



**Salem First United
Presbyterian Church is:**

Alive!

Volume 50, Version 11

December 2016

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

Submission from 2015 that still holds true

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Special points of interest:

- Articles for the ALIVE! Are due in no later than the 29th of the month.
- 4 Cents a Meal Collection December 25th.
- See page 3 for schedule of events for Advent

Scriptures

Monthly Scripture Readings

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

- December 4th **Second Sunday of Advent**
Isaiah 11:1-10; Psalm 72:1-7, 18-19
Romans 15:4-13; Matthew 3:1-12
- December 11th **Third Sunday of Advent**
Isaiah 35:1-10; Psalm 146:5-10
James 5:7-10; Matthew 11:2-11
- December 18th **Fourth Sunday of Advent**
Isaiah 7:10-16; Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19
Romans 1:1-7; Matthew 1:18-25
- December 24th **Christmas Eve**
Isaiah 9:2-7; Psalm 96:1-13
Titus 2:11-14; Luke 2:1-14(15-20)
- December 25th **Fifth Sunday of Advent**
Isaiah 52:7-10; Psalm 98
Hebrews 1:1-4(5-12); John 1:1-14

Thank you to the Boy Scouts for.....

Inviting our Church congregation to their annual turkey dinner at the Fish and Game Club November 5th. Dolores, Diane, Nancy Bardwell, Jane & Tom attended. It was wonderful!!! They showed power point pictures of some of their recent trips and activities. Replacing bulbs in the Sanctuary candelabra so they are all glowing!!!

Newsletter Articles

Please get the information for any and all of the exciting activities that will occur the month of October to Holly Keys
(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 Thursday, December 29th. Thank you!!!

Mission Team Report

Your Mission Team met on Thanksgiving Eve to make plans for projects during the Christmas Season, and to hear the reports on past projects:

+ The Operation Adopt A Soldier Scavenger Hunt proved to be very successful. 8 large plastic totes of goods were taken to OAAS headquarters in Saratoga by Charlie Perry, to be packed and shipped to our troops overseas. Many community members who had not received a bag called and asked how they could donate; and numerous people thanked us for providing the project. Suggestions have been given to involve more people and have another in the Spring.

+ Motion made and APPROVED to donate \$100 dollars to each: Local Food Pantry and to the School Backpack Project - money to come from the 4Cents A Meal Collection.

+The Nativity Set will be set up on front lawn of the church during the first week of Advent.

Dawn Rea has completed the plaque that it was given in memory of Beverly McMorris Lloyd.

+Final plans were made for the Annual Christmas Cookie Sale to be held Saturday, December 3rd from 10:00 to 1:00. Also approved raising the price from \$7 to \$8 per pound. We will be looking for donations of cookies from the congregation.

+Instead of the Operation Christmas Child Shoebox project, we are going to adopt a local family and provide Christmas Gifts. A list of suggested gifts will be available.

+The Mitten Tree will be set up after Christmas to collect mittens and hats for the local school children. These will be collected on the 4th Sunday in January and be given to the school nurse for distribution when needed.

+ We will host the Free Community Dinner in memory of Cal and Millie Chapman on Martin Luther King Day, January 16, 2017. Some of the Mission Team have already decided their donations and will furnish turkey, baked beans, ham and scalloped potatoes. Members of the congregation will be asked to bring a dish to pass.

Our next meeting is set for Tuesday, December 27 at 6:00 at the home of Dolores Phaneuf. Members are invited and encouraged to attend and give their input in projects for Mission.

Submitted by Dolores Phaneuf, Sec./Treas.

Bible Study and Worship

An Advent Bible study began Wednesday 23, with Adam Hamilton's 5 session DVD and our group's discussion, "*Not a Silent Night: Mary looks back to Bethlehem*". In this newest study, we are led with Jesus' mother to remember key events and Jesus, beginning at the end of Mary's life which we learn may have been 15 years following Jesus crucifixion. Each following week of study we move with Mary in her memories, closer toward Jesus earthly birth. For the church, what may seem most clear is a basic question, Now what are we to do? We invite you to join us when possible, to share with us what it might mean to live the Christian life today.

First Sunday in Advent -- David Simmons

Second Sunday in Advent -- David Simmons

Third Sunday in Advent -- Lois Wolf

Fourth Sunday in Advent -- Lois Wolf

Christmas Eve 7 pm, Lessons and Carols with Communion and candlelight -- David Simmons

December 25th Christmas Day 10 am Worship -- David Simmons

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): _____

December 2016

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
4 2nd Sunday Advent Rev Dr David Simmons Hanging of The Greens Worship 10am Movie Afternoon 2 pm	5 Cub Scouts 6pm Boy Scouts 7pm	6	7 Bible Study 8:30am Adult Crafts 10 am	8 Line Dancing 9:30am	9	10 Cookie Sale 10 am
11 3rd Sunday Advent Rev Lois Wolff Worship 10am	12 Cub Scouts 6pm Boy Scouts 7pm	13	14 Bible Study 8:30am Session 7pm	15 Line Dancing 9:30am	16 FFF 2:30pm	17
18 4th Sunday Advent Rev Lois Wolff Worship 10am Worship & Music 11:30 Cub Scouts 4 pm	19 Cub Scouts 6pm Boy Scouts 7pm	20 WIC 9am—3:30pm	21 Bible Study 8:30am	22 Line Dancing 9:30am	23	24 Christmas Eve Candlelight Service 7pm
25 Christmas Day Rev Dr David Simmons 5th Sunday Advent 4 Cents a Meal Collection Worship 10am	26 Cub Scouts 6pm Boy Scouts 7pm	27 Mission Team 6pm	28 Bible Study 8:30am	29	30	31 New Year's Eve

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Pastoral Care: Rev. David Simmons, HR
Phone #692-7859

Clerk of Session: Marie Bell
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.salemnyfirstupchurch.com

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

**Service Schedule for
December 2016**

Elder of the Month: OPEN

Sunday, December 4th

Reader: Kim Skellie

Coffee Time: Ruth Ihne
Marie Bell

Sunday, December 11th

Reader: Ruth Ihne

Coffee Time: Valerie Roche

Sunday, December 18th

Reader: Nancy Rountree

Coffee Time: Dolores Phaneuf
Jean & Norma Skellie

Sunday, December 25th

Reader: David Simmons

Coffee Time: Kay Tomasi
Jane & Tom Keys