

Friendship Connection

December 2018

A Monthly Publication of the Honeoye Falls United Methodist Church

"Don't be afraid! Look! I bring good news to you — wonderful, joyous news for all people."
(Luke 2:10, Common English Bible (CEB))

The closer we get to Christmas, many times the faster we find ourselves going. The traffic keeps getting worse. The lines in the stores keep getting longer. We don't want to miss out on special events, parties, and gathering with our family and friends. We have presents to wrap and food to prepare. So, we get stressed and rush around. If we're not careful we'll miss the Spirit of Jesus coming to us, the season of Advent flies by, and we collapse into Christmas and suddenly it's gone! How can we be unhurried as we prepare for the coming of the Christ Child?

This season of Advent, I'd like to invite each of us to take a journey to welcome our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ to be born once again in our hearts. One way to help us with this, is to select one or more of the individuals from the nativity story and accompany them during this Season of Advent on their journey to the Christ child.

Here are a couple of suggestions:

- Zechariah (John the Baptist's father): He silently waited as he anticipated the birth of his son, and the Messiah that his son John was to announce. Perhaps God is inviting you to withdraw from the noise and business of the Christmas season to enter a time of quiet prayer. Be still and anticipate Christ's coming.
- Mary: She was God's chosen vessel to give birth to the Messiah that God's people had been waiting hundreds of years for. Perhaps you can relate to the promise and challenge of giving birth to God's dream. Is there something special that you hope to give birth to this Christmas season? Ponder and treasure this dream in your heart and pray for the Lord's guidance and blessing.
- Joseph: He bet his life on words that an angel spoke to him while he was sleeping and accepted the daunting challenge to raise the Messiah as his own child. Are you facing a challenge and need God's help? Pray for God's wisdom and strength to help you to obey God in the midst of your challenge and/or struggle.
- Innkeeper: They probably thought they'd a good excuse for not finding a room for Mary & Joseph. Perhaps you can relate as your schedule's overcrowded and you don't have enough room to give the time and attention to Christ that he deserves and that you so desperately need! Talk to the Lord about your schedule this Advent, and how to create generous space in both your schedule and your heart for Christ this Christmas season.
- Angel: They sang their glorious message announcing the Christ child. This Christmas, do you need to cultivate a heart of worship for Christ? Let the angels lead you in praise to the Son of God.
- Shepherd: No one would've ever picked the shepherds to be visited by Christmas angels. Imagine the thrill that the shepherds felt when the angels sang the news of Christ's birth to them. Is it hard for you to accept that God bestows grace, mercy, kindness, and love on you? If you struggle to see yourself as God sees you, then lift up your head with the shepherds and let God bless you with the gift of Christmas.
- Magi: The magi studied the stars and the ancient prophecies, risked their lives to take a difficult journey across the desert, and dealt with the murderous King Herod so that they could give their gifts to the newborn Christ King. Perhaps you're drawn, like the magi, to give a gift to Christ. Speak to the Christ child and tell him from your heart what you want to give him.

My prayer for each of us is that we don't become so distracted or stressed with Christmas decorating, shopping, and celebrating with family or friends that we miss connecting with Christ. May we each be willing to participate in the Christmas story, sharing the wonderful, joyous news, — God's Good News with everyone we encounter (including ourselves).

Blessings & Shalom, Pastor Mary

Advent Study - The Gift of the Nutcracker

"Do not be afraid; for see — I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord."

(Luke 2:10-11 New Revised Standard Version (NRSV))



When: 6–8 P.M. Wed. for 4 weeks (Nov. 28–Dec. 19)

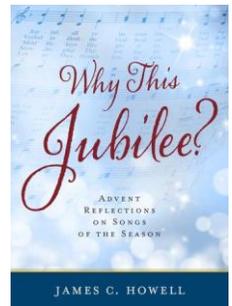
(6–7 P.M. will be a lite dinner of soup followed by the study from 7-8 P.M.)

