



**Salem First United  
Presbyterian Church is:**

# Alive!

Volume 50, Version 11

December 2017

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**Special points of  
interest:**

- Rotary Fuel Fund Feast, Friday, December 1st 5pm
- Annual Christmas Cookie Walk, Saturday, December 9th at 10 am!!
- Articles for the ALIVE! Are due in no later than December 28th
- Hanging of the Greens December 10th!!!
- 4 Cents a Meal Collection November 24th

## A Note From The Pastor

### Home for the Holidays

By Rev. Donna Frischknecht Jackson

As Advent begins, I can't help but to get a little nostalgic. We all do, don't we? For a box of carefully packed ornaments holds more than just sparkly glass balls. Treasured memories are packed in there too. We take each one out and remember the funny moments. We wipe a tear away with each sprig of holly we hang remembering those who are no longer with us. We wonder when did the children grow up so quickly when we find old pictures of them sitting on Santa's lap.

For me, I find myself gently dusting off the manger my father made from a wooden orange crate and look forward to hearing him sing "Silent Night" in German as I always make him do when he comes to visit. And, as I gently put a now-fragile gold star on top of my tree, I think of how that star sat for many years on my grandmother's tree. She's gone now. Her house in New Jersey is no longer there. Yet that star transports me back to her living room and her smile.

This year, though, I have been transported back to a special place that I have yearned to be once again — and it's not just a memory that I cannot physically touch. I am home with a congregation and a community that I can truly say is my family. I am with you, people I can cry with, hug and laugh with, and glorify God with.

And as Jane Keys and Albert Murn go out into the fields and hills of Salem collecting the evergreen for what is the most beautiful Advent wreath I have ever seen in a church; I find myself remembering my first Sunday with you.

December 2, 2007. I was nervous. It was my first Sunday as a newly ordained pastor. It was the first time I was three-plus hours away from my parents. It was the first time I would celebrate the sacrament of the Lord's Supper. It was a Sunday of many firsts. But my nerves quickly calmed down as I watched the beloved tradition of "The Hanging of the Greens" done during the opening hymn. I felt more at ease as I looked over at the Advent wreath made with fresh, local greenery. I heard the stories from you of Christmases gone by and of the holiday traditions of the white church. I marveled at the homemade nativity made by former pastor, Charlie Murn. I took note that there was communion celebrated on Christmas Eve and heard how beautiful the sanctuary would be when encircled by the light of the candles held by all who would come and worship and close out the service with "Silent Night."

These are memories I treasure and traditions I am looking forward to celebrating once again here at First United. I am grateful beyond grateful to God for bringing us together again. I can't wait to see that circle of candlelight on Christmas Eve. But most of all, I can't wait to see the new memories, the new blessings, the new traditions that God has for us.

It is good to be home — again.

May this Advent season of expectant waiting for the promise of Emmanuel — God with us — be a blessed one and may the joy of Christmas overflow in our hearts.

## When You Thought I Wasn't Looking

Mary Rita Schilke Korazan

When you thought I wasn't looking, I saw you hang my first painting on the refrigerator,  
And I immediately wanted to paint another one.

When you thought I wasn't looking, I saw you feed a stray cat,  
And I learned that it was good to be kind to animals.

When you thought I wasn't looking, I saw you make my favorite cake for me,  
And I learned that the little things can be the special things in life.

When you thought I wasn't looking, I heard you say a prayer,  
And I knew that there is a God I could always talk to, and I learned to trust in Him.

When you thought I wasn't looking, I saw you make a meal and take it to a friend who was sick,  
And I learned that we all have to help take care of each other.

When you thought I wasn't looking, I saw you give of your time and money to help people who had nothing,  
And I learned that those who have something should give to those who don't.

When you thought I wasn't looking, I saw you take care of our house and everyone in it,  
And I learned we have to take care of what we are given.

When you thought I wasn't looking, I saw you handled your responsibilities, even when you didn't feel good,  
And I learned that I would have to be responsible when I grow up.

When you thought I wasn't looking, I saw tears come from your eyes,  
And I learned that sometimes things hurt, but it's all right to cry.

When you thought I wasn't looking, I saw that you cared,  
And I wanted to be everything that I could be.

When you thought I wasn't looking, I learned most of life's lessons that I need to know to be  
A good and productive person when I grow up.

When you thought I wasn't looking, I looked at you and wanted to say,  
"Thanks for all the things I saw when you thought I wasn't looking."

