



The Ambassador

DELTA PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Words From Wendy

At some point during my teenage years, I realized that I seemed to be sad around Christmas. I couldn't understand why. As a young adult, the pattern continued and I began to look back at Christmas memories. One year I woke up after Christmas to find the tree had been taken down during the night and Dad was on his way to Kansas. My grandfather had had a severe stroke and wasn't expected to survive. He survived, and he died 5 years later—at Christmas. My grandmother died at Christmas. My other grandfather died at Christmas. We went to a funeral on Christmas Eve. I began to recognize a pattern, and realized I was remembering and grieving at Christmas time.

As I became a pastor, I realized that my situation was not unique. For many people there is a mix of emotions associated with the Christmas season. Our theme for Advent this year is Peace. On December 10 we will be focusing on Comfort. There will be an opportunity to give your stress and sadness to God during the service. I hope that this will provide comfort to us all, and enable us to allow the light of Christmas to overcome the darkness that can be part of this time of year.



*Words
From
Wendy*

Living into Our Vision

As I was in the office Monday evening for the Session meeting, I was listening to the voices of those coming through our doors. I could hear the voices of the Girl Scouts downstairs. A Boy Scout came into the office and asked to borrow a pen. I could hear the people arriving for play practice, and Lena led one woman who asked for directions to the sanctuary. The director came in to ask me about set pieces. The parking lot was full.

We are providing hospitality to members of our community. In doing this, we show them the welcome that Christ has for all people. We are living into our vision.



Delta Presbyterian Church

Strengthening Christ in us

Sharing Christ among us

Showing Christ around us

www.deltapresby.org

December Events at Delta

- Starlight Theater is presenting **It's a Wonderful Life** on December 1, 2, 8, 9, and 10. The Sunday show will be a 2:00 pm matinee, the others will be at 7:30 pm. For tickets, call (517) 599-2779. Tickets are \$17 for adults, \$15 for seniors and students (age 13-22) and \$10 for children (12 and under). Tickets will be available at the door.
- **Hanging of the Greens** Sunday, December 3, following the worship service. There will be a **Fellowship Meal** following. Bring soup, salad, bread, or dessert to share. There is a sign-up sheet on the Commitment Center.
- **Peace: Comfort** will be our worship theme on December 10, as we look for comfort and hope for our sorrows and grief.
- **Capital City Ringers Christmas Concert** will be Monday, December 11 at 7:00 pm. They request donations.
- **Christmas Eve** candlelight service at 7:00 pm on December 24. In morning worship, we will celebrate the 4th Sunday of Advent.

From the Session

The Session is putting together a committee to plan Wendy's retirement celebration on May 19, 2024. We are looking for volunteers to help with the planning. If you are willing, please talk to Nancy Ellis (517) 321-3913.

Spotlight on Mission

It has been great to see the enthusiasm with which the congregation is embracing our Adopt-a-Family program for Christmas. There are still some tags available on the tree in the narthex. Check them out and pick any you want to provide. Make sure you take the tags off the tree. Drop your gifts off by Sunday, December 17. Thank you, Meredith, for coordinating this. A family from Waverly Middle School will be the recipients. If you have any questions, talk to Meredith.



Opportunities to Serve

We are in need of volunteers to serve in a variety of tasks. Check out the Commitment Center to see what the opportunities are. Currently, sign-up sheets include:

- Providing food for the Fellowship Meal on December 3.
- Serving as greeters on Sunday morning.
- Providing food for the fellowship time following worship.
- Lighting the Advent Wreath (the words and instructions will be there so you can see what you are volunteering to do.)
- Reading Scripture on Christmas Eve.
- Reading a story on December 31.

Message from Deacons

It is that time of the year again to collect donations from our congregation for Church Staff Christmas gifts, thanking them for their service during this past year.

If you choose to participate, please make checks payable to Delta Presbyterian Church and leave them in the Offering plate or at the church office. Please make a notation on your check that this donation is for the Staff Christmas gifts. Thank you for your consideration.

Office News

The office will be closed on November 23 and 24 for Thanksgiving, and December 25-January 1. We will be back in the office on January 2.

Financial Update (from the Resources Committee)

As of the end of October:

Pledge Receipts: Oct. \$\$9,490, YTD \$122,103

Budget \$141,500 = 86.3% Results: Oct. Total Receipts \$10,002,

Expense \$10,316, deficit of \$(314)

YTD results = Receipts \$129,015, Expense \$137,483, deficit of \$(8,468).



