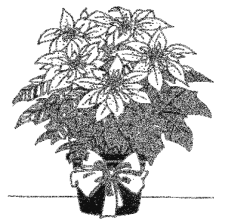




# THE CHURCH CANDLE DECEMBER - 2017



A Newsletter of the Sayre Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)

## FOOD PANTRY SUNDAY—DECEMBER 3

**Food Pantry Sunday:** On the first Sunday of the month, our church observes Food Pantry Sunday. Each family is encouraged to bring a non-perishable food item which will be donated to the food pantry, “Feed My Sheep” located at the United Methodist Church in Athens PA. In November, our church donated 83 food items. The Athens United Methodist Church always follows with a thank you for our contribution to this ministry.

Dear Sayre Christian Church Family, It is with thankful hearts that we once again received food items from you caring folks. Thank you for your faithful support of our “Feed My Sheep” Food Pantry. Happy Thanksgiving and our sincere thanks.

*“Whoever is kind to the needy, honors God.”  
Proverbs 14:31b*

## “SCOUTING FOR FOOD”

Each year the Cub Scout Pack 4018 and Boy Scout Troop 4018 participate in the annual “Scouting for Food.” Bags are left at the doors of neighborhood houses in order to collect non-perishable food items. Congratulations to our scouts and neighborhood for providing 2500 food items to the “Feed My Sheep” food pantry in Athens.

## A COMMUNITY HOLIDAY CONCERT

will be held at the Waverly High School on Tuesday, December 5, 2017 at 10 am in the auditorium. The concert is **free** and will be approximately one hour in length. The Waverly High School band, Jazz Band, and Chorus, will be performing.

## New Address for Kevin & Shannon Arensman

5044 Mountain View Drive  
Boise ID 83704

## CHRISTMAS CARD PROJECT

The Outreach Team will be participating in the Christmas Card Project coordinated by Rev. Jeffrey Mensendiek, our Global Ministry partner who works and lives in Japan. Christians in Japan account for 1% of the population. We are again sending Christmas cards to two churches in Japan, located in Osaki City and Kamiyama City. We will be sending cards out the first week of December to:

- **Narugo Church** is located in a small town in the mountains known for its famous hot springs. There is a pre-school there now serving 57 children. Ninety-seven years ago, the church was started by missionaries of the Christian Church, USA. There are currently 19 members in this church.
- **Kaminoyama Church** is in a rural area of Japan surrounded by mountains. The church members are old, and each is struggling with weakness. This Christmas there are 6 members. The church is often used as a community center.

## “STORIES” COFFEEHOUSE CHRISTMAS PREVIEW

Thursday, December 14, 2017

7:00—9:00 pm

Matthew’s Place (side vestry)



Kate and Lewie Siffrinn will provide musical entertainment beginning at 7:00 pm. Andrea Kovacs Rose will share her picture book “Christmas Kisses.” The book discusses overcoming grief (due to the loss of a loved one) during the holiday season. “Christmas Kisses” is based on a Christmas tradition that Andrea and her daughter used to celebrate the life of her first husband. We plan to end the evening with singing traditional Christmas carols. Snacks will be provided. There is no charge to this event. Please bring a non-perishable food item which will be donated to a local food pantry. Monetary donations will be used for refreshments or used to Impact Hunger.

*My Prayer for This New Journey*

God, you are the God of wisdom, understanding, and truth. You made humanity marvelous and you created us to be inquisitive creatures. Lord, as a unique part of your creation, we want to know you more, to see you more, and to experience more of your magnificence. Your word tells us that the truth will set us free; through your word we know that you are the truth. You created in us the desire for knowledge and gave humanity, your creation, the gifts of understanding, discernment, and wisdom; you place us above all other creatures with these gifts. Across all history and time, you have compelled your children to seek your face and to desire closeness to you, and you have given us instruction so we can understand you and ourselves in ways no other creature can. Scripture tells us, “*Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a worker who does not need to be ashamed and who correctly handles the word of truth.*” This is our aspiration and ambition in education, to understand you more and to be enabled to present ourselves to you as one approved. Our sincerest desire is to hear you say, “Well done good and faithful servant”.

God, we are thankful for your presence with us on our journey of theological education. We are grateful for the others that have gone before us, who unite with us, and who are our companions in this experience. We want to show our gratitude to you, to each other, and to those people who trust us to care for them in ministry. Our wish is to find joy in our trials and excitement in our challenges. The things which cause fear in our hearts can cheer us if we modify our assumptions, we are gratified that you bolster and strengthen us to adopt a cheerful and glad heart.

