



Edinburg
United
Church

THE OPEN DOOR

December 2022

Let us celebrate our Advent season with **Hope, Peace, Joy, and Love**. I decided to look up the words in the Webster dictionary and believe it or not there is a Spiritual meaning as well.

Webster defines “Hope” as to cherish a desire with anticipation to want something to happen or be true. The Spiritual meaning, which I found online means believing good things will happen with faith in a higher power.

The Webster meaning to Joy is a state of happiness of felicity or bliss. The Spiritual meaning is a feeling of good pleasure and happiness that is rather than on who we are or what is happening around us.

The Webster meaning to “Love” is a strong affection for another arising out of kinship or personal ties. The Spiritual meaning refers to love rooted in a spiritual connection that helps us find meaning and purpose in our lives.

Whether you define these words by the dictionary or spiritual meaning doesn't it feel great that these four words impact our lives in different ways. We all have hope, peace, joy, and love in our lives, we just need to stop, breathe and look around.

We have included a Bio for Pastor Susan below so everyone will be familiar with her as she pens another chapter in our EUC book.

Matthew 1: 18-25

Now the birth of Jesus Christ was as follows: when His mother Mary was betrothed to Joseph, before they came together, she was found with child of the Holy Spirit. And Joseph her husband, being a righteous man, and not wanting to disgrace her, planned to send her away secretly. But when he had considered this, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, “Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife; for the Child who has been conceived in her is of Holy Spirit.

She will bear a Son; and you shall call His name Jesus, for He will save His people from their sins.” Now all this took place to fulfill what was spoken by the Lord through the prophet: “Behold, the virgin shall be with child and shall bear a Son, and they shall call His name Immanuel,” which translated means, “God with us.” And Joseph awoke from his sleep and did as the angel of the Lord commanded him, and took Mary as his wife, but kept her a virgin until she gave birth to a Son, and he called His name Jesus.

The Rev. Susan L. Parker Lehosky ~ Pastor Susan in a nutshell or two...

Grace and peace to the church family of Edinburg United Church. It is a joy to begin as your interim minister during your celebration of 200 years of ministry as you also look to the future. Allow me to introduce myself. I was born in Long Island, borough of Queens, New York and I am an only child. For those of you with big families, I have one cousin who lives in North Carolina. I grew up in Elyria. I attended Bowling Green State University and earned a Bachelor of Science Degree in Education majoring in Speech Pathology and Audiology. Over the years I have done many things. I worked as a speech therapist in Ohio and North Carolina. I was co-owner, along with my mom, of a retail store selling educational toys and supplemental teaching materials. I briefly had my Real Estate license and sold one house! I worked for Dominos Pizza's Distribution Co in Kentucky and South Carolina for 10 years and Moen, Inc. on the Home Depot team. I can make a pizza and fix your faucet. My faith and spiritual journey has been guided and supported by many people and experiences. I attended Lancaster Theological Seminary (LTS) graduating with a Master of Divinity in 2005 and was the student representative on the Search Committee to call a new president. I have served four churches in both the Presbyterian Church USA and the United Church of Christ over the past seventeen years as an ordained minister. During my time at LTS I became aware of the importance and necessity of growing in faith through spiritual practices both as an individual and in our collective faith journey experiences. I trained through Oasis Ministries as a spiritual director, and in leading contemplative prayer. I attended labyrinth facilitator training with the Rev. Dr. Laruen Artress, recreational drum circle facilitator training with Kalani of Drum Circle Music, and HealthRHYTHMS Group Empowerment Drumming with Christine Stevens with the Remo drum company. My spiritual faith journey has taken me down a path of wholeness and healing. As a result, I am a Reiki Master and a Healing Touch Program Practitioner Apprentice. My goal is to become a certified practitioner. This past May I had the privilege of becoming an Associate of the Congregation of the Sisters of St Joseph. The congregation I've spent time with since 2007 is located in Wheeling, WV. These women have an amazing spirit and lead ministries addressing social justice work and the needs of underserved people. I was married to my husband Frank, whom I met in seminary, for ten years. He was also an ordained minister in the Living Water Association at the time of his passing in 2014 of a brain aneurysm. I live with my dog Baxter who is a nine-year old Southern Black Mouth Cur. He's every bit a hound. For those who have asked about giving him treats, regrettably he has inflammatory bowel disease and can only eat his special food ~ yes, dogs get IBS. That's it in two nut shells. Now... tell me your story...

In Christ's love & grace ~ Pastor Susan



On Wednesday, December 21 at 7:00pm we will have *The Longest Night ~ Blue Christmas Service*. December 21st is the winter solstice and the longest night of the year. During the Christmas and holiday season we get wrapped up in the frenzy of shopping, parties, decorating and all the expectations of others and the expectations we place upon ourselves, no matter how unrealistic. This frenzy

can become exhausting. Also, in the midst of our Christmas joy, there is the reality that the Christmas season carries pain and sadness for some people. The death of a loved one or the loss of abundant living as a love one slips from this earth can bring sadness and loneliness. It is a time when sadness and loneliness only deepen feelings of depression. This service offers a time and space to rest in the presence of the Holy One to receive healing, grace and love.



