

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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DECEMBER 2014 NEWSLETTER

From the Pastor's Heart:

Heralds of the Messiah

The messages that we receive from the Gospels seem incredible as we read about miracles, signs and wonders that people experienced during the life of Jesus Christ. Think how incredible it must have seemed to Mary when an angel, sent by God, approached her and told her about this thing that was to happen in her life. She was to give birth to a baby as virgin, a baby who would become King. Mary's encounter with the angel goes beyond our normal human experiences and our knowledge about the natural order of things; we are left with the struggle to believe that such things can actually be possible. The "Event" had no scientific explanation, yet we are told in messages, in both the Old and New Testaments, about events that were to occur in the life of this baby boy, born of a virgin as the Messiah.

The writings of the prophets of the Old Testament that the Jews have been reading for years disclosed intimate details about this Messiah who was to come. Biblical historians say that there is no other ancient source known that gives such an extensive and detailed description of one person's life. The Messiah, who was to be born, was heralded over a thousand year period before his arrival. According to the Apostles' witness; Jesus was recognized as that Messiah. The Apostles declared that everything that had happened in Jesus' life met the qualification of what was predicted many hundreds of years before his birth. The Greek word for Messiah is translated "Christ," or "The Anointed One." The Church has become accustomed to referring to Jesus as the Christ, which was adopted from the Greek terminology.

The prophets were led by God to speak about the birth of Christ; his manner of life, his death, his resurrection, his second coming, and the Kingdom he was to establish. He would change the lives of people and would, in fact, change the world. Starting with Mary, the life of Jesus began to unfold just as it was told by the prophets of the Old Testament. The Angel Gabriel announced to Mary how the birth of Jesus would happen – by the power of the Holy Spirit. He was the promised salvation that people had been waiting to see. He was heralded as Savior of the world. The Early Church of Christ brought people the good news about this new life.

Today, Jesus, the Christ, is still being heralded throughout the world by clergy and lay members of various denominations. Some still find this account of Jesus' life unbelievable, and too incredible to be true, but many have embraced these accounts, written and told by the very people who lived with Jesus until his death. The Apostles were his closest eye-witnesses and they were the ones who would herald the Gospel of the Lord, as the Scripture says, to the ends of the earth. What we have in our possession – the Gospels, the Epistles, and the Writings in the Old Testament are documents that help us to determine the validity of the accounts of the life of Jesus. The Scriptures hinge on the honesty of those ancient people who made the claim that they were moved and led by God to write the accounts which we read today in our Bible. Go to some of the most prestigious theological seminaries in the world, and you will discover that we are looking at the very same texts in their various translations. They are the only canonized texts we have regarding the testimony of the Apostles who wrote the New Testament. Who is better qualified to bear witness to the truth than the very people who have seen, heard, and have experienced life with Jesus? Not only have they seen and touched him, they spent days, weeks, months, and even years traveling, conversing, debating, crying, and no doubt, at times, laughing with the Lord. They slept and ate with him, at times under the open night sky, and perhaps enjoying their evening meals roasting over a camp fire. They saw him suffer and die; they also saw him come back to life. We have no better witnesses than those people whom the Lord himself had called to herald the coming of his kingdom.

Though we commemorate and celebrate Jesus' first coming, there is yet an expectation of his second coming which we refer to as the Second Advent. Every church and denomination is anticipating a Second Advent - A second coming of Christ. We continue to herald the coming of the Messiah, Jesus, the Christ, and, I am sure, the angels will continue to rejoice and sing his praises until his arrival. Amen.



DID YOU KNOW... Your church can be found on Facebook. Just go to First United Methodist Saranac Lake. (complete with capital letters and spaces.) When the page comes up, click on "like."

COMMUNITY SUPPER NEWS

The Wednesday night supper is in need of **plastic containers with lids** to put takeout meals in. All size's are needed. If you have any to donate would you bring them to church on Sunday or drop them off any morning at the church kitchen. Please attach the lids to the containers as it makes it easier not to have to match them up. Thank you for your help.

