



## Watch for the Light Reflection

In March of this year, I lost one of the brightest sources of light in my life--choral music. As the world shut down for the pandemic, stories quickly emerged of super-spreader events connected to choirs: a rehearsal in Washington where 87% of the singers were infected by a single asymptomatic person, similar events in Germany and Spain. It became clear that singing in a choir--usually a source of joy and beauty--was now a dangerous activity.

This was devastating news to me. As a high school choir director, my typical day involves directing three or four choir rehearsals and teaching voice lessons. I fill my time outside of school by directing and singing with even more choirs. If I take choirs and singing out of my professional life, there isn't much left! Choral music is not only my profession, but a true source of light in my life. Mark Twain said, "Find a job you enjoy doing, and you will never have to work a day in your life." Well, I am one of the lucky ones. I found it! Taking away music making from my daily life made the light feel very dim.

However I realized that the light hadn't gone out completely. Through the late spring and over the summer, I found new ways to make choral music. Rehearsing can happen through Zoom (as long as all of the singers mute themselves). Performances can be recorded individually and compiled to create a virtual performance. I have gained a new set of skills, learning audio and video software to make these performances possible. We are able to sing in school as long as students are 12 feet apart and wearing masks. It's a severe restriction, but at least we can sing! These new ways of making music pale in comparison to the brilliant light of singing in large groups together. We can't hear each other. Singers can't lean on each other for help with the music. We can't experience the wonderful feeling of singing a chord perfectly in tune.

But...we still sing together. We sing separately, but our voices are unified in song. As I add each voice to the mix of a new choir anthem, I am reminded that choral music allows us to be a part of something bigger than ourselves. The whole is greater than the sum of its parts. Our choir is built voice-by-voice until it becomes a unified, beautiful, joyous light. We may not experience that light as often as usual. We may not experience it in the same time and place. But we keep the light alive and glowing.

~ Jim Jefferis, BLC Chancel Choir Director

### WORSHIP TIME:

**SUNDAYS ~ 8:30 AM WORSHIP  
(FACEBOOK LIVE)**

**Are you Ready for Worship?** There are now three ways to participate in our Livestream of Sunday worship.

1. [Facebook Live](#) - We encourage you to start your own watch party!
2. [Watch On YouTube](#) - Subscribe to our channel
3. [Livestream on the website](#)

## Worship the Living God

**Lessons for Sunday: 12/6:** Psalm 85:1-2, 8-13;  
2 Peter 3:8-15, Mark 1:1-8

*Prepare the way of the Lord! Watching for the light means practicing repentance and receiving forgiveness. Following livestream worship, come to the sanctuary to receive Communion between 9:30 and 11 am.*

**Lessons for Sunday: 12/13:** Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11;  
1 Thessalonians 5:16-24; John 1:6-8, 19-28

*John the Baptist points the way. Watching for the light means testifying to the Light of Christ.*

★ Don't forget to look for this **Star Icon (★)** to easily identify the newest information each week

★ **Watch for the Light** this Advent. We invite you to participate in our weekly livestream from your home and light Advent candles, sing carols, and listen to familiar stories that help us prepare for the birth of Christ, who brings hope and promise, even when we are separated (details about our livestream worship are listed below). Visit our website <https://blcfairport.org/advent-2020/> to follow a daily pattern of readings and prayer to mark each day of this Advent Season as we prepare for the birth for Christ.

You can always find links to participate in Livestream worship on our website at [Share In Worship](#) along with a link to the bulletin (Order of Worship) and the Zoom logins (for Sunday morning gatherings that follow worship). We also send an email each Saturday with all the details to get you ready for worship! Please contact the church office at [office@blcfairport.org](mailto:office@blcfairport.org) if you are not receiving these emails and would like to be added to the distribution!

★ **Advent Coffee Conversations with the BLC Community! (a.k.a. Coffee with a Pastor) ... 11 am on 12/6 (note the later start time!)...** During the Sundays of Advent, share a (virtual) cup of coffee via Zoom at 11 am with our pastors! Join through our [Calendar of Events](#) (or [Join](#) via Zoom - ID 823 7018 2058) Listen in as Pastor Hoffman interviews a member of the BLC community each week about where and how they are watching for the light in their professional and personal lives – as healthcare workers, teachers, caregivers and followers of Jesus. This week features Colleen Sousa, who is part of the BLC family along with her husband, Fred, and kids, Evan and Corinne. Colleen teaches 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade Social Studies in the Pal-Mac Schools. These Zoom conversations will leave opportunity for additional conversation with all who attend.