The Season of Advent is upon us. It is the beginning of the Christian year 2023. As we move through the season of Advent preparing our hearts to receive the Incarnate God ~ God with us; imagine life before Christ walked this earth. Imagine yearning for a Hope, Peace, Joy and Love that wasn't fragile and fleeting but

everlasting. As we prepare the insides and outsides of our homes and entertain the business of "Christmas" let us open our hearts to the One who loved the world; the WORD made flesh that dwelt among us. Here are the scripture readings for the Season of Advent:

1st Sunday in Advent Nov. 27th ~ Hope

Isaiah 2:1-5 Psalm 122 Romans 13:11-14 Matthew 24:36-44

2nd Sunday in Advent Dec. 4th ~ Peace

Isaiah 11:1-10 Psalm 72:1-7, 18-19 Romans 15:4-13 Matthew 3:1-12

3rd Sunday in Advent Dec. 11th ~ Joy

Isaiah 35:1-10 Luke 1:47-55 James 5:7-10 Matthew 11:2-11

4th Sunday in Advent Dec. 18th ~ Love

Isaiah 7:10-16 Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19 Romans 1:1-7 Matthew 1:18-25



Congregational Meeting: January 22, 2023 after Church Services

Future Council Dates:
December 8th

Christmas Eve SERVICES

Christmas Eve services will be held
at 4 p.m. and 7 p.m.



**Christmas services will be at 10
a.m. on Christmas Morning.
Come as you are that morning.**

There are 24 Chapters in the Book of Luke — a book that tells about the life of Jesus from birth to ascension into Heaven. It's the perfect number to read one chapter as a family every night December 1st-24th... and then wake up Christmas morning ready to celebrate the birth of Christ fully knowing the story of our King!

We will be collecting items for gifts bags for older members of the church. The following are some of the items we would like donated:
Hand lotion, lip balm, single serve fruit/pudding, large print crossword/wordsearch puzzles, gift cards, thank you cards, stamps, paper/notepads \, Cheese crackers, etc.



If you are interested in volunteering to be a Bell Ringer contact Jeneen. Shifts are 10-12, 12-2, 2-4, 4-6 and 6-8. You can make this a family event or just a friends event!!



Senior Funday
 Wednesday, December 7th , from 11:30 to 2:00,
 (1st Wednesday of the month) Bring a dessert or something to share. **All are welcome**



The 200th Year Celebration - Going thru our History, articles and photos.
Next meeting Tuesday, December 13, from 10-noon. Contact Jeneen Kubala at 330 687-4067 if you have any questions or would like to help.



We will not be having youth group in December but will begin again on January 8' 2023



Sunday School after Sunday services until 10:30, for kids ages preschool-5th graders.

Adult Sunday School after Sunday services.

Southeast schools are asking for donations to adopt a lunch. Some kids are not receiving lunches due to inability to pay, if you would like to donate to this program, we will be taking donations. Just mark on the check adopt a lunch or and envelope marked the same. If you know anyone in the community willing to donate they can send checks to the church.


























We will be having a giving tree for the Salvation Army and also for the Scouts that we Charter. Tags will be on the tree for you to pick. EUC Charter Cub Scout Pack 3558 (grades K-5th), Boys Troop 355 and Girls Troop 7355 (ages 11-18). Registration for each child costs about \$150. This includes cost for BSA plus their awards and badges throughout the year. Also, for each of the 3, the cost to recharter every year is \$100. If anyone would like to adopt a scout or just help out a little it would be appreciated. Just put your donation in an envelope with the tag and put in the offering bowl.

If you'd like to donate to the Haven of Portage County, they are in need of New PJ's (all sizes), underwear (male and female), personal hygiene products, paper towels and toilet paper. A reminder that they can use these items all year long.

Have fun,
 Color with
 your kids

Have your kids (or you) color the coloring page(s), add their name and bring to the Church so we can hang them up. Extras and other pictures will be available at the Church

DECEMBER 2022

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
				 Katelin Dillon 1 Andrew Schiraldi	 Romana Holloway 2	 Evan Andrasak 3 Sabrina Finney Vera Grace
 Vernice Deuring 4	 Raymond Deuring 5 Avery Giuffre Charlotte Thompson	6  Susie & Tim Knudsen	 Jodi Canale 7	 Kati Dysert 8	 Frank Wass 9	 Martha Bradfield 10
11	 Heather & Dan Mix 12	13	14	15	16	 Debbie Dillon 17 Danielle Reynolds
 Lily Dysert 18 Jerry Lange	 Eva & Bill Rowley 19	 Stephanie & Chris Wyss 20	21	 Lisa & Kirk Lange 22	 Melissa & Audie Mills 23	 Jeneen Kubala 24 Pamela Oblisk
 Russ Shamach 25 Christmas Day 	 Audie Dills 26  Lisa & Michael Morehead	27	 Cathy & Rob Thomas 28	 Joann Wadsworth 29 Sue Wells	 Pat Massar 30	31

