

The Word



Published by The United Ministry of Delhi

December 2024

Minister's Musings

We have an angel that hangs outside our front door. She is flying, heading up the hill, and carrying a banner declaring 'peace on earth.' She was created to be a Christmas decoration, to be put away with the tree and the lights and the wreaths after Epiphany, but a few years ago I realized I wanted her there all year. Just because the angels sing of peace specifically on the night of Jesus' birth doesn't mean that the declaration is good news of great joy only for a season. I need to remember that good news all year long. So my angel stays on the porch, and I seek to live out her proclamation of peace day by day and month by month. She reminds me to look for paths of peace and opportunities for reconciliation. Because there is no peace without justice, she reminds me, too, to notice where things aren't right and work to make them better.

Soon, sometime after Thanksgiving, the rest of my Christmas décor will come up from the basement and take its place around the house, inside and outside. There are lights and lots of baby Jesuses, angels and camels, mangers and stars, sheep and a hedgehog or two. They will all help me reside in the joy and hope of Advent and Christmas. Jesus is the light of the world, born among us out of love and for our salvation. This is all good news, not just for a month, but for our whole lives long.

On this side of the Christmas season, at the very beginning of Advent, what is it that will last beyond the New Year for you? What is it about all this joy that you can hold on to, keeping you connected to hope all year long? Claim that. Don't let it slip away. And if there's a sheep with a red and green ribbon on your mantel when I visit in May, I'll know why.

Grace and peace,

Pastor Cathy



Highlights of November Parish Council Meeting

The November meeting of Parish Council opened with Edie Campbell sharing a reading from Guideposts.

For the Topic of the Month there was not a specific topic but Pastor Cathy talked about outreach. We had chosen to do a collection for UMCOR for disaster relief, but she pointed out that there are other opportunities available on the Presbyterian side that we might want to look into. Also discussed was the Pastor's discretionary fund and possible creation of a fund that could be used to help someone in need from the community or our congregation.

Eloise Henault shared that the Playschool board met on November 15th. They elected Amanda Anzalone (Parent representative) and Ruth Kazmierski to their Board. A fund raiser movie night is planned for December 15 from 5-9pm in McIntosh Hall. Pam reported that Daffodil Daycare joins them once a week for activities. The board has a meeting scheduled for the end of January.

The Treasurers Report as of October 31st (from the Finance meeting earlier in the month) was reviewed and approved.

Finance Committee meet November 5th and started working on the budget for 2025. Pastor Cathy worked on a draft of the narrative budget that also shows the income and not just the expenses in 2024. It was reported that we did not receive the O'Connor three year grant that we had applied for. We will explore further grant options.

Gideon reported that the Trustees completed several odd jobs including getting the church and parsonage gutters cleaned, cleaning of the woodstove chimney at the parsonage and delivery of wood for the stove and new garage door openers purchased and programmed. \$15,000 was transferred from the Money Market account to support the budget. Trustees are looking into some options for getting a bike rack built for the church. The EVAN committee has made a request to remove the sink from the EVAN room to make more counter space. Trustees will meet with Patti Kruppo to discuss ideas and options moving forward.

Barb Jones shared that SPR met on October 29th. They worked on the Methodist annual reporting documents 1 & 2. Staff evaluations are ongoing. SPR is

working on updating the job description for Sextant as they begin their search for a replacement for Fran. They also will be working at their next meeting on projected salaries for 2025.

Pastor Cathy reported Kids Club is down to 3 children but they are having fun. They will begin work on the Christmas Pageant. The Community Thanksgiving dinner planning is underway. The Community Thanksgiving Service will be at the Community Church on November 24th with Brett White preaching. Our Annual Meeting (charge conference) will be held on January 19th, 2025.

We will be hosting a meeting minutes review session on November 23rd for the Presbytery. Advent Sanctuary decorating, potluck lunch will be December 8th.

Evelyn showed some recent photos of the sanctuary for her worship update.

Mission shared that we will be adopting one family this year at Christmas. Chelsea Johnson has agreed to help with coordinating this project this year. There is a Wal-Mart grant being investigated for support for the food pantry. Edie will be preparing and distributing 36 Thanksgiving Food Baskets.

Council gave approval to Delaware County DSS annual luncheon on November 26th in McIntosh Hall and also a Girls Scouts gathering on December 10th in McIntosh Hall from 5-8 pm.

The next meeting of Parish Council will be December 16th.

The meeting was closed in prayer.

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

Carol Greene

Stewardship Update:



As of Sunday November 24, we've received 19 pledge cards back with your commitments for 2025. THANK YOU!

We will still graciously accept pledge cards as we work to finalize the 2025 budget in the weeks ahead. Thank you!

Thank you!