Where: The HFUMC Parsonage (17 Creekside Drive, Honeoye Falls)

Details: Much like our journey as Christians, Clara's story is one that begins with uncertainty, fear, and struggle, yet ends with comfort, hope, and joy. In *The Gift of the Nutcracker*, we'll explore this classic story to help us understand God's greatest gift of the Christ child, and the kingdom he came to establish. **Feel free to contact Pastor Mary if you have any questions regarding this upcoming study.**

Women's Daytime Bible Study - Advent 2018

"Why this Jubilee? Advent Reflections on Songs of the Season" By James C. Howell, will be the focus of our study this year during Advent. This is the 200th anniversary of "Silent Night". Our group meets on Wednesdays from 11:45-1:00, beginning on **Wednesday, December 12th**. In these 24 reflections on well-known carols and Christmas songs, James Howell ponders the meaning of certain phrases from these songs and relates them to our daily lives. This year we can fill our souls with an unforgettable way to celebrate the joy of Advent and Christmas. Books are available from the Upper Room Bookstore (on-line). We invite you to join us. You are welcome to bring your lunch if you wish. Please contact Lynn Shipe, 624-4219; 752-2787 to reserve a book and with any questions.



Ministry Shares Information

Ministry Shares are a payment we make to the Upper New York Conference on a monthly basis. We have paid some each month, but we are behind by \$12,000. Please prayerfully consider how you might be able to contribute to help us meet this shortfall.

You might be wondering what our Ministry Shares do for our congregation, missions, or the greater church. Monies go to Africa University, mission teams, national ministries fighting hunger, injustice and poverty. Scholarships for pastors and divinity school students as well as training programs for clergy and laity are funded. Programs in the Conference Budget such as new church starts, camps and retreats, native American ministries, interdenominational efforts are also included. Finally, salaries, benefits and administrative costs are covered. Our final payment needs to be at the Conference Office no later than January 8, 2019. Please help as you can.

Leadership Team Report

This is a quick outline of information from the most recent Leadership Team Meeting. If you have any questions, please contact Leadership Chair Sarah Mathias (smathias55@gmail.com, 585-615-0305) for more information.

We voted to accept a bequest from Richard and Julie Dye. \$40 will be spent of a tile to commemorate their gift and the remaining \$2460 will be added to the General Fund. A letter of thanks stating our use of the money will be sent to the lawyers executing the will.

The Rummage Sale made about \$1,000. \$275 will be given to our guest speaker in September. \$304 will be given to Chacocente. 5 food baskets are underway for families served by the Honeoye Falls Food Cupboard. A Community movie night is planned for January.

On December 9th we will have a mission and outreach brunch as well as hanging of the greens for Advent and Christmas.

SPRC finished the church profile which is a very important tool for the Conference Cabinet as they choose our new pastor. They decided on 2019 salaries for all employees.

Storm Windows are up and shovels have been found.

We voted to work to pay our outstanding ministry shares of \$12,000 by the end of the year using general offerings. We will NOT be using any Hennessey Funds.



Pub Theology

Pub Theology continues Monday, December 10th at 7:00pm, CB Craft Brewers.

"Beer, conversation & God"- all perspectives are welcome. For more information contact Duane Thompson.

Halloween Connections Thank You's

Hello! I just wanted to thank you all once again for the Halloween care package. It always fills the hearts (and stomachs) of my friends and I. I am settling into graduate school at UB well and was just officially assigned to my first choice research group. I hope that you all are doing well and look forward to thanking you in person for your continued support when I come home for the holidays. Thank you again, and I hope to see you all soon,
Sarah Forney



Breakfast at the Parsonage

Please join Darrell and Pastor Mary for Breakfast and a time of fellowship, at the Parsonage (17 Creekside Drive, Honeoye Falls), on Saturday, Dec. 8th or Saturday, Dec. 29th from 9:00 A.M. to 11 A.M. All are Welcome!



