

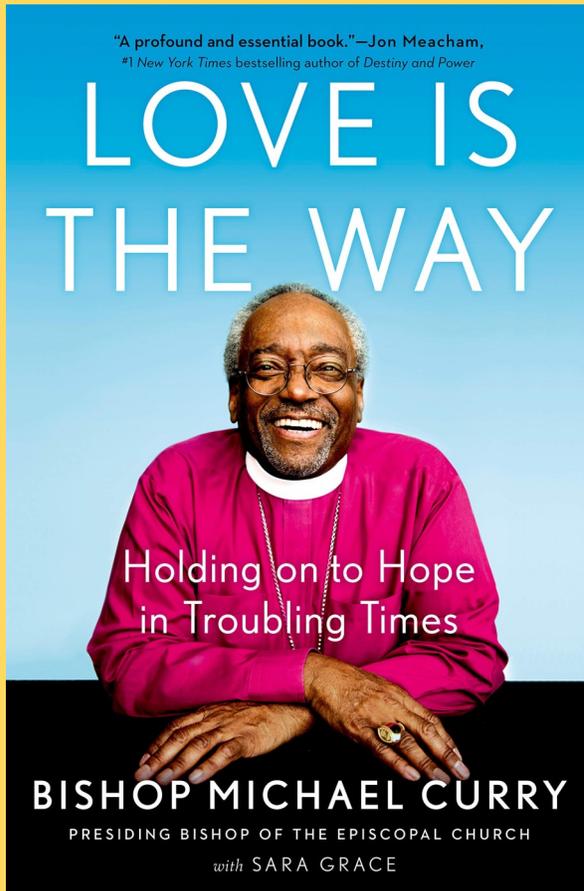
The Episcopal Church of the Advent

Nurtured by Worship

Fed by Fellowship

Strengthened for Service

November 2020—January 2021



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for the New Year
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2020
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LOVE IS THE WAY: Holding on to Hope in Troubling Times is the newest book by our Presiding Bishop, the Right Reverend Michael Curry. Parishioners who have read it say it is a winner. It will be the next selection for the Advent Book Discussion Group.

So heads up: you may want to ask for this book for Christmas this year. Or, you may want to give it to someone else.

Sounds like just the way to start 2021 off on the right foot!

Rector Reflections After the Election

I am about to tell you something about myself that I thought I would never, ever say. I mean, never, ever, *ever*.

This fall a mouse discovered the bag of birdseed I keep under the kitchen sink. Amazingly, this is the first time a mouse has found the bag in the 5 or so years I've been keeping it there. The first evidence was birdseed, scattered across the floor of the cupboard, but even then, I thought to myself "O, I wonder if I forgot to close the bag." And then the little scratching sounds started. It was usually in the evening, after dark that I heard them. Scratching and the crunch of seeds and teeth. Sometimes there were tiny squeaks too. All of that made me want to flee the room rather than check things out. Sometimes I wondered if all that noise was from something larger than a mouse.

Eventually I did check it out and dutifully removed the bag of birdseed, swept up the excess seed and repaired the hole in the bag. Not wanting to put it back under the sink, I put it on the kitchen floor until I could figure out where to store it. With a cat, I figured that was a safe bet for a short while. And it was.

But then the mice (yes, there are two) began creeping out from under the stove, coming ever closer to the bag of seed. From where I sat in my Lazy-Boy I had a good view. My feet up on the foot-rest I felt fairly brave. They would creep out, and if I stirred, back under the stove they'd scamper. Every now and then, I caught a glimpse of them chasing each other.

And here is the really weird part: the more I saw them, the less scared I was. And the thing I thought I would never, ever, *ever* admit? I even grew to like them a little. In fact, if they didn't show up around 9 pm in the evening, I wondered if they were OK.

I wonder if those who voted for the 'other' candidate this year, the ones who make us fearful, suspicious and distrustful—I wonder if they are quite as bad in real life as they are in our imagination. I wonder if they are more like us than different from us. And I wonder if there are ways,

following this election and its aftermath, if we can learn to see each other's real-life worries, fears and challenges, so that our nation can come through this time of crisis. I wonder if we can have the courage to be genuinely curious about each other and not let our opinion about who they voted for undermine our understanding of why they care and who they really are.

