



Among Friends

DECEMBER, 2023



Pastor Diane's

Christmas Message



Greetings;

December is here and we anxiously anticipate Christmas. You will hear a lot about putting Christ back in Christmas, but the fact is this; there would be no Christmas without Christ. Just try to tell the story of Christmas without Christ...you can't! You can't because Christmas is the story of the birth of Christ.

And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign to you; You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger." Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests."

Luke 2:8-14

Without Jesus the angel would have nothing to say to the shepherds. Without Jesus there would not have been any good news. Without Jesus there would not have been great joy for all the people. Without Jesus there would not have been a great company of heavenly host praising God. Why? Because without Christ a Savior would not have been born. But the fact is this; Christ was born on that first Christmas. And now we have peace, joy, love and hope.

Folks, we have good news to share with others. We have a message the world needs to hear. Christmas is about Christ! He is the hope

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JANUARY
Newsletter
Deadline
DECEMBER 27

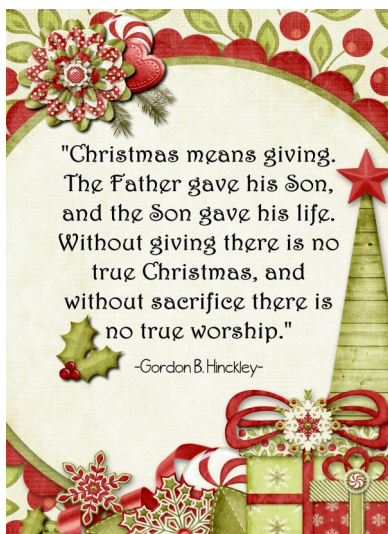
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Worship
With Us

(((ONLINE WORSHIP)))

Click Here

www.friendshippresbyterianchurch.weebly.com



A Message From Our Pastor (continued)

that the world desperately needs. This Christmas share the story of the birth of Christ...the birth of a Savior—our Savior! This truly is Good News!

In His love,
Diane

Frank and I want to wish you all
a very Merry Christmas!

In His love,
Diane



Hanging of the Greens

Thursday, November 30

7:00 p.m.

Christmas is such a special time of year - a time of **celebration, family,** and the **birth of our Lord.** With this in mind, you are invited to join us as we prepare the house of our Lord to celebrate His birth.

What is "Hanging of the Greens"?

Submitted by: Michele Lagnese

"Hanging of the Greens": Why do we do it? What does it mean? It is a custom predating Christ when people would bring indoors, green boughs and branches to sustain them during the dark days of winter without electricity. This carried through to the Christian era. This meant homes, stores, and churches would do much to decorate with evergreens. Remember the church always led the way in the community and not the reverse.

So for hundreds of years, the church has led the way with the remembrance of Christ's incarnation through the evergreens in the church during the Advent season which begins today. At this time we prepare for the one who has come, whom we expect to come, who has come into our lives in numerous ways in various times and places, and the One who will come again. We prepare our hearts. We make room again for the Messiah. In hanging the greens we share with Christians throughout the ages the memory and anticipation of Christ's coming. We decorate our church with these symbols: everlasting life, love, joy, hope, peace, so then even our decorations proclaim: Jesus is born! God is with us! Praise His name forever!

Hanging of the Greens (preachersmagazine.org)

Deadline for
JANUARY
submission of
information is
DECEMBER 27

Submit to:

Sue Datt via

"Snail Mail"
324 S. Main St.
Harrisville, PA 16038

E-mail:
suedatt70@gmail.com

Phone:
724-991-5863

WHAT'S HAPPENING AT FPC?

DECEMBER EVENTS AND SPECIAL DATES

DECEMBER 3



FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

WORSHIP AND COMMUNION SERVICE

Worship begins at 11:00 a.m., Worship Ctr., Sunday School (for all ages) begins at 9:45 a.m.

Congregational meeting to follow the worship service.

DECEMBER 10



SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

WORSHIP SERVICE: Worship begins at 11:00 a.m., Worship Ctr. Sunday School (for all ages) begins at 9:45 a.m.

DECEMBER 13

FRIENDSHIP PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN CHRISTMAS PARTY at 7:00 p.m., at the Community Center. ALL women of the church are invited to attend. Secret Sisters will be revealed and a gift exchange will be held for those to did not participate in Secret Sisters for 2023.

