



# Good News

DECEMBER 2024

## CHRISTMAS SERVICES AND EVENTS

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### **Jingle Bell Jam**

Saturday December 7 at 7:00pm- All welcome-all ages

Free will offering

**Proceeds to benefit St. Andrew/Advent Choice Pantry**

### **A Glimpse of Celtic Spirituality**

*The Rhythms of the Celtic Year and Dreams of Celtic Saints*

Thursdays: December 5, 12, and 19 at 6pm to 7:30 pm.

Sign up in the Narthex

### **Christmas Eve**

Tuesday December 24 at 7 pm

**Choral Eucharist with Carols**

### **Christmas Day**

Wednesday December 25 at 9:00 am

**Simple Holy Eucharist with Christmas Carols**

### **First Sunday in Christmas**

Sunday, December 29<sup>th</sup> at 10:30 am

**Christmas Lessons and Carols**

## WEEKLY SERVICES

### **Traditional Choral Holy Eucharist**

10:30 am – first and third Sundays

### **Contemporary Holy Eucharist with Band**

10:30 am- second and fourth Sundays

### **Noon Contemporary Eucharist-starting 1-25-25**

Second and fourth Sundays-Narthex

## MEN'S CLUB

The Men's Club is meeting on Monday, December 2<sup>nd</sup> at 7:00 pm at St. Andrew. Bring \$5 for Pizza. We will talk about the Book of Jonah, and discuss future plans and ideas for the group. Reach out to Alec Lawlor (at 216.905.8406) with any questions.

## STEWARDSHIP

Stewardship forms due on Dec. 1<sup>st</sup>. If you have not filled out your form and returned it to church, please do so ASAP.

## JINGLE BELL JAM

Invite your family, friends and neighbors to our second annual Jingle Bell Jam! This is a free concert (donations accepted) featuring Jon "Guggy" Guggenheim, Anitakeys and our very own Chris Peschek and Ed Bridge. Concert is free with optional donations. Snacks and drinks will be available.

## Important Dates in December

- 01 Sunday Eucharist 10:30 am  
Stewardship Forms Due  
Food Pantry 1 pm
- 02 Women's Bible Study 1:00  
Men's Group 7 pm
- 04 Adventures in Spirituality 10:30
- 05 Food Pantry Delivery 10:30 am  
Celtic Spirituality 6:00 pm
- 07 Jingle Bell Jam 7 pm
- 08 Sunday Eucharist 10:30 am
- 09 Women's Bible Study 1:00
- 10 Food Pantry 1 pm
- 11 Adventures in Spirituality 10:30
- 12 Celtic Spirituality 6:00 pm
- 15 Sunday Eucharist 10:30
- 16 Women's Bible Study 1 pm
- 18 Adventures in Spirituality 10:30  
Vestry 6:30
- 19 Celtic Spirituality 6:00 pm
- 21 Altar Guild All Clean 9:30 am
- 22 Sunday Eucharist 10:30 am  
Christmas Caroling 11:45 am  
Flower Guild Decorating noon
- 23 Women's Bible Study 1:00
- 24 Christmas Eve Service 6:30 pm
- 25 Christmas Day Service
- 29 Sunday Eucharist 10:30 am

## GIVING TREE



Our Giving Tree will be back in the narthex this December. In addition to gift cards for gas and groceries, we are also collecting toys for one of our pantry guests. This guest is helping to raise her two twin granddaughters, age 7, named Brandy and Brittany. She doesn't drive and has trouble getting out.

### Gifts Requested:

- Black baby doll with stroller
- Any Black Disney barbie doll
- Disney Bed in a Bag -twin size
- Fake food-kitchen sets
- Kids jewelry
- Kids suitcase, pink (x2)
- Disney Games
- Nightgowns size 8
- slippers -large kids (anything girlie or Disney)
- Baby Doll clothes
- scarf and glove sets (x2)
- purse
- jogging set size 8
- clothes size 8
- Easy Bake Oven (*I always wanted one*)
- Socks-children's large
- pajamas
- underwear size 8
- dress up clothes
- candy
- stocking stuffers-kids make up, chapsticks, etc.

