

Franciscan

a monthly publication of
St. Francis Episcopal Church



Friends in Christ,

Welcome to Advent! There are many themes to this time in the Church's life: Expectation; Hope; Preparation; Joy; Simplicity; Returning; and Waiting. In the midst of all the excitement of this time of year, Advent invites us to pause; and hope; and make and give space for the Lord to again enter our lives. It is a gestational time. John the Baptist, for whom Elizabeth and Zechariah had waited, waits and looks for the Kingdom of God; Mary waits and looks for her baby to be born; the people of God wait and look for the fullness of God's promises to be revealed; we wait and look to how again, Christ enters our lives anew. So we hope and anticipate and prepare and celebrate. In Advent we start anew, and on purpose open ourselves to what Christ wants to reveal to us, and teach us, and give at Christmas, one more time.

This year we have two new ways to practice this purpose. First, we have the chance to open ourselves to the voice of God during **Advent Quiet Day this Saturday from 9:00 am – Noon**. We will look for God in text through meditative reading of the scriptures, prayerful encounters with art and reflective practices that connect our lives with the voice of God.

Second, even in normal times, Christmas can be a hard season for those of us who have experienced loss of loved ones or whose lives don't match the cultural images of the season. The past two years the pandemic has caused many losses, indeed, the loss of our 'normal' lives. Our hope is that the **Blue Christmas Service on Tuesday, December 21** with Eucharist and contemplative songs will be a safe place for people to be transparent with ourselves and with God, a safe place to admit that maybe we are not okay at the moment, that maybe what we are really feeling is sad, discouraged, or even angry. This Blue Christmas liturgy makes space for our grief by pointing us not towards the happy holy family where all is neat and tidy, but instead towards the God of love who comes to us in the midst of the mess and pain we know in our own everyday lives and the lives of those around us.

In these and all our celebrations we put our trust in the promises of Christ and the miracle of salvation he brings. As Kazoh Kitamori writes... "Salvation is the message that our God enfolds our broken reality. A God who embraces us completely—this is God our Savior. Is there a more astonishing miracle in the world than that God embraces our broken reality?"

Waiting with you, Rev. Jed

"A Publication of St. Francis Episcopal Church—'Proclaiming the Good News in word and deed.'"

Shining the Light, Sharing the Love

2022 Pledge Campaign Update

Thanks to all of you who have submitted your pledge cards so far. We are now at about two-thirds of our goal, which we need to reach by the end of the year in order for the vestry to pass a budget for 2022.

If you have not pledged yet, please prayerfully consider what you can contribute to support our mission and ministry.

You can pledge by using the paper card you received in the mail or picked up at the church in the pew backs. You can drop your pledge card in the offering plate during a worship service or drop it by the church office.

If you would like a pledge card, please contact the church office. Thanks to all who have already made a financial commitment to 2022.

If you have any questions about any aspect of the campaign, please speak to Fr. Jed or to Stephan Graham, our Senior Wardens. They would be delighted to talk with you.

2022 Pledging

11 Pledges have been given totaling \$22,030.00

New Pledges: 4

Same Pledges as of 2021: 4

Increased Pledges from last year: 2

Decreased Pledges from last year: 1

DECEMBER 2021

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|---|--|--|---|--|--|--|
| | | | 1 Bible Study 10:30 am Jazzercise 4:45 pm | 2 Barbershop Singers 7:00 pm Alanon 7:30 pm | 3 Jazzercise 4:45 pm | 4 Advent Quiet Day 9:00 am - Noon |
| 5 Sunday School 10:30 am Holy Eucharist, Rite II 10:30 am Advent Caroling 12:45 pm - 3:00 pm | 6 Jazzercise 4:45 pm | 7 Zoom Morning Prayer 7:30 am Jazzercise 4:45 pm Boy Scouts 6 - 7:00 pm | 8 Office Closed NO Bible Study 10:30 am Jazzercise 4:45 pm | 9 Barbershop Singers 7:00 pm Alanon 7:30 pm | 10 Jazzercise 4:45 pm | 11 |
| 12 Sunday School 10:30 am Holy Eucharist, Rite II 10:30 am Decorate Cookies | 13 Jazzercise 4:45 pm | 14 Zoom Morning Prayer 7:30 am Jazzercise 4:45 pm Boy Scouts 6 - 7:00 pm Vestry Meeting 7:00 pm | 15 NO Bible Study 10:30 am Jazzercise 4:45 pm | 16 Barbershop Singers 7:00 pm Alanon 7:30 pm | 17 Jazzercise 4:45 pm | 18 |
| 19 Sunday School 10:30 am Holy Eucharist, Rite II 10:30 am Hanging of the Greens | 20 Jazzercise 4:45 pm | 21 Zoom Morning Prayer 7:30 am Jazzercise 4:45 pm Boy Scouts 6 - 7:00 pm Blue Christ- mas 6:30 pm | 22 NO Bible Study 10:30 am Jazzercise 4:45 pm | 23 Office Closed Barbershop Singers 7:00 pm Alanon 7:30 pm | 24 Office Closed Festal Holy Eucharist, Rite II 5:30 pm | 25 Christmas Day |
| 26 Sunday School 10:30 am Holy Eucharist, Rite II 10:30 am | 27 Jazzercise 4:45 pm | 28 Jazzercise 4:45 pm Boy Scouts 6 - 7:00 pm | 29 NO Bible Study 10:30 am Jazzercise 4:45 pm | 30 Barbershop Singers 7:00 pm Alanon 7:30 pm | 31 Office Closed Jazzercise 4:45 pm | |



