



Salem First United
Presbyterian Church is:

Alive!

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December 2018

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Advent

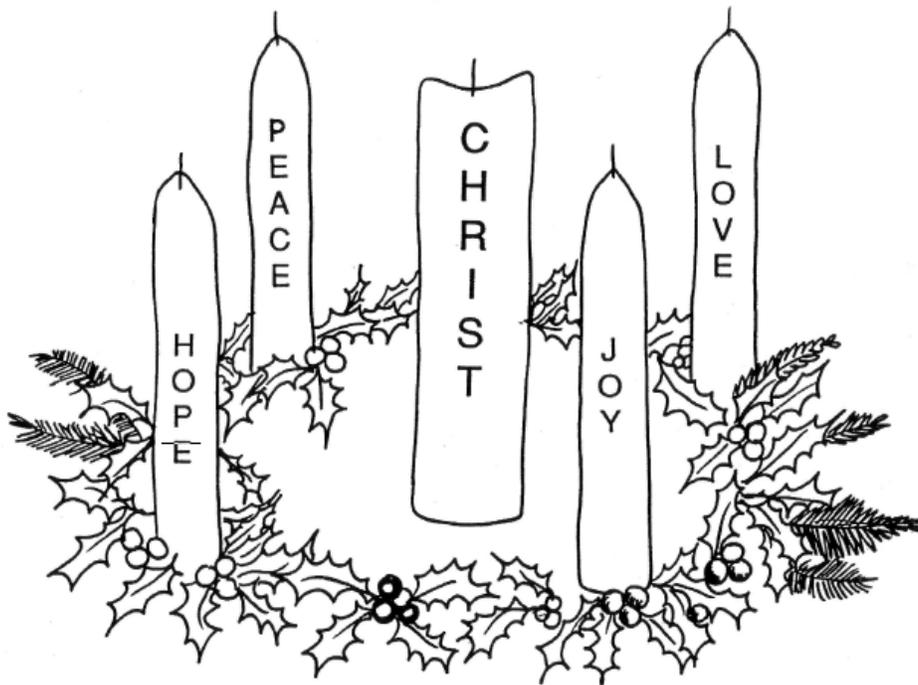
Special points of interest:

- Adult Crafts December 1st 10 am—2pm
- Annual Cookie Sale December 8th 10am
- Articles for the ALIVE! Are due in no later than December 23rd
- 4 Cents a Meal Collection December 23rd
- Fifth Sunday Celebration December 30th
- Session Mtg December 11th
- Fuel Fund Dinner December 6th 5pm

Note of Thanks

The rush of the holidays are upon us, but I just wanted to stop and take a moment to thank everyone for their tremendous help in getting our Halloween message out into the community this year! You see, normally I have this all planned out well ahead of time. It seemed, though, to be one of those things pushed to the back burner this year. But I got a helpful nigggle from good old Jean Skellie, whispering a wonderful pumpkin message to me through Facebook Messenger. CHOOSE LOVE. Simple. Beautifully stated. Loved it. Thank you Jean! Now to get the pumpkins. Seems I waited just long enough when a Facebook message from a local farm said all remaining carving pumpkins are \$1.50 each! Awesome! I scooted right down there and got those picked up before they were picked over, buying 2 extra in case some rotted. Wouldn't you know, the day we were carving there were 2 rotten pumpkins. Thank you God for having me buy 2 extras! So here we were, Marie, Jean, Alberta, Charlie and myself, scooping and carving away! We had it done in no time flat. Charlie and Marie met me the next day to set up on the hay bales, thoughtfully donated and delivered by our wonderful Phil Rea (who, by the way, with the help of some other scouts, repaired the rope and pulley in the bell tower so now we can ring it again!! Did you know that?!?!). Again team work got those pumpkins and lights set up in record time. Now comes the hard part for me. It was the first time in I don't know how many years, that I didn't get to see the finished product in the dark, get to see the community's reaction, the kids laughter and excitement as candy was passed out. This is the first year I had to work on Halloween. So thank you to all who passed out candy, Pastor Donna, Marie, Pat, David, and I hope I'm not missing anyone else. I'm so sorry if I am. And a huge thank you to all in the community who posted pictures on Facebook of our pumpkin message. You see, it wasn't just the church posting pictures. I saw that message posted by A LOT of people in our community, not just our congregation, OUR COMMUNITY, and beyond. It was so inspiring to see. So as bittersweet as it was for me not to be there, it was more than heartwarming for me to see people share our message. CHOOSE LOVE. It really is that simple.