DECEMBER 16

NATIONAL WREATHS ACROSS AMERICA DAY, Wolf Creek Cemetery and Slippery Rock Cemetery Ceremony, 12:00 noon, at Crossroads Baptist Church, 302 Harmony Road, Slippery Rock. Following the ceremony, we ask those who are placing wreaths to travel to the Slippery Rock Cemetery to place the wreaths and following Slippery Rock Cemetery travel to Wolf Creek Cemetery to place wreaths for that location. Following the laying of the wreaths all are invited into the Community Center to reflect on the events of the day, the reason for the day. Light refreshments will be served.

DECEMBER 17



THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

WORSHIP SERVICE: Worship begins at 11:00 a.m., Worship Ctr., Sunday School (for all ages) begins at 9:45 a.m.

DECEMBER 24



FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

WORSHIP SERVICE: Worship begins at 11:00 a.m., Worship Ctr., Sunday School (for all ages) begins at 9:45 a.m.



CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT SERVICE

6:00 p.m., Worship Center.

DECEMBER 25

CHRISTMAS DAY

DECEMBER 31

WORSHIP SERVICE: Worship begins at 11:00 a.m., Community Ctr., Sunday School (for all ages) begins at 9:45 a.m.

THIS WILL BE PASTOR DIANE WHTMAN'S LAST DAY AS OUR PASTOR.

WHAT'S HAPPENING AT FPC?



ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL:

Lessons from the winter quarter will explore faith that pleases God. During the month of December we will look at faith in action through the stories of Ruth and David. We will look at the faith ancestry of Jesus, the faith of Elizabeth and Mary, and the faith of the wise men who sought the true king of the Jews and the Messiah for all nations. All are welcome to join in for a time of Bible study, discussion, and sharing at 9:45 a.m. each week.

YOUNG ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL:

The young adult Sunday school class will be studying from Acts., Galatians, and I Corinthians. They will be studying humility.

We meet at 9:45 a.m. each week.

LOOK FOR THE SIGN!

Submitted by Evelyn Vargo

When driving past the Community Center don't forget to look for the sign!



FRIENDSHIP PRESBYTERIAN COMMUNITY CENTER
WISE MEN
STILL
SEEK HIM
To Book Call: 724-738-0953

FRIENDSHIP PRESBYTERIAN COMMUNITY CENTER
HUGS LIKE
UNWANTED GIFTS
ARE EASILY
EXCHANGED
To Book Call: 724-738-0953



SILENT NIGHT, HOLY NIGHT.....Do you know that if it were not for a broken organ, this beautiful Christmas carol would not have been written? In 1818 near Salzburg, preparing for Christmas Eve, the priest of the Church of St. Nicholas was quite upset when he found that the church organ was broken, thus ruining the playing of the planned music. He was inspired to write a new song that could be sung without the organ. He took it to his organist who wrote a simple tune to go with the words. And so, on December 24, 1818 "Silent Night" was sung for the first time and was accompanied by guitar. The organ repairman heard about this and took a copy of the music and spread it around the Alpine region of Austria. A family of glove makers heard the song and started to use it at various festivals and fairs having their 4 children sign it to attract customers. Their singing caught the attention of many including the king and queen who asked the children to give them a royal performance. And now it's a famous, much loved Christmas hymn. It was first published for congregational singing in 1838. German-speaking congregations in America used the hymn. It appeared in its current English form in 1863 in a book of Sunday School songs.

Submitted by Ruth Keith.

Information from "Then Sings My Soul" by Robert J. Morgan

MISSIONS

... across the street & around the world



Feed My Sheep Food Cupboard:

The Thanksgiving items were delivered. Thank you for your generosity. On the Food Bank's Christmas Wish List are hot chocolate mixes, marshmallows, and popcorn. Please bring items by December 17 for distribution on the December 21. October statistics show that 126 families including 118 adults, 55 children and 80 seniors were served during October, 2023. 8 new families were served. By area, 40 families were from Slippery Rock Boro, 67 from Slippery Rock area, and 19 families were from the Harrisville area.



All Good Things: Our clothing drive continues! Another delivery was made on October 25th. Please keep this mission in mind as you clean out closets.



Operation Christmas Child: Thank you all who donated shoeboxes and/or worked at the drop-off center.

A special thank you to Ruth Keith and Wendi Vukson for their dedication to this project and the hours of work they provide.



Salvation Army Bell Ringing :The day for Friendship Presbyterian Church to ring the bell will be December 23, at Giant Eagle. Please contact Doris Allison to claim your time slot to ring the bell.



Christmas Family: We again are providing Christmas gifts for a family in need. The family is one with children in the Slippery Rock School District. Thank you, Cindy Cross, for arranging this. Sign up sheet to donate a gift(s) is on bulletin board and our due Dec 3.

