



# The Grace Vine

December 2022

## Rector's Writ

We know that in order to celebrate Christmas joyfully, it helps to do the spiritual preparation—listening, reflection, and prayer—the Advent season calls us to work on.

We find it's seldom easy making time to be in God's loving presence when there are so many demands and preparations that are part of the holidays. From Thanksgiving on it seems we're in high gear with any number of things that can prevent us (if we're not careful and deliberate) from keeping close to God, from reflecting on Jesus' life and teachings, or from simple prayer...whether we're praying at church, in the kitchen, or in the car. Advent and Christmas are holy seasons, encircled with a sense of the spiritual, sacred, and often mysterious ways and works of God, Christ, and the Holy Spirit.

Certainly at Christmas we embrace the hope, joy, and peace that God gives us all in the life of his Son, our Savior Jesus Christ. Below are a few prayers and thoughts to offer as we journey through these holy seasons with the Lord who makes them holy.

*"My God, what joy it is when you come to us in daily visitation; what peace is ours when by your coming we find life anew. Come, O come to live with us and reign within, now and forever. Amen." (from A Guide to Prayer for All God's People; R. Job, N. Shawchuck, p.42)*

*"The world is the place where we meet God because it is the place where God meets us in the person of Jesus Christ. Christ did not merely inhabit human flesh; he became flesh. He made himself, as God, to be one with humanity in the concrete, historical realities of human life. Truly, God has entered into the world and it is in the world that Christians must turn to find God." (ibid, p. 44; from Merton's Palace of Nowhere by James Finley)*

*"O God, who wonderfully created, and yet more wonderfully restored, the dignity of human nature: Grant that we may share the divine life of him who humbled himself to share our humanity, your Son Jesus Christ; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen." (BCP, p. 214)*

A blessed Advent and joyous Christmas  
to you and those you love.

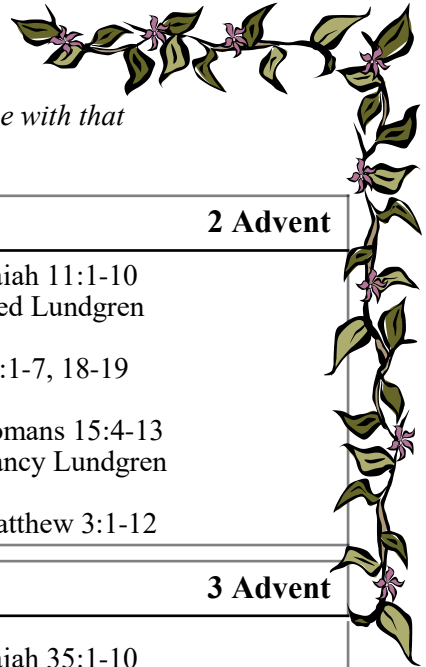


Carol +



# Service and Lay Ministry Schedule

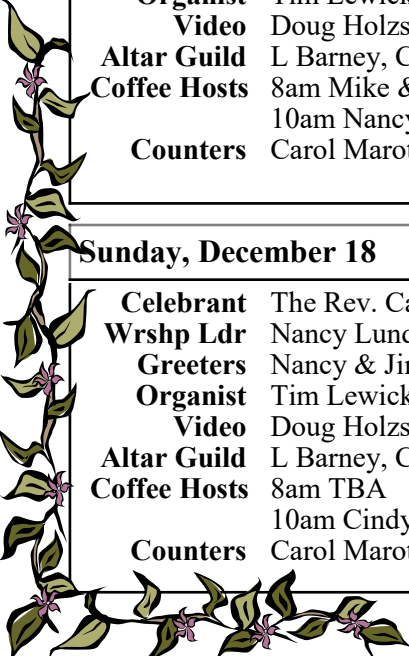
*If you cannot serve when scheduled, please find a substitute and call the parish office with that person's name. Thank you for sharing in the liturgical ministry of Grace Church.*



