

It is the mission of Jackson Center United Methodist Church to: Embrace the needs of all people to bring the love of Jesus, Our Lord and Savior

December 2020
Volume 1, Issue 3

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JC United Methodist Church
202 E Pike Street
PO Box 577
Jackson Center OH 45334

The Guided Light

A Word From The Pastor

Stephen Luzader

The beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ, the Son of God. As it is written in the prophet Isaiah, "See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way; the voice of the one crying out in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight,'" John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. – Mark 1: 1-4

The gospel of Mark does not begin with the warm and fuzzy Nativity story of Jesus' birth but with the voice of one crying out in the wilderness: Prepare the way of the Lord. And so the Advent-ure begins!

The season of Advent has two faces. One is the exciting anticipation of the birth of Jesus so wonderfully sung in the Advent hymns like, "Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus" and "Oh, Come, Oh, Come, Emmanuel." Our hearts yearn once again for the fulfillment of the prophet's promise and even though we know the end of the story in our heads, our hearts can't seem to resist getting caught up in the expectation and the hope of Advent.

The other face that Advent wears is that of John the baptizer who stands in the desert, "clothed with camel's hair; with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey" (Mark 1:6). Our hearts are anxious with the

apocalyptic despair and distress that overtakes all who stand their ground as John "proclaimed, 'The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me,'" (Mark 1:7) We think John was expecting the courageous Avenger who would call down judgement upon our heads!

Therein lies the paradox of Advent: while we anticipate the promises of Advent now familiar with time, we yearn for the overturning of things as they are and crave to participate in the reversal of the control of death and sorrow that presently looms over us globally in the form of a virus. With Mark's bold prophet we cooperate in the Advent-ure of a lifetime, we participate in the age where God's will for justice is come as flesh in our midst, and we anticipate the One who stood under judgement for us and walked in the shadow of death for us.

The absurd Advent-ure cannot be anything but good news because it stirs our hearts, even those cold-hearted places, with a mood of rapturous expectation as the age of the Messiah unexpectedly overturns our lives. The prophet of Advent, John the baptizer cries out to us in a brash and daring way to "Prepare!" and "Make straight!" but he's not talking about Christmas decorations or holiday menus – the bold prophet is talking about our hearts. And with a voice of authority he calls us to inner and outer repentance, to an acknowledgement of the ways we have or have not smoothed out the rough ways for the arrival of our God in the hearts of ourselves and our neighbors.
Continued on page 2

May we find joy in the straight path of the Lord. May the peace and justice that breaks the darkness be freely given to all. May each of us proclaim the good news of the Advent-ure of a lifetime in all we say and do. And may Emmanuel, God with us, come into each of our hearts this season.

Grace and Peace,

Pastor Stephen

2021 JCUMC Officers & Committee Chairs

Chair: Eric Voress
Recording Secretary: Daleen Braun
Treasurer: Wendy Carter
Trustees Chair: Ron Ludwig
Finance Chair: Todd Lotz
SPRC Chair: Kim Voress
Outreach Chair: Amanda Shaffer
Lay Leader: Brent Kerns
Lay Member, Annual Conference: Wendy Carter/Kim Voress
Congregational Care Coordinator: Emily Allison
FLC Treasurer: Jack Toomey
Childrens' Ministry Director: Morgan Shaffer
Student Ministry Director: Jessica Zorn
Worship Chair: Pastor Stephen Luzader

Childrens Ministry

Morgan Shaffer

No report.

Youth Ministry

Jessica Zorn

No report.

Ushers/ Counters/Pew Angels

December Ushers are the Lotz family, Money counters are Larry and Lola Clevenger, and the Pew Angel is Barry Elliott

Lay Readers

Lay Readers for the month of December are:

December 6th – Jack Toomey
December 13th – Amanda Shaffer
December 20th – Barry Elliott
December 24th – Bev Wren
December 27th – Karen Sprague

Card Ministry

Emily Allison

Emily is still sending out cards in the name of the church. Updated numbers will be provided once council meets.

Prayer Chain

Do you have a prayer request through the week that you would like added to the prayer chain? If so, you can do so by calling Rose Ann Kerns at 937-596-5214. If you are not on the prayer chain, but would like to be, please let Rose Ann know and she will get you added to a chain.

UMW News

Sharon Zimpfer

No report given.

Giving

As we continue to navigate through COVID, please don't forget your faithful giving to the church. We have several ways you can give- you can drop it in the offering plate, you can mail it in to the church or drop it off in the office, OR you can sign up for online giving! There is a link on our website, or you can call Amanda for help.

Weekly giving needed to sustain ministry: \$2280.52

Average weekly giving (November) \$1989.00

Church Council

Amanda Shaffer

There is no Council report as it did not meet in November.

Worship Committee

Rev. Stephen Luzader

Worship Committee did not meet as scheduled in November. However, Christmas Eve Service will be Thursday, December 24th @ 6pm.

SPRC News

Kim Voress

No SPRC report.

Outreach News

Amanda Shaffer

Not much to report other than the Ronald McDonald House drive did ok. We will be delivering the items to Dayton next week. Thank you to all who participated and brought in items.

We are doing the Food Pantry Advent Challenge again this year. Envelopes are available on the table in the sanctuary.

Trustees

Ron Ludwig

A big thank you To Moran's Refrigeration for getting our furnace back up and running.

Appalachia Service Mission Trip

What is ASP? ASP is a Christian based outreach ministry that combines meeting physical needs (home repair) with spiritual needs (relationship building) for home owners in parts of Tennessee, Kentucky, West Virginia, North Carolina, and Virginia.

