

# DECEMBER

## PRES

*Jesus said to her, "Everyone who drinks of this water will be thirsty again, but whoever drinks of the water that I will give him will never be thirsty again. The water that I will give him will become in him a spring of water welling up to eternal life."*

*John 4:13*



Greetings in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ!

We are embarking on one of the most breathtaking seasons of the Christian year – Advent – the time of preparation for the **CELEBRATION** and **JOY** of Christ's birth. Over the next few weeks, as a church, we will journey with Mary, Joseph, Zechariah, Elizabeth and the people of the first century as they go about their daily lives; lives filled with many of the same stressors we experience – corrupt politicians, taxes, economic hardships, ill health, road trips, and a hope for peace and a better life.

Concomitantly we will journey with friends and neighbors who share the same concerns as our first century counterparts, but who live in a society that has trivialized and secularized Christmas. No longer does America recognize the "Christmas" season, but rather has renamed it the "holiday" season. This most sacred time for Christians has been reduced to another secular holiday marked by an asterisk on the work calendar – just another day off. Christmas is now defined by politically correct spin-meisters and merchants hawking their holiday wares. With great frustration I echo the words from Charlie Brown, "*Good grief!*"

While I am sensitive to the concerns of society and other faith traditions, I long for Christ to once again be welcomed to the public square. I ache to say his name aloud – not just from the pulpit but also in public places. I would like to see Christmas images alongside other faith traditions, so Christ may become known to others. And while I long for Christ's reemergence in public I am ever more concerned that he find his way back into our Christian lives on a daily basis.

Not only does the secular world revel in this current adaptation of Advent and Christmas, but we Christians get caught up in the fervor too. In the midst of the rat race of shopping, partying and preparations for family gatherings let us ask ourselves, "*Where is Christ?*" Where *is* Christ in my family's preparations for Christmas? Does our family ever really talk about Christ and the true meaning of Christmas, or is that a little too uncomfortable? Is it unexplored family territory? Is it just a little too religious?

Friends, I implore you to reclaim for yourselves and your families the meaning of Advent and Christmas. Advent is a journey toward joy – a journey culminating on Christmas Eve with the ecstatic realization that deliverance is at hand – *the beloved* – *the Christ* – *the Savior of the world* – has come! Hope has arrived. As people of faith, let these next few weeks become a time of growing excitement in anticipation of the

greatest gift ever received; God's gift to the world, Jesus, the Christ. Let our Christmas Eve and Christmas day begin and end with the realization and *joy* that Christ is alive with us now and forever!

I really look forward to the coming weeks as together we rediscover the joy of Christmas. Putting aside all political correctness . . . Dare I say it !!?

**MERRY CHRISTMAS !!!**

*Pastor Shawn*

### **Before the Fall**

Why do you want to end in grief?  
The gift tonight, the lighted wreath  
The tallest candle signals best  
The Savior's come, so we are blest

Soon enough we will despair  
The light will dim in sin's dark glare  
But on this eve, let's celebrate  
The beam, the love, the gift that's great

There's time enough to think of doom  
To gather weekly in the gloom  
To feel the pain of every stripe  
But for tonight the joy is ripe!

So let us signal one and all  
The birth within the cattle stall  
The little one now turns in rest  
How glad we are to be so blest

For this one night of every year  
Celebrate and be of cheer  
Emmanuel's here to save us all  
God knew this long before the fall ...