<b>Sunday, December 4</b>		<b>8:00 &amp; 10:00 AM Holy Eucharist</b>		<b>2 Advent</b>	
<b>Celebrant</b>	The Rev. Carol Evans	<b>1<sup>st</sup> Reading</b>	Isaiah 11:1-10		
<b>Wrshp Ldr</b>	10am Carolyn Englert		Fred Lundgren		
<b>Greeters</b>	Fred & Nancy Lundgren	<b>Psalm</b>	72:1-7, 18-19		
<b>Organist</b>	Tim Lewicki	<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Reading</b>	Romans 15:4-13		
<b>Video</b>	Doug Holzschuh		Nancy Lundgren		
<b>Altar Guild</b>	L Barney, C Potisuk, & M Snyder	<b>Gospel</b>	Matthew 3:1-12		
<b>Coffee Hosts</b>	8am Joan & Frank Seman				
	10am Mary Jean & John McDonald				
<b>Counters</b>	Carol Marotta & Midge Myers				

<b>Sunday, December 11</b>		<b>8:00 &amp; 10:00 AM Holy Eucharist</b>		<b>3 Advent</b>	
<b>Celebrant</b>	The Rev. Carol Evans	<b>1<sup>st</sup> Reading</b>	Isaiah 35:1-10		
<b>Deacon</b>	The Rev. William Snyder		Tim Splinter		
<b>Greeters</b>	Jeff & Lisa Marsh	<b>Psalm</b>	15		
<b>Organist</b>	Tim Lewicki	<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Reading</b>	James 5:7-10		
<b>Video</b>	Doug Holzschuh		Carolyn Englert		
<b>Altar Guild</b>	L Barney, C Potisuk, & M Snyder	<b>Gospel</b>	Matthew 11:2-11		
<b>Coffee Hosts</b>	8am Mike & Shirley Johnson				
	10am Nancy & Jim Ervin				
<b>Counters</b>	Carol Marotta & Midge Myers				

<b>Sunday, December 18</b>		<b>8:00 &amp; 10:00 AM Holy Eucharist</b>		<b>4 Advent</b>	
<b>Celebrant</b>	The Rev. Carol Evans	<b>1<sup>st</sup> Reading</b>	Isaiah 7:10-16		
<b>Wrshp Ldr</b>	Nancy Lundgren		Martha Croll		
<b>Greeters</b>	Nancy & Jim Ervin	<b>Psalm</b>	80:1-7, 16-18		
<b>Organist</b>	Tim Lewicki	<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Reading</b>	Romans 1:1-7		
<b>Video</b>	Doug Holzschuh		Jeff Croll		
<b>Altar Guild</b>	L Barney, C Potisuk, & M Snyder	<b>Gospel</b>	Matthew 1:18-25		
<b>Coffee Hosts</b>	8am TBA				
	10am Cindy Ward & Cathy Potisuk				
<b>Counters</b>	Carol Marotta & Midge Myers				



**Greening of the Church**  
December 18<sup>th</sup>

After the 10am service.

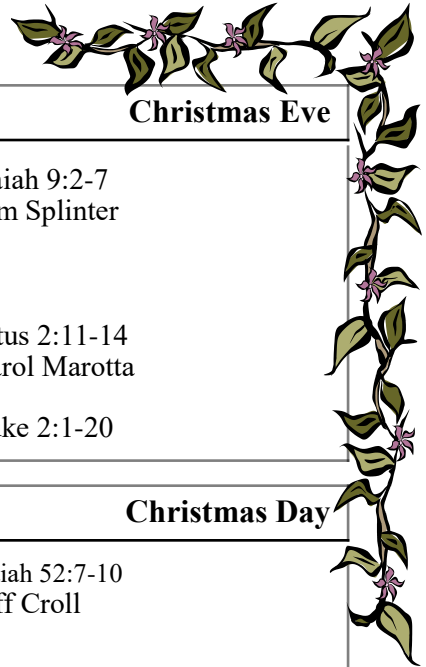
Luncheon of hotdogs and chili will be served.

