



The Parish Voice

ENON UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

December 2024

Advent: A Time of Preparation

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**Love
Grows
Here**

Have you ever seen the movie, “Twister?” This movie came out in 1996 starring Helen Hunt and Bill Paxton. They play two storm chasers who must work together to create an advanced weather alert system by putting themselves in the cross-hairs of extremely violent tornadoes. At the climax of the film, they find themselves in the direct path of a tornado and unless they can find something to hold on to, they will be sucked into the storm. They’re on a farm and run into an old well house that has pipes that go deep into the ground. Using a thick leather strap they are able to secure themselves to the pipes and as the storm passes over them, they are caught up in it but not blown away by it because they are anchored deep into the ground.

As I enter this season of Advent, I must confess that I feel like I’m caught up in a violent storm. As I look at the world around me and as I look at the world within me, I feel like my heart is being beaten down by the winds of confusion, suffering, and a general feeling of powerlessness. Maybe some of you can relate.

Advent is a season of preparation. Sometimes, especially when we’re feeling like we have no control over anything, the best way to prepare for whatever comes next is to find our anchor, strap in, and hold tight to what we know to be true. For Christians, this truth is found in our Baptismal identity. No matter what storm rages around us, the one thing that cannot be taken away, diminished, or destroyed is who we are in Christ.

You are God’s child. God loves you. You bring God great joy!

Tish Harrison Warren, in her book *Liturgy of the Ordinary*, wrote:

“We are marked from our first waking moment by the identity that is given to us by grace: an identity that is deeper and more real than any other identity we will don that day.”

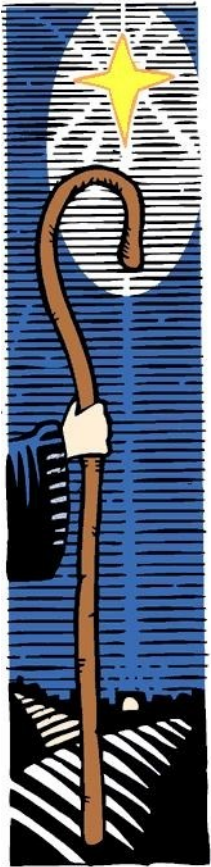
So this Advent, I invite you to strap in, hold tight and be grounded in God’s deep and abiding love for you. I’ve preached it before and now I desperately need to hear the message once again... God’s got you and God’s got this.

Advent Blessings, Pastor Heather



Prayer Shawl Ministry
Gathering: Tuesday, Dec. 10
 2:00-4:00 in the Lounge
Blessing: Sunday, Dec. 22
 10:30am Worship

December Services & Events



Blue Christmas Service

Saturday, December 21, 6:00pm

As we anticipate the coming of Christ during the season of Advent, we need to be mindful that for many the holidays are not always merry and bright. There will be a special time of remembrance and acknowledgment of grief or pain. The service will conclude with Holy Communion.

Christmas Cantata

Sunday, December 22, 10:30am

The Chancel Choir will present *Christmas Dreams* by H. Sorensen during our morning worship. Don't miss it!

Christmas Eve Service

Tuesday, December 24, 6:00pm

Join us for a beautiful candlelight Christmas Eve service where we celebrate the birth of Jesus.

EER Food Drives

The Scouts will pick up bags of food left on doorsteps or somewhere visible **Saturday, December 7. Please have bags out where they are visible by 9:00am.** If your bag is not picked up by noon, call the pantry, 937-864-5555, for pick up or bring to the pantry Monday afternoon, December 9.

Our Home (formerly Fox Run) now through December 16. Anyone may take food and leave it with reception.

Prayer Partners

Dear Prayer Partner families (and Adult Prayer Partners),

The big reveal of your student's prayer partner's identity will be upon us soon.....right after Christmas!

The Breakfast party where we'll do the reveal will be **Sunday, January 12th at 9AM** in Roth Hall (the basement of Enon UMC for those who may not know). Please save the date.

You or your student do not need to bring anything - we will be serving pancakes/sausages/fruit/orange juice- the usual breakfast fare.

There are 27 students in our ministry, and 26 adult prayer partners. I'm requesting that at least 1 parent/adult attend the breakfast with their child/children, the exception would be the Jr High/High School kids, although, all parents/adults are very welcome to come! Please let me know if your kiddos (and # of parents/adults) are able to attend. The same for all of the Adult Prayer Partners. We'll soon be assessing how many piles of pancakes we will need. Yum!

You can call the church office with your RSVP, you can call/email me, or flag me down at church.