# Scriptures

## Monthly Scripture Readings

The Scripture readings you will hear December will come from the following readings:

December 3rd	First Sunday of Advent Isaiah 64:1-9; Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19 1 Corinthians 1:3-9; Mark 13:24-37
December 10th	Second Sunday of Advent Isaiah 40:1-11; Psalm 85:1-2, 8-13 2 Peter 3:8-15a; Mark 1:1-8
December 17th	Third Sunday of Advent Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11; Psalm 126:1-6 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24; John 1:6-8, 19-28
December 24th	Christmas Eve Isaiah 9:2-7; Psalm 96:1-13 Titus 2:11-14; Luke 2:1-14 (15-20)
December 25th	Christmas Day Isaiah 52:7-10; Psalm 98:1-9 Hebrews 1:1-4 (5-12); John 1:1-14
December 31st	New Years Eve Isaiah 61:10-62:3; Psalm 148:1-14 Galatians 4:4-7; Luke 2:22-40

## **Special Thank You**

Thank you to the local Boy Scouts that so willingly assist our congregation with little and sometimes big tasks. For example, moving the tables and chairs for us. You are a great help!

## **NEWSLETTER ARTICLES**

Please get the information for any and all of the exciting activities that will occur the month of January to Holly Keys ([holly.keys@aol.com](mailto:holly.keys@aol.com) or call 854-3975 before 8 pm or drop something in her box in the business office at the church (just let her know its there)) by Sunday, December 28th. Thank you!!!

## History and Use of the Advent Wreath

The Advent wreath visually marks the time leading up to Christmas and symbolizes the increasing light as Christ draws near to us. The use of such wreaths began as a family devotional practice in German homes in the 1600s. Widespread liturgical use only dates back to the middle of the 20th century.

Each of the four purple candles around the periphery of the wreath marks one of the Sundays in Advent; the white Christ candle in the center is lit on Christmas Eve. The *Book of Common Worship* (165-166) provides scripture readings to accompany the lighting of each candle. You may also consider singing subsequent verses of the same Advent hymn each week as the candles are lit. Some Advent wreaths include a pink candle. This custom can be traced to medieval practice that set aside the third Sunday in Lent (and later, Advent) as an occasion of joy and a respite from the rigors of the penitential season. If your Advent wreath has a pink candle, you may light it on the third Sunday of Advent.

Over the years, some have attached particular interpretations to individual candles, such as shepherds, angels, wise men and Mary; or hope, faith, love and joy. Far more important than any direct correlation of candle to a special meaning, however, is our growing celebration of Jesus' birth and anticipation of Christ's coming again.

Taken From : [presbyterianmission.org](http://presbyterianmission.org)

## Deacons Report

The Deacons met on November 13<sup>th</sup> in the Chapel for their Monthly meeting. It was nice to have Pastor Donna and Rev. David Simmons join us.

We discussed how our Soup/Ice Cream Social went on Wednesday, November 1<sup>st</sup> at the church. Forty invitations were sent out by Nancy Rountree. Among those invited were the people who graciously filled our pulpit and those able to attend enjoyed and appreciated being invited. The tables decorated for fall were very pretty and we had five delicious soups, make your own ice cream sundaes donated by Stewarts, with cookies to enjoy. The afternoon provided wonderful fellowship, and a great time was enjoyed by all.

The Deacons will be reaching out to our shut-ins with visits and special treats this holiday season.

Our next meeting is December 11<sup>th</sup> at 1 p.m. anyone is more that welcome to join us.

Submitted by: Jane Keys, Secretary



## Mission Team

Your Mission Team has been busy securing Christmas Projects - both to give and to receive. We meet once a month and for the past few months it has been on a Friday night. Here are the results from Friday the 17th.

We are planning the **Christmas Cookie Walk** for Saturday, December 9 from 10:00 till 1:00. There is a sign-up sheet on the table in the chapel if you would be willing to make some cookies, or/and helping the day of the sale. The Cookie sale is one of two money-making projects that provide funding for mission projects (the other is the annual Pig Roast in Oct.). This is also a great time for fellowship, not only with members of the congregation, but with customers coming to select and purchase from the variety of cookies on display. The price of the cookies this year will be \$8.00 per pound.

Some other projects that the Team coordinates with everybody "pitching in", are for specific causes with proceeds going to that project including: Salem Summer Lunch, Learn and Play - the summer children's program held at the courthouse; The Salem/Shushan Fuel Fund that assists with fuel bills and is overseen by The Rev. Debbie Earthrowl.

Plans are also beginning for the annual **Free Give Back To Community Dinner**, started several years ago in memory of Cal and Millie Chapman, This is held on Martin Luther King Day, Monday, January 15th. Members of the Mission Team supply the main items, which have been Turkey, Ham, Baked Beans, Macaroni and Cheese, Lasagna. The Congregation is invited to add to the Team's choices using our usual "sign-up" sheet. There has always been a great variety of delicious casseroles and other side dishes to feed everyone who attends.

