

CHIMES

November/ December 2013

First United Presbyterian Church--35 Park Place-- Silver Creek, New York 14136
716-934-2018

Mark Your Calendar

11.30

Church Decorating

12.1

Caroling in the Park

12.4

Taizè Service

12.11

Deacons/Property Meeting

12.15

Advent Concert

Annual Tea

12.18

Session Meeting

12.21

Family Breakfast

12.22

Communion

12.24

Christmas Eve Service

12.25 & 12.26

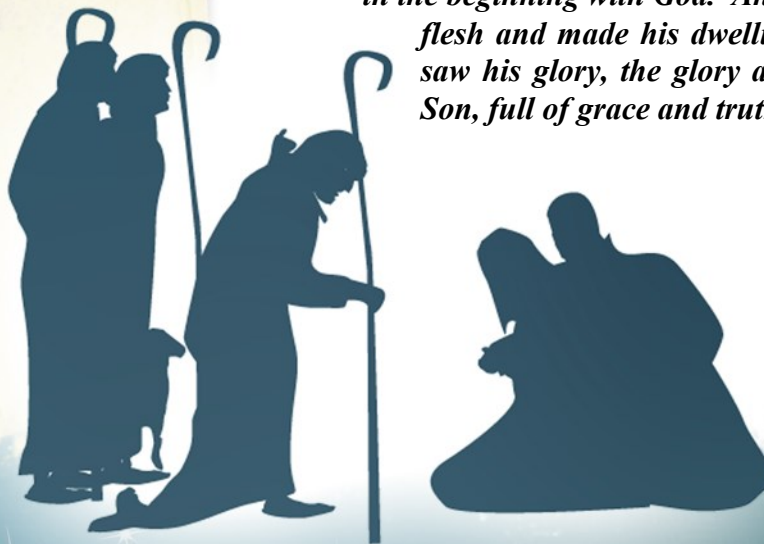
Church Office Closed

Merry Christmas!

From the Pastors Desk...

Therefore the Lord himself will give you this sign: the virgin shall be with child, and bear a son, and shall name him Immanuel"(Isaiah 7:14).

The evangelist announced the good news that this prophecy has been fulfilled by the coming of the Eternal Son of God into our world (Matthew 1:22-23). Whatever God has promised to humanity, He is able to provide to us. Our Lord Jesus Christ shares in our human life so that we can have a share in divine life. This was the intent of our God when He created us in the divine image. However, by the free choice of human beings to lose faith in God, sin and death entered our world. The good news is that God promises that these destructive powers will not have the last word in our lives. God speaks the Word of salvation, providing a saving remedy through the gift of His Son. *In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. And the World became flesh and made his dwelling among us, and we saw his glory, the glory as of the Father's only Son, full of grace and truth.* (John 1:1-2.14)



Continued on page 2...

From the Pastor's Desk Cont.

Whatever God has promised to humanity, He is able to provide for us. This is the message of the Advent season. During the celebration of the Holy Communion, we will hear the prophetic message to the People of the First Covenant to prepare for the coming of the messiah. The figure of John the Baptist will call us once again to allow the promises of God in Christ Jesus to be fulfilled within us by means of repentance.

These biblical witnesses remind us to clear away any obstacles that prevent the love of God from ruling over our thinking, speaking, and acting. Repentance involves a change of mind. It leads to making a decisive turning away from sin because we are living in the loving presence of God. Sin cannot perform what it promises when we were enticed to embrace its ways. What seemed to be delightful was found out to be destructive. The true source of contentment for our lives is to be conformed to the commandments of God. This is how we express our love and trust in God. Our forbearers encouraged each other to mature in Christian discipleship by singing, "I woke up this morning with my mind stayed on Jesus!"

Advent reminds us to keep our minds fixed on Jesus. This will enable the promises of God to be fulfilled within us. There is a two-fold character to this season. First, it commemorates the advent of the messiah even as we prepare for the celebration of Christmas. Second, it reminds us that we are in the advent of the second and final coming of our Lord Jesus Christ in glory. Time as we know it will come to an end, the kingdom of God will be definitively established, and the general judgment will be revealed. Our forbearers gave each other a warning and a message of hope as they sang, "In that great gettin' up morning, fare ye well, fare ye well."

Without the influence of the One who is the source of love and teaches us the meaning of giving and receiving love, our relationships with each other will be characterized by exploitation. Without the influence of the One who is source of all that is true and good, our moral principles will be subject to the circumstances, affected by the shifting opinions of society as to what it means to experience well-being and quality of life. Without the influence of the One who is mercy, we allow ourselves to be torn apart by the inability to forgive ourselves and others for wrongdoing. Imprisoned by our past, we are not free to face the future with confidence. Without the influence of the One who is our reason for having life, we will lose a sense of purpose for living.

