

# THE MESSENGER

NEW COVENANT  
COMMUNITY CHURCH  
Sunday Worship 10:30 a.m.  
GOSPEL OF CHRIST  
MINISTRIES  
Sunday 1:00 p.m. Wednesday 7:00 p.m.

*A prison cell,  
in which one **waits** and **hopes**,  
and which is  
completely dependent  
on the fact that  
the door of freedom  
**has to be opened from the outside**,  
is not a bad picture of Advent.*  
~ Dietrich Bonhoeffer

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Advent . . .

a time of expectation . . .

with humanity holding its breath . . .

waiting for  
something,

Someone,

that will be born into the world . . .

listening to the messengers

whose expressions are often discounted,

whose wisdom is usually ignored,

whose protests are occasionally unheard . . .

straining to hear prophet's voice that,

in a language of love,

utters a mysterious series of letters, syllables –

E

*(Advent continued on page 2)*



*(Advent continued from page 1)*

As the Advent lyrics are unleashed upon the landscape,

humanity holds its breath,

as those who hunger and thirst for righteousness

find their way

through a wilderness of commercialism

to a garden of grace,

where they are nourished

with a sacramental bread and drink

from the fountain of life . . .

where anthems whispering through the night air

awaken us from the lethargy of indifference

and convey the inescapable truth that reveals a

new reality,

and where we attempt to decipher the

prophet's mysterious code of letters and syllables...

**MM**

Humanity holds its breath

as the prophet's cadences cascade across creation . . .

searching out

whatever,

whoever, is

hidden or hurting,

lost or lurid,

unfair or forgotten,

in peril or in pain...

surging

into every corridor where power distracts us from faith,

into every office where profit overshadows principle,

into every room where hearts, hopes, relationships, are broken ...

and we seek to discern loving language of the prophet's letters...

**ANU**

*(Advent continued on page 3)*

## **Making Plans**

**The Fellowship Committee will meet Wednesday, December 15 at 11:30 at the Sandwich Board.**

**We will plan the event and to look into plans for the next month or so.**





*(Advent continued from page 2)*

Even now, during this Advent season,  
 humanity holds its breath,  
 as new visions of what is yet to be pirouette upon the planet . . .  
 as we look for that day when soldiers, like the lions and lambs,  
 will sleep in heavenly peace  
 beneath a star that leads us on a new way . . .  
 and as humankind's midnight dreams dawn in the rapturous  
 light of life . . .  
 and the prophet's voice intones the final strophe –  
 EL

At Advent, we wait . . .  
 we wait in expectation  
 for the One of whom the prophet spoke in his language of love . . .  
 Emmanuel . . .  
 where in the fullness of time,  
 the Word became flesh . . .  
 and true life was discovered in a manger.



## Poinsettias

For a memorial poinsettia, please make a donation in any amount. In the memo line of your check or on your offering envelope please indicate  
 “poinsettia in memory of \_\_\_\_\_.”

As we continue to worship with our colleagues at Westminster throughout the month of December, there are additional dates you may want to mark on your calendar.

On **December 12**, our morning worship service will include the Children's Pageant as well as Communion.

On **December 19**, along with our morning worship



service at 10:30 a.m., there will be a Jazz Vesper Service at 4:00 p.m. in the sanctuary at Westminster.

And, of course, on **December 24**, the Christmas Eve Candlelight Service will be held at 5:00 p.m.

Please mark these dates on your calendar in order to enhance the seasons of Advent and Christmas.





## MINUTE FOR MISSIONS

With refugee resettlement from Afghanistan ongoing, we will be contributing monetarily and with our gifts. Our church has already collected well over \$300 from our generous congregation and if you would like to contribute, that would be wonderful. We have chosen to help a local Army veteran, Sgt. Matt Carpenter, from Wadsworth, who is working to relocate several families of his unit's interpreters and to get them out of Afghanistan. He had set up a GoFundMe account as reported by the Beacon Journal several months ago, but he is now setting up a non-profit fund, which we will donate to.



Looking ahead, in Jan/Feb we will be collecting toiletry items and bed linens as we have set a goal of 20 Boxes to put together for Afghan refugees. Complete lists of items needed and more info will come later. This project is through Church World Services.

