

Caton United Methodist Church Messenger

December 2018

A Note From Pastor Chaz

Dear CUMC Family,

Advent is finally here! It is now time to hurry up and wait! For me, it seems that this time of year takes forever to get here, flies by us really fast, and we are exhausted when it is over. Anyone relate?!?! But this Advent season, like many before, is important, challenging, and special as we wait for the return of Jesus—not as a baby but as a King!

On Sunday we will introduce our Advent theme this year ‘Following the Star’. The star was an important symbol throughout scripture but probably made the most impact upon the wise men as they traveled to worship this newborn baby who is said to be the redeemer of the world.

This theme of following the star is woven throughout scripture and the obedience of these far-off strangers is something for us to model as we seek our own relationship with Christ the King. I offer to you this part of this story from Matthew 2: “*2 In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, 2asking, ‘Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage.’*” From a distant land removed from the Jewish territory, these men came trusting in the star, in the prophesy, and in the hope that all of it represented. It is from this passage of scripture that we get that familiar Christmas Carol ‘O Come All Ye Faithful’.

O Come All Ye Faithful is one of my favorite carols. The song itself is not a challenging song but the message behind it gives us insight on how to approach this Christmas season. As I was reflecting on this song a few years ago I noticed the lyrics from the chorus once again: *O come let us adore him, o come let us adore him, o come let us adore him, Christ the Lord.* On the surface, pretty straight forward. But notice this:

1. 3 times we are asked to come
 1. Three is the number of balance/perfection
 2. Three is the number used when referring to resurrection and new life
2. Come let us ADORE him
 1. Adore is a word that we don’t use much anymore. We use ‘adorable’ when we describe babies or little kids when they are cute or have pinchy cheeks...
 2. To Adore is more than love or cuteness or pinchy cheeks, to adore is to spend time worshipping with the intent of forming a relationship.
 3. The invitation that is set before us in this carol is to come, come, come so that we might see the king and be a recipient of his love.

Friends, that is our invitation this Advent season as we prepare for the coming of Christ: to come, come, come so that we might see the king and be a recipient of his love. As you are preparing your hearts, find the star that calls you back to Christ. Look for ‘God with us’ as you interact with the world. Come adore, worship, and sit at the feet of Jesus as if it is the first time. Let’s live our lives for his success because he died for ours.

With you on the Journey,
Pastor Chad

Caton Family News

In case you didn't know – Emma Mosch has for many, many, many years created and prepared the advent wreath. Her devotion and dedication provided us with a beautiful wreath that was used throughout those years during advent.

Thank You Emma for all those years of making our advent so special.

Thank you to Lucretia West for the beautiful Advent and Christmas Eve bulletin covers.



December Birthdays

12/2	<i>Bryon Kehoe</i>
	<i>Ellen Windows</i>
12/6	<i>Daniel Burnside</i>
	<i>Austin Fritsch</i>
12/7	<i>Michelle Fitzsimmons</i>
12/16	<i>Stacy Bathrick</i>
12/17	<i>Pat Robbins</i>
12/21	<i>Linda Riley</i>
12/24	<i>Andy Passmore</i>

No Anniversaries in December

Mission Projects

Salvation Army “Angel” Tags

*We sponsored 10 children ranging in ages from 18 mos to 9 years.
Each child had 3 angel tags listing wish items for clothing, games, toys, etc.*

All 30 tags were scooped up in no time.

All gifts must be returned no later than December 9th.

*Please place unwrapped item(s) in a bag with all the tags taped to the outside of
the bag.*

Laundry Baskets

*Once again your generosity was overwhelming. Plastic rectangular laundry
baskets filled the corner of the sanctuary. Pantry of Angels used these laundry
baskets to fill them with a complete holiday dinner for those in need.*

Hams and Turkeys

*Pantry of Angels need hams and turkeys for Christmas. Please place hams and/or
turkeys in freezer in church basement or drop off at Ron Begell’s house no later
than December 17th.*

Annual Church Charge Conference

The annual church charge conference will be held on

Saturday – December 1st at 2:00 pm

New Beginnings United Methodist Church (300 E. Miller Street – Elmira)

*This is an opportunity to learn more about what happened and will be happening at
CUMC. Anyone interested can attend but only those who are members are eligible
to vote. Charge conference packets are on the announcement table.*

Christmas Eve Service

Tuesday – December 24th at 7:00 p.m.

