

# The Word

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## Ministers Musings

Did you bask in love over the Christmas season? Did you experience the awe of the shepherds or the joy of the angels? Did you find your way to the manger, offering your gifts in love and excitement? Or are you like the other wise man or the old woman, Babuoshka, from a child's story book, still searching for the Christ child, still wondering where you might find a touch of joy or hope? The last weeks of December are filled with emotion for most of us – excitement and joy, yes, but often also sadness and loneliness while the rest of the world is raucous around us. Frustration and anger are not unknown either, if there is much busyness or old unresolved family tensions.

It's January. It's time to breathe, to sit back with a cup of tea and let peace wash over you. Because as wonderful or as miserable as your experience of Christmas was this year, the love of God is among us, with us, still and always. That was the best news of Christmas, that God has entered our world, and still enters our world, to bring peace where there is tension and hope where there is despair. Emmanuel has indeed come to teach us to love with all our being, and to let that love be our foundation. That love is the light that shines in the darkness and the darkness does not overcome it. So, enjoy the peace of the winter days, remember the times that are worth remembering, and draw hope from the wells of salvation, the promise of God's power and presence with us, even in the tough times. And stay warm and healthy.

Grace and peace,

*Pastor Cathy*



## Highlights of December Parish Council

The December meeting of Parish Council opened with Cathy Johnson sharing a reading entitled “One Solitary Life”

The Topic of the Month was United Ministry 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration. Many ideas were thrown out and discussed. It was decided to come back to this in the New Year and form a committee to move forward with our plans.

The reports that are needed for the Annual Report were discussed and Pastor Cathy agreed to track down who/what she needs for that. Report needs to be available two weeks before the meeting.

Eloise Henault was excused from meeting so there was no formal report on Playschool but Pastor Cathy reported they have been having lots of fun doing holiday activities.

The minutes from the November meeting of Parish Council were reviewed and the minutes were approved.

Laura Clark presented the Treasurer’s report as of 11/30/22. She explained that December is typically a month in which many of the large bills need to be paid. The last draw taken should cover these expenses. After discussion the report was approved.

Ruth Vredenburgh reported that Trustees approved the most recent draw from investments. The repair of the organ was completed, and the contractor’s insurance will be covering that bill. Trustees are in process of finding someone to fix the two outlets in the Harder Room that are currently not functioning. There seems to be a bug issue in the one downstairs bathroom which needs to be investigated. Railings on the front steps and cellarway of the parsonage still need to be completed. Some remodeling projects in the parsonage are also being considered.

Gideon presented the draft 2023 budget. It’s \$13,000 higher than 2022 budget due to increases in 3 budget lines. SPR recommended to Finance Committee a 6% increase to the pastor’s salary, music/director/children’s choir positions and bookkeeper position. The sexton position had a slight decrease in

order to bring hourly rate for that up to a new minimum wage for 2023 (\$14.40)- but a decrease in the number of hours Fran works from 10 hours/week to 8 hours/week to reflect what Fran is currently working. Also recommended a 10% increase to Deb's salary to acknowledge additional tech duties she has taken on in the last few years and bringing that salary up to a more competitive level. It amounts to about \$7000 salary increases for staff. Trustees suggested to increase budget line for fuel oil, which has increased. There's also an increase in liability and fire insurance. Trustees requested increased capital improvement for church building to cover potential costs for handicapped ramp in sanctuary.

Gideon noted that benevolence pledged amount for 2023 draft budget should be \$8,832, not \$2,580. He also reported that there were 6 outstanding pledge cards which he anticipates will make up an additional \$10,000. This figure is reflected in the unpledged line item right now. Investment account transfer has remained the same, including \$20,000 to put towards parsonage capital improvements. We have also received a nice donation to go towards fuel. The 2023 draft budget was approved by council.

Carol reported that there is currently scheduled a meeting via Zoom with representatives from The Presbytery Foundation on January 9<sup>th</sup> at 5:30pm. It's been a while since we have met and talked about our investments. Anyone that is interested in attending may Zoom in on the meeting. Pastor Cathy will host and record the meeting as well.

