



HEAR THE GOOD NEWS!!

Newsletter of The New Hartford Presbyterian Church
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December 2011

Rev. Dr. Janet E. Hoover, Pastor

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Christmas Open House

Janice and Harry Young will host the NHPC Christmas Open House on **December 3** at 6:30 pm. Bring a hearty appetizer and your favorite beverage. A sign-up sheet will be available in Fellowship Hall or call the church office. Child care will be available at the church by reservation.



The **Women's Annual Christmas Dinner** will be held on Thursday, **December 8**, beginning at 6:00 PM. ALL women of the church are cordially invited to attend. It's Women's Council's way of saying THANK YOU to all who have helped with our activities all year long. Please come and enjoy an evening with the women of our church! There will be a sign-up sheet available in Fellowship Hall, to help us plan for our guests.

Wednesday Workshops

Join us the 1st Wednesday of each month as we study various biblical and spiritual themes and issues. There will be advance reading before each class. On **December 7** our discussion will center around the stories found in *Yards of Purple* by Sarah M. Foulger (several copies are available in the church office for \$8). On **January 4** we will explore the hymn *Amazing Grace*. Discussion will include the movie *Amazing Grace* starring Albert Finney (copies are available for check-out in Fellowship Hall) as well as a biblical study of the hymn text.

Advent Vespers In the midst of the joy and celebration of this season, it is important to take time to ponder the meaning of God's gift of Jesus Christ. This service on **Tuesday, December 13 at 7:00pm**, is especially designed for those who need a moment of quiet reflections, who are struggling with grief or loneliness, or who want to pause and remember why Christmas matters.



The Happening A special evening of music and fellowship for all ages. At **5:30pm on December 11**, we will meet in the Sanctuary for this year's children/youth musical: *The Light Before Christmas*. Following the presentation, we'll move into Fellowship Hall for supper and, yes... making the paper chain for our tree!

Candlelight Christmas Celebration

The scent of red fringed beeswax candles, a child singing *Morning Star*, a Christmas liturgy, cherished holiday carols and scriptures, a moving Christmas meditation will all be a part of our candlelight service at 4:00 pm on Sunday, **December 18th** in the historic New Hartford Presbyterian Church. A time of fellowship will follow with sugar cake and other delicious treats. Come and join us for this beautiful inspirational service and experience the true meaning of Christmas, as we celebrate the birth of Jesus.

Christmas Worship

Saturday December 24 5:00 pm Worship for all ages with Scripture, story and carols
11:00 pm Candlelight Communion
Sunday, December 25 10:30 am Carol Sing



Sunday School

December 4: Preschool/Kdg 1st-12th Adults	<i>Jesus is Born</i> Rehearsal for <i>The Light Before Christmas</i> <i>Light Splits the Night: Meet the Relatives</i>
December 11: Preschool-12th Adults	Rehearsal for <i>The Light Before Christmas</i> <i>Light Splits the Night: Don't Be Afraid</i>
December 18: Preschool-8th Adults	9:15-10:20 am "Joy to the World" Come and enjoy cocoa, cookies and gift making! Children and youth are invited to attend a special Sunday morning time together making gifts for some of the special people in their lives. Friends are welcome! <i>The Light Splits the Night: Let's Celebrate</i>
December 25 January 1	No Sunday School No Sunday School

Senior High Sunday School (9th-12th) will meet from noon-1:30 on the following dates:

- December 4** Glimmers of the Gospel in Harry Potter
- December 18** What Really Happened in Bethlehem?



Senior High Lock-in

NHPC Senior Highs (9th-12th grade) are invited to our annual evening of games, food, music, and..of course..the story of Ralphie and his BB gun! The lock-in begins at 7:00 on **December 2**. After breakfast on Saturday we'll help decorate the church. Bring a sleeping bag, a snack to share, and your favorite Christmas DVDs.

Pathfinders Youth Group

Pathfinders (5th-8th) will meet on Sunday, **December 18 noon—1:30** for a Christmas Celebration! We'll enjoy food and a few surprises as we explore the meaning of Jesus birth.

Scholastic Book Fair

On **Sunday, December 4**, the Nursery School will be hosting a **Scholastic Book Fair** in Fellowship Hall. There will be books for children ages pre-school through young adult as well as a selection of Christian books. You are invited to shop after Worship from 11:30 until 1:00 pm. The Fair will be set up the week before if anyone would like to browse! There will be a cashier available for shopping on Wednesday through Friday mornings (November 30—December 2) from 9:00-9:30 and 11:00-12:00. Thank you for your support!

This year's mini bazaar had something for everyone who shopped the beautiful display in Fellowship Hall. We had homemade items, homemade jarred items, decorative plates, arts and crafts and of course delicious baked goods and pecans. We would like to thank everyone who donated, worked and those who, out of the kindness of heart, gave a monetary donation. *Thank you from Women's Council*

Thank You For Your Prayers
... of Sympathy and Support

...for the family and friends of June Richmond who died on October 28.

Of Joy and Celebration...

