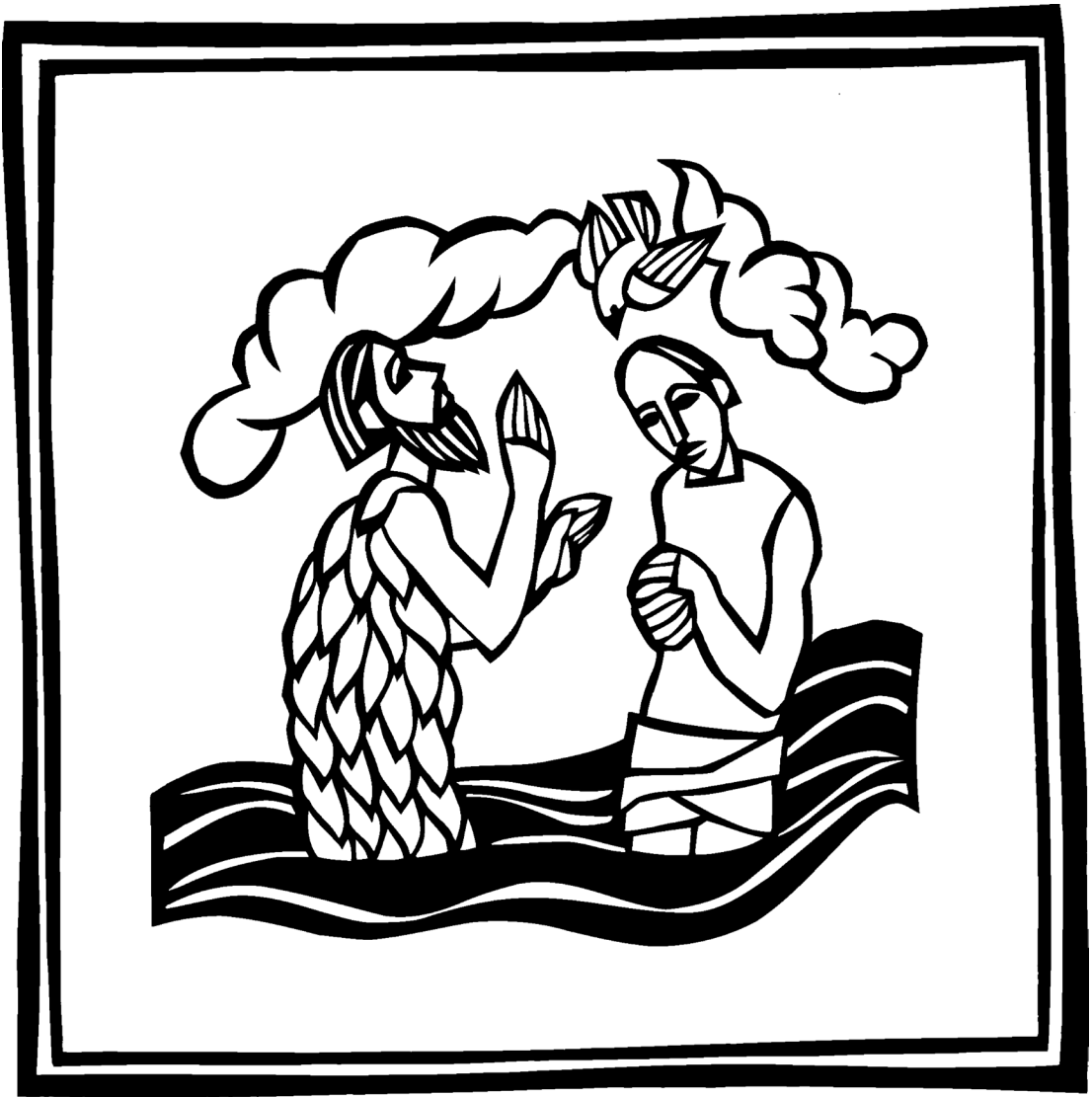


Good Soil Lutheran Ministries

Growing Together in Christ to Love and Serve



Baptism of Our Lord Sunday

January 7th, 2024

9:30 am



20300 Hilliard Blvd
Rocky River, OH 44116
(440) 331-1773

The Rev. Marissa Harrison
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Instagram: [goodsoilchurch](https://www.instagram.com/goodsoilchurch)
YouTube: [Good Soil Lutheran Ministries](https://www.youtube.com/GoodSoilLutheranMinistries)

Welcome

We welcome all who are seeking God's love and grace. We welcome all because God welcomes all, regardless of race or culture, sexual orientation, gender identity, or relationship status. We welcome all without regard to addictions, physical or mental health, imprisonment, socio-economic circumstances, or anything that too often divides us. Our unity is in Christ.

