



NEWSLETTER OF FPC:ENDICOTT

FIRST PRES PRESS

DECEMBER/JANUARY 2018/2019 EDITION



Advent

A SEASON OF GIFTS

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A Note from the Pastors



December 2, 2018

On the first Sunday of Advent, we light the candle of Hope.

We put our hope in the One who came to save us from sin and death, the same One who has promised He will come again to fulfill his kingdom and make all things right.

For whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, so that by steadfastness and by the encouragement of the scriptures we might have hope. . . May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

— Romans 15:4, 13

December 9, 2018

On the second Sunday of Advent, we light the candle of Peace.

We watch and work for that day when people and nations will come together in peace, and individuals will experience the peace of God that surpasses human understanding.

For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, and through him God was pleased to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, by making peace through the blood of his cross.

— Colossians 1:19-20

December 16, 2018

On the third Sunday of Advent, we light the candle of Joy.

While we have foretastes of joy now, we wait for the day when we will know everlasting joy and we will join our voices forever with the angels to sing “Joy to the World, the Lord is come!”

When [the magi] saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage.

— Matthew 2:10-11

December 23, 2018

On the fourth Sunday of Advent, we light the candle of Love.

Scripture tells us “There is no fear in love, for perfect love casts out fear” (1 John 4:18). God created this world in love, and we can trust that through Christ, we will enter eternity through the love of God.

God proves his love for us in that while we still were sinners Christ died for us. Much more surely then, now that we have been justified by his blood, will we be saved through him from the wrath of God.

— Romans 5:8-9

December 24, 2018

On Christmas Eve, we light the Christ Candle.

On this night, we come together to celebrate that the God who created the universe by bringing order out of chaos will come again to bring order out of the chaos of our world. With the birth of Christ, salvation has drawn near. The light of new life has burst forth.

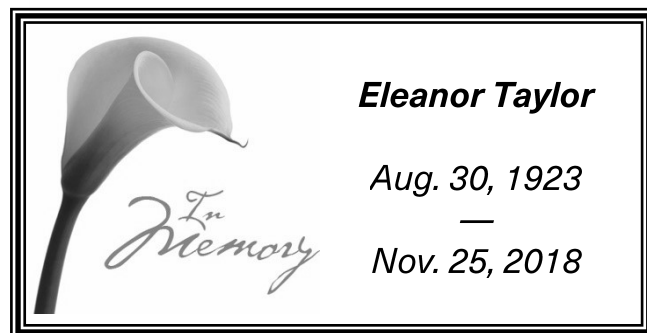
For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.— Isaiah 9:6

AMONG OUR PEOPLE

Please pray for:

Carol and Jack Mansfield, as they spend time in the Dominican Republic for a month, taking our Nursery School curriculum that has been translated into Spanish | **Sheila Beblavy**, who had knee surgery, and for her father and other family members with health issues | **Billy Beardsley's brother**, that God would give him strength and courage to be victorious over his struggles | **Praise for the annual fall fest of the MCC Climbing Ministry**, and thanks for the leadership of this ministry and the support of the FPC:E congregation | **Dawn Weber**, upon the loss of her aunt | **Cathy Aspling** (one of our Nursery School teachers) and her family, as they grieve the death of Cathy's father-in-law, **Ralph Aspling** | We rejoice that after almost five months of hospitalization, **Bob King** has come home to continue his recovery! | **Adele Everett**, who is recovering well from shoulder surgery | **Billy Beardsley's friend, Ann**, who had pneumonia | **Claudia Delafield**, who has been having dizzy spells | **Pastor Nissi in particular and other parents** who are separated from their children by incarceration | Those who struggle with **loneliness in singleness** | **Bev Conklin's sister-in-law, Marcia**, who had surgery and has been in the hospital | **The Ulsh family**, as they grieve the death of Ginny's sister-in-law, **Betsy**. Ginny's brother also died recently | **Missy Goetz**, who broke her ankle | **The students who participated in Young Life Camp**, that God will use that event to plant seeds of faith in their lives | **Pam and Art Davis's granddaughter, Ashley**, who was

diagnosed with type 1 diabetes | **George Watkins**, a friend of Carole Cockrell, who spent time in the ER | **The family of Ellie Taylor**, as they grieve her passing on Nov. 25



