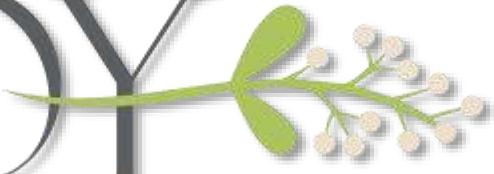


The Word

HOPE

PEACE

LOVE

JOY 

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December 2025

Pastor's Message

"Taking a Different Path"

Dear friends,

As winter settles in and the landscape fades into muted tones, the colors of Christmas—red and green—shine with striking brightness. These colors are not mere decoration; they tell a story of creation, fall, and hope. Red, throughout Scripture, symbolizes life through blood and reminds us of our beginning. Adam—the first human—bears a name in Hebrew that can mean “man” or “red,” pointing to the precious life God breathed into him. Yet this same Adam also became the one through whom death entered the world. Green, on the other hand, is the color of living things—leaves, pastures, and flourishing trees—symbols of the life God intended for humanity and creation. But sin touched everything, bringing decay not only to human life but also to the natural world. Into this wounded creation, Jesus came as the One who restores life to humanity and promises renewal for all creation. Thus, the colors of Christmas invite us to remember both our fall and the vibrant hope offered in Christ.

This hope is beautifully echoed in the journey of the Magi—wise seekers who traveled from the East, guided by the mysterious light of a star. They left comfort and familiarity in pursuit of God's revelation, carrying with them gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. When they arrived at the place where Jesus was found, Scripture tells us: “They fell down and worshipped him... And being warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they departed for their own country by another road.” (Matthew 2:11-12). Their encounter with the Christ child not only drew them in—it sent them back changed. They returned by “another road,” a symbol of transformation, renewal, and the new direction God inspires in all who genuinely seek Him.



This Christmas and New Year, the journey of the Magi invites us to ponder what it truly means to take “another road” in life. Their encounter with Jesus opened their hearts to a new direction—and so it can be for us. In today's world, where countless voices compete for our attention, Christ calls us toward a way shaped by love, forgiveness, compassion, justice, brotherhood, hope, simplicity, acceptance, tolerance, inclusion, purity, and holiness. Choosing this different path means allowing

the light of Christ to reorient our values, renew our relationships, and inspire choices that heal and bless.

As we celebrate the season, may its vibrant colors remind us of God’s enduring love and His promise to bring renewal into every part of our lives. May the journey of the Magi inspire us to step into the New Year with courage, openness, and a willingness to walk a path illuminated by Christ’s transforming grace.

Wishing each of you a blessed Christmas filled with deep joy, and a New Year guided by Christ’s radiant light, abundant hope, and everlasting peace.

May God bless you all.

Grace and Peace,

Premkumar Immanuel Clement



Highlights of November Parish Council

Called to order by Carol Greene 6:38 PM

Present: Gideon Frisbee, Eloise Henault, Pastor Prem, Ruth V, Stephanie, Barb Jones, Carol Greene, Susan Frisbee

Joe Greenfield via Zoom

Absent: Fred Onasch

Devotions: Gideon shared a message written by Rev. Bishop Bickerton about food insecurities and the need and call for action. Gideon believes we are answering this call and is proud of what we have been doing in our community, even before the most recent government shut down and SNAP crisis.

Topic of the Month: Food Pantry- There has been a great response and support from the community for our food pantry and for those in need.

Advent planning is underway with Prem, Pat and Deb for services and music. December 7th will be when we decorate the sanctuary and have a hearty coffee hour after the service. Since we just had a potluck, we will forgo doing that this year. There will be one Christmas Eve service at 7pm.

Nominating Committee: Prem is the lead of this committee and is asking for assistance from Carol. This committee needs to start meeting soon. Annual meeting will be scheduled January 18 or 25th depending on Rev. Monks availability. Prem will reach out to her.

Approval of Meeting minutes – October 20, 2025.

Barb motion to approve with corrections, 2nd Joe Greenfield, Motion carries unanimously.

Finance Report: The October financial report was presented. Ruth V motion, Barb 2nd, motion carries.

Trustee's Report: Met on 11/12. We held an outdoor cleanup day on November 1 and cleaned up leaves at the church and the parsonage. We also cleaned the gutters at the parsonage and trimmed the hedges. Many thanks to Prem and Varun for their helping hands. The furnace and hot water heater at the church have been serviced for the season and are now keeping us warm. A new pressure tank was found to be needed for the heating system, which delayed starting up the furnace. Thank you all for your patience as we did not get the heat on as soon as we had hoped. A new floor has been installed in the Harder Room kitchen. Inside handicap button on elevator parking lot door isn't working. Next meeting is Monday December 8th.

