



# THE CHURCH CANDLE

## NOVEMBER - 2020

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

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### **ALL SAINTS DAY** observed on **SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 1, 2020**

All Saints Day is always observed on the first day of November.

*“We celebrate today the solemnity of All Saints. This invites us to turn our gaze to the immense multitude of those who have already reached the blessed land, and points us on the path that will lead us to that destination.” quoting Pope John II*

All Saints Day is the day when the Christian Church celebrates all those who have died and ascended into heaven. Most churches observe All Saints Day to commemorate those who have passed from the congregation in the previous year. In loving memory, we remember . . .

Willo Clark—September 13, 2019

Lola Jean Bouse—October 30, 2019

Cheryl Rose Skiff—November 13, 2019

Lester Goble—December 2, 2019

Jeffrey Hurd—January 15, 2020

Lenore Savage—January 23, 2020

Julie Johnson—February 25, 2020

Teresa Rava—February 29, 2020

### **WHAT IS A SAINT?**

In the Bible to be called a “SAINT” refers not to a special Christian; rather it identifies those who refer to Jesus as special; that is, those who call Jesus the Christ, are called saints. Those who claim Jesus as God’s way for the world are those who are set apart to live the Jesus way. We become saints not because of our goodness but because of God’s goodness. We are set apart as followers of Christ because of God’s action seen, understood, and claimed in Christ. On **All Saints Day** in a local congregation we may well name as a Saint someone who is widely known to have been less than an exemplary Christian. But don’t we all fall short of the glory of God? Paul called the church in Corinth Saints. He also calls them sexually immoral and lots of other negative things. They were not Saints because they lived holy lives but because Jesus gave his whole life for them.

### **FOOD PANTRY SUNDAY - NOVEMBER 1**

The first Sunday of the month we observe Food Pantry Sunday. Each family is asked to bring a non-perishable food item which will be donated to the “Feed My Sheep” food pantry located at Athens United Methodist Church on S. Main Street. The Athens United Methodist church family is grateful for the 56 food items donated last month.

Dear Sayre Christian Church Family,

Thank you for your recent donation of food items to our Feed My Sheep Food Pantry. Our numbers of needy families continue to grow each month. We appreciate your faithful support.

In His Service, Athens United Methodist Church Family

*May the Lord repay you for what you have done. May you be richly rewarded by the Lord. Ruth 2:12a*

## PAULA'S PAGE . . .

Dear Church,

I wonder how many are inwardly grateful that November is here, and this horrible year is almost over? Me too! There have been some things this year that have brought new opportunities to the Sayre Christian Church. We have been able to work despite a tightened budget. And we have learned to adjust when the winds of change blow. Although we weren't live streaming our services during the shut-down, we did find a way to get them on Facebook so everyone with the technology could watch them. And even though we haven't been able to fellowship the way we would like, this has been an opportunity for us to connect the old-fashioned way – by sending cards and making phone calls. Who would have thought that we would welcome back what progress had pushed aside?

I want to express my appreciation for the cards received during Pastor Appreciation Month. I can't express enough how blessed I feel for serving this congregation. You are very special people to me, and it is humbling when you return some of that sentiment. I absolutely love the time we spend together in Sunday School classes and in Bible Study, not to mention the Seed Faith group when we can meet and other opportunities. I am grateful to each of you for the support you give me in my schooling and everyday activities.

We begin the Advent season on November 29. Pray that this Advent will bring an end to the calamities that we've seen in 2020 and as we hope for Jesus' return we will also hope for the return of normalcy to our lives.