Cookie queens for Oct. are:

December 4 Cyndi Oblisk
 December 11 Maureen Locher
 December 18 Julia Hayes
 December 25 Lisa Morehead



Cookie Queens and Kings are needed to bring cookies on Sundays. To sign up get ahold of Lisa Morehead.

marialisamorehead@gmail.com
 (330-247-8171)
 NEW Email for Lisa

Have you, your kids, grandkids or anyone else done something you would like to announce??? If you would like anything added to the newsletter, please let Cyndi know by the last Friday of the month.

NEW EMAIL: EUCNEWS1823@gmail.com

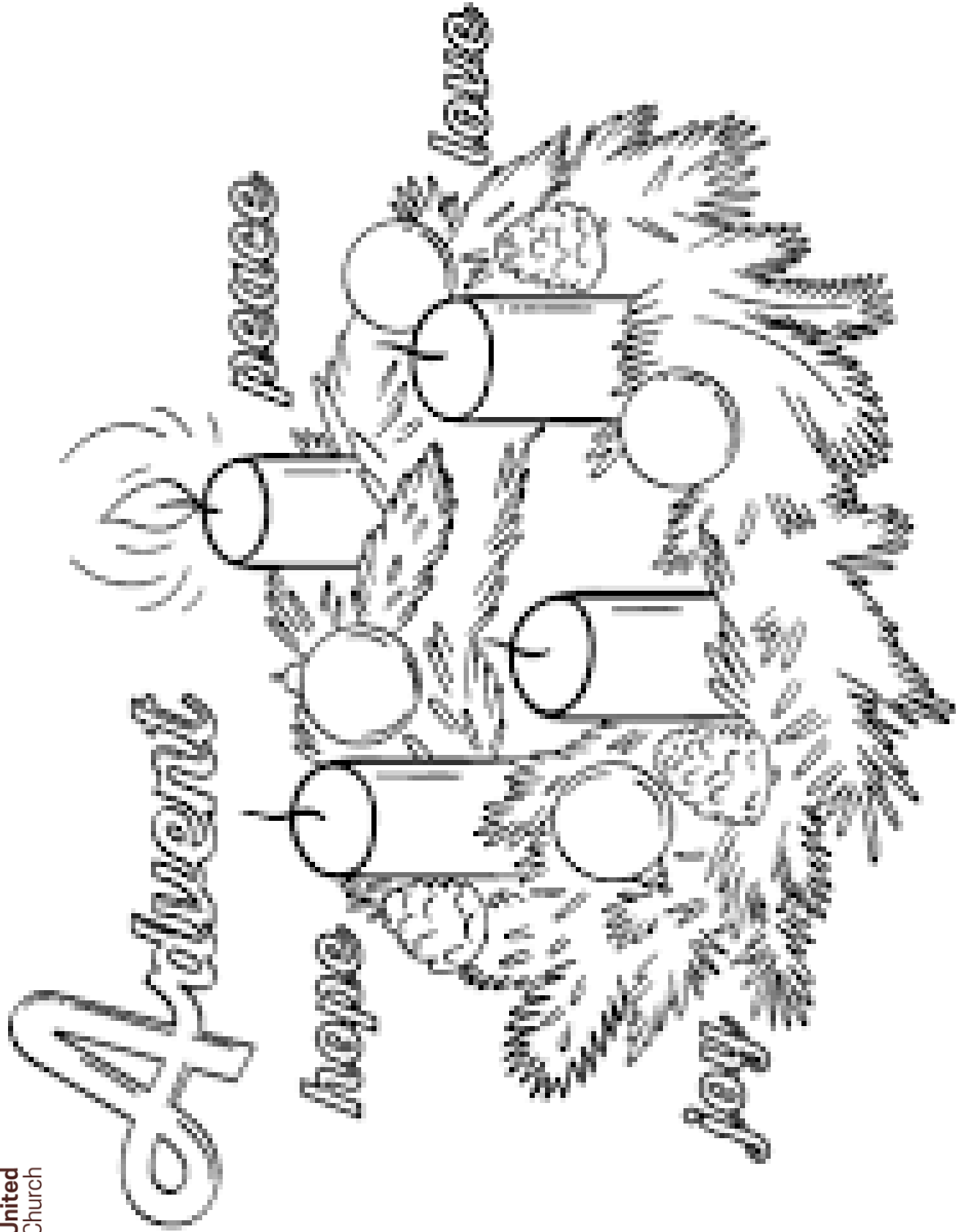
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