A big *Shout Out* and a *Thank you* to Liz Frisbee for heading up a very successful Thanksgiving Day dinner for the community! Took us by surprise this year that it was our turn and we scrambled. But Liz stepped up, along with a group of strong volunteers from both our own church and other churches, and the Annual Delhi Community Thanksgiving Day Dinner was a success.

Thank you, Liz, for taking on the huge job of organizing this event for the greater Delhi community.

Women's Open Circle

Women's Open Circle will meet on Thursday, December 12th at noon in the Harder Room for our annual Christmas Luncheon. All women of UMD are invited! After lunch, we'll be filling bags with cookies and fruit for staff, friends, and shut-ins. Please bring your contribution to the luncheon and 2 dozen cookies.

Members of the congregation are also invited to donate 2 dozen cookies to help fill the gift bags!

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

Earring Crafting

Come join Pastor Cathy and make a pair or two of earrings, for you, for gifts, whatever. She's got supplies and a little bit of knowledge. Bring needle-nose pliers if you have them; they're useful and we'll want a few pairs. Saturday morning, December 7, at 11 am. In the Harder Room.



**Sunday
December
8**

**Advent Decorating
&
Potluck Lunch**

Sunday, December 8th, immediately following worship we'll have a Pot luck luncheon – bring a dish to share and enjoy food and fellowship.

After lunch we'll decorate the sanctuary for the Advent season.

Food Ministry

A Big

*Thank
You!*

...to the
Kortright Kritters
4-H club who held
a food drive and
brought in 415 items
of food and toiletries
for the Delhi Food Pantry.

Blue Christmas Service



Thursday, DECEMBER 19, 2024, at 6:30pm

The United Ministry of Delhi

1 Church Street | Delhi, NY 13753

Fireside Room, downstairs.

Elevator access through parking lot.

Joint service with St. John's Episcopal Church,
First Baptist Church, and The United Ministry of Delhi.

Adopt-a-Family

We have again partnered with Public Health Nursing to gift a families with a basket of food and gifts for Christmas. The tree in the Harder Room has tags with names and details about wished-for gift items. Please take a tag and return the wrapped item, with tag attached by Sunday, December 22nd.



There are also baskets in the hall outside the offices - a basket for the family we have adopted for Christmas - for your non-perishable food items. Monetary donations will be used to purchase turkeys, milk, and other fresh items. Monetary donations should be clearly marked 'Christmas Family' and may be placed in the offering plate or left at the church office. The gifts and food baskets will be picked up by Public Health Nursing to be delivered to the families in time for Christmas.

Faith Giving



Are you saving your spare change? The last *Faith Giving* of the year will be received the last Sunday of the month, December 29th. Envelopes are available on the table in the hallway and will be available on the 29th. Donations to Faith Giving support the annual budget and are welcome at any time.

Year End Deadlines

With the end of the year quickly approaching, there are some deadlines for people to be aware of:

Contributions: All contributions to be included on your 2024 giving statement must be received by Sunday, December 29th.

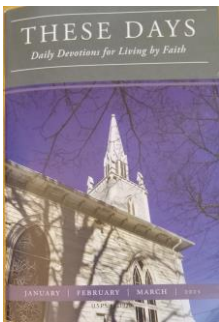


Invoices: all bills that are to go against the 2024 budget must be given to Laura by Friday, December 29th.

Annual Reports: It is not too early for Committee Chairs to start thinking about Annual Reports! All reports are due to the office by Monday, January 13. Reports not received by that date may not be included in the Annual Report.

Daily Devotional Available

Strengthen your faith with *These Days*, an inspiring and uplifting daily devotional! Each issue of *These Days* features:



- Scripture suggestions
- Daily reflections written by clergy and lay leaders
- Inspiring prayers
- Adult coloring pages
- Poems, prayers, and songs pertinent to the issue's theme
- Information about the writer

Christmas Pageant

Sunday, December 22nd

During worship service

The Kids' Club & friends will be performing *Nothing Ever Happens in Bethlehem*, a Christmas Pageant, during our worship service. They've been working hard, rehearsing and memorizing. Plan to attend and enjoy the story they tell to us!



Advent Devotional



Magnify: Mary's Song and the Magnificent Women of Advent

Each Advent season, Christian communities all over the world return to Mary's stirring song, the "Magnificat." But the truth is, Mary doesn't sing alone. She sings with Hannah, and Elizabeth, and Miriam, and Shiphrah, and Puah, and Rizpah, and Ruth – and a host of other magnificent women who "magnify" God's mission of love and grace, preparing the way for Christmas morning and beyond.

