



Bringing Christ to others through love and service.

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March 2024

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Special Points of Interest:

- Looking for people to serve on the tech team (p.2)
- Mark your calendars for another rummage sale (p. 6)
- Under the Sea Father Daughter dance (p.8)

Pastor's Report

An Encounter with God



God delights in creation and longs to be in relationship with us. Prayer is opening to God's presence with all that we are, with what scripture summarizes as our whole heart, souls, and mind. (*Matthew 22:37*) Prayer is an encounter with God!

Throughout history, the church has lost its way by cherishing beliefs and practices about God more than they cherish a relationship with God. I believe that Christ came to lead people back to a relationship with God.

In February, a prayer group was established at Advent. The purpose of the group is to acknowledge the presence of the Holy Spirit, invite the Spirit into our hearts and ask God to support, comfort and inspire our lives, our church, our community and our world. During their regularly scheduled meetings, the team will also pray for each other, the church staff, and members of the congregation.

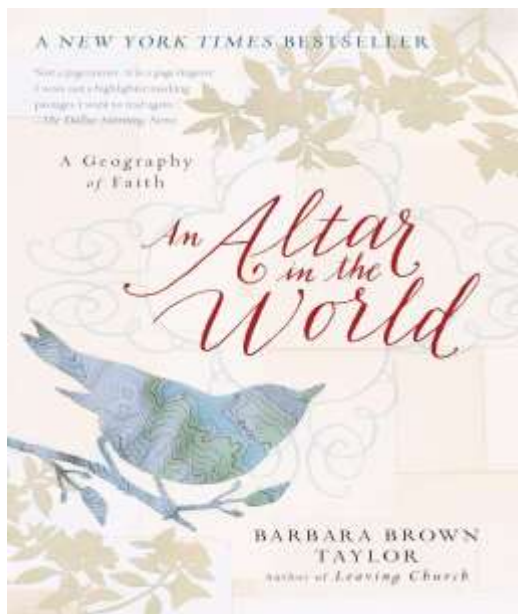
The team of Dan Moss, Clyde and Peg McGee, Jean Rennecker, and Becky Popio is led by Linda Wagner. Thanks to each of them for their willingness to be an instrument through which we all may experience the presence of God.

It is my hope that the work of the prayer team promotes a deeper spiritual presence of God throughout the entire congregation and that the spirit of God may flow out of all that we do.

Prayerfully,

Pastor Bob

Pastor Bob



An Altar in the World

Where have you encountered God's presence in your life? Frequently, when in pain, we ask ourselves deep questions such as "Why me? Why now? Why this?" But have you ever asked yourself those questions about the good things that happen to you? I wrestle with being aware of God's presence on a regular basis; it's just hard to stay in tune. Maybe you struggle with that as well.

A significant aspect of spiritual life is growing in awareness, appreciation, and experience of God's presence. A spiritual approach helps us move God out of our heads and into our cognitive, emotional, physical, and relational experiences. We are called into the experience of God not only weekly but daily and moment to moment.

During the season of Lent, join us on Wednesday evenings for a discussion on the book, *An Altar in the World*, by Barbara Brown Taylor. Taylor has an extraordinary gift of sharing ways of encountering the Divine in the most ordinary events of our daily life—a walk in the park, recycling our clutter, getting lost by turning off the GPS and taking a different route home, having a short chat with the cashier at the grocery, really observing a dog, a cat, a butterfly.

It's not too late to join us. We gather on Wednesday evenings in the fellowship hall at 6:00 pm for a light supper and a discussion on her book. Under Taylor's guidance, she teaches the tangible reality of God all around us and guides people how to be aware of God in everything. The question is whether we'll say yes to the more.

This book is a field guide to spiritual practices which can lend meaning and richness to our lives. It will challenge us to find our own practices, ways to encounter the Great Mystery more deeply, and when those practices are incorporated into our daily lives, we begin to discover Altars everywhere we go, in nearly everything we do.