Blessings and stay safe,  
Pastor Paula



### THE ROOTS of the CHRISTIAN CHURCH (Disciples of Christ)

In October we looked at the Springfield Presbytery and the document, *The Last Will and Testament of the Springfield Presbytery*, as one of the important documents in creating the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). This month we will become acquainted with another of the founders, Walter Scott. Scott was born in 1796 in Scotland. He was educated at the University of Edinburgh, and arrived in New York in July 1818. Scott came into the Campbell's circle of influence after moving to Ohio in 1826 and began intensive work with the Campbell's group of reformers associated with the Mahoning Baptist Association. Scott is considered one of the most influential evangelists of the group, and it was Scott who developed the Five Finger Exercise as a summary of the plan of salvation used for preaching and teaching purposes. For those who are not familiar with the **Five Finger Exercise**, Scott used this simple exercise to teach the path to salvation particularly to children. Starting at the thumb, each finger represents a step in that path with the words:

*faith*  
*repentance*

*Baptism*  
*remission of sins*

*and gift of the Holy Spirit / eternal life*

Using fingers was an easy way to practice this sequence. Faith, belief in Jesus Christ, is the first step and contrasts with what the Calvinists believed as the order of salvation that the Holy Spirit must work first for one to discover if they were among God's elect. Although simple, this exercise expresses serious theology in a way that enabled even children to be witnesses to the gospel.



**ELDER:** Julie Allis  
**STEWARD:** To Be Announced

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**GRIEF & LOSS SUPPORT GROUP**

Every Monday beginning on  
 November 2, 2020 to December 7, 2020  
 6:30-8:00 pm in the lounge at the  
 Waverly United Methodist Church  
 158 Chemung Street, Waverly NY

This is a free ongoing support group for adults, facilitated by Pastor Cindy Schulte and Jane Lane, LCSW. This group is an opportunity to meet other grieving people and share experiences and coping strategies. **Pre-registration is required** to help us maintain COVID protocols; please call Lesa Paul, 607-565-8650.

**SPECIAL DATES TO REMEMBER . . .**

- ⇒ Sunday, **November 8, 2020**, a **special Congregational Meeting** will be held after the worship service. The 2021 Budget will be presented. All members of the Church are encouraged to remain after the worship Service as a vote of approval will be taken.
- ⇒ Sunday, **November 8, 2020**, an **Assembly Party** for Operation Christmas Child will be held after the congregational meeting. The assembly of boxes and gifts will be done in the Fellowship Area.
- ⇒ Saturday, **November 21, 2020**, a **Regional Assembly** via zoom will be held at the First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) at Alba, PA, 10 am—noon. It was decided that members of our East Central District would meet at one location. Pastor Paula will be going to Alba. Contact her if you are interested to go. There will be a recording available to view later if you are not able to go November 21.
- ⇒ Sunday, **November 29, 2020**, a **Regional Advent Service and Installation of Officers** will be held via Zoom at 6:00 pm. Pastor Paula will be viewing this service at the church. If you would like to join her, please let her know.

**SEED FAITH CIRCLE**

The women of the church will gather on Tuesday, **November 17, 2020 at 6:00 pm at The Rail House** located on Broad Street in Waverly, NY. All are welcome to share an evening of fellowship and dinner. Each person orders their meal from the menu. Contact Wendy McKeithan if you plan to attend.



**Veterans Day**

As we observe Veteran’s Day on **Wednesday, NOVEMBER 11**, let us remember the men and women of our church family who are currently serving our country:

- Michael & Amy (Smith) Franks & Family in Okinawa Japan
- Matthew & Melanie (Rosh) Adams & Family
- Austin Robert is now stationed in El Paso, Texas.

We pray that God will protect and bless those who serve and their families. If there is someone in your family that is in the service and we are not aware of, please contact the Church Office, 570-888-2683. Sonshine cards are sent monthly to these families to remind them their church family remembers them.

**THANKSGIVING OFFERING**

of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)  
 This offering will be received at our church on **Sunday, November 15** and **November 22, 2020**. Envelopes will be available in the pew and at the table by the front sanctuary door. From the very beginnings of the movement, Disciples have founded institutions of higher learning, encouraging students in their intellectual pursuits. The Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) is still committed to higher education. In the midst of national and global challenges associated with the COVID-19 pandemic, our higher education institutions are facing unprecedented challenges and need our support no, more than ever. Even as they work diligently to ensure safe and healthy learning environments, the financial realities faced by many of our schools is adding additional stress to students, faculty and staff. This November, please give generously to this year’s Thanksgiving offering. Your gifts make a world of difference as Disciples continue our legacy of supporting education and institutions of higher learning.