Pastor Thomas



UNITED AGELESS - (thanks to Nancy F. for coming up with the name) The first adult social group met at Nancy and Merv's house on October 22. We had a great turnout - 24 of us enjoyed a night of food and fun. Those who were not able to go through the open house on Oct. 5 were given the grand tour and then we played Catch Phrase. The next gathering will be on Nov 22 at 7:00 and Nancy has graciously volunteered her house again. Hope to see you there. Bring a snack or dessert to pass and come join the fun.

ASAPROSAR

Dr. Vicky Guzman, founder and director of ASAPROSAR (Salvadoran Association for Rural Health), started her work in 1972. She pioneered rural health care at a time when political unrest was festering throughout El Salvador. Poverty, illiteracy and disease were rampant and many children died of diarrhea, malnutrition and parasites. Rural families, living in poverty, had no access to health care and preventive medicine was unknown.

It was a time of turmoil and pending civil war. The government considered work with poor and illiterate families subversive. In spite of this danger Dr. Guzman continued her work. Rural leaders from the mountain areas were identified and trained as health promoters for their villages. The military followed Dr. Guzman; her workers were persecuted their homes burned and some were killed or disappeared. Dr. Vicky Guzman was imprisoned as a subversive and personally suffered many atrocities of war, which we cannot even imagine.

In 1986, following her imprisonment and home arrest, Dr. Guzman made plans to return to her work in the country. Because of the danger, she recognized that first she must legally establish an organization in order to provide protection and validity for her rural health program and for the safety of her workers. Thus ASAPROSAR was formed.

Forty years later, the personal struggles of Dr. Guzman have been rewarded. Today ASAPROSAR serves approximately 150,000 persons living in extreme poverty in El Salvador. ASAPROSAR offers the following integrated programs which are markedly helping the poor of El Salvador to improve their health, social well-being and future:

- Community Health and sanitation
- Eye Care (corrective lenses and surgery)
- "Sprouts of Hope" (0-6 years of age)
- "Barefoot Angels" (6-16 years of age)
- Micro Credit (small business loans)
- Nutrition
- Sustainable Agriculture

And the vision continues..... Dr. Guzman believes that children and youth are the FUTURE of El Salvador. Thus, ASAPROSAR plans to build a Youth Center. This will be the first youth center in El Salvador. It will be an extremely positive option to the exploitation of youth and children by gangs, drug trafficking and delinquency.

ASAPROSAR is the mission for the month of November. As in the past, all money collected will be matched by Wayne and Elaine Hotelling. Please give from your heart to the children and youth of El Salvador. Thank you.



Luke 2: 9-11

And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were filled with fear. And the angel said to them, Be not afraid; for behold, I bring you good news of a great joy which will come to all the people; for to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord.

Warm clothing and toy drive

This year girl scout troop 20069 is collecting warm clothing to distribute to families in need. If you have something you would like to donate, please bring it to the church office. They are asking for New, or Gently used items such as coats, boots, and hoodies. Also if you would like to bring in your donation for the Hat and Mitten tree, now would be a good time. These items will be distributed on Dec 14th.

Each year the Kiwanis gives out toys to approximately 200 families in need residing in the town of Hanover. If you would like to donate a NEW, UNWRAPPED toy, please bring your donation to the church office. By Dec 13th

December 2013

First United Presbyterian Church

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday																																																																																				
1 9:15 AM Choir Practice 10:30 AM Worship Caroling in the Park 4pm / hot cocoa First Sunday of Advent	2 7:00 PM Bell Choir Practice (S)	3 10:00 AM Clothing Sorting 6:00 PM Girl Scouts	4 9:00 AM TOPS 1:00 PM Deborah Circle	5 9:00 AM WICS 7:00 PM Taize' Service (C)	6 10:00 AM Clothing Center 8:30 PMAAMtg. (D)	7																																																																																				
8 9:15 AM Choir Practice 10:30 AM Worship 6:30 PM United Angels Youth Group	9 7:00 PM Bell Choir Practice (S)	10 10:00 AM Clothing Sorting 6:00 PM Girl Scouts Human Rights Day	11 9:00 AM TOPS 6:30 PM Deacons Meeting (R) 7:00 PM Property Cttee. Mtg. (R) Girl Scouts 6:30 (D)	12	13 10:00 AM Clothing Center 8:30 PMAAMtg. (D)	14																																																																																				
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January 2014

First United Presbyterian Church

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Voice Recital at First United

-Nancy Krestic

Sunday afternoon, November 17, our sanctuary was the setting for 3 Senior voice students from SUNY Fredonia School of Music to present a recital of arias. The singers were Amanda Conte, Steven Smith and Margaret Flanagan. These talented singers are currently working on audition materials for graduate school, and this was an opportunity for them to "try out" their material. It was a coincidence that all three were former students of mine in a choral conducting class. They were accompanied by James Welch and Jannis Patterson, both staff accompanists at the School of Music. Their program follows:

Amanda Conte

"So anch'io la virtù magica" from Donizetti's *Don Pasquale*

"Glitter and Be Gay" from Bernstein's *Candide*

Steve Smith

O Columbina" from Ruggero Leoncavallo's *Pagliacci*

"Una Furtiva Lagrima" from Gaetano Donizetti's *L'elisir D'amore*

Margaret Flanagan

Dove Sono- Le Nozze de Figaro-- Mozart

The Governess Aria- Turn of the Screw-- Benjamin Britten

The Serpent-- Lee Hoiby

Je dis que rien ne m'épouvante- Carment-- Bizet

Czardas Aria- Die Fledermaus-- Strauss

Of special interest was the last piece, sung in Hungarian, when Margaret discovered that Pastor Thomas was Hungarian!