Prayerfully,

Pastor Bob

Pastor Bob

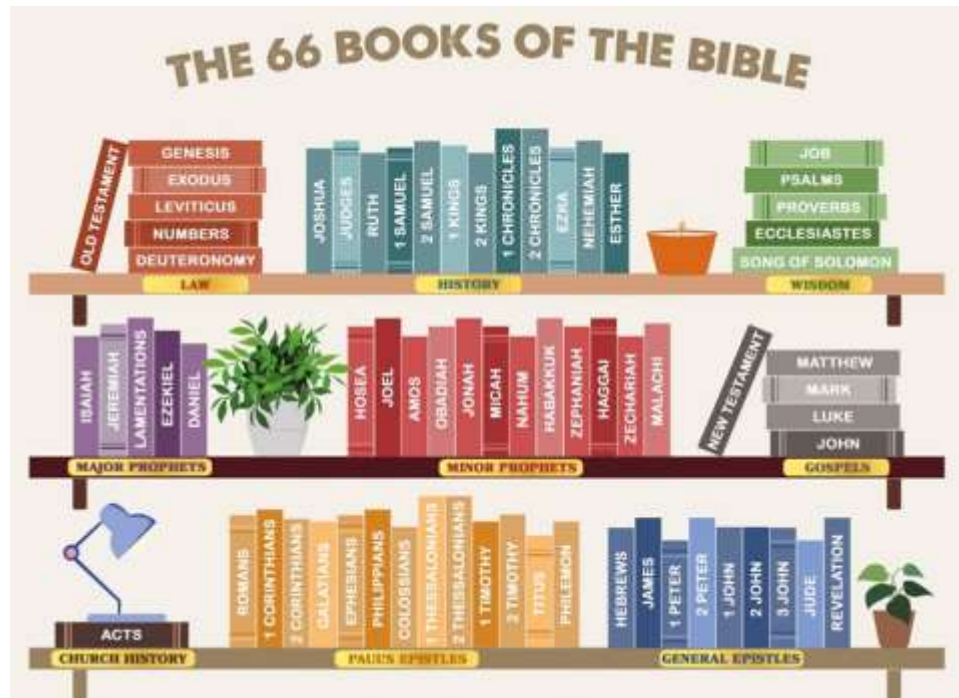
Want a way to serve at Advent?

Worship is central to what we do as a congregation. The tech team is looking for individuals to assist at either of our worship services.

Traditional Worship: Help is needed for doing the video recording and then posting the recording to our platforms. If you've created and posted videos online you can do this. Even if you haven't, we can teach you.

Contemporary Worship: help is needed to project the songs, prayers and other parts of the service on the screen for the congregation. No special skills are required – if you can login to a PC you have great potential!

The work that the team does is vital because it enriches our worship and provides a means for others to experience God in this place. If you have any questions, contact Mike Pearch at michael.pearch@gmail.com or 330-760-4413



Lent Devotions for the children in preschool-6th grade began in Sunday school on February 18th but it's certainly not too late to join us!

The children will be learning about the books of the Bible and memorizing their order each week until we learn all 66 books of the Old and New Testament!

They will receive prizes weekly as they say their parts to memorize.

We will make Bible posters to display in our opening room, plus a whole bunch of activities & games to help everyone memorize them!

Don't miss out on this fun way to learn!



**Saturday, March 23rd
10:00 am**

Invite your family, friends and neighbors to join us for this fun filled event!

We will gather outside (weather permitting or in the fellowship hall) for an Easter egg hunt in the back followed by more activities & yummy snacks inside!

Bring your camera and come be a part of this "egg-cellant" event!



Come join us in the church's library on Monday mornings, beginning at 10:30 am. Our study during Lent is "On the Road to the Cross: Experience Easter with those who were there" By Rob Burkhart



Save the date, you will "knot" want to miss this!

Everyone of all ages is invited

Sunday, March 17th

to stay after second service!

We will be serving pizza/chips for lunch followed by an opportunity to assemble knotted fleece blankets.

These blankets will be donated to the battered women's shelter.

No experience needed, please mark your calendars and plan to join us!

We have over 40 blankets to make this time so please plan to come and help!

Look for a sign-up sheet on the welcome center counter so we know how many to buy pizza for!



If you would like to help paint/create props at our VBS workshop, join us in the fellowship hall on Sunday, **March 10th** from 6:00-8:00 pm. Looking forward to seeing you there!

Holy Week and Easter Services



Come Worship With Us!

Maundy Thursday, March 28th at 6:30 pm

Good Friday, March 29th at 6:30 pm

The Maundy Thursday and Good Friday Services will be recorded and then posted to our website for digital worship that evening.

**On Easter Sunday, March 31
there will be two worship formats.**

Traditional Service at 8:45 am

Contemporary Service at 10:15 am

The recorded service will be available on the church website at 9:30 am.



We hope you can join us Easter morning (3/31) for breakfast in the fellowship hall. A continental breakfast will be available after both church services.

The menu will include:

**some combination of fruit, donuts, yogurt,
juices, milk, hot tea/fresh coffee.**

(A free will offering will be collected that morning)



First Communion Classes

Please call the church office at 330-877-3951 or use the sign-up sheet on the welcome center counter if you are interested in signing up your child for first communion classes, by March 3rd.

We are planning on having three in-person classes on 3/10, 3/17 and 3/24 from 9:45-10:15 (in the Sunday school opening room) and a separate class along with their parents on 3/24 from 11:20- 12:15 (in the church's library).

