

The Messenger

A Newsletter of the First United Methodist Church in Greene
November/ December, 2017



From the heart of Pastor Michele!

Enter his gates with thanksgiving and his courts with praise; give thanks to him and praise his name.

Psalm 100:4

Greetings in the name of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. I pray this message finds you drawing closer to our Lord in your everyday life and seeing Him near, even in the most mundane.

We are entering the season of Thanksgiving when our hearts are full of love and joy as we reflect on the year past and all the blessings we have received. We also look ahead to the seasons of Advent and Christmas with all their glory and glitter, songs and carols, new beginnings of the church year and new life in our Savior, Jesus, the Christ child. It is also that time of year when you have been accustomed to hearing the words “*Pledge Campaign*” in order to financially support First United Methodist Church of Greene’s fiscal budget. This year you won’t be hearing those words but instead you will be hearing of thanksgiving, abundance, and generosity. Commitment comes from the heart and although you won’t be signing a pledge card, we still covet your commitment to support the ministries of your church with generous giving.

I encourage you to find greater contentment and simplicity in your lives as you put God first in your giving and living and to experience the joy that comes from knowing our gifts honor God and change lives. The challenge is to find ways to grow deeper in our faith. One way to do this is to offer our financial blessings to God through our tithes and offerings. Through these gifts, we invest in God’s vision and purpose and create an opportunity for God to work through us. Our gifts to God each week are an act of worship; and our offerings are vitally necessary to change lives, transform our community, and renew our church.

Giving generously is important for the Bible has a lot to say about wisdom and finances, with 2,300 verses that tell us to be generous and good stewards of our resources. Jesus taught generosity and sacrifice. He demanded that his followers serve not wealth but God, and in the parable of the talents he taught that God will hold us accountable for what we do with all our earthly possessions.

The Bible teaches us to give a tithe, or the first 10 percent of what we earn, to God and the church’s work. For some, giving one tenth is a very difficult goal. For others, it is the starting point, and their giving far exceeds 10 percent. The important thing is that you start somewhere, that your giving be in proportion to your income, that your giving reflects an appropriate offering to God given your means, and that your offerings express both your desire to serve the Lord and your investment in God’s work. What you give has nothing to do with what someone else may or may not give...it is between the giver and God alone. However, you can begin by determining what percentage of your income you can give to God. If you are not yet tithing, consider taking a step toward tithing this year. For example, if you now give 3 percent of your income, consider increasing your gift to 4 percent, and an additional one percent each year until you reach the tithing goal. My prayer is that everyone will grow in his or her faith through giving financially to the ministries of God’s church and experience the

From Pastor Michele (cont'd)

joy and blessings that come from financial generosity. The bottom line is, my friends, God has called us all into ministry so we are all in this together, and our community needs us - the church - to be the church. If we all commit to giving from the heart, I know we can do great things to grow the kingdom of God right here in our small community.

Remember, *A tithe [tenth] of everything from the land, whether grain from the soil or fruit from the trees, belongs to the Lord; it is holy to the Lord.* Leviticus 27:30

And,

Honor the Lord with your wealth and with the first fruits. Then your barns will be filled with plenty, and your vats will be bursting with wine. Proverbs 3:9-10

Let us, this Thanksgiving season, covenant with God and one another to tithe or strive to increase our giving so that we may honor God and one another through our love and generosity for the ministries of First UMC Greene.

The point is this: the one who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and the one who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. Each of you must give as you have made up your mind, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to provide you with every blessing in abundance, so that by always having enough of everything, you may share abundantly in every good work. (2 Corinthians 9:6-8)

May God bless each of you abundantly and may each of you give generously from the heart to the ministries of your faithful church, First United Methodist Church of Greene all to the honor and glory of our Lord Jesus Christ.

