



# **ADVENTures** *a weekly newsletter*

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**August 10, 2025 Nineth Sunday after Pentecost**

**Transfiguration Sunday**

Welcome to Advent Episcopal Church and may God bless your worship today!

## **A note from Pastor Paul:**

Good morning. At the second service last Sunday, I had a very special experience that I would like to talk about. Just at the end of the sermon, I began to experience the presence of the Holy Spirit in a strong way around me and in me.

As I got to my seat, it was clear that I should not be on my feet that the Lord's presence was overwhelming me physically in a wonderful way. Now it is very unusual for the leader of a service to be overcome like this. By God's grace Father Abraham was able to step in for me. This had happened to me just once before at my former church, Christ the King. Right before the second service was to start. I was in the sacristy; we were in prayer and I ended up on the floor, unable to go upstairs. That was the beginning of a season of revival at Christ the King, we saw hundreds of people come to the Lord as we opened up evening services six days a week, quite remarkable. Additionally, many, many folks were renewed in their faith and many others were healed of physical and emotional conditions.

That was a similar experience to what was happening to me at Advent. Several people thought that I had become suddenly ill. One person came up and checked my blood pressure, nothing evident there. It was advised to me that I go to the ER as well. But I knew from past experience that what was happening to me, was simply the presence of the Holy Spirit impacting me physically for a time.

Several people in the service were concerned about my health, but I was in no way struggling medically. I appreciate very much your concern, but this is simply what happens sometimes when you are overwhelmed by the love and presence of the Lord in a way that your body can't quite handle. It's why at times people sink to the ground which I would have if I had not been sitting in the chair.

My prayer is that the Holy Spirit would move through our church in a deeper way so that we become a place of refreshing, and a safe place where people can receive Jesus as their Lord and Savior. We have seen evidences of the Lord moving dramatically at Bill Benedict's Healing Rooms. Oh that it would spread to the sanctuary!

Thank you very much for your concern, it means a great deal to me.

### **Advent Supports Our Missionaries and Their Missions:**

The Advent congregation is blessed to have in our family two pairs of missionaries called to do the Lord's work in South Asia (India and Nepal) and Africa (Kenya, Liberia and Sierra Leone). Their reach extends beyond these countries. Kathryn and Paul Laursen and Fr. Abraham and Joyce Fiodembo make visible to us their heart, passion, zeal, and spiritual call to reach souls for Christ and to equip them and their church leaders with resources to make a spiritual and material difference in people's lives. Through the example and leadership of these four, Advent recently provided financial support to people and churches in India to help reestablish some dwellings for people persecuted by terrorists as well as to get the medication that they need to recover. Parishioners contributed personal toiletries, clothing, and other items shipped in barrels to support Word and Deed ministries. A large contingent of Advent parishioners joined Fr. Abraham and Joyce at their support-raising event in late July in Advent's parish hall. Denise Geyer-Keller sorted through surplus Advent Sunday School supplies, books, CD's, and other resource materials. Max Gage and Fr. Abraham packed them into 2 suitcases for their trip later this week to Kenya. And, Vestry disbursed in July \$3,500 to Word & Deed and \$3,500 to Umala Mission from Advent's Outreach budget as a sign of our love for them, their ministry, and the call of the Holy Spirit. Let's pray for the harvest to be plentiful!

### **Advent Financials Well-Aligned with First Half Budget**

Gary Conaway, our treasurer, stated year-to-date revenues, expenses, and the deficit are virtually identical to Budget. At the mid-point of 2025, first-half revenues of \$69,009 are only \$441 below Budget. Expenses of \$75,606 are \$86 more than Budget, and the bottom-line Deficit of \$6,597 is only \$527 more than Budget. Congratulations to Gary for a spot-on budget crystal ball! Through June our cash position decreased by only 7.3% for the year, in part due to repairs to the organ and building and grounds upkeep. Average Sunday attendance is 33, compared to 35 for the first 6 months last year. Vestry continues to be thankful for the dedicated financial stewardship of our community. Thank you for your faithfulness!

### **Prayer Vigil for Father Abraham and Max Gage:**

Fr. Abraham and Max leave for Umala Mission in Kenya on Aug. 8 and return on Aug. 25. Joyce asked that we fervently and persistently pray for them during the trip – for safe travel, protection from physical and spiritual harm, effectiveness in their ministry work, and lives changed for God's glory. She suggested we organize a prayer vigil – a predetermined day and time that a group of us devote entirely to prayer for specific goals. In this case, the above are four focus areas or goals for our prayers but we can certainly personalize our own. If you wish please add your name to any open slot(s) that you would prefer. Let's all keep them in our prayers.

### **Men's Night Out:**

Men's Night Out will be Tuesday, August 12th at Moosehead Hoof and Ladder at 6:30 p.m. Located at 7989 Columbia Road  
Olmsted Falls Ohio 44138  
Please see or contact Peter Meckes if you will be going.

**Crusher's Game:**

Okay, we are planning another game night, this time for Friday, August 22nd. If interested in attending please place your name on the sign up sheet so that we can see if we can get enough people together for the group discount.

**Ushering:**

We are still looking for people to help out with the ushering duties. If anyone would like to assist with these duties please leave me a note in the office or catch Peter Meckes.

**Fellowship Dinner:**

We will **not** be having a dinner for the month of August. We have some scheduling conflicts that makes it difficult. Our next dinner will in September date TBD, followed by a potluck in October and then a dinner in November for All Saint's day with a set menu. Then nothing again until after the beginning of the year.

## **This Week at Advent**

### **Sunday, August 10**

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

**9:00 a.m. Bible Study**

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

### **Monday, August 11**

**2:00 p.m. Eliza Jennings Ministry**

### **Tuesday, August 12**

**7:00 p.m. Healing Room**

### **Wednesday, August 13**

**7:00 a.m. Men's Bible Study at Advent**

**9:00 a.m. Wednesday Morning Prayer**

### **Thursday, August 14**

### **Sunday, August 17**

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

**9:00 a.m. Bible Study**

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

## **Zoom Invitation**

This is a recurring invitation for worship services at 10:00 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 from this transmittal link.

Peace be with you!

There are no changes, just the same info in an abbreviated format. **These are not new, just shortened.**

Join Advent Service via Zoom from PC or tablet

<https://zoom.us/j/93790207331?pwd=NWFXZVhnVGdEY1Z5dzRCSjNVQzIzQT09>

Meeting ID: 937 9020 7331

Passcode: 988930

From your smartphone, dial 312 626 6799

Meeting ID: 937 9020 7331

Passcode: 988930

## **Server Schedule Today, August 10**

**8:00 a.m.**

**Assistant** Dick McCormick

**10:00 a.m.**

**Assistant** Dick McCormick

**Lector** Dick McCormick

**Prayers of the People** Dick McCormick (Form 2)

**Usher** Peter Meckes

**Intercessory Prayer** Bill Benedict

**Counter** Gary Conaway (8/11)

**Close Advent** Peter Meckes

## **Server Schedule Sunday, August 17**

**8:00 a.m.**

**Assistant** Anne Meldrum

**10:00 a.m.**

**Assistant** Denise Geyer-Keller

**Lector** Denise Geyer-Keller

**Prayers of the People** Denise Geyer-Keller (Form 3)

**Usher** Peter Meckes

**Intercessory Prayer** Kathryn

**Counter** Gary Conaway (8/18)

**Close Advent** Denise Geyer-Keller

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

