

**Prayers of the People** Dick McCormick (Form 6)

**Ushers** Peter Meckes & Teddi Augustine

**Intercessory Prayer** Ray Busony

**Counter** Anne Crothall (9/8)

**Close Advent** Ray Busony

**Next Sunday, September 13**

**8:00 a.m.**

**Assistant** Dick McCormick

**10:00 a.m.**

**Assistant** Denise Geyer-Keller

**Lector** Denise Geyer-Keller

**Prayers of the People** Denise Geyer-Keller (Form 2)

**Ushers** Jan & Jerry Nagy

**Intercessory Prayer** Bev Cummings

**Counter** Anne Crothall (9/14)

**Close Advent** Peter Meckes

**September Birthdays**

- 3 Judy Arkley
- 5 Alex Huffman
- 6 Linda McCormick
- 7 David Huffman
- 9 Ezekiel Cratcha
- 17 Lillian Kwasny
- 30 David Luptak



## **National and Global Day of Prayer and Repentance, Sept 26, 2020:**

Ray Busony, Paul Laursen and I deeply hold the belief that America is in deep trouble, has lost its spiritual way, is following “too much the devices and desires of our own hearts”, and that America as a country and its people are not following the Lord’s commands and decrees. Finn Laursen, a leader in The Praise Community, shares these convictions. We are convinced this is a critical time in our history and in our lives as believers. You’ve frequently heard 2 Chronicles 7:14 but we believe it is so foundational especially now.

Several of us have been led to prophetic announcements from teacher, rabbi and Messianic Jew Jonathan Cahn. He has written books including The Harbinger, The Paradigm, and The Oracle. His writings are grounded in numerous, numerous Biblical references. He is a modern-day prophet. He and others are organizing a National and Global Day of Prayer and Repentance on September 26 to be held on the Mall in Washington DC. The Board of Trustees includes Pat Robertson, Kevin Jessip, Anne Graham Lotz (Billy Graham’s daughter), Dr. Alveda King (Martin Luther King’s niece), and James Dobson. I encourage you to visit the website <https://thereturn.org/> and experience for yourself what is planned. The Return is a movement, an appointed time, and a specific day set apart for one purpose – the return to God by coming before His presence in humility, in sincerity in prayer, and repentance.

Advent will be a simulcast site for this event on September 26. Right now, we’re not sure what impact COVID-19 social distancing will have but we’ve got time to sort this out. Please add your prayers for the Lord to do powerful works leading up to and during this time of prayer.

Please use the sign-up slips in the bulletin, to let us know you will be attending.

Regards,  
Dick

## **Prayer Reflections from Our Fasting & Prayer Initiative**

As you continue fasting and praying, we invite you to share with others words you receive.

Bill Campbell offers these reflections:

“Regarding prayer, perhaps 1 John 5:14-15 would have us (whoever) to discern God’s will for how we focus on any specific issue. I also submit Nehemiah 9. Those praying are the leaders of God’s people. The prayer includes references to both God’s forgiveness/compassion/faithfulness as well as His holiness/righteousness/justice. Also consider Psalm 9.”

## **Holy Eucharist Restart!**

Bishop Hollingsworth has authorized a resumption of our participation in Holy Eucharist starting September 6. This is welcome news! The following are guidelines we will follow during this restart:

1. All involved in preparation and celebration will wear masks and thoroughly wash hands before handling elements and vessels.
2. Paul will set the table and be the only person to stand at it for the Great Thanksgiving. There will be no acolyte or chalice bearer.
3. Paul will handle the elements, and only after thoroughly cleansing his hands with sanitizer. This is what he has been doing.
4. Only Paul will consume the “Priest Host” and the wine.
5. Baptized communicants may consume the wafers brought to the table for consecration in a covered container. It shall remain covered through consecration until distribution.
6. Communicants will not receive the wine, only Paul.
7. Distribution will be in front of the altar. We will not kneel at the altar rail.
8. Ushers will release communicants from pews row by row as normal.
9. Communicants will come forward individually and in single file, wearing masks, and practicing safe distancing of at least 6 feet.
10. Paul will place the consecrated wafer into the open hand of the communicant.
11. The communicant may either:
  - \* lift the mask, consume the sacrament, replace the mask, and return to the pew, providing as much safe distancing as possible, or
  - \* leave the mask in place, receive the wafer, return to the pew, and commune the wafer in the pew.

We are grateful for this important step as we move toward a day when we can worship and have fellowship together in an historical and normal manner. Some continue to choose not to worship corporately. This individual and family decision is honored, respected, and not judged. We endorse the individual freedom to worship and participate in services in the ways most comfortable for each believer. Hopefully all will feel this small step forward helps to mitigate fear and despair that so permeates our culture right now. Peace be with you!

Regards,  
Dick