For Parents with Children

Good Soil loves kids and the "holy noise" they bring! Your children are warmly welcome in worship. Sing, pray, and respond; your children will learn by worshiping with you. There's also a "prayground" area in the back of the sanctuary and a nursery/cry room behind that on the back left side. We pray that worshiping together as a family is a meaningful experience!

For Those Needing Hearing Assistance

Please ask an usher about our hearing assistance devices to enhance your worship experience.

Holy Communion

Christ is truly present with us in worship and through this meal. All are welcome to participate in Holy Communion here at Good Soil. Children may commune with elements or receive a blessing depending on parent/guardian preference. Gluten-free wafers and grape juice are available upon request.

Bulletin Key

Bold Font – Spoken by the Congregation
Regular Font – Spoken by the Pastor or Worship Assistant
† – Please stand as you are able, in body or spirit.

Baptism of Our Lord Sunday

Our re-creation in baptism is an image of the Genesis creation, where the Spirit of God moved over the waters. Mark's gospel makes it clear that it is the Spirit's movement that distinguishes Jesus' baptism from John's. The Spirit has come upon us as upon Jesus, calling us God's beloved children and setting us on Jesus' mission to re-create the world in the image of God's vision of justice and peace.

Gathering

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

Prelude

Welcome

In the Confession and Forgiveness, we are drawn by God's mercy to prepare to assemble around the Word and Sacrament. It may be seen as a return to the gift of Baptism through repentance.

† Confession and Forgiveness

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,
creator of darkness and light,
word of truth,
wind sweeping over the waters.
Amen.

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Silence is kept for reflection.

God, our rock and refuge,
we pour out our hearts before you.
We have known you but have not always loved you.
We have wounded one another
and sinned against you.
We have not always recognized the Holy Spirit
dwelling in each of us.
Remember your covenant.
Renew your creation.
Restore us,
that we might proclaim your good news to all.
Amen.

The voice of the Lord is upon the waters.
God has spoken:

The time of grace is now.
In Jesus, the reign of God has come near.
By the authority of † Jesus Christ,
your sins are forgiven.
You are God's beloved.
Amen.

† Gathering Hymn: Shall We Gather at the River- ELW 423 v. 1, 2, 4

1 Shall we gather at the river,
where bright angel feet have trod,
with its crystal tide forever
flowing by the throne of God?

Refrain: Yes, we'll gather at the river,
the beautiful, the beautiful river;
gather with the saints at the river
that flows by the throne of God.

2 On the margin of the river,
washing up its silver spray,
we will walk and worship ever,
all the happy golden day. *Refrain*

4 Soon we'll reach the shining river,
soon our pilgrimage will cease;
soon our happy hearts will quiver
with the melody of peace. *Refrain*

Text: Robert Lowry, 1826-1899

The assembly is greeted with words used by Paul in 2 Corinth. to greet churches. The assembly also greets the presiding minister in return. It is a moment of mutuality signifying trust, love, mutual service, and a shared hope in God.

† Greeting

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.
And also with you.

The Prayer of the Day highlights themes from the scripture readings we are about to hear.

† Prayer of the Day

Holy God, creator of light and giver of goodness, your voice moves over the waters. Immerse us in your grace, and transform us by your Spirit, that we may follow after your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

The Word

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.

First Reading: Genesis 1:1-5

To put this reading into context:

Out of chaos, God brings order. Out of the formless void, God brings light. This familiar story was good news for the Israelites, who experienced much chaos in their history. It remains good news for us. God created and continues to create new life.

Hear now the reading.

