

# THE ANCHOR

## Newsletter



**Episcopal Church of the Advent**

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**Fr. H. Alan Leonard, Rector**

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Kathe Christensen, Editor

**Volume 46 Number 2 February 2025**

Dear Friends,

Many of us grew up with the idea that we should not talk about religion and politics. Some feel that church should be a place of refuge from the chaos of the world. However, I feel the church is only relevant to the world if it engages with our society and politics. I do not believe that the church should endorse any particular candidate, though. Instead, we need to speak about social justice. The church should be the voice of conscience to the government.

On Saturday, January 25, we had our first Coffee and Conversation gathering at Advent. We originally thought that this would be a fun time of fellowship for the congregation. But during the week prior to the event, Episcopal Bishop Mariann Budde made national news with her sermon at the Service of Prayer for the Nation at the Washington National Cathedral. I asked that the topic of the Coffee and Conversation be about her sermon. I felt it was important for us to talk about something that put the Episcopal Church in the news.

Some people expressed concern that such a controversial topic could divide people at Advent, but the 18 attendees had a very good conversation about the sermon and how the church can respond to politics in our nation. Thank you to Joy Wadleigh for suggesting this and putting it together with the help of Sharon Werth and others.

Since the church is a place where all people are welcome and where people have different opinions about many things, we need to learn how to gather with love for each other regardless of any disagreements. Last Lent, we used the Archbishop of Canterbury's "Difference Course" to discuss how to talk with each other even when we disagree. During the Coffee and Conversation meeting, we used those skills to truly listen to one another.

We are stronger when we can come together and have difficult conversations than when we let disagreements divide us. I am interested in your ideas for engaging on challenging topics. I hope and pray that by God's grace we can continue to talk about the divisive issues in our country and discern together how faith and scripture call us to live in this world.

Thank you for being part of Advent and for welcoming and listening to each other as we learn together how God is calling us to be disciples of Jesus Christ.

Faithfully,  
Alan+

## ADVENT BOOK CLUB

The Advent Book Club will meet on Tuesday, February 11, 2025, at 7:00 PM at the home of Lynda and Corbin Cogswell. [The Christy Affair](#) by Nina de Gramont will be discussed. All are welcome. For more information call Lynda Cogswell (609-884-6675).

## OUTREACH COMMITTEE NEWS

The Outreach Committee met in January and reviewed our Christmas projects. All projects were very successful and will continue for 2025. A discussion of several agencies who we help on a regular basis included American Friends of the Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem (AFEDJ), Americans for Native Americans, and our Mustard Seed jar collection of spare change for Collateral Repair Project. It was decided to send \$500 to AFEDJ, \$300 to ANA, and continue our Lenten project with mustard seed jars to begin Ash Wednesday, March 5, 2025. Another concern the wild fires in California was discussed and \$1000 was disbursed to Episcopal Relief and Development to help with the destruction. The next meeting will be February 19, 2025, at 3:00 PM in our Parish Hall.

-Marrie Cassidy

## AN EVENING WITH THE AUTHORS

Join us on February 28, 2025, at 7:00 pm as we get to know four local authors and their books. Our own Scott Griffith will be there with his newest thriller along with Skeeter Lee with his adventure stories. Our other two authors are local gals: Amy M. Reade who writes Cozy and Gothic mysteries and Suzanne Simonetti whose debut novel was *The Sound of Wings*. Beverages and desserts will be offered and there will be door prizes. The cost is \$10 and you can make a reservation by calling the office at 609-884-3065 or emailing [Cobligado@aol.com](mailto:Cobligado@aol.com). This event is being sponsored by Episcopal Church Men and Women.

-Carol Obligado

## DATES TO ADD TO YOUR CALENDAR

**March 7** – World Day of Prayer at the Cape May Lutheran Church on Pittsburgh Ave. There will be an organizational meeting at the Lutheran Church on Tuesday, Feb. 11 at 1 pm. All are welcome.