PSA

For your comfort and the smooth flow of the nursery school, we encourage non-nursery school guests to use the handicap-accessible men's and women's rooms outside of the lounge when in the building during Nursery School hours. If this is not possible, please note a new plan that is in place. In an effort to help streamline the use of restrooms on the first and second floors of the Christian Education wing (8:45am – 3:15pm when nursery school is in session), those four restrooms may be used by either gender, one person at a time. Temporary signs are placed on the doors each morning and removed after school hours. You will also notice battery-operated light switches on the side of each door. When using these restrooms during school hours, please turn on the lighted switch so that others know the restroom is occupied, and turn it off when you leave. Likewise, when the light is on, please wait until someone exits the restroom before entering. Thank you for your assistance.

BUSINESS

Session approved the 2018 Christmas Eve Offering be split between local mission, The Joe Santacrose Foundation, and global mission, The Outreach Foundation. TOF offering will be used to help vulnerable children around the world (especially in South Sudan, Kenya and Lebanon) and to help build the church or school the 2019 Kenya Mission Team will be working on. The money designated for TOF will be split in half, but capped at \$7,500 for the Mission trip. Any undesignated gifts will be divided equally between the local and global causes.

Session approved the Annual Meeting be held on February 3, 2019: 10am united service, 11:15 meeting, followed by a congregational lunch.

Session finalized and approved a revised Sexual Conduct Policy/Safe Sanctuary Policy. Personnel Committee will decide the rollout of this policy for the church and will have copies of the policy available for the congregation.

Session approved the purchase of a replacement folding machine for the church office. The funding will come from the Schooley Estate.

LINDA WILLETS CLERK OF SESSION

Each month, Linda provides an overview of the work of our Session. Keep an eye out on this page to see what God is doing through the work of our leadership.



DEVOTION

Elder Josh Luce's devotion was titled "Agreeing to Disagree" especially with regards to the world of politics and the Church of Jesus Christ. He began by reading Romans 14:1-13 and emphasized the following bible verses:

Romans 14:5 *"One person considers one day more sacred than another; another considers every day alike. Each of them should be fully convinced in their own mind."*

Romans 14:6 *"Whoever regards one day as special does so to the Lord, for they give thanks to God; and whoever abstains does so to the Lord and gives thanks to God."*

Romans 14:10 *"You, then, why do you judge your brother or sister? Or why do you treat them with contempt? For we will all stand before God's judgment seat."*

Josh then read the first verse from the song "Forever" written by Chris Tomlin – *"Give thanks to the Lord our God and King, His love endures forever, For He is good, He is above all things, His love endures forever, sing praise, sing praise."*

VISIONING

Nine elders/staff have registered to attend the ECO National Gathering in January 2019.

Elder Commissioner, David Meza, gave a report from the October presbytery meeting in Cohoes, NY. He encouraged the elders to attend a presbytery meeting.

Discussion of Chapter 6 from *Gospel Centered Church* was deferred to the December 5, 2018 joint elders/deacons/staff meeting.

CONNECT



“Oh the joy of missing out.

*When the world begins to shout and rush towards that shining thing;
The latest bit of mental bling–
Trying to have it, see it, do it, you simply know you won't go through it;
The anxious clamoring and need; this restless hungry thing to feed.
Instead, you feel the loveliness; the pleasure of your emptiness.*

*You spurn the treasure on the shelf
In favor of your peaceful self;
Without regret, without a doubt.*

Oh the joy of missing out”

— Michael Leunig

As we rush toward Christmas and all the chaos/desires that our society encourages, I would like to encourage each and every one of us to reflect on the greatest gift we have been given- the gift of Christ and HE is more than enough! When we realize that, the endless chasing after the next “big thing” can be released and we can find joy in the “missing out” of what society says we need/want. I ran across an article* that reflected on how we have developed such a “fear of missing out” (FOMO) that we forget to be present in the moment:

- Social media channels such as Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter personify FOMO
- JOMO (the joy of missing out) is the emotionally intelligent antidote to FOMO and is essentially about being present and being content with where you are in life
- Instead of constantly trying to keep up with the Joneses, JOMO allows us to be who we are in the present moment, which is the secret to finding happiness
- Instead of having FOMO over silly experiences on social media, we should be wary about having FOMO over missing moments with loved ones, watching sunsets, laughing at jokes, traveling, walking barefoot through the grass, hearing the sound of the ocean, and enjoying good food with family and friends

