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CHURCH OF THE



GOOD SHEPHERD

Good Shepherd E-News (21 December 2017)

The Episcopal Church of the Good Shepherd in Athens, Ohio--seeking to know and serve Christ in loving service to the campus, the community, and the world.

This Sunday: 24 December 2017



Fourth Sunday of Advent

10:30 a.m.

Holy Eucharist

Rite II-A

After Coffee

Greening of the Church

(Details on Christmas Services below)

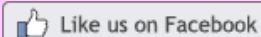
No 8:00 am Service on Sunday, December 24

Because of the Christmas Eve services that day, there will not be a service at 8:00 am. Please join us for the 10:30 am service to observe 4 Advent.

Presiding Bishop Curry's Christmas Message

Click [HERE](#) for a link (via the Diocese Connections) for the text and video of Presiding Bishop Curry's 2017 Christmas message. (Click photo for video.)

Upcoming Church Events

 Like us on Facebook

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From our friends in St. Luke's Episcopal Church in Mérida, Mexico.

"José's Weekly Reflection"

[ENGLISH](#)

[SPANISH](#)

[Altar Flowers How to Order](#)

[Your Kroger Plus card can help the Church](#)

Last Sunday of Advent - Sunday, December 24, 10:30 a.m. (no 8:00 a.m. service)

Christmas Eve Services - Sunday, December 24, 4:00 and 10:30 p.m.

Christmas Day Service - Monday, Dec. 25, 11:00 a.m.

Free Lunch - Wednesday, December 27, 12:00 noon

Free Lunch - Wednesday, January 3, 12:00 noon

Someone left a nice note

The Church Of The Good Shepherd

If you would like special prayers of thanksgiving and/or intercession, please note below:

I'm thankful for this church.

Christmas Celebrations at Church of the Good Shepherd

My family and I are looking forward to celebrating Christmas with all of you at the Church of the Good Shepherd again this year. As we look back on the year and all it has brought us, I believe it is good to gather together for worship on the Holy Occasion of birth of Jesus and to be with each other as God is With Us, in all our ups and downs, in Jesus. For my family and myself, being with all of you is a reminder of how God has richly blessed us and we can hardly wait to be with you for whichever service or services you can attend. If you will be visiting loved ones at Christmas, please know we are with you in spirit.

Merry Christmas! Mother Deborah, Michael, and Hailey

Christmas Eve Services, December 24

4:00 pm Intergenerational Christmas Celebration

Please join us as we sing favorite Christmas hymns, children are invited to help Mother Deborah with an Interactive Christmas Gospel, a special intergenerational sermon, and Holy Communion.

10:30 pm Traditional Christmas Eve Service

Please join us for beautiful Christmas hymns, sermon, sung Holy Eucharist, and the traditional candlelight singing of Silent Night.

Christmas Day, December 25

11:00 am Simple Christmas Celebration

Please join us for a quiet, said service featuring reading from the Gospel According to John and Holy Communion.

Altar Guild Help: Greening of the Church

This year the fourth Sunday of Advent and Christmas Eve fall on the same day. The Altar Guild will not be able to begin the greening of the church until after the 10:30 a.m. service on December 24.

The Altar Guild will need help from everyone to get the church ready for the first Christmas Eve service at 4:00 p.m. There will be a limited coffee hour that morning so that people can stay and help the Altar Guild. If you have any questions, please contact Sharon Huges or Sally Spero.



Participants scheduled for

This Sunday, Dec. 24 - Fourth Sunday of Advent

Altar Guild: Lynn Graham

Altar Flowers: Chuck and Harolyn Brient

Coffee Hour: Lois Wagner

No 8:00 a.m. Service

10:30 a.m. Service: Holy Eucharist Rite II-A

Lector: Allyn Reilly

Eucharistic Ministers: Gregory Proctor (Prayer Leader) and Allyn Reilly

Ushers: Curt and Terrie Sherman

First Crucifer: Lynn Graham

Lessons: for the Fourth Sunday of Advent - 2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16; Psalm 89:1-4, 19-26 (sung); Romans 16:25-27; Luke 1:26-

8. <http://www.lectionarypage.net/>

Please Include in Your Prayers

In our world, we pray for Justin, Archbishop of Canterbury, and for Michael, our Presiding Bishop; we pray for peace with justice throughout the Middle East. We pray for all people affected by natural and environmental disasters. We pray also for the people who are suffering from war, especially all refugees. We pray for Donald, our president, and John, our Governor, the Supreme Court, and the members of Congress.

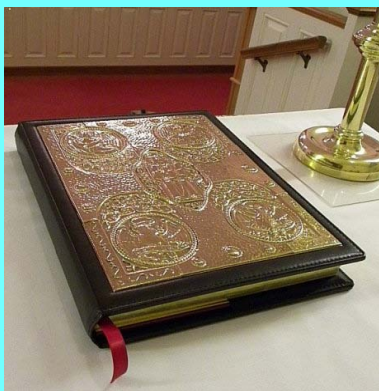
In our diocese, we pray for Thomas, our Diocesan Bishop, and Nedi, our Assisting Bishop.