With a generous heart,

Pastor Michele



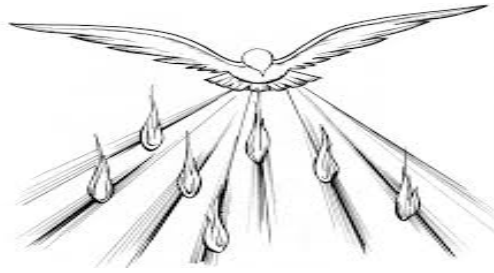
Our Annual Charge Conference

is set for Saturday, November 18 at 10:00am.

First UMC Chenango Bridge will host the event this year, which once again will be led by our District Superintendent, Dave Kofahl.

We will be joining our brothers and sister from Abbott West Chenango UMC, Castle Creek UMC, Chenango Bridge UMC, Choconut UMC, Glen Castle UMC, Lao American UMC, Marathon UMC, North Fenton UMC, and Whitney Point UMC.

We will have a time of worship together which will include the business items for our gathering. As we gather for holy conferencing, I'm sure we will be blessed.



Confirmation

In the United Methodist tradition, Confirmation is a very important time in the life of a youth. At Baptism, parents and sponsors as well as the congregation promised to raise the child in the ways of God ... adults spoke on behalf of the child.

Confirmation is when they will learn about their faith to the degree they will make their own decision to follow Jesus Christ and join their home church. No longer is it the religion of their parents, but their own. They will stand before the congregation and profess their own faith in Jesus Christ.

Confirmation classes for youth in grades 6-12 will begin November 5 right after worship. Confirmation will be scheduled for Easter Sunday. If your child is signed up, be sure they have received their workbook. If your child is NOT signed up, it's not too late.

Please see Pastor Michele for more details or any questions you may have or feel free to call her at 910-260-0660.



**SUNDAY
SCHOOL**

HELPERS, ETC.

November 5: Nursery – Ketcham
UPK-2nd – Lindsey B.

All Saints Sunday

Decorate Thanksgiving Donation Bags

November 12: Nursery – Cummings Family
UPK-2nd – Kevin Rounds

November 19: Nursery – Gorsline
UPK-2nd – Kay Clark

Thanksgiving Sunday:

Blessing Donation Bags for Food Pantry

Cherub Choir sings

November 26: One Room Sunday School
Family worship: "Hanging of the Greens"
Decorate sanctuary for Advent/ Christmas

December 3: Nursery – Loveless Family
UPK-2nd – Madelynn Cummings

Advent begins:

Christmas Program rehearsal after church

December 10: Nursery – Chrissy Smith
UPK-2nd – N. Specht

Christmas Program rehearsal after church

December 17: *Christmas Program*

December 24: *Christmas Eve*

Early Service ~ 4pm

Candlelight Service ~ 8pm

December 31: *Watch Night service, 6pm*

Thurs. Nov 16th Stone Soup. *Imagine soup from a stone! Taken from a children's story about a man who was hungry and how others wouldn't share their food.*

Everybody bring something: carrots, potatoes, beans, peas, etc., to add to the pot. When it's cooked, we have lunch, fill jars with what's left over and deliver to shut-in's or others. We gather at church by 10am.

Thurs. Dec 14: Gather at 11am with a dish-to-pass for a brief meeting followed by our Christmas Party. Lunch is around 11:45am and silent auction – anyone who wishes please bring an item for the auction table. Items are bid on with money going to the local Food Pantry or a Mission Project, and we all go home with a new treasure. See Kay Clark for details.

MONTHLY DINNER SCHEDULE:

Wed. November 1: Chicken and Biscuit Dinner. Serving from 5 - 6:30 pm. Dinners include chicken with gravy & biscuits, vegetable, rolls, coleslaw or applesauce, dessert and beverage.

Wed. December 6: Lasagna or Spaghetti. Serving 5 – 6:30pm. Dinner includes your choice of spaghetti or lasagna, tossed salad, bread, dessert and beverage.



COMMUNITY THANKSGIVING DINNER

Thursday, November 23rd

Serving begins at Noon

This is an annual community event open to all

You need not be a church member

or belong to any church – just come!

