

A Christmas Promise of Change!



“In that day the wolf and the lamb will live together; the leopard and the goat will be at peace. Calves and yearlings will be safe among lions, and a little child will lead them all. The cattle will graze among bears. Cubs and calves will lie down together. And lions will eat grass as the livestock do. Babies will crawl safely among poisonous snakes. Yes, a little child will put its hand in a nest of deadly snakes and pull it out unharmed. Nothing will hurt or destroy in all my holy mountain. And as the waters fill the sea, so the earth will be filled with people who know the Lord.” (Isaiah 11:6-9 - NLT)

This prophecy is hard to imagine, isn't it? We have a promise that one-day the wolf and the lamb will share the same living quarters. The leopard and the baby goat will sleep together. And a little child will put halters on a lion and a calf and lead them around. The lion will eat straw like the oxen. A little child will reach down into a cobra's den and not be harmed. Hard to imagine. But that's the way it will be one day, according to Isaiah. This is a Christmas promise of change.

Christmas is also a celebration of the birth of Jesus, and a promise of revolutionary change! Because of the Christ child, we do not have to wait for supernatural change. The reality is that the Christ child can save us completely – we can experience radical transformation for day-to-day living! What a wonderful Jesus we have. What a glorious message to share!

Have a very happy and blessed holiday!

Pastor Bill and Sue

Messages from the Diaconate

Advent Readers

The Advent season is a time of expectant waiting and preparation for the celebration of the birth of Jesus Christ at Christmas. Lighting Advent Candles is a way of celebrating the season. Our tradition here at Congregational Church is to have a different member of the congregation light a candle each of the four Sundays during this season. If you would like to volunteer to light an Advent Candle or read a short reading during the worship service, please let Nancy Wolter know. We will also have a sign-up sheet available in the Mayflower Room.

Poinsettias

We have started taking orders for poinsettias. Please consider them a wonderful way to honor or remember loved ones in your life or to simply help beautify our church for Christmas Eve. The cost is \$7.00 each. Look for the sign-up sheets in the Mayflower Room and Sanctuary to place your order and dedication. The last Sunday to order is December 11.

December 2 – Potluck & Hanging of the Greens

Join us on Friday, December 2 for our annual Potluck Dinner. We'll start with dinner at 6:00 pm followed by decorating the Christmas tree and hanging of the greens in the Sanctuary. The Diaconate will provide the ham and you bring your favorite dish to pass. What could be better! Plan to be with us for this evening of good food, fun and fellowship as we prepare our church for this joyous Christmas season.

December 11 – Potluck Fellowship and Concert

Mark your calendars for Sunday, December 11. Immediately after church, we are having a Potluck Fellowship (something a little different) followed by a Christmas concert in the Sanctuary performed by Maddie Kaplan and her friend, Will Dunn. They performed for us last year at our after Christmas Service. Instead of a potluck meal, we are planning a super nice Fellowship hour and are asking you to bring your favorite hors d'oeuvres, appetizers, dips, cheese and crackers, whatever you like. Invite family and friends to join us for this very special morning. One more way we are celebrating the Christmas season.

December 24 – Christmas Eve Service

We hope you and your family plan to join us for our Christmas Eve Service at 7:00 pm. Come and hear the Christmas story. It is a special evening of singing favorite Christmas carols and lighting candles with a short Christmas message by Rev. Kren. Come and celebrate the birth of Jesus.

December 25 – Christmas Day Service

Since Christmas is on Sunday this year, we will be having our usual Sunday morning service at 10:00 am.

Thank you!

Thank you for your offerings to Neighbors in Need. We collected \$145.00. We also collected \$81.00 from our Noisy Offering for UNICEF.

Volunteers for Sundays in December

Your Diaconate needs help Sunday mornings. Please see Nancy Wolter and let her know when you can serve as usher, liturgist, or fellowship host or just add your name to the sign-up sheet in the Mayflower Room. It's just that easy. Thank you for your support!

OUR CHURCH AT WORK In December



Helpers for Sunday Services

Greeters:

December 4 – Ian Haas
 December 11 – Ian Haas
 December 18 – Ian Haas
 December 25 – Ian Haas

Ushers:

December 4 – Polly Fitzpatrick &
 Teresa Curless
 December 11 – Available
 December 18 – Available
 December 25 – Ian & Cole Haas

Liturgists:

December 4 – John Peters
 December 11 – Available
 December 18 – Available
 December 25 – Valerie Haas

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

1 Janice Chapman
 13 Mary Ellen Matchynski
 15 Shirley Fedraw
 18 Brianne Schilbe
 Elizabeth Bilton Rabinowitz
 20 Kathryn Wyneneth
 25 Baby Jesus
 30 Bernice Hartling

