

The Messenger

NEW COVENANT

COMMUNITY CHURCH

A WEST AKRON NEIGHBORHOOD CHURCH

The Pastor's Page

*December
2022*

**The only blind person at Christmastime
is the one who has not Christmas in his heart.**

~ Helen Keller

As we move toward Christmas, it would seem that perhaps the most thrilling season of the year is the season of Advent.

During this time which is permeated with expectancy and anticipation, there are familiar carols and glowing candles . . .

there are warm hugs and smiling faces . . .

and there are best wishes and awakened hopes.

Yet, in the midst of all the excitement and preparation,

we can sense all humanity holding its breath . . .

waiting for something, some One, that will be born into the world which will change everything.

Humanity holds its breath as visions of peace are lifted up against all hostile instincts, and the world's darkness gives way to God's light.

As we make delightful, new discoveries about who we are created to be, humanity is standing on its tiptoes, looking for a new future that awaits us on the horizon.

Throughout Advent, humankind waits in anticipation for the One who is Hope and Peace and Love to be born into the world and into and into our hearts,

so that we can be inspired to embrace the transformation that God inaugurates.

So we wait, and hold our breath, praying that Christ will do once again what He has done before –

filling us with an even deeper understanding of His love, His hope, and His peace.

Let's prepare our hearts during this Advent season, so that Christ can be born in us and among us . . .

because then, we will open our eyes to see His glory in all things...

we will hear the hymns of the angels stirring us to worship Him with our lives. . .

and we will fill our hearts with the transforming power of the the Christ Child.

Then, we don't have to worry about putting Christ back into Christmas. . .

because He would have always been there . . .

and there He will always remain.

*Blessings,
tom*





Minute for Mission

The busy holidays are upon us and as we draw nearer to Christmas, we are once again distributing our “Christmas baskets” in the form of Acme gift cards, to allow the recipients to choose their Christmas meal. Please thank Barb Clough for all her work calling and mailing the cards to 30 families. We have purchased the cards at \$50 each. If you would like to donate to this worthy holiday tradition at our church, please mail or place in the offering plates, your donations marked “Christmas gift cards” or “Christmas gift baskets”. Thank you

- Margie Frlich



CHRISTMAS COLLECTION & PARTY

Our collection drive for the Akron Interfaith Immigration Advocates ends Thursday, December. 8. Lots of needed items have been contributed. Checks or \$10 gift cards for Aldi, Walmart, Target or Dollar General, are still being accepted. Please, place cards into an envelope, then into the offering plate Sunday, clearly marked, or bring them to the church of-ice Monday -Thursday, next week.

Sunday, we’ll have the opportunity of hearing Mary Brooks, AIA’s President, during the Minute for Mission time. She will tell us more about the organization, and share an example of how our participation and efforts over the yeas have helped families.

Here is the list of requested items:

- ◆ 2 lbs. bags of black or pinto beans
- ◆ 5 lbs. bags of rice
- ◆ Cooking oil
- ◆ Laundry detergent
- ◆ Dish soap
- ◆ Hand soap
- ◆ Disinfectants
- ◆ Toilet paper
- ◆ Paper towels
- ◆ \$10 gift cards for Aldi, Dollar General, Target or Walmart.

The donations will be distributed at the
AIIA Christmas Party
December 17—6:30 PM
Blessed Trinity Catholic Church
300 Tallmadge Ave., Akron



CHRISTMAS PARTY

Wednesday, December. 7
5:30 PM

Sunday, is the last chance to sign up for our Christmas party. The list will be on the lobby table during coffee hour. Please, try to be specific as to what you will bring.

Mark Wade, will join us for supper and then entertain us with music on the hammered dulcimer. Christmas Carol singing will follow. Here's a link to Mark playing [O Holy Night.](#)



COFFEE HOUR RETURNS SUNDAY 10:15

Our First-Sunday-of-the-month coffee hours begin... Sunday. The Fellowship Committee will provide coffee and goodies. Come enjoy a cup-of-Joe, a goodie, or just conversation before the worship service.

The next coffee hour will be February 5th, IF two people sign up to do it. One person makes the coffee, the other provides the snack, and both handle the clean up. The sign up sheet and instructions are near the coffee maker. The list goes through June. If no one signs up, there is no coffee time. This is on a "Try it" basis only.



FELLOWSHIP COMMITTEE MEETING

Wednesday, January 11
10:30 a.m.

Fellowship Hall
Come help plan activities
for 2023

Everyone is welcome.