Thank you to everyone who has returned their estimate of giving. If you haven't, you can bring it to worship on Sunday or mail or drop it off to the church office.

2023 Chrismon

This year our Advent theme is PEACE. Each service will focus on a different aspect of peace: Emmanuel, Comfort, Transformation, Unexpected Ways, and Light. To represent this theme, our Chrismon is a dove. The Chrismons were made by Ellen Jackson.

You may receive your individual Christmon starting on the First Sunday of Advent, December 3, and wear them throughout the Advent season.



Cause to Rejoice!



Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. Philippians 4:4

God continues to be at work in and through us as we seek to serve God in our community. There is always cause to rejoice!

We rejoice in the progress Shelly Shinevar is making as our new Administrative Assistant and in the expertise Ellen brings to her training.

We rejoice in Dimondale Presbyterian's visit with us on November 12 and the richness they add to our singing.

We rejoice in the continuing work of the Property Team as they keep our building in good shape. This month they had the eaves troughs in the ice dam area cleaned and covered with leaf guards. They also put grates over the vents where raccoons have entered the building.

We rejoice in the work Frank and Art do to record and post videos of the Sunday services so that more people can participate.

We rejoice that the Nominating Committee was able to find people willing to serve on Session and Deacons. Thank you to those who agreed to serve.

We rejoice in the eagerness with which you are taking tags for our Christmas Family.

We rejoice in the beautiful fall days we have had.

We rejoice in the growing use of our building.

We rejoice that ministry continues!

What gives you cause to rejoice around Delta? Let us know and we will include it here next month.

Worship

Sunday, November 26, 2023
Christ the King Sunday
Matthew 28:16-20
God's Got Our Backs

Sunday, December 3, 2023
1st Sunday of Advent
Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19
Isaiah 64:1-9
1 Corinthians 1:3-9
Peace: Emmanuel

Sunday, December 10, 2023
2nd Sunday of Advent
Psalm 85:1-2, 8-13
Isaiah 40:1-11
Peace: Comfort

Sunday, December 17, 2023
3rd Sunday of Advent
Psalm 126
Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11
Peace: Transformation

Sunday, December 24, 2023
4th Sunday of Advent
Luke 1:46b-55
Luke 1:26-38
Peace: Unexpected Ways

Sunday, December 24, 2023
Christmas Eve
Isaiah 9:2-7
Titus 2:11-14
Luke 2:1-20
Peace: Light

Sunday, December 31, 2023
Stories and Carols



SESSION

Class of 2023
Doug Dykstra
Chuck Jennings
Sue Settle
Nancy Ellis

Class of 2024
Meredith Jackson

DEACONS

Class of 2023

Maureen Dykstra
Trudie Frick
Geri Jennings

Bonnie Reemsnyder
Jane Thomas
Art Kelley

Birthdays

Dec 1	Joe Frick
Dec 6	Holly Brock, Ellen Jackson
Dec 7	Stacy Elliott
Dec 8	Steven Bishop, Erica Jennings
Dec 9	Holly LaPratt, Anna Marie Woloszyn
Dec 16	Geri Jennings
Dec 18	Kelli Fech, Jessica Wright
Dec 20	Sue Keys, Meredith Jackson
Dec 21	Luke Wright



Celebration Choir

A BIG "Thank You" to the congregation for being our choir on November 19. We would like to include the Celebration Choir in our Christmas Eve evening service, but we need people to commit to singing that night. We will try to arrange some rehearsal dates during the month of December. Please let me know if you would like to be included. Music has been selected and it is in the choir room next to the mailboxes. Please contact me at 517-323-4231. Thank you. Ellen Jackson

Let Us Pray

Pray for those who are hurting this Christmas season. Also pray for the following people: week of November 26: Donna Dickert, Lisa Dingwell, Doug & Maureen Dykstra, Stacy Elliott & family; week of December 3: Nancy Ellis, John & Jane Elsinga and Henry Lyon, Mark & Kelli Fech; week of December 10: Rhonda Fort, Joe & Trudie Frick, Betty Gaffney; week of December 17: Flora Gilbert, Julianne Hebert, Holly Henning, Helen Hogan; week of December 24: Frank & Ellen Jackson, Meredith Jackson, Mary Jarrard; week of December 31: Chuck & Geri Jennings, Fran Johnston, Art & Mary Jo Kelley.