Advent Quiet Day hosted by Rev. Nancy Hopkins-Green

December 4 from 9:00 pm - Noon



Advent Caroling at Assisted Living Nursing Homes

Hill spring and Tapestry (All voices are welcome)

December 5 - leave the church at 12:45 pm till 3:00 pm



Cookie Decorating Party during Coffee Hour

December 12



Hanging of the Greens - After the Liturgy

December 19



Blue Christmas co-hosted at St. Francis with St.

Patrick's Episcopal Lebanon

December 21 at 6:30 pm



Christmas Eve

December 24



Special Music - 5:15 pm

Festal Holy Eucharist, Rite II - 5:30 pm





December Birthdays

Stephan Graham on December 15

Brennan Catalan on December 16

Bill Clark on December 26

Jenny Catalan on December 30

If your name does not appear on our birthday or anniversary list, please contact the church office.



Don't forget that the office will be closed on December 23 and December 24. Have a very Merry Christmas everyone! The Rev. Jed Dearing, Vestry, and Staff wish you a joyful Merry Christmas and a blessed New Year.

Praying the Daily Offices

Join together every Tuesday morning on Zoom to pray Rite I Morning Prayer. On days that include a commemoration we will remember the holy women and holy men who have gone before us in the faith.

All are welcome to join. The Zoom link is:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86267472666>

Meeting ID: 859 1234 4872

Morning Prayer starts at 7:30 am and typically lasts thirty minutes. The Zoom Link is recurring and can be used weekly. Bulletins will be provided in the Zoom Chat Box but all services can be joined using a Book of Common Prayer.

12/7 - Ambrose of Milan

12/14 - John of the Cross

12/21 - St. Thomas the Apostle

12/28 - **No Morning Prayer**

Advent Caroling



CAROLING

St. Francis will be singing Advent Caroling at Tapestry Senior Living and Assisted Living Nursing Homes Hill Spring on Sunday, December 5 to leave the church at 12:45 pm till 3:00 pm. All voices are welcome!

Advent
A Season of Hope
& Expectation

FILM
CLUB

During this Advent, St. Francis is invited to join the Advent Film Club, led by The Rev. Karl Stevens and the Rev. Jed Dearing. We invite you to incorporate your movie watching as a spiritual exercise by joining in with the Advent Film Club; watching the weekly movie selection, reading the lectionary text for the preceding Sunday and engaging them in conversation by joining the Film Club on Thursday evenings at 7:00 PM on Zoom. This will be a lively discussion engaging both the film selection and the Lectionary lesson appointed for the previous Sunday. Each week is a self-contained conversation, meaning you can join for one week or as many as you'd like. <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85117259208>. Here's the schedule:

Thursday, **December 9** [Luke 3:1-6] Wild Rose

Free w/Hulu & Kanopy, available to rent on all major streaming platforms. Runtime: 1 hr. & 41 m.

Thursday, **December 16** [Zephaniah 3:14-20] Happiest Season

Free w/Hulu. Runtime: 2 hrs.

Thursday, **December 23** [Hebrews 10:5-10] The Green Knight

Available to rent on all major streaming platforms. Runtime: 2hr & 10 m.

The series booklet is available in the narthex or by clicking [this link](#).

Subscribe to the accompaniment podcast here. New episodes every Friday <https://podcasts.apple.com/.../films-in-the.../id1551833936>



On Saturday, December 4 from 9:00 am to Noon St. Francis will be having an Advent Quiet Day, hosted by Rev. Nancy Hopkins-Green. Coffee and light breakfast foods will be provided. What to bring: A journal for writing reflections. Comfortable clothes for a brief walk in the Memorial Garden (weather allowing).