srz



### Session Update

1. Pastor Shawn reported that there will be an ecumenical Thanksgiving service in our sanctuary on November 22. A request has been made for the baptism of Caden Baker on December 10; this request was approved.
2. Finance Committee Chairperson Roland Neumann asked that all committee chairpersons return their Budget Request forms as soon as possible so that his committee can begin work on the 2018 Budget.
3. Personnel Committee Chairperson Gary Murphy reported that the Personnel Committee has recommended no increase in salaries for staff this year, due to financial concerns. Session voted to approve this recommendation. Gary reported that Pastor Shawn's last Sunday will be February 11, with her last day in the office on February 17. Session approved reimbursing her for 6 weeks of unused study leave and 2 weeks of unused vacation.
4. Stewardship Committee Chairperson Edith Keck reported that the Disaster Relief funds collected for hurricane victims have been sent to Presbytery. The total was \$1461.
5. Worship Committee Chairperson Phyllis Menzenski assigned Communion servers for December.
6. In New Business, Pastor Shawn reported that the Committee on Ministry will be meeting in late November to act on her retirement. After discussion, Session voted to form a committee of 5 people from Session and the congregation to seek an Interim Pastor when Presbytery indicates that it is time to take that step.
7. President of Trustees, Debbie Traver was present to inform the Session of the work being done by Trustees on the water purification system, cottage repairs, seeking rentals to increase income, and updating of the By-Laws of the Trustees. Those present expressed their appreciation for Debbie's informative report, and for the hard work of the Board of Trustees.



## CHURCH OFFICERS 2017

<b>SESSION</b> <b>ELDERS (Ruling Body of the Church)</b> <b>Pastor Shawn – Moderator</b> <b>845-723-4419 (H) 845-797-7144 (C)</b>		
CLASS OF 2017	CLASS OF 2018	CLASS OF 2019
Roland Neumann	Mary Jane Gardner	Judy Brandow
Karen Sheer	Phyllis Menzenski	Edith Keck
Pat Zerbe	Kim Daley	Gary Murphy
Clerk – Marilyn Brands		
<b>TRUSTEES</b> <b>(Take Care of the Physical Plant)</b>		
Frank Mears	Caroline Dolfi	Andy Albrecht
Debbie Traver (Chairperson)	Rick Fay	Tracy Keck
Steve Traver	Don Traver	Philip Keck
<b>DEACONS</b> <b>(The Service Body of the Church)</b>		
Dawne Fay	Steve Albrecht	Barbara Huneke
Tom Smith	Kathi Clark	Richard Moysey
Myung Sung	Traci Haight (Chairperson)	Jack Smith
Youth - Amanda Smith		

**Church Treasurer: Wayne Sauer**

**Mission Treasurers: David Brands and Wayne Sauer**

**Bargain Basement: Jean Albrecht, Director 845-635-3563**

**Friendship Callers: Joan Smith, Chairperson 845-635-3687**

**For numbers of Chairpersons not listed, please refer to the church directory or call the church office at 845-635-3289.**



**WE ARE PRAYER PARTNERS  
COME AND PRAY WITH US**

You are welcome to join the Prayer Partners as we pray for the needs of our church and learn more about growing closer to the LORD.

We meet the fourth Wednesday of each month at 7:00 p.m. in the parlor.