Gideon reported that the last SPR meeting focused on getting salary numbers to Finance Committee. The annual parsonage inspection took place on 12/1 and Gideon submitted a summary of that including priorities to be taken care of and some cosmetic things that we can do if we need to. Laura will receive a copy of the report to file as a reference. The committee continues to work on finalizing the evaluation process. They will meet again in January.

Pastor Cathy reported that she served communion on December 4<sup>th</sup> with 31 people present. She has been very busy with Christmas preparation. A very successful Christmas pageant took place on 12/18. The book study group will start a new book in January. We have a second batch of health kits collected for the cooperative parish waiting to be packed up and sent. Confirmation class has been on hiatus for December. Pastor Cathy reported she has been working with the NY

Annual Conference Commission on Christian Unity and Interreligious Concerns as chair of the committee. She will be doing a Blue Christmas service on 12/20 in conjunction with St. Johns and First Baptist. Average attendance has been 35 people/week for the 1<sup>st</sup> three weeks of Advent with 72 in attendance for the pageant.

NOW Reports included: Fred Onasch reporting he has been concentrating on getting healthy, Cathy Johnson is getting new sign up sheets for coffee hour and flowers. Cathy reported she is still working on the directory. Edie has been very busy with the Food Pantry. 65 senior boxes went out last week. Shopping will take place for the three Adopt-A-Family food baskets. Edie is also getting boxes ready for Christmas distribution to Food Pantry clients. We will re-evaluate at the beginning of the year, if money will need to be shifted from Food Giveaways to Food Bank.

Additional discussion included that Trustees have articulated that they are stepping back from recommending the maintenance position. Deb is taking off January 1<sup>st</sup> and we will need someone to run livestream. Fred has a request from Rotary for building use (Mac Hall) for the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesdays of the month from 6-8pm from now until Spring. There was a form filled out for temporary use so council approved the extension which will be added to that form. Rotary will donate \$50/month for the usage.

Deb has contacted the sound system guy and he is unable to come look at the system but he provided several suggestions which Gideon will look into.

Our meeting was closed in prayer.

Any questions about anything that goes on at our council meetings? Please feel free to contact myself or any member of council.

Carol Greene

## Women's Open Circle

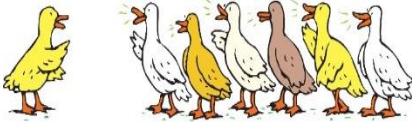
Women's Open Circle will meet Thursday, January 12th at noon in the Harder Room. Bring your own lunch, beverages and dessert will be provided.

Thanks to all who donated cookies for our Christmas gift bags in December.

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***Don't forget the Birthday Box in the Harder Room!***

## Annual Meeting

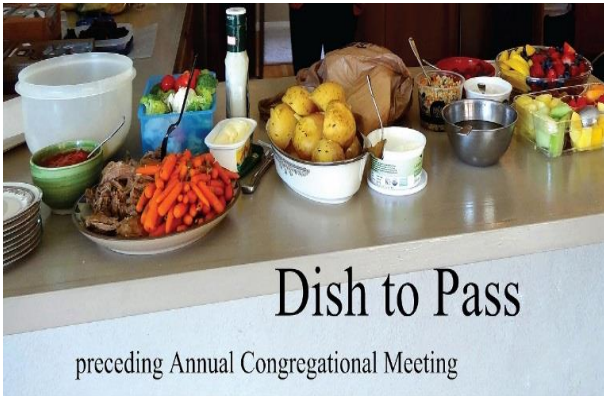


ANNUAL MEETING

Our Annual Meeting will be after church on Sunday, January 29. It will be led by the United Methodist District Superintendent, The Rev. Karen A. Monk, who will also preach that morning in worship.

The Annual Report will be available at worship on Sunday, January 22. But that can only happen if you contribute your part. Committee reports can go to Deb in the office when they're complete, no later than Tuesday, January 17. Thanks.

