

# The Word

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FOR TO US A CHILD IS BORN,  
TO US A SON IS GIVEN,  
AND THE GOVERNMENT  
WILL BE ON HIS SHOULDERS.  
AND HE WILL BE CALLED

WONDERFUL  
*Counselor,*  
MIGHTY  
*God,*  
EVERLASTING  
*Father,*  
PRINCE OF  
*Peace.*

ISAIAH 9:6, NIV

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## Ministers Musings

Are you ready? I'm not too worried about your Christmas tree or the cookies or even getting cards mailed to your oldest friends. You've done Christmas before; you know where the tree stand and the poinsettia tablecloth are stored, waiting patiently for their annual appearance and usefulness. You probably even know how late Walgreens is open if you need tape to finish wrapping gifts on Christmas Eve. But Jesus encourages us to be ready for new things happening, for the end of this world as we know it and the arrival of the kingdom of God. He urges us to focus on priorities that matter – to keep our lamps filled with the oil of forgiveness and grace, ready to offer love instead of a grudge of sullenness about how we've been wronged. It's this sort of preparation, of culling and sweeping away of the detritus of last year's worries and slights, that we're invited to focus on during the season of Advent. I don't think such work is incompatible with hanging lights on the porch or baking Grandma's stollen to bring with you when you travel to see grandchildren. It's the work of remembering Jesus' call to love which makes the effort of baking and decorating the house meaningful and not just drudgery. God's love offered to us in the incarnation embraces and graces all that December brings. May your Advent be anticipatory and exciting, and may the Christmas celebrations we share together be joyful!

Grace and peace,

*Pastor Cathy*

## Highlights of November Parish Council

The November meeting of Parish Council opened by Gideon leading us in an exercise around gratitude.

The Topic of the Month was led by Carol Greene, who had attended a Presbyterian Session Minutes Review meeting, as clerk of the session. Chelsea has made some changes to the template for minutes so we are in compliance going forward. We needed to establish a quorum for our meetings. Gideon checked the By-laws, and it is 2/3's present. Quorum can include members attending by Zoom. Other items we need to address are, membership rolls need to be updated, Council needs to review sexual harassment policy, sexual misconduct policy and safe sanctuary policy. We need to review NYS laws to see how often sexual harassment training needs to occur for staff. Secretary will also need to include in minutes the date of communion and the number of people that were in church. In our Annual Report it is supposed to indicate when we do communion i.e. the 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of each month and on special occasions.

Playschool made \$525 at Harvest Festival. In the Spring they are thinking of doing a number of fund raisers, a bake sale, bottle drive and spaghetti dinner. Playschool Board officers are: Laura Mills (Chair), Joann Matusick (Treasurer) and Kelsie Whittaker (Parent Coordinator). Council voted to accept these officers.

The minutes from the October meeting of Parish Council were reviewed, attendance and communion numbers were added, and minutes were approved.

Laura Clark presented the Treasurer's report as of 10/31/22. We will need to take another draw in December but not sure how much it will be for. All our numbers looked good except for benevolence being \$5000 short (which had been anticipated) Investment money will be used to cover benevolence. Brief discussion was held, and the report was approved.

Jeff Ackerly reported that the numerous leaky faucets were replaced throughout the church, a new shed was delivered to the Parsonage property and trustees will be reinforcing the fencing at the parsonage to keep out the deer. When the TVs were mounted, Simonds Electric, accidentally drilled a hole into the airbox of the organ. It has been repaired and the bill for \$1100 has been

submitted to Simond's insurance company. Trustees received a letter from NYS informing us that they have put into place a temporary easement on the land where our sign sits on Main St. We may have to remove the sign temporarily in the future. There was flooring purchased for the downstairs bathrooms that couldn't be used or returned so it was suggested trustees use it to replace the flooring in the Harder Room kitchen. Trustees are working on a budget for next year. Gideon (head of SPR), Jeff (head of Trustees) and Carol will be doing a yearly walkthrough of parsonage on December 3<sup>rd</sup> in advance of preparing the 2023 budget.

