

19 December 2021

Fourth Sunday of Advent

**St. John's:  
Making and Maturing  
Disciples of Jesus Christ**



**BLESSED IS SHE WHO  
HAS BELIEVED THAT THE  
LORD WOULD FULFILL HIS  
PROMISES TO HER**

**LUKE 1:39-56**

 LIFE TEEN

**ST. JOHN'S EVANGELICAL CHURCH  
211 EAST CARROL STREET  
KENTON, OH 43326**

# St. John's Evangelical Church

211 East Carrol Street

Kenton, OH 43326

Office: 419-673-7278

Pastor Randall (cell): 724-290-3651

Church Office Hours: Monday – Friday (9 AM – 1 PM)

Website: [www.stjohnskenton.org](http://www.stjohnskenton.org)

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## “Making and Maturing Disciples of Jesus Christ”

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Fourth Sunday of Advent

December 19, 2021

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### Welcome

#### \*Praise

#### \*Call to Worship/Lighting of the Advent Wreath

<sup>5</sup>Consequently, when Christ came into the world, He said,  
“Sacrifices and offerings You have not desired,

but a body have You prepared for Me;

<sup>6</sup>in burnt offerings and sin offerings

You have taken no pleasure.

<sup>7</sup>Then I said, ‘Behold, I have come to do Your will, O God,  
as it is written of Me in the scroll of the book.’”

<sup>8</sup>When He said above, “You have neither desired nor taken pleasure in sacrifices and offerings and burnt offerings and sin offerings” (these are offered according to the law), <sup>9</sup>then He added, “Behold, I have come to do Your will.” He does away with the first in order to establish the second. <sup>10</sup>And by that will we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.—

#### **Hebrews 10:5-10**

We light the fourth candle of PEACE with the candles of HOPE, LOVE, and JOY. We have peace with God because Christ did for us what we could not do for ourselves. We are sanctified through Christ’s offering of Himself, so that we might have eternal peace.

Let us pray: O Father, as we light these candles, we bask in the glow of the light. We remember all that You have done for us through Your Son. We thank You for His sacrifice and for fulfilling Your will.

Sanctify us by Your Holy Spirit, and grant us peace that we may rest in the offering of Christ that grants us perpetual peace.

In His Name, Amen.

**Let Us Pray Unto the Lord:**

The Pastoral Prayer

Missing Child: Jaylynn Gates – Cleveland, OH

Mission of the Month: Love Inc.

The Lord's Prayer (*Debts/Debtors*)

**Children's Message**      **Mary Visits Elizabeth**      Luke 1:39-41

**Giving of Tithes and Offerings:**

Offering Prayer

Offerings can be placed in the baskets in back of sanctuary

**Scripture**

**Micah 5:2-5a**

**Luke 1:39-45**

**Sermon**

**Blessed is She!**

**\*Praise**

**\*Benediction**

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\*— Those who are able, please stand



**Welcome to St. John's Church**

## **Scripture Readings (ESV):**

### **Micah 5:2-5a:**

<sup>2</sup> But you, O Bethlehem Ephrathah,  
who are too little to be among the clans of Judah,  
from you shall come forth for Me  
one who is to be ruler in Israel,  
whose coming forth is from of old,  
from ancient days.

<sup>3</sup> Therefore He shall give them up until the time  
when she who is in labor has given birth;  
then the rest of His brothers shall return  
to the people of Israel.

<sup>4</sup> And He shall stand and shepherd His flock in the strength of  
the LORD,  
in the majesty of the name of the LORD His God.  
And they shall dwell secure, for now He shall be great  
to the ends of the earth.

<sup>5</sup> And He shall be their peace.  
When the Assyrian comes into our land  
and treads in our palaces,  
then we will raise against him seven shepherds  
and eight princes of men;

### **Luke 1:39-45:**

<sup>39</sup> In those days Mary arose and went with haste into the hill country,  
to a town in Judah, <sup>40</sup> and she entered the house of Zechariah and  
greeted Elizabeth. <sup>41</sup> And when Elizabeth heard the greeting of Mary,  
the baby leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy  
Spirit, <sup>42</sup> and she exclaimed with a loud cry, “Blessed are you among  
women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb! <sup>43</sup> And why is this  
granted to me that the mother of my Lord should come to me? <sup>44</sup> For  
behold, when the sound of your greeting came to my ears, the baby  
in my womb leaped for joy. <sup>45</sup> And blessed is she who believed that  
there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her from the  
Lord.”

Sermon Notes

**19 December 2021**

Scripture: **Micah 5:2-5a; Luke 1:39-45**

Sermon: **Blessed is She!**

1. What comes to mind when you think of peace? How does the Hebrew concept of shalom inform, challenge, and transform your notion of peace?
2. How did Mary and Elizabeth find peace in their roles as servants of God? How does that inspire you to serve God?
3. How does God working through the little things (be it two women on the edge of society in **Luke 1** or Messiah's birthplace being in Bethlehem in **Micah 5:2**) encourage you? How does it give power to the Gospel we share?
4. As the peace of the Lord falls upon you this Advent and Christmas, how can you bring shalom into the lives of others in this season and into the New Year?