Christmas Flowers

It's time to think about ordering your Christmas plants. Order forms will be included in the weekly bulletins on December 2nd and December 9th. Orders and payment are due to Shirley Meneer by December 16th. Your plants will be arranged for the Christmas Eve service and you're welcome to take them home after service. Your plant will be labeled with your name. Someone will be there to help with distribution. Thank you, Shirley

Bell Choir Concert

Our very own Bell Choir will be performing at the George Eastman Museum (900 East Ave, Rochester) on December 2nd at 3pm. Donna Watts will also be singing! This concert will feature holiday classics. The event is free to members and included with museum admission for nonmembers.

Hanging of the Greens

Save the date!!! Our next Mission and Outreach Brunch will be delayed a week to Sunday, December 9th. After we enjoy delicious food and conversation, please stay and help decorate the church for Advent and Christmas. We need to decorate the tree and hang wreaths. Please plan to join us on the 9th!

Celebrate!

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS...

12/1 - Avery McLaughlin

12/2 - Phil Dewey

12/10 - Jeff Bastow

12/12 - Liam Lyle

12/13 - Alexis Zwetsch, Debbie Laraway

12/15 - Keith Knox

12/18 - Anita Forney

12/19 - Laurel Dettman

12/25 - Doug Brooks, Darrell Rublee

...AND ANNIVERSARIES

12/6 - Jeff & Jane Endicott





December



| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|---|--|--|--|---|---|---|
| | | | | | | 1 8:00am Men's Club 1:00pm David Minick's Memorial Service |
| 2 9:45am – Adult Sunday School 11:00am – Worship 3:00pm – Bell Choir Concert at George Eastman House (900 East Ave, Rochester) | 3 | 4 7:00pm Bell Choir 7:45pm Mission & Outreach Meeting | 5 6:00pm Advent Study, 17 Creekside Dr, HF | 6 | 7 | 8 |
| 9 9:45am – Adult Sunday School 11:00am – Worship 12:00pm – Mission Brunch & Hanging of the Greens | 10 7:00pm Pub Theology, CB Craft Brewers | 11 7:00pm Bell Choir | 12 11:45am Women's Daytime Bible Study 6:00pm Advent Study, 17 Creekside Dr, HF | 13 | 14 | 15 |
| 16 9:45am – Adult Sunday School 11:00am – Worship | 17 7:00pm SPRC Meeting | 18 7:00pm Bell Choir | 19 11:45am Women's Daytime Bible Study 6:00pm Advent Study, 17 Creekside Dr, HF | 20 NEWSLETTER DEADLINE | 21 7:00pm Ecumenical Blue Christmas Service, 11 Episcopal Ave, HF | 22 |
| 23 9:45am – Adult Sunday School 11:00am – Worship | 24 Christmas Eve 6:00pm Worship Service | 25  | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 |
| 30 New Year's Eve 9:45am – Adult Sunday School 11:00am – Worship | | | | | | |

Sunday Volunteers

| December 2 | December 9 | December 16 | December 23 | December 30 |
|---|---|---|--|--|
| Greeters: Joe Menear & Helper Lector: Joe Menear Sound: Chris Hunt Hospitality: Mission Brunch Counters: Sarah Mathias & Donna McCagg Flowers for Altar: Connor Snow Removal: | Greeters: Mary Jo Stahl & Jean Fritz Lector: Terri Fischetti Sound: Ken Forney Hospitality: coffee only Counters: Duane Thompson & Sub Flowers for Altar: Connor Snow Removal: Stan Gregory | Greeters: Jess McMakin Lector: Jess McMakin Sound: Rick Shipe Hospitality: Vullo/Winans Counters: Tom Sellman & Bob Winans Flowers for Altar: Winans Snow Removal: Stan Gregory | Greeters: Ray & Donna McCagg Lector: Joe Menear Sound: Drew Moore Hospitality: coffee only Counters: Rick Shipe & Sub Flowers for Altar: Christmas Flowers Snow Removal: Tom Sellman | Greeters: Carole Eckhardt Lector: Ray McCagg Sound: Fae Burt Hospitality: Watts Counters: Mathias/Rublee Flowers for Altar: McCagg Snow Removal: Duane Thompson |

"The only real blind person at Christmas time
Is he who has not Christmas in his heart."

