

DECEMBER

The word "DECEMBER" is rendered in a stylized, blocky font. The letters are filled with a blue-to-brown gradient. The letters 'C', 'M', and 'B' contain silhouettes of figures on camels. A large, multi-pointed starburst is positioned above the letter 'M'.

PRES

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2018

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# Advent 101

or “Everything You’ve Always Wanted to Know About Advent”

## Happy New Year!

- Advent begins a New Year in the liturgical calendar of the church.
- Advent is a period of preparation and anticipation before the Christmas season, similar to the weeks of Lent before Easter.
- Advent ends when Christmas begins, at midnight on Christmas Eve.

## Just the Facts, Ma’am

- Advent varies in length. It can be as few as 22 days and as many as 28 days.
- It begins between November 27 and December 3, on the Sunday closest to November 30.
- It always includes 4 Sundays.
- The color of the season is purple. Blue can be used as an alternative, signifying hope.

*CHRIST HAS DIED  
CHRIST IS RISEN  
CHRIST WILL COME AGAIN*



## Advent means *coming*...

- During Advent, we await and prepare for the coming of Jesus Christ, Emmanuel, God with us.
- Advent reminds us of three different dimensions of God’s “coming” for which we wait and long:
  - His first coming, in the flesh, as a babe born in Bethlehem
  - His coming again at the end of time
  - His ongoing coming in our lives as we grow into Christ more and more

# Advent Traditions & Themes

## Advent Wreath

Traditionally, there are three purple and one rose-colored candles (blue can be used alternatively). One candle is lit each week on Sunday, along with the other(s) that were lit in prior weeks. On the Third Sunday of Advent, the pink or rose candle is lit for Gaudete Sunday - *Gaudete = rejoice in Latin* – customarily, the week's theme is joy. Sometimes, a white candle is placed in the center and lit on Christmas Eve: a Christ candle.



## Advent Calendar

These come in an infinite variety of forms. Many take the form of a large rectangular card with "windows" of which there are usually 24: one for each day of December leading up to Christmas Day. One is opened every day leading up to Christmas. The calendar windows open to reveal an image, poem, a portion of a story or a small gift, such as a toy or a chocolate item (thank you, Wikipedia!)

## Nativity Scene

Also known as a *crèche*, our current-day version is attributed to Francis of Assisi. It is thought that in 1223, he created a "living nativity" scene. This caught the imagination of medieval Christians; from this comes our dual traditions of having a small nativity scene in our homes as well as acting out the story in our churches during the season. (Besides, those little angels and shepherds are *adorable!*)

## Advent Themes

The themes of Advent offer a rich storehouse of images and metaphors that we can explore in our personal devotions, our family settings, our small groups, and our gathered worship:

- We *wait* and *long* for God to come
- We *anticipate* Christ's coming with *joyful expectation*
- We *prepare* to welcome Christ into our lives and hearts
- We *hope* for *fulfillment* of Christ's promise to come again and make all things new
- We welcome the *light* into the world
- We ponder the *mystery* of the *incarnation*:

**God became human**

**so that humanity might become divine**  
-attr. to Athanasius of Alexandria (c.297-373)



***The Word became flesh and blood, and moved into the neighborhood.***  
**-Eugene Peterson**



### Session Update

1. Pastor Lynn led a discussion on this transitional period, including how we can serve our community, especially the unchurched. The following people were elected by a unanimous vote of the Session to become the Mission Study Team: Ken Brands, Dawne Fay, Karen Haight, Phyllis Menzenski, Bill Miller, Deb Murray, and Carol Smith.
2. Clerk Marilyn Brands requested the following dates which were approved: November 17, collection for the Library during the Auction; Cookie Sale, December 15; 4-H chili sale, December 1, 8, 15, 22. The Annual Meeting will take place on January 27, with February 3 as a weather-deferred date.
3. Christian Education Chairperson Mary Jane Gardner presented a request from CE Coordinator Beth Murphy to have a float in the parade on December 1. This request was granted.
4. Finance Committee member Gary Murphy reported that pledges and regular offerings currently exceed the prior year by \$2,320. Ben Sung was awarded a scholarship from the Irene Bower Fund by unanimous vote; he is beginning a 3 year course of study to become Doctor of Theology.
5. Stewardship/Church Growth Chairperson Edith Keck reported on pledges received so far. A second letter will be going out to those who have not yet turned in their pledge cards.
6. Worship Committee Chairpersons Phyllis Menzenski and Judy Brandow had met with Pastor Lynn before the Session meeting. We will look into advertising the Christmas Eve service in the newspapers. Pastor Lynn requested more voices in the Sunday worship services, with elders opening the service with welcome and announcements. The changes in format have been positively received by the congregation.
7. The Nominating Committee will be meeting soon to seek officers for the three boards for 2019.

