



ADVENTures a weekly newsletter

Advent Episcopal Church ◊ 3760 Dover Center Road ◊ Westlake ◊ OH ◊ 44145
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January 3, 2021 The Second Sunday after Christmas Day

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

At Advent

Worship is scheduled for Sundays at 9:00 a.m. via ZOOM.

Second Sunday after Christmas Day

Proverbs 29:18 (PassionNTPsa) When there is no clear prophetic vision, people quickly wander astray. But when you follow the revelation of the word, heaven's bliss fills your soul.

Amos 8:11-12 Behold, the days come, saith the Lord GOD, that I will send a famine in the land, not a famine of bread, nor a thirst for water, but of hearing the words of the LORD: And they shall wander from sea to sea, and from the north even to the east, they shall run to and fro to seek the word of the LORD, and shall not find it.

Pastors often shared vision for the new year in January. I had done that for decades at the different churches I have served. It is always important to focus on who we are, why we are here and where we are going. While my service to you at Advent is a bit different, I want to speak with you about vision this week. I want to reflect on what it means to be a citizen of the Kingdom of Heaven as well as a citizen of the United States.

The Scriptures above, are speaking of what happens when God's Word is neglected or ignored. Central to staying in the center of God's will was valuing His revealed Word. That was true in the Old Testament and it is just as true today for us. So, my first point this week is that to know where we are going we have to know God's Word. Secondly, as citizens of the greatest nation on earth, it is important to know remember the foundation upon which we were established.

This week I am reading a book, **1726**, by Eddie Hyatt. It asserts this vital concept. Recovering the knowledge of what happened, beginning in 1726, is paramount, therefore, in getting it right about our nation. That year, a great spiritual tsunami began that eventually engulfed Colonial America in a flood of spiritual zeal. The Great Awakening not only renewed the vision of the Pilgrims and gave birth to an anti-slavery movement, but also had a direct bearing on the founding of the US. In fact, 1726 was the year, according to Hyatt, that defined America.

When the Pilgrims came to America, it's interesting to note that they gave two reasons for coming to the New World: first, for the glory of God; and secondly, for the advancement of the Christian faith. This completely undermines the secular notion, commonly taught in American schools and colleges today, that the Pilgrims' motives in coming to America were monetary.

George Orwell said in his classic book **1984**, "*Whoever controls the past, controls the future.*" Commenting on the demise of nations in world history, Carl Sandburg said, "*When a nation goes down, or a society perishes, one condition may always be found; they forgot where they came from. They lost sight of what had brought them along.*"

So, two visionary values as we move into 2021 are central. First, establishing God's Word at the core of lives, and second, re-establishing the strong Christian foundation of our nation's origin. Stripping away the spiritual passion of our founding fathers as the "cancel culture" movement wants to do, depletes a key component of who we are.

Without God's Word and without the Christian underpinnings that were evident from The Mayflower Compact to the Declaration of Independence to the Constitution, we have no visionary focus going forward. Rejoice this week as we remember what is of value in our past, because it is what will bring forth focus as we look forward to this new year! God bless you.

The Lord Jesus bless you this week!
Pastor Paul Laursen

This Week at Advent

Sunday, January 3, 2021

9:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist via ZOOM

Monday, January 4

Tuesday, January 5

Wednesday, January 6

7:00 a.m. Men’s Bible Study at Advent

9:00 a.m. Wednesday Morning Prayer Group

7:00 p.m. The Praise Community

Thursday, January 7

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

Sunday, January 10, 2021

9:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist via ZOOM

Zoom Invitation

This is a recurring invitation for worship services at 9:00 a.m. each Sunday morning. You can use the same link, Meeting ID, and Passcode Sunday after Sunday. This way, the link won’t change week by week. You can launch the link either from this transmittal or a separate email I’ll send, which should overcome the difficulties some have experienced recently.

Peace be with you!

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/93790207331?pwd=NWFXZVhmVGdEY1Z5dzRCSjNVQzIzQT09>

Meeting ID: 937 9020 7331

Passcode: 988930

One tap mobile

+13126266799,,93790207331#,,,,*988930# US (Chicago)

+16465588656,,93790207331#,,,,*988930# US (New York)

Dial by your location

+1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)

+1 646 558 8656 US (New York)

+1 301 715 8592 US (Washington D.C)

+1 346 248 7799 US (Houston)

+1 669 900 9128 US (San Jose)

+1 253 215 8782 US (Tacoma)

Meeting ID: 937 9020 7331

Passcode: 988930

Find your local number: <https://zoom.us/u/adIAxI5aCt>

Prayer Request

Health and Recovery

Lillian Kwasny	Ed Kwasny	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	Sue Boyce
Lucille Benedict	Dave Luptak	Shirley Moore
Denise Geyer-Keller	Braeden	John Crothall

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	
Stella, friend of Bev Cummings	
Tina, friend of Bev Cummings	
Residents of Pinzone Tower	
Will Hayes, friend of Cynthia Sabolich	
Gabe, grandson of Jan & Jerry Nagy	
Megan Keller	
Gordon Williams (fiancé of Megan Geyer-Keller)	
Maire Archer	

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.