-- Helen Keller

PRAYER CLOSET



The "Prayer Mail" Email Address is hfumcprayer@gmail.com

If you notice that you haven't gotten a prayer email in a while, please check your junk or spam folder to see if they went there. Please add the email address in your contact list to ensure delivery in the future. If you think you may have been dropped from the list or would like to be added, please note this on the blue cards Sunday morning or contact the church office.

Strength, Healing and Guidance:

| | |
|---|--|
| Bob & Kathy Wilkins (Sis Burton's brother-in-law & sister), | Upper NY Annual Conference & our church leaders, |
| Agnes Marlowe, | Joyce Connor (Bill Connor's mother), |
| Pastor Samuel and Community UMC (Uganda), | Patty Parham Debruin & Rhett Parham (Carole Eckhardt's children) |
| Debbie Bastow, | |

Sympathy:

| | | |
|-----------------------------------|---|---|
| The Family of Chuck Vick, | The Family of Colleen Dunn | The Family of Otis Marlowe |
| The Family of Hilda Ferguson, | Robbins, | The Family of David Minick, |
| The Family of Flora (Sis) Burton, | The Family of Carol VanDusen, | The Family of Gladys Rublee (Darrell's mother), |
| | The Family of Clair Schaffner, | The Family of Agnes Marlowe |
| | The Family of Roland Lyle (Eric's father) | |

Women and Men Serving Our Country:

| | | |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|
| Stephen Battle USA | Jeffrey Krulick, | Tim Rowlinson USA, |
| Dennis Bonavilla, | Peter J. Lang USMC, | Mike and Charniah Smrekar |
| Joseph Bonavilla, | Douglas Ninkovick, | USN, S |
| Curtis Clark, | Airman Poffard, | Steven Tschiderer USA, |
| Michael Fanton USN, | Michael Pullen USA, | Greg Dewey USN |
| Scott Flood USA, | John Rider USAF, | |

College Students:

| | | |
|-------------------|----------------|-----------------|
| Acadia Fairchild, | Liam Lyle, | Gwen Peters, |
| Willow Finch, | Sophie Lyle, | Madison Sellman |
| Clayton Firster, | Lee Matthews, | |
| Sarah Forney, | Riley O'Flynn, | |

**HONEOYE FALLS
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
31 East Street Honeoye Falls NY 14472**

Address Service Requested

“Choose This Day Whom You Will Serve”



- ✦ Pastor's Note
- ✦ Advent Study, Women's Daytime Bible Study, Ministry Shares & Leadership Report
- ✦ Community News & Celebrations
- ✦ Calender of Events
- ✦ Prayer Closet

If you no longer wish to receive the Newsletter please contact the church office at 624-3387 or office.hfumc@gmail.com.

Thank you!

WEEKLY SERVICES

**ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL 9:45AM
SUNDAY SCHOOL FOR CHILDREN 10:15AM**

SUNDAY WORSHIP 11:00 AM

PASTOR: Rev. Mary Rublee
585-497-7041 rev.maryrublee@gmail.com

CHURCH OFFICE: Secretary: Jillian Lloyd
585-624-3387 office.hfumc@gmail.com
Website: www.honeoyefallsumc.org

**Office hours are posted weekly on the
Church St. door and in the Sunday bulletin.**

DIRECTOR OF MUSIC: Joe Blackburn 244-3538

**MINISTERS: EVERY MEMBER OF THE
CONGREGATION**

LEADERSHIP TEAM: Sarah Mathias 615-0305