Submitted by, Amy Thetford



Mission Team

Your Mission Team met Thursday evening at Dolores' house, which for this season of the year is the farmer's time. Beginning in the spring we will meet at 7. This arrangement is much easier for Dolores and is much warmer than the chapel. We greeted Pat Laslo, who decided to join the team, although all members of the congregation are invited to attend. Actually, ALL members of the congregation are members. We are a caring church and we are here to help others. The congregation is very giving to all of our projects.

Neal Rea is our moderator, David Simmons takes the minutes on his computer and Amy Theftord takes charge of the money (both received and expended). Other members of the Team are Helen Simmons, Marilyn Hanby, Steve Burgess, Charlie Perry and Dolores Phaneuf. If you would like to join us, see one of the members. We welcomed our latest member at the last meeting—Pat Laslo, and she is very anxious to get busy. Mary VanDeWater is also joining, but she does not drive at night, but there are many activities that she can be a part of and assist with.

The Annual Cookie Sale is Saturday, December 8th from 10am—2pm (OR UNTIL SOLD OUT). Since our congregation is declining, we hope that everyone could provide a few extra cookies or other confections (candy, popcorn balls, gingerbread men, Puppy Chow (Chex Mix, chocolate, peanut butter and 4X sugar)) or anything else that you would care to make. Cookies are sold by the pound and will still be \$8 per pound. They are weighed on a scale as you make your selection. A pound equals a good-sized paper plate full. Everyone gets a disposable plastic glove and a regular sized paper plate. It is not only a cookie sale, but a great time for fellowship and everyone has a good time. This year we will need a second person to help at the weigh station. It is too hard to weigh cookies and put the plate of goodies in a bag. We will have 2 stations this year, the cookie station and one selling our newest cookbook .

We are planning the 3rd church cookbook. The first one was published about 32 years ago and contains many recipes that are still popular today. For that cookbook, also published by a church cookbook publishing company, we first ordered 200 copies and then, not too much later, we ordered another 100! These too were sold out , but we did not order any more. There have been many requests to obtain a copy. This one is going to contain some of the previous recipes. The book will be divided into 3 sections; a memorial section, all of our current recipes and recipes used for this year's Christmas Cookie Sale. I believe that we will be able to have it printed for about \$25. Nancy Rountree is designing the cover, using one of her paintings. It is beautiful!

We are also planning for the first part of 2019. On January 21, Martin Luther King Day, we will have our Annual "Give Back to the Community Dinner", in memory of Millie and Cal Chapman. This is a free dinner, with the Mission Team furnishing the main meal and the congregation bringing the desserts. This is also a great time to visit with your neighbors, and meet new ones. Some people even come from out of our area, and many come year after year. All are welcome.

If anyone would like to help with any of the activities please see Dolores. There is a job for EVERYONE! We hope that you will be able to participate in one or more of the activities.

Submitted by -

Dolores Phaneuf

Meaning of Advent

“Advent” means “coming” or “arrival.” During the season of Advent, we celebrate Christ’s coming into the world and watch with expectant hope for his coming again. In its historical origins, the season of Advent was patterned after the season of Lent, a six-week period of penitence and preparation for Easter. Similarly, the four weeks of Advent present an opportunity for communal discernment and personal examination, as the church prepares to celebrate the Nativity of the Lord and looks with hope for Christ’s return.

Between memory and hope

An excerpt from the *Companion to the Book of Common Worship* (Geneva Press, 2003, 96)

In Advent we expectantly wait for the One who has already come. We anticipate the promised justice of God’s new world, yet we praise God who raised the “righteous branch” to rule with justice and righteousness. We hope for the restoration of the afflicted, the tormented, and the grieving, yet we delight that healing has come in Christ. We long for the beating of swords into plowshares, yet we rejoice that the Prince of Peace has appeared. We yearn for the barren deserts of our inner cities to flourish, yet we laud the desert Rose that has bloomed. We dream of the land where lions and lambs live in harmony, yet we acclaim the child born to lead us into the promised land.