¹In the beginning when God created the heavens and the earth, ²the earth was a formless void and darkness covered the face of the deep, while a wind from God swept over the face of the waters. ³Then God said, “Let there be light”; and there was light. ⁴And God saw that the light was good; and God separated the light from the darkness. ⁵God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, the first day.

Word of God. Word of Life.

Thanks be to God.

We welcome the gospel by singing the Gospel Acclamation. We rise, if able, in anticipation of Christ being revealed to us through the Living Word of the Gospel.

† Gospel Acclamation: Celtic Alleluia – ELW 174

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

Verses may be sung by a leader. Then the alleluia is repeated.

Before and after the reading of the Gospel, we give thanks and praise to Jesus Christ, who is revealed to us through the Gospel reading.

† Gospel: Mark 1:4-11

To put this gospel reading into context:

Mark's gospel reports the story of Jesus' baptism with some irony: the one on whom the Spirit descends is himself the one who will baptize others with the Holy Spirit.

The holy Gospel according to Mark.
Glory to you, O Lord.

⁴John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. ⁵And people from the whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him, and were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. ⁶Now John was clothed with camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. ⁷He proclaimed, "The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals. ⁸I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit."

⁹In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. ¹⁰And just as he was coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit descending like a dove on him. ¹¹And a voice came from heaven, "You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased."

The gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, O Christ.

Children's Sermon

Children grade 1 and younger are invited to step out with one of our Sunday School teachers to join the "learn and grow in faith" class during the sermon. They will return during the Passing of the Peace. Sunday School classes for all children (nursery school – grade 6) meet after worship.

Sermon: The Rev. David Connor

Silence for Reflection.

Thinking theologically is a spiritual practice. You're invited to reflect on the following question:

John's baptism called for 'repentance' which literally means, 'facing in a new direction'. Mark starts his story of Jesus with baptism. The first thing Jesus hears coming from the water is, "You are beloved." Through God's baptismal grace, we get a 'fresh start' every day. What does it feel like to have a fresh start as God's beloved child in your daily life? Work? Relationships? Sense of purpose?

† Hymn of the Day: Baptized and Set Free - ELW 453

- 1 We are people created,
chosen by God.
Then we're washed, ever gently,
in mercy and love.
Sin has power no more.
Jesus opened the door
to a fountain bringing healing,
and wholeness and more.
- 2 We are fed and we're nourished,
filled and refreshed.
Then our hunger returns and
again we are blessed.
For whatever the need,
God is greater indeed:
endless ocean, always deeper
than all of our need.
- 3 We are nourished by water,
all living things,
and by life that the Spirit
abundantly brings.
As we journey toward home,
may your presence be known:
precious river, ever-flowing,
now carry us home.
- 4 Now with praise and thanksgiving,

we join the song.
All are welcome! We gather
to sing loud and strong.
Not enslaved, but set free!
From now on, all will be
one in Jesus, one in water,
baptized and set free!

Text: Cathy Skogen-Soldner, b. 1956 Text © 1999 Augsburg Fortress.

*As the church,
we pray for
those in our
community and
around the
world. The
prayers are also
responsive,
emphasizing our
own
participation.*

*Each petition
addresses a
different topic,
often in the same
pattern:*

*+ The Church
+ Creation
+ Nations and
leaders
+ Those in need
+ This faith
community
+ The great
cloud of
witnesses/those
now resting with
God*

† Prayers of Intercession

As we celebrate Christ embodied in human form, we pray for God's blessing on the church, the world, and all of creation.

A brief silence.

Inspire wisdom and a spirit of proclamation in your church. Uplift leaders to share the truth of your word in community. Encourage us to live into the promises of baptism, working for justice and peace in all the world. God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

Renew your creation. Restore the rivers in which your children are baptized. May fields flourish and grow. Summon the stewards and caretakers of the land to cherish your good works. God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

Give strength to leaders in every country and community. Inspire them to be committed to equity and healing. Grant them discernment and compassion as they lead in love. God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

Protect and cherish the most vulnerable among us. Accompany those separated from family or hurting from broken relationships. Shelter our unhoused neighbors and any experiencing poverty. Protect those incarcerated in prisons and detention centers. Care for the sick and suffering. We pray for especially, Helen, Carl, Pam, Tanya, family and friends of Betty, Joe, Willie, Char, Rich, Jeanette, Archer, Steve, Jo-Anna, Kyle, and baby Julian, Dick, Khams and his people and family in Manipur, India, ... and all those we name aloud or in our hearts. God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