Boatloads of blessings to you all,
 Suzie Clendenin (937-903-9704)
sterlingsuzie@sbcglobal.net





Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 4p Pack 36 Den 6:30p Pack 36 Den	2 6p Venture Crew 6:30p Troop 17 7p Pack 36 Den	3 6:30p Pack 36 Den 7p Troop 17 Comm.	4 1p The Chosen Study 5:30p Growing Knights Packing 6p Handbell Practice 7p Choir Practice	5 8a Men's Breakfast (at Carriage Inn) 5:15p Meditation	6 6:30p Girl Scouts	7 2p Eagle Court of Honor
8 12p Acolyte training 5p The Chosen Study	9 6p Venture Crew 6:30p Troop 17	10 2p Prayer Shawl Ministry	11 1p The Chosen Study 5:30p Growing Knights Packing 6p Handbell Practice 7p Choir Practice 7p Women of Hope	12 8a Men's Breakfast (at Carriage Inn) 5:15p Meditation	13	14
15 4p Pack 36 Den 5p The Chosen Study 6:30p Pack 36 Den	16 6p Venture Crew 6:30p Troop 17 7p Pack 36 Den 7p Trustees	17 1p Susannah Sisters 6:30p Pack 36 Den	18 5:30p Growing Knights Packing 6p Handbell Practice 7p Choir Practice	19 8a Men's Breakfast (at Carriage Inn) 5:15p Meditation 6:30p Pack 36	20 6:30p Girl Scouts	21 6p Blue Christmas Service
22 <i>Prayer Shawl Blessing</i> 10:30a Choir Cantata	23	24 6p Christmas Eve Service	25 	26 8a Men's Breakfast (at Carriage Inn) 5:15p Meditation	27	28
Church Office closed						
29	30	31		Sunday Worship (unless otherwise noted) 10a Kids' grades 5-8 Sunday School 9:30a Adult Sunday School 10:30a Worship Service & Kids' Worship		

A Hobby Turned Ministry

The internet has transformed shopping, whether for Christmas, major purchases or even groceries. I've spent hours scrolling Facebook Marketplace for just the right new-to-me items. Hunting for a great deal or a unique piece is part of the appeal.

But after reading Philippians 2:4, I also began paying attention to the people I encountered along the way. "Don't look out only for your own interests," that verse says, "but take an interest in others, too" (NLT).

A retired couple all but invited me to dinner when I bought a lamp from them. I remember the woman's delight as she described her recipe. A young man with developmental challenges who sold me a video game communicated its quality much better than anyone I've encountered.

When a mom purchased some chairs from us, she shared her excitement while loading her van. Her family now had a "real home" after living in an RV during a tough time. Once I bought furniture from a woman who was visibly stressed, exhausted from helping her mother-in-law move out of state.

As my transactions turned into interactions, my heart was changing — for the better. My hobby became more enjoyable and meaningful as I took time to listen and care.

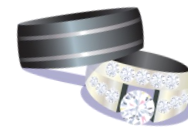
-Janna Firestone



Birthdays

- | | | | |
|----|------------------|----|-----------------|
| 3 | Jeremy Bennett | 17 | Jo Ann Sillaman |
| 5 | Bill Watchorn | 18 | Brady Whittaker |
| 7 | Joe Ventolo, Jr. | 19 | Larry Bell |
| 12 | Carolyn Parker | 22 | Mike Fewell |
| 14 | Evie Whittaker | | Elliah Nickles |
| | Will Whittaker | 26 | Chuck Guisinger |
| 15 | Gloria Sparks | 29 | Jim Smith |
| | Margaret Wheeler | | |
| | Walter Wheeler | | |

Anniversaries



- 7 Tim & Suzie Clendenin
- 9 Dave & Sharon Norman

Eagle Court of Honor

The congregation is invited to Troop 17's Eagle Court of Honor for Olivia Young. Olivia is the first girl to earn the Eagle rank in the troop since the Scouts opened membership to females. The ceremony is Saturday, December 7 at 2:00pm in the Sanctuary with a reception to follow in Roth Hall. Join Olivia and her proud family in this historic Court of Honor!

EUMC TREASURER'S SUMMARY - OCTOBER

End of Month	Budgeted	Year to Date
\$19,254.53	Annual Budget	\$192,544.30
\$13,741.00	General Donations/Tithes Rec'd	\$165,661.93
(\$16,520.97)	Actual Expenses (Lines 100-700)	(\$175,032.59)
(\$2,779.97)	Donations - Expenses = Net	(\$9,370.66)
(\$5,513.43)	Budget - Donations = Budget Delta	(\$26,882.37)

The Parish Voice

ENON UNITED METHODIST CHURCH... 85 Broadway Road, Enon, OH 45323 937.864.7721
 ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICES 135 S. Harrison Street, Enon, OH 45323 937.864.1578

9:30am Sunday School

10:30am Worship Service

www.enonumc.com