**March 21** at 6 pm – another fun Pot Luck Dinner. We haven't yet decided what to celebrate. Right now, it's a tie between National Memory Day and World Poetry Day. Check the internet for all the possibilities!!!

## SUPER BOWL FOOD DRIVE

ECW is sponsoring the annual Super Bowl Food Drive beginning Sunday, February 9, and running throughout the month. Below is a list of food that is most in need. Please check the expiration dates on your donations. You can leave them on the table in the back corner of the Parish Hall on Sundays or weekdays from 9:00 AM to 1:00 PM

except Wednesday. There will also be a box for money donations. Please make checks out to ECW.

Regular Needs List Items for Cape May Food Closet and St. Barnabas Cares Food Bank:

- Cheerios
- Peanut Butter
- Canned spinach
- Canned peaches
- Knorr Sides
- Hamburger Helper
- Rice a Roni
- Spam
- Sardines
- Oatmeal
- Syrup
- Strawberry jelly
- Dish soap
- Laundry detergent
- Napkins
- Toothbrushes/Toothpaste
- Paper towels

**CHECK THE LENTEN READING RECOMMENDATIONS  
ATTACHED TO THIS ISSUE OF THE ANCHOR**

***February Birthday Celebrations***

***February Anniversary Celebrations***

4	John Schneider	7	Lee & Sally Snyder
5	Ettore Cattaneo	22	John & Mary Ann Coyle
8	Corbin Cogswell	27	Mike & Sara Ginder
9	Leilani Wong		
10	Joanne Morrison		
12	Joan Fraser		
12	Susanne McIntyre		
14	Bill Granahan		
23	Barbara Cattaneo		

**WEEKLY WORSHIP SERVICES**

**Sunday: The Holy Eucharist at 8:00 and 10:30 a.m.**

**The 10:30 service is also livestreamed on YouTube**

**Wednesday: Morning Prayer at 9:30 a.m.**

**Thursday: The Holy Eucharist at 12:00 Noon**

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	<b>ECW Super Bowl Food Drive begins February 9 and continues through the end of February</b>					<b>1</b>
<b>2 Presentation</b> Holy Eucharist - 8:00 & 10:30 AM Youtube.com livestream at 10:30	<b>3 Bible Study</b> -6:30-8:00 PM Zoom link: <a href="https://us04web.zoom.us/j/5312528003">https://us04web.zoom.us/j/5312528003</a> Mtg ID: 531 252 800	<b>4</b>	<b>5 Office Closed</b> <b>Advent Walkers-</b> 8:00 AM <b>Morning Prayer-</b> 9:30 AM	<b>6 Holy Eucharist- Noon</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8 Ordination of Charlene Snyder-</b> 5:30 PM-Christ Church, Somers Point
<b>9 Epiphany 5</b> Holy Eucharist - 8:00 & 10:30 AM Youtube.com livestream at 10:30 <b>Concert</b> -4:00 PM- Reception follows	<b>10 Bible Study</b> -6:30-8:00 PM Zoom link: <a href="https://us04web.zoom.us/j/5312528003">https://us04web.zoom.us/j/5312528003</a> Mtg ID: 531 252 800	<b>11 Men's Breakfast-</b> 8:00 AM-Parish Hall <b>Book Club-</b> 7:00-Cogswell home	<b>12 Office Closed</b> <b>Advent Walkers-</b> 8:00 AM <b>Morning Prayer-</b> 9:30 AM	<b>13 Holy Eucharist- Noon</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>
<b>16 Epiphany 6</b> Holy Eucharist - 8:00 & 10:30 AM- Youtube.com livestream at 10:30	<b>17 Bible Study</b> -6:30-8:00 PM Zoom link: <a href="https://us04web.zoom.us/j/5312528003">https://us04web.zoom.us/j/5312528003</a> Mtg ID: 531 252 800	<b>18</b>	<b>19 Office Closed</b> <b>Advent Walkers-</b> 8:00 AM <b>Morning Prayer-</b> 9:30 AM <b>Outreach Comm. Mtg-</b> 3:00 PM	<b>20 Holy Eucharist- Noon</b> <b>ECW Mtg - 10:30 AM</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>
<b>23 Epiphany 7</b> Holy Eucharist - 8:00 & 10:30 AM- Youtube.com livestream at 10:30	<b>24 Bible Study</b> -6:30-8:00 PM Zoom link: <a href="https://us04web.zoom.us/j/5312528003">https://us04web.zoom.us/j/5312528003</a> Mtg ID: 531 252 800	<b>25</b>	<b>26 Office Closed</b> <b>Advent Walkers-</b> 8:00 AM <b>Morning Prayer-</b> 9:30 AM	<b>27 Holy Eucharist- Noon</b>	<b>28 Author's Night-</b> 7:00 PM-Parish Hall	AA Meetings: Sun-4:00 PM Tues-7:30 PM Wed-7:30 AM Thur-7:30 PM