Prayer Care December, 2023

Mike Blake and family, Mike died November 10, brother of Rhonda Fort
Denise Colosky and family, grandson died November 7
Holly Brock, health concerns
Mary Ann Martin, health concerns

Continuing Prayers December, 2023

Shirley Twichell, health concerns, cousin of Denise Colosky
Susan, Pat Baker's niece, cancer
Lisa Dingwell, health concerns
Donna Dickert, continuing health concerns
Mark Reed, friend of Mary Ann Martin, colon cancer
Nate Batterbee, Nancy Ellis' grandnephew, recovery from massive stroke and heart surgery
Sue Keys, continuing recovery and adjustment from broken arm
Flora Gilbert, health concerns
Kathy Peters, at Masonic Home, Alma
Sharon McPherson, health concerns
Adam LaPratt, son of Roger & Holly LaPratt
Holly LaPratt, health concerns



Thank you, Delta

We just received a Thank You card from Winans Elementary School:
"Thank you for the donation of the winter wear and coats to Winans Elementary. I have been able to give a student one of the winter coats as he did not have one. Thank you so much for your generosity." Sandy Forgrave, Winans Elementary Building Secretary

December 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 7:30 pm It's a Wonderful Life	2 7:30 pm It's a Wonderful Life
3 1st Sunday of Advent Hanging of the Greens 10 am Worship Communion Change for Change	4 1:30 pm Prayer Shawl 6:00 Girl Scouts 6:30 Boy Scouts	5	6 9:30 am Prayers and Squares	7	8 7:30 pm It's a Wonderful Life	9 7:30 pm It's a Wonderful Life
10 2nd Sunday of Advent 10 am Worship 2 pm It's a Wonderful Life	11 1:30 pm Prayer Shawl 6:00 Girl Scouts 6:30 Boy Scouts 4 pm Resources 7 pm Capital City Ringers Concert	12	13 9:30 am Prayers and Squares	14	15	16
17 3rd Sunday of Advent 10 am Worship	18 1:30 pm Prayer Shawl 6:00 Girl Scouts 6:30 Boy Scouts 7:00 Session	19	20 9:30 am Prayers and Squares	21	22	23
24 4th Sunday of Advent 10 am Worship 7 pm Worship	25 Christmas Day	26	27	28	29	30
	<div>←OfficeClosed→</div>					
31 10 am Worship						

Updated Calendar

Check out the church website for an up-to-date calendar at www.deltapresby.org. Thanks to Art for his work on keeping it current.

The Ambassador

Delta Presbyterian Church
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November 22, 2023

CHURCH STAFF

Pastor: Wendy S. Pratt
Admin. Assistant: Shelly Shinevar
Clerk of Session: Meredith Jackson
Treasurer: Bill Stirling
Auditor: Joe Frick
Financial Secretary: Fran Johnston
Accompanist: Mengyao Zhao (Chloe)
Adult Choir Dir.: Ellen Jackson
Website Coordinator: Art Kelley



***"We are ambassadors for Christ, God making
His appeal through us." II Cor 5:20 .***

We're on the Web!
www.deltapresby.org

Announcements

Let Us Know. When you have prayer requests, would like a visit, are going to be out of town, or have a change in your contact information, please email the office at office@deltapresby.org or call and leave a message on voicemail.

Ambassadors. Delta's newsletter, The Ambassador, is sent out once a month. If you are currently NOT receiving this newsletter by email and would like to, please let the office know and we will put you on the email list.

Communication. We will be posting important updates on our website: www.deltapresby.org and on our Facebook page. If you have not liked our Facebook page yet, please do so that you will be able to see the updates. If you are not currently receiving updates by email and would like to, please email office@deltapresby.org and let us know. If you no longer want to receive email and prefer to receive news and information via U.S. Mail, please call the office and leave a voicemail if the office is closed.

Contributions. If you are not attending worship, please mail or drop off your offerings to the church. Twice a month, Jim Constandt and Fran Johnston will come in to take care of them and get them deposited.

Website Calendar. If you have events that need to go on the website calendar, please let Art Kelley know.

Papergator. Feed our Papergator! The paper, books, and cardstock are recycled, and the church is paid for the amount collected.