

TIDINGS

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10:00 am Sunday Worship

Season of Advent

We are entering a season of expectation! As Christmas decorations begin to appear around town and children speak of what they want for Christmas, we sometimes experience expectations of the “perfect Christmas.” We can get caught up the frenzy of buying the right gifts and preparing the best meal. But the Season of Advent, which begins on December 3rd this year, reminds us that there was only one “perfect Christmas.” That Christmas occurred over two thousand years ago, in the little town of Bethlehem.



Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ came to us as a vulnerable baby in a humble birthplace. There is no gift we can give one another that comes close to that perfect gift from God. We have been given the gift of salvation, the gift of everlasting love and forgiveness. A gift which is free to all who wish to unwrap it and accept it openly.

As we enter the Season of Advent we anticipate not only the birth of the baby Jesus, but we also await the second time that Christ will come to this earth. As we prepare for Christmas, we should remind ourselves that we should also be in constant preparation for the day when Christ comes back to us - whenever that might be.

The word advent comes from the Latin word “adventus” which translates to “coming” or arrival” and the history of Advent goes back to the early centuries of our faith. Early celebrations included times for fasting, prayer and penance. Later Christians adopted the tradition of the Advent wreath which began in Germany in the 1500s. The candles in the wreath represent hope, love, joy and peace - all of which come to us through Christ. In modern times, Advent is a time for reflection, spiritual growth, repentance, and prayer. It is a time to contemplate what the promise and hope of salvation through Jesus means to us in our lives. It is a time to live out what a sign posted on Van Buren Road beckons for us to do - “Have an attitude of gratitude.”

Most importantly, Advent is a time to prepare our hearts and minds to be in the presence of Jesus Christ. Keeping that as a focus can help us to keep the commercial frenzy at bay. Jesus truly is the reason for the season. Let us keep that first and foremost in our hearts and minds as we enter this most joyous time of the year!





From the Deacon's Desk

- Once again this year, the Deacons will coordinate the "Angel Tree Project" to assist families at P.E.A.C.E & the Bee-Full Food Pantry at Baker High School. This project will run from Sunday, December 3rd to Monday, December 18th. Please pick a dove off the tree and purchase the item listed. Bring the gift back wrapped with the dove that you took off the tree attached to the outside of the gift (please use a "sticky" note to attach the dove so we don't rip the paper).
- The Deacons will be delivering "Christmas Bags" to our shut-ins on Sunday afternoon December 17th. If you know of someone you think would especially enjoy a bag, please let Marty Pond know.
- On Sunday, December 10th we will be dedicating our new Cpl. Kyle Schneider Freedom Food Pantry room during our worship service.
- The Deacons will be sending a monetary donation to each of the following organizations to support them during this Holiday season: Baldwinsville Food Pantry (at the Methodist Church), Baldwinsville Christmas Bureau, P.E.A.C.E., Baldwinsville Meals on Wheels and the Cpl. Kyle Schneider Foundation.



Identity Statement

We are a loving family of God, following Christ by practicing our legacy of worship, education, and mission to neighbors.



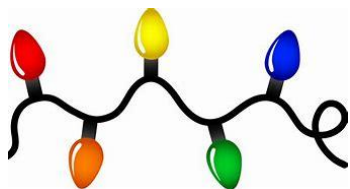
December Birthdays

- 01 – Emily (Soeder) Messmer
- 05 – Samuel Pennock 19 – Doris Hildebrandt
- 10 – Luella Oakes 19 – Rush Pond
- 11 – Lily McCoy 20 – Joshua Prahll
- 13 – Leonard Houck 27 – Jean Castro
- 15 – Bob Pelcher 28 – Anthonia Todd
- 17 – Lynda Barry 30 – Alyce Bullis
- 17 – Christine McGivney

December Anniversaries

08 – Ron & Stephanie Stine

Add your or a loved one's birthday or anniversary date to our list by contacting the church office.



2023 Session Elders

Tricia Adams	Kathy Bowen	Andy Brussel
Mark Chamberlin	Jamie Gruppe	Victor Jenkins
Doug Russell	Stephanie Stine*	

**Clerk of Session*

2023 Board of Deacons

Shane Adams*	Bea Boak	Peg Brussel
Marge Calkins	Andrea Ducharme	Tom Eckrote
Heidi Henderson	Marty Pond*	Nancy Runyans
Martha Stevens	Barb Winegard	
	<i>*Co-Moderators</i>	



The Cpl. Kyle Schneider Freedom Food Pantry

My name is Joseph Warner, and I established the Cpl. Kyle Schneider Freedom Food Pantry because I wanted to make a difference in my community, and I saw the need to help out our local veterans. Due to unfortunate circumstances, VFW post 153 could no longer operate, and with that went the food pantry they had used to supply around 20 veteran families. I did not want these veterans to go without food, so I started talking with the people who worked at the VFW pantry, and asked if I could create a new food pantry to serve these veterans.

