



## Good News

***Together***, we seek to know Christ and make him known.

### From the Rector

This month's edition of the Episcopal Church Foundations publication "*Vital Practices*" highlighted personal stories of joy and gratitude. One of the stories shared was that of a 17 year old young man, Jaivan Mohorko, who is a self-professed baseball player and proud Puerto Rican.

Reading his essay *Thoughts on Joy* was a joy in itself because it gave me such hope for the future. If our future is inhabited by people like Jaivan, then all will be well indeed.

In his essay, Jaivan reflected upon the fleeting nature of joy, which comes and goes in his life in the blink of an eye. Jaivan recounted that his life is busy and complex with many school, job, and home responsibilities. He spoke about how it could sometimes be hard to find joy in his life when his responsibilities become overwhelming and he feels ill-equipped to deal with them..

Jaivan's solution to the feelings of anxiety and inadequacy he sometimes experiences is to "fall in love with life." To him this means to pay attention to the everyday "stuff" of living, like drinking a perfectly sweetened cup of tea, or taking a walk, or hearing a Mariah Carey song, and to appreciate them in the moment. When we do this, Jaivan says, "finding joy will become a lot easier."

As he sees it, joy can come in many forms and guises such as music, art, and friends. For him, his greatest source of joy is in the experience of being a big sibling. Jaivan gets joy out of helping his siblings find joy! What could be better than that!

To Jaivan finding joy in uncertain times is just a matter of believing that joy will return. Once we do this, then we can begin to experience the joy to be found in every moment of our lives, in the acceptance of what is, and the expectancy of what can be. *(cont.back page)*



# Christmas Giving Tree

The pandemic continues affecting not only health and safety but our nation's economy as well. Families continue to struggle just making ends meet with stretched pay checks with only enough to cover daily expenses like rent, food and utilities.

This year St. Andrew is adopting two families to help. You can spread the joy of Christ and help by selecting a paper ornament off the tree and providing a gift card or item to help our families have a Merry Christmas!

Please note, one of our families includes children with Autism. The disorder impacts a person's social skills, communication, relationships, and self-regulation. While the Autism experience is different for everyone, it is often defined by a certain set of behaviors that affects people differently and to varying degrees. Some of the gift tags on our giving tree specify a certain brand item. The brand is very important to our Autistic children and so we ask that if you take a tag with a specific brand request, you try to provide the item as listed.

If you are able to help please take a tag off the tree, purchase the item and return it to St. Andrew by Sunday, December 19th.



## Pop Up Christmas Pageant Returns

A "Pop-up" pageant will be held again at this year's Christmas eve service. Any child (or adult) attending may participate and bring to life the birth of Jesus as the gospel is read. Just before the gospel,

### Dates to Remember: December

- 5 - Food Pantry Distribution, 1 PM
- 12 - Chocolate Orders due
- 14 - Food Pantry Distribution, 1 PM
- 15 - Vestry Meeting, 6:30 PM
- 15 - Food Pantry Distribution, 6:30 PM
- 18 - Altar Guild All Clean, 9:30 AM
- 19 - Return Giving Tree Gifts
- 22 - Food Pantry Distribution, 6:30 PM
- 24 - Christmas Eve Eucharist, 7 PM
- 25 - Morning Prayer (online only), 10:30 AM

**In-person worship Sundays at 10:30 AM and Noon. Virtual Services on St. Andrew Facebook (10:30 AM) and YouTube (10:45 AM) every other week. Links are posted each week on our website: [www.standrew-mentor.com](http://www.standrew-mentor.com).**



*And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in swaddling cloths and laid him in a manger.*

children step out into the Narthex and put on a simple costume. Some will be shepherds, some will be sheep, some will be angels! Then during the gospel reading, children will take center stage as we tell the good news of the Savior's birth. Questions? Ask Rev. Lisa!

# Celebrate the Birth of Jesus!



For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord!

## St. Andrew Celebrations:

### Christmas Eve

Friday, December 24:

*Holy Eucharist with Organ, Choir & Praise Band. 7:00 PM*

### Christmas Day

*Online Morning Prayer with music, 10:30 AM*

This year, we are especially thankful we are able to gather in person on Christmas Eve and celebrate the birth of Christ.

After much thought, we have decided to have just one Holy Eucharist at 7 PM in the hopes that we all can gather as one body, one community, to share the joy of our Savior's Holy birth. With organ, praise band and choir we will welcome Christ the Lord born anew in our hearts and in the world.

## Help our Sanctuary Family and Order Christmas Chocolates

Laura and her family continue to await the issuance of their U-visa filed in April 2018. While they lived at St. Andrew Mary Provins taught Laura to make chocolates. Over the past several years she has become quite skilled at creating scrumptious treats.