...for Sophia Rosemarie Painter, daughter of Katie and Jeremy Painter granddaughter of Janet & Ken Hoover, and great granddaughter of George Moore, born on October 26.

...for Lauren Eliana Gus, daughter of Michael and Courtney Gus and granddaughter of Carl and Marty Gus and Colleen and the late Brian Britcher, born on November 2.

The Session will meet on Sunday, **December 4** at 7:00 pm to receive new members. If you are interested in joining our NHPC family, please see Janet Hoover following worship or call the church office (732-1139).

Attention Deacons. Don't forget. You will be meeting on Saturday, **December 3 at 9:30 am**, to decorate the church. Please plan to

Envelopes for 2012 will be available in Fellowship Hall beginning Sunday, December 18.

Can't Make it to Worship? Still want to hear the sermon? Just go to the web-site newhartfordpresbyterian.org, click on "more" then on "downloads" and you can pick the sermon (by date) you want to listen to. You'll never be out of touch with your friends at NHPC.

The Good News is that our sanctuary is full on Sunday morning. The not-so-good news is that the parking lot is also full. That means that sometimes those who have difficulty walking, those with young children, and visitors may not be able to find a place. If you are able, we ask that you consider parking in the rear lot of the office building across Pearl Street. And thank you to those who are already doing that!

A Look Ahead

January 8 Annual meeting follows worship (lunch is provided)

Winter VBS Our second annual "Mini VBS" will begin in late January and run for 6-8 weeks. Children in grades K-5 are invited to attend afterschool classes which will meet Wednesdays from 3:45 until 5:00pm. They will enjoy outdoor activities in the snow, a snack and a Bible story and project.



DECEMBER

- 1 Dorothy Chadbourne
- 1 Kathy Heffron
- 1 Kay Perreault
- 2 Wilma Westervelt
- 3 Justin DeLong
- 4 Esmerelda McCarthy
- 4 Sarah Dobson
- 6 Rayna Schneider
- 7 Marsha Roseen
- 8 Eric Anderson
- 10 Joseph Inserra
- 11 Barb Jones
- 11 Nicholas Ruzsala
- 13 Liam Mahardy
- 13 Jacob Manzelmann
- 13 Jim Stewart
- 14 Allison Owens
- 15 Norman Williams
- 16 Robert Morris III
- 16 Susan Philo
- 17 Mac McLean
- 17 Jillian Powles
- 18 Nancy Giglio
- 19 Ian Millen
- 19 Glen Patterson
- 20 Phyllis Bessey
- 21 John Friedel
- 21 B.J. Jones
- 21 Jenny Wu
- 25 Judy Winfield
- 27 Paul Reid
- 27 Marsha Thayer
- 27 Amy Kulow
- 28 Marion Richards
- 29 Brayden McCaw

Please call the church office if we've missed your birthday so we can update the list.

Just for Kids Answer

"Do not be afraid. I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord."

Serving God by Serving Others

Mission of the Month **Seeds of Hope**

Last month, we heard an inspiring message from Rev. Dr. Marta Bennett, concerning her mission with the people in Nairobi, Kenya. Our congregation felt so much hope from the stories of these people living in far off Africa. It was an unexpected light not the usual disturbing “Doom” news.

Nearer to home, the mission committee continues with this theme of hope at the Seeds of Hope food pantry. This year was difficult due to a large increase in people needing monthly food. This resulted in the budgeted money being depleted sooner than expected. Presently, the program is being kept alive by prayer and additional funding.

During this season of giving, we will reach out to our neighbors. A small “TREE OF HOPE” will be in the sanctuary and Fellowship Hall during December. For a donation (\$1.00 is great!) YOU can place a ‘SEED OF HOPE’ ornament on the tree. Yes, during this cold and snowy season, we are planting Seeds of Hope.

Would you also pray and support the coordinators and workers who dedicate their time and talents to this program every Tuesday and Thursday. As we are blessed, so shall we bless others.

Thank you
The Mission Committee

Christmas Eve Special Offering to Benefit WaterAid

Clean, safe water is something most of us take for granted, but over 900 million people worldwide do not have access to it. As a result, some 4,000 children die every day from preventable diseases.

WaterAid America works with local organizations using practical, sustainable solutions to provide safe water, effective sanitation and hygiene education to the poorest people in developing countries.


This year, our Christmas Eve special offering at NHPC will go to support the work of WaterAid. Special envelopes will be available at both the 5 p.m. and 11 p.m. services.

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December 2011




The angel's message

On the first Christmas Eve, shepherds were watching over their flocks when an angel suddenly appeared.


Use the picture clues below to find out what the angels said to the terrified shepherds.




1




2




3




4



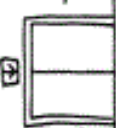
5




6



7



8



9

"Do _____ 1 _____ 2 _____ 3 _____ 4 I bring you _____ 4
 _____ 5 _____ 6 _____ 7 _____ 8 _____ 9 of great _____ 6 that will be for _____ 7 the people.
 Today in the _____ 8 _____ 9 of David a Savior has been _____ 9
 to you; **he is Christ the Lord.**" Luke 2:10-11, NIV