Who Can Go? Any student currently in 8th – 12th grade may serve on an ASP trip. Any adult, who has passed a background check, may serve as a crew leader on an ASP trip. This year we are looking to take two crews which would be 10 students and 4 adult crew leaders. 1 crew = 5 students and 2 adults.

When is the trip? We will be leaving from Jackson Center On Sunday, June 13th and will be returning on Saturday, June 19th, 2021. ALL participants are

required to leave with us on the 13th and return with us on the 19th.

Where are we going? As of this moment we do not know our exact location. Our first choice this year is Kentucky, and our 2nd choice is West Virginia, so, one of those two states.

How much is an ASP trip? This is the big question. Right now it will cost each student between \$700-750, spread out over multiple payments. Do NOT let that number panic you, we are hoping

that number will come down based on donations, and various fundraising projects. If you are interested n going but feel money may be an issue, please talk with us before saying "no".

What's next? If you are interested in reserving a spot on this year's trip you will need to fill out a Volunteer Statement and Registration Form along with your \$150.00 non-refundable (unless the trip is cancelled) payment. The deadline to register is January 18th, 2021, OR when all slots are filled. Anyone registering after all 10 spots are filled will be put on a waiting list. IF we have enough on the waiting list to form a third crew, we will.

If you would like more information, have questions, or would like a registration form, please contact the church office at (937) 596-6919.

This Month's Events

December 1st @ 7pm

Sanctuary, JCUMC
UMW Meeting

December 10th @ 7pm

Fellowship Halle, JCUMC
Church Council

December 15th @ 7pm

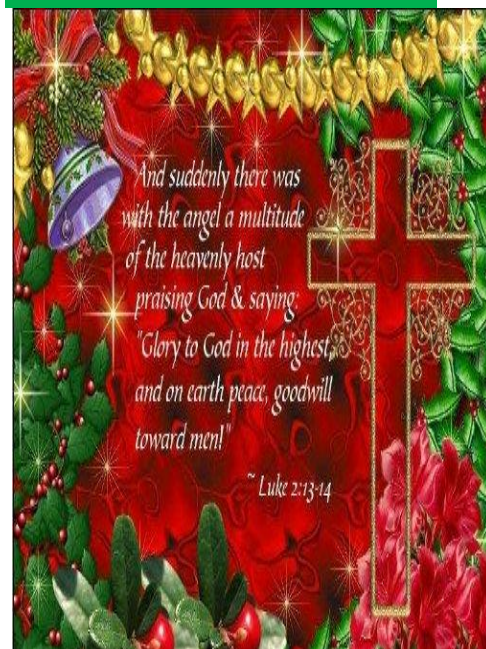
Lounge, JCUMC
Worship Committee

December 24th @ 6pm

Sanctuary, JCUMC
Christmas Even Service

December 27th

JCUMC
Advent Challenges Due



2021 Committees

Trustees:

Ron Ludwig
John Klinger
Warren Sprague Jr
Tim Rostorfer
Deb Elliott
Tyler Pence
Vic Hurley

Finance:

Todd Lotz
Bev Wren
Brent Kerns
Deb Elliott
Wendy Carter
Deb Mann
Evan Zorn

SPRC:

Kim Voress
Ricki Maxwell
Ashleigh Gross
Stephen Luzader
Jack Toomey
Wendy Carter
Brent Kerns
Erin Pence

Mission/Outreach:

Amanda Shaffer
Ashleigh Gross
Jess Zorn
John Klinger
Kira Klinger
Deb Elliott
Ricki Maxwell
Karinne Lotz
Dailyn Shaffer

Worship:

Stephen Luzader
Clara Mae Leininger
Cora May Heintz
Amanda Shaffer
Emily Allison
Terri Hejduk
Bev Wren
Kathy Smith
Dee Schramm
Ricki Maxwell

If you would like to be a lay reader, please let the office know. We are always in need of fill-in readers, and you can be added into the rotation for the second half of the year.

The 2021 Church budget was confirmed at the charge conference on November 18th and is available outside the office or at the back of the sanctuary if you are interested in one.

2021 Lay Reader Schedule

Jan 3rd: Bev Suttles
Jan. 10th: Jack Toomey
Jan. 17th: Amanda Shaffer
Jan 24th: Barry Elliott
Jan. 31st: Bev Wren
Feb 7th: Karen Sprague
Feb. 14th: Wendy Carter
Feb 21st: Bev Suttles
Feb 22nd: Jack Toomey
Feb 28th: Amanda Shaffer
March 7th: Barry Elliott
March 14th: Bev Wren
March 21st: Karen Sprague
March 28th: Wendy Carter
April 4th: Bev Suttles
April 11th: Jack Toomey
April 18th: Amanda Shaffer
April 25th: Barry Elliott
May 2nd: Bev Wren
May 9th: Karen Sprague
May 16th: Wendy Carter
May 23rd: Bev Suttles
May 30th: Jack Toomey
June 6th: Community Service
June 13th: Amanda Shaffer
June 20th: Barry Elliott
June 27th: Bev Wren

December

Birthdays & Anniversaries

Sun		Mon		Tue		Wed		Thu		Fri		Sat
				1		2 Shia Akers		3 Kaeden Frye		4 Jeanne Williams Sean Wren		5
6		7		8		9		10		11 Mark & Kathy Myers Marc Wahrer		12
13		14 Presley Reese		15 Mark & Kathy Bunke		16		17 Austin Shaffer		18 Kathy Lotz		19
20 Ann Bell		21		22		23		24		25 Jim Dodge		26 Rita Hurley
27		28		29		30 Lola Clevenger		31				



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