## A Thought or 2 from Marlene Enlow FIRM FOUNDATION—BRICK WALL

*“ . . .but you will call your walls Salvation  
and your gates Praise.” Isaiah 60:18b*

My grandsons have been coming to see me on Tuesday and Thursday; one in the morning and one in the afternoon. We have a meal and then play games for an hour. As we played one game, I thought of this metaphor, a firm foundation with brick walls is called the Sayre Christian Church.

The laying of a foundation takes time. There are no short cuts. So, what is our foundation and walls made of? Our foundation is Jesus Christ. But, we have built it on a bedrock of virtue, humility, perseverance, and love for our Jesus Christ. All of us who attend and support this church in any way are its bricks in the wall. You may think you are one brick of so many. But, if only one brick slips out of place, there is undue strain on the other bricks. Cracks will begin to appear and the wall begins to totter. We have failed God.

So what kind of wall are we? Are we going to be a strong wall or a wall that is starting to fall down? It takes all of us working together to be strong. We will be a brick in the wall of a church that shows love, hope, truth, friendship, and a presence of God’s love. What kind of brick in the wall are you: a strong one doing all you can do for God and His building or one about to crack? At times like this, we must be asking God to make us all strong so we have a church for Him that can do His work. Praise God that we are the strong Sayre Christian Church.

## BIBLE Quiz

What was the jobs of Cain and Abel?  
(Answer on page 5)

Did you know this about the Bible?

- The Bible is the most commonly stolen and also the best-selling book in the world.
- The Bible takes place across three continents; Asia, Africa, and Europe
- There are women who also speak in the Bible, adding Up to 14,056 words, or 1.8% of it.

## GIVING REPORT FOR SEPTEMBER

The following monies are received from the Sunday offering and the groups that use the church building during the week.

Income for Current Expenses . . . .	\$6,371.00
Income for Designated Funds . . . . .	183.00
World Outreach . . . . .	117.00
Local Outreach . . . . .	142.00
Building Fund . . . . .	\$.1,267.00

In September, a special offering for the Reconciliation Ministry of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) was received. Our congregation collected \$53.00 for this ministry.

## GIVING FROM LOCAL OUTREACH

In October, the Outreach Team approved a total of \$1,700 from our Local Outreach Fund to be given to the following organizations: American Bible Society, The Bridge, Catholic Charities, Endless Mountains Mission in Troy PA, Endless Mountains Pregnancy Care Center, The Haft in New Albany, Feed My Sheep Food Pantry, Penn York Opportunities in Athens PA, and the Food Pantry of the Salvation Army. This giving comes from the money given on Sunday to the Local Outreach Fund which is listed on the offering envelopes. If you have any questions about the Outreach Team or giving, see Wendy McKeithan.

## CONGRATULATIONS!



**Rachel Rava** and **Fred Aguilar** were married on the sunny beach of Cape May, NJ on September 15, 2020. Rachel is the daughter of Rick and Kathy Rava. May God bless Rachel and Fred with many years of happiness!

## NOVEMBER CELEBRATIONS . . .

### HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

November 1—Nicole Boockoff  
2—Lucille Northrup  
6—Amy Smith Franks  
10—Nick Rava  
Peter Schultz  
11—Laura Stephenson  
Hazel Bradley  
16—Nancy Swartwood  
19—Cathy Greeno  
Howard Sinsabaugh  
22—Joe Kraus  
24—Don Valentine  
25—Donald Belcher  
27—Eric Northrup  
29—Charles Kline  
30—Nancy Cain

### HAPPY ANNIVERSARY!

November 17—Jeffrey & Kathy Robert  
20—Don & Donna Johnson  
22—Rick & Kathy Rava  
24—Peter & Brenda Schultz  
Charles & Holly Kline  
27—Norman & Sherrie Fairbanks  
Mike & Janice Brady

### Answer to Bible Quiz:

What were the jobs of Cain and Abel?  
Cain was a farmer. Abel was a shepherd.