But, regardless of who we voted for, as Christians we *all* have a responsibility to help our nation heal. How can I support you in doing your part to heal our nation? How shall we, together as a parish, do our part to help our nation heal? The democracy that we have inherited from generations before us is a sacred trust we are called to preserve for generations to come. Let's do what we can to help it work. —Lynn+

Fill the Manger

Over the years, the Church of the Advent Rector's Discretionary Fund has helped people avoid eviction by providing financial assistance that is sent directly to the landlord. Recently, Jan Lattuca, a retired social worker, has helped coordinate our effort with the family, the landlord and other agencies who provide support services.

COVID-19 eviction protection is set to expire at the end of the year and those of us in the business of helping vulnerable families anticipate a dramatic rise in requests for help. To prepare to meet that need, I suggest we collect funds to help out some local families.

We can think of it as preparing a manger to welcome the Christ child.

Each dollar collected will become 'straw' to fill the Christmas manger and will go to a special rent assistance fund. Jan will help us work with other organizations to help the money be put to good use.

To participate, make your check to "Rector's Discretionary Fund" and write 'fill the manger' in the memo line.



CHRISTMAS COLLECTION FOR THE FOOD PANTRY AT ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN

Once again, Advent will be supporting the Food Pantry at St. John's. However, due to the pandemic, the Food Pantry is specifically requesting highly used items rather than items for a holiday meal basket.

Advent will collect 25 each of the following items:

spaghetti sauce, peanut butter, jelly, canned beans (black, red, or pork & beans), cereal, oatmeal, pancake mix, syrup, toilet paper, laundry detergent (no large box sizes please)

Please leave your donations in the designated boxes in the narthex from November 8th through December 6th:

If you do not feel comfortable coming to church to deliver items, please contact one of the members of the Outreach Committee below, and we will arrange for a socially distanced pickup at your home.

Advent will provide 30 Gift Cards @ \$30 each to the Grocery Outlet (1023 West County Line Road, Warminster; preferred store) or Giant.

The Food Pantry is not accepting Aldi gift cards at this time.

The Outreach budget will underwrite the cost of the gift cards, but a cash donation toward the gift cards or a donation of an actual gift card is greatly appreciated. Monetary donations can be sent to Advent with "Food pantry donation" on the memo line.

Donations of cash and gift cards must be received by December 6th

We will deliver the items to St. John's on Sunday, December 13th.

We will load up the cars after church on Sunday and deliver to St. John's at 11:00 AM. If you can help load and deliver, please contact Ellen Kavash (215-885-3648, EllenBaxter@msn.com).

For further information, please contact any member of the Outreach Committee (Jeanne Bernosky, Janet Gilman, Ellen Kavash, Deb Stoddart, Trish Troilo).



ADVENT BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP

**NO MATTER WHAT YOU ARE FEELING OR THINKING—
YOU ARE PROBABLY STILL CHALLENGED TO HOLD ONTO HOPE IN THESE
TROUBLING TIMES.**

Yep, you can count on it. Along about January you will be sick and tired of COVID-19. You'll be feeling the effects staying home all the time. You'll be recovering from a Christmas that was a little disappointing.

Or, maybe you will feel cozy and snug in your warm home. Maybe you'll be grateful for your health. Maybe you'll be reminiscing about a Christmas that was different, but still good.

Nonetheless, whatever your state of mind, you might really like to join the book group as we read and discuss Presiding Bishop Michael Curry's new book,

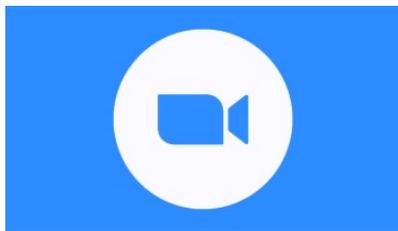
LOVE IS THE WAY: HOLDING ONTO HOPE IN TROUBLING TIMES

We meet online or by phone on Thursday afternoons,
from 3-4 pm, beginning January 8th.

Please contact Lynn for a Zoom link if you'd like to join with a bunch of really interesting people having interesting conversations about interesting books!

