

Southwest Michigan Episcopal Covenant  
Announcements  
November 26<sup>th</sup>, 2021

Covid Update

**Masks are required at all times in all areas of our buildings.**

**Anyone in a ministry that brings you in contact with another person should be vaccinated. If this is a concern, please see Rev. Diane.**

THIS WEEK'S READINGS

The First Sunday in Advent

This week's readings:

[Jeremiah 33:14-16](#)

[1 Thessalonians 3:9-13](#)

[Luke 21:25-36](#)

[Psalm 25:1-9](#)

Services this weekend: St. Joseph 9:30 am Holy Communion with organ  
Dowagiac 10:00 am Morning Prayer  
Niles 9:30 am Holy Communion

Rev. Diane will be offering an online Advent Study using Adam Hamilton's book, "Incarnation." We will study the four Mondays of Advent, **beginning this coming Monday**, November 29<sup>th</sup> (the Monday after Thanksgiving), at 6:30 pm. The book is available on Amazon in either hardback or Kindle formats and it is an easy read.

This is the link for the book.

[https://www.amazon.com/Incarnation-Rediscovering-Significance-Adam-Hamilton/dp/1791005543/ref=sr\\_1\\_3?crid=13OMJKSBU1J11&keywords=incarnation+adam+hamilton&qid=1636034781&s=books&sprefix=Incarnation%2Cstripbooks%2C115&sr=1-3](https://www.amazon.com/Incarnation-Rediscovering-Significance-Adam-Hamilton/dp/1791005543/ref=sr_1_3?crid=13OMJKSBU1J11&keywords=incarnation+adam+hamilton&qid=1636034781&s=books&sprefix=Incarnation%2Cstripbooks%2C115&sr=1-3)

This is the Zoom link for the class:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83810388034?pwd=UHlyTXpzQW9naDlnT0dweWYwbFZEdz09>



Description:

Diane Pike is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting. Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83810388034?pwd=UHlyTXpzQW9naDlnT0dweWYwbFZEdz09>

Meeting ID: 838 1038 8034

Passcode: 593728

One tap mobile [+16468769923](tel:+16468769923),,83810388034#,,,,\*593728# US (New York)

## Covenant News

### DOWAGIAC

- If you are interested in discussing the possibility of a House Church, beginning in January, please reach out to Dick Judd. He will take your name and will help with coordinating this effort.

### NILES

- The November, December, January Forward Movement *Day by Day* booklets are in. Please pick one up for your daily meditations.
- If you haven't turned in your pledge card, please turn it in this week.
- **COOKIE EXCHANGE** on Wednesday, December 8<sup>th</sup> at 1:00 pm. Please bring cookies to share and recipes for us to put together. We will serve tea and have time for fellowship. All are invited.

### ST. JOSEPH

- The **Monday Book Group** is meeting again at 10:00 each Monday morning. Come and enjoy fellowship and discussion about the books we read.
- St. Paul's will offer **CPR** course on December 5<sup>th</sup> following the service. Folks from Niles and Dowagiac are invited as well. The fee is \$30 for the two year certification. Please contact Dan Reed, Sr. Warden, at [reeddox@yahoo.com](mailto:reeddox@yahoo.com), or sign up on the bulletin board.

- **Water Distribution** for our Benton Harbor neighbors is a much needed ministry in the name of St. Paul's. Those of you who have time availability during the day can Volunteer at a couple of locations depending on the day of the week. This is going to be an ongoing situation so there is ample opportunity to serve.
- If you are feeling called to **serve during worship**, we are in need of ushers, Eucharistic Visitors, Lay Readers and Leaders for Morning Prayer (training will be provided).

### Mark Your Calendars

An **Advent Evensong** will be held at 4:00 pm on **Sunday, December 12<sup>th</sup>** at St. Paul's in Dowagiac. The service will be about an hour and provides an opportunity for us to be mindful about the Season of Advent.

**Christmas Eve Services:** Dowagiac 4:00 pm; Niles 6:30 pm; St. Joseph 9:00 pm

**Christmas Lessons and Carols** will be held in Dowagiac on **Sunday, December 26<sup>th</sup>**. This service will feature Christmas readings and beloved hymns and carols. It will be held at 10:00 am and will be our last event as a Covenant. Coffee Hour will follow the service.

*Two volunteers for readings are needed from each congregation. Please contact Rev. Diane if you are willing to read. [revdmpike@swmec.org](mailto:revdmpike@swmec.org)*

**Covenant and Retirement Celebration** Saturday, January 1<sup>st</sup> at Trinity Niles. A Festive Brunch will be served from 11:00 – 1:00. Come say farewell to our Covenant friends and to Rev. Diane as she begins a new journey of retirement.

The closing service for Dowagiac will be held on **Thursday, January 6<sup>th</sup>** for the Feast of the Epiphany. Time to be announced later.

### Reflection from the Rector

*Look! He is coming with the clouds;  
every eye will see him,  
even those who pierced him;  
and on his account all the tribes of the earth will wail.  
So it is to be. Amen. (from Revelation 1:4b – 8)*

This week's second reading is from John's Revelation. The above passage is part of the poetry in that passage ... Look!

"Look! ... every eye will see him, even those who pierced him...."

We are told that when Jesus comes again He will come in the clouds and every person on earth will see him. The passage also tells us that those who have denied Him, who do not believe in Him, will see Him. Those who have not believed, though seen, will feel God's wrath.

The visual of Jesus descending from the clouds is an ethereal vision. We are reminded of the Transfiguration when Jesus took Peter, John and James up the mountain. His clothes and His face turned effervescent white. I imagine the Second Coming will have Jesus descending with bright light.

Many of the descriptions of Jesus' coming can be frightening because we don't know what will happen. It is our job to follow Jesus in this life and believe that those who follow Him will be saved from the torment to be leveled against the earth.

Being a follower of Jesus might provide us with some sense of security. Knowing that God loves us and will send God's greatest gift of all time to redeem us is the essence of our faith. It is our faith that grounds us in this world while our hearts, souls and minds exist in another plain. It is our faith that gives us confidence in Jesus' words and God's promises.

"Look! So it is to be. Amen"

Believe that promise of the King returning to claim His kingdom.

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