In this Advent devotional, we focus on a few of those women in scripture who blazed the trail for Mary and Jesus, and who can inspire us, too, to join in the song of God's salvation, where the lowly are lifted up, the mighty are brought down from their thrones, and the hungry are filled with good things. Come, Jesus, come!

Available on the table in the hall and as a download in pdf format for use on your tablet or phone.

Umdelhi.org/connect/adult-formation

Scan to download.



TFC Candle Lighting



TCF Oneonta Region Chapter will host a candle lighting ceremony on Sunday, December 8 to

remember our departed children, grandchildren or siblings at the UUSO Church, 12 Ford Avenue in Oneonta. Attendees may wish to bring a small photo of their loved one, and it is suggested that folks plan to arrive at 6:30 pm to set up the photo on the memory table. Candles are provided. Refreshments will be served. For more information, go to www.tcfoneonta.org or call Chapter Leader Al Davino, 607-746-7396.

Play School December Update

Play School has been very busy with Thanksgiving projects, play, stories and songs. We had picture day and enjoyed our share the harvest party! We have also enjoyed some special visitors throughout the month of November!

For the Month of December we are planning Gingerbread Houses with a special family member, making Gingerbread Cookies with Mrs. K. (we hope they don't run away again this year!) Holiday crafts with Miss Tasha, holiday projects, songs, games, play, stories, special guests, and our Christmas Class Party.

We are planning to host a **Christmas Family Movie Night on December 13th**. Please keep watch for additional information to come.



Play School would like to remind you that we have an open account at Dutch Redemption for cans and bottles with a 5¢ deposit. If you would like to drop off all your holiday cans and bottles to the Play School Account, or drop them off to Play School after the holidays, we would greatly appreciate it! If you don't have cans and bottles to donate and would like to make a monetary donation to Play School that would also be appreciated! Just please remember to write Play School in the memo section of your check.

Thank you and we wish you many blessings this Holiday Season!!
Respectfully Submitted,

Pam Savage

Play School Director



Poinsettias and Donations to the Food Pantry



We have ordered 24 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 Pantry, also **in memory or in honor of loved ones or special** events in your life.

Form is available online at: umdelhi.org/news-and-events/

The Deadline to order Poinsettias is Sunday, December 15th.

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

\$ _____ for _____ plants at \$18.00 each.
____ I will supply my own poinsettia(s)

In Memory/Honor of _____
(circle one)

By: _____

In Memory/Honor of _____
(circle one)

By: _____

Donations to the Food Pantry: \$ _____

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, Tuesday, December 24th.

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!



Coffee Hour

Dec 1 _____

Dec 8 Advent Potluck

Dec 15 _____

Dec 22 _____

Dec 24 7 pm _____

Dec 29 _____

Flowers

Dec 1 _____

Dec 8 _____

Dec 15 _____

Dec 22 Poinsettia's

Dec 29 Cathy Schuyler

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



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

Word and Worship

December 1

First Sunday of Advent

Jeremiah 33:14-16; Psalm 25:1-10
1 Thessalonians 3:9-13; Luke 21:25-36

December 8

Second Sunday of Advent

Malachi 3:1-4; *Luke 1:68-79*
Philippians 1:3-11; Luke 3:1-6

December 15

Third Sunday of Advent

Zephaniah 3:14-20; Isaiah 12:2-6
Philippians 4:4-7; *Luke 3:7-18*

December 22

Fourth Sunday of Advent

Christmas Music Sunday
Micah 5:2-5a; Luke 1:46b-55
Hebrews 10:5-10; *Luke 1:39-45*

December 24

Christmas Eve

Isaiah 52:7-10; Psalm 96; Titus 2:11-14
Luke 2:1-20; John 1:1-18

December 29

First Sunday of Christmas

Service of Lessons and Carols
1 Samuel 2:18-20, 26; Psalm 148
Colossians 3:12-17; Luke 2:41-52

December Lectors

Dec 1 *Rick Edwards*
Dec 8 *Liz Frisbee*
Dec 15 *Carol Greene*
Dec 22 *Gideon Frisbee*
Dec 24 – Christmas Eve 7 pm –
Edie Campbell
Dec 29 *Ruth Kazmierski*

Acolytes Schedule

Dec 1 *Virginia Mills*
Dec 8 *Wyatt Frisbee*
Dec 15 *Madison Vredenburgh*
Dec 22 *Virginia Mills*
Dec 24 – Christmas Eve 7 pm –
Virginia Mills & Wyatt Frisbee
Dec 29 *Madison Vredenburgh*

Bible Quiz

Who was governor of Syria when Joseph and Mary traveled to Bethlehem for a mandated registration, or census?

- A. Theophilus
- B. Herod Antipas
- C. Pontius Pilate
- D. Quirinius



Answer: D (See Luke 2:1-7.)

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