This Christmas you can continue to support the family by ordering Christmas Chocolates. The holiday goodies are terrific stocking stuffers or a wonderful gift for a co-worker, friend or neighbor. Donations made through these orders will help Laura maintain housing for her family while she continues to await her U-visa and work permit.

Order forms are available in the Narthex. Please make checks payable to Laura Martinez and return your order form to St. Andrew Episcopal Church, or email orders to standrewmentor@gmail.com. Order for Christmas by December 12th and pick up at St. Andrew on Sunday December 19th.



### Wish List:

Looking for a computer-savvy parishioner to help a disabled pantry neighbor set up a computer and phone. Should require less than 2 hours of time. Contact Rev. Lisa for details. 440-255-8842 or email revlisastandrew@gmail.com



## 205th Convention

The 205th Annual Convention of the Diocese of Ohio was held on November 12-13th virtually to ensure safety due to the ongoing pandemic.

Delegates from the 84 parishes met virtually to approve the diocesan program and budget, elect persons to various committees serving the diocese, adopt resolutions, and approve changes in the Constitution and Canons of the diocese.

Bishop Hollingsworth gave an inspirational address on Friday evening talking about his upcoming retirement and the search for a new Bishop for the Diocese of Ohio. The address also focused on racial injustice and our duty as a parish and Christians to recognize, confront and correct those injustices. You may read his address at [www.dohio.org](http://www.dohio.org).

St. Andrew was represented by Brian Sandacz, Andy Spiesman, and our clergy Rev. Lisa O'Rear and Rev. Dawson Moorer.

## Return Your Pledge Card

Thank you so much to those who have returned pledge cards. We appreciate your commitment in supporting the ministries of St. Andrew.

If you have not yet pledged, please do so! The perfect gift is one that is shared - and your offering of Time, Talent and Treasure are much needed here at St. Andrew!

# December Celebrations

## Anniversaries

Kevin & Erin Koehler 28

## Birthdays

Samantha Heim 02  
Deborah Dittebrand 03  
Barbara Sopko 04  
Carol Pengov 06  
Bonnie Semenik 07  
Betsy Lee 07  
Shawn Dittebrand 11  
Joe Papaleo 14  
Barb Kovacs 15  
Chris Peshek 16  
Brian Sandacz 19  
Beth Brown 22  
Conrad Galayda 22  
LilySitkowski 27

*Don't see your Birthday or Anniversary? Contact the Office at 440-255-8842 and let us know!*



## Food Pantry News

- We plan on giving out Christmas Food Baskets. Parish members are asked to donate Brownie mixes and No-Bake Cheesecake mixes to include in the baskets.
- With many of our snowbird volunteers leaving for Florida, we could use some extra help on St. Andrew distribution days. Lend a hand for a few hours each month (first Sunday and second Tuesday each month 1 - 3 PM). If you can help please contact Barb Sopko at 440-354-2844

## From the Rector (*continued from page 1*)

For us who follow the Way of Christ, exemplars of joyful living abound in the Christmas story. In Zechariah, who, doubting, learned to believe; in John the Baptist, who made himself small in order lift Jesus up; in Joseph, who let go of ego and offered shelter and a father's love to the son of another; and in Mary, who relinquished her body, soul, and agency to give Jesus human life, human love, and the opportunity to thrive.

Each of these ancestors of the faith suffered great adversity in the living of their lives and might well have given in to doubt and despair at any point in their stories. Yet their faith in God held them fast and their expectancy of what could be sustained them.

May it be for us during our time of waiting on joy, as it is for Jaivan, and as it was for the spiritual ancestors. May we find the joy we seek in the living of our challenging, uncertain, and complicated lives-in song, prayer, work, love, service, and always, dreaming. May we pay attention to the small pleasures we experience every day, and find the world enough until it be born again in Emmanuel and in us.

## Altar Guild All Clean

Join us for the All Clean on Saturday, Dec. 18th at 9:30 AM. Team members, and anyone who wants to help will:

- \* **polish silver & brass**
- \* **dust & mop altar area**
- \* **set up for the upcoming services**
- \* **change hangings**
- \* **fill candles with oil**
- \* **change all the linens**

For information call June Webb at 440-823-3844



## Christmas Flowers and Decorating

Please join us in decorating St. Andrew for Christmas! The flower guild will be decorating on Wednesday, December 22rd from 1:00 pm to 2:30 pm. Everyone is welcome to help out and no experience is necessary.

We are also collecting donations for Christmas flowers and candles during Advent. To donate, please fill out the below form, put "Flower Guild" on the memo line and:

- Place it in the collection plate
- Mail it to St. Andrew, 7989 Little Mountain Rd., Mentor, OH 44060

Given By \_\_\_\_\_

[ ] In Memory of \_\_\_\_\_

[ ] In Memory of Loved Ones

[ ] In Thanksgiving (optional for \_\_\_\_\_)

Amount \_\_\_\_\_