



**Salem First United
Presbyterian Church is:**

Alive!

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Christmas Voices

It should come as no surprise to anyone that I “hear” the season of Advent and the mystery of the Nativity in song. To share my experience I have excerpted words from music which is familiar to most of us to focus on the anticipation of Advent and the joyous birth of Christ. The selections are from hymns, folk songs, spirituals, Handel’s Messiah (many are direct quotes from the gospel set to music by the composers). It is my hope that you recognize the pieces and hear them as you journey through Advent to the birth of Christ. When you lift your voices in the songs of this season (of which there endless numbers) may you take to your heart the messages set to music.

I wonder as I wander out under the sky, how Jesus the Savior did come for to die. For poor common people like you and like I, I wonder as I wander out under the sky.

Isaiah ‘twas foretold it, the rose I have in mind....Of Jesse’s lineage coming, as men of old have sung...True man yet very God, From sin and death he saves us and lightens every load.

The Angel Gabriel from heaven came. His wings as drifted snow...”All hail” said he, “O lowly maiden Mary, most highly favored lady...For know a blessed mother you shall be....Your son shall be Emmanuel, by seers foretold”. Then gentle Mary meekly bowed her head, “To me be as it pleases God,” she said

On Jordan’s bank the Baptist’s cry announces that the Lord is nigh...

..and he shall purify. He shall reign forever and ever. King of Kings and Lord of Lords... Behold thy king cometh unto Thee.

Now Joseph and his wife Mary came to Bethlehem that night. They found no place to bear her child, not a single room was in sight. And by and by they found a little nook in a stable all forlorn. And in a manger, cold and dark, Mary’s little boy child was born.

While shepherds watched their flocks by night, all seated on the ground. The angel of the Lord came down, and glory shone around. Fear not said he for mighty dread had seized their troubled minds. For you in David’s town this day is born of David’s line, the Savior who is Christ, the King...

Behold that star, behold that star up yonder...It is the birthday of a king.

Sweet little Jesus boy, they made you be born in a manger. Sweet little holy child – didn’t know who you were. Didn’t know you’d come to save us Lord; To take our sins away. Our eyes were blind, we couldn’t see, We didn’t know who you were.

Mary did you know that your baby boy is Lord of all creation? Mary did you know that your baby boy will one day rule the nations? Did you know that your baby boy was heaven’s perfect lamb...and when you kiss your little baby, you’ve kissed the face of God.

Sweet little Jesus boy, they made you be born in a manger.....Didn’t know you’d come to save us Lord, to take our sins away. Our eyes were blind, we couldn’t see. We didn’t know who you were.

And while we celebrate the birthday of our Savior, keep in mind the end of his story. How God sent His only begotten son to atone for our sins.

Prayerfully, Sylvia Graham

Elder of the month

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Special points of interest:

- Articles for the ALIVE! Are due in no later than the 20th of the month.
- Hanging of the Greens on Dec 6th
- Arrival of Christmas Plants in Sanctuary Dec 13th
- Decorating of Tree in Sanctuary on Dec 20th
- Annual Cookie Sale Saturday Dec 12th

From the Pastor

Greetings sisters and brothers in Christ, may God always shine his light upon you. As you are reading this we have started the Advent season. As I recall my own childhood and even my adulthood and what this time means to me, I am also reminded that there are people in this village, county, state, country, and world who do not know what Advent really means or there is a period before Christmas that doesn't involve shopping, parties, or decorations.

Webster's Dictionary defines Advent as *"a coming into place, view, or being; arrival. The period beginning four Sundays before Christmas, observed in commemoration of the coming of Christ into the world; typically Christ's Second Coming."*

As I read the definition and as I have reflected the past year at First United Presbyterian Church, I have noticed how we are living out Advent in many ways; not just in December but year round. Focusing on "a coming into place, view, or being;" the church has grown over this past year in many ways. We have grown closer together as a church. We have grown together spiritually. We have started "coming into place." As we discuss and discern over the next year we will look at view or being.

This Advent Season, as we anticipate Christ's next coming, as we celebrate and remember that first day when a small teenage peasant girl gave birth to our Lord and Savior so many years ago, may we also celebrate God's undying love for us. *"For God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten Son, so that whoever believes in him will not perish, but have eternal life."* (John 3:16, NASB)

May we share this joy to the world. May God's face shine upon you, may the light from the Prince bring you peace, may the Spirit hold you close as we proclaim to the world, Emmanuel!

Michael Barron, CRE

Committee Reports

Worship & Music

WORSHIP AND MUSIC COMMITTEE MEETING NOVEMBER 15, 2015

The Worship and Music committee met in the chapel following coffee hour on November 14, 2015 with the following present: Michael Barron, worship leader, Chairman Helen Simmons, Rev. David Simmons, Sylvia Graham, Nancy Bardwell, Jean Skellie, Linda Bischoff, and Jane Keys. The meeting was opened with prayer.

