

WEEKDAY WORDS

Thursday, December 8, 2022

SUNDAY WRAP-UP – ADVENT 2

The Byrds kicked off worship with their #1 hit from December 4, 1965 – *Turn, Turn, Turn*. Anelia, Ellie and Carol lit the Advent candle of peace and then Alex gathered the children to discuss the ways that we can seek peace from God. Pastor Vicki borrowed from our devotional called “These Days”, helping us consider the practice of peace. The Tioughnioga Ringers, under the leadership of Jan Jeffers, rang out a medley of joyous music for this season. We celebrated Communion as we walked forward to receive God’s grace. After worship, Linda Homer and her family hosted a sumptuous Coffee Hour.

THIS SUNDAY – ADVENT 3 **CHRISTMAS PAGEANT**

Our children and youth have been working for several weeks to prepare a very special Christmas Pageant. Clara and Jack portray a child who struggles with fear and a parent’s efforts to help his child get to bed. Asked for just one more bedtime story, the grown-up offers an ancient story about God’s unfolding good news – love will have the final word. The story includes Mary, Joseph and King Herod who look a lot like Maddie, Alex and Daniel. We’ll have a donkey (Landon), many young sheep (Reid, Asher, Luca, Anderson, Sawyer, Theo, Miles and Roosevelt) and even an Emma-star. During the service, Alex and Luke Bertram and their family will light the Advent Candle of Joy. Nursery care is available. Plan to stick around for the “Cast Party” (coffee hour) hosted by the adults in Faith Formation. Envelopes will be available for the UCCs special Christmas Fund offering that supports low-income, retired clergy.

NEXT WEEK’S CALENDAR

Tuesday 2:00 Senior Fellowship will meet
We think it would be fun to share our favorite Christmas foods with one another. If you are able, bring a sample of one of your favorite holiday foods to share with the group (along with the recipe!). We will sing some favorite Christmas Carols, as well.

6:30 Deacons will meet in the Board Room

7:00 Trustees will meet in the RFR

Friday 12:15 United Presbyterian Church
Organist, Paulette Fry offers a 30-minute concert from the beautiful organ at UPC.

A SUGGESTION FROM THE OUTREACH TEAM

Looking for a way to support a child in Cortland this Christmas? Gift tags are still available on the tree at the YWCA Cortland (14 Clayton Ave, Cortland) to offer gift assistance to children in their Bridges for Kids program. Gifts would be due back to the YWCA unwrapped by Friday, December 16. Learn more at www.cortlandwyca.org or by calling the front desk at 607-753-9651.

We are receiving donations toward the Christmas Poinsettias. Mark your donations “Christmas Flowers” and leave them in the offering plates. After the Christmas Eve service, feel free to take a flower home.

THE WEEK BEFORE CHRISTMAS

Sunday, Dec. 18

Advent IV

9:30

Faith Formation Party – Barbara & Laurel Harte-Westover
Celebrating Christmas AND Hanukkah! Snacks & presents included.

10:30

Choir Sunday

Jenna McConnell and her family will light the Advent candle of Love.
The Burtsons will host Coffee Hour. Stick around for pie!

3:00

Christmas Caroling & Visiting – Youth Group & Friends

Calling everyone to join us as we bring holiday cheer to some of our family of faith. We'll gather at church, then head out to deliver our best holiday greetings.

Thursday, Dec. 22

6:30

Blue Christmas

In the midst of the holiday celebrations, we pause to acknowledge that this is not a happy season for everyone. In some homes, there will be an empty chair and someone missing. The diminished hours of daylight or the deepening cold invite depression, loneliness, anxiety. We will gather to support one another and to grapple with reality that feels dissonant to the season. Come for some beautiful music and quiet reflection all bathed in candlelight.

Saturday, Dec. 24

4:00

Celebrating Jesus

Bring the kids to meet Michael the Mouse and Chaha the Chickadee. Michael and Chaha will help us celebrate Jesus' birth. We'll view the manger from the perspectives of a mouse and a chickadee.

7:00

Lessons and Carols

This is the traditional service of six lessons and many of our favorite Christmas carols. Maddie Kuszniir and her family will light the Christ Candle on the Advent Wreath, and our choir will sing. Joe Ford and Andrea Herzog will offer music from the piano and organ and we will be gifted by a Trombone quartet. At the end of the service, we'll light candles in celebration of this holy night that brings JOY to the world.

Sunday, Dec. 25

Stay home as you join us in worship. We plan to tape the service for Christmas Day. The link will go live on Christmas morning. God bless us, everyone!

Other tidbits:

- Hanukkah begins on Monday, December 19. Each evening from Dec. 18 – the 26th, we will gather at the bandstand at 4:30 PM to light the menorah. Join us whenever you are able. The gathering lasts about 20 minutes.
- If you are interested in hosting coffee hour in the new year, the sign-up sheet is in the RFR.
- We are taking a break from the “give away table” in the RFR until February.