



The Messenger

andoverfirstumc



Andover UMC

To create and nurture a passionate faith community through open doorways to Christ.

December
2023

EXPERIENCING CHRISTMAS

CHRIST
IN THE SIGHTS
AND SOUNDS
OF ADVENT



Join us Sundays @ 9:30am (Modern with Kid's Church & Online)

Website: www.andoverfirstumc.org (watch past services anytime)

Follow us on Facebook: [andoverfirstumc](https://www.facebook.com/andoverfirstumc)

& YouTube: [youtube.com/@andoverumc](https://www.youtube.com/@andoverumc)

Email: receptionist@andoverfirstumc.org / Phone: (440) 293-6290

Co-Pastor's **Jason Hockran & Linda Bradley**



Hello Siblings in Christ,

May you have a blessed Advent time of preparation and a Merry Christmas!

We experience the world minute by minute through the use of our senses - what we can see, hear, touch, taste and smell. At Christmas time our senses become saturated with stimuli - lovely visuals, beautiful music, delightful textures, fragrant holiday scents, and delicious food. In our time of preparation (Advent) we celebrate and honor that God, who came from heaven and earth, knows what it is like to experience the world as we do. God, by sending Jesus, has human senses - eyes to see suffering, ears to hear lament, knowing the saltiness of tears and the desire for compassionate touch. In the person of Jesus, God put on flesh and all that comes with it - growing pains, thirsting after a long days journey, the joy of an early morning stretch, tired feet, sunburned skin, and especially the suffering of the crucifixion. God did not experience humanity and then let us be. God entered into our story so that our story might be redeemed!

- Sally Sharpe, writer of the Experiencing Christmas leader guide

In our worship series and if you choose in the book (available in the church office) Experiencing Christmas: Christ in the Sights and Sounds of Advent, author and pastor Matt Rawle (also wrote the Scrooge Advent series we did a few years ago) invites us to rediscover the meaning of the Advent season as we experience Christmas with all of our senses. Each week and in each chapter we will consider one of our senses and its unique encounters during Advent - things we see, hear, taste (and smell), and touch - with a final word about our call to be the aroma of Jesus Christ in all we do. We will discover how our senses become signs for us, pointing to the Incarnation when God took on human flesh and experienced the world as we do so that we might taste the goodness of God.

Our pastoral and leadership teams are excited to journey through Advent with each of you as we take time to prepare for the coming of Jesus during Advent, and then come Christmas Eve & Christmas Day to celebrate the coming of the One True King, the Light of the World—Jesus! Peace be with you!

In Service to Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Pastor Jason Hockran".

Pastor Jason Hockran





PRAYER REQUESTS

Please submit prayer requests by calling the church office (440) 293-6290 or visit our website: www.andoverfirstumc.org (Contact tab)

You can also email:

receptionist@andoverfirstumc.org

Please provide first name, last name and reason for prayer.

If confidential, let us know & it will be given to our prayer team only on Tuesdays.

Please update us every 2 weeks.

If you would like a "We Prayed for You" card sent, please provide their address.

December 2023 Prayer List

When we join the United Methodist Church, we take a vow that we will be, loyal to the United Methodist Church and uphold it by Our Prayers, Our Presence, Our Gifts, Our Service and by Our Witness. Scriptures call us to celebrate with those who celebrate and to grieve with those who grieve. We grow in connection with one another as we know the praises and concerns of the individual churches and respond in a manner of praise and/or prayer.

Please feel free to share your news that we may share especially the prayer concerns to the faith community.

Prayers and Concerns:

Will Greenawalt	continued prayers
Silvano & Dora Madrusa	healing & transition
Mary Mitchell	healing
Mark Shetler	health concerns
Joan Smock	healing
John Story	health concerns
Jill Wargo	health concerns

Service Men, Women and families:

Lucas Hitchcock
 Andrew Kirby
 Andre McCoy
Michael "Ronnie" Taylor
 Jennifer White

Grief of Families and Friends:

Angela Diamond
 Bob Ogram

Those in Assisted Living/Nursing Facilities:

Jane Ericson - Andover, Rm 506
 Will Greenawalt - Andover, Rm 517
 Sis Ogram - Andover, Rm 412
 Joan Smock - Andover, Rm 300
 Norma Piper - The Legacy, Farmdale
 Roberta Hill - Ashtabula Co. Home - Kingsville

EXPERIENCING CHRISTMAS

CHRIST IN THE SIGHTS
AND SOUNDS OF ADVENT



Hanging of the Greens Service - Saturday, December 2nd - 11am
Join us for this service, decorating of the church and lunch!