Finance: Committee started working on the 2026 budget. There is a proposed 3% increase for staff salaries which needs to be included on the forms submitted to Karen Monk by December 1st. SPR brought these recommendations to Finance Committee. The finance committee approved and is being presented at Parish Council as such. The total budget increase is \$2,766. Susan Frisbee made the motion as such, 2nd by Carol. Motion carries unanimously. This approval is contingent on final approval at the Annual Meeting. Finance committee's next meeting is December 2nd. A grant application has been submitted to the Helfgott-Renfroe foundation for operating expenses.

We have received this grant in the past few years. Finance passed along a possible application for the O'Connor Foundation for Play School for youth programming.

SPR- stated that the salary increases are very reflective of the work of the staff throughout the year which was exemplified by their work to assist in the completing of paperwork that we needed to provide for Prem's Visa application. The SPR did an immense amount of work with great help from Deb and Fran to bring all the necessary paperwork needed as the employer. The lawyer was very complimentary of the package that we put together. Barb did an excellent job as well!! SPR met on 10/30 and realized they needed to get the annual reporting forms completed by December 1. We do have a staff evaluation process that didn't work out as intended last year, so they will take a different approach for 2026 and shift to late spring. Currently working on completing all the annual forms for the conference.

Pastor's Report: Prem is meeting with his Mentor twice a week currently. He has attended many meetings, including hosting the Farms and Forests Cooperative Parish monthly meeting at the parsonage. On Saturday 12/20 the Farms and Forests will be hosting a Carol sing at our church. We need to have a Safe Sanctuary meeting in January or February for our church/congregation. Prem is very grateful for the installation celebration that was put together on November 9th. Many thanks to the whole congregation for this. November 23 will be the Ecumenical Thanksgiving worship service at 1st Pres. Coffee with Pastor is suspended until the Farm Market returns to the Square. Including online, attendance was 10/26 – 38, 11/2 – 51. 11/9 - 50. Prem is working on putting a Bible Study together for early next year. Kids Club continues.

Communion: 11/2 – 35 served.

Eloise – Playschool- Everything is going well with playschool. Next board meeting is January 12, 2026.

Mission: Food Pantry – We are up to 34 Thanksgiving boxes that will be put together for the community need this year. Efforts are underway to get all the food we need for this. There have been many food drives and donations coming in. Food Giveaway for the Senior Center and homeless is scheduled for November 22nd.

Fred - Witness: Absent

Other Business: Facility Use Forms

DSS Employee Luncheon – 11/25 – McIntosh Hall, yearly donation received.
Catered meal.

Eloise made a motion to approve the form presented, Joe 2nd, Motion carries unanimously.

Next meeting of Parish Council will be December 15th.

Gideon moves to adjourn, Carol seconds, motion carries.

The meeting closed with prayer at 8:14 PM.

Respectfully submitted, Gideon Frisbee



Women's Open Circle

Women's Open Circle will meet on Thursday, December 11th at noon in the Harder Room for our annual Christmas Luncheon. 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. All women of the congregation are invited to join us – we'll have *plenty* of food!



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!

Come to the Farms and Forest Parish

ADVENT CELEBRATION

Saturday, December 20th, 2025 2:00 pm



Celebration of Song and Joy

At The United Ministry of Delhi

Featuring our Directors of Music:

Kent Brown

Pat Nabinger

With guest artist Bill Seneschal

WANTED:

Do you have a used bureau in decent shape in your garage, basement or attic? We are looking for a bureau for one of the parsonage bedrooms. If so, please contact Pastor Prem or Barb Jones.

Thank you!

Food Ministry

Busy, Busy, Busy. I know this is a busy time of year for everyone and the food pantry is no exception.

Carol and her crew put together another giveaway for the senior center and a few other people in the area. All went well even though the timing had some conflicts with the pantry Thanksgiving boxes and some donation deliveries.

We took one day when Pattie, Liz, Cindy and I put out all the food we had been setting aside for the Thanksgiving boxes on tables and counted what we still needed. Liz went shopping and on Sunday the 23rd Pattie put together the boxes and Liz, Wyatt and Porter packed the boxes and also some bags with produce to be ready for Monday. On Monday Joe brought us turkeys from the college, Liz picked up pies and rolls from Price Chopper and we were ready to go. Three gentlemen from the college showed up to help our clients carry everything to their vehicles. We had packed 30 boxes, had a couple that didn't pick theirs up and a couple that showed up but hadn't signed up for a box. As best I could count we had 28 people show up for boxes which consisted of 52 adults, 18 over 60 and 17 under 18. There were also 14 clients who used the pantry that day so a lot of people were able to have food for Thanksgiving. We also have people signed up already for Christmas boxes.