Lord, each of us shares a common longing to seek your face. As we start on this journey of education, spiritual enlightenment, and spiritual awakening, we are confident of your presence with us. Our prayer is during these weeks, months, and years of study and prayer your will for our lives will be made known to us. As part of this community, we know that only through the teaching and support of those who have previously traveled this path will we complete this journey. We crave a broader understanding of who you are and, with the help of the ones who have gone before, a broader understanding of ourselves. Our hope is to find a community of learners and instructors who will challenge, transform, and strengthen our faith. We hope to find our voices so that we can respond to your people.

We acknowledge that we may stumble and fall while traveling along this path. This is a new road we walk, and we confess our hearts are laden with anxiety as we begin this journey. We confess to stubbornness in our views but are open to growth and change. We are as children with child-like understandings of your word and your ways. We pray for your strength and shoulders to lean on so we can face the challenges of the new people we are becoming, and put aside our old selves as we are transformed into your new creations. Our ideas about who you are, and the way we look at worship are changing. We admit Lord that we face challenges with time and with money. We lean on the assurance that all things come from you and you will allow us to experience *Kairos* for this journey. The knowledge that the will of God will never take us where the Grace of God will not protect us is comforting to us.

Convict us, God, when we are inhospitable and when we are spiritually arrogant. Replenish us with new possibilities as we seek to deepen our relationships with our colleagues. Teach us as we accept the differences as well as the similarities of those who journey with us. Challenge us to learn from those whose ideas and opinions are foreign to ours for only then will we grow in our perception of the world around us. We understand that although we are different in the challenges we face individually, we are part of a community that can learn, grow, and transform together. Our hope is we will not resist the changes that will occur in our lives and in our attitudes.

This education journey must begin with the certainty of your existence and the fact that you have communicated to us through creation, scripture, and Jesus Christ. God, we know you are with us on this journey for your word tells us that you are with us even “to the end of the age. . .” As committed Christians, we pray that our understanding of your wisdom and power deepens. Intensify that desire within us so we may know the full joy and power of your never-ending love. Our prayer is that this new experience of training and education will strengthen us and provide the bread and water that feeds our hunger and thirst for more of you.

These things we pray in Jesus name and for the glory of God alone. Amen.

Paula Kraus, Pastor

**SERVICE SCHEDULE FOR December 2017**

**ELDER/DEACON:** Julie Allis, Eva Kretsch  
**DEACONS:** Laurel Mareck, Kathy Rava, Krystle Garrison, Gloria Lincoln  
**JR. DEACONS:** Shawn Shaw, Sierra Garrison  
**STEWARDS:** Don Valentine and Krystle Garrison

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**SEED FAITH CIRCLE**

(Disciples Women’s Ministry)

All women of the church are invited to come to Yanuzzi’s Restaurant on Tuesday, December 19, 2017 at 6 pm as we gather for dinner. Contact Wendy if you plan to attend, 570-888-2683.

**CHRISTMAS GIFTS for the CHURCH STAFF**

As we approach the season of Christmas, please remember our pastor and staff. Please let them know in some tangible way how much you truly value them. It would be nice to thank Pastor Paula and staff with a Christmas gift from the congregation. If you are interested in extending a thank you to the church staff, place a small donation in an envelope designated for “Christmas Gift” and place it in the collection tray. These gifts will be divided among the church staff - Church Secretary, Financial Secretary, Janitor, Grounds person, Pianist/Choir Director, and Pastor. Please let the people who work for the Lord and for this Church know that they are appreciated.

**RECORD OF GIVING FOR OCTOBER**

The following income comes to the church through the weekly offering on Sunday and from groups who meet in the church weekly.

Current Expenses . . . . .	\$71,939.07*
Local Outreach . . . . .	32.00
World Outreach . . . . .	2.00
Building Fund . . . . .	\$ 1,682.65
Reconciliation Offering . . . . .	242.00

**\*THANK YOU!** to Beulah Merrill. Through her estate, the church received a gift of approximately \$63,000. Her gift allowed the church to pay off the mortgage. We are now debt free.

**TAKE NOTE:**

For Christmas, Sierra Garrison is taking donations of pet food. She would like to collect 500 lbs. If you would like to help Sierra with her efforts, you may bring pet food to the church and place it in the baskets available at each entrance. Sierra, we appreciate your giving spirit!

**SPECIAL CHRISTMAS OFFERING of the CHRISTIAN CHURCH (Disciples of Christ)**

*Speaking the truth in love, we must grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ, from whom the whole body, joined and knit together by every ligament with which it is equipped, as each part is working properly, promotes the body’s growth in building itself up in love.*  
*Ephesians 4:15-16*

This offering will be received during the worship service on December 10 and December 17, 2017. One hundred percent of the Christmas Offering will be given to our own Pennsylvania Region. Regional Ministry knits the church together by equipping leaders, encouraging congregations, and building relationships.