*Blue Christmas*  
*A Service of Comfort and Healing*  
*Friday, December 21<sup>st</sup> at 7:00pm in our Sanctuary*

At the November Session meeting, there was discussion of the importance of pledging, not only for the church budget but also for the commitment of those who pledge. I have been thinking ever since of just why pledging means so much to me.

I remember an elderly couple who were members of this church when I first started coming here. Despite their poverty, they pledged every year and gave generously from the little they possessed. This couple got up every morning, turned down the heat in their home as low as they dared, and headed out to the Pleasant Valley Stewarts where they could get a cup of coffee with free refills. They would sit at one of the small tables for hours, buying a cup of coffee and from time to time asking for a refill. Later in the day they would return to their home and turn up the heat. I have never forgotten that example of commitment to God and their church.

When our pledge card arrived in the mail this year, David and I considered all of our blessings. We have a home that we can afford to heat. We ask ourselves every day, "What will we eat?" but we never have to ask, "Will we eat today?" David has been brought back from death to life by skilled, resourceful, and compassionate medical staff at three facilities and by the prayers of this congregation. We have family and friends who attend to our every need before we ask.

As we considered all that God has given us, it was pretty easy to come up with a pledge that we felt we could fulfill, and just as easy to arrange for an automatic monthly donation to be sent from our bank account. Once our decision was made, we had the satisfaction of knowing that we have made a promise to give God a portion of what has been given to us. We also know that God and our church will understand if our situation changes and we need to adjust our giving.

If you have never pledged, try it! You will find joy in this simple way of thanking God and giving financial support to our church.

There is still time to hand in your pledge cards. If you need one, please call the church office or see a Deacon on any Sunday morning.

Your Stewardship Committee





## CHURCH OFFICERS 2018

### SESSION

#### ELDERS (Ruling Body of the Church)

CLASS OF 2018	CLASS OF 2019	CLASS OF 2020
Mary Jane Gardner	Judy Brandow	Chesney Baker
Phyllis Menzenski	Edith Keck	Myung Sung
Kim Daley	Gary Murphy	Karen Sheer
Clerk – Marilyn Brands		
TRUSTEES (Take Care of the Physical Plant)		
Caroline Dolfi	Andy Albrecht	Debbie Traver
Rick Fay	Tracy Keck	Karen Haight
Don Traver	Philip Keck	Linda Halliday
DEACONS (The Service Body of the Church)		
Steve Albrecht Sr.	Richard Moysey	Amanda Smith
Dawne Fay	Jack Smith	Tom Smith
Traci Haight (Chairman)	Barbara Huneke	Pat Zerbe

**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.



Please  
keep these  
people in  
your daily  
prayers.

**Prayers of the People**

**To add a name to the Prayer List, please call the Pastor or the Church Office.**

- For Muriel (friend of Barbara Huneke) as she faces difficult medical issues*
- For Linda Woodward (Harriet Mark's sister-in-law) who fell and broke her ankle*
- For Jane Ramsey (Patrick Martin's grandmother) who has suffered a stroke*
- For Richard Moysey, on the death of his brother*
- For Chesney Baker's mom Vikki who broke her shoulder*
- For Sue Moore who is in Albany Medical Center*

**Looking toward or recuperating from surgery:** *Karen Sheer, Charlie Traver, Betty Wigsten, Shawn Zanicky, Don Cookingham (friend of Phyllis Menzenski)*

**Living with cancer:** *Tom Simonton (Traci Haight's father), Penny Sawner (James's mother), Mike Mikula (Joyce's brother-in-law), Napoleon (friend of Linda Morey), Chris Woodward (Harriet Mark's brother), Karen Livingston Bernardo (friend of Phyllis Menzenski).*

**Ongoing health issues:** *Carol Belton, Rick Fay, Donna Mears, Carol Albrecht (Steve's sister-in-law), Richard Joseph (Mary Jane Gardner's brother, Barbara Vaché (Dawne Fay's mother) and Edith & Dave (Donna Sheak's parents)*

**Long Term Residence Lutheran Care**

- Prayers for **Dort Traver** (member) who is in the Lutheran Care Center, Rm 111a South.*
- Prayers for **Jane Barden** (member) who is in the Lutheran Care Center, Rm 115a South*

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## Adam's Gift Cards

As Christmas quickly approaches, here are some helpful ideas and thoughts for all.

Help our church by purchasing Adams Gift Cards from Helen Traver or from Joyce and Linda at the church office. The church gets 10% of our orders for free. When the cards are sold at full value we have a profit that goes to our general fund.

Help support a local business that gives us the opportunity to support ourselves.