This December, join us as we explore “The Gifts of Christmas” and share those gifts with family, friends, and those who are seeking the true meaning of Christmas. I pray we all will develop a healthy “fear of missing out” when we are not present in worship, when we are not at our small group, when we do not share our faith, when we miss an opportunity to serve those in Christian love, etc. And in so doing, we develop the joy of missing out on things that do not have eternal value but distract us from the Joy of our Salvation.

* <https://www.psychologytoday.com/us/blog/happiness-is-state-mind/201807/jomo-the-joy-missing-out?amp>



TIME TO REGISTER!



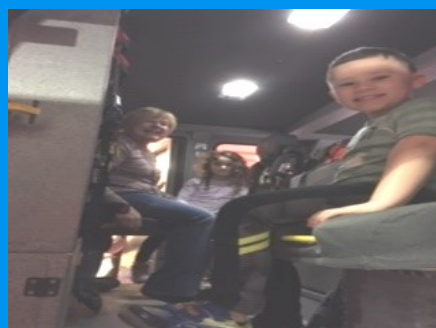
Nursery School registration for the 2019-20 academic year begins Wednesday, Jan. 2!
Call (607) 748-1744 for more information!



FIGHTING FIRES



We were treated to a fire safety puppet show by Firefighter Toro of the J.C. Fire Dept. and got to hop aboard the fire truck!



HALLOWEEN

Who says the costume parade is just for our little ones?



ART SHOW!



The nursery school welcomes your creative expressions for our annual Art Show's Silent Auction on Friday, Feb. 22. It is a great way to support our Arts Program and celebrate you! Contact our office at 748-1744 for details.



AN ADVENT CELEBRATION OF GIFTS

Dec. 16: Kids/Youth are singing in both worship services!

Any child or youth is welcome to join us as we sing at the end of the first service and then again at the beginning of the second service. For more details, contact Tina.

**Note: Following our singing at the second service, children and families are invited to join us in the dining room for Family Day.*

Dec. 23: Kids/Youth share Nativity Centerpiece. During our Dec. 16 Family Day, kids, youth, and parents will be making nativity centerpieces that we will give to the congregation on Sunday, Dec. 23 at both services. Any child or youth who's in service this day will be invited to join us in passing out this craft.

Christmas Eve Impromptu Nativity Pageant @ the 4:30 Family Service.

No rehearsal needed this year. Instructions and costumes will be given out when you arrive a little early for the service. We look forward to having you, your family, and your friends participate in the pageant!

DEC. 2

MARY PRAISES GOD
(LUKE 1:26-56)

DEC. 9

JESUS WAS BORN
(MATTHEW 2:1-12)

DEC. 16

FAMILY DAY!

DEC. 23

NO CHILDREN'S MIN.

DEC. 30

NO CHILDREN'S MIN.

JAN. 6

GOD CALLED JEREMIAH
(JEREMIAH 1)

JAN. 13

A NEW COVENANT
(JEREMIAH 7:1-10, 31:31-34)

JAN. 20

JUDAH IN CAPTIVITY
(2 CHRONICLES 36:1-21)

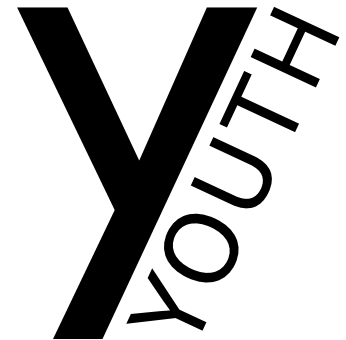
DEC/JAN MEMORY VERSES

LUKE 2:10-11 (NLT)

"But the angel reassured them. 'Don't be afraid!' he said. 'I bring you good news that will bring great joy to all people. The Savior—yes, the Messiah, the Lord—has been born today in Bethlehem, the city of David!'"

JEREMIAH 29:11 (NIV)

"For I know the plans I have for you," says the Lord. "They are plans for good and not for disaster, to give you hope and a future."