The children must be in first grade or older to participate. (We allow each family to decide when their child is ready for these classes on an individual basis.)

Also, please note, our hope is that the children that participate in these classes will receive their First Communion during the Maundy Thursday (3/28) in-person church service during Holy Week.



Everyone signed up to go to the ELCA youth gathering to New Orleans this July, please plan to meet in the confirmation room on Sunday, **March 17th at 9:30 am.** We will talk about upcoming fundraisers, new updates and discuss the first gathering topic.

Mark your calendars...



We will be hosting another rummage sale!!

May 16th (Thursday) from 8:00am to 6:00pm,
May 17th and 18th (Fri & Sat) from 8:00 am to 1:00pm
in our fellowship hall.

All proceeds will go towards the elca youth gathering trip.
Helpers will be needed to set up/price items
as well as to be here the days of the sale.

Look for a sign-up sheet next month on the welcome center counter.

We will be collecting items you would like to donate for us to sell a couple different dates in the beginning of May (stay posted when these dates will be).
Thank you for keeping this in mind as you are doing your spring cleaning.

Please note however, we will not be accepting furniture or appliances that require more than one person to carry, televisions, computers or adult clothing.

Anything that does not sell will be boxed up
and donated to the Hartville Thrift Shop
and any leftover books will be shared
with the Friends of the Library for their book sale.
Please note nothing will be saved here at the church
or given back once the rummage sale is over.

Thanks in advance for your support!

MARTHA CIRCLE

The Martha Circle will meet in the library on March 4th at 1:00 pm for their monthly meeting. Our speaker, Dave Steele is from the Marlin & Minnie Snyder Foundation. They have a thrift shop and provide for the homeless. They are especially concerned with emancipated foster children, women leaving the protection of a shelter from abuse, veterans in need, and individuals involved in the re-entry program. Everyone is invited to come and learn more about foster care as it is a part of the lives of children whose homes have become difficult and how we can help those in need of a home. Kay Thorp will have refreshments and devotions.

NORTHEASTERN OHIO SYNODICAL WOMEN'S ORGANIZATION

DO YOU WONDER WHAT'S POSSIBLY GOING ON WITH THE NORTHEASTERN OHIO SYNODICAL WOMEN'S ORGANIZATION?

Well, we're planning a 'more than a gathering' for April 27 at Grace Lutheran Church, Wadsworth (it is the technical center of the synod for availability). Join us for fellowship, an opportunity to learn, to hear *The Queen of Cleveland News*, *Dorothy Fuldheim* speak, to have some Bible study, and a little more. Save the date!! Saturday, April 27 @ 9:00 am. Watch for further information.



Thank you to the congregation for your continued support with the "Back Pack Food" Program!

Our next opportunity to pack 200 back pack bags will be **Monday, March 18th at 4:00 pm. (set-up begins at 3:00)**

Thank you in advance to those who are able to come join us in the fellowship hall.

FISH Food Pantry Needs

Please consider donating one of the following items in March:

- * Mac-n-Cheese
- * Tuna



ADVENT LUTHERAN CHURCH PRESENTS A

Daddy Daughter

UNDER THE SEA

DANCE

Friday, April 5th

6:30 PM - 8:00 PM

\$25 PER COUPLE | \$5 FOR EACH ADDITIONAL DAUGHTER

*Girls are invited to bring Dad or Another Adult
Male Guest to Join Us for a Magical Evening!
Ages 3 - 6th Grade*

Advent Lutheran Church - Fellowship Hall

1516 EDISON ST NW UNIONTOWN, OH 44685

**DJ, Cupcakes,
Face Painting
and More!**

Email BPopio@adventuniontown.org

to reserve tickets to be picked up and paid for at the door
the night of the dance



Celebrations & Thanks



March Birthdays

- 02 Alex Clevinger, Owen Kamerer
- 03 Jeryne Jamerson
- 04 Beth Conn, Harold Hall,
Nathan Popio
- 06 Cheryl Wright
- 07 Jayden Eichler
- 08 Kristin Schwandt
- 09 Joe Allen, Steven Cheyney,
Rocco Oberhauser
- 10 Keegan Moss, Cindy Weible
- 11 Diane Fellows, Robert Smith
- 12 Tyler Allchin, Mike Mackert,
Zachary Senn
- 13 Billie Montecalvo, Doug Nabors,
Jennifer Sivy, Sue Taranowski
- 14 John Schwandt
- 17 Richard Moore
- 18 Judy Allison, Abigail Conn
- 19 Arne Hensler, Martin Kellogg
- 22 Jean Morgan, Andy Pressler
- 25 Brent McClain
- 26 Wendy Potashnik
- 28 Jocelyn McClain
- 29 Barb Richards
- 30 Jaxon Yoder
- 31 Gary Holmes



March Anniversaries

- 08 Gerry & Sandy Schmelzer
- 10 Terry & Cathy Williams

Thank You for your Support!!!