The minutes of the last meeting were approved by a motion made by Sylvia, seconded by Linda. Carried.

OLD BUSINESS:

Linda will ask for an estimate to tune the organ, and also call to have piano tuned.

Michael reported he had spoken to Rev. Laura Mitchell, West Hebron United Presbyterian Minister and the local Presbyterian churches are invited to join together for Worship and carry in brunch the Sunday following Christmas, December 27th. The committee discussed this kind invitation and all agreed our church congregation participate. Michael will talk to Debbie at some point, and suggest we get together to worship with the Methodist another Sunday this winter.

Thanksgiving service will be at Holy Cross Sunday November 22, 2015 at 4:00 p.m. Herb Arnold; Minister from the Community Church will bring the message.

Brought up again about paying musical talent for Anthem, this was discussed. Michael will bring issue before the Session.

Marie Bell did get a price quote for recording church services/sermons from Ray Supply in the amount of \$2,031. Part of the cost could perhaps come from memorial money that is left, in memory of Dolores's sister Beverly, and Marie has offered \$500. Discussed how the system would be technology handled by member/members to take on this task. Following discussion, a motion was made by Jane, seconded by Sylvia that this be tabled until the New Year. Carried.

NEW BUSINESS:

Discussed worshipping in the Sanctuary this winter, a motion was made by Jane seconded by Sylvia to hold services in the Sanctuary all winter. The committee was in favor of winter worship to be in the Sanctuary and the motion was approved. In this discussion the Worship committee will try to maneuver the congregation to sit on one side of the church, preferable the "sunny side" as we seem to have the feeling of closeness more so when worshipping in the Chapel.

Linda suggested that the Introit in the bulletin be listed as "Congregational Introit: Michael will take care of this.

ADVENT THIS CHRISTMAS:

Helen and David will get the center Christ candle at Hobby Lobby if possible.

Discussion of the need to purchase new candle lighters to replace worn out old ones. Helen and David will check at Holly Lobby to see if they sell them. Linda offered to donate \$25 toward this purchase.

The 1st Sunday in December we will need to have the wreaths for the "Hanging of the Greens", Nancy said she will order four of them.

It was suggested we ask Dale McNeil if he would again donate a Christmas tree for the church. Jane will talk to Tom, Helen and David will take care to getting the tree.

Lighting of the Advent Candle: Suggestions were:

1. Mary VanDewater & Nancy Rountree
2. Delores Phaneuf & Diane Jilek
3. Norma, Jean & Kim Skellie
4. Neal & Thane Rea

A motion to adjourn at 12:15 by Jane seconded by Jean and carried in favor. Closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Submitted by Jane Keys

Faith Filled Friday's

November was a short month for FFF, as there were only two meetings. We accomplished a lot in those two meetings though! We discussed with the kids what it meant to be truly thankful for what we have. We created a list on our white board of things we are thankful for and then a list everyday essentials for living that we tend to take for granted. We explained to them there are children around the globe that don't even have the 'essential list', or if they do have access to something like water, they may have to walk miles to get it, and carry it miles back to there home, and more than likely it is contaminated. From this discussion we created mini-posters that we hung on the pillars of the sanctuary to remind us of these essentials, to remember that they are truly blessings in our lives. We carried that into a discussion about the food pantry and it's job of feeding those who do without. We created 'popcorn bags' to be placed into the Thanksgiving baskets. It was simply a small bag of popping corn, with the reminder that the pilgrims' first winter was harsh and without food for many. It became a tradition amongst the pilgrims in the following years to leave 5 kernels of corn by their Thanksgiving plate as a reminder of God's provision. For many that was all they ate in a day, those 5 kernels of corn, during that first winter. On the back of the cards the kids wished those receiving the baskets a Happy Thanksgiving, handwriting each card. They stuffed over 100 bags, tied them off, then went on to make Thanksgiving cards for their families and a poster for the church! It was truly a wonderful way to celebrate this heartwarming season! We are looking forward to making Christmas cookies for the Mission Cookie Sale in the next couple of weeks.

Amy Thetford

Session Notes

Session met Thursday November 19, 2015

Minutes from the October 21st meeting were approved.

	For October	Year-to-Date
Revenue	\$3,138.39	\$46,814.26
Expenses for October	\$2,513.65	\$40,048.48

Building & Grounds – Still waiting on contractor's to have availability to give an estimate on the final part of the sealing of the basement (foundation walls and grading of water away from the building.) Due to the time of year and snow possibly arriving at any time we will pursue again starting in late February/ early March.