Please bring gifts to the office either unwrapped or wrapped and labeled.

## December Celebrations

### BIRTHDAYS

- 02 Samantha Heim
- 03 Deborah Dittebrand
- 04 Barbara Sopko
- 06 Carol Pengov
- 07 Bonnie Semenik
- 07 Betsy Lee
- 11 Shawn Dittebrand
- 14 Joe Papaleo
- 16 Chris Peshek
- 19 Brian Sandacz
- 22 Beth Brown
- 27 Lily Sitkowski

### ANNIVERSARIES

- 31 Stephan and Megan Grau

## CHRISTMAS CAROLING

Please join us for Christmas caroling to the Homebound, on Sunday, December 22nd!

It is a long-standing tradition of St Andrew's Fire, our contemporary

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Music Group, to spread holiday cheer by singing to the homebound of our parish and other homebound friends and family members.

All ages and voices are welcome. Participants are asked to bring a poinsettia plant or small treat as a gift to our homebound audiences.

Please contact Marybeth Primeau at 440-476-4873 or [mbprimeau@gmail.com](mailto:mbprimeau@gmail.com), if you'd like to join us, or to request that we make a visit to someone you know.

We'll be meeting in the Narthex right after the 10:30 am service on December 22nd, estimating around 11:45 am, and will carpool to our visits. The more the merrier!!!



Our Caroling  
Tradition Continues  
*at St. Andrew*  
Sunday, December 22nd

## FLOWER GUILD

**Christmas Decorating:** The flower guild is decorating the church on Sunday, December 22<sup>nd</sup> after the 10:30 service. Additional help is always needed and very welcome.

**Christmas Flowers:** St. Andrew is collecting for Christmas Poinsettias and Candles through Sunday, December 15th. To donate, fill the attached Christmas Flower form out and either

mail it to the church or place in the collection basket along with your donation.

**Altar Flowers:** Events and memorials can be commemorated at St. Andrew by purchasing altar flowers for a Sunday service in 2025 (note that flowers are not used during Lent and Advent.) J. D. Ballentine's Flowers and Gifts in Mentor creates beautiful arrangements for us for a quite modest amount. The amount for the two altar arrangements is \$60.

To commemorate an event with altar flowers, please fill out the attached form and either mail it to church or place in the collection basket. Forms will also be available at church.

If you have questions or want to see if a particular date is available, please contact Janna Penkowski at [janna.penkowski@gmail.com](mailto:janna.penkowski@gmail.com) or by phone at 440.477.9084.

Thank you very much for all the faithful donations you make to decorate our church home for Sunday services and the Holidays!

Janna Penkowski, St. Andrew  
Flower Guild

## ALTAR GUILD

Reminder – the Altar Guild All Clean is on Saturday, December 21<sup>st</sup> at

St. Andrew Episcopal Church, 7989 Little Mountain Road, Mentor, Ohio 44060  
[standrewmentor@gmail.com](mailto:standrewmentor@gmail.com) - 440.255.8842



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9:30 am. Please come help to polish and clean for Christmas!

June Webb

## ELECTION DAY BAKE SALE



Thanks to all who helped out for the Election Day Bake Sale. We received over \$1000 in donations and had many happy customers!

The Celtic people were particularly drawn to the spiritual essence of boundary places, and living on physical boundaries symbolized liminality to them – living (literally) and spiritually between worlds – the material world and the spiritual world. Thus, notes Valters Paintner, the Celtic Church grew on the borders of civilization, beyond the reach of the Roman Empire.