Thanks to your generosity... **we donated 236 cans of soup and \$274.00** to FISH for "Souper" bowl Sunday!!

(Special thanks to those that brought in crock-pots of soup to share during fellowship time and to Rod & Paulette Beechy for delivering all the donations to the fish pantry for us!)

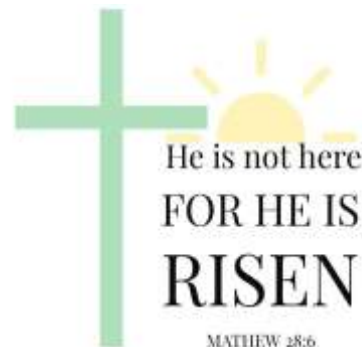
I would like to thank everyone for your thoughtfulness during the passing of my brother Mark. Your cards, prayers and phone calls was very much appreciated.

Blessings,
Ed and Brenda Montgomery

Dear Friends,

Thank you for your recent gift of \$565.00 to Luther Home of Mercy. Your gift not only helps our ministry to thrive but offers opportunities for individuals to flourish. Please accept our gratitude for your generosity.

Sincerely,
Megan O'Brien
Vice President



Kid's Page

New Testament Books of the Bible

L H 1 D V D S O H 3 R 2 G A L A T I A N S R V P
 H P S N A I N O L A S S E H T 1 B E K N R J B O
 Y 1 H T E K E I O D A Y L 3 1 J K E R O E A N 3
 1 T L I V S N U A R N J 2 E G T U 1 M 3 N E D V
 1 Y S W L T S 3 V U E C M T L D U A R R 2 V M 3
 P 2 T G P E 2 H P O O T H H Y J N B V N M J V H
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 T A A U E S V O O C I A G P S T Y H E B M U B U
 E N Y C N 1 S S N G I B S M 2 W H H N A D S 2 1
 R B G I H K S Y P G R I J P Y V T R S E G M S C
 J P L I D I I G H P N U J C U T O L 2 L D H N M
 1 K J J A 1 J O H N S O B T A B M S C G I 2 A W
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 R G D 1 1 B R R P N I H T P H A 2 I I D O S O O
 I H H L A L B N H P P 1 E H W L N S N R I C L E
 N W T P C Y H N A 2 I O T B G 2 O E T V T M A G
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 H E L O J R Y E L L I J M S M E T P I L L H S C
 I 3 C 3 N 1 I Y K W H M S A J O W E A U E E E 2
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 N A D L G M K B 2 2 L 1 T 2 M Y K H S 2 E N T T
 S E H Y H V V O K I K S I G E K A R Y 2 R E 2 D
 3 3 H 3 B M H O S R P D T I S O 3 M P P C L B J

Revelation
 1 John
 Hebrews
 1 Timothy
 Philipians
 1 Corinthians
 Luke

Jude
 2 Peter
 Philemon
 2 Thessalonians
 Ephesians
 Romans
 Mark

3 John
 1 Peter
 Titus
 1 Thessalonians
 Galatians
 Acts
 Matthew

2 John
 James
 2 Timothy
 Colossians
 2 Corinthians
 John

MARCH 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3	Women's Bible Study 10:30 am Martha Circle 1:00 pm	Council 7:00 pm	Lent Study 6:00 pm	7	8	9
10 VBS Work-shop 6:00 pm 	Women's Bible Study 10:30 am	12	Lent Study 6:00 pm	14	15	16
17 Knot Blankets After church 	Women's Bible Study 10:30 am		Lent Study 6:00 pm	21	22	 10:00am
24  31	Women's Bible Study 10:30 am	26	Lent Study 6:00 pm	FISH Pantry 5:15 pm Young Adult Pizza Hut 7:30 pm	29	30

ADVENT LUTHERAN CHURCH †

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bpopio@adventuniontown.org
pastorbob@adventuniontown.org



OUR VISION

To be a vital presence and asset to the community.



ADVENT CHURCH STAFF

Robert D. Cheyney, Jr., Pastor
John Lauby, organist & choir director Emeritus
John Schwandt, co-cantor
MaryAnn Schwabe, co-cantor
Jim Popio, music leader - The Lighted Path
Becky Popio, children's ministry coordinator
Terri Leymon, secretary
Sara Kantorik, Adventure Place - director

Church Council Members: Mary Amick, Marilyn Brodie, Alex Clevinger, Heather Coontz, Michael Kahlenberg, John Lauby, Doug Nabors, Amanda Oberhauser, Gary Smith, Lou Stange, Don Taranowski and Harvey Wagner