We provided 3 choices for **Christmas Giving Gifts: Christmas Children's Shoebox**, which is now finished. 8 boxes were taken to the Distribution Center. The two that are left are **Local School Family Christmas** and **Washington County Elderly Shut-ins**.

**The Local School Family** items are due at the Church by Dec. 10. Gifts are for 2 teenage boys. A sign-up sheet for the family is attached to this newsletter. Contact Amy Thetford.

**Washington County Elderly Shut-ins** The visiting nurses in the County give us identities of elderly, house-bound clients that they visit. If you desire to participate in this project, the needs/wants list is on the table in the Chapel and is also included here. The contact person is Dolores - 518-854-7275. These gifts need to be in by Dec. 10.

**The Giving Tree** will be set up after Christmas to collect hats and mittens for the local school nurse to distribute to children when needed. These can be purchased or handmade, but should be un-used.

Amy and Neal plan on setting up the **Nativity Set** on the Church Front Lawn at 10:00 Saturday, December 2. Charlie Perry has a long lead cord, and Neal will furnish the bales of hay to anchor it.

Steven Burgess purchased a used microwave, and is making it available where needed.

We continue to collect **used postage stamps** to send to Jane Hanks for education and mission projects in her church in Florida

The next Mission Team meeting is at 6:00, Friday, December 15 at Dolores' house.

Submitted by Dolores Phaneuf

## Christmas Giving Gifts

### Washington County Residents- Housebound - Christmas

I asked for more details, but they did not send many. You can supply for 1 person or one item for one person. These are all elderly. Please enclose the number and letter with gift ( the number is the nurse and the letter is the patient.) These are due at church by December 10. Further questions - see Dolores

- 1.a) **Female:** Sweater - Size Medium; Sweatpants; Socks
- 1. b) **Male:** Diabetic Socks; Hannaford gift card; ----- Blanket - (Throw blanket would be great)
- 1. c) **Female:** Blanket (throw blanket); Fuzzy Socks; DD Gift Card
- 1. d) **Female:** Stewarts Gift Card; Pajamas XL
- 2. a) **Male:** Hat/Gloves; Stewarts Gift Card
- 2. b) **Male:** Tops - XL ( flannel long sleeve); Hat/Gloves
- 3. a) **Female:** Hannaford Gift Card; Hat/Gloves; Sweat Pants - Size Medium
- 4. a) **Female:** Hat/Gloves; Dog Food, Dog Toys; Head Bands, Hair Clips
- 4. b) **Male:** Blanket (Throw); Hat/Gloves; Flannel Top XL
- 5. a) **Female:** Price Chopper Gift Card
- 6. a) **Female:** Hannaford Gift Card; Hat/Gloves; Fuzzy Socks
- 6. b) **Female:** Top-XXL (Cardigan floral sweater) Christmas Decoration  
(Someone has already signed-up for 6.b)
- 7. a) **Female:** Movie; Top -XXL (floral sweater); Blanket (Throw)
- 8. a) **Female:** Cat food;/Toys; Sweater - Medium
- 8. b) **Male:** Hat/Gloves; Warm Blanket (Throw)

### LOCAL SCHOOL FAMILY CHRISTMAS Questions - See Amy Thetford

Boy age 14: Shirt - size L - 14-16; Pants- size L - 14-16

Boy age 17: Shirt- size L - 16-18; Sweat Pants L - 16-18

**Family:** Household Goods (such as Blankets, Towels; anything will be appreciated);  
Gift Cards from local establishments, or VISA Card that can be used anywhere;  
(Travel any distance may be difficult for them)

There is a sign-up sheet in the Chapel or contact Amy Thetford Gifts due Dec. 10

## Birthdays/Anniversaries

### December Birthday's

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

### December Anniversaries

If you would like a birthday or anniversary published in the Alive!, Please contact the church office at 854-9471 or holly.keys@aol.com.

## 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): \_\_\_\_\_



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**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.salemnyfirstupchurch.com](http://www.salemnyfirstupchurch.com)

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

**Service Schedule for  
December 2017**

**Elder of the Month: Shared Among  
Session Members**

Sunday, December 3rd

Reader: Kim Skellie  
Coffee Time: Ruth Ihne  
Marie Bell

Sunday, December 17th

Reader: Nancy Rountree  
Coffee Time: Dolores Phaneuf  
Jean & Norma Skellie

Sunday, December 10th

Reader: Ruth Ihne  
Coffee Time: Valerie Roche

Sunday, December 24th

Reader: David Simmons  
Coffee Time: Kay Tomasi  
Jane & Tom Keys

Sunday, December 31st

Reader: Diane Jilek  
Coffee Time: FIFTH SUNDAY CELEBRATION