**CONDOLENCES**

We express our sympathy to the family and friends of **Lynda Vanderpoel Myers** who died on November 11, 2017 at the Athens Healthcare and Rehab Center. Lynda was a long time member of our church. We pray that God will comfort those who mourn her.



The meals we packaged on September 30, 2017 were part of a shipping container, holding 280,368 meals, that was sent to Zambia for our partner Family Legacy Missions. Family Legacy Missions is an organization that nourishes lives through food assistance and other services in Zambia.

**GOD’S PROMISES BOOKSTORE**

This is a Christian Bookstore featuring Christian books, Bibles, movies, music, gift items, church supplies, and a kid’s corner! located on Route 220, between Ram Tire and BEST Transportation. Hours are:

Mon—Wed: 9 am—5 pm  
Thurs-Fri: 9 am—7 pm  
Sat: 9 am—2 pm  
Sunday closed

www.godspromisesbookstore.wordpress.com  
570-731-4562

## A NOTE OF THANKS . . .

I wanted to let everyone know that I have finished my chemotherapy treatment at the Sayre Clinic, and by the time this comes out, headed back to Virginia and back to work part-time. Thank you for your prayers and your wonderful thoughts. Hopefully, I don't have to go through anything else like this again. Again, thanks.

Julie Johnson

## CONGRATULATIONS!

- **Oliver McKeithan** received the “Wind Beneath Our Wings Award” at the annual dinner of the Big Brother Big Sisters.
- **Shawn Shaw** and **Zachary Anderson** were on the Athens Boys Soccer Team which won the NTL title again.
- **Zachary Anderson** was inducted into the Rho Kappa Social Studies Honor Society. **Shawn Shaw** was honored as a senior and as an officer (secretary) with two sets of honor cords on November 15.
- **Shawn Shaw** is now swimming for the Athens HS Varsity Swim Team and the Waverly Area Aquatic Club. He has been accepted at six colleges and was offered scholarships at all of them.
- **Amanda Buchta**, granddaughter of Eva Kretsch, will graduate summa cum laude from Coastal Carolina (University of South Carolina) with a BS in Psychology on December 15.

May God continue to bless Oliver, Shawn, Zachary, and Amanda in their future endeavors.

## INFORMATION FROM THE BRIDGE

- ◆ The Bridge of the Penn York Valley Churches celebrated **30 years of ministry** in the valley (1987-2017.)
- ◆ The **Mobile Food Pantry** distribution is the third Wednesday of each month 10 am—11 am at the North Waverly Chapel. A Hospitality Team is needed 9 am—11 am to offer interaction and coffee/drinks to clients waiting for the food giveaway to start. For more information, call 607-565-4795.
- ◆ The **Helping Hands Furniture** needs beds of all sizes—twin, full, and queen! This includes metal frames, mattresses, and box springs. Call the Helping Hands Ministry at 570-886-1057.
- ◆ The **Clothes Closet** is in need of two volunteers when it is open on the 5th Tuesday of the month. A third worker is needed on various Tuesdays or Wednesdays. There is a continuing need for clean clothes of all sizes for men, boys, girls, and larger ladies sizes. The Clothes Closet is located at the North Waverly Chapel. Hours are Tuesday, 6:30—8:30 pm, and Wednesday, 12 noon to 2 pm. Find more info at [clothescloset@thevalleybridge.org](mailto:clothescloset@thevalleybridge.org).

## A NOTE FROM AN ELDER

*Therefore He who supplies the spirit to you and works miracles among you, does He do it by the works of the law, or by the hearing of faith?—Just as Abraham “Believed God, and it was accounted to Him for righteousness.”*  
*Galatians 3:5-6*

The Elders have all pledged their support to Paula. She has been one of us and a very hard worker. Yes, our faith alone can work miracles, but how much more true spiritual power do we possess when we take action? The good works that God inspires us to do in the world double the chances of great results and working miracles—not only in our own lives, but in the lives of those around us. It is even greater to walk our talk and talk our walk. This is what God wants us to do. Faith is great, but when backed by action, it is even greater. That is the secret of integrity; matching our words and actions so they are one in the same.

Pastor Kevin started some good things at our church . . . to feed people, to provide music, to remember the people around us, and in our church to love each other. Let us all work together to help Paula lead this church where God shows her to.

