

MARK YOUR CALENDAR WITH THESE UPCOMING EVENTS

Meet Your Governing Board Lunch and Discussion—Sunday, January 19th after service. The sign-up sheet is on the hall table. Find out what the board does and what role you play.

Coffee Hour Sign-up Sheet— In January and February we need people to make coffee and bring goodies. Instructions are posted on the wall in the hall above the coffee hour table. Note: There is no Coffee Hour on January 19th, because of the Governing. Board lunch.

Please Pardon the Late Notice, but if you are free today between 4:00-5:00 p.m., you are invited to attend a prayer service for our Immigrant/Refugee/Migrant friends and neighbors sponsored by the Dominican Sisters and Associates of Peace to continue for the 2020 National Migration Week. Being held at Our Lady of the Elms—Akron Motherhouse Chapel, 1230 W. Market St. If you wish to stay for a light supper following, you must RSVP to Connie Dubick, 330-864-0949.

After the Earthquake, Solar Makes a Difference in Puerto Rico—Because we focus on relationships at Solar Under the Sun, we were of course concerned when several earthquakes shook the island of Puerto Rico. We were blessed by all of the people we encountered during the Solar School that we conducted last November, and we were interested in their well-being. In a text exchange with Omar Rodriguez, who after stating that he and his family were safe, he added – “We are going to open the solar house to the neighborhood for the first time. The whole island is out of power.” Because of your support, neighborhoods and communities are being served through the gift of solar power. May God bless and care for our brothers and sisters in Puerto Rico.

Please turn your Acme Community Cashback Receipts in as soon as possible so they can be submitted before the deadline.

Our **Wednesday Afternoon Bible Study** is once again being held on at 4:00 p.m. Everyone is invited. All are encouraged to attend.

New Initiatives meeting notes from this past Tuesday are on the hall table. Pick up a copy and see what we’re about.

The Missions Committee meeting has been moved to this Tuesday, Jan. 14, 4:30 p.m. in the Sanctuary.

Pastor
Tom Ulrich

Director of Music
Marlys Hershberger

Audio-Visual
Carol Davis

Liturgist
Susie Stevenor

Communion
Hal and Jackie Horton

Ushers
Cathy King, Mary Norval,
Charles Rader, Clarita Rader

New Covenant Community Church

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NEW COVENANT
COMMUNITY CHURCH

Baptism of the Lord Sunday

Church Service 10:30 am

January 12, 2020

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Rev. Tom Ulrich

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

Susie Stevenor

Leader: God blesses us with the water of life to cleanse us from our bondage to sin.

People: May the rivers of God’s mercy flow over us, so that we can live redeemed lives.

Leader: God leads us to the fountain of hope that renews creation and refreshes the soul.

People: Let us celebrate the new beginnings that God shares with us, so that we can live by faith.

Leader: The wellspring of God’s grace overflows with living water to strengthen us in discipleship.

People: As we receive the miracle of new life, let us promote God’s work and follow God’s way in all that we do.

***HYMN**

We Know that Christ Is Raised

#495

PRAYERS OF CONFESSION

Susie Stevenor

Leader: The opportunity to confess our sins enables us to relinquish the burden we may be carrying, to release the guilt we may be experiencing, and to be invited into the possibility of reconciliation that is available through the grace of God. Let us therefore acknowledge our transgressions before the One who calls all of us to a life of forgiveness and repentance. Trusting in the mercy and love of our Lord, let us pray:

People: Radiant Redeemer, Messenger of mercy, Fountain of forgiveness, while we are grateful that Jesus has identified with us through His baptism, we confess that we have often reduced its meaning to the words of a prescribed ritual. Forgive us, Lord, when the holy sacrament we acknowledge has not been matched by holy living, and have mercy upon us when the outward sign of baptism has not been consistent with the inward change it signifies. Cleanse us through the waters of Your grace, and grant that the currents of baptism would lead us to fulfill Your mission and promote the righteousness instituted by Jesus Christ our Lord, in whose name we pray. (Silent)

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS (adapted from Colossians 2:12-13)

Susie Stevenor

Leader: As we were buried with Christ in baptism, we were also raised with Christ through faith in the power of God, who raised Jesus from the dead.

People: When we were dead in our trespasses, God made us alive together with Christ, as God forgave us all our trespasses, and erased the record which stood against us.

Leader: Friends, believe the good news of the gospel.

People: Through the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!

***GLORIA PATRI**

(See screens)

Glory be to the Father, and the Son,
and the Holy Ghost;
As it was in the beginning,
Is now, and ever shall be,
World without end. Amen.
As it was in the beginning,
Is now, and ever shall be,
World without end. Amen.
Amen. Amen. Amen. Amen.
Amen. Amen. Amen.

***PASSING THE PEACE**

Susie Stevenor

Leader: Those of us who have experienced the blessings of the water of renewal and the Spirit of the living God can proclaim with our lives the good news of Christ's peace. Let us therefore greet one another with the peace of Christ.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

Rev. Tom Ulrich

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.

READING FROM THE WORD

Isaiah 42:1-9

***HYMN**

Baptized in Water

#492

READING FROM THE WORD

Matthew 3:13-17

PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD

"Water Marks"

REFLECTIONS ON THE WORD

(Congregants are invited to share any thoughts and questions concerning today's proclamation.)

***HYMN**

I Come with Joy

#507

***AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

from *"The Apostles' Creed"*

**I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth.
And in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord;
who was conceived by the Holy Ghost,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, dead, and buried;
he descended into hell;
the third day he rose again from the dead;
he ascended into heaven,
and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty;
from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Ghost;
the holy catholic Church;
the communion of saints;
the forgiveness of sins;
the resurrection of the body;
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

TITHES AND OFFERINGS

***DOXOLOGY**

(See Screens)

We give Thee but Thine own,
Whate'er the gift may be;
All that we have is Thine alone
A trust, O Lord, from Thee.

***PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

Invitation to the Table

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Leader: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Leader: Lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them up to the Lord.

Leader: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Words of Institution and Communion of the People

Prayer after Communion

We have "open" communion, therefore all who desire a closer relationship with God and want to share in the love of Jesus Christ are invited to participate fully in the sacrament.

***HYMN**

We are Marching in the Light of God

(See screens)

***BENEDICTION**

***RESPONSE**

Surely the Presence of the Lord

(See screens)

Surely, the presence
Of the Lord is in this place;
I can feel His mighty power and His grace;
I can hear the brush of angel's wings;
I see glory on each face.
Surely the presence
Of the Lord is in this place.

* congregation standing (if able)