ADDED INCOME

The General Board of Administration and Finance of the UMC has given us a new way to bring some more income into our church. It's called umcmarket.org

This program is for online shopping and a large number of stores including Sears, Land's End, Staples, Best Buy, The Disney Store and many, many more. When you purchase through UMCmarket, which is quite easy, a percentage which depending on what that store has set, will be sent to umcmarket in our church's name. When the amount reaches \$100, a check will be sent to the church. Every little bit helps and if we work together, we can really make a difference.

So, with the holiday shopping season looming, if you're ordering online, please set up an account, select Saranac Lake as your church and get the little cross and flame button on your computer - in the upper right hand corner. When you are ready to shop, click on that button first and then when their site opens, click on the store you are shopping from.

NOTE: If you are shopping at Amazon.com, please be sure to read the special instructions just for that site to be sure your donation is recorded!

So, just go to the site, follow the instructions to set up your account and happy shopping while helping the church at the same time.

If you have any questions, please contact Cindy Smith at 891-3915.

FUEL FUND

We're coming upon the winter heating season once again and even with moving downstairs and the help from the Lutherans, we fall short of reaching our goal. Our fuel costs have increased over \$1,000 compared to this time last year. In order to help keep us on track, we are asking our church family to contribute to a Fuel Fund.

To do so, envelopes will be made available in the pews or just write Fuel Fund on your check in the memo line and place it in the offering place. Prayerfully consider how you can help and whatever the amount, do it with love and remember, "God Loves a Cheerful Giver!"

COMING IN JANUARY!

Have you come to church and noticed folks you don't recognize? Do you see people you haven't seen in a while and can't put a name with the face? Would you like to be able to find contact information for someone in the church? Well, help is on the way!

Beginning in January, we will be working with Lifetouch Studios to produce a new pictorial Directory. We haven't done one in a while and there have been several changes so it's time to do it again. Lifetouch is the company that bought Olan Mills and they have done directories for several churches as well as for our Upper New York Annual Conference. And, of course, you will be able to purchase photos as you wish. This is a free service to the church and there is no pressure or obligation to buy. So, watch for details after the New Year begins and help us get to know one another better!

ECUMENICAL COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS FOR NOVEMBER

Planning is underway for the annual distribution of Christmas boxes.

Grace Pantry has a lot to report:

We have received grants and contributions from the Carpenter Foundation, the Price Chopper Foundation and the Adirondack Bank, Community Bank and the Bergamini Family totaling over \$3,525. If you patronize these two banks and Price Chopper, please be sure to thank them personally.

Kinney has donated some personal items, plus a case of much needed plastic bags.

The Unitarian Universalist Community ran a diaper drive in September, and has contributed 65 diaper packs to the Pantry, enough for one month's distribution.

We're looking for monthly sponsorships!

The Adirondack Alliance sponsored the Pantry in September, and St. Luke's and the UUs are on board for April and May. One month's support is about \$500.

CROP Walk - this year's CROP Walk was quite successful! We raised over \$5,100 and had 44 walkers. Half of the money raised is used to alleviate hunger here in Saranac Lake.

Salvation Army Kettle Collections: The Salvation Army raises about \$3,000 a year during its winter kettle campaign outside the SL Post Office. 90% of this money stays in the community and is distributed to those in need in the form of food, heating and electricity vouchers. The Ecumenical Council would like to put out the word that more "ringers" are needed; perhaps we can expand to an additional location.

Many thanks to Cathy Moore who has been handling the distribution of the vouchers for years. The EC is considering how to assume responsibility for the vouchers.

Homeless Shelter: Contributions continue to flow in. We're optimistic and enthusiastic about providing a solution to this problem of homelessness in our area. Contributions are always welcome.

Visit the Ecumenical Council website to make contributions or for information: <http://slecumenical.weebly.com>

FURNACE

Many thanks to the anonymous person who has donated the cost of the furnace part.