Come and share the spirit of Christmas with your family, friends or by yourself.

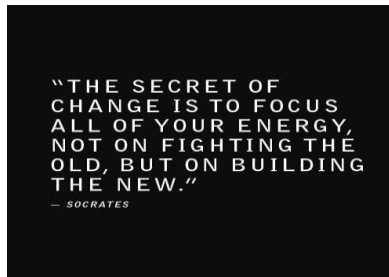
Pastor Chad, Brenda and the Leadership Team would like to

*Wish all of you a “**Very Merry Christmas**” and a “**Happy New Year**”*

Year End Tax Statements

2018 Giving statements and tax statements will be available sometime in the first part of January on the Realm website (you will receive an e-mail when the statements are ready). Sign on to your Realm account to print your statements.

If you require a printed statement please contact Don Haussener or Brenda Swanson.



Family Fun Night

Do you get the blahs once the holidays and New Year has come and gone?

If your answer is "Yes"

Mark your calendars for Saturday – February 2nd at 6:00 pm

Bring children, grandchildren, nieces, nephews or a friends (oh yeah – don't forget your spouse or significant other).

There will be lots of games, fun and most of all laughter for the entire family.

Oh yeah, and snacks, snacks, snacks!!!!

Poinsettias

Once again you will be able to purchase a poinsettia or make a donation, without purchasing a poinsettis, in memory of or in honor of your loved ones for \$10.00. Please fill out the form in the bulletin and include the amount (make check payable to Caton United Methodist Church) for the number of poinsettias being purchased and place in the collection plate. Forms and money need to be submitted no later than Monday – December 17th. If you would like to purchase or make a donation but are unable to fill out the form please contact the church office at 607-524-6715.

December 2018

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1 2:00pm – Church Charge Conf
2 1 st Sun of Advent 8:00am Praise Band Rehearsal 8:30am Sunday School/Bible Study 9:30am Worship Communion 10:30am Fellowship	3 10:00am Bible Study 1:00pm UMW 6:00pm Worship Planning 7:00pm Bible Study	4 7:00pm Leadership Team	5	6 4:30pm Alcoholics Anonymous 7:00pm Band Rehearsal	7	8
9 2 nd Sun of Advent 8:00am Band Rehearsal 8:30am Sunday School/Bible Study 9:30am Worship 10:30am Fellowship	10 10:00am Bible Study 6:00pm Worship Planning 7:00pm Bible Study	11	12	13 4:30pm Alcoholics Anonymous 7:00pm Band Rehearsal	14	15
16 3 rd Sun of Advent 8:00am Band Rehearsal 8:30am Sunday School/Bible Study 9:30am Worship 10:30am Fellowship	17 10:00am Bible Study 6:00pm Worship Planning 7:00pm Bible Study	18	19	20 4:30pm Alcoholics Anonymous 7:00pm Band Rehearsal	21	22
23 4 th Sun of Advent 8:00am Band Rehearsal 8:30am Sunday School/Bible Study 9:30am Worship 10:30am Fellowship	24 7:00 pm Christmas Eve Worship Service	25 	26	27 Church Office Closed 4:30pm Alcoholics Anonymous 7:00pm Band Rehearsal	28	29
30 8:00am Band 8:30am Sunday School/Bible Study 9:30am Worship 10:30am Fellowship	31					

Caton United Methodist Church
11186 Hendy Hollow Road
Corning, NY 14830
Website: www.catonumc.org
E-Mail: catonumc@stny.rr.org

Pastor Chad Sayers
Phone: 518-791-5648
chad@fredoniafirst.org

Caton United Methodist Church
11189 Hendy Hollow Rd.
Corning, NY 14830

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