Elizabeth Hunter, editor of *Gather* magazine, reminds us that Advent is a threshold – a *liminal* time. Advent is a time of transition – a doorway between old and new, and we are invited to let go of what has been, while not knowing what will be. We are invited to experience Advent as much more than a Christmas countdown, notes Hunter, that begins around Thanksgiving (earlier this year!), when we start seeing Christmas ads on television, or hear friends talking about making Christmas cookies, or attend Christmas programs all the way through Advent.

## A NOTE FROM THE BENCH

### Advent is a Threshold



The Celts described thresholds as *thin times or places* – where heaven and earth are close together, and the veil between our worlds is thin, says present day mystic

Christine Valters Paintner in her book *The Soul's Slow Ripening*. We experience thresholds as *spaces between*, inviting us to new seasons of the awareness of our connection to the Holy.

Thresholds are physical places inviting us to wonder. Thresholds are *liminal* times and places – those of transition.

Advent is about preparation, anticipation, joy and transition. We look for Christ coming into the world in that Bethlehem stable, and today in Word and Sacrament – as well as that time when God will make all things new – All *liminal* and *threshold* times.

Hunter notes that Advent, today, requires courage, especially around things that around things we would

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rather avoid – and thereby missing a threshold opportunity. In this Advent Season, a *liminal* time between old and new, as we prepare and anticipate with joy, what do we do about poverty, violence, greed, apathy, patriarchy, white supremacy, Christian Nationalism, and the fear in ourselves and in our world? Has the threshold door of Advent been closed tightly and locked? In Advent we experience God being near, with an invitation and an opportunity to experience (unlock) and walk through this Advent threshold. May this Advent be an invitation to us to join in the work of Christ as we anticipate and prepare with joy. (And better yet, may we *accept* God's invitation to recognize this threshold, and walk through it with boldness and courage – not only this Advent, but always.)

If you would like to explore thresholds, and the rhythm of Celtic Spirituality, I invite you to join me for a portion of a larger retreat I will facilitate in West Virginia in Spring, 2025. We will gather three times (and the number three had special significance to the Celts as a symbol of spiritual strength and connection to God) this Advent for a mini-retreat – Thursdays, December 5, 12, 19 from 6-7:30pm – to explore and experience a small taste of Celtic Spirituality. First, we will explore the thresholds of the Celts, and in our own lives. Next, we will explore the rhythm of the Celtic seasons, and finally the dreams of the Celtic Saints, and a dream circle together. We will *walk the rounds* together, as we prepare and anticipate with joy, keeping in mind God's invitation to wrestle with some things we avoid.

This Advent, may you

*Awaken to the mystery of being here*

*Enter the quiet immensity of your own presence.  
Have joy and peace in the temple of your senses.  
Receive encouragement when new frontiers beckon.  
Respond to the call of your gift, and the courage to follow its path.  
Let the flame of anger free you of all falsity.  
Have warmth of heart keep your presence aflame.  
Have anxiety never linger about you.  
Take time to celebrate the quiet miracles that seek no attention.  
Be consoled by the sacred symmetry of your soul.  
Experience each day as a sacred gift woven around the heart of wonder.*

John O'Donohue, *To Bless the Space Within Us*

May it be so. Advent Blessings, and may this be a liminal time for you,  
John Spiesman, Organist

Food for the journey:  
Valters Paintner, C. (2024). *A midwinter God: Encountering the divine in seasons of darkness*. Notre Dame, IN. Sorin.  
Valters Paintner, C. ((2018) *The soul's slow ripening: 12 Celtic practices for seeking the sacred*. Notre Dame, IN. Sorin.