After a lot of talking and scheduling, and working alongside the Cpl. Kyle Schneider Foundation, we had relocated the old pantry into a new location, the First Presbyterian Church right here in Baldwinsville, and started the process of stocking the pantry so that we could operate. After a period of fundraising and working on the pantry, we were able to start deliveries in August of this year, and since then we have done a delivery once a month to the veterans. My main goal for establishing this food pantry was to serve the community and to make a difference, and after going on some of the delivery runs, I truly do feel like I am making a change in my community.

-Joseph Warner

Remember in Your Prayers & Correspondence,

♡ HEALTH CHALLENGES
Anthonia Todd

♡ GRIEVING
The family of Patricia "Pat" Johnson, upon her death

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Generally, names remain on the prayer list for one month. Please let the church office know if you wish otherwise.

The December Calendar

Sundays

9:15 – Choir practice in the Choir Room
10:00 – Worship in the Sanctuary

Mondays

6:30 - Bell practice in the Sanctuary

Sat., Dec. 2

7:00 – Tree Lighting, Plainville United Christian Church (our handbells will be playing!)

Sun., Dec. 3

10:00 a.m. – Worship & Communion
2:00 – Worship & Communion at Buckley Landing

Mon., Dec. 4

10:30 – Worship & Music, Media Center

Tues., Dec. 5

1:30 – Book Club, Media Center

Tues., Dec. 12

7:00 – Session, Media Center

Sat., Dec. 16

2-4:00 – Christmas Song Fest

Tues., Dec. 19

7:00 – Deacons, Media Center

Sun., Dec. 24

7:00 p.m. – Candlelight Christmas Eve Worship (also 10 a.m. regularly scheduled worship)

Tues., Dec. 26

The Church Office is closed.

December 3 – Mark 13:24-37

December 10 – Mark 1:1-8

December 17 – John 1:6-8, 19-28

December 24 – Luke 2:1-14 (15-20)

December 31 – Luke 2:22-40



Nursery School News!

Kids start bubbling with excitement at this magical time of year. We work to tie holiday themes into our learning whenever we can. The 4's will have a gingerbread day and get to decorate a gingerbread person and eat it! Our last day before break the 3's and 4's will join together for a Grinch day that culminates with the classic movie and popcorn.

Another thank you to Rush Pond and all who helped fix the soffit of our building and waxed the floors in the Fellowship Hall! All of the projects look fantastic and are much appreciated.

-Jessica Newcomb, Director

First Presbyterian Church:

On behalf of all those who benefited, I would like to thank you for your generous support of the meal program here at the Samaritan Center! Your donation helps us provide a nutritious, well-prepared and dignified meal daily, without conditions to men, women and children.

Your involvement makes it possible to offer a place of safety, hope and opportunity to individuals and families struggling with hunger and poverty. It could not happen without you.

I cannot fully express the difference you make in the lives of those we serve through your support and generosity. I can only offer my sincerest thanks and gratitude for your faith in us and the work we do to help those in need.

With deepest appreciation,
 Mary Beth Frey
 Executive Director, Samaritan Center



*You are invited---*all are welcome to a **Christmas Song Fest** on Saturday, Dec. 16th from 2 to 4 pm in the Fireside Room in the CE building. Since the Covid issues, we have not had an annual Christmas holiday luncheon with caroling and tasty treats.

Nor have we celebrated the Advent season with caroling and cookies---so take a break from shopping, decorating and join us for fun singing some favorite carols and getting some cookie treats. There will be a few instrumental presentations as well as the opportunity to sing. If you would like to join in playing a tune, bring your instrument along with your voice.

If you have a special cookie recipe you would like to share, that is most welcome. Hope you will take a break from the Christmas rush and make a few new memories with our church family.

Remember the reason for the season and keep Christ in Christmas.

Wishing you a blessed and Merry Christmas and healthy and safe New Year.