**Breakfast Club**

December 15<sup>th</sup>  
8:00 AM

**Cracker Barrel**

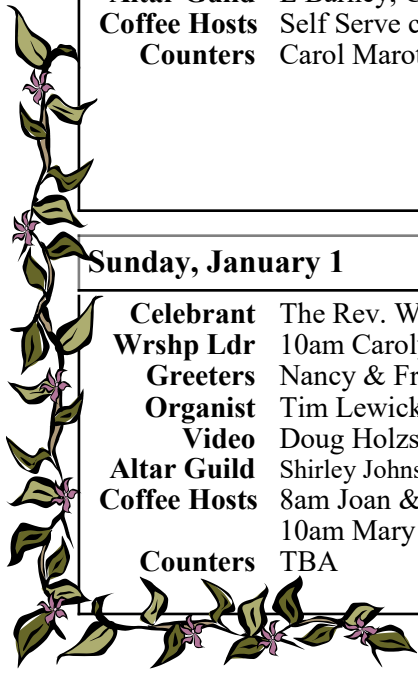
Everyone is invited to join the group! We order off the menu and pay for our own meals.



Saturday, December 24		10:00pm Festive Holy Eucharist		Christmas Eve	
<b>Celebrant</b>	The Rev. Carol Evans	<b>1<sup>st</sup> Reading</b>	Isaiah 9:2-7		
<b>Deacon</b>	The Rev. William Snyder		Tim Splinter		
<b>Greeters</b>	John & Mary Jean McDonald	<b>Psalm</b>	96		
<b>Organist</b>	Tim Lewicki	<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Reading</b>	Titus 2:11-14		
<b>Video</b>	Doug Holzschuh		Carol Marotta		
<b>Altar Guild</b>	L Barney, C Potisuk, & M Snyder	<b>Gospel</b>	Luke 2:1-20		
<b>Counters</b>	Carol Marotta & Midge Myers				

Sunday, December 25		9:00am Holy Eucharist		Christmas Day	
<b>Celebrant</b>	The Rev. Carol Evans	<b>1<sup>st</sup> Reading</b>	Isaiah 52:7-10		
<b>Guitar</b>	Martha Croll		Jeff Croll		
<b>Altar Guild</b>	L Barney, C Potisuk, & M Snyder	<b>Psalm</b>	98		
<b>Coffee Hosts</b>	Self Serve coffee and cookies	<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Reading</b>	Hebrews 1:1-12		
<b>Counters</b>	Carol Marotta & Midge Myers		Martha Croll		
		<b>Gospel</b>	John 1:1-14		

Sunday, January 1		8:00 & 10:00 AM Morning Prayer		Holy Name	
<b>Celebrant</b>	The Rev. William Snyder	<b>1<sup>st</sup> Reading</b>	Numbers 6:22-27		
<b>Wrshp Ldr</b>	10am Carolyn Englert		Nancy Lundgren		
<b>Greeters</b>	Nancy & Fred Lundgren	<b>Psalm</b>	8		
<b>Organist</b>	Tim Lewicki	<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Reading</b>	Philippians 2:5-11		
<b>Video</b>	Doug Holzschuh		Fred Lundgren		
<b>Altar Guild</b>	Shirley Johnson & Bette Brooks	<b>Gospel</b>	Luke 2:15-21		
<b>Coffee Hosts</b>	8am Joan & Frank Seman				
	10am Mary Jean & John McDonald				
<b>Counters</b>	TBA				



## Gracie's Back Door

Until Gracie's Back Door is open again, please don't bring any more items to the store.

## Walking Group

Come walk with us. Carol Marotta & Laurie Barney will lead the walk at 12:00. Meet at Chestnut Hills Park, Ravenna, and walk to the first parking lot.





# Did You Know?...



We hope you all had a very happy Thanksgiving. We have so many things to be thankful for this year; including our families, friends, and all those loved ones that mean so much to us. That includes our Grace Church family and the people that are here every Sunday and those who can't--for one reason or another--be here to take part in our service. We're blessed with a good group of people. Most of us are thankful the election is over and we don't have to see any more of those commercials...

I spoke with **Sally Dier** and she thanks everyone for their prayers and support. She and **Dennis** will be having Thanksgiving at daughter **Dani's** and her boyfriend **Wyatt's** new home they're buying. Sally will be making lots of pies, and who doesn't love pie?!...