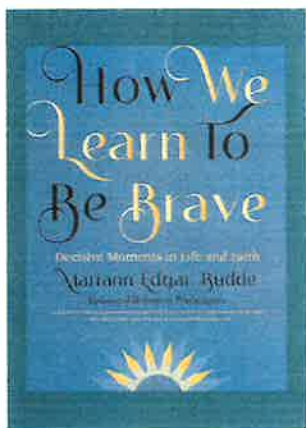
# February 2025 CHURCH OF THE ADVENT

# COTA Lenten Reading Recommendations

Join us this Lent with these recommended readings for study and reflection. Books can be purchased on your own, ordered through the church (signup sheet available), or possibly borrowed from the library (availability pending). Prices listed are from Amazon.

If there's enough interest, we'll host a group gathering to share reflections.

Let's deepen our journey together!



## **How We Learn to Be Brave: Decisive Moments in Life and Faith by Mariann Edgar Budde**

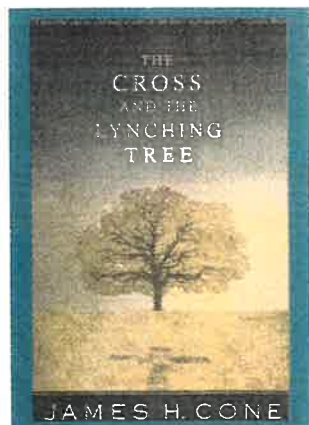
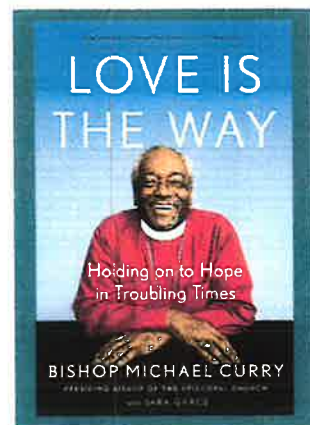
Drawing from her experiences as the Bishop of Washington, Budde explores what it means to find courage in moments of uncertainty and fear. She uses stories of scripture, history, and her own life to illustrate how faith helps us step into our callings with bravery and conviction.

**Kindle: \$13.99 Audiobook: \$11.02 Hardcover: \$19.60**

## **Love is the Way: Holding on to Hope in Troubling Times by Bishop Michael Curry**

In *Love is the Way*, Bishop Michael Curry, Presiding Bishop of the Episcopal Church, draws on his life experiences, his Christian faith, and his public ministry to demonstrate how love is the foundation for navigating life's most difficult challenges. He invites readers to embrace love as a force that can overcome fear, division, and despair, ultimately leading to healing and reconciliation in personal relationships, communities, and the world.