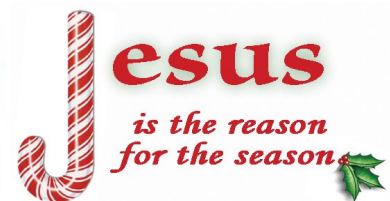
THE STORY OF THE CANDY CANE

Look at the candy cane.

What do you see?

A candy maker wanted to make a candy that would be a witness for his Savior, so he made the Christmas Candy cane. He began with a stick of pure white, hard candy, which symbolizes the Virgin Birth and sinless nature of Jesus. The hardness symbolizes the Solid Rock and firmness of the promises of God. He then formed the candy into a "J" for Jesus our Savior (John 3:16-17) and the staff of our Good Shepherd. He stained it with three small, red stripes representing the scourging Jesus received prior to His crucifixion for our healing. He added one large red stripe to represent the shedding of His blood on the cross for our salvation.

Jesus
*is the reason
for the season.*



Submitted by: Heather Datt

Prayer List

Anne D.
April and Todd Bentley
Bonnie of Georgia
Christy Francine
The Alben Family
Lincoln Alford
Leslie Alford
Doris Allison and Family
Carly Atkisson
Tammy Baker
Zachary Barto
Jan Bloom
Candy Boulanger
Joanne Campbell
Martie Cooper
Louise Corbett
Jeff & Cindy Cross
Heather Datt
Jim Dickey
Robert "Mouse" Dickey
Harold Eichholtz.
Jennifer Gilliland
Donna Grossman

Chris Hogg
Timothy James
Rev. & Mrs. Bill Jamieson
Graham Larimore
Landry Lawson
Joe Lowers
Will McCoy
Kevin Michael
Willard Morse
Randy Morgan
David Parker
Jon Richardson
Bernie Rihel
Bill & Chris Schroeder
George Sonnet & Family
Jane Spencer
Joe Vivelo
Seth Vogan
Benjamin Vukson
The Family of Joan West
Michelle Whitehouse
Megan Lind Zimmer (Joan West's granddaughter.)
Woman from Michigan
Our military at home & abroad

"Is any one of you sick? He should call the elders of the church to pray over him and anoint him with oil in the name of the Lord."
James 5:16

Persecuted Christians around the world
The Alpha Omega Ctr
Feed My Sheep Food Cupboard
Beaver Butler Presbytery
Cooperstown Church
Friendship Church Family
S. R. Community Nursery School
Trevor Wood's Ministry

The people of Israel and those innocent people who have been caught in the crossfire.

The people of Ukraine and Russia, their leaders, the world leaders and the world's people.

Our country and the leaders of our government.

PONDERINGS AT THE END OF A DAY — OR YEAR

GOD'S WORK



OUR HANDS

Dutch Catholic priest and theologian Henri Nouwen found it useful to reflect on several questions at the end of the day: "Did I offer peace today? Did I bring a smile to someone's face? Did I say words of healing?" Pondering such questions may prove valuable at the end of a year as well: "How did I contribute to peace in the world this past year? Did I bring smiles to others' faces? Did I offer words of healing?" Nouwen continued, and we can too: "Did I let go of my anger and resentment? Did I forgive? Did I love?"

Many of us set New Year's resolutions for self-improvement, asking, "What are my goals? How can I better myself, my weight, my work-life balance, my habits?" But Nouwen said of his self-inquiry: "These are the real questions. I must trust that the little bit of love that I sow now will bear many fruits, here in this world and [in] the life to come." His resolution was to share God's love with others. With God's help, it can be ours as well, for each new day and each new year. The Newsletter Newsletter December, 2023



DECEMBER



BIRTHDAYS

Damien Frampton, 12/7
Cindy Cross, 12/9
Donna Grossman, 12/10
Jesus the Christ, 12/25
Nancy Natili, 12/28