-Rheta Jenks, Music Coordinator

❄️ Sidewalk Snow Removal Needed ❄️

As we enter into winter, we need to be ready to remove snow from our sidewalks and keep them safe for our church staff, members, and guests and for our PNS staff, parents and children. FPC of Baldwinsville is looking for a reliable individual to take on this snow removal responsibility. We are prepared to pay this individual \$18.00/hr. FPC will provide all equipment necessary including a snow blower, snow shovels, and ice melt pellets. If you are interested in taking on this responsibility, please call Rush Pond at 315-440-6208.

Scouts BSA Troop 107 Updates

Cascade Lake

In September, Troop 107 went to Cascade Lake in the Adirondacks which includes a 2-mile backpack hike into the camp site. After the first night, in the morning, Kevin arrived, then we took a hike to the "lookout point". Later that night John, Josh, and Mr. Armpriester arrived and John, Mr. Armpriester and Evan hiked to the waterfall.



Scholten's Farm

Troop 107 went on a camping trip in October to Scholten's farm! Even though the camping trip was very rainy at times, it was an overall great experience. Some highlights of the weekend are throwing light up Frisbees in the dark, crossing rope bridges, and lots of exploring.

Syracuse Crunch Game

A couple of troops went to the crunch game recently, including Troop 107. We walked out onto the ice with our massive flag. Some people skated by and then we unfolded it and waved it while people sang the national anthem. After we left the rink and folded the flag we watched the game. It was a great experience going out on the ice with our flag.

Scout-O

Scout-O is an orienteering program where scouts go to Highland Forest and do orienteering courses. Troop 107 went to the Scout-O in November. The first course we did was a little under a mile and was pretty easy in my opinion, it was a medium difficulty course.

The second one we did was a little over a mile and was a lot harder, the flags were more hidden, and the actual using of your compass part was harder too. We finished this course then walked around the pioneer museum.

Just something fun to try

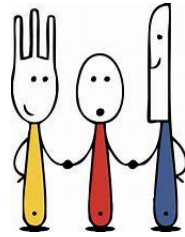
Going around in a circle, starting with a random person, say a word. The last letter of that word the next person has to start with. A twist to throw in if you want to is if the person says a word that starts and ends with the same letter the rotation reverses. Like Ohio.

Church Office – Education Center 64 Oswego St.

*Pastor-----Rev. Kirsty H. Dickson-Maret
 Administrative Assistant-----Elizabeth Bayer
 Clerk of Session-----Stephanie Stine
 Deacon Co-Moderator-----Marty Pond
 Deacon Co-Moderator-----Shane Adams
 Director of Music & Choir-----Rheta Jenks
 Organist -----Lee Johnston
 Nursery School Director-----Jessica Newcomb*

Community Dinner Results!

Approximately 185 meals were served at our November Community Dinner. We alternate months with St. Mark's Lutheran Church so they will prepare December's dinner of ham and au gratin potatoes. In January, our church will host a "mid-winter picnic", a favorite of our guests. Stay tuned for more information!



Christmas Bureau



For over 50 years, the Baldwinsville Christmas Bureau has provided needy families in **our** community with toys, clothing, books, food and household items. Last year, because of generous donors like you, we were able to help over 150 families in the Baldwinsville community have a happy Christmas and Holiday Season. Each registered family received toys for the children, food for the family, boots and winter coats if needed, and household items such as towels, sheets and warm blankets.

We depend on local businesses, churches, school groups, organizations and individuals to help make the holidays a little brighter for those not as fortunate as ourselves. Any size donation can help our local families. Monetary donations are used to buy specific items that we need that are not donated such as winter coats, snow boots, warm blankets, or even a specific toy that a child has asked Santa for!

Another way to help support our endeavor is by encouraging a team effort with employees/groups by adding an extra non-perishable food item or paper or cleaning product to their weekly grocery shopping. By the time that our Christmas Bureau drop off starts, we would have a tremendous start to our food/household collection. For other team/group efforts, please call Lauri Bernstein, Christmas Bureau Coordinator, at 727-5435. We always have plenty of specific needs and requests.

If you would like to make a monetary donation, please make checks payable to the Baldwinsville Volunteer Center and note "Christmas Bureau" in memo area and drop it off at 8200 Loop Rd. Suite 101 in Baldwinsville or dropped off to our site during open hours. This year we will be located on the Baldwinsville School District main campus in the District Operations Building on Albert Palmer Lane. We will begin accepting donations on Sat., Nov. 25th through Mon., Dec. 11th. Please call me at the phone number above with any questions.

Donation Drop off: November 26 – December 12
 M-W-F 10 a.m. – 4 p.m.
 T-Th 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.
 Sat. 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.

-Laurie Bernstein, Coordinator