Clerk's Report – Communion served on Nov. 1 by Michael Barron, CRE; David Simmons, HR served communion to two at home. Mary VanDeWater was admitted into church membership. Building requests came from the Rotary Club for Nov. 12 and Feb. 11 as a fundraiser for the Salem/Shushan Fuel Fund. Their International Dinner on April 7 and a Blood Drive scheduled for Jan. 13. Diane Jilek requested use for another Adult Craft Day on Dec. 2 Arna Thibeau requested use of the chapel for a free community Thanksgiving Dinner. All approved. Kits were assembled for Church World Services and the Christmas Child Shoeboxes were taken to Samaritan's Purse.

Worship & Music – Continued discussion regarding recording the service and tabled further discussions until the New Year. Selected the readers for the Advent candle lighting. We have been invited to worship with other Presbyterian churches on the Sunday after Christmas and will join with West Hebron, Greenwich, East Hebron, Sushan, Cambridge, and possibly Granville. Christmas Eve will be one service at 7 pm with Communion.

Historical Restoration – no report

Christian Nurturing Team – no report

Pastoral Care & CRE Report – reported time spent and how which is above the 12 hours a week. Starting to look at the future of the church and excited for 2016. Rev. David Simmons, HR will be starting the Advent Study that involves discussion and materials drawn from "Christmas is Not Your Birthday" by Mile Slaughter.

Discussions also included a review of the first draft of the 2016 budget, Advent and Christmas, and a change to the Terms of Call for Michael. Planning to have our investment person and Insurance rep at a future meeting to give us information and update Session.

After serving as Clerk of Session for many years, Dolores has resigned as Clerk of Session effective the New Year. She will be available to mentor her replacement. Session is making decisions and phone calls with possible replacements.

Mission Team

Your Mission Team has been busy coordinating some of the many projects that are carried out in our church during the year. With the generous support of the congregation, 3 baby kits, 1 clean up bucket with cleaning supplies; 12 school kits, and 16 hygiene kits were completed and sent to Church World Service for distribution in areas hit by natural disasters. 18 Children's Christmas Shoeboxes filled with variety of gifts were sent to Samaritan's Purse's "Operation Christmas Child" for distribution to children in the United States and abroad. Our annual fund raising Pig Roast added \$583 to the Mission Treasury; and we are looking forward to the fun and fellowship of the annual Christmas Cookie Sale on Saturday, December 12. The "Giving Tree" will be ready to collect mittens, hats, scarves, socks, underwear, etc., after Christmas. Items will be given to the school nurse for distribution. Mission Team members will be reading a "Minute for Mission" during the four Sunday's of Advent. We are anticipating the arrival of an Outdoor Nativity Set for the front lawn, with money given in memory of Beverly McMorris Lloyd.

\$94.50 was collected in October for "Fourth Sunday Four Cents a Meal". Half of the money from this monthly collection is kept here for local food projects and the other half is sent to the Presbyterian Disaster Assistance Hunger Program. Many in the congregation are also regularly contributing food to the local Food Pantry. A final RADA Cutlery order will be sent December 8th and will be back before Christmas -- catalogs are on the table in the chapel.

As we "wind down" from all of the projects of 2015, we look forward to 2016 as God leads us to carry on the mission of the church. We thank you for your continued support and invite you to join us, or give suggestions for projects. Currently the team members include: Neal Rea as Moderator; Marilyn Hanby, Charlie Perry, Helen Simmons, Rev. Dr. David Simmons, Amy Thetford, Arna Thibeau and Dolores Phaneuf. Steven Burgess is an unofficial member.

The Deacons

The Deacons met on November 16th at 12:30. We discussed prayer shawls as well as "These Days". We will be getting poinsettias for the seniors and delivering them after the next meeting held in December. We also discussed the estimate for new equipment from Ray Supply, to record the Sunday sermons. Marilyn is on the nominating committee.

Submitted by Nancy Bardwell

Prayer Requests

If you need a prayer or wish to place someone on the prayer list, please complete this form, or one found in the Narthex, and give it to an usher or deacon.

Name of Prayer recipient: _____

Cause for joy or concern: _____

You name (optional): _____

Birthdays/Anniversaries

December Birthday's

1st Carol Rea
9th Tyler Skellie
24th Kevn Baylor
26th Sherry Skellie
31st Jason Kraeling

December's Anniversaries

If you would like a birthday or anniversary published in the Alive!, Please contact the church office at 854-9471

Announcements

Christmas Eve Service to be held on December 24th @ 7 pm. Only one service this year that will begin as we have during the Advent season, "in darkness" and build to the light and joy to the world of our newborn king. All are invited and come as you are.