Dedication of Flowers - December

December 4 – Teresa Curless
 December 11 – Polly Fitzpatrick
 December 18 – Poinsettias
 December 25 – Elaine Stacho

Fellowship Hour – December

December 4 – Available
 December 11 – Potluck Fellowship
 December 18 – Available
 December 25 – Available

PRAYER LIST



Bernice Hartling	Medical Concerns
Shirley Fedraw	Medical Concerns
Geri Sampson	Medical Concerns
Suzanne Van Ranst	Medical Concerns
Dotty Klein	Medical Concerns
R. Ferguson Family	Healing, spiritual guidance
Gordon Grozdanoff	Medical Concerns
Arline Prois	Medical Concerns
Pauline Gourlay	Medical Concerns
Annika Koch	Medical Concerns
John Langley	Medical Concerns
Kathy Gideon	Medical Concerns
Cathy MacKenzie	Medical Concerns
Mary Ellen Matchynski	Medical Concerns
Tom Schlaff	Medical Concerns
Carol Burroughs	Medical Concerns
Family of Colleen Grozdanoff	Bereavement

Dates to Remember:

December 2 Potluck & Hanging of the Greens 6pm
 December 8 Diaconate Meeting 7pm
 December 11 Potluck Fellowship & Concert 11am
 December 14 Trustees Meeting 7pm
 December 24 Christmas Eve Service 7pm

I'M JUST SAYIN' ...

...with Pat Stacho

Well, another year gone! 2016 is history, and I am still waiting for the man of my dreams to ring my doorbell. You know, the guy with balloons, roses and a poster size check from publishers clearing house. I will give him another chance, 2017 just may be the year.

There are other expectations that didn't happen. Michigan Lottery has not called to interview us, wanting to know our plans for the windfall we've won. Nor have they asked why we spent \$\$ chasing that windfall! And by the way, windfall is such an appropriate word....all that cash, blowing in the wind. 2017 is not likely to be the year. Think I will give up that particular dream.

Weight Watchers hasn't even come close to the miracle I expected. Oh sure, you have to follow the program, but come on, I didn't cheat that much. I'm not sure if I will ever win the battle, but I will never give up the fight. I guess I'll just have to have my vegetables steamed, not on a pizza!

My bathroom didn't get painted. Right now, it's neon green...the green seen in the 60's...remember Hendricks? It wasn't supposed to be neon, the paint chip was a beautiful pale green. I think I should've wallpapered with paint chips!

I have several books I wanted to read...cupboards I planned to clean...my oven needs to be cleaned, desperately! Clippings from magazines, recipes that sounded sooo good. I really need to

organize that mess; there's a recipe for sautéed rutabaga. Really?!? Why did I think that sounded worth trying? This is gonna be easier than I thought. Coupons...lots of coupons! Anyone need a coupon for \$1 off three packs of prunes? Oops, never mind...expired in 2015. Coupons-- gone...all of them. New year, new coupons.

This year hasn't been easy for me, but there have been blessings as well. My granddaughter found the love of her life, and married him. Happily ever after, I pray. My grandson and his wife were blessed with the sweetest baby girl ever. My son, Scott has been my rock, keeping me from going insane! And my Pastor, Rev. Kren, and my church family...you all have been such a blessing. I found strength I had no idea I was capable of. I love you all, I thank you all. (Pete, you drive me crazy, but I'm still crazy about you!)

I have lots of plans for 2017, and they include YOU. Stay tuned folks, this year is going to be exciting. I'm just sayin'...



2016 Men's Club Annual Christmas Tree Sale Update

The Men's Club annual Christmas Tree Sale got off to a great start. On Saturday, Nov. 19th, we started with a hearty breakfast, finished setting up the lot, SAFELY unloaded the truck, and then priced the trees. Truck driver, Bill, was not only on time, but even a bit early and joined us for breakfast. The weather even cooperated as it was calling for cold, blowing winds, and rain Saturday morning. It was a bit cooler, but the winds weren't as bad as predicted, and the rain held off until the pricing of the last 20 trees.

We are still in desperate need of people to man the lot and sell trees. For selling trees, sign-up sheets will be available at church. Selling times will be in the usual 3 hour blocks. We're off to a good start, but we need to finish strong. Please sign up at church or call or email to volunteer.

Thanks to all who helped cooking breakfast, setting up the lot, unloading the truck, and pricing trees.

To volunteer, just call me at 734-454-4555 or email me at JH12253@peoplepc.com.

Jim Haling



The Blessings of Peace
The Beauty of Hope
The Spirit of Love
The Comfort of Faith
May these be your gifts
this Christmas Season.



MERRY CHRISTMAS



A Christmas Coloring Page for our Coloring Club!