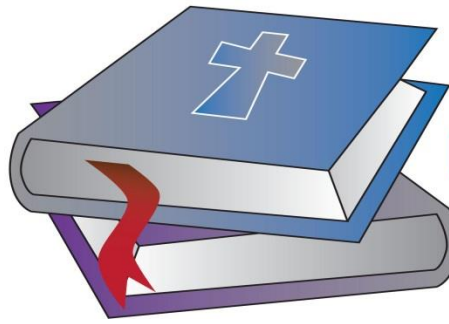
Prayers for **Jim Tyger** (Debi Tyger's husband) who is recovering from brain surgery.  
Prayers for **Joe Stefan** (friend of Phyllis Menzenski) who is having hip surgery.  
Prayers for **Michael Brandow** (Judy Brandow's grandson) who will be having knee surgery.  
Prayers for **Barbara Vaché** (Dawne Fay's mother) who is struggling with health issues.  
Prayers for **Reverend Bob** (Pastor Shawn's husband) who is struggling with health issues.  
Prayers for **Kyle Albrecht** (member) who is recovering from knee surgery.  
Prayers for **Poppy Jenks** (Amanda Smith's grandfather) who is struggling with health issues.  
Prayers for **Nick Becker** (Karen Haight's grandson) who is struggling with health issues.  
Prayers for **Cynthia Stirling** (member) who is struggling with health issues.  
Prayers for **Leeann** (Hope Murphy's dance instructor) who suffered a mini stroke.  
Prayers for **Tyler Albrecht** (member) who is recovering from a fall.  
Prayers for **Ron Meek** (father of Rev. Gavin Meek, our General Presbyter) who is suffering with health issues.  
Prayers for **Jamie Boyd** (Pastor Shawn's son-in-law) who recovering from surgery.  
Prayers of gratitude for **Vikki Caswell** (Chesney Baker's mother) for overall wellness.  
Prayers for **Beth Murphy** (member) who is struggling with health issues.  
Prayers for **Darryl Brandow** (Judy Brandow's son) who is will be having surgery.  
Prayers for **Patty Grega** (Steve Albrecht's cousin) who has been diagnosed with cancer.  
Prayers for **Amelia Borland** (2 yr old child who Jen Miller babysits for) who has leukemia.  
Prayers for **Sandy** (friend of Karen Sheer) who is recovering from surgery following a car accident.  
Prayers for **Karen Livingston Bernardo** (friend of Phyllis Menzenski) whose cancer has returned.  
Prayers for **Rick Fay** (member) who is struggling with health issues.  
Prayers for **Dan Masterson** (friend of Debi Tyger) whose cancer has returned.  
Prayers for **Dariana** (a Haight family friend) who is fighting cancer.  
Prayers for **Richard Joseph** (Mary Jane Gardner's brother) who is struggling with health issues.  
Prayers for **Edith & Dave** (Donna Sheak's parents) who are struggling with health issues.  
Sympathy prayers for the family of **Luther Sheak**, (Donna Sheak's brother) who has rejoined his Creator.

**Long Term Residence Lutheran Care**

Prayers for **Dort Traver** (member) who is in Lutheran Care Center, Room 111a South



**Christian**



**Education**

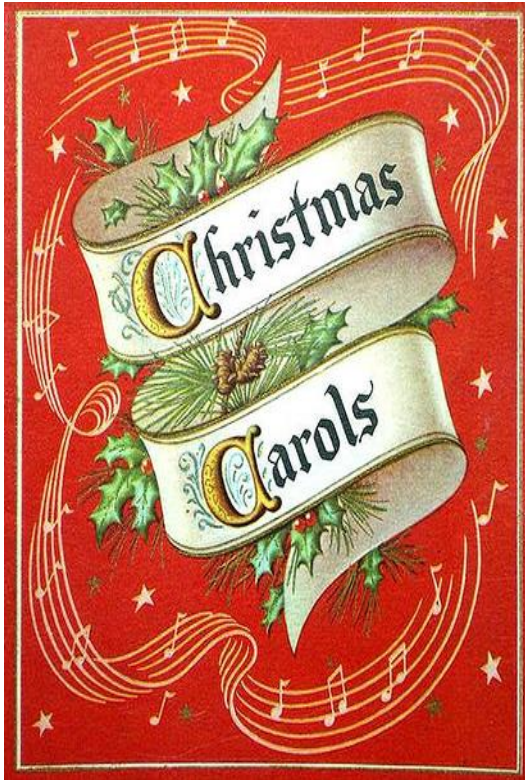
Beth Murphy, CE Coordinator [murphygba@aol.com](mailto:murphygba@aol.com) /845-868-7298(H) 845-242-0325 (C)

The next meeting of the Christian Education Committee will be Thursday, December 21st in the Parlor. Anyone that is looking for something new and interesting to do, please feel free to join us. The Christian Education Committee is focused on sharing the good news with all the followers of Jesus Christ. Our goal is to meet on the 3rd Thursday of each month and meet for 1 hour. The time frame has been established so interested volunteers can become involved while their children are at Jr. Choir, will have a chance to attend Sr. Choir or know that the business of the day will be completed by 7 pm.