Christ has come! Christ is risen! Christ will come again! In Advent, we are living between the first and the second coming of the Lord. The dialectical tension of *maranatha* [alternately translated “Come, our Lord!” or “Our Lord has come”] — placing us between memory and hope, past and future — may strengthen our Advent liturgies. Perhaps we need to cling to the ancient cry of *maranatha!* and its paradoxical meanings so we may freely embrace “the new thing” prophesied by Isaiah (Isaiah 43:19) that God is doing among us right now. The tension and paradox we find in Advent shapes our celebrations during the season.

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.

Giving Update

NOVEMBER 2018: Income: \$ 2,971.68 Expenses: \$ 4,842.62 **DEFICIT: \$ 1,870.94**
Year To Date: Income: \$48,610.18 Expenses: \$66,890.03 **DEFICIT: \$18,279.85**

So far this year we have transferred \$20,000 from our portfolio account to help cover expenses.

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): _____

Scriptures

December Scripture Readings

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

December 2nd	1st Sunday of Advent Jeremiah 33:14-16; Psalm 25:1-10 1 Thessalonians 3:9-13; Luke 21:25-36
December 9th	2nd Sunday of Advent Malachi 3:1-4; Canticle Luke 1:68-79 Philippians 1:3-11; Luke 3:1-6
December 16th	3rd Sunday of Advent Zephaniah 3:14-20; Canticle Isaiah 12:2-6 Philippians 4:4-7; Luke 3:7-18
December 23rd	4th Sunday of Advent Micah 5:2-5a; Psalm 80:1-7 Hebrews 10:5-10; Luke 1:39-45 (46-55)
December 24th	CHRISTMAS EVE Isaiah 9:2-7; Psalm 96:1-13 Titus 2:11-14; Luke 2:1-14 (1-20)
December 25th At Dawn	CHRISTMAS Isaiah 62:6-12; Psalm 97:1-12 Titus 3:4-7; Luke 2:(1-7) 8-20
Christmas Day	Isaiah 52:7-10; Psalm 98:1-9 Hebrews 1:1-4 (5-12); John 1:1-14
December 30th	1Samuel 2:18-20, 26; Psalm 148 Colossians 3:12-17; Luke 2:41-52

December 2018

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
2 1st Sunday of Advent Worship 10am	3 Cub Scouts 6pm Boy Scouts 7pm	4	5 Bible Study 8:30 am	6 Line Dancing 9:30am Fuel Fund Dinner 5:00 pm	7	1 Adult Crafts 10-2 8 Annual Cookie Sale 10am-?
9 2nd Sunday of Advent Worship w/ Michael Barron Hanging of the Greens	10 Cub Scouts 6pm Boy Scouts 7pm	11 Session 6:00 pm	12 Bible Study 8:30 am	13 Line Dancing 9:30am	14	15
16 3rd Sunday of Advent Plants into Sanctuary Worship 10 am Worship & Music 11:30am	17 Cub Scouts 6pm Boy Scouts 7pm	18 WIC Clinic 8:30 am	19 Bible Study 8:30 am	20	21	22
23 4th Sunday of Advent Worship w/ Michael Barron Decorate tree 4 Cents a Meal Collection ALIVE Deadline	24 CHRISTMAS EVE Christmas Eve Service 7:00 pm	25 CHRISTMAS	26	27 Line Dancing 9:30am	28	29
30 Fifth Sunday Celebration 10 am	31 NEW YEARS EVE					

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Clerk of Session: Marie Bell
Phone # 518-677-3020
E-mail: tmbellz@aol.com

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

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

Service Schedule for December 2018

Sunday, December 2nd

Reader: Kim Skellie

Coffee Time: Mary VanDeWater
Amy Thetford

Sunday, December 9th

Michael Barron

Reader: Ruth Ihne

Coffee Time: Marilyn Hanby
David & Helen Simmons

Sunday, December 16th

Reader: Nancy Rountree

Coffee Time: Nancy Bardwell
Neal Rae

Sunday, December 23rd

Michael Baron

Reader: David Simmons

Coffee Time: Diane Jilek
Nancy Rountree

Sunday, December 30th

Rev Lois Wolff

Reader: Diane Jilek

Coffee Time: Fifth Sunday
Celebration