Epiphany

The Epiphany Season begins January 6, marking the end of the Christmas season. The word Epiphany means “showing forth”, “manifestation” or “revelation”. It commemorates first, Christ’s manifestation to the Gentiles as the promised Messiah, symbolized by the visit of the Wise Men; secondly, the Baptism of Jesus by John the Baptist; and thirdly, the Marriage Feast at Cana, the beginning of Jesus’ public ministry. Thus, in Epiphany, we celebrate the fact that Christ’s divine power and glory were revealed for all people. We see Christ as “The Light of the World.”

JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

28 Meg Meckes
29 Karen Edwards





Christmas Poinsettias

If you ordered or wanted a poinsettia and are not able to get to the church, would you call the church (440-871-6685) office & leave your name & phone number and we'll see about dropping one off at your house. We need to find homes for the beautiful plants. We'll deliver/pick up the plants that people ordered first but we always have plants left over. If you are able, please stop by the sanctuary & pick up a plant if you ordered one and we'll try to find homes for the rest.

Ray Busony
Jr Warden

Advent 2020 Disbursements for Outreach and Inreach

During 2020 Advent distributed Outreach funds to worthy organizations involved in ministries aligned with Advent's vision and mission. We also distribute Rector's Discretionary funds to Advent parishioners who have a pressing need brought to the attention of the Sr. and Jr. Wardens. Recipients, needs, and amounts are confidential. In 2020 we contributed the following Outreach funds to:

Love, INC. (\$700) Love In The name of Christ is a national organization with an affiliate Love, INC. of Cuyahoga County whose vision is "to show and share the love of Christ by caring for and serving its neighbors". When strangers seek assistance from Advent, we encourage them to contact Love INC. From time to time, Love INC. has supported Advent parishioners. <https://www.loveinc.org/>

Eliza Jennings Nursing Home Social Committee (\$700) Eliza Jennings, a not-for-profit organization providing excellent care and services to older adults on Cleveland's West Side for more than 130 years, is a nationally recognized expert committed to helping older adults make the most of the aging experience. Pre-COVID, members of Advent provided twice-a-month worship services and Holy Eucharist for residents and staff. <https://elizajennings.org/>

Alpha of Northern Ohio (\$700) Alpha is a series of sessions exploring the Christian faith, typically run over eleven weeks. Each talk looks at a different question around faith and is designed to create conversation. Alpha is run all around the globe, and everyone is welcome. Bruce Farley, Regional Director, has preached at Advent. Advent ran an Alpha course during Fr. RJ Johnson's time with us and it is likely Fr. Ben Randall would do so as well if he joins Advent. There is a matching gift campaign now so our contribution is doubled. <https://alphausa.org/northernohio>

Salvation Army Greater Cleveland (\$700) The Salvation Army, an international movement, is an evangelical part of the universal Christian Church. Its message is based on the Bible. Its ministry is motivated by the love of God. Its mission is to preach the gospel of Jesus Christ and to meet human needs in His name without discrimination. The Vestry felt it important to help others hammered by the pandemic and the Salvation Army does that. <https://easternusa.salvationarmy.org/greater-cleveland/>

The Voice of the Martyrs (\$200) The Voice of the Martyrs (VOM) is a nonprofit, interdenominational Christian missions organization dedicated to serving our persecuted family worldwide through practical and spiritual assistance and leading other members of the body of Christ into fellowship with them. Historically our Good Friday offering is dedicated to VOM. Bob Joye was an advocate for persecuted Christians around the world and for VOM. <https://www.persecution.com/>

We receive heartfelt thanks from Inreach and Outreach folks who are so appreciative. Here's what the Eliza Jennings Activities Director told Max Gage "I am ecstatic and humbled by Advent's offer of \$700. In the Memo Line please mark it for The Activity Department for Residents."

Your giving to Advent makes it possible for us to support these worthy and local ministries. THANK YOU.