

We are here to: Love God, Love our Neighbor and Serve the World.

December 8, 2019 9:00 AM & 10:30 AM

Going Forth To Serve

***Hymn of Going Forth** *I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light*

UMH #206

Gathering in God's Presence

All are welcome to this time of worship, and in this faith community. If you are visiting today, please visit the Welcome table at the entrance

Announcements and Welcome

Greeting One Another

Prelude *In The Bleak Midwinter*
Maddy Hicks

Bringing in the Advent Light

Introit *Christ Be Our Light* Farrell (Congregation sing refrain)
Maddy Hicks, Pete Van Keuren, Jill Zygo

Proclaiming the Word

Scripture Reading Isaiah 40:1-5, Matthew 3:1-11

Special Music (both services) *The Christmas Shoes*
Peyton, Morgan & Brooke Felix, Gianna Leggieri, Patrick Nyhan, Siri Adams

Young Disciples' Time (10:30) Please join in singing vs. 1 of *Jesus Loves Me*

Anthem (10:30) *Come, Gentle Peace* Martin/Martin/Larson
Chancel Choir

***Proclaiming Hymn** *We Meet You, O Christ* vs. 1, 2 UM Hymnal #257

Message *Sacred Encounters* **The Rev. Holly Nye**

Responding to God's Word

Our Tithes and Offerings

Offertory (both services) *Follow the Shepherd* Mindy Smith
Maddy Hicks

***Singing Our Praises** *Doxology* UM Hymnal #94

***Prayer of Dedication**

Our Church Family in Prayer

Prayer Song *Come and Fill Our Hearts* TFWS #2157

Pastoral Prayer

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name; Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil, for Thine is the kingdom, and the power and the glory forever. Amen.

Benediction

Postlude

Flowers on the altar today are given in loving memory of Bill Borthwick, by his family.

WEEKLY CALENDAR

Sunday, December 8 Fair Trade Sale

9 AM Confirmation Class
9 AM Worship followed by Coffee Hour
10:30 AM Worship/Sunday School/Coffee Hour
11:30 AM Youth Choir/Voices of Hope Rehearsal
12 PM Pageant Rehearsal
2 PM Stampin' Up Cookie Swap

Monday, December 9

9 AM Early Birds
7 PM Church Council Mtg

Tuesday, December 10

9:30 AM Tuesday Connection Circle
6 PM Grow Team
7 PM Boy Scouts

Wednesday, December 11

8:30 AM Fixits
9:30 AM Explorers
10 AM Charlton Seniors Christmas Party
6 PM AA Meeting
6 PM Pub Explorations in Theology

Thursday, December 12

9 AM Seekers Book Study
10 AM Snow Date-Charlton Seniors Christmas Party
6 PM Brownies
7 PM Chancel Choir

Sunday, December 15

9 AM Confirmation Class
9 AM Worship followed by Coffee Hour
10:30 AM Worship/Sunday School/Coffee Hour
11:30 AM Youth Choir/Voices of Hope Rehearsal
12 PM Pageant Rehearsal

Christ, Be Our Light!
A Candle Lighting Ceremony for Advent
Words and Music by BERNADETTE FARRELL

Congregation:
Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts. Shine through the dark - ness.
Christ, be our light! Shine in your Church gath - ered to - day.

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The copyright owner graciously grants permission to copy the above Congregational Part, for use by your congregation to join in with the choir while they sing this anthem. No other use of this part is authorized for any other purpose.

We Welcome the Light:

Christ, be our light: lead us, today, and always.

Open our eyes to your light, O Christ; open our hearts to your presence in the faces of others.

Lead us, O Christ, by your light:

As we worship today, and as we go into your world bearing your light and your love. Amen.

***Opening Hymn** *Blessed be the God of Israel* vs. 1, 3 UMH #209

*You are invited to stand if you are able or comfortable

Announcements

TODAY Coffee Hour is hosted by Church Council

Mayan Hands & SERRV Fair Trade Sale Today after both worship services. There will be Christmas ornaments, woven goods, jewelry, baskets, fair trade coffee and assorted chocolates for sale. All proceeds go to organizations that help those in need.

REMEMBER – Giving Tree gifts need to be returned by **TODAY**. It's important that the "ornament" is attached to the gift since this is the only way we have to identify who gets that gift. If you have any questions or problems, feel free to contact Mark or Audrey Witkofsky (399-2796). Thank you all for your generosity.