**Nancy & Fred Lundgren** will spend Thanksgiving with their daughter **Lisa** and her family. Their son **Bill** will be coming from Texas to enjoy the holiday with the family. Nancy will bake the turkey and make cranberry salad and then they'll all be off to Lisa's house...

**Joan & Frank Seman** will host about twenty family and friends for the holiday, so they'll enjoy a house full of people...

**Bette Brooks and daughter Laurel** will spend the holiday together. It's nice to have Laurel back in the area....

**Debbie Shorts & Rick Lashley and Deb's son Eric** will celebrate their holiday on Wednesday, so Eric can go to his father's home on Thanksgiving...

**Mike & Shirley Johnson** will be enjoying a holiday visit with daughter **Debbie** & her husband **Phil** and their family in South Carolina...

**Tom & Mary Jane Furrer** are headed to Georgia to spend time with their daughter and her family. On their way south they'll be stopping in the Carolinas to visit another of their children...

**Marcia, Tim & Eric Splinter** will be over the river and through the woods when headed for Wisconsin to be with Tim's mother and their son **Kevin** who now lives and works in Wisconsin...

**Marsha & Bill Snyder** will have their son **Luke** and his family over to share their Thanksgiving...

**Kathy Summy** was delighted to report she'd released 67 monarch butterflies this year, and she was glad all those she raised were all in good health...

We are saddened by the death of **Eleanor Blank**, a long-time member of our church family. Eleanor was 101 years old. **Rev. Carol** led the burial service and celebration of life for Eleanor. Afterward the family had a luncheon catered by Guido's in the Parish Hall. Grace's Hospitality Group—headed by **Nancy Ervin**, with help from **Cindy Ward** and **Shirley & Mike Johnson**—served the lunch for the Blank family and friends. **Barb**

**Popiel, Debbie Shorts, Cathy Potisuk, and Marsha Snyder** brought desserts, & **Nancy Ervin** made macaroni salad...

The choir has been increased by a whopping 20% since **Tom and Mary Jane Furrer** joined. We were once six and now we are now the mighty eight. YAH! Welcome Tom & Mary Jane!...

Many thanks to **Nancy & Jim Ervin** for taking the non-perishable food donations in the red wagon and the hats that **Bev Lewis-Mercury** made to the Center of Hope...

It was wonderful to see **Rick Taylor** back in church on Nov. 6th. Rick spent more than a month and a half in the hospital, so when he walked into church that Sunday morning, we were all so glad to see him back here again. This year Rick spent his birthday being transferred from the Cleveland Clinic to a rehab hospital in Akron to help get his strength back. He worked hard and made progress. Once he was home for a time, his good friend had a belated surprise birthday party for him, and Rick was happily surprised....

**Amanda Brooks** is 1 of 10 finalists for the prestigious Ragan Communications Media Relations Professional of the Year. This award recognizes outstanding work by media relations professionals in all areas—sports, corporations, consulting groups, etc. The winner will be announced December 12, 2022. Good luck, Amanda!...

The Diocesan Convention took place last month and one of the main business items was electing a bishop coadjutor; i.e. the person who will become our next diocesan bishop once **Mark Hollingsworth** has retired. **The Rev. Anne B. Jolly** was elected. Many thanks to our delegates: **Barb Popiel, Carol Marotta, and Kingsland Pretorius** who gave their time and energy to represent Grace Church at convention...

The Poker Boys always enjoy the time they spend playing cards, but they also enjoy helping others. This year they've given winnings to purchase Thanksgiving items for the Center of Hope. They bought and delivered 12 turkeys, 8 boxes of stuffing, and 8 cans of cranberry sauce last month. Thanks "boys." (especially **Bill** for delivering those hefty turkeys!...)...

Our new sacristans **Laurie Barney and Cathy Potisuk** held a brunch meeting for the Altar Guild. Plans for 2023 were discussed and schedules were handed out. They served a wonderful meal, and it was great just being together. We need at least two new members, if anyone is interested in becoming a member, please let Cathy or Laurie know....and just so you know men are welcome, too!