FIRST DAY OF WINTER



DECEMBER 21, 2023

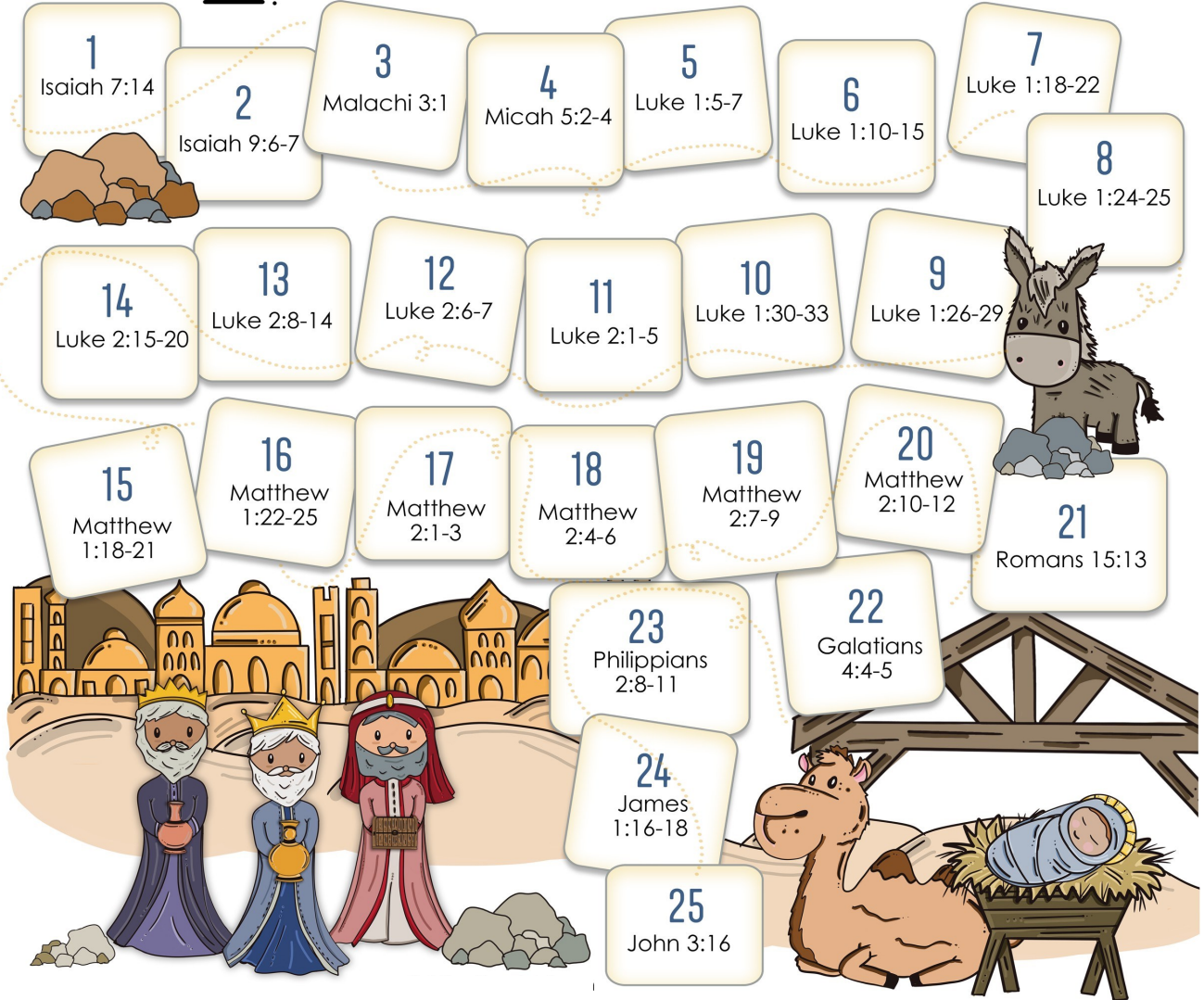
ANNIVERSARIES

Jeremy & Michelle Whitehouse
December 13
Paul & Donna Yanosy
December 30



A CHRIST-CENTERED CHRISTMAS ADVENT READING PLAN

Explore the true meaning of Christmas as you travel through God's Word. Discover God's promises he fulfilled through the birth of His only Son, the **KING OF KINGS.**



1 Isaiah 7:14

2 Isaiah 9:6-7

3 Malachi 3:1

4 Micah 5:2-4

5 Luke 1:5-7

6 Luke 1:10-15

7 Luke 1:18-22

8 Luke 1:24-25

9 Luke 1:26-29

10 Luke 1:30-33

11 Luke 2:1-5

12 Luke 2:6-7

13 Luke 2:8-14

14 Luke 2:15-20

15 Matthew 1:18-21

16 Matthew 1:22-25

17 Matthew 2:1-3

18 Matthew 2:4-6

19 Matthew 2:7-9

20 Matthew 2:10-12

21 Romans 15:13

22 Galatians 4:4-5

23 Philippians 2:8-11

24 James 1:16-18

25 John 3:16



FRIENDSHIP PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
877 Franklin Road
Slippery Rock, PA 16057



From Our House to Your House

Merry Christmas!

Heather & Sue Datt