Red Wagon Sunday Next Sunday is Red Wagon Sunday. Please bring your non-perishable items and place them in the wagon in the foyer. Thank you for your generosity!

The Early Birds Study is held every Monday at 9 AM. An Advent study began November 25. The book is entitled *Light of the World*, by Amy-Jill Levine. **Seekers-Sisters in Christ** also began the same weekly Advent study on Thursday, December 5, at 9:00 AM. For questions, contact Mary Alice Nyhan at 399-6507.

Explorers Bible Study is held every Wednesday at 9:30 AM. Each week, we watch a 30-minute video on some aspect of Christianity. This year's study is titled *The World of Biblical Israel*, by Professor Cynthia R. Chapman. The course traces the history of biblical Israel from its origins (1200 B.C.) to its emergence as a nation, and then, to a pair of kingdoms. It continues with its conquests by Assyria and Babylon, and finally, their return to Israel. Contact Pat or Mike Thomas for more information.

Christmas Offering Our Christmas Offering helps people near and far. This year we will give \$1,000 to Schenectady Inner City Ministries (SICM). This is an organization of many faith groups that support programs to help the poor. \$1,000 will be given in support of our Conference Ministry Shares. \$500 will be given to Chacocente, a community in Managua, Nicaragua. The people who live there formerly lived in the city dump. They now have farms, a school, homes and a better life. \$500 will be given to RISSE, a family based center in Albany that helps refugees and recent immigrants. They offer classes in English and help finding jobs and housing. Shelters of Saratoga (SOS) will receive \$500. This is an outreach program serving people who live on the street. Bethesda House, a day shelter for lonely and homeless people in Schenectady, will be given \$250. Any remaining money will be divided among our three local food pantries in Schenectady, Ballston Spa and Rock City Falls. Thank you for your generous care of people in need. Merry Christmas from the Outreach Commission.

Heifer International It's that time again for chicks and ducks and of course, that ever-popular water buffalo! We'll be collecting donations during coffee hour in Knight Hall December 1, 8 and 15, for this worthy organization that provides livestock and training for struggling and hungry families in underserved and overlooked parts of our world. We were able to donate an "Ark" (\$5,000) last year, thanks to your generosity, and have received a commemorative plaque from Heifer International in special recognition. Thank you for your support, as always! Any questions, please call Joy Walsh at 384-0351.

Christmas Concert The Clifton Park Community Chorus will present a Christmas Concert, Sunday, December 15, at 3 PM at the Shenendehowa UMC. This is a free concert but you may make a free-will donation to their designated charity. Mike Zygo will be presenting a musical interlude between the choral music.

Ushers Needed We have a need for ushers at the second worship service at 10:30. Please consider giving of your service if you are able. Once a month would be all that is required. There is a sign up sheet outside of Knight Hall, or you may talk with Metta (399-6815).

Caroling Please join the caroling fun and holiday joy as BHUMC families bring the Spirit of Christmas to residents of the Glendale Nursing Home on Tuesday, December 17. We will meet at 6:00 PM inside the Glendale main lobby at 59 Hetcheltown Road. Invite your friends to come along. For questions, contact Jill Zygo at 518-859-3734.

Can you count? Because of United Methodist reporting requirements, we need an accurate count of worship attendance at every service. Ideally, one person or a small group would do this each Sunday before Children's Time. Can you help? Please contact the church office.

Shelters of Saratoga SOS's supplies are critically low. They are in need of: sugar, coffee, can openers, bottled water, hearty soups, fruit juice, protein or granola bars, fruit cups, men's boxers (new, M-XL), women's underwear (new, M-XL), insulated boots, gloves, socks (new), body wash, razors, small propane tanks, sleeping bags, tents, umbrellas, shelf-stable milk, hand wipes and D batteries. There will be a bin in the foyer as well as in the hallway under the mailboxes for you to drop off any donations, or you may take them to 14 Walworth St. in Saratoga, from 7 AM to 10 PM. Thank you for your generosity.

Pastors' Email Addresses

Lead Pastor, Rev. Holly Nye: hn@nycap.rr.com

Associate Pastor, Rev. Doug Mackey: pastdm@gmail.com

Burnt Hills

United Methodist Church

December 8, 2019



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