## Grow in Faith and Discipleship

**Faith Formation for Pre-school through High School!** All ages: Weekly - we will post the children's moment (the same one that is shared in worship on Sunday), and additional ways to engage <https://blcfairport.org/faith5-at-home/>

*As always, please contact the church office, Marcy Adams, Bethany Trippi or Pastor Amy if you are looking for additional support around your faith formation in the home. You can easily access all of the listings below through our [Calendar of Events](#) or find login details on the calendar at the end of the STAR!*

- Zoom\* Pre-K to 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade Monthly Meet-up: Join Patty Chaffe and Rachael Parlett on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of the month (the next one is Sunday, December 13) - on as we offer a time of connection through stories, music and conversation to kids and families (ages pre-K through 2nd grade)
- Zoom\* 3<sup>rd</sup> to 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Monthly Meet-up: Join Marcy Adams & Sue Cardinal on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of the month (the next one is Sunday, December 20) as we offer a time of connection through stories, music and conversation to kids and families (grades 3-5)
- Confirmation (grades 6-8): Weekly - Mondays at 7 pm via Zoom. Please contact Pastor Amy if you have questions about your child's involvement.
- LYO (grades 9-12): Weekly - Sundays at 7:30 pm via Zoom. If you have any questions, please contact [Bethany Trippi](#)

★ **Midweek Bible Study:** Looking for a short-term study? Join us as we look at the scripture readings for Advent in December. We continue to meet virtually. Please consider joining us in our Zoom conversations - Wednesdays at 9:30 am. Please join us! Questions - contact [Kathy Moragne](#).



## Live Our Faith in Daily Life

★ **LYO and LYO Alumni Hike!** December 12 at 2 pm at Mendon Ponds Park. Come and enjoy an afternoon outdoors with your LYO friends and alumni. Socially distant, masked, outdoor fun! Carpooling only with family members. Contact Bethany Trippi with any questions! Please RSVP in the calendar of events at <https://blcfairport.org/events/lyo-alumni-hike-rsvp-required/>



## Care for One Another

★ **THANK YOU:** *I am so grateful to all of you for your help in navigating the last twelve weeks, beginning with recovery from shoulder replacement surgery, but also including two weeks of quarantine for COVID-19!! First, to all of you for all of your prayers! Where would any of us be without those!! Then to all of you who sent cards, emails, and text messages; and those who called to check that I was managing well. I am truly blessed to have been a part of the BLC church family. (I do miss you all!) Many, many thanks - and God Bless! Mary Osgood*

★ **We Pray for Each Other** – Each Sunday in worship we give thanks and offer prayers for those in our community whose celebrations or needs are known to us. Requests for prayers are shared in our monthly prayer listing as well, with updates

available the first Sunday of each month. If you have a prayer request for yourself, a family member, or friend, you can easily submit them digitally via the "pew card" at <https://blcfairport.org/share-in-worship/>. Alternately they can be shared by contacting the church office or a pastor.



## Serve Our Neighbor

**M&SC** stands for the Mission and Social Concerns Committee. M&SC Committee members: Cathy Gottermeier, Pat Kurtz, Julie Owen, Carolyn Straub, Beth and Rick Walker, Pastor Amy Walter-Peterson, and Desiree Wolfe. **Visitors are always welcome at meetings to ask questions or provide suggestions.** The next M&SC meeting is **December 9, 2020**, at 6pm via Zoom. If you would like to attend but are not part of the committee, please contact Beth Walker at [rbowsend@rochester.rr.com](mailto:rbowsend@rochester.rr.com) for the zoom link.

**The mission focus for December is Building Capacity** – The work of calling out and dismantling of unfair systems in our midst is not the work of the disenfranchised, it is the personal and collective work of the dominant culture and those who have power.

When women are mistreated by unequal wages or by unwanted sexual advances it is not the women who must examine their behavior and beliefs and change.

When children are abused it is not the children who must examine their behavior and beliefs and change.

When people who are different from us are denied equal rights, access to housing, health care and education because of who they are, it is not these people who must examine their behavior and beliefs and make changes.