A reception was enjoyed by all and was an opportunity to meet the singers.



Advent Concert

On December 15 at 4 PM, First United will be featuring our Third Annual Advent Concert.

Among those performing will be our own Chancel Choir, Handbell Choir, organist Callen Lange, The Brass Schleptet, a Tuba Quartet, French horn duet, pianist and several solo singers. There is something for everyone. Please join us and help celebrate the Advent season with music.

This year the free will offering collected will go to support the Silver Creek Volunteer Firemen.

The concert will be followed by Deborah Circle's Annual Christmas Tea.

Put it on your calendar!



Grape Popping, Pie Making with the Deborah Circle

What's in a pie? What's in a grape pie? For over 45 years the Deborah Circle of First United has presented thousands of grape pies for Silver Creek's Grape Festival. Described in Buffalo papers and pursued by gourmards in their annual pilgrimage, the pies are a yearlong labor of love. The proceeds enabled the Deborah Circle to designate \$1500 dollars for the Capital Campaign of First United this month.

Planning for the grape pies begins a full year before the pies are baked! The perfect time to pick the grapes is a source of speculation by the experienced growers of the congregation: First United's members know their grapes.

On the day of the sweetest and ripest harvest, before dawn Dean Martin picked and then delivered 7 crates of Concords to the kitchen door of the church. The kitchen was wrapped

more securely than a Christmas present with heavy paper and tape on the floor and counters. Fran Smith brought her bowls and sure eye—the pie recipe is a family recipe adapted for the church. Under Joanne Martin's supervision Grape poppers old and new bravely took their places along the long counters, and experienced hands guided the processes of cleaning, popping, simmering, sieving, grinding, adding spices and flavorings. Measuring carefully, each pie filling was frozen, to be guarded and hovered over till the time when the pies would be made and baked, about 11 months later. Deborah Circle volunteers and other great First United pie makers will take the fillings and make 5 to 50 pies each! Each pie maker has a different crust recipe and each pie is decorated differently, but we can guarantee that each one is delicious!

Deborah Circle has been meeting at First United for a long time. Sometimes we meet at church, sometimes in members' homes. Every woman of the church is invited, and in fact attending is a great way to make friends for women new to the church. Meetings have devotions, a brief business meeting, and then a program, which is sometimes a Bible study, and sometimes a project such as favors for our friends at St Columbans. We end with dessert and coffee. So come join us for meeting, or for next year's grape pie extravaganza, baking or popping!



Poinsettia Gifts

Would you like to give a poinsettia during the Christmas season in memory or in honor of a loved one? Please fill out the form below and place it in the offering plate or contact the church office at 934-2018

Flowers given ☐ In honor of: ☐ In memory of:

Given by: _____

Address: _____

Amount \$_____ (Please make checks out to *First United Presbyterian Church*)

Gift must be put in the Sunday morning offering plate by December 8th. Poinsettias will be delivered on Sat. Dec. 14th.

Happy Birthday
to you!

Happy Anniversary!

12/03 Ben Peters
12/12 Howard Bonhoff
12/16 Michael Brennan
12/16 Noelle Harford
12/19 Heather Reed
12/22 Wesley Heist
12/22 Matt Wright
12/27 John Fitzgibbon
12/28 Frank Pratz, Jr.
12/29 Mary Bonasera
12/29 Jason Rhodes
12/30 McKayla Polowy
01/03 Amanda Mays
01/05 Pastor Thomas
01/08 Emily Harford
01/09 George Brunn
01/14 John Loveland
01/15 Matthew Newman
01/16 Keith Newman
01/17 Kim Adams
01/17 Ellie Brunn
01/18 David Harford
01/18 Joseph Heist
01/23 Evelyn Martin
01/26 Joyce Snyder
01/27 Bill Wright
01/27 Irene Klemens
01/28 Christie Jo Martin
01/29 Michael Henry

12/06 Scott & Jill Earsing
12/12 John & Nancy Krestic
12/23 Brad & Harriet Herbert
12/29 Dave & Laura Harford
01/13 Paul & Melissa Hogg

If your birthday or anniversary is missing or incorrect, please call or e-mail the church office so we can correct our records. We apologize for any errors. Happy Birthday and Happy Anniversary!

