

## Letting Go Of Stuff

by *Pastor Doug*

A few years ago, we downsized from the home we raised our children in and where Grandma Cam lived to our 1,500 square foot cottage in Chippewa Lake. Let me tell you, it was not easy. As a matter of fact, it was probably one of the most stressful times in our lives. But now looking back on the process, we would do it again in a heartbeat. It's easy to accumulate more possessions, but it takes a whole lot of strength, wisdom, and perseverance to downsize.

As a result, we now can clean the cottage very quickly for guests or when we entertain. We got rid of a lot of stuff that now is a blessing to family and those in need. The latest was a dresser that we saved for our niece who cherished the gift since it was her dad's. Also, with less comes the blessing of peace. I will never forget the moment when our final storage unit (yes, we needed two to begin) was emptied. It was a "yeah God" moment for sure.

When Brenda Ottinger was struggling with all the extra clutter in her life, she found this verse which brought comfort to her in the decluttering. "I felt like I was swirling in my own personal storm, and these words spoke hope and comfort to my weary soul: *The LORD rules over the floodwaters. The LORD reigns as king forever. The LORD gives his people strength. The LORD blesses them with peace*' (Psalm 29:10-11)."

God reminded me that night that He rules over every storm of life, offering us His strength and peace in the midst.

I knew something needed to change, so I prayed for wisdom to create boundaries and freedom to let go of clutter that no longer served us. And one small step at a time, I began moving toward a life of less stuff and more peace."

As we continue our Advent series entitled "Traveling Light," I hope you will consider how to get rid of the stuff in your life that takes away joy and peace. Take time to participate in advent and let God's Word encourage you to travel with less baggage this Christmas season.



## Worship Schedule

Sundays • 9:30 & 11:00 am

Medina Community Church exists to help people begin and grow in their relationship with God. Our relaxed, contemporary style provides an enjoyable atmosphere where you can investigate the claims of Christ, deepen your faith and meet some great friends along the way.

### SERIES: *Traveling Light*

- December 4 —  
Letting Go Of Stuff
- December 11 —  
Letting Go Of Distractions
- December 18 —  
Letting Go Of Control
- December 24 — Christmas Eve  
Receiving The Light
- December 25 — Christmas Day  
No Services  
(enjoy time with family and friends)
- January 1 —  
The Best Is Yet To Come  
(Brunch 10-11:00 am /  
One Service at 11:00 am)

### SERIES: *The Book of Romans*

- January 8 — Introduction
- January 15 — (1:1-17)  
The Heart of Servant Leadership
- January 22 — (1:18-32)  
Houston, We Have a Problem
- January 29 — (2:1-16)  
Religion Can't Save You



We are pleased to announce that MCC will be hosting another drive-thru Community meal on **Saturday, December 17th and January 21st** from 6-7 pm for those in need. Meals will be handed out in a drive thru lane. Volunteers will help guide guests to the meal pickup area. (All guests will be asked to remain in their vehicles.) We can always use drivers for meal deliveries at 5:00 pm and others to help with the drive through ministry. Please consider how you could serve in this ministry.

For more information or to sign up please call or text Emily Winans at (240) 405-4003.

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## Women's Ministry



### **December 2 - ALL FIRED UP**

I've reserved space for us for Friday night, December 2 at 6:00 pm. It will be a night of fun, relaxing, visiting, and just chilling out. Feel free to bring snacks. Even if you're not very experienced with ceramics there are small, inexpensive items that you can create, or just come and hang out with us. Please let me know if you are coming so I can get your name on the list. We're limited to 8. (330) 461-1081 or email [kathyksummers@gmail.com](mailto:kathyksummers@gmail.com)

### **December 4 - ANNUAL LADIES CHRISTMAS LUNCH AND GIFT EXCHANGE**

This will be at 12:30 pm following second service. The gift this year is a Christmas ornament. Bring one gift wrapped for the exchange. Bring a dessert to share. Lunch will be provided.

### **December 17 - JAIL MINISTRY PARTY**

For several years we've purchased Christmas gifts for the children of Medina County Jail inmates. We get forms from the inmates with names, ages, and addresses of where the children live and who their caretakers are. If you want to help there are several ways. You can purchase inexpensive gifts for boys and girls and we will have a day of sorting and wrapping once we get the forms with their information. We'll send out invitations to a party held December 17

at noon at the church. Santa and Mrs. Claus will be there to hand out the gifts to those that attend. We'll have pizza and activities for the children. So you can help by purchasing gifts, donating money to the effort, help with the sorting and wrapping (usually on a Saturday), help with the party, or delivering to some families that can't make it on that day. If you would like to find out more about this please contact Kathy Summers, (330) 461-1081 or email [kathyksummers@gmail.com](mailto:kathyksummers@gmail.com).

Looking ahead we'd like to have an all day retreat at the church sometime in the spring. I'm thinking Saturday, **March 18**. If you have any ideas on a theme please let me know.



*For more information on our Ladies Ministry contact Kathy Summers at (330) 461-1081 or email [kathyksummers@gmail.com](mailto:kathyksummers@gmail.com)*

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# Celebrate *Christmas* With Us

Join us on Christmas Eve for our Candlelight service here at MCC. Services will be held at 3:00 and 5:00 pm.

At 7:00 pm we'll have an outdoor service featuring a brass quartet (Brian Pattison and friends). This service will take place in the back parking lot on the west side of church. Bring your own chairs and hot chocolate.



3:00 pm & 5:00 pm inside, 7:00 pm outside with Brass Quartet







# Advent 2022

*We would like to encourage you to participate in the advent practice this year in your home and at church. We will have wreaths available and an advent devotional as well. Below is some information on what Advent is all about and why we encourage the tradition.*

**Advent** is the season in most Christian churches of preparation for both the celebration of the Nativity of Christ at Christmas and the return of Christ at the Second Coming. *"Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel."* **Isaiah 7:14**

## **Advent 2022 - Dates for This Year**

The season of Advent lasts for four Sundays leading up to Christmas. **Advent 2022 will begin on Sunday, November 27th, and end on Saturday, December 24th.**

## **Advent Liturgy and Practice**

To balance the two elements of remembrance and anticipation, the first two Sundays in Advent (through December 16) look forward to Christ's second coming, and the last two Sundays (December 17–24) look backward to remember Christ's first coming. Over the course of the four weeks, Scripture readings move from passages about Christ's return in judgment to Old Testament passages about the expectation of the coming Messiah to New Testament passages about the announcements of Christ's arrival by John the Baptist and the Angels.

## **Advent Wreaths and Candles**

The Advent wreath first appeared in Germany in 1839. A **Lutheran** minister working at a mission for children created a wreath out of the wheel of a cart. He placed twenty small red candles and four large white candles inside the ring. The red candles were lit on weekdays, and the four white candles were lit on Sundays.

Eventually, the Advent wreath was created out of evergreens, symbolizing everlasting life in the midst of winter and death. The circle reminds us of God's unending love and the eternal life He makes possible. Advent candles are often nestled in the evergreen wreath. Additional decorations, like holly and berries, are sometimes added. Their red color points ahead to Jesus' sacrifice and death. Pinecones can symbolize the new life that Jesus brings through His **resurrection**. Families begin lighting a candle on the fourth Sunday before Christmas and light another candle each subsequent Sunday. The most common Advent candle tradition, however, involves four candles. A new candle is lit on each of the four Sundays before Christmas. Each candle represents something different, although traditions vary. The four candles traditionally represent hope, faith, joy, and peace.

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