# Thank you! Thank you!

Our thanks & appreciation to those who serve & help at Grace Church in so many ways, including:

- **The Poker Boys—Jeff Marsh, Jeff Croll, Bill Snyder, Tony Mercury, and Maynard Evans**—for donating 12 turkeys, 8 boxes of stuffing and 8 cans of cranberry to the Center of Hope for Thanksgiving.
- **John McDonald** for moving storage cabinets & file cabinets & preparing the hallways near the office for the painters AND for putting it all back in place, too. John also did a LOT of late autumn trimming on the plants around the church & rectory and the overgrown bushes at the rectory, too.
- For those who helped with **Eleanor Blank's** reception and to those who made desserts as well: **Nancy & Jim Ervin, Cindy Ward, Shirley & Mike Johnson (reception help & clean up), and to Barb Popiel, Cathy Potisuk, Debbie Shorts, Marsha Snyder** for desserts they made and to **Nancy Ervin** for her macaroni salad.
- **Shirley Johnson** for mailing Thanksgiving cards to members we haven't seen in a while. Also to **Shirley & Mike Johnson** for their soup & cookie ministry.
- **Nancy & Jim Ervin** for taking the non-perishable food and knitted hats to the Center of Hope.
- **Marcia Splinter** for all the work she gives to being Grace's treasurer.
- **Tim Splinter** for assisting the church secretary -- again.
- Our members who help with worship services and fellowship by: setting & clearing the Altar each Sunday & making the seasonal changes; greeting/ushering; reading scriptures; being worship leaders; helping with the chalice when needed; singing in the choir (especially those lovely anthems); and serving as coffee hosts so we can enjoy fellowship AND goodies.
- **Deacon Bill Snyder** for his service & help each month, before & during the services.
- **The Rev. Tom Furrer and to The Rev. Bill Snyder** for leading services while the rector took vacation.
- All our members who continue to contribute including those who need to keep home due to health & COVID concerns.
- **Doug Holzschuh** for live streaming and recording services for our members at home to access and for the monthly links for the bulletins that are sent out.
- All who support God's work at Grace Church with your giving of time, talents/skills, resources, and your prayers.

## Birthdays

7th Roberta O'Keefe  
11th Kay Canan  
16th Shirley Johnson  
21st Beth Dier  
27th John Monegan  
29th Rachel Audet  
31st Hank Cabot



## Congratulations!

*and many happy returns...*



## Anniversaries

6th Hank & Mary Cabot  
14th John & Cherry Monegan  
17th Bruce & Sue Ahrens  
22nd Jim & Amy Neely

## Baptisms

3rd Rev. Carol Evans  
13th Mike Johnson  
22nd Michael Canan



# The Bulletin Board

## Christmas Services

Since Christmas falls on a Sunday this year, we're offering the following services and hope to see our Grace family for one or both services, as your faith and the spirit of this holy season move you. Please bring family & friends or watch the livestream with them. The schedule is:

**December 24<sup>th</sup> 10 pm** Christmas Eve Eucharist beginning with half hour of carols and anthems. Service begins at 10:30

**December 25<sup>th</sup> 9 a.m.** Christmas Day Eucharist

\*As of this writing, Doug Holzschuh, our videographer plans to livestream/record both services, so members at home have the option of joining us for worship on Christmas Eve or Christmas morning. THANK YOU, DOUG!



## Tapestries Madrigal Christmas Concert

**December 3<sup>rd</sup> – 2:00 pm**

We've enjoyed their performances before and look forward to some grand singing, music, and costumes. There's no charge and a freewill offering will be taken.

A reception follows. Please plan to join us and invite your family & friends for a wonderful addition to your Christmas holiday. Cookies will be served at the reception and a sign-up sheet will be available in the parish hall. Marcia Splinter says Grace is known as 'the church with the really good cookies.'

Thanks to all who help with cookies, set up, and decorations.

## Outreach Projects

**Raven Packs** - The vestry has decided to donate money (outreach dollars from Beatty) instead of asking for certain items from parishioners. Anyone is welcome to donate on their own also. The address for any cash/check donations is: Raven Packs, P.O. Box 728, Ravenna, OH 44266

**Ravenna High School** - (for men) deodorant, shampoo, shaving items, etc. (for women) cosmetic bags with makeup samples, and laundry detergent to be taken home. Unscented wipes.