Help yourself by purchasing Adams Gift Cards for your own use and as gifts for family friends and neighbors. This can reduce the stress and time from shopping.

Help me by letting me know ASAP if you plan to order extra cards during December so I can make sure they are on hand (\$25, \$50 and \$100).

Thank you and feel the blessings of Christmas each day.

Helen Traver (845-635-8192)

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## Friendship Callers



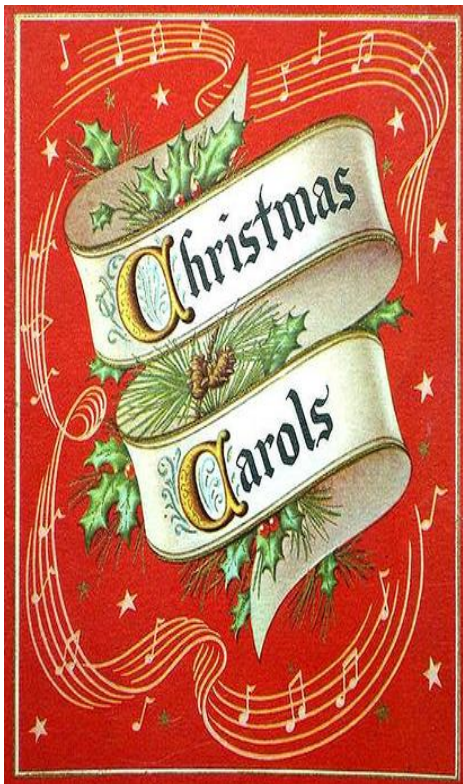
Friendship Callers will meet Tuesday, December 18<sup>th</sup> at 9:30 a.m. to visit our shuts-in and deliver tins of cookies. We meet in the yellow room.

**We are looking for cookie  
please call Joan Smith at**



**donations! Any questions,  
635-3687**





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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 14<sup>th</sup>. We will meet at the church at 6:15 p.m., and then go singing 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.

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## CHRISTMAS EVE TABLEAU

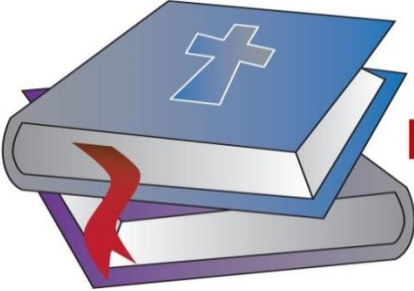


*Needed for Christmas eve:  
 Readers, tableau players, candle lighter, deacons  
 Please call Jerry Conklin at 845-635-8178 if you can help.*

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## CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE 7:00 p.m.

# Christian Education



Beth Murphy, CE Coordinator

[murphygba@aol.com](mailto:murphygba@aol.com)

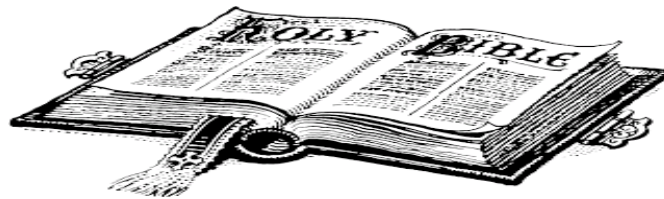
[845-868-7298\(h\)](tel:845-868-7298)

[845-242-0325 \(C\)](tel:845-242-0325)

**The next meeting of the Christian Education Committee will be on Thursday, January 17, 2019 at 6:00 p.m. 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.

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**Bible Study meets on Sundays at 11:00 a.m. in the classroom on the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor.**

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## TODDLER CLASS

The CE Committee provides a Sunday School class on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Sundays of each month. It meets in the Nursery Room (last door on left of 2<sup>nd</sup> floor hallway)

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# Homemade Christmas Cookies

Saturday, December 15<sup>th</sup>  
10:00 am – 1:00 pm

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## Wreath making

Fridays, December 7<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> from 6:00-9:00 pm,

Saturdays, December 1<sup>st</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup>, 15<sup>th</sup> from 9:00 am-12:00 pm,

Sundays (will be announced, if needed)

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.

WE ARE IN NEED OF GREENS; OUR PRIOR SUPPLY HAS BEEN USED UP. IF YOU KNOW WHERE SOME CAN BE OBTAINED, PLEASE CONTACT THE MURPHYS AT 845-868-7298. Thank you.

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# Freshly made Beef Chili

## Served with Cornbread



Saturday in December - 1<sup>st</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup>  
10:00 am – 12:30pm

Made by the local 4H Beef Club *“Here comes the Beef”*

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# Holiday Auction Report

This year’s Holiday Auction made a profit of \$6,095.00. The breakdown was as follows:

Live Auction	\$5,320	Food	\$87
Silent Auction	\$595	Donations	\$93

This successful event was a result of much work by many people. We would especially like to thank Debbie Traver and Lisa Wendell who spent countless hours at church sorting and organizing items, making decisions on how to best display items for the Live Auction, and setting up the items in the Fellowship Hall. They worked throughout the evening to make sure the auction went smoothly. Our auctioneer, Don Traver, kept up a brisk pace and entertained the crowd while getting people to bid.