To sign up please call the office at 937-748-2592 or email to parish-sec@saintfran.org. A sign up sheet will be available in the Narthex.



Decorate Cookies December 12!
We will be decorating Christmas cookies during coffee hour on December 12. Cookies, frosting and sprinkles supplied. Join the fun and plan on taking some home.

St. Francis will be holding a Blue Christmas service, co-hosted at St. Francis with St. Patrick's in Lebanon, on Tuesday, December 21 at 6:30 pm. Homily by the Rev. Cortney Dale, the new Rector of St Patrick's.



Our service for Blue Christmas is a time when we can, with others acknowledge the "blue" feelings we have at Christmas time, the reasons for them, and offer them to God. We come seeking comfort that we are not alone, we come with our hearts full of hope and we invite our great sign of hope, Emmanuel, God-with-us, to break through the darkness of our lives.

Christmas Flowers

If you are interested in contributing flowers in memory or thanksgiving for someone, please make out your check to St. Francis and in the memo notate "Christmas Flowers". Please put it into the alms by December 19.

Christmas Flower forms are also located on the table in the Foyer. If by chance, someone is unable to get a donation in on time, the names will be published in a later list on Sunday, December 26.

Thank you!

2021 Contribution and Reimbursement Deadline

Please remember that in order to claim a charitable contribution tax deduction for 2021, all contributions must be received in the parish office or postmarked no later than December 31, 2021. The IRS has strict guidelines regarding this matter and no exceptions can be made. If you need to be reimbursed for any authorized church-related expenses that occurred in 2021, please complete a check request form (available in the parish office), attach your receipt, and turn it in to the parish office no later than December 31, 2021. Your promptness is greatly appreciated!

Christmas Flowers Form

If you would like to honor or memorialize a loved one or friend, or express thanksgiving for God's many blessings through your gift of Christmas Flowers, please fill in the needed information and place this form with your check in the offering plate.



Please make your check payable to **Saint Francis Church** and mark the memo "Christmas Flowers".
Thank you.

Your name

(as you wish it listed in the bulletin)

Please list name(s) as you wish it (them) printed in the bulletin and circle the appropriate designation.

In Honor In Memory In Thanksgiving

In Honor In Memory In Thanksgiving

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**WE NEED
YOU
TO JOIN
OUR
CHOIR**

The joy of the choir is returning to St. Francis with a seasonal choir for Feast Days. The Choir will sing at 5:30 pm Eucharist on Christmas Eve. Rehearsals begin in December, and it's not too late to join. Music reading is not essential but it does help. This choir is open to singers limited by time, but desiring the gratification of enriching the Christmas service. All are welcome. Contact Donna Sprowles at dlsproles55@gmail.com or (513) 313-4856 to join or with any questions.



On Sunday, November 29th St. Francis will be putting up our Christmas Trees and adding additional greens each Sunday. On Sunday, December 20 St. Francis will complete having its annual "Hanging of the Greens" after the church service. Please make plans to help beautify the church for the Christmas Eve service on December 24.



A Christmas Eve Festal Holy Eucharist, Rite II, will be held at 5:30 pm on Friday evening, December 24, with Special Music before the service which starts at 5:15 pm.

This Festal Mass will have The Rev. Jed Dearing presiding over the liturgy and a special Offertory Anthem performed by St. Francis' Choir. Please bring family, friends, and neighbors to experience this joyful celebration of our Lord's Nativity on this festive day!

2021 ST. FRANCIS OUTREACH CHRISTMAS FOR KIDS

St. Francis is working with FLOC again this year to bring Christmas to more than 1800 children. In most instances the gifts provided by FLOC will be the only presents these children will receive. FLOC (For Love of Children) is a totally volunteer organization, providing support for children throughout the Greater Dayton Area who may be abused or neglected; children in foster care; and children in need of specialized community resources. Parishioner Beth Mann is the volunteer President of FLOC.



Among FLOC's many and varied programs is their annual Christmas For Kids program. This year St. Francis will be collecting toys. Please place the TOYS in the FLOC box which will be located in the Commons. The toys should be NEW and UNWRAPPED. NO EDIBLE GIFTS such as cookies or candy should be placed in the box. The box will be here through December 12. If you have any questions about this ministry, please talk to Mary Harris (937) 672-7993 or Betsy Hoobler (937) 748-1840.