SUNDAY MORNINGS

10:30am— Middle and High School Gathering

11:00am— Middle School | Jr. High Room |
Lessons will follow the Children's Ministry
schedule

11:00am— High School | Monroe House |
Students are working through chapters 2 and 3
of the Gospel of John

YOUNG LIFE CLUB

December 1, 6:30pm-8:00pm

38 Grippen Hill Rd, Vestal

December 15, 6:30pm-8:00pm

Location TBD

For more details about Club nights, see
Meg Mansfield or connect with
Binghamton YoungLife on Instagram
(greaterbinghamtonyl).

IMPORTANT DATES

December 16– Family Day

December 23– No Student Ministries, Merry Christmas!

December 30– No Student Ministries, Happy New Year!

January 6– Student Ministries resume

January 11– Friday, from 6:30pm-8:30pm– Nerf Wars Return! Our young men are bringing back a favorite night of fun. Join us for another evening of Nerf fun and competition. Any student in grades 6-12 is invited. Bring a friend, your Bible and a snack to share. Meet in the dining room.

March 8-10– THAW Retreat at Rock Mountain Bible Camp. \$40. To register, see Tina.





FPC:E COMMUNITY

Look here for opportunities to serve the Kingdom and grow in your faith through the missions and ministries of FPC:E

distributed to families and individuals from among our preschool and congregation.

- **The Angel Tree** will be set up and available in the gathering area for the first two Sundays in December (Dec 2, Dec 9). Please note: wrapped gifts with the original tags are due back no later than Friday, Dec 14.

- **Blue Christmas Service:** This may be your first Christmas without a loved one who has died. You may be going through a difficult transition or life change. You may be exhausted from dealing with illness or pain. Your world may be rocked by a separation or divorce. You may be grieving over a child or family

member who has lost their way. Or you may just be burdened by the endless news of tragedies and crises in our world. You are not alone. Jesus said, "Come to me, all of you who are weary and carry heavy burdens, and I will give you rest." If you are weary, grieving, or burdened, you are invited to come to the chapel on Thursday, December 13, at 6:30pm. Together, we will acknowledge our pain, listen to God's Word, and spend time in silence, prayer, and quiet song. We will hear good news, even in the midst of the struggles.

- Please join us on

Friday Dec. 14 at 12:00pm to celebrate the Christmas season.

We will gather at Good Shepherd Village in Endwell for a wonderful dinner, entertainment and fellowship. Everyone is invited. Reservations are needed by Monday Dec. 10. Please RSVP to Charlie and Maxine Waughtel at (607) 625-4693.

- The deacons give thanks and praise for the **generous contributions to our Thanksgiving food collection**, which was

CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS

2018 POINSETTIA ORDER FORM

Please PRINT clearly! This information will be used in the bulletin. The deadline for orders is *Monday, December 17*, and must be accompanied by payment. No phone orders please!

This flower is donated by:

(Check one) ☐ in honor of ☐ in memory of

(Check one) ☐ cash ☐ check

Amount enclosed: _____

Price per plant is \$13.00. Please make checks payable to First Presbyterian Church of Endicott. Donated plants are delivered to members of our church who are homebound or over 80 by the deacons.

2018 CHRISTMAS OFFERING

In recent years, Session has authorized a special Christmas Offering to support designated local, national, and global mission causes. The Christmas Offering this year will be used to support one local and one global cause. Envelopes will be provided on Sunday, December 23 and on Christmas Eve. You will have the option to designate your gift for one or both of these recipients:

JOE SANTACROSE FOUNDATION:

For years, Jim Santacrose has touched the lives of countless people by picking up donated furniture and household items and delivering them to those facing transition or hardship. Each year, he and his team serve over 1000 families and/or individuals in need. He uses about 2,000 gallons of gas annually for donation work. Your gift will be used to help maintain Jim's moving truck and provide gas for this mission.

THE OUTREACH FOUNDATION:

We have an opportunity to help vulnerable children around the world. Your gift will be used to help build a school and rescue centers in Kenya for young girls who might otherwise be forced into early marriage; to help the tens of thousands of children in South Sudan who have become refugees because of a devastating civil war; and to help provide schools for the 500,000+ children who are Syrian refugees living in Lebanon.

Thank you for sharing.