Mug sales still continue. There is a blue sheet to complete and give to Amy Thetford or Marie Bell. Next month we will give a total so far and include something for outside orders.

Our service the Sunday after Christmas will be celebrated with our fellow Presbyterian sisters and brothers at West Hebron Presbyterian Church @ 10:30am. Neighboring churches (West/East Hebron, Shushan, Granville, Cambridge, and Greenwich have all been invited). Service will be casual, fun hymn/carol sing. Greenwich will be arranging to bring their chimes followed by a coffee hour after. If anyone wishes to bring something to share, please let Michael know so he can pass the info on to West Hebron.

Prayers & Concerns

Those in our prayers during the last month:

Losee Family	Janet
Helen Simmons	Families under stress
Donna Flint-Wheeler	
	Doug & Linda Bischoff
Shirley(Dolores' sister)	The people of France & Beirut
Our Veterans	Those who suffer in silence

Each month we will list all of the people that we have had in our prayers for the past month. If you should have anyone you would like to add to our weekly list please place their names in the offering plate during Sunday worship or call the church office, 854-9471, by Friday at 3 PM. **Please notify when name is to be removed.**

Long Term Prayer Consideration

Donna Holmes	Hanna Goldman
David Fleming	Elsie Jackson
For those battling addictions	Homeless
Emergency Services Workers	Sasha Blake
	Jordan Bardwell
All the Armed Forces	

In Nursing homes:

Roberta "Bert" Moore

Christmas cards/messages can be sent to:

Bert Moore @ The Orchard, Room #17, 10421 State Route 40, Granville, NY 12832

Hospital Admittance Update

Due to HIPAA (Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act) the Salem First United Presbyterian Church will not be notified if you, or a loved one, are hospitalized. **Please call a deacon or leave a message on the church phone (854-9471) to let us know that you, or a loved one, have been hospitalized.**

When admitted, be sure to list Salem United Presbyterian Church as your affiliate and give permission to release the information so that Rev. Simmons, Michael, or a Deacon can visit. **Otherwise, your admittance and room number may not be available.**

December 2015

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
6 Second Sunday of Advent Hanging of the Greens 10 am Worship	7 6 pm Cub Scouts 7 pm Boy Scouts	1 10 am Choir Rehearsal	2 8:30am Bible Study 10 am Adult Crafting	3 9:30 am Line Dancing	4 2:30 pm FFF	5
13 Third Sunday of Advent Arrival Christmas Plants 10am Worship 11:30am Worship & Music Committee Mtg	14 6 pm Cub Scouts 7 pm Boy Scouts	8 10 am Choir Rehearsal	9 8:30am Bible Study 1 pm Women's Club	10 9:30 am Line Dancing	11 2:30 pm FFF	12 10am Cookie/Bake Sale
20 Fourth Sunday of Advent Decorating of Tree 10am Worship 11:30am Worship & Music Committee Mtg	21 6 pm Cub Scouts 7 pm Boy Scouts	15 9 am—3pm WIC Clinic 10 am Choir Rehearsal	16 8:30am Bible Study 11:30am Soup & Sandwich Luncheon 7pm Session	17 9:30 am Line Dancing	18 12pm Christmas Luncheon 2:30 pm FFF	19
27 10:30am Worship @ West Hebron Presb. Church (hymn/carol sing)	28 6 pm Cub Scouts 7 pm Boy Scouts	22 10 am Choir Rehearsal	23 30	24 CHRISTMAS EVE 7pm Christmas Eve Service	25 CHRISTMAS DAY	26
		29 10 am Choir Rehearsal		31 NEW YEAR'S EVE		

Church Address:
13 West Broadway
Salem, NY 12865

Church Phone Number:
854-9471

Worship Leader: Michael Barron, CRE
518-338-9492

Pastoral Care: Rev. David Simmons, HR
Phone #

Clerk of Session: Dolores Phaneuf
Phone #

At First United Presbyterian Church:

We believe that God calls everyone to serve one another with whatever gift each of you has received so that God may be glorified in all things through Jesus Christ!

Join us on Sunday's for worship, music, and fellowship!
Service begins at 10 AM

We're on the Web!
www.salemmyfirstupchurch.com

"This Newsletter is made possible through our giving to
First United Presbyterian Church"

Service Schedule for December 2015

Elder of the Month: Sylvia Graham

Sunday, December 6th

Reader: Kim Skellie
Coffee Time: Valerie Roche

Sunday, December 20th

Reader: Nancy Rountree
Coffee Time: Kay Tomasi
Jane & Tom Keys

Sunday, December 13th

Reader: Ruth Ihne
Coffee Time: Jean & Norma Skellie
Dolores Phaneuf

Sunday, December 27th

Worship @ West Hebron Presbyterian Church
Coffee Time: If interested let Michael know