Please, contact
Nancy Williams
if you have questions.

SOUPER SUNDAY

Looking ahead to January, on the 22nd our popular soup, salad, bread, and dessert lunch will occur after church in Fellowship hall. Because of several events in February, the traditional “Souper Bowl” lunch will not happen then, but plan to enjoy this event in January.



POINSETTIAS FOR CHRISTMAS

The Worship Committee is buying five 6” plants and two 8” flowers to have in the Sanctuary beginning December 18th. There is a sign up sheet on the hall

table. Please put your name and indicate to whom you wish the poinsettia to be in memory of. In addition to using leftover money in the flower budget for 2022, we are asking people to contribute \$5 for the plant. Please use an offering envelope or check to make the donation. Please, leave all plants up for the Christmas Day services (this includes the Gospel of Christ service). You can take them after that.

Acme Community Cashback Program runs through December 24. Please save your receipts and put them into the white church.



AAIC Meeting
Tuesday, December 6
12:00-1:15
UU Church
3300 Morewood Rd.

A zoom link will be sent out later.

In summing up the fall activities, AAIC’s Spiritual Life Committee, under the leadership of Rev. Tom Bodie, held a series of three highly informative presentations on Anti-Semitism, at First Congregational Church, Temple Israel, and St. Hilary’s. The last forum featured a panel discussion.

Yes, unfortunately antisemitism is with us. The presenters and panel have worked in this field and offered suggestions on how Akron can stand with our Jewish neighbors, and let them know they are not alone. In the words of Kathy Ress, past AAIC President and part of the current Leadership Team, the series was, “extremely insightful as to everyday micro-aggressive actions we all may unintentionally exhibit.”

Here is the link to part 2 and part 3 of the series—

[Antisemitism: in America, in Akron](#)

EARN 5% 
COMMUNITY CASH BACK
For Your Local Non-Profit Group!



SOMETIMES WE JUST NEED HELP

The Rev. Sunjae Jung heard God’s call loud and clear. Although maybe not so clearly at first.

“When I heard about a Korean-American Presbyterian church in the Atlanta area, my first answer was, ‘I don’t think it’s my calling,’” he said. “Since I was living in Korea at the time, my first answer was no. Then, they contacted me again and told me the church was in a university city. I remembered being an international student in America when I was young and how much the church there helped me.” He continued, “Serving as a minister in Korea, I remember praying that if I ever had a chance to help international students the way the church helped me when I was at Iowa State University, I would take it,” he said. “I talked with my wife and our senior pastor in Korea, who said they thought this was a good calling for me. After praying some more, we decided to come serve this church.”

The Athens Korean Presbyterian Church’s mission is to welcome and serve the larger university and especially the Korean community. It is not a “big budget” congregation, as most of its members are young and transitory. But Rev. Jung couldn’t possibly have anticipated the impact that Covid would have on both the congregation’s and his family’s finances when they moved to Athens in December 2019. With the arrival of the pandemic in March 2020, not only did the church cease all its in-person activities and move Sunday worship to a streaming platform, but the whole town practically shut down.

Because Rev. Jung serves the congregation on a religious visa, he is not permitted to earn



income beyond that of his ministry and the family found itself struggling to make ends meet. In December 2021, Rev. Jung sought and received an Emergency Grant split between the Assistance Program of the Board of Pensions and Northeast Georgia Presbytery. This grant was made possible, in part, by the Christmas Joy Offering, which distributes gifts equally to the Assistance Program and to Presbyterian-related schools and colleges equipping communities of color.

Rev. Jung said, “I thank the denomination for the help from the Christmas Joy Offering. I can say that after going through such a difficult time last winter, the big burden on me and my family was lifted.” Sometimes we all could use a little help, and those who serve our Church are certainly no different. Please give what you can to the Christmas Joy Offering for when we all do a little, it adds up to a lot.

Let us pray~

Thank you, God, for providing for your children in times of plenty and in times of need. Thank you for opportunities to serve your people and to bring your care to those around us. Amen.

MALONE UNIVERSITY DEPARTMENT OF MUSIC PRESENTS
CHRISTMAS *at* MALONE

Savior of the Nations Come

Friday, December 2
Saturday, December 3
7:30 p.m.



Order reserved seats at
www.malone.edu/christmas

Advanced tickets: \$10 and \$15
All tickets \$15 at the door

Call **330-471-8231** for more information.



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CHRIST'S KINGDOM FIRST