Encourage this congregation. Guide us in accompanying, learning from

and serving our neighbors on the margins, following the example of Jesus. God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

Trusting the assurance of the Holy Spirit, we remember all who have died and rest in God's care. Give hope to those who grieve even as we rest in your eternal promise of resurrection. God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

Knowing the Holy Spirit intercedes for us, we offer these prayers and the silent prayers of our hearts in the name of our Savior, Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

A practice of the ancient church, where we recognize Christ's peace in one another and share it together.

† Passing of the Peace

The Peace of Christ be with you always
And also with you.

The people greet one another saying, "Peace" or "Peace be with you" sharing the peace of Christ with one another in a no-touch or low-touch way, such as a wave, peace sign, or elbow bump.

God entrusts us with everything we have. Our offering is one way we give thanks to God and support the ministry of the church.

The Meal

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

Offering

God's ministry through Good Soil makes a difference, and your offering makes that possible. Help Good Soil continue making an impact by giving today at www.goodsoillutheran.org/support or by using the QR code to the right.

Aim your phone camera at the QR code, but don't take a picture. A link will appear to click on that will take you to Good Soil's support page.



The offering is brought forward to the altar to signify our gratitude for God's blessings.

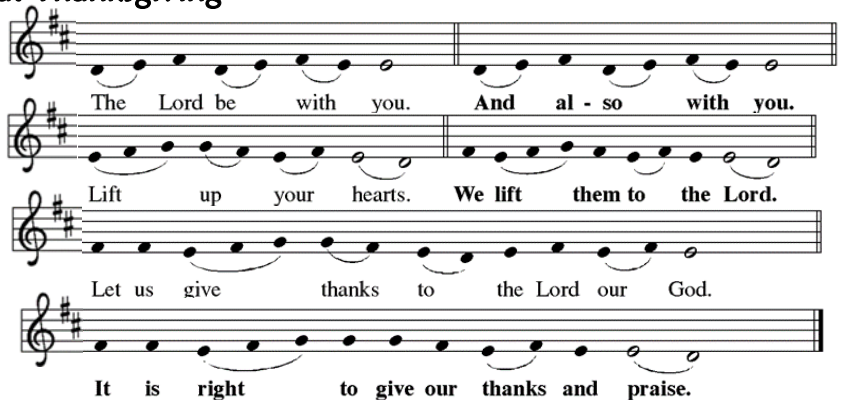
† Offering Hymn: Let the Vineyards be Fruitful Lord - ELW 184

Let the vineyards be fruitful, Lord,
and fill to the brim our cup of blessing.
Gather a harvest from the seeds that were sown,
that we may be fed with the bread of life.
Gather the hopes and dreams of all;
unite them with the prayers we offer.
Grace our table with your presence,
and give us a foretaste of the feast to come.

† Offering Prayer

Blessed are you, Holy One,
for all good things come from you.
In bread and cup you open heaven to us.
Meet us at this table,
that we receive what we seek
and follow your Son, Jesus,
in whose name we pray. **Amen.**

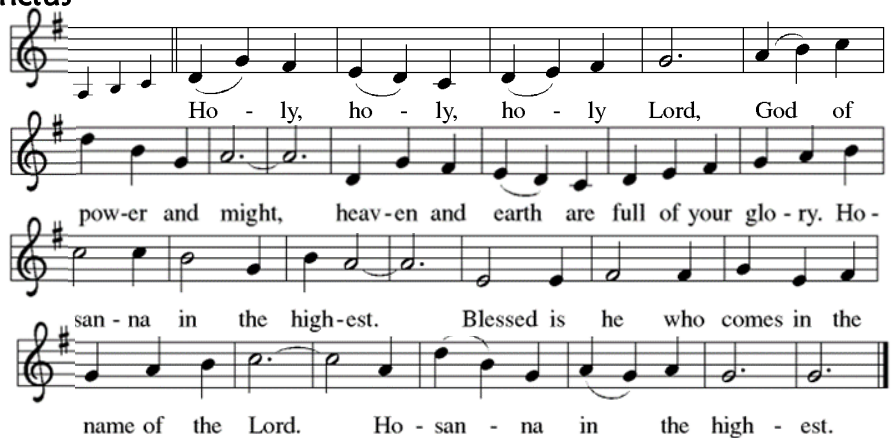
† Great Thanksgiving



The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.
Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