DSO NEWS

Province V collection for Christmas at Sea *Start making your donations to bring to the BPG!*

Province V of the Episcopal Church's Big Provincial Gathering will be April 29-30, 2022, in South Bend, Indiana. For this event, we are asking persons to bring handmade items – hats, scarves, ditty bags, etc.– for Christmas at Sea. These will be blessed as part of the Eucharist and then sent to the Seamen's Church Institute for distribution.

Even if you're not coming to the BPG, you can send items along with people from your diocese. Please remember to include a card with each of your items.

To learn more about the CAS program, visit this link:

<https://seamenschurch.org/programs-services/christmas-at-sea/>

There is also a recorded CAS presentation on YouTube here:

<https://m.youtube.com/watch?v=dYCnqsX0ePk>

To see all of the CAS patterns, visit this link: <https://seamenschurch.org/programs-services/christmas-at-sea/patterns-publications/>

If you have any questions, please email Beth Hall, CAS Designer & Crochet Angel, at CAS@ednin.org Happy hand working!

“It’s our connection to God and each other that gives meaning to our lives.”

147th Convention Recap

The 147th Annual Convention of the Diocese of Southern Ohio was held virtually November 13 via Zoom.

Six resolutions were considered by the Convention, including a resolution to change the canonical status of St. Paul’s, Logan, from mission to parish status. That measure was unanimously approved in both the lay and clergy orders.

Other resolutions adopted included approval of an updated Mission Share Funding Plan, and continuing the work of the Reparations Task Force. Two resolutions called for convention to approve the sponsorship of resolutions at The Episcopal Church General Convention in July 2022. A resolution proposed by the Trustees of the Church Foundation to create a building fund was not approved. You can see the text of the resolutions adopted and the ballot results at <https://dsoconvention.org/2021-resolutions/>

Several leadership positions in the diocese were up for election; new members were elected to Diocesan Council, Standing Committee, Trustees of the Diocese, Trustees of the Church Foundation, Regional Disciplinary Review Board and Procter Center Board. You can see the election results at <https://dsoconvention.org/147-election-results/>

Resolutions to approve and implement the 2022 Operating Budget were also approved. You can see the budget at <https://dsoconvention.org/2022-draft-budget/>

Provisional Bishop Wayne Smith addressed the convention. The video of the address can be viewed below. Reports from the Trustees of the Diocese and the Diocesan Treasurer were also presented; the summaries of these reports will be included in the convention journal. Written annual reports from the committees, commissions and task forces can be found at file:///C:/Users/User/AppData/Local/Temp/Annual-Reports_111121.pdf

Dates and location for the 148th Annual Convention were announced by Diocesan Council 1st Vice President David Thomson. The two-day, in-person gathering is scheduled for December 9-10, 2022, at the Roberts Centre in Wilmington.

List to The Rt. Rev. George Wayne Smith's address to the 147th Annual Convention of the Diocese of Southern Ohio at <https://vimeo.com/645531596>

Saint Francis Episcopal Church
The Episcopal Church in Springboro
225 N. Main Street, Springboro, OH 45066
(937) 748-2592 www.saintfran.org

WORSHIP TIMES

SUNDAYS AT 9:00 AM - BREAKFAST CHURCH

SUNDAYS AT 10:30 AM - HOLY EUCHARIST, RITE II

SUNDAYS AT 10:30 AM - SUNDAY SCHOOL

TUESDAYS AT 7:30 AM - MORNING PRAYER ON ZOOM

WEDNESDAYS AT 10:30 AM - BIBLE STUDY

PRAYER FOR DECEMBER

LOVING GOD, THANK YOU FOR YOUR AMAZING POWER AND WORK IN OUR LIVES. THANK YOU FOR YOUR SON JESUS, FOR THE TRUTH OF HIS WORD AND THE EXAMPLE OF HIS LIFE. REPLENISH OUR SPIRITS WITH NEW STRENGTH AND PREPARE US TO MEET EACH DAY WITH RENEWED GRATITUDE AND JOY. AMEN.

STAFF

Clergy Resident - The Rev. Jed J. Dearing

Senior Warden - Stephan Graham

Junior Warden - David Culp

Vestry Clerk - Virginia Culp

Financial Secretary - Sue Starner

Parish Secretary - Alisha Minamyier

Organist - Diana Graham

Sunday School Director - Jenny Catalan

Vestry Members - Stephan Graham, David Culp, Jenny Catalan, Barb Roy, Chuck Oduah, Jack Emerson, Mary Harris, Ron Thomas, Kimmie Patti, and Virginia Culp.

