

WEEKDAY WORDS

Thursday, November 30, 2023

LOTS OF INFORMATION Edition

FRIDAY

Beginning at 6:30, our Cortland Hospice will host the annual *Light of My Life* event on the green. Our choir is singing some Christmas carols in the bandstand...feel free to join us.

SATURDAY – POTLUCK & DECORATING

It really IS the most wonderful time of the year as we prepare to decorate the sanctuary for Christmas. This Saturday, beginning at 5:00, it's a dish-to-share dinner for the entire family. To make clean-up easy, we are bringing our own place settings. After dinner, the kids will go with Alex for a special Advent craft project. Youth and adults will make the beautiful transformation happen. One more thing...don't miss the **Ugly Sweater Contest**. There will be prizes for two categories: adults & kids. We can't wait to get together for an evening of decorating, feasting, and shared family fun.

THIS SUNDAY – ADVENT 2

Faith Formation for all ages meets at 9:30 AM.

Pre-K: Mark & Sheri will supervise as the kids learn about wise people.

K – 12 will work together to prepare for the Christmas Pageant.

Adults: *Starting Point* will discuss week one of John Pavlovitz's *Low*.

This Sunday is communion and we will receive new members. Kelley Brown, Jack Carr, and Kathy Rutan will light the Advent candle of Peace. Using Gayle Boss's book *All Creation Waits*, Alex Faulkenbury will share about the painted turtle's preparations for the shorter days of winter. Pastor Vicki will consider the image of peace found in Isaiah 2. Belinda Burtson and Russ Pedersen are the Deacon and Trustee of the month. Stick around afterward for coffee hour hosted by the Menard-Sieffert family. If you cannot attend in person, find our worship service live stream on Facebook, YouTube or at www.homercc.com

2:00 PM Concert at United Presbyterian Church: Whitechapel Bells & Organ Pipes
Jan Jeffers plays with this group and we're sure it will be a great concert.

THIS WEEK

Monday Staff meeting at 10 AM.

Tuesday Faith Formation will have a meeting via Zoom at 6:30 PM.

Wednesday Worship & Music will meet at 6 PM.

Friday Hanukkah begins. All are welcome to join us at the Menorah on the green.

Saturday Choir practice at 9:30 AM.

NEXT SUNDAY

It is the 3rd Sunday of Advent, so three generations of the Schmidt family will light the candle of Joy. Additionally, it's the day of our Christmas Pageant and we are **all** a part of the storytelling. Stick around for coffee hour, hosted by our youth.

COSMOS HILL CHRISTMAS LIGHT SHOW

Seiberts' annual Holiday Lights & Music has begun. Drive by any evening from 5 – 10 PM. Tune your car radio to 107.7 FM for the music and then enjoy 10 holiday songs synchronized with the lights. The address is 4390 Cosmos Hill and the show continues through January 7.

AN INVITATION TO TEA

For everyone who is free on **Tuesday, December 12 at 2 PM**, join Pastor Vicki for a "spot of tea". If you wish, bring a teacup that is special to you. The hot water will be on. We'll share some festive time over tea and a piece of pie!

CELEBRATING WITH OUR JEWISH SIBLINGS

Hanukkah begins on Friday, December 8. Each evening at 4:30 PM, come to the menorah on the green for a brief liturgy as we join with our neighbors in this region to light the candles. We gather for only 15 minutes each evening until (and including) December 15.

BLUE CHRISTMAS SERVICE

If we are honest, the holidays can be emotional. For some of us, it has been a difficult year filled with life-changing events and/or the usual wrestling with depression, addiction, finances, or health. People who provide care to loved ones can feel drained. Thursday, December 21 is the day that has the fewest hours of sunlight in the entire year. That evening, we will gather in the sanctuary at 6:30 for a Blue Christmas Service. Come and light a candle as we recognize that life is sometimes really hard. We won't fix it, but we can be in solidarity with one another.

...AND, OF COURSE – CHRISTMAS EVE

Sunday, December 24th we will celebrate two services:

10:30 AM Family-friendly service followed by a cupcake coffee hour.

7:00 PM Lessons & Carols and a "Family-Tradition Cookies" coffee hour.

AN INVITATION TO GENEROSITY

Poinsettias:

Soon we will add 25+ poinsettias to beautify the sanctuary. If you would like to contribute to the cost of the flowers, envelopes are available at the doors of the sanctuary. Leave your contribution envelope in an offering plate, and then on Christmas Eve, take a flower home with you. We welcome you to take a flower to someone who is homebound, as well.

Christmas Fund offering:

December 24 is also the day for the last of the special offerings for our UCC denomination. The Christmas Fund provides relief for clergy and laity who serve God in various capacities within the Church.

Warming Stations in Cortland:

Recently, the Deacons provided financial support to the two "Warming Stations" in Cortland. Their gifts of \$1,000. to the Salvation Army and to Grace and Holy Spirit Church were designated to assist in caring for people who desperately need a warm place to be whenever the temperature dips below 32. We are glad to provide some help for God's children in Cortland County.

Lunch Box Campaign:

We were delighted to hear that the recent Lunch Box Campaign netted **\$561** for the Homer Food Pantry. Special thanks to Clay & Gail Benedict and Bry Meyka for coordinating this effort. In addition, the new *Willow Lane Farm House* on Main Street in Homer collected and donated several boxes of food.

JANUARY IS COMING!

Reduce the Risk:

Everyone who volunteers to work with children or youth is required to take our Reduce the Risk training. Led by Alex Faulkenbury and Stef Fellows, you may attend one of the following sessions:

Saturday, January 6	9 – 11 AM (at church)
Sunday, January 7	11:45 AM – 1:45 PM (at church)
Thursday, January 11	6:30 – 8:30 (via Zoom)

Watch for registration information in your email.

Annual Meeting reports:

Annual Meeting is scheduled for **Sunday, January 21**. We must publish the reports two weeks in advance, which is January 7. All chairs of all boards, teams, and committees should submit a report on behalf of your group by the end of December. Please submit your report as a Word document, using Georgia Font size 12. Thanks for helping the booklets come together on time.

WHEN YOU PRAY:

When you pray, please include these names and situations.

Mew Members: Kelley Brown, Jack Carr, and Kathy Rutan

Healing Presence: Dottie, Gary, Isayah, Laurel, Marcia, and Stef.

Comfort: the Wilson family & the families of everyone listed on the Hospice boards on the green.

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

1	Bry Meyka
3	Dottie Kelley, Amanda McCaslin
8	Rachel Rood
12	Evan Faulkenbury, Roosevelt Thomsen
15	David Ford, Brianna McKane
18	Terry Pedersen
23	Jennifer VanSlyke
29	Erin (Leach) Gavidia
30	Clara Faulkenbury
31	Elise (Schmidt) McCall