## ADVENT BEGINS—NOVEMBER 29, 2020

### Advent Devotions available from Society of Saint Andrew

Once again, our church will have devotions for Advent prepared by the Society of St. Andrew. The Society of St. Andrew is a non-profit, grassroots, interfaith ministry, that has been working toward a world without hunger since 1979. Hunger relief ministries of this organization include a Gleaning Network, Potato & Produce Project, Seed Potato Project, and Harvest of Hope. The devotion booklet “Peace be with You” offers scripture readings, reflections, and prayers for each day of Advent. A jar will be available for donations which will be given to the Society of St. Andrew. Visit <https://endhunger.org/> if you would like to receive the devotion on-line.

## THANK YOU!

I want to thank my church family for their continued prayers. Also, thank you to the Seed Faith Circle for all the lovely cards. Love and hugs to all,

Barb Lincoln

The Seed Faith Circle would like to thank the group, The Stampin’ Buddies coordinated by Toni Shaw for creating cards (a total of 45) for our Sunshine Card Ministry.

### Getting to Know Mr. Fred Croop

Pastor Paula is given one Sunday off each month in order to provide time for her to study or to have some leisure time. **Mr. Fred Croop** has been providing the sermon several times in her absence in the past few months. He was willing to provide some information about himself, so we can get to know him better. He is sure to be here more often.

Fred Croop and his wife, Charlotte Winans live in Tunkhannock, Pennsylvania with their 18-year-old granddaughter, Kolia, who they have raised from birth. They reared two sons of their own, the younger Nathan Croop is a career special operations U.S. Marine living in North Carolina, and the older, Joshua Croop, is deceased. Charlotte is retired from the Tunkhannock School District and Fred, a Certified Public Accountant, is a Professor of Accounting at Misericordia University in Dallas, Pa, where he has worked for 32 years. Fred’s home church is the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) of Plymouth, PA where he is an elder and chairperson of the trustees. Fred is pursuing a Certificate in Pastoral Care at Lexington Theological Seminary and is a Commissioned Minister of the Northeast region of the Disciples of Christ (Christian Church) faith.

### LET OUR LIVES BE OUR THANKSGIVING

*Let our lives be our Thanksgiving  
To our Father up above;  
Let us worship Him with kindness;  
Let us praise Him with our love.  
Let us honor Him with virtue;  
Let good deeds become our prayer;  
Let our lives be our Thanksgiving  
For the bounty that we share.*

**Sayre Christian Church**  
**(Disciples of Christ)**  
427 S. Keystone Avenue  
Sayre PA 18840-1527  
Paula Kraus, Pastor  
570-888-2683



**THE "CHURCH CANDLE"**  
**November 2020**

**UPCOMING EVENTS - NOVEMBER 2020**

- November 1 Food Pantry Sunday  
All Saints Day
- 8 Special Congregational Meeting after worship  
Assembly Party for Operation Christmas Child  
after meeting in the Fellowship Area
- 10 Church Board Meeting at 6:00 pm
- 15/22 Special Thanksgiving Offering received
- 17 Seed Faith Circle at 6 pm  
Meet at the Rail House in Waverly NY
- 21 Regional Assembly, 10 am-noon via zoom  
at Alba Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)
- 26 Happy Thanksgiving!
- 29 First Sunday of Advent  
Regional Advent Service & Installation of  
Officers via zoom at 6 pm



**THANKSGIVING**

**Thursday, November 26, 2020**

**[www.sayrechristianchurch.org](http://www.sayrechristianchurch.org)**  
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