**Center of Hope** (red wagon) -Peanut Butter, canned Tuna/Chicken, Ramen Noodles, and Mac & Cheese

**Center of Hope** - Shampoo/Conditioner, Toothpaste & Toothbrushes, Travel Mouthwash, Dental Floss, and Combs. Also Socks, Underwear, Hats, and Gloves will be needed by Dec 19.

**APL** - List of needs is on the container in the parish hall

Thank you as always for any help you can give for these Outreach Projects helping those in need.

Thank You!  
Grace's Vestry

## Adopt a Family

The Vestry has once again decided to "ADOPT A FAMILY" that is in need this holiday season. We are asking for monetary donations to assist with this Outreach project. Our goal is \$1,500.00. You were very generous last year and we exceeded our goal.

If you are so moved by this appeal, please make your check out to: Grace Episcopal Church and mark "Adopt" in the memo. Please place it in the collection plate or mail it to the church office by December 11th. The address is: Grace Episcopal Church 250 W. Cedar Ave. Ravenna, OH 44266.

Again, your generosity in the past has been phenomenal for people in need. Thank you for any help you can give. It will be greatly appreciated.

# *Fathers (and Mothers) and Friends*

By Bette Brooks

*They lived not only in ages past; there are hundreds of thousands still.  
The world is bright with the joyous saints who love to do Jesus' will.*

The liturgical season of Advent is one of preparation, of expectant waiting, of looking forward to Christmas Day and the coming of Emmanuel, God with us. The commercial world ignores Advent, moving immediately from Halloween, sliding through Thanksgiving, and bombarding us with the worldly trappings of a secular season of Christmas, one that often begins before all the Halloween candy is eaten. If you are as tired of this as I am, I invite you to consider the following piece written by Joan Sheldon. I found it years ago in some devotional literature, tucked it away, and somehow it rose to the surface again this year. May you have a Christ-filled Advent!

ADVENT  
by Joan Sheldon

Advent comes quietly.  
Between the feasting on turkey  
And the riotous potlatch of Christmas,  
Advent comes silently;  
Like the first winter snow  
that falls in the night.

The purple color of penitence  
Competes with:  
the reds and greens  
the gold and silver tinsel  
“Rudolph, the Red-nosed Reindeer.”  
Wassail bowls bring bright eyes and  
tragedies in icy ditches.  
And, somehow, under the raucous cacophony  
of Salvation Army bells and the  
insistent salesmanship of bright,  
sincere, and wheedling hucksters,  
Can be heard, ever so faintly:  
“O Come, O Come Emmanuel.”

It was the same, then, too.  
Roman legions marched gloriously,  
And royal houses lived riotously, mid  
Intrigues, power plots, and conniving.  
As a lonely couple made their painful way—  
He afoot, and she on a humble donkey,  
To a place that had no room.





## The Grace Vine

Grace Episcopal Church  
250 W. Cedar St.  
Ravenna OH 44266

Grace Episcopal Church of Ravenna

The Rev. Carol Evans—Rector  
The Rev. William Snyder  
Marsha Snyder—Secretary  
Tim Lewicki—Organist  
Martha Croll—Choirmaster

Phone: 330-296-3443  
Web Site: [www.graceravenna.org](http://www.graceravenna.org)  
Email: [revcarol@graceravenna.org](mailto:revcarol@graceravenna.org)

The Vestry of Grace Episcopal Church  
Carol Marotta, Junior Warden (2022)  
Laurie Barney, Clerk (2023)  
Barb Popiel, Senior Warden (2023)  
Kingsland Pretorius (2023)  
Midge Myers (2024)

## Get your Grace Vine By Email!

The Grace Vine is available as an Adobe PDF file. You can request to receive it by email each month and we will stop making a paper copy for you, saving time and paper (and perhaps postage too)! Back issues are all available on the website, [GraceRavenna.org](http://GraceRavenna.org).

If you would like to take advantage of this, send me an email at [grwebmaster@graceravenna.org](mailto:grwebmaster@graceravenna.org). Please consider the paper copy and have it read rather than save the paper and postage and have it go unread.