In our parish, we pray for Good Shepherd's continued growth, for our Priest-in-Charge, the Rev. Deborah Woolsey, for our Associate Priests, the Rev. Leslie Flemming, the Rev. Katharin Foster, and the Rev. David McCoy, and for our ministry to students, the university, and the community. We pray for our friends at St. Luke's Episcopal Church in Mérida, Mexico.

Those for whom our Prayers are Requested: Kris, Kristi, Mary Lou, Weston, Paul, Jackie, Pam, Jill and family, Jane, Louise, Dot, Ann and Bill, Stephen, Mary, the D'Andrea family, Julie, Chris, Sally, Norm, Jan, Pat, Doris, Molly and Mateo, Ivan, and Alejandro, Candace, Emma, Sharon, Bill, Ron, Clif, William, Lyle, Ernst, Monya, Patricia, Paul, David, Robert, Holly, Robert, Don, the Sheets family, Ann, Elliot, John, Eleanor, Nancy, Laura, Consuelo and family, Arvin, Sandi, June, and Sister Emmanuel, and we pray for all who care for them.

Birthdays: Shawn Parsons (12/25), B. J. Cottrill (12/28), George Karageorge (12/30)

The Altar Flowers are given In loving memory of Ira Zook, founder of the Singing Men of Ohio, and his wife, Joan, by Chuck and Harolyn Brient.



In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. And he came to her and said, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you." But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him

the throne of his ancestor David. He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?" The angel said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. For nothing will be impossible with God." Then Mary said, "Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word." Then the angel departed from her.

The Inconsistent Time of the Advent Season

The last week of the Advent Season is different from the others because its length changes every year, depending on what day of the week Christmas falls on. Sometimes the last or 4th week of Advent is a full week, other years it is much shorter, maybe only a day or two long. This year, since Christmas Day is on a Monday and Christmas Eve is on Sunday, the 4th Week of Advent is only a few hours long, making it the shortest it can be. This gives us little time to transition from Advent to Christmas.

Yet while the time this year may be short, its value is not diminished. We will still observe the time we have with a worship service at 10:30 am on Sunday, December 24, when we will light all four candles on the Advent Wreath, pray for the darkness to be scattered from our hearts, hear the Gospel tell us of an angel's remarkable visit to a young woman named Mary, sing some lovely hymns of Advent, and receive the Sacrament of Holy Communion as Mary received the message from the angel.

Whether you can be present in person or spirit, I invite you to give a few moments to the final hours of the Advent Season this year to receive again its message of hope in God who keeps God's promise out of God's deep love for us.

Many Advent Blessings,

This Sunday, Christmas Eve, 24 December 2017



4:00 P.M. Intergenerational Service

Altar Guild - Lynn Graham and Sharon Huges

Holy Eucharist Rite II-B

Lector - Richard Carlson

Eucharistic Ministers - Jack Flemming (Prayer Leader) and Lynn Graham (prayers printed in bulletin)

Ushers - Zelma Coleman and Julie Nehls

First Crucifer - Sharon Huges

Second Crucifer - Pely Brient

LESSONS for Christmas Day 1 - Isaiah 9:2-7; Psalm 96 (sung); Titus 2:11-14; Luke 2:1-14, (15-20) [http:](http://www.lectionarypage.net)

www.lectionarypage.net

This Sunday, Christmas Eve, 24 December 2017



10:30 P.M. Traditional Service

Altar Guild - Lynn Graham and Sally Spero

Holy Eucharist Rite II-B

Lector - Alex Buckley

Eucharistic Ministers - Dana Carlson (Prayer Leader) and Lynn Graham (prayers printed in bulletin)

Ushers - Chris Eaton and Bruce Martin

Thurifer - Peter Buckley

First Crucifer - Bella Martin

Second Crucifer - Owen Buckley

Gospel Book - Ana Martin

LESSONS for Christmas Day II - Isaiah 62:6-12; Psalm 97 (sung); Titus 3:4-7; Luke 2:1-20 [http: www.lectionarypage.net](http://www.lectionarypage.net)

This Monday, Christmas Day, 25 December 2017

11:00 A.M. Christmas Day Service

Altar Guild - Lynn Graham

Holy Eucharist Rite II-B

Lector - Jack Flemming

Eucharistic Minister - Jack Flemming

Ushers - TBA

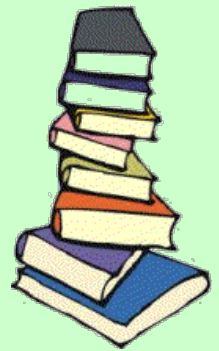
First Crucifer - Lynn Graham



LESSONS for Christmas Day III - Isaiah 52:7-10; Psalm 98 (said); Hebrews 1:1-4, 5-12; John 1:1-14 <http://www.lectionarypage.net>

Outreach Fundraising

We are very close to meeting our \$1,700 goal of additional outreach fundraising for the current budget year. This fundraising has come from many sources, the largest being the sale on Amazon of books you have donated. As of this writing we have sold 201 books in 2017, and the income helps support our outreach ministry in the community at large. Your generous donation of books is much appreciated. But even as Jesus needs water to make wine, I need books to make money. So keep those books a-comin! Thank you for your support. (Jack Flemming)



Want to help UCM with meals over break?