★ **Alternate giving opportunity!** In lieu of poinsettias in 2020, we encourage people who wish to memorialize, or honor loved ones to do so through a gift to our alternative giving opportunity this Christmas season, which will support Heritage Christian Services. HCS works to make sure everyone - including children, older adults and people with intellectual and developmental disabilities - feels valued and honored. To make a gift write: HCS in the memo line of a check or select Other Designated Giving on Tithely and write HCS in the Note/Memo section. To share your gift dedication please [fill out this form](#) or contact the church office directly. *Dedications must be received by Sunday, December 20, 2020 to be included in order to be included in the Christmas Eve order for worship.*

★ **Angel Tree** – We will be supporting local families again this year with our Angel Tree Project. The tree is in the church narthex, in front of the library. Please take a tag off the tree or call the church office and they will get you a tag. After purchasing the gift, please wrap it, and affix the angel tag on the outside of the wrapped package. Gifts may be returned to the boxes behind the tree in the narthex. You may drop them off if you plan to participate in communion on 12/6. We will also have a "no contact" drive thru gift drop off on Saturday, December 12th from 10am to noon. You may drive up to the entrance near the board of education lot (like we did for Advent bag pickup) and someone will take the gift out of your vehicle. The last day to drop off the gifts is Saturday, 12/19, as the gifts will be delivered on Sunday morning, 12/20. Thank you for your support!

## Community News

★ If you are seeking a way to mark these weeks of Advent waiting and preparation, this opportunity might just be for you.

***Walking Together Through Advent*** – Wednesdays, December 9, 16, 23 from 7:00-8:15PM

The word "synod" literally means "walking together" This course is a way for us to join siblings from all the communities of the synod in walking toward Christmas. You may want to intentionally invite a friend or family member who lives far away to join with you in this Advent faith practice as an opportunity to be together while being apart.

Each week we will watch short a film together (3-7 minutes long). The films series we will use is called "Birthing God's Movement of Grace" produced by The Work of the People.

Then we will have small group conversation about what we learn and notice.

Finally, we will share in a time of contemplative prayer practice.

**SIGN UP HERE:** <https://forms.gle/rWdrdPdGNwNkz1Qu8>

Once registered you will be sent the Zoom link for the retreat along with the other necessary information from the leader. There is no cost to participate. Questions? contact Pastor Lori Kochanski ([lkochanski@upstatenysynod.org](mailto:lkochanski@upstatenysynod.org))

**More about the focus of each session:** December 9 "Step Back and Step In" with Emilie Townes; December 16 "The God that is Coming" with Kelly Brown Douglas; December 23 "Upsetting the Pyramid" with Diana Butler Bass

★ **Another unique offering: Art and Spirituality: *Artful Journaling with Biblical Songs of Promise, Expectation and Blessing***: 3 week session: Fridays, December 4, 11, 18 from 9:30-10:45 (Limited to 15 participants,

Led by Pastor Lori Kochanski) *About the Course:* There is a rich history in the illumination of scripture, the practice of using art alongside the written Word. This course invites members to intentionally practice artful journaling as a way to reflect on sacred text individually and as a group.

In between sessions each individual will prayerfully read the a Biblical text and artfully reflect on the content. In order to get the most out of this course you will need to spend time reading and reflecting creatively on the text during the week. It will probably require a commitment of a half an hour a day.

*Supplies Needed:* Bible, unlined blank journal, pen, markers or colored pencil

**SIGN UP HERE:** <https://forms.gle/rWdrdPdGNwNkz1Qu8> Once registered you will be sent the Zoom link for the session along with the other necessary information from the leaders. There is no cost to participate. Questions? contact Pastor Lori Kochanski ([lkochanski@upstatenysynod.org](mailto:lkochanski@upstatenysynod.org))

**More about the instructor:** Pastor Lori Kochanski is an artist, spiritual director and serves as Assistant to the Bishop for Faith Formation.

**More about the focus of each session:** Session 1 Moses and Miriam, Exodus 15; Session 2 Mary and Elizabeth, Luke 39-56; Session 3 Simeon and Anna, Luke 2:21-38

### **We Ask Your Prayers:**

*We pray for those whose thanks or needs are known to us.*

*We pray for those who are grieving, especially the family and friends of:*

- Alva Schumacher (mother of Dale Schumacher) who died on 12/1 after 105 years of life
- Paul Turner (family friend of Mary Osgood) who died on 11/21

*We pray for those in need of healing, especially:*

- Dick Johnson (brother of Sherry Cook) undergoing treatment for stage 4 melanoma
- Matthew Conover (son of Mary Osgood's friend Helen) who has suffered multiple health challenges, and also Matthew's sons, who are currently being cared for by Helen
- Jerry Stock (brother of Bob Stock) who was hospitalized and released and awaits gall bladder surgery
- Lisa (friend of Pr. Amy Walter-Peterson) who has been diagnosed with breast cancer and begins treatment this week
- Sue Murphy (friend of Hans & Pr. Amy Walter-Peterson) whose cancer continues to spread without treatment options. She's has begun hospice care at home.
- Jack Slaybaugh (brother-in-law of Bill Antell), hospitalized with a severe leg infection.
- Danielle Betts who has been diagnosed with melanoma and began treatment on 11/30
- Rose Guard (niece of Toni Thompson)
- Jim Peterson (father of Hans Walter-Peterson), who resumes chemotherapy following a re-assessment of recent test results.
- Wayne Osgood (father-in-law of Mary Osgood) recently hospitalized with sepsis and now receiving daily treatment.
- Glen Zagorski recovering from surgery on 11/24, preparing to begin radiation treatment
- Those impacted by fires, hurricanes and other disasters
- Those who are involved with the ongoing work of caregiving for loved ones
- Those who are infected with or recovering from Coronavirus, and their caregivers
  - Jean, mother of Rick
  - Noel, brother of Rick
  - Brian
  - Sydney Higgins
  - Sara