## Announcements and Upcoming Events

**Missing Child:** our prayers today go out to Jaylynn Gates missing since December 9, 2021 from Cleveland, OH.

**Mission of the Month:** Love Inc. of Hardin County

**Family Gingerbread House Making Party (Please note date & time change):** Sunday, December 19 at 5 pm. There will also be crafts, sweet treats and hot chocolate. Still lots of spaces if you would like to join in the fun!



**Christmas Card Request for Joyce Agin:** Joyce is in a nursing facility in Minerva and enjoys reading cards. Cards can be mailed to her daughter's address: Joyce Agin c/o Cathy Hart, 22907 Ellsworth Ave., Minerva, OH 44657. She also has a 95<sup>th</sup> birthday coming up on January 26.

**Christmas Eve Service:** December 24 at 8 pm. This year, the service will be a little different than in recent years. This evening will be narrated by God and include the children's choir and youth members leading various parts of the service. Come back with us to a simpler time as we remember the Christmas story and experience it with the faith of a child. Open your hearts as we embark on a journey. Casual dress is appropriate.

**Funeral Expense Need:** A family needs helping paying a funeral bill. If you are able to help, please make checks payable to: Price McElroy Funeral Home and in the memo write St. John's Church. They will also accept cash. Donations can be dropped off at the church office or Price McElroy Funeral Home.

**Committee Budgets & Year End Reports:** It is that time of year again. Please submit year end reports for the Annual Meeting Booklet by December 31 or financials by the beginning of January.

**Mental Health First Aid Training:** Saturday, January 22 in the fellowship hall. There is no cost for this training and lunch is provided. It is being organized by ONU students. To register, email Donna at [ddickman@passaah.org](mailto:ddickman@passaah.org). Last day to register is January 7.

**Annual Congregational Meeting:** January 30 immediately following the morning worship service.

**Celebrate Recovery Meal Sign-Up:** If you are able to provide food, please sign-up in the back of the sanctuary. Please have the food at the church at 6 pm in the kitchenette across from the chapel. Any questions, please see Anna LaWarre or Jerry Pfister.

**Bulletin Announcements:** due by Friday at 9:00 AM.




On average,  
**123**  
people die by suicide each day.  
- American Foundation for Suicide Prevention

From 1999 to 2016,  
**630,000**  
people died from drug overdose.  
- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

Nearly  
**1 IN 5**  
U.S. adults lives with a Mental illness.  
- National Institute of Mental Health via the National Survey on Drug Use and Health and the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration

**The course will teach you how to apply the ALGEE action plan:**

- **A**ssess for risk of suicide or harm.
- **L**isten nonjudgmentally.
- **G**ive reassurance and information.
- **E**ncourage appropriate professional help.
- **E**ncourage self-help and other support strategies.

**Why Mental Health First Aid?**  
Mental Health First Aid teaches you how to identify, understand and respond to signs of mental illness and substance use disorders. This training gives you the skills you need to reach out and provide initial support to someone who may be developing a mental health or substance use problem and help connect them to the appropriate care.

**MHFA Training**  
**Saturday,**  
**January 22, 2022**  
**9:00am – 5:00pm**  
**St. John’s Evangelical Church**  
**211 E. Carrol St.**  
**Kenton, Ohio**  
To register - email Donna at [ddickman@passaah.org](mailto:ddickman@passaah.org)  
Last day to register: January 7th

**Who Should Take it**

- Employers
- Police officers
- Hospital staff
- First responders
- Faith leaders
- Community members
- Caring individuals

**What it Covers**

- Common signs and symptoms of mental illness
- Common signs and symptoms of substance use
- How to interact with a person in crisis
- How to connect the person with help
- **NEW:** Expanded content on trauma, addiction and self-care



**The Mental Health and Recovery Services Board of AAH**

 This program is a top-notch service to area communities like ours and we are so grateful for the opportunity to have this program.” - **Nikki Carber**, Speak Out Against Suicide

## **Week at a Glance**

Today, 12/19: 9:00 AM Sunday School (K-Grade 5)  
9:00 AM Women's Bible Study – FH  
10:00 AM Worship Service  
5:00 PM Family Gingerbread Making Party- FH  
5-7 PM Youth Group

Monday, 12/20: 5:30 PM Decorating for Christmas Eve  
6-8 PM CEF Meeting- Chapel

Tuesday, 12/21: 6:30 PM Celebrate Recovery

Wednesday, 12/22: 5:00 Christmas Eve Rehearsal  
7:00 PM Bible Study – Chapel

Friday, 12/24: 12:00 PM Prayer  
8:00 PM Christmas Eve Service

Saturday, 12/25: Merry Christmas!  
No Men's Bible Study

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### **WORSHIP LEADERS:**

Senior Minister: Rev. Dr. Randall J. Forester

Chancel Choir Director: David Beazley

Children's Choir Director: Hope Cauley

Bell Choir Director: Jane Baker

Organist/Pianists: Randall S. Rogers, Teresa Broseke, Linda Zeigler

### **Week at a Glance:**

Attendance (12/12): 64

Envelopes: 12/5: \$7061.61 12/12: \$2970

Loose Ones: \$

Mission: \$590

Ushers:

12/19: Jim Bidwell, Nancy Rickenbacher (liturgist: Rae Maurer)

12/24: The Weaver Family

12/26: Barb Scott & Janice Rall