† Preface

† Sanctus



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of
pow-er and might, heav-en and earth are full of your glo-ry. Ho -
san - na in the high-est. Blessed is he who comes in the
name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

† Words of Institution

*The Lord's
Prayer is Jesus'
response to his*

† Lord's Prayer

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus first taught us:

disciples when they asked him to teach them how to pray.

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever.
Amen.**

† Invitation to the Table

At Jesus' table, heaven and earth are joined as one.
Come and see.

Communion

Christ is with us in this meal. All who are hungry for the presence of Jesus are welcome to commune here at Good Soil. Children are welcome to come to the Lord's table for communion or for a blessing, depending on parent/guardian's preference.

When you receive the elements, you are invited to respond with "Amen" or "Thanks be to God."

Please wait for the usher to release your row before proceeding up front. You are invited to stand or kneel at the altar rail.

Gluten-free bread is available upon request. The wine (red) is in the outer rings of the tray, the grape juice (white) is in the center.

Communion cups can be returned at the end tables on your way back to your seat.

Communion Hymn: Christ, When for Us You Were Baptized- ELW 304

1 Christ, when for us you were baptized,
God's Spirit on you came,
as peaceful as a dove, and yet
as urgent as a flame,
as urgent as a flame.

2 God called you, "My beloved Son";
you are God's servant true,
sent to proclaim the reign of heav'n,
God's holy will to do,

God's holy will to do.

3 Straightway and steadfast until death
you then obeyed the call
to serve with free and willing heart,
to give your life for all,
to give your life for all.

4 Baptize us with your Spirit, Lord;
your cross on us be signed,
that likewise in God's service we
may perfect freedom find,
may perfect freedom find.

Text: F. Bland Tucker, 1895-1984, alt. Text © 1985 Church Pension Fund, admin. Church Publishing Incorporated. All rights reserved.

Communion Hymn: Wade in the Water- ELW 459

Refrain: Wade in the water,
wade in the water, children,
wade in the water,
God's a-goin'-a trouble the water.

1 See that host all dressed in white,
God's a-goin'-a trouble the water.
the leader looks like the Israelite.
God's a-goin'-a trouble the water. *Refrain*

2 See that band all dressed in red,
God's a-goin'-a trouble the water.
looks like the band that Moses led.
God's a-goin'-a trouble the water. *Refrain*

3 Look over yonder, what do I see?
God's a-goin'-a trouble the water.
the Holy Ghost a-coming on me.
God's a-goin'-a trouble the water. *Refrain*

4 If you don't believe I've been redeemed,
God's a-goin'-a trouble the water.
just follow me down to Jordan's stream.

God's a-goin'-a trouble the water. *Refrain*

Text: African American spiritual

† **Post-Communion Table Blessing**

May the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

Amen.

The Sending

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

† **Blessing**

God who names you,
Christ who claims you,
and the Holy Spirit who dwells in you,
† bless you and remain with you always.

Amen.

*Through the
sending hymn
we are sent out
into the world to
follow Jesus.*

† **Sending Hymn: Hail to the Lord's Anointed- ELW 311**

- 1 Hail to the Lord's anointed,
great David's greater Son!
Hail, in the time appointed,
your reign on earth begun!
You come to break oppression,
to set the captive free,
to take away transgression
and rule in equity.
- 2 You come with rescue speedy
to those who suffer wrong,
to help the poor and needy,
and bid the weak be strong;
to give them songs for sighing,
their darkness turn to light,
whose souls, condemned and dying,
are precious in your sight.
- 3 You shall come down like showers
upon the fruitful earth;

love, joy, and hope, like flowers,
spring in your path to birth.
Before you on the mountains
shall peace, the herald, go;
and righteousness in fountains
from hill to valley flow.