Enjoy the best of fellowship around the table with good food and friends.

Turkey, dressing, mashed potatoes, baked squash, vegetable, assorted desserts and beverage.

Something for everyone!

There is no charge but a free will offering accepted.

Helpers Needed to prepare, serve and clean up as well as food (or monetary) donations.

See sign-up sheet in the Social Room on Bulletin Board – all help is wanted and appreciated.

ROTARY BASKETS FOR CHRISTMAS

This year we will not be adopting a family but we will participate by asking individuals to donate a gift for either a child or adult. Then bring that gift, wrapped and marked boy, girl (include age) or adult.

We will also be looking for hygiene items such as toothpaste, tooth brushes, toilet paper individually wrapped, shampoo, bars of soap individually wrapped, packages of tissues and hand cream.

Deadline to bring in: Sun. Dec. 17th. Thank you!

NATIVE AMERICAN AWARENESS by Scott Clark

For 37 years, using a three-pronged strategy of educating grassroots practitioners, advocating for systematic change, and capitalizing Indian communities, First Nations has been working to restore Native American controlled and culturally-compatible assets they own. Whether they are land, human potential, cultural heritage or natural resources or to develop new assets, the goal is to ensure the long-term vitality of Native American communities.

First Nations has established the Native Arts Initiative to stimulate perpetuation, proliferation and revitalization of artistic and cultural assets in these communities. The NAI is working to achieve this by strengthening the enabling environments in which Native-controlled non-profit organizations support emerging and established Native artists and sustain traditional Native arts in their own communities.

Under the NAI, First Nations provide selected grantees with organizational and programmatic resources, including direct grants and technical assistance and training. Since 2014 First Nations has awarded more than \$1 million in NAI grant funds to a variety of eligible Native controlled non-profit organizations and tribal programs.

SPECIAL WORSHIP DATES TO REMEMBER

Sun. Nov. 5: **All Saints Sunday:** Regular Worship Hour

Sun. Nov. 12: **Veterans Sunday:** Regular Worship Hour

Remember all who have served (and who continue to serve) our country



Sun. Nov 19: **Thanksgiving Sunday:** Regular Worship Hour

Giving Thanks for our many blessings – seen and unseen

Sat. Nov 25: Come to decorate the sanctuary – all are invited – 10:00am

Sun. Nov. 26: **Hanging of the Greens:** Regular Worship Hour

Plan to stay after worship to decorate the sanctuary for Advent & Christmas

This is a family event – all ages participate!

Thurs. Dec. 21 **Longest Night/Blue Christmas Healing Service** *Service begins at 7:30pm.*

A Longest Night Service, also known as Blue Christmas is usually held on or around the winter solstice. It is a modern Christian service designed to help those struggling with darkness, sadness and grief faced by those living with loss. Loss may include the death of a loved one, divorce or separation, separation due to military service, the loss of a job, or living with serious illness.

This is open to the community so please spread the word.



n. Dec. 24: **Christmas Eve Services at Greene**

Early Service, 4:00pm ~ Children and Families

Candlelight Service, 8:00pm

all welcome ~ invite a friend.

BIRTHDAYS: November

- 2. Esther Williams
- 3. Nicole Flohr
- 5. Matt Patrick
- 10. Evelyn Evans & Laurel Zaengle
- 12. Scott Lord & Natalee Cummings
- 13. Mary Webb
- 16. Edie Miller
- 17. Pam Branigan
- 20. Lisa Rowe
- 22. Trevor Ketcham
- 23. Donna Baker
- 24. Bev Sternbergh
- 26. Bernie Rockwell
- 27. Jazmyne Mata
- 28. Charles Dietrich

ANNIVERSARIES: November

None Listed

*In All Things,
Give Thanks
I Thessalonians 5:18*

BIRTHDAYS: December

- 4. Valerie Stracquadano
- 7. Kegan Evans
- 11. Neil Fifield
- 16. Colin A. Evans
- 17. Zayden Bush & Joy Ketcham
- 19. Kay Clark & Denise Hebbard
- 20. Bob Miller
- 25. Brad Rowe
- 27. Nathan Patrick
- 29. Thanna Howell
- 30. Judy Caruana