DECEMBER

02 1st Sunday of Advent
Communion
9:00am Worship Service
10:30am Children's Ministry
10:45am Worship Service
4:00pm Loving Hands

03
11:45am NS/Staff Lunch
7:00pm STCCC Rehearsal
7:30pm AA Meeting

04
12:30pm Staff Meeting
5:30pm Samaritan Supper
6:15pm Worship Team
6:30pm AA Meeting

05
6:00am Men's Group
1:00pm Harmony Club Concert
6:00pm Session/Staff/Deacons/Leaders Meeting
7:00pm STCCC Rehearsal
7:30pm AA Meeting

06
7:00pm AA Meeting
7:00pm Chancel Choir

07
6:15pm Staff Christmas Party

08
7:00pm STCCC Concert

09 2nd Sunday of Advent
New Members Join
9:00am Worship Service
10:30am Children's Ministry
10:45am Worship Service
5:00pm Worship Team Christmas Party

10
7:30pm AA Meeting

11
12:30pm Staff Meeting
5:30pm Samaritan Supper
6:15pm Worship Team
6:30pm AA Meeting

12
6:00am Men's Group
7:30pm AA Meeting

13
6:30pm Blue Christmas Service
7:00pm AA Meeting
7:30pm Chancel Choir

14
12:00pm Annual Fellowship Gathering

16 3rd Sunday of Advent
9:00am Worship Service
10:30am Children's Ministry Family Day
10:45am Worship Service

17
4:00pm Endicott Proud
7:30pm AA Meeting

18
12:30pm Staff Meeting
5:30pm Samaritan Supper
6:15pm Worship Team
6:30pm AA Meeting

19
6:00am Men's Group
7:30pm AA Meeting

20
7:00pm AA Meeting
7:00pm Chancel Choir

23 4th Sunday of Advent
No Children's Ministry
9:00am Worship Service
10:45am Worship Service

24 Christmas Eve
4:30pm Contemporary Candlelight Service
7:30pm Traditional Candlelight Service
7:30pm AA Meeting

25 Christmas
Office Closed
6:30pm AA Meeting

26 Office Closed
6:00am Men's Group
7:30pm AA Meeting

27
7:00pm AA Meeting

31 New Year's Eve
7:00pm AA Meeting

C N
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L A
E R

JANUARY

01 **New Year's Day**
Office Closed

6:30pm AA Meeting

02

6:00am Men's Group
7:00pm Session
7:30pm AA Meeting

03

7:00pm AA Meeting
7:00pm Chancel Choir

06

9:00am Worship Service
10:30am Children's Ministry
10:45am Worship Service

07

7:30pm AA Meeting

08

12:30pm Staff Meeting
5:30pm Samaritan Supper
6:15pm Worship Team
6:30pm AA Meeting
7:00pm Deacons

09

6:00am Men's Group
7:30pm AA Meeting

10

7:00pm AA Meeting
7:00pm Chancel Choir

13

9:00am Worship Service
10:30am Children's Ministry
10:45am Worship Service

14

4:00pm Endicott Proud
7:30pm AA Meeting

15

12:30pm Staff Meeting
5:30pm Samaritan Supper
6:15pm Worship Team
6:30pm AA Meeting

16

6:00am Men's Group
7:30pm AA Meeting

17

7:00pm AA Meeting
7:00pm Chancel Choir

20

9:00am Worship Service
10:30am Children's Ministry
10:45am Worship Service

21

7:30pm AA Meeting

22

12:30pm Staff Meeting
5:30pm Samaritan Supper
6:15pm Worship Team
6:30pm AA Meeting

23

6:00am Men's Group
7:00pm STCCC Rehearsal
7:30pm AA Meeting

24

7:00pm AA Meeting
7:00pm Chancel Choir

27

9:00am Worship Service
10:30am Children's Ministry
10:45am Worship Service

28

ECO National Gathering
1:00pm Women's Club
7:30pm AA Meeting

29

ECO National Gathering
5:30pm Samaritan Supper
6:30pm AA Meeting

30

ECO National Gathering
6:00am Men's Group
7:00pm STCCC Rehearsal
7:30pm AA Meeting

31

ECO National Gathering
7:00pm AA Meeting
7:00pm Chancel Choir



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