



December 2023/January 2024

he Messenger

Newsletter

Avon United Methodist Church ■ 130 Genesee Street ■ Avon, NY 14414 ■ 585-226-8600 ■ www.avonnyumc.org

One of the traditional Scripture readings for Advent is about John the Baptist. This year the suggested Lectionary reading for the second Sunday is: “**And so John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness, preaching a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. The whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem went out to him ... And this was his message: “After me comes the one more powerful than I, the straps of whose sandals I am not worthy to stoop down and untie. I baptize you with water, but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.”** (Mark 1: 4-8)

John the Baptist lived in what some might call a point in history that was a “watershed,” or others might say it was a “cross-roads in time.” Whatever it was, it was a time when God’s time interested our human time.

For almost one hundred years before John, the Roman Empire controlled Israel. And before then Israel had a time of independence when they were not ruled by any nation. It was after the return from exile in Babylon, but there was no King who was the son of David. And the “People of God,” remembered what God had promised King David: “**When your days are fulfilled and you lie down with your fathers, I will raise up your offspring after you, who shall come from your body, and I will establish his kingdom. He shall build a house for my name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever ... your house and your kingdom shall be made sure forever before me. Your throne shall be established forever.**” (2 Samuel 7:12-16) The words in the Hebrew for “house” and “descendants” are similar, and so this promise to David was taken to mean that Israel would have a “Son of David” as ruler, forever.

And that lead to the belief that a “messiah,” an Anointed One, would come to Israel; and that brings us to the time of Jesus. In his life there was a crossroad in time, or as Paul wrote: “**You see, at just the right time, when we were still powerless, Christ died for the ungodly.**” (Romans 5:6) And: “**With all wisdom and understanding, he made known to us the mystery of his will according to his good pleasure, which he purposed in Christ, to**

be put into effect when the times reach their fulfillment—to bring unity to all things in heaven and on earth under Christ.” (Ephesians 1:8-10)

From the moment Jesus was conceived by the Holy Spirit in Mary, to his birth on that first Christmas Eve, to his dying on a cross, and his resurrection---all of that was part of God’s “**right time.**” Those thirty plus years was THE watershed event in human history, it was and still is the Cross-road in our time as a people, and as individuals.

A presidential election, coming next year, or a world-wide pandemic, just a few years ago; none of that is even close to what happened in Bethlehem or Jerusalem over 2,000 years ago. The Old Testament Prophet Haggi said: “**This is what the Lord Almighty says: ‘In a little while I will once more shake the heavens and the earth, the sea and the dry land. I will shake all nations, and what is desired by all nations will come, and I will fill this house with glory,’ says the Lord Almighty.**” (Haggi 2:6-7)

Jesus the Son of God is what/WHO we really desire.

At Christmas we don’t just look back to his first coming, we also wait and pray for his second coming. That moment in time when God remakes all into the New Heaven and New Earth; and where: “**God’s dwelling place is now among the people, and he will dwell with them. They will be his people, and God himself will be with them and be their God. ‘He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death’ or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away.**” (Revelation 21: 3-4)

Come Lord Jesus, Come!

Pastor Leah



Saturday December 2, 2023

3pm to 8pm

Our Streets come alive with holiday lights,
music, family friendly activities,
local vendors and artisans...
along with sightings of Santa himself!

Don't miss the annual debut of Avon's
synthetic ice skating rink at the event!

**Genesee Street Business District,
in the Village of Avon.**

*Donations and/or a new toy for the Avon Food Pantry & Toy Drive are encouraged!
Collections will be available at the Avon Lions Club Tent,
located in front of Community Bank*

For more information, visit <https://www.avonholidayspectacular.com>



■ Dec. 17 — 10 AM Worship with special Christmas music and musical guest Roxanne Ziegler.

■ Dec. 24 — 10 AM Christmas Worship.

■ Dec. 24 — 7:00 PM Christmas Eve Family Service.

■ Dec 24 — 11 PM Candlelight Christmas Eve Service.



Roxanne Ziegler



DECEMBER

Birthdays & Anniversaries

December Anniversaries

Dec 18 Brokaw, Dan & Julie
Dec 31 Beman, Larry & Barbara Bruce

December Birthdays

Dec 1 Jolene (Barrett) Rugg
Dec 2 Jackie Tickner
Dec 3 Micki Stephenson
Dec 5 Mary Primm
Dec 6 Kenneth Furman
Dec 7 Bob French
Dec 10 Lorraine Southern
Dec 10 Benjamin Amey
Dec 15 Ralph Duryea
Dec 16 Jeff Cousins
Dec 18 Gary Davis
Dec 19 LuAnn Lottes
Dec 21 Lill Johnson
Dec 27 Bob Keenan
Dec 31 Donna House

JANUARY

Birthdays & Anniversaries

January Anniversaries

Jan 5 Sullivan, George & Nancy

January Birthdays

Jan 4 Brandon Moses
Jan 6 Mark McKeown
Jan 6 Barb Montesano
Jan 8 Tasha Hairston
Jan 10 Josh Deragon
Jan 11 Jodi Rowcliffe
Jan 15 Garry Henderson
Jan 16 Richard House
Jan 16 Bob House
Jan 19 Roy Moses
Jan 19 Sue Moses
Jan 19 Martha Cousins
Jan 20 Judson Gage
Jan 27 Mark Brennan
Jan 29 Jonah Cousins
Jan 29 Michelle Macierowski
Jan 31 Krista Moses