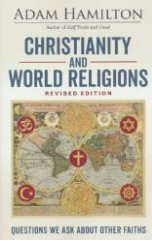
## Annual Luncheon



The United Ministry Annual Meeting will be held on Sunday, January 29<sup>th</sup>. After church and before the meeting, we will be having a covered dish luncheon. Please bring a dish to share and your own table service. Plan to stay after worship and enjoy a time of fellowship followed by this important meeting in the life of our church.

## Christian Ed

### Adult Book Study



*Christianity and World Religions* is the book we'll be looking at together on Thursday mornings. We'll start on January 19, at 10:30, in the Harder Room. If you'd like a book, please speak with Pastor Cathy.

### Kids Club

Wednesdays 3-4:30 PM - Grades K-6

Kids Club is a time for snacks, music, Bible lessons, craft projects, games and whatever else we decide to do. Our primary purpose is to learn about God's love as we seek to create bonds of support and community among our children, and we hope that as they grow up they will know that their church is a community of love and support for them. They share their music usually once a month in worship. We welcome all children, and would love to have newcomers!









*Kid's Club Christmas Pageant, December 18th. View the recorded service at <https://youtu.be/Y9A8cdeBZDQ>. Pageant starts at about the 37 minute mark.*



**JANUARY**  
BIRTHDAYS

Duane Buddle	1/4	Landa Palmer	1/18	Glenn Reynolds	1/24
Don Haight	1/9	Evan Kruppo	1/18	Eva Liddle	1/25
Bryce Burrows	1/16	Noah Kruppo	1/18	Ed Chytalo	1/27
Ryan Burrows	1/16	Olivia Kruppo	1/18		
Emily Briggs	1/17	Cyndee Pattison	1/20		

## Coffee Hour Hosts & Flowers for the Sanctuary



Have you signed up to host Coffee Hour yet? Coffee, tea, lemonade, and paper goods are

supplied. Cookies are optional. Sign up on the sheet on the Bulletin Board or call the church office to pick your date.

Would you like to commemorate a loved one or special event in your life? Garden and wild flowers are always

welcome! If you are uncomfortable creating the arrangement, call the office and we can make the arrangement for you.



### Coffee Hour

Jan 1 \_\_\_\_\_

Jan 8 \_\_\_\_\_

Jan 15 \_\_\_\_\_

Jan 22 \_\_\_\_\_

Jan 29 Annual Meeting/Luncheon

### Flowers

Jan 1 \_\_\_\_\_

Jan 8 \_\_\_\_\_

Jan 15 \_\_\_\_\_

Jan 22 \_\_\_\_\_

Jan 29 \_\_\_\_\_

Sign-up sheets are on the bulletin board outside the office.

### Lectors

Jan 1 Rev Rick Edwards

Jan 8 Carol Greene

Jan 15 Cathy Johnson

Jan 22 Fred Onasch

Jan 29 Ruth Kazmierski

# Word and Worship

January 2023

Sunday, January 1

Second Sunday of Christmas

Isaiah 63:7-9; Psalm 148

Hebrews 2:10-18; *Matthew 2:13-23*

Sunday, January 8

Epiphany Sunday

*Isaiah 60:1-6*; Psalm 72

Ephesians 3:1-12; Matthew 2:1-12

Sunday, January 15

Baptism of the Lord

Isaiah 42:1-9; Psalm 29

Acts 10:34-43; *Matthew 3:13-17*

Sunday, January 22

Third Sunday after Epiphany

Isaiah 49:1-7; Psalm 27:1, 4-9

1 Corinthians 1:10-18; *Matthew 4:12-23*

Sunday, January 29

Fourth Sunday after Epiphany

Rev. Karen Monk, District Superintendent, guest preacher

Micah 6:1-8; Psalm 15

1 Corinthians 1:18-31; Matthew 5:1-12

*Italicized texts are sermon texts.*

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