The Children's Christmas Pageant will be held on Sunday, December 17<sup>th</sup> at the 9:30 a.m. service. Our dress rehearsal will be on Saturday, December 16<sup>th</sup> from 9:30 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. If you would like to participate, please see Beth Murphy or the Conklins to express your interest.

Parents if you know your child will not be available to participate in the pageant, please call or email Beth Murphy. We are looking to make this celebration enjoyable for all and we need to assign parts and make sure the costumes are available for all our participants.



Do you like Christmas carols?

Do you like to smile and make others smile?

Come join our annual evening of Christmas Caroling on Friday, December 15<sup>th</sup>. We will meet at the church at 6:15 p.m., and then go sing for some of our friends at their homes. We return to church for fellowship and refreshments. We are usually back to the church about 8:15 p.m. Perfect pitch is not required and we have song books for the words. It is fun for the whole family! Please contact Helen Traver at 635-8192 for further information.

## *Friendship Callers*



Friendship Callers will meet Tuesday, December 19<sup>th</sup> at 9:30 a.m. to visit our shuts-in and deliver tins of cookies. We meet in the yellow room.

We are looking for cookie donations!  
Any questions, please call Joan Smith at 635-3687.







## Homeless Shelter Meal

PW will be preparing and serving a meal for the Homeless Shelter on Tuesday, December 12th. We meet in the church kitchen at 4:45 pm to prepare the meal. We serve 50-60 people that night and they look forward to the homemade cookies for dessert. If you can help by making 1-2 dozen cookies, there is a sign-up sheet in the Husted Fellowship Hall. We leave the church at 6:45 pm to go and serve the meal. If you would like to help prepare the meal or serve it, please see Linda Morey. Thank you!

# Thank You!

Thank you to all who contributed to the Homeless Shelter Meal this year. Whether you helped by providing items needed for the casserole and salad, baked cookies, helped prepare the meal or helped to serve it. Your generosity and time were sincerely appreciated by the people at the shelter.



## **Here Comes the Beef 4H Chili Fundraiser**

Once again the Beef 4H kids will be cooking and selling Chili-to-go or enjoy  
in the  
Husted Fellowship hall on  
**Saturday December 2nd, December 9<sup>th</sup>, December 16th**  
**11:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.**

Individual size and Family size Chili along  
with freshly baked corn bread.

**The proceeds from this 4H community outreach fundraiser will benefit a local  
Dutchess County Charity - to be decided by the 4H Youth at the upcoming  
December 4H Meeting, Here Comes the Beef 4H Club, and a full 3-Gallon pot of  
Chili will also be donated to the Local Homeless Shelter.**

So stop on by before or after you go out Christmas shopping, or cutting down  
your Christmas tree, and enjoy some delicious, warm your soul Chili!  
Any questions or for more information, please call Peter Keck, Here Comes  
the Beef Club 4H leader at (845) 702-5653



**fundraising**



## You're invited to the 10th Annual Christmas Cookie and Candy Sale!

The Christmas Cookie & Candy Sale will be held on **Saturday, December 16th** in Husted Fellowship Hall from **10:00 a.m. -12:00 pm.**

The proceeds of this sale will benefit our Youth and a portion will benefit a local Dutchess County Charity (TBD)

Of course, this event will not be successful without our famous church bakers:

*We are in need of your delicious cookies, your specialty baked goods, fudge & candies too - ready to sell!!*

*Gluten free - nut free - items are also popular & go quickly!*

**(No cupcakes or store-bought items, please)** Drop off your cookies, candy, and baked items to the Church on Friday December 15th, or **no later than 9:30am** on December 16th - **READY to SELL!**

Spread the word & don't forget to come, shop, munch & enjoy! We will be offering complimentary coffee, hot tea or cocoa while you shop...AND if you are hungry for some delicious chili, the "Here Comes the Beef" 4H Club will be selling Chili-to-go or enjoy in the fellowship hall (family size or individual size's, cornbread available for purchase)

If you have any questions, please call Tracy Keck at [\(845\) 486-6179](tel:8454866179).