We thank the following people who helped, sometimes performing multiple tasks:

**Steve Albrecht  
Judy Brandow  
Ken Brands  
Marilyn Brands  
Izzy Brower  
Joyce Brower  
Alta Conklin  
Jerry Conklin  
Dawne Fay**

**Mary Jane Gardner  
Karen Haight  
Ginda Harden  
Barbara Huneke  
Ashley Keck  
Edith Keck  
Paul Keck  
Phyllis Menzenski  
Sue Morey**

**Don Traver  
Helen Traver  
Jeff Traver  
Joan Traver  
Missy Sauer  
Wayne Sauer  
Donna Sheak  
Pat Zerbe**

We could not have had an auction without those who donated items and gift certificates, those who made the delicious refreshments, & those who came to bid.

**Thank you, thank you one and all!**



# 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.



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## Lunch Box Thank you

Thank you to all who continue to bring food for the Lunch Box. We provided enough ziti to feed about 120 people each month which translates to 1440 meals per year. Through this ministry our church continues to “Love Thy Neighbor” and share God’s vision for a world in which no one goes hungry. If for any reason you cannot continue to provide this donation in 2019, please let me know.

Thank you again, for your faithful generosity,  
Karen Haight



# DECEMBER 2018



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SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						<b>1</b>
						10-1 Bargain Bmt 9-12 Wreathmaking 10:30 - 1:30 Library in Chapel 2:30-4:30 FH PV Town Rec
<b>2</b>	<b>3</b> 8-1:00 PVN	<b>4</b> PVN 8-1:00	<b>5</b> 8-1:00 PVN	<b>6</b> 8-1:00 PVN	<b>7</b> 8-1:00 PVN	<b>8</b>
9:30 am HOLY COMMUNION 11am Bible Study Wreath making (if needed)	6pm Stamping w/Jean 6pm Pound Exr (FH) 7 PM Bell Choir	7:30 pm N.A.	10-1 Bargain Basement	6:30 Boy Scouts  6pm Pound Exr (FH) 7 pm Senior Choir	6:30 Lisa-stamping  6:00 Wreath making	10-1 Bargain Basement  9-12 Wreath making
<b>9</b>	<b>10</b> 8-1:00PVN	<b>11</b> 8-1:00PVN	<b>12</b> 8-1:00 PVN	<b>13</b> 8-1:00 PVN	<b>14</b> 8-1:00 PVN	<b>15</b>
9:30 am WORSHIP 11am Bible Study Wreath making (If needed) 2-4pm CMVACA	6pm Pound Exr (FH) 7 PM Bell Choir	4:45 Homeless Shelter 7:30 pm N.A. 7pm Trustees Mtg	10-1 Bargain Basement 6:15-7:45 Girl Scouts (BR) 6-9 pm Grange Dinner 7:30 pm Lyme Disease Mtg	6pm Pound Exr (FH)  7 pm Senior Choir	6 pm wreath making 6:30 Christmas Caroling Set up for Cookie Sale	10-1 Bargain Basement 9-12 Wreath making 10-1 Cookie Sale
<b>16</b>	<b>17</b> 8-1:00 PVN	<b>18</b> 8-1:00 PVN	<b>19</b> 8-1:00 PVN	<b>20</b> 8-1:00 PVN	<b>21</b> 8-1:00 PVN	<b>22</b>
9:30 am WORSHIP 11 am Bible Study	6pm Pound Exr (FH) 7 PM Bell Choir	9:30 Friendship callers 7:30 pm NA	10-1 Bargain Basement 6:15-7:45 Girl Scouts (BR) 7:00pm Session	6pm Pound Exr (FH) 7 pm Senior Choir	7 pm Svc of Comfort/Hope	10-1 Bargain Basement
<b>23</b> 9:30 am WORSHIP  11am Bible Study	<b>24</b> Closed PVN  7 PM CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE	<b>25</b> Closed PVN OFFICE CLOSED <b>MERRY CHRISTMAS</b> 7:30 pm N.A.	<b>26</b> Closed PVN 10-1 Bargain Basement	<b>27</b> Closed PVN  6pm Pound Exr (FH) 7 pm Senior Choir	<b>28</b> Closed PVN	<b>29</b> 10-1 Bargain Basement
<b>30</b> 9:30 am WORSHIP 11am Bible Study	<b>31</b> Closed PVN					