Stephanie McCann reported that the Finance Committee met last Monday and discussed ways to balance budget and account for the money received from John Bramley, that will be used for heating oil this year. They are hoping to have draft budget to present to the congregation on 12/11 at coffee hour. Next meeting of the committee is on December 6<sup>th</sup>. We have received 27 pledges: Current expense \$67,176 and \$7,832 Benevolence, \$5500 specific missions. Carol discussed the service we currently use for background checks and that they are now charging us \$20 a month service fee. We decided to continue paying this fee until we can do further research into other options.

SPR met on November 1<sup>st</sup> and will meet again on 12/5. Pastor Cathy will not be preaching this weekend and Pastor Betsy will be filling the pulpit.

Pastor Cathy reported that the Community Thanksgiving Service soup supper was held at UMC on November 20<sup>th</sup>. She is working on the upcoming Christmas pageant for Kids Club, which will be 12/18. She attended the Cooperative Parish meeting, and we were acknowledged for paying 100% of our apportionments. We have been invited to have a member on the Laity Council and Evelyn might be part of it. Out Annual Meeting will be on Sunday, January 29<sup>th</sup> after worship. Bible book study has been going on this fall with the completion of "Church of the Wild." In December they will be starting an Advent study and another book in January. There was discussion of Christian Education line item in budget and how it is absorbing Kids Club curriculum and books for adult education. Pastor Cathy is getting ready for Advent and Christmas. There will be a 7pm service on Christmas Eve and regular services on Christmas and New Year's mornings.

Cathy Johnson shared that we would have a potluck dinner after church on December 4<sup>th</sup> and decorate the church afterwards. We will need help with decorations. There will be coffee hour after 12/18 service and people will be invited to bring a plate of cookies to share on Christmas Eve at coffee hour. The next potluck will be at the Annual Meeting in January. Cathy offered to help with membership roll information. She is still trying to update the directory and has not gotten a lot of responses.

Carol discussed the Food Pantry and reported that Edie and helpers put together and gave out 24 Thanksgiving boxes. Another Food Giveaway is planned for December 17<sup>th</sup>, with boxes being a little smaller. It was reported that we need to be sure we can continue to supply the food pantry in the basement so we may do fewer giveaways going forward. Since we no longer have a Mission committee the Adopt-A-Family tradition has fallen to a few people to keep it alive. Edie will be touching base with Public Health to see if we can get a family. Chelsea has agreed to mentor Carol to keep this project moving forward in coming years.

Fred Onasch is waiting to receive cards and a list of members we're trying to re-engage. Pastor Cathy will work on getting that list to Fred

In New Business there were several Use of Church Facilities forms approved by council. Carol reported there is an O'Connor Foundation grant application available for anyone interested in submitting a project that would impact youth in Delaware County. Defibrillator company is pushing for someone to be trained in defibrillation or CPR. After some discussion it was decided that Carol will check into what NYS requires and report back.

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 on December 8th at noon in the Harder Room. We will have our Christmas luncheon. Afterwards we will fill gift bags for staff and shut-ins. Please bring two dozen cookies plus any food you signed up to bring.

The Congregation is also invited to donate 2 dozen cookies to help fill the gift bags.

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

## Adopt-a-Family

Keep a look out for the tree with tags to appear in the Harder Room! Please take a tag and return the wrapped item, with tag attached by Sunday, December 18<sup>th</sup>.

There will also be a basket (or baskets – we do not yet know how many families we will be getting!) in the hall outside the offices for your non-perishable food items. Monetary donations will be used to purchase

turkey(s), milk, and other fresh items. Monetary donations should be clearly marked 'Christmas Families' and may be placed in the offering plate or left at the church office.