NO MATTER WHAT YOU ARE FEELING OR THINKING—

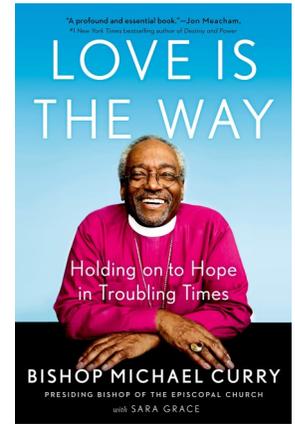
—THIS IS A GREAT WAY TO START YOUR NEW YEAR!



SPECIAL ZOOM COFFEE HOUR

**Sunday, November 22 at 10:30 AM
to celebrate our 2020 stewardship drive
and the reveal the preliminary 2021 budget.**

Please email Lynn at rectoradvent4@gmail.com for the Zoom link.



Christmas at Advent, 2020

While it is true that we may be in lockdown again at Christmas, if we are NOT, here is how we will celebrate Christmas at the Church of the Advent in 2020.

CHRISTMAS EVE

6:30 pm Music prelude with carols and the talents of our parish to get you in a Christmas mood.

7 pm Festive Eucharist and in person (*max 40; reservations required.*)

CHRISTMAS DAY

10:00 a.m. spoken Eucharist in the Chapel (*max 15; reservations required.*)

HERE ARE SOME OTHER WAYS YOU CAN BE A PART OF OUR
CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION AT CHURCH OF THE ADVENT.

- Help beautify the altar area by contributing to the flower fund
- Help share the joy by delivering poinsettias to others
- We are looking for young people who grew up at Advent and have played music for preludes, offertories in the past to pre-record a musical selection for our Christmas Eve prelude. Contact Lynn at rectoradvent4@gmail.com.



November December January Birthdays

Watch over your child, O Lord, as their days increase; bless and guide them wherever they may be. Strengthen them when they stand; comfort them when discouraged or sorrowful; raise them up if they fall; and in their heart may your peace which passes understanding abide all the days of their life.

November

11/3 Sharon Dippre
11/7 Dave Walton
11/7 Evan Dippre
11/9 Michael Cummings
11/9 Victor Kalnajs
11/12 Bruce Nicholson
11/13 Aylis Wolf
11/15 Betty Cummings
11/15 Olga Gordon
11/17 Rowan Klotzbach
11/23 Ellen Kavash
11/28 Lyn Werner

December

12/1 William Meehl
12/3 Chuck Jay
12/9 Peggy Madden
12/11 Lynn Marie Marass
12/11 Wayne Sinclair
12/17 Louise Zimmerman
12/18 Linda McGuigan-Miller
12/19 Patricia Myers
12/21 Kathleen Lawson
12/23 Kathleen Rose Gilman
12/24 Anthony Lawson
12/25 Carol Nicolais
12/28 Gail Johnson
12/29 Margie Smith
12/31 Ray Magill

January

1/2 George Wolf
1/3 Jan Lattuca
1/4 James Palmer
1/14 Brandon Bartley
1/15 Bernadette Matlack
1/21 Janet Gilman
1/26 Adalynn Sinclair
1/28 Nicholas Miller



Church of the Advent
12 Byberry Road
Hatboro, PA 19040

THE CHURCH OF THE ADVENT is an Episcopal parish that is striving to be the presence of Jesus Christ in Hatboro, Pennsylvania. Wherever you may be on your personal spiritual journey, we invite you to join us in our spirit-filled worship, our open exploration of the Christian faith, and our strong commitment to serving our neighborhood.

Church of the Advent
12 Byberry Rd

Hatboro, PA 19040

215-675-5659

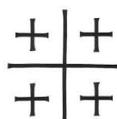
adventhatboro.org

www.facebook.com/AdventHatboro/

Online services at 9 am on Sundays

Access through our website
or Facebook page

Limited in-person worship at 9 am
Please call the office to reserve a space
by Wednesday afternoon



Find us on the web at: www.adventhatboro.org

Call us at 215-675-5737

NOVEMBER 2020—JANUARY 2021