Our Portage Path Book Fair was a huge success and the children all received their books before Thanksgiving! A HUGE THANK YOU to all who donated toward this worthy project!! Shelley Kennedy, counselor at the school, reiterated several times how much the children love getting the books!

Also, Thank You so much for giving toward the Christmas Baskets project. We have collected \$1,565.00 and because of your generosity, have enough to send out \$50 Acme gift cards this year.

Lastly, anyone wishing to donate to the Christmas Joy offering may do so between now and Christmas. This offering goes to help retired pastors, communities of color, leadership development and church workers in need.

Any donations can be made in church at Westminster by marking your check and putting it in the envelopes marked "NCCC".

Merry Christmas!!!! - Margie Frlich



**AAIC**

**AAIC**

**Meeting**

The next AAIC meeting will be

**Tuesday,  
December 7  
Noon-1:15 p.m.  
Unitarian  
Universalist  
Church**

You will also be able to attend via Zoom. (Meeting ID is 863 5070 6831- Passcode- 906431). The hybrid meeting allows access while keeping the safety of participants in mind especially since there is a new COVID-19 variant.





## 2022 HUNGER WALK

The planning committee for the **13th Annual AAIC Fairlawn Hunger Walk** has already begun meeting and working on the details for next year's walk. At this time, the plan is for the walk to be in-person. So, there is a lot of work that goes into this large event.

The walk date is May 1, 2022, and will start at the UU Church in Fairlawn. Dawn Scott from the UU Church and Susan Gallagher are the co-chairs for 2022. The New Initiatives group from NCCC will be handling our approach to this year's walk.



### THE CHRISTMAS JOY OFFERING

opens doors of opportunity  
which lead to hopeful futures for young people  
at Presbyterian-related schools  
and colleges equipping communities of color.



**CHRISTMAS JOY  
SPECIAL OFFERINGS**

LEADERSHIP, PAST, PRESENT, AND FUTURE

## AKRON INTERFAITH IMMIGRATION ADVOCATES

### AIIA ANNUAL CHRISTMAS COLLECTION

THANK YOU!  
THANK YOU!  
THANK YOU!

Nancy, Thank you for dropping off the gift cards and checks this afternoon. I've noted the donors and will send thank you cards to them soon.

You and your church have been so generous to our families. Their Holidays will be lighter because of your efforts.—Maria Arnaiz

Nancy Williams dropped off more than \$800 in checks and gift cards, collected here at NCCC, for the North Hill Immigrants. Because of you, their Christmas will be a lot brighter.





## CHRISTMAS PARTY & WHITE ELEPHANT GIFT EXCHANGE

The excitement is building as the annual Christmas party gets closer. This year, there will be a white elephant gift exchange. The Fellowship Committee is hosting the event, will meet Friday, December 3<sup>rd</sup> at 10:30 a.m. to get things set up for the event.

**The party begins  
Saturday, December 4  
at 5:30 p.m.**

Don't forget your wrapped white elephant gift if you wish to participate in this often hilarious event. Keep in mind this is not a gift you need to buy, this is something you find in your home, that you can live without. Dress for Christmas—crazy or more traditional.



## PLANNING AHEAD

The Fellowship Committee will meet on  
**Wednesday,  
December 15,  
11:30 a.m.**

at the  
**Sandwich Board**  
to plan the  
**Welcome 2022**  
event and to look  
into plans for the  
next month or so.

## WELCOME 2022

Join us in Fellowship Hall after church on Sunday, Jan. 9 for our first-ever New Year's Brunch as we welcome in 2022. You will find out more about the brunch at our Christmas party and in the weeks ahead. There will NOT be a sign up sheet for this event. The committee will ask for volunteers to contribute egg casseroles, a French toast casserole, coffee cakes/muffins and fruit salads. Ken Williams will cook bacon at home and heat it in the church microwave.



## THE ART OF WAITING

Here's something you can add to your Advent celebration. THE HUB—COLUMBIANA has a five-part video devotional series that is available for free. The first video focuses on preparedness. [Advent Video #1](#)