Campus United Ministry is looking to increase its coverage of Thursday Supper and Saturday Lunch over break on any Thursday or Saturday between December 21 and January 14, except for January 4. Lynn Graham has volunteered to be the contact person on this, so please contact Lynn if interested.

grahannowery@aol.com

Vestry Meeting Summary



Café -- A fleshed-out version of the café proposal will be submitted to Bishop Breidenthal in early January.

Nominations -- David Burton, Senior Warden; Dana Carlson, Junior Warden; Gregory Proctor, Treasurer; Thaden Brient, Peg Dygas, and Earl Stump for Vestry members; Jen Hastings for student representative; Anne Braxton and Jack Flemming, Diocesan Convention Lay Delegates with Don Frazier and Joanne Worstall as Alternates.

Budget -- At present time have 37 pledging units (down from this time 39 last

year). Given deaths, people moving away, and the economy, we are remain quite short of what was planned. Though we are not thriving as regards pledges, the Vestry agreed our parish is very strong in what it does and is proud of that fact. Mother Deborah's letter of agreement ends in January, and we have to re-negotiate at that time. The Diocese must be involved, and we are not yet sure what our Diocesan assessment will be next year.

Annual Meeting - - After considering the above unknown factors, Vestry decided to push the annual meeting date to Sunday February 18th with a snow date of February 26th.

Ted Foster, Vestry Secretary

Wednesday Free-Lunch Report



On **December 20**, Group III fed 24 people 40 servings. The main dishes were beans and franks over rice, and beans, corn, and tomatoes over rice. Tossed salad, stuffed celery, fresh fruit, cookies and cake, and beverages were also served.

The volunteers were Don Frazier, Kelsey Girard, Lynn Graham, Joanne Larson, Zella Nisley, Lois Wagner, and Joanne Worstall.

Please remember the hungry in our community in your prayers. To become involved in one or more of the four lunch teams, please speak to Phyllis Dean, Zelma Coleman, Joanne Larson, or David Burton.

Repeat Material Below

Disaster Relief (via ERD)



There are ways we can help those in the path of disaster. One way is to pray. Another is through Episcopal Relief and Development. ERD is one of the first relief organizations to arrive at locations hit by disaster and to stay to help with recovery. They have an excellent reputation for fund distribution and volunteer coordination.

Please visit their website,

episcopalrelief.org, to donate, volunteer, and learn more.

Pastoral Care

Because of health care privacy laws, hospitals are no longer able to call your priest or parish when you are in the hospital. That means that if you want a visit from Mother Deborah or a Lay Eucharistic Visitor (a parish member who has some training) you need to call and ask for a visit. For emergencies please call Mother Deborah's cell phone 937-689-8895. If you would prefer prayers instead of a visit, just call and ask for prayers.



Mother Deborah's home phone is 740-249-4497, and her cell number is 937-689-8895, for emergencies.

Her personal email is the Rev. Deborah Woolsey <revdebwoolsey@gmail.com>, and the email through the church is the Rev. Deborah Woolsey <revdeborah@chogs.org>.

Mother Deborah has found that people like to communicate in many ways, so she is reachable on Facebook (<http://facebook.com/deborah.woolsey.12>) and on Twitter (<http://twitter.com/DeborahWoolsey>), and you can check out her blog at (<http://www.revvedupwoolsey.com/>).

Also, here is the link to the Church of Good Shepherd's **Facebook** page: <https://www.facebook.com/pages/The-Episcopal-Church-of-the-Good-Shepherd-45701/554345594588086?fref=ts>. Once you get on the page, just LIKE it if you are already a Facebook person. Otherwise you will need to create a Facebook account first.

And the Church of Good Shepherd's Twitter account: <https://twitter.com/CHOGSofAthens>.

Contact Information

For pastoral needs, please contact The Rev. Deborah Woolsey at 740-249-4497 (H) or 937-689-8895 (C) or 740-593-6877 (church), or by e-mail at revdebwoolsey@gmail.com.

To find out more about Good Shepherd and other matters, please contact

Allyn Reilly, Senior Warden, at 740-592-2596 or by e-mail at reillya@ohio.edu.

For maintenance matters, please leave a note at the office or contact Allyn Reilly, Senior Warden, at 740-818-5476 or by e-mail at reillya@ohio.edu.

For emergencies, please call The Rev. Deborah Woolsey at 937-689-8895.

NOTE: NON-emergency messages can be left on the church answering machine (740-593-6877).

Office Hours:

10:00 a.m.-2:30 p.m. Monday through Thursday (closed Friday and Saturday).
The parish office administrator is Barbara Martin (740-593-6877
or barbara@chogs.org).

The Episcopal Church of the Good Shepherd
Seeking and Serving Christ in All Persons

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