**Kindle: \$4.99 Audiobook: \$11.02 Hardcover: \$14.85.**



## **The Cross and the Lynching Tree by James H. Cone**

Cone draws parallels between the crucifixion of Jesus and the lynching of Black Americans, offering a powerful reflection on suffering, redemption, and justice. It's a challenging but transformative book for those exploring faith and social justice.

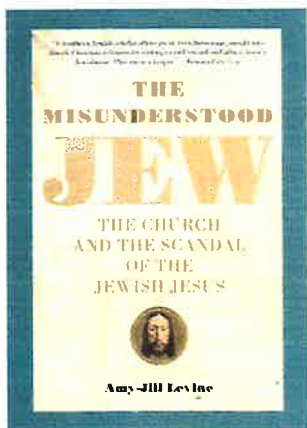
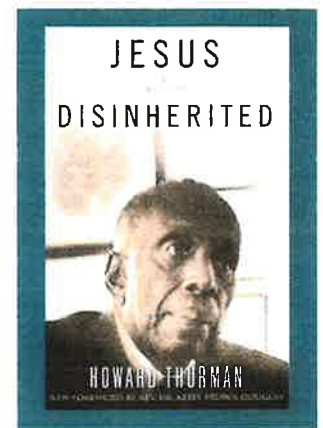
**Kindle: \$13.01 Audiobook: \$15.04 Paperback: \$15.43**



## Jesus and the Disinherited by Howard Thurman

This seminal work explores the teachings of Jesus through the lens of those who live with their backs against the wall—those marginalized by society. Thurman emphasizes how Jesus' message offers hope, dignity, and a call to resist oppression through love and nonviolence. A powerful reflection on faith's role in the fight for justice and equality.

**Kindle: \$2.99 Audiobook: \$13.65 Hardcover: \$19.32 Paperback: \$10.45**



## The Misunderstood Jew: The Church and the Scandal of the Jewish Jesus by Amy-Jill Levine

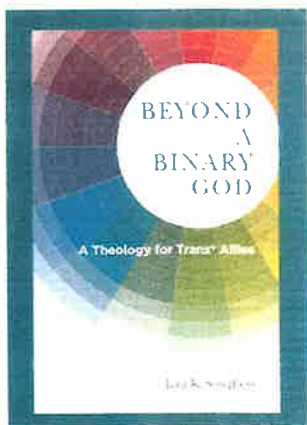
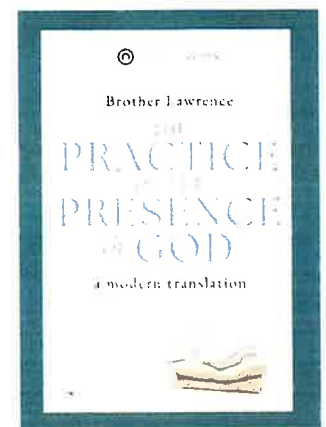
Written by a Jewish scholar of the New Testament, this book highlights the Jewish context of Jesus' life and teachings. Levine challenges misconceptions and explores how understanding Jesus as a Jewish teacher can deepen Christian faith while fostering mutual respect between Christians and Jews.

**Kindle: \$13.99 Audiobook: \$15.50 Hardcover: \$22.99 Paperback: \$9.79**

## The Practice of the Presence of God: A Modern Translation by Brother Lawrence

This modern translation of the classic Christian work brings Brother Lawrence's timeless teachings on living in constant awareness of God's presence into contemporary language. The book is a guide for anyone seeking a deeper, everyday connection with God through simple and practical spiritual practices.

**Kindle: \$4.99 Audiobook: \$4.86 Paperback: \$7.99**



## Beyond a Binary God: A Theology for Transgender Christians by Tara Soughers

This book offers a compassionate and theological exploration of how God transcends gender binaries. Soughers weaves personal narratives and biblical reflections to affirm the faith and worth of transgender and nonbinary individuals, providing insight for allies and communities striving for inclusion.

**Kindle: \$9.99 Paperback: \$14.45**