



ST. STEPHEN'S SPIRIT

The Newsletter of St. Stephen's Episcopal Church, Wilkinsburg PA

DECEMBER 2024

For Advent, our bible study is reading a book entitled, "Holy Disruption: Discovering Advent in the Gospel of Mark," by Tracy S. Daub. Wait a minute, you might say, there is no nativity story in the gospel of Mark so how can she write an Advent book about it?

Advent means "coming," and the first line of Mark's gospel, is "The beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ, the Son of God." Isn't that what we are all waiting for during Advent? The coming of the good news of Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

Advent is a time of waiting, says Daub. As Christians, we are not just waiting for the baby to be born but for Christ to come. We are waiting, but Daub says, "This waiting is not passive. In Mark 13, Jesus tells us how to wait. Jesus says, "It is like a man going on a journey, when he leaves home and puts his slaves in charge, each with his work, and commands the doorkeeper to be on the watch." Waiting means we are put in charge, each with our own work. We wait and watch for Christ to redeem our lives and our world by doing the work Jesus gives us to do...

"What is the work you have been given to do, even as you wait and watch for Christ to come into your personal pain and into our broken world? Where does God need you to forgive, to heal, to feed, to speak out, to hold a hand, to write a letter, to wash a body, to hold a baby, to stock a shelf, to march in protest? ...God gives us a special task: being witnesses to hope...

"In Advent, we admit our longing for the coming of Christ to reorder our lives and our world. We admit that the world as we know it needs to come to an end. Hate needs to end. Cruelty needs to end. Suffering needs to end. The darkness found in our own hearts and souls needs to end. The good news...is that God does indeed come into our lives; God enters our pain, our brokenness, and our darkness to redeem us and our world."

As we wait this Advent, St. Stephen's, let's do the work we've been given to do. What is your work?

St. Stephen's Advent and Christmas Events

December 15-Christmas Cookie Coffee Hour! Bring cookies to share.

December 24-7 p.m. Christmas Eve Service

December 25-10:30 a.m. Christmas Day Service (There will be **NO** 8 a.m. service on Christmas.)

December 29-10:30 a.m. Lessons and Carols

Morning Prayer happens the first Wednesday of each month at 10:30 a.m. See you on December 4.

PRAYER FOR DECEMBER

Be still and know that I am God.

Psalm 46:10

2024 Christmas Poinsettia Order Form

Poinsettias - must be ordered by December 11 (the date by which the florist needs the orders)

Name: _____

Contact Number: _____

Special Dedication: _____

Size	Cost	#Red	#White	\$Total
Small red	\$9.75 each			
Medium red	\$19.95 each			
Small white	\$9.75 each			
Medium white	\$19.95 each			
Please write Christmas Flowers on your check & Envelope			Total Due	

FOOD OF THE MONTH

BLESSING BOX DONATIONS NEEDED

(You can put these items in the box in the back of the church or in the blessing box. Please do not put any perishable food items in the blessing box.)

Boxes of stuffing mix

Cans of green beans

Cans of corn

Cans of cranberry sauce

Cans of sweet potatoes

Boxes of corn bread mix

Boxes of dessert mix

Our Christmas Cookie Coffee

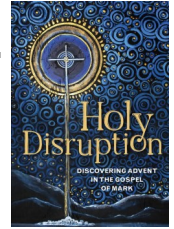
Hour will take place during coffee hour on Sunday, December 15, after the 10:30 service. Bring cookies to share!



ADVENT BIBLE STUDY

OUR BIBLE STUDY IS READING “HOLY DISRUPTION: DISCOVERING ADVENT IN THE GOSPEL OF MARK” FOR ADVENT. LET THE OFFICE KNOW IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN JOINING US.

EVERY THURSDAY FROM 12-2
P.M. IN THE LIBRARY.



MISSION OF THE MONTH

Shepherd's Heart

In 1993, after personally experiencing homelessness in Colorado, Mike and Tina Wurschmidt with their two children came to Western Pennsylvania. In response to God's call, they attended seminary which led to organizing a small team of committed pioneers to worship and walk on the streets, feeding those in need and offering the Good News of Jesus Christ.

Over the years, Shepherd's Heart Fellowship has held evening services in several locations around the city. We now own the church building at 13 Pride Street in Uptown, one block from Mercy Hospital. We currently run services on Sunday evenings at 5:15pm, a drop-in center, clothing and food donations, a veteran's home, and many more services. If you would like to donate, see the link below

<https://shepheart.org/donate>

Or mail a check to Shepherd's Heart Fellowship, 13 Pride Street, Pittsburgh, PA 15219

Roughly 33% of Pittsburgh's homeless folks are veterans. Shepherd's Heart helps veterans to find shelter and stability. What they are doing for our veterans is amazing!

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

December 9

Joann Rau and John Ferraro

December 16

Ray'Onna Thompson

December 25

Christ Sovich



BISHOP KETLEN WILL VISIT ST. STEPHEN'S ON SUNDAY, JANUARY 19.

THE 10:30 A.M. SERVICE WILL BE THE ONLY SERVICE THAT DAY. IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO BECOME A MEMBER OF ST. STEPHEN'S ON THAT DAY OR BE BAPTIZED (or have your child baptized), PLEASE LET FATHER CHUCK OR THE CHURCH OFFICE KNOW AND WE WILL BE IN TOUCH WITH YOU.

TWO NOVEMBER BABIES SHOWED UP TO COFFEE HOUR! HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO THE REST OF YOU!



ANNUAL MEETING

OUR ANNUAL MEETING WILL TAKE PLACE ON **SUNDAY, JANUARY 26** AFTER THE 10:30 A.M. SERVICE. ST. STEPHEN'S ANNUAL MEETINGS ARE FUN! LUNCH, A RECAP OF THE YEAR, AND OPPORTUNITIES TO GET INVOLVED. WE NEED YOUR IDEAS FOR ST. STEPHEN'S!

Anyone who needs to submit an annual report (you know who you are), please submit them to Melanie by Sunday, January 12. Thank you!

UNTIL THE LION LEARNS HOW TO WRITE,
EVERY STORY WILL GLORIFY THE
HUNTER. -AFRICAN PROVERB

Sunday Worship 8AM & 10:30AM

Contact Us

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