This fundraiser was started in 2008, as its original concept was to assist our youth in supporting their mission work with ASP, as well as our youth with Christian programs, camps, and educational youth events. Please help keep this going strong for our youth so we can continue to provide these opportunities for our youth in the future and for our local charities who need our help!



# Holiday Auction Report

The Holiday Auction was a success with a profit of \$5,474.50. There are so many people to thank! We extend a special thank you to Debbie Traver, who was in charge of the Live Auction and who spent many hours at church sorting, grouping items, setting up the Live Auction to be attractive and inviting, and watching over everything on November 18th. We extend special appreciation to Don Traver, our auctioneer who kept things moving and made the auction so much fun that he received applause at the end of the evening.



We could not have done it without the volunteers listed below:

Visiting businesses: Karen Haight

Publicity: Joyce Brower, Linda Morey, Marilyn Brands, Ken Brands, Lisa Wendell, Tracy Keck, Don Traver

Decorating the hall: Edith and Paul Keck, Lisa Wendell, Debbie Traver

Setting up tables, chairs: Steve and Jean Albrecht, Don and Joan Traver, Aaron Traver, Kyle Traver, Zachary Traver

Live Auction set up: Debbie Traver, Lisa Wendell

Silent Auction: Phyllis Menzenski, Dawne Fay, Alta and Jerry Conklin, Joyce Brower, Marilyn Brands, Harriet Mark, Barbara Huneke, Edith Keck, Lisa Wendell

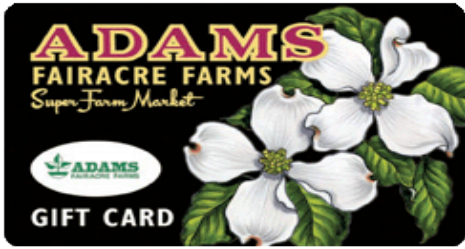
Greeters: Jerry Conklin, Pat Zerbe, Joan Traver

Children's Auction: Marilyn Brands, Helen Traver, Ashley Keck, Izzy Brower, Nolan Brower  
Refreshments: Judy Brandow, Mary Jane Gardner, Ginda Harden  
Live Auction Assistants: Steve Albrecht, Tracy Keck, Ashley Keck, Izzy Brower, Karen Haight, Debbie Traver  
Cashiers: Wayne and Missy Sauer, Joyce Brower  
Clean up: Keith Daley and too many to list

Finally, we thank all who donated items or services, and all who came to bid! See you next year!



# Church Fundraisers

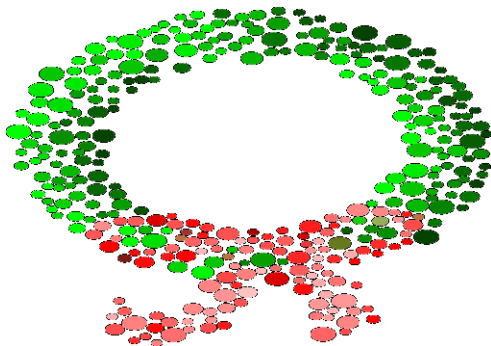


The holidays are an excellent time to participate in the Adams Gift Card fundraiser. Gift Cards are available in \$25, \$50 and \$100 amounts. You can use them to shop in any department, at any Adams Fairacre Farm store. They make wonderful presents to give to all on your gift list!

Contact Helen Traver to purchase cards or for more information. Cards are also available from the church office during business hours.

Thank you for your support. Merry Christmas!