## Nurture: Fellowship News

### ADVENT Pot Luck Luncheon:

Advent Pot Luck lunch after worship. Please join us for a time of food and fellowship as we begin our season of Advent. Bring a dish to share and your table service. Then plan to stay and help decorate the church for Christmas.



### Special Coffee Hours:

We will have a special coffee hour on **December 18th**. The Kids' Club will be doing a Christmas pageant during worship and we would like to celebrate them with a special time of fellowship afterwards. If you are baking Christmas cookies, we would welcome any you would like to share for this coffee hour.



**Christmas Eve worship service coffee hour.** We will be sharing cookies and punch after the service and again would welcome any cookies that you would like to share that evening.

These are special times to connect with friends and we look forward to these times of fellowship, especially during the festive holiday season. Plan to join us!



## Play School News - December 2022



*Trick-or-Treating in the church building*

Play School wrapped up November with our Share the Harvest Party. Each child is assigned a specific item and then brings it to school to share with their classmates (crackers, juice, cheese, apples, carrots, grapes, etc.). This is our version of Thanksgiving and the kids really enjoy the variety in snack choices. We also had a special letter T story time (turkey, tugboat, teapot) with Mrs. Henault. Thank you Eloise, the children had a ball!!

The children continue to work very well together and are having lots of fun!! The children enjoy coming to school to see all their friends, playing with the toys, games and puzzles. We

have been making projects with crayons, paint, and a variety of craft materials. They have been learning new songs, learning the letters of the alphabet and name recognition, using scissors, glue, working in their journals, and have a fun time with the letter of the week with some great topics. We have a lot of fun events planned for December, one of them being Gingerbread Houses with family members. We



also look forward to Mrs. Henault coming in for a special story time, Mrs. K. with gingerbread men, and stories with a craft with some members of the community. Along with getting ready for Christmas with some special Christmas gifts, and projects.

Play School is still accepting donations toward the program. As we move into Christmas and you find you have something you think the class could use or would enjoy (crayons, glitter, old Christmas cards, roll of Christmas wrapping paper, jingle bells, felt, etc.), please contact Pam at 746-2191 ext. 206 (Church) or 746-6869 (Home), email: [playschool.umod@gmail.com](mailto:playschool.umod@gmail.com) or simply place it in our collection box outside the church office. It would be greatly appreciated. Monetary donations are always welcome. You can follow us on Facebook for the latest updates and photos.

Thank you for all the wonderful donations of supplies thus far for the children in the Play School Program and the encouragement of support! We have received a variety of items from the U.M. Congregation, Play School Families and the Community! We appreciate everything we have received for the Play School class and couldn't have done it without your help and support!! THANK YOU!!!

Happy Holidays Everyone!

Respectfully Submitted,

Pam Savage, Play School Director



*Playtime at Play School*



## Food Mission

Well, November certainly was a busy month and December promises to be just as busy.

During October we helped 32 families consisting of 34 adults, 4 people over 65 and 6 kids under 18,

On November 5th Carol and her hard working crew shopped, put together and delivered approximately 60 boxes of food to senior citizens at the Delhi Senior Center and those receiving meals on wheels that requested them. It is very heartwarming to see how well these boxes are looked forward to and appreciated. The next delivery date is being planned - hopefully for December 17th so please watch for more details on how and when to help.

The food pantry put together 25 boxes which included turkeys, pies and rolls. The turkeys were provided by the Hamden food bank, and with Joe and Cheryl's help we purchased the pies and rolls from Price Chopper. Most of the boxes that had been signed up for were picked up, 3 were delivered and 4 were picked up later by making arrangements through Deb at the church office. Pick-up day was very busy as we also had 7 people stop in looking for food and received a huge delivery from DA who had held a food drive with competition among the classes. We don't have the menu set yet but will be giving away Christmas boxes on Thursday before Christmas and already have a number of people signed up.

Deb went to the community Thanksgiving dinner and picked up dinners and delivered them to the homeless at the Buena Vista and a couple of other homebound people who would be alone on Thanksgiving.