FIRST NIGHT

Our church will, once again, be a venue for First Night. At 7 pm and again at 8 pm we will host "Movin' On" and country music group. At 10 pm and 11 pm the performers are "Near North" an Americana rock group. We will also be selling hot beverages and other snack items.

CHURCH COUNCIL

The council met on November 17. We approved the report from the Committee on Nominations and Leadership Development. Cindy Smith has agreed to chair the Outreach & Missions Committee and is working on a visitation program. The Staff Pastor Parish Relations Committee has completed its covenant with the pastor. Copies will be made available to the congregation. We agreed to have our church listed in the Adirondack Daily Enterprise Holiday Worship page. Our Ministry Shares (formerly known as apportionments) is current. The Trustees are awaiting an estimate for repairs to the Tower Room.

UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

The Christmas Party (open to all women in the church) will be on December 11 at the Red Fox Restaurant (Dutch Treat, order off the menu). Contact Jessie Aubin at 891-0822 if you plan to join them.

COLLEGE STUDENTS

We are trying to update our information on college students in our congregation. Please contact the church office if there is a college student in your family.

WORSHIP COMMITTEE

Worship Committee met on November 5 with the following people present: Pastor Wilbert, Cathy Cross, Bill Kelting, Mary Kent, Nancy Roberts, Carol Griebisch, Deborah Donaldson. Pastor Wilbert offered a prayer.

We discussed Christmas Eve Worship service Wednesday December 24 at 7pm. Cathy, Wilbert and Michael Martin will be discussing the music for the service. Bill will be doing the readings and asking people to help with that. John W. will start

decorating the church for Christmas by November 28. Poinsettia's can be ordered starting November 16. Slips will be put in the bulletin on that date. We are hoping to have some by the Concert on December 3. We need to check with John about filling candles in front of church so they can be used starting November 30. Wilbert will ask Eric Olsen about combining with the Lutherans for Christmas Eve service. After some discussion, it was decided to have the readers at worship service's sit up front of the church, read and then go back down when we sing our next song. Less confusion and movement. Pastor Wilbert would like to do bible study at Will Rogers each week. It has been suggested that Worship committee do a Tea there and invite Methodist people residing at Will Rogers to come to that. Wilbert would be able to meet the ones that he does not know. After discussion about the date, it was decided the first part of March. Cathy will play the piano. Worship committee members will go to introduce Wilbert to people living at Will Rogers. Our next meeting will be Monday December 1, at 7pm at the church.

OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD

UMW has completed the Operation Christmas Child campaign with the wonderful support of both our church family and friends. We were able to collect 60 boxes and have now delivered them to the local collection station. THANK YOU so much for all of your help and making it possible for children to receive a Christmas gift for the very first time in their lives.

WINTER SNOW REMOVAL

As always, the sidewalks need to be shoveled so that our worshippers do not track too much snow into the sanctuary. If you can help, there is a sign-up sheet on the table in the back of the sanctuary. The time slots are for a week at a time. The responsibilities are listed at the top of the sheet. PLEASE help us out. Thank you.

LECTIONARY for DECEMBER

December 7

2nd Sunday of Advent
Isaiah 40:1-11
Psalm 85:1-2, 8-13
2 Peter 3:8-15a
Mark 1:1-8

December 28

1st Sunday after Christmas
Isaiah 61:10 – 6:3
Psalm 148
Galatians 4:4-7
Luke 2:22-40

December 14

3rd Sunday of Advent
Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11
Psalm 126
I Thessalonians 5:16-24
John 1:6-8, 19-28

December 21

4th Sunday of Advent
2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16
Luke 1:47-55
Romans 16:25-27
Luke 1:26-38