# PARISH CALENDAR

**10:30 am 2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday Online  
Worship with music  
10:30 am Eucharist Service with Music**

## St. Andrew Episcopal Church December 2024 Parish Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Due to rain-Fit4Mom's will meet **8-9a Fit4Mom's	**6-7:30p Fit4Mom's	**6:30-7:30p Fit4Mom's-Assembly rm	**8:30-9:30a Fit4Mom's	**4:30 and 7p Fit4Mom's		**8:30-9:30a Fit4Mom's
<b>1</b> 10:30a Eucharist w Music <b>1-3 Choice Pantry Need Help</b>	<b>2</b> <b>1:00 Bible Study</b> 6:00 3 Legged Beginners AA <b>7:00 Men's Club</b> 7:15 12X12 Little Mountain AA	<b>3</b> 12:15 AA 7-8 Augustine Flwshp	<b>4</b> 10:30-12:30Tai Chi <b>10:30-12:30 Adv. In Spirituality</b> 7:30p McD AA	<b>5</b> 8-5 Chris-W.R. <b>10:30 a-Food Delivery Need help</b> <b>6 p Celtic Spirituality</b> <b>7p Choir</b>	<b>6</b> 12:15 p AA	<b>7</b> Ping Pong 10:30-12:30Tai Chi 2-4 Truth & Love 7-8 Sat.Nite Live NA <b>7pm Jingle Bell Jam</b>
<b>8</b> 10:30a Contemporary Eucharist w Music/, Online service	<b>9</b> <b>1:00 Bible Study</b> 6:00 3 Legged Beginners AA 7:15 12X12 Little Mountain AA	<b>10</b> 12:15 AA <b>1-3 Choice Pantry Need Help</b> 6-Boy Scouts 7-8 Augustine Flwshp	<b>11</b> 10:30-12:30Tai Chi <b>10:30-12:30 Adv. In Spirituality</b> <b>6:30 p Finance</b> 7:30p McD AA	<b>12</b> 8-5 Chris-W.R. <b>6 p Celtic Spirituality</b> <b>7p Choir</b>	<b>13</b> 12:15p AA	<b>14</b> Ping Pong 10:30-12:30Tai Chi 2-4 Truth & Love 7-8 Sat.Nite Live NA
<b>15</b> 10:30a Contemporary Eucharist w Music/, Online service	<b>16</b> <b>1:00 Bible Study</b> 6:00 3 Legged Beginners AA 7:15 12X12 Little Mountain AA	<b>17</b> 12:15 AA 6-Boy Scouts 7-8 Augustine Flwshp	<b>18</b> 8-5 Chris-W.R. 10:30-12:30Tai Chi <b>10:30-12:30 Adv. In Spirituality</b> <b>6:30 p Vestry</b> 7:30p McD AA	<b>19</b> 8-5 Chris-W.R. 10:30 a-Food Delivery <b>6 p Celtic Spirituality</b> <b>7p Choir</b> 6:30 pm Death Café/Phia Art	<b>20</b> 12:15p AA	<b>21</b> <b>9:30 Altar Guild All Clean</b> Ping Pong 10:30-12:30Tai Chi 2-4 Truth & Love 7-8 Sat.Nite Live NA Fit4Mom's Christmas Party
<b>22</b> 10:30a Contemporary Eucharist w Music/, Online service <b>11:45 Christmas Caroling</b> <b>12 Flower Guild Decorating</b>	<b>23</b> <b>1:00 Bible Study</b> 6:00 3 Legged Beginners AA 7:15 12X12 Little Mountain AA	<b>24</b> 12:15 AA 7pm Eucharist with Carols	<b>25</b> 9 am Simple Eucharist w Carols  7:30p McD AA	<b>26</b> 8-5 Chris-W.R. <b>7p Choir</b>	<b>27</b> 12:15p AA	<b>28</b> Ping Pong 10:30-12:30Tai Chi 2-4 Truth & Love 7-8 Sat.Nite LiveNA
<b>29</b> 10:30a Contemporary Eucharist w Music/, Online service 2 p The Experience AA- (Assembly Rm)	<b>30</b> 6:00 3 Legged Beginners AA 7:15 12X12 Little Mountain AA(Assembly Rm)	<b>31</b> 12:15 AA 6-Boy Scouts 7-8 Augustine Flwshp				