Despite the large donation which still needs to be counted, date checked and put on shelves we are short of Peanut Butter, Spaghetti Sauce and any type of canned tomatoes.

Thank you to everyone who supports our mission. We also wish all of you a happy and blessed Christmas season.

*~Edie*

## Poinsettias &

### Donations to the Food Bank

We have ordered 25 poinsettia plants to decorate the sanctuary for Christmas Eve Worship service. You are invited to purchase one in memory or in honor of a loved one or special event in your life. We are also offering the option of donating to the Food Bank. Donations for the Food Bank are also in memory or in honor of loved ones or special events in your life.

*The Deadline to order Poinsettia's is Sunday, December 18<sup>th</sup>.*

Please fill out the form **exactly** as you would like the announcement to read:



\$ \_\_\_\_\_ for \_\_\_\_\_ plants at \$10.00 each.

\_\_\_\_ I will supply my own poinsettia(s)

In Memory/Honor of  
(circle one) \_\_\_\_\_

By: \_\_\_\_\_

In Memory/Honor of  
(circle one) \_\_\_\_\_

By: \_\_\_\_\_

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\$ \_\_\_\_\_ **Donation to the Food Bank**

In Memory/Honor of  
(circle one) \_\_\_\_\_

By: \_\_\_\_\_

In Memory/Honor of  
(circle one) \_\_\_\_\_

By: \_\_\_\_\_

**Please pick up your plant after worship on Christmas Eve. If you are supplying your own plant, please bring it to the church by 2pm Thursday, December 22<sup>nd</sup>.**

## 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

Dec 4 Advent Pot Luck  
Dec 11 \_\_\_\_\_  
Dec 18 \_\_\_\_\_  
Dec 24 7 pm Nurture Team  
Dec 25 \_\_\_\_\_

### Flowers

Dec 4 \_\_\_\_\_  
Dec 11 \_\_\_\_\_  
Dec 18 \_\_\_\_\_  
Dec 24 7 pm Poinsettias  
Dec 25 \_\_\_\_\_

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

## Lectors

Dec 4 John Gaffney  
Dec 11 Evelyn Jacksto  
Dec 18 Barb Onasch  
Dec 24 Gideon Frisbee  
Dec 25 Ann Peet



Ben Moyses	12/3	Barb Onasch	12/15
Jim Small	12/3	Charle Cash	12/15
Beth Huneke	12/5	Gregory Onasch	12/17
Paul Johnson	12/6	Viola Albert	12/27
Eric Guy	12/9	Zachary Anderson	12/28
Pat Nabinger	12/14	Jim Bramley	12/29
Skaði Gielski	12/14	Rick Edwards	12/29
		Matthew Griswold	12/30



*BirthDay*  
CELEBRATION

### **You are Invited!**

Thursday, December 29

7 pm

Harder Room

80<sup>th</sup> Birthday Celebration

For Rick Edwards

You are all invited for coffee and cookies to celebrate Rick's Birthday.

# Word and Worship

December 2022

December 4

Second Sunday of Advent

Isaiah 11:1-10; Psalm 72:1-7, 18-19  
Romans 15:4-13; Matthew 3:1-12

December 11

Third Sunday of Advent

Isaiah 35:1-10; Luke 1:47-55  
James 5:7-10; Matthew 11:211

December 18

Fourth Sunday of Advent

Isaiah 7:10-16; Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19  
Romans 1:1-7; Matthew 1:18-25

December 24

Christmas Eve

Isaiah 52:7-10; Psalm 96; Titus 2:11-14  
Luke 2:1-20; John 1:1-14

December 25

Christmas Day

Isaiah 52:1-5; Psalm 97  
Titus 3:4-7; John 1:1-14

January 1, 2023

First Sunday of Christmas

Isaiah 63:7-9; Psalm 148  
Hebrews 2:10-18; Matthew 2:13-23

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