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS	JANUARY BIRTHDAYS
3 Darcey Aubin Susan Knobel	1 Mark Farmer
5 Vernon James Corinth Lawrence Amanda Pond	4 Savannah Simmons
6 Ted Bandru Catlyn Fuller Steve Morgan	6 Ryan Dailey Thomas Farrington
7 Eric Freeburg	11 Sherri Finlayson Autumn Fravor Wilbert Gamble McKayla Hall
9 Lauren M. Roberts	12 Lee Freeburg
11 Jeremy Rich	14 Megan Simmons
13 Anastacia Varner	15 Adrienne Donaldson
14 Troy Farmer	20 Matt Banta
15 Holly Hunt	21 Shannon Myatt
16 Chelsey Meade Sherie Valenze	25 Sandy Bandru
17 Julie Bowler Megan Wilson	26 Todd Farrington Kierstin Pickreign
20 Geraldine Moore	29 Emma Mae Besio Virginia Brink Patti Finlayson
22 Abby Rose Leavitt	
26 Glenn Pond	JANUARY ANNIVERSARIES
29 Olivia Pridell Susan James	11 Norris & Jessie Aubin
	12 Bill & Diane Kelting
	18 Troy & Luann Farmer
	28 Robert & Sue Knobel
DECEMBER ANNIVERSARIES	
11 Ross & Karen Dailey	
18 John & Virginia Santy	
27 Vic & Donna Burman	

First United Methodist Church

SUNDAY WORSHIP

Sunday 8:30am Contemporary Service

Coffee and Fellowship 9:20 am

10:00 am Traditional Service

10:00 am **Sunday School**

ALL ARE WELCOME

DAY	DATE	TIME	EVENT	PLACE
Mon.	Dec. 1	7:00 pm	Worship Committee	Teller's Room
Wed.	Dec. 3	7:00 pm	St. Petersburg Men's Ensemble	Sanctuary
Sun	Dec. 7	8:30 & 10:00	Communion	Sanctuary
Thur.	Dec. 11	6:30 pm	UMW Christmas Party	Red Fox
Sun.	Dec. 14	12:00 – 3:00	Crosswinds Studio Recital	Fellowship Hall
Mon.	Dec. 15	7:00 pm	Church Council	Teller's Room
Sat.	Dec. 20	8:00 am	Men's Breakfast	Fellowship Hall
Mon.	Dec. 22	7:00 pm	Trustees	Teller's Room
Wed.	Dec. 24	7:00	Christmas Eve Service	Sanctuary
Thur.	Dec. 25	Office Closed	Christmas	
Fri.	Dec. 26	Office Closed	Christmas	
Wed.	Dec. 31	3:00 – Midnight	First Night	Fellowship Hall
<u>WEEKLY EVENTS</u>				
*Sun.	Dec. 7, 14, 21	3 – 4 pm	Zumba	Fellowship Hall
*Mon.	Dec. 1, 8, 15, 22, 29	5:00 – 6:00 pm	Zumba	Fellowship Hall
*Wed.	Dec. 3, 10, 17, 24	12 noon	Pastor Wilbert Noon Devotional	DeChantel Apts.
*Wed.	Dec. 3, 10, 17	5-6 pm	Community Supper	Fellowship Hall
*Wed	Dec. 3, 10, 17	7:00 pm	AA	Heidi Rich Room
*Thurs.	Dec. 4, 11, 18	7:00 pm	Choir Rehearsal	Choir Room
*Fri.	Dec. 5, 12, 19	7:00 pm	Bible Study	Lounge
*Sat.	Dec. 6, 13, 20	4:00 pm	Lutheran's Bible Study	
*Sat..	Dec. 6, 13, 20, 27	5:00 pm	Lutheran Services	Sanctuary
*Sat.	Dec. 6 13, 20	9:30 – 10:30	Zumba	Fellowship Hall

First United Methodist Church of Saranac Lake
63 Church Street
Saranac Lake, NY 12983



**For Those of You Who Are
Receiving This by Mail**

**PLEASE HELP US BY
GIVING US YOUR EMAIL ADDRESS**

The best way would be to send an
email to Claudia at:

firstumcsl@centralny.twcbc.com