Please join Pastor Linda & James for a
Christmas Open House
at the parsonage,
6019 Pymatuning Lake Road South
on Sunday, December 17th from 1-3pm
Refreshments will be served.

Children's Christmas Program,
A CHURCHMOUSE CHRISTMAS

*Sunday, December 10th
during 9:30 worship.*

CHRISTOPHER CHURCHMOUSE CLASSICS®



A CHURCHMOUSE CHRISTMAS

A Musical for Children

Children's Christmas Float
Andover Simply Christmas Parade



Ways to Give @ Andover UMC



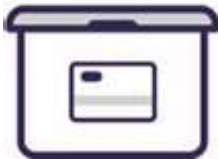
In Person

Whether it's cash or check, we appreciate your kindness. Please place your donations in an offering envelope and drop them in the offering plate, mail them or drop them off at the church.



QR CODE

Scan the QR code to visit our online giving page.



Online

Visit www.andoverfirstumc.org and click the eGiving image on our Welcome page or Give page to set up a one-time or recurring donation, or to make a payment.



Mobile App

Download the Vanco Mobile app from your app store to set up a one-time or recurring donation. Search Andover and then choose UMC. Available on [Apple](#) and [Android](#) devices.



East Ohio Conference News

For recent news & articles from the East Ohio Conference, visit the website:

<https://www.eocumc.com>



Ashtabula County Outreach Department

is in search of a Group Fitness Instructor to be located at Andover UMC. The YMCA will train & work with any other prior commitments. Please contact Bonnie Konczal @ 440-997-5321.



AMPLIFY MEDIA

Sign up for Amplify - **It's FREE!**
Go to <https://my.amplifymedia.com/amplify/register>
and use the access code: **FRMYTJ**
to set up your account and get started.

Jesus Girls

Small Group Study
@ Andover UMC
Thursdays @ 10:15am
All are welcome!



Community Center

Andover Community Center
10am-2pm Tues/Wed/Thurs.
More details,
call Debbie 440-689-0026



Giving Online at
www.andoverfirstumc.org
For one time or recurring gifts, visit
www.andoverfirstumc.org/give
on your phone or tablet.



YMCA Silver Sneakers Classes
@ Andover UMC
Yoga Stretch:
Mon.- 10am & Wed. - 10am
Silver Sneakers Classic:
Tues.& Thurs.- 10am

Download the
NEW Vango Mobile App
which has replaced the
GivePlus+ App. Your
Log-in & recurring gifts
transfer over. Search for
Andover UMC in the app.



Call the church office if you need assistance.

Would you like to serve in our
Worship & Discipleship Ministry
through the Nursery or
Kid's Church?

Or maybe you'd like to help out with
one of our Food Ministries?
(Food Bank or Pantry)
Inquire today - call the office.
440-293-6290 or talk to the Pastors.



Rentals

Andover UMC's Fellowship Hall, Kitchen and Classrooms are available to rent for meetings, birthdays, weddings, showers, reunions, office space & many other events that you might be planning. To inquire, call the church office at: 440-293-6290.



Kid's Church - Sundays during 9:30 worship.
UNIT 1: JOY

Mary's Joy - Luke 1:26-38, 46-56
Joseph's Joy - Matthew 1:18-24
Jesus Brings Joy - Luke 2:1-7
Joyous News - Luke 2:8-20
The Magi - Matthew 2:1-12



United Methodist Men & Friends Breakfast

Sat., Dec. 9th
@ 8:30am
All are welcome
to attend!

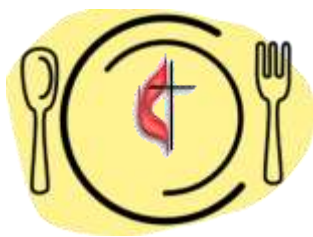
Andover UMC is no longer collecting items such as used eyeglasses, ink cartridges, etc. due to lack of a place to take them to.

Sent with a prayer to:

Andover United Methodist Church
181 South Main St
P.O. Box 207
Andover, OH 44003

No Free Dinner Friday in December!

Join us again on January 26th @ 5:30pm



*Andover UMC
Fellowship Hall
Invite a friend!*

Outdoor Food Pantry December 8th, 9am-Noon @ Andover UMC

Open to all of those in need
in the PV School District

Fighting
hunger.
Delivering
hope.



Andover Community Center
Open Tues. - Thurs. 10a-2p,
Deb Somerville: 440-689-0026



Outdoor Cleveland Foodbank
December 15th, 10am-Noon
@ Andover UMC
Open to all of those in need
in Ashtabula County