I understand that Marilyn is getting writer's cramp from writing all the thank you notes. We have had donations from the boy scouts, Montessori school, DSS, the elementary school, college SME club, 1st Pres, St, Peter's, Baker's Grimm, Lost Bookstore and others to numerous to mention. The whole community has been very supportive of our neighbors in need and they all deserve a big Thank you.

Wishing all of you a joyous holiday season

Edie



A Heartfelt Thank You!



Much thanks goes out to students at SUNY-Delhi for remembering neighbors in need during stressful times. They gathered and delivered many, many bags and boxes of non-perishable food items, helped sort and put it away. And then a group of students came back on Monday, November 22nd to help families picking up Thanksgiving boxes.



Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

Join us at 7:00 pm

Wednesday, December 24

Followed by a special
Fellowship Hour in the Harder
Room



Adopt-a-Family



We have again partnered with Public Health Nursing to gift 2 families with baskets 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 21st.

There are baskets in the hall outside the offices 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 Families' 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 First Sunday of the month, December 7. Envelopes are available on the table in the hallway and will be available on November 30th.



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 2025 giving statement must be received by Sunday, December 28th.

Invoices: All bills that are to go against the 2025 budget must be given to Fran by Sunday, December 28th.

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 12th. Reports not received by that date may not be included in the Annual Report.



Choir Invitation

This invitation is for anyone who would like to sing with the choir for Christmas time. We will be rehearsing Christmas music Wednesday December 10 and Wednesday December 17 from 7:00- 8:30. We will then sing December 20 at the Carol Sing and for Christmas Eve.

Please consider adding your voice for this joyous season. We would love to have you sing with us.

Pat and the Chancel Choir



Play School December Update

Play School kids are excited and looking forward to the Holiday Season! In the month of December, we continue to work on our letters of the week, fun holiday projects, songs and stories. The kids will be doing Gingerbread Houses with a special family member, The Gingerbread Man story with Mrs. K., Class Christmas/Hanukkah Party, and lots of special Holiday/Christmas gifts for their families.



During November, we worked on the letters of the week, we enjoyed the Open House event for the families of Play School and welcomed special guests that stopped by to visit. We enjoyed Marshall and Ingrid who came in and joined us for our Share the Harvest Party. ❤️🍷

Just a reminder that Play School continues to collect cans and bottles (they can build up fast during the holidays). We will have a bottle drive sometime this spring but if you would like to drop off cans and bottles to Dutch Redemption for Play School, just ask them to put it on the Play School account or you can bring them to Play School and we can bring them up for you. Happy Holidays! Wishing you a wonderful holiday season and many thanks for all that you do!

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.

The Deadline to order Poinsettias is Sunday, December 21st.

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

\$ _____ for _____ plants at \$20.00 each.

____ I will supply my own poinsettia(s)

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 23rd.

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 7 _____

Dec 14 _____

Dec 21 _____

Dec 24 7 pm _____

Dec 28 _____

Flowers

Dec 7 _____

Dec 14 _____

Dec 21 _____

Dec 24 7 pm Poinsettias

Dec 28 _____

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



Ben Moyse	12/3
Jim Small	12/3
Beth Huneke	12/5
Paul Johnson	12/6
Eric Guy	12/9
Pat Nabinger	12/14
Skađi Gielskie	12/14
Barb Onasch	12/15

Charle Cash	12/15
Gregory Onasch	12/17
Viola Albert	12/27
Zachary Anderson	12/28
Jim Bramley	12/29
Rick Edwards	12/29
Matthew Griswold	12/30

Word and Worship

Sunday, December 7

2nd Sunday of Advent

Isaiah 11:1-10;

Psalm 72:1-7, 18-19;

Romans 15:4-13; Matthew 3:1-12

Sunday, December 14

3rd Sunday of Advent

Isaiah 35:1-10; Luke 1:46b-55;

James 5:7-10; Matthew 11:2-11

Sunday, December 21

4th Sunday of Advent

Isaiah 7:10-16;

Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19

Romans 1:1-7; Matthew 1:18-25

Wednesday, December 24

Christmas Eve

Isaiah 9:2-7; Psalm 96;

Titus 2:11-14; Luke 2:1-20

Sunday, December 28

1st Sunday After Christmas

Isaiah 63:7-9; Psalm 148;

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

December Lectors

Dec 7 *Patti Kruppo*

Dec 14 *Ruth Kazmierski*

Dec 21 *Fred Onasch*

Dec 24 – Christmas Eve 7 pm – *Ann Peet*

Dec 28 *Evelyn Jacksto*

Acolytes Schedule

Dec 7 *Wyatt Frisbee*

Dec 14 *Madison Vredenburgh*

Dec 21 *Olivia Kruppo*

Dec 24 – Christmas Eve 7 pm – *Virginia Mills*

Dec 28 – *Cameron Mills*



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