Marlene Enlow, Elder

## RED KETTLE CAMPAIGN

The Salvation Army is seeking the community's help to support the Red Kettle Campaign which is to be held November 10th through December 23rd. They are looking for groups to sponsor a kettle stand for one or more days to help them reach their seasonal goal of \$25,000. Your group can play a part in helping to raise awareness of poverty by ringing the bells for this cause. Share this idea with your family, friends, or business. Call Major Debra Stedman at 570-888-2153 at the Salvation Army to sign up.



**the  
Light shines in  
the Darkness**

**DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS**

- December 3 Sarah Rava
- 8 Leslie Shaw
- 9 Jane Hibbard
- 11 Oliver McKeithan
- 17 Kathy Rava
- 20 Eric Rava
- 27 Bob Felt
- 28 David Padilla

**DECEMBER ANNIVERSARIES**

- December 26 Bob & Phyllis Felt



**CELEBRATION SUNDAY!** will be held on December 31, 2017. This is the fifth Sunday of the month, so we will honor all those who are celebrating a birthday or anniversary with a Fellowship meal after worship in the side vestry. Bring a dish to pass. Beverages and tableware will be provided.

**CHRISTMAS REMINDERS**

- May the Christmas presents remind you of God’s greatest gift—His only begotten Son.
- May the Christmas candles remind you of Him who is the light of the world.
- May the Christmas tree remind you of another tree on which He died for you.
- May the Christmas cheer remind you of Him who said, “Be of good cheer.”
- May the Christmas feast remind you of Him who is the bread of life.
- May the Christmas snow remind you of the cleansing power of Christ.
- May the Christmas bells remind you of the glorious proclamation of His birth.
- May the Christmas carols remind you of His glad tidings which we are to proclaim to all mankind.
- May the Christmas season remind you in every way of Jesus Christ your King.

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**POINSETTIA ORDER FORM**

Would you like to adorn our sanctuary for the coming holiday season by ordering a poinsettia. Each plant can be given in memory of, or in honor of your loved one(s). You may take the plants home after the Christmas Eve service or you can designate them to go to someone who is homebound. Please fill out the order form below and return it with your payment to the Church Office or Wendy McKeithan. The first order will be called in on December 11.

Color choices are **red, white, and pink.** Only one size plant is offered, (a 2 quart) for \$7.00.

\_\_\_Red \_\_\_White \_\_\_Pink ---Total #\_\_\_Total Cost \_\_\_Cash \_\_\_Check # \_\_\_

Ordered by \_\_\_\_\_ Phone # \_\_\_\_\_

To be given **in Memory of** or **in Honor** of (circle one): \_\_\_\_\_

By \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_I will take my plant (s) home or \_\_\_Please give the plant (s) to a homebound person.

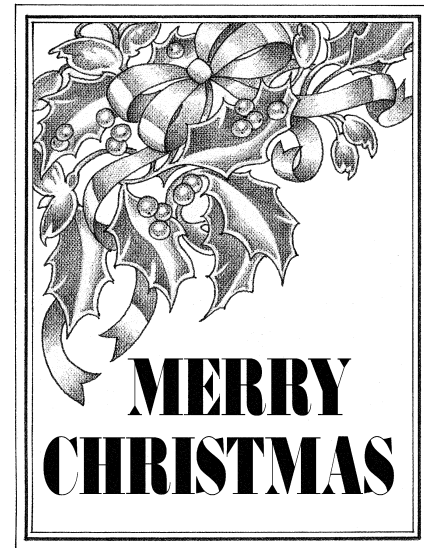
Sayre Christian Church  
427 S. Keystone Avenue  
Sayre PA 18840



## THE "CHURCH CANDLE" December 2017

### UPCOMING EVENTS - DECEMBER 2017

- December 3 Food Pantry Sunday  
Hanging of the Green Service
- 12 Church Board Meeting at 6:00 pm
- 14 "Stories" Coffeehouse Christmas Preview  
7 pm—9 pm
- 19 Seed Faith Circle at 6 pm  
at Yanuzzi's Restaurant
- 10/17 Christmas Offering received at worship
- 24 Christmas Eve Service at 7 pm
- 25 Merry Christmas!
- January 1 Happy New Year!



from Pastor Paula Kraus, the staff, and congregation of  
the Sayre Christian Church.

Church Office: 1-570-888-2683  
E-Mail: [sayrechristianchurch@gmail.com](mailto:sayrechristianchurch@gmail.com)  
[www.sayrechristianchurch.org](http://www.sayrechristianchurch.org)  
[www.facebook.com/Sayre Christian](http://www.facebook.com/Sayre Christian)