We also fulfill our commitment to pray for one another by remembering these members & friends of Bethlehem and their families Bryan & Lynn Moulton (Calvin & Emma), Joe Murphree, Frank & Gabrielle Nardozi, Gerald Nersinger, Paul & Gwen Ness and our brothers and sisters in our twinned parish in Shurugwi, Zimbabwe. Additional ongoing prayer concerns can be found in the monthly prayer listing.

[Click here to view and print the December long-term prayer listing](#) – or contact the church office for a copy!



## Calendar for week of December 6 – December 13

(Updated on 12/2/20 at 12 noon, visit <https://blcfairport.org/event-directory/> for updates)

### Sunday, December 6

#### **Second Sunday in Advent**

8:30 am Facebook  
Livestream  
Worship followed by Holy Communion – the sanctuary will be open for people to receive communion until 11 am  
11:00 am Zoom\* Coffee with a Pastor & Colleen Sousa  
([Join](#) or use ID 823 7018 2058)  
7:30 pm Zoom\* LYO  
([Join](#) or use ID 818 2417 6546)

### Monday, December 7

6:00 pm Virtual Youth Choir  
([Join](#) or use ID 816 9461 2911)  
6:30 pm BSA Troop 208  
7:00 pm Zoom\* GFL Confirmation  
([Join](#) or use ID 859 4816 8778)

### Tuesday, December 8

4:30 pm Zoom\* Education Planning Meeting  
6:30 pm BSA Troop 2019  
6:30 pm Virtual Reopening Team  
([Join](#) use ID 8246 235 3239)

### Wednesday, December 9

9:30 am Zoom\* Bible Study  
([Join](#) or use ID 943 3691 2942)  
1:00 pm Zoom\* Men's Lunch  
([Join](#) or use ID 874 8853 3240)  
6:00 pm Zoom\* Mission & Social Concerns  
6:30 pm Chancel Bells  
7:30 pm Zoom\* Chancel Choir Rehearsal  
([Join](#) or use ID 869 2314 9200)

### Thursday, December 10

### Friday, December 11

#### **Pastor's Sabbath**

10:00 am Folk Group Rehearsal  
3:00 pm Dulcimer Group Rehearsal

### Saturday, December 12

9:15 am Property Committee  
2:00 pm LYO (and alum!) Hike at Mendon Ponds

### Sunday, December 13

#### **Third Sunday in Advent**

8:30 am Facebook  
Livestream  
Worship  
10:00 am Zoom\* Pre-K to 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade Monthly Meet-Up  
([Join](#) or use ID 853 8991 1172)  
11:00 am Zoom\* Coffee with a Pastor and Jim & Shannon Oliverio  
([Join](#) or use ID 823 7018 2058)  
7:30 pm Zoom\* LYO  
([Join](#) or use ID 818 2417 6546)

**For additional details** about any of the meetings, events and activities listed above contact the church office!

**Church Office Hours:** We continue to hold remote office hours M-F from 9 am to 12 noon. During these times, please call (585) 223-0634 to reach us directly, otherwise you may continue to email us at [office@blcfairport.org](mailto:office@blcfairport.org) and we'll respond as we're able. For further assistance or urgent pastoral care needs outside of office hours, please call the office and leave a message on the pastoral care line. Pastor Amy remains available by phone and email at other times.

**\*To join any of our BLC Zoom meetings, use the ID provided or contact the church office and/or group organizer.**

**\*Zoom Options:** For recurring meetings, the info will remain the same each time. Participants can join with the link provided (above where applicable, or via email), or by using the Meeting ID and manually enter the password (the 10-digit BLC phone number with area code, no spaces or hyphens). **Please contact the group leader or the church office for assistance or additional details! If you have trouble accessing a Zoom meeting in real-time, you can call or text (585) 364-2129 for assistance.**

**Announcements for the STAR** should be submitted through the office by Wednesday morning at 9am. Visit [www.blcfairport.org](http://www.blcfairport.org) and to sign up for reminders and special announcements (including the STAR!)



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