4 Kings shall fall down before you,
and gold and incense bring;
all nations shall adore you,
your praise all people sing.
To you shall prayer unceasing
and daily vows ascend;
your kingdom still increasing,
a kingdom without end.

Text: James Montgomery, 1771-1854, alt.

The dismissal sends us out as Christ's Body—fed, nourished, and ready to serve. Worship has ended, and our service begins! The dismissal is based on Good Soil's Purpose Statement.

† Dismissal

Go in peace. You are God's beloved.
Thanks be to God.

Postlude

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You are warmly invited to gather in the upstairs lounge area for coffee fellowship following worship!

Today's Worship Servants:

Livestream: Isaac Krankowski	Reader: Nancie Smith
Ushers: Amanda Inman & Stan Zeager	Counters: Larry Jacobson & Ellen Young
Online Usher: Kathy Berkshire	Acolyte: Edward Inman



Announcements from Good Soil for Sunday, Jan 7th, 2023

For those in need of healing, comfort, or strength: Helen Andrews, Carl Bruns, Pam Bruns, Tanya Calcote, Joe Gray, family and friends of Betty Holcomb, Willie Lee, Char Mattson, Archer Oster, Steve Patrick, Rich Petrusky, Jo-Anna, Kyle, and baby Julian Regan, Dick Schlupe, Jeanette Weidlich, and Khams Zotal and his family and people of Manipur, India.

For those celebrating their birthday: Alex Verdova (1/9) and Jane Beese (1/13).

For those celebrating the anniversary of their baptism: Aaron Krankowski (1/11).



SPONSORED BY:

The Cleveland Chapter of
the African Descent Lutheran Association

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH:



Northeastern
Ohio Synod, ELCA

Annual Commemoration Service for **THE REV. DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.**

Sunday, January 14, 2024 at 3:00pm

Good Soil Lutheran Ministries
20300 Hilliard Blvd.
Rocky River, OH 44116



DO JUSTICE

“If we do an eye for an
eye and a tooth for a tooth,
we will be a blind and
toothless nation.”

REV. DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.

GUEST SPEAKER:

Rev. Julianne Smith

Assistant to the Bishop for Congregational Vitality &
Director for Evangelical Mission

Flower Sign-Up- Interested in signing up to adorn Christ's altar with flowers for worship? You can sign up with the flower list on the bulletin board in the hallway or online using this QR code. Please note: The physical flower sign-up sheet on the bulletin board has first priority. Best efforts will be made to ensure the digital calendar reflects the physical one, but if you happen to digitally sign-up for a date that is already taken on the physical sheet, you will be contacted about rescheduling.



Coffee Fellowship Volunteers Needed! - Please consider volunteering to host and/or provide healthy snacks or baked goods. Volunteers can sign-up using the Ministry Scheduler Pro platform, the sign-up sheet posted on the bulletin board outside of the Lounge, or by contacting the church office. Coffee volunteers aren't expected to provide snacks or baked goods but can if they would like. Anyone can donate ready to serve healthy snacks or baked goods. Please use the sign-up sheet in the hallway or the QR code to the left.



Newsletter- Want to keep up with the latest Good Soil news or share the e-news with a friend? Sign up for or share our newsletter *Seeds* with this QR code to the right or this URL: <https://tinyurl.com/bddjk7yp>



Calendar of Events

Date	Event	Time
Sun, Jan 7	In-Person and Livestream Worship: Baptism of Our Lord Sunday	9:30 am
Sun, Jan 14	In-Person and Livestream Worship MLK Jr. Commemoration Service @ Good Soil With fellowship to follow downstairs	9:30 am 3:00 pm
Mon, Jan 15	Regional MLK Jr. Confirmation Service Project @ Lee Miles Hunger Center, 16718 Miles Ave, Cleveland	TBD
Sun, Jan 21	In-Person and Livestream Worship Adult Forum: New Member Orientation	9:30 am 10:30 am
Sun, Jan 28	In-Person and Livestream Worship Welcome of New Members during worship	9:30 am
Sun, Feb 4	In-Person and Livestream Worship	9:30 am
Sun, Feb 11	In-Person and Livestream Worship: Transfiguration of Our Lord Sunday	9:30 am