Instrumentalist Resignation

By: Mark Brennan



As many of you know, the time has come for me to step away from my role as instrumentalist of the AUMC. I cannot adequately express my gratitude for the love and support I have felt from you all over the past 15 years, and I have grown both spiritually and musically on this journey because of it. I am currently pursuing a master's degree in medical dosimetry (radiation treatment planning for cancer patients), and will begin a yearlong internship at Strong Hospital in Rochester in January, while spending weekends in Syracuse to assist my parents, who are in need of some extra help at this time. As much as I will miss seeing you all each Sunday (my last Sunday will be 12/31), I will remain connected with the church, as I will continue my duties as office manager. It has been such a joy to become acquainted with each of you, and you will all remain in my thoughts and prayers as I embark on this new endeavor. I wish you and your families a happy and healthy holiday season and new year, and thank you profusely for the memories, fellowship, gifts, baked goods, etc., with which you have enriched my life. 'God be with you till we meet again!'

We would like to celebrate Mark's time with us at a reception on December 10th after the church service. Please join us in honoring Mark for ALL that he has given us in the past 15 years. We pray that he will find the space to move toward his new dreams and goals.

Advent Study 2023



ALMOST CHRISTMAS

A WESLEYAN
ADVENT EXPERIENCE

MAGREY R. DEVEGA · INGRID MCINTYRE
APRIL CASPERSON · MATT RAWLE

Thursday nights
7:00pm
Nov. 30, Dec. 7, 14, 21



December 3rd

REVERENDFUN.COM COPYRIGHT BIBLE GATEWAY



Thanks to Nadine Fafard (See Luke 2:1-16) 12-24-2001
THAT'S THE BEST ONE-STAR HOTEL THAT
I'VE EVER SEEN

REVERENDFUN.COM COPYRIGHT BIBLE GATEWAY



(See Luke 2:1-16) 12-24-2004
WHAT'S THE MOST AWESOME GIFT YOU
HAVE?

December

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SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
26	27	28	29	30	1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
9:00 AM Coffee Hour 10:00 AM Worship Service 11:15 AM Confirmation Class-RP	3:00 PM Food Addicts-SSR 6:30 PM Confirmation Class-RP	9:00 AM Bulletin Deadline 1:30 PM TOPS –FH 6:30 PM Cub Scouts –FH		6:30 PM Jr Girl Scouts–FH 7:00 PM Advent Study		
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
9:00 AM Coffee Hour 10:00 AM Worship Service	3:00 PM Food Addicts-SSR	9:00 AM Bulletin Deadline 1:30 PM TOPS –FH	6:30 PM Cub Scout Committee–SSR	7:00 PM Advent Study		2:00 PM Nancy Sullivan–FH
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
9:00 AM Coffee Hour 10:00 AM Worship Service 11:15 AM Confirmation Class-RP	3:00 PM Food Addicts-SSR 6:00 PM Girl Scouts –FH 6:30 PM Confirmation Class-RP	9:00 AM Bulletin Deadline 1:30 PM TOPS –FH		4:30 PM Jr Girl Scouts–FH 6:30 PM Cub Scouts –FH 7:00 PM Advent Study 7:00 PM Interfaith Mtg? Winter Begins		
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
9:00 AM Coffee Hour 10:00 AM Worship Service 7:00 PM Family Christmas worship 11:00 PM Candlelight Service Christmas Eve	Christmas Day	9:00 AM Bulletin Deadline 1:30 PM TOPS –FH				
31	1	2	3	4	5	6
9:00 AM Coffee Hour 10:00 AM Worship Service New Year's Eve						

January

2024

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February						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29		

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
31	1	2	3	4	5	6
	3:00 PM Food Addicts-SSR  New Year's Day	9:00 AM Bulletin Deadline 1:30 PM TOPS -FH 6:30 PM Cub Scouts -FH		6:30 PM Jr Girl Scouts-FH		
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
9:00 AM Coffee Hour 10:00 AM Worship Service	3:00 PM Food Addicts-SSR 7:00 PM UMW-SSR	9:00 AM Bulletin Deadline 1:30 PM TOPS -FH 7:00 PM church Council -SSR	6:30 PM Cub Scout Committee-SSR			
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
8:08 AM Men's Breakfast 9:00 AM Coffee Hour 10:00 AM Worship Service 11:15 AM Worship Team-RP	9:00 AM Newsletter Deadline 11:00 AM Heart of Ruth 3:00 PM Food Addicts-SSR 6:00 PM Girl Scouts-FH 6:30 PM Ad Team-RP  MLK Jr Day	9:00 AM Bulletin Deadline 1:30 PM TOPS -FH		6:30 PM Jr Girl Scouts-FH 7:00 PM Interfaith Mtg		
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
9:00 AM Coffee Hour 10:00 AM Worship Service	3:00 PM Food Addicts-SSR	9:00 AM Bulletin Deadline 1:30 PM TOPS -FH				
28	29	30	31	1	2	3
9:00 AM Coffee Hour 10:00 AM Worship Service	3:00 PM Food Addicts-SSR	9:00 AM Bulletin Deadline 1:30 PM TOPS -FH				

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Visit our website today or scan the code to go now...



 Please recycle.

Postmaster:

Time-Dated Material.

Please deliver promptly.

Return Service Requested

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JOIN US THIS CHRISTMAS!