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## Wreath making

Wreath making will continue on each Friday and Saturday through December 16th. The Friday dates are December 1st, December 8th, and December 15th. The time for Friday nights will be 6 pm to 9 pm. We will also be working on Saturday mornings - December 2nd, December 9th and December 16th. Start time is 9 am and continues until noon. We are scheduling back to back sessions to eliminate the need to cleanup and put away all our supplies.

If you can work part of a shift on any of these dates, please feel free to join us for a grand adventure. Bring a friend, new helpers are always welcome. We can instruct you in the fine art of wreath making, clipping greens, bunching greens or decorating. There are jobs for everyone. If you have clippers or pruners, please bring them with you. Gloves are a plus. We have a great deal of fun, fellowship and a few laughs along the way. We usually have a snack or two as well.

If you are unable to help but would like to place an order for your wreaths, please see Gary or Beth Murphy after church or call 845-868-7298.

## MEMBER IN THE NEWS



ON NOVEMBER 4<sup>TH</sup> BILL PLASS WAS A GUEST ON THE HONOR FLIGHT THAT DEPARTED FROM STEWART AIRPORT TO WASHINGTON, DC. BILL AND FELLOW VETERANS WERE TRANSPORTED BY BUS. THEY WERE THEN GIVEN A FURTHER HONOR AS THE BUS CARRYING OUR AMAZING VETERANS WAS ESCORTED BY MOTORCADE, AS VISITED MANY OF THE WAR MEMORIALS AND MONUMENTS IN WASHINGTON.

# December 2017



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					1 8-3:30 PVN  6-9pm Wreath Making	2 10-1 BargBsm 4H Chili 11-12:30p 9-12 Wreath making
3 9:30 am HOLY COMMUNION 11:10 am Bible Study	4 8-3:30  6 pm Stamping with Jean 7pm Bell Choir	5 8-1 PVN  7:30pm N.A.	6 8-3:30 PVN 10-1 BargBsm	7 8-1 PVN 10 am C & C 6pm Jr Choir 6:30 Jr Grange Fellowship 6:30 Boy Scouts 7pm Sr Choir	8 8-3:30 PVN 11 am Bible Study  6-9pm Wreath making	9 10-1 BargBsm 9-12 Wreath making 4H Chili 11-12:30p
10 9:30 am WORSHIP 11:10 am Bible Study	11 8-3:30 PVN  7pm Bell Choir	12 8-1 PVN  4:45pm -PW Homeless Shelter Meal 7p Trustee Mtg 7:30p N.A.	13 8-3:30 PVN 10-1 BargBsm  6-8pm Grange Dinner 7:30p Lyme Disease Mtg	14 8-1 PVN 10 am C & C 6pm Jr Choir 6:15 Girl Scouts (Yellow Rm) 7pm Sr Choir	15 8-3:30 PVN  6-9pm Wreath Making Christmas Caroling 6:15pm	16 10-1 BargBsm 9-12 Wreath making 10am-12 pm Cookie Sale 4H Chili 11-12:30p
17 9:30 am WORSHIP/Children's Pageant 11:10 am Bible Study	18 8-3:30 PVN  7pm Bell Choir	19 8-1 PVN 9:30am Friendship Callers 7:30p N.A.	20 8-3:30 PVN 10-1 BargBsm  7pm Session Mtg	21 8-1 PVN 10 am C & C 6pm CE Comm Mtg 6pm Jr Choir 7pm Sr Choir	22 8-3:30 PVN 11 am Bible Study	23 10-1 BargBsm
24 9:30 am WORSHIP/No Sunday School 8:00 pm Christmas Eve Service	25 closed PVN  Merry Christmas! Office Closed No bell choir	26 closed PVN  7:30p N.A.	27 closed PVN  7pm Prayer Partners	28 closed PVN 10 am C & C  6pm Jr Choir 7pm Sr Choir	29 closed PVN	30 10-1 BargBsm
31 9:30 am WORSHIP/No Sunday School						