ANNIVERSARIES: December

None Listed

<u>ATTENDANCE</u>	
<u>September -</u>	<u>October</u>
3: 43	1. 68
10: 71	8. 47
17: 80	15. 50
24: 78	22. 64
	29. 82

<u>LECTORS</u>	
<u>November</u>	<u>December</u>
5: Youth – <i>Turn Clocks Back</i>	3. Youth
12. Leslie Gorsline	10. Ray Sullivan
19. Lorna Eroshevich	17. Children’s Program
26. Lisa Loveless	24. Kay Clark
	31. Esther Williams

<u>COFFEE HOUR TEAMS</u>	
<u>November</u>	<u>December</u>
5. Team #3 Turn Clocks Back	3. Team #1
12. Team #4	10. Team #2
19. Team #5	17. Teams 3 & 4
26. Team #6	24. None
	31. None

<u>USHERS</u>	
<u>November</u>	<u>December</u>
5. Eva Gibbs/ Mary Webb	3. Lorna Eroshevich/ Gloria Dayton
12. Lorna Eroshevich/ Judy Kelly	10. Connie Smithka/ Edie Miller
19. Jeanne Kennicutt/ Carol Faught	17. Judy Kelly/ Mary Webb
26. Esther Williams/ Edie Miller	24. Esther Williams/ Edie Miller
	31. Mary Webb/ Edie Miller



THE MESSENGER

First United Methodist Church
32-34 S Chenango St
Greene NY 13778



Turn Clocks Back 1 Hour on Saturday evening: Daylight Savings Ends Sun. Nov 5

Rev. Michele Clark, Pastor
 Email: revmicheleclark@gmail.com
 Cell: 910-260-0660

Joyce Besemer, Church Secretary
 Email: joycebesemer@gmail.com
 Phone: 607-639-1841

November

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1. Chicken Biscuit Dinner, 5-6:30pm	2. Soup & Scripture 6pm	3.	4.
5. All Saints Sunday DAYLIGHT SAVINGS BEGINS	6.	7. NO Choir	8.	9. Soup & Scripture 6pm	10.	11.
12. Veteran's Sunday	13.	14. Trustees 7pm Choir, 7pm	15. Finance 6pm NO Ad Council	16. UMW Stone Soup, 9:30am Soup & Scripture 6pm	17.	18. Charge Conference, 10am
19. Thanksgiving Sunday	20.	21. Choir, 7pm	22.	23. Thanksgiving Community Dinner - Noon	24.	25. Decorate the Sanctuary, 10am
26. One-Room SS Hanging of Greens UM Student Offering	27.	28. Choir, 7pm	29.	30. Soup & Scripture 6pm		

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Rev. Michele Clark, Pastor
 Email: revmicheleclark@gmail.com
 Cell: 910-260-0660

December

Joyce Besemer, Church Secretary
 Email: joycebesemer@gmail.co
 Phone: 607-639-1841

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1. World AIDS Day	2.
3. Advent Begins	4.	5, Choir 7pm	6. Spaghetti/ Lasagna Dinner, 5-6:30pm	7. Soup & Script 6pm	8.	9.
10.	11.	12. Choir, 7pm	13. Finance mtg. 6pm Ad Council 7pm	14. UMW Party 11am Soup & Script 6pm	15. Newsletter Deadline (Jan/Feb items)	16.
17. Children's Program	18.	19. Choir, 7pm	20.	21. Soup & Script 6pm Blue Christmas 7:30pm	22.	23.
24. Christmas Eve Worship: 4 & 8pm	25. Christmas Day	26. NO Choir	27.	28. NO Soup/ Script	29.	30.
31. Night Watch Service 6pm						

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Newsletter Deadline: Fri. Dec 15 – January/ February dated information please.