



THE CHURCH CANDLE

NOVEMBER 2023

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

ALL SAINTS DAY observed on SUNDAY, November 5th

All Saints Day is 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 have some type of remembrance on the nearest Sunday to All Saints Day to commemorate those who have passed from our congregational family. In loving memory, we remember:

Sylvia Olmstead ~ February 25, 2023
Edward Sefcik ~ March 9, 2023
Everett Greeno ~ April 14, 2023
Kathleen Teel ~ April 27, 2023
Sharon Youngblood ~ May 6, 2023
Rose Marie Crawford ~ May 12, 2023

Tony Buchta ~ May 26, 2023
Mary Ann Musto ~ August 1, 2023
Arlene Learn ~ August 7, 2023
Sandy Keener ~ August 19, 2023
Mark Williams ~ October 22, 2023

FOOD PANTRY SUNDAY – November 5th ...

“Food Pantry Sunday” is observed on the first Sunday of the month. Each family is asked to bring a non-perishable food item to be delivered to the “Feed My Sheep” Food Pantry to the Athens United Methodist Church on South Main Street.

The Athens United Methodist Church family responded to our October donation of 117 food items. “Generosity like yours enables us to help many needy folks in our community.” Thank you Oliver McKeithan for delivering them.

“THE LORD BLESS YOU AND KEEP YOU”

Numbers 6:24



FALL FESTIVAL OF MUSIC

**Sunday, November 5th
at 4:00 p.m.
at the Canton Church of
Christ (Disciples of Christ)**

Performances will be given by the churches of the East Central District of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in PA, the Endless Mountains Choral Society, and the Troy Presbyterian Church. **Special Guests** will be the Troy High School Chamber Choir. Members of the choir from the Sayre Christian Church will be performing this year.

There is no admission cost, an exit offering will be taken to benefit the Pregnancy Care Centers in Bradford, Tioga, Columbia and Lycoming Counties. Please call Wendy McKeithan at 570-596-4008 if you would like to attend the concert.



Saturday, NOVEMBER 11th VETERANS DAY

Veterans Day 2023 is a nationally observed holiday in the United States that honors and pays tribute to all military veterans who have served in the U.S. Armed Forces.



PAULA'S PAGE

Dear Church,

We are only a few weeks away from our Advent celebrations which begin on December 3rd. I want to remind you we will be doing a special Advent Bible Study from one of the Right Now Media offerings. You may have received an invitation to sign up for that service and I encourage you to do so – there are thousands of video resources for you and your family to enjoy on your computers or smart phones – the app is even available if you have Chromecast, ROKU, Apple TV, or FireTV. I can hook you up with the link for downloading the app, just let me know.



Even though I hate cooler weather, I do love this season of preparing for Advent, the coming of Jesus. I love the music and the decorations, and I love the things we do for others during this time. Our world is experiencing so much strife, so much violence and oppression exists right now – and it's not only happening in far away places, but it also happens right here, right in front of our eyes. There seems to be a large outcry of an “eye for an eye” everywhere you turn. I just want to say that is not God's plan for our world – Jesus went to the cross so that retaliation need no longer be part of our response. As I am sure most of you are, I am deeply affected by the things going on in our world, by terrorism and by the extremists' rhetoric. All we can do is pray for God's peace, borrowing words from Psalm 82 – “Rise up, O God, judge the earth, for all the nations are your inheritance.” I praise God that you are a congregation loving your neighbors, doing for others during this time. Yay you!

Blessings, Pastor Paula

Steeplejacking ...

What would you do if one Sunday morning seventy people came into our church and asked to join our congregation? The first inclination is to gladly welcome them, right? Wonderful, more people to fill our pews, more people to offer their tithes, more people to do God's work, what could be wrong with that. So, they join and become legitimate members of the congregation. Now, the very next week they stand up and, because these seventy are now the majority of the congregation, they vote to remove the pastor, disband the governing body, get rid of the elders (not hard we only have three active elders) and withdraw from the denomination. These seventy people can put themselves in positions of leadership, remove the names from our bank account, our legacy funds and scholarship money and own our building. All because we do not have tighter control over church membership and church leadership.

THAT IS STEEPLE JACKING – and there is something we can do about it. We can vote now to put some controls in place in our Congregational Covenant that restrict what “new” church members can do, limit voting rights to new members unless they have at least six months (or more) of consistent church attendance. We can limit who serves on the board and who holds leadership positions using similar formulas.

Steeplejacking is a tactic used by some groups to separate smaller mainstream congregations from their property. It has happened in West Virginia and in the Northeast Region of our own denomination. We should be out in front of this, before the unthinkable happens here.



SERVICE SCHEDULE FOR NOVEMBER 2023

ELDER: To Be Determined / **STEWARDS:** Susie Kasson

FALL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING
Sunday, November 12th (following the Worship Service)

This is an important meeting as the budget for the Fiscal Year 2024 will be presented to the congregation for full approval. Included in the e-mail of the Church Newsletter, is a narrative style budget, and there are printed copies available. Please do not hesitate to ask me any questions regarding the budget. We always try to strike a good balance between ministries and operations. We are a small congregation and many of us are on fixed incomes. It is important that you know where our money is being used.

Oliver McKeithan, Treasurer

THANKSGIVING OFFERING of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)

The special Thanksgiving Offering will be received on Sunday, November 12th and November 19th. The Thanksgiving Offering benefits the colleges, universities, and divinity houses affiliated with the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ).

DISCIPLES CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP DINNER ...



Will be held on Tuesday, November 21st - 6:30 p.m.,
at the Sayre Christian Church.

All men and women are invited to this dinner.

The menu will feature a Baked Ham Dinner — Cost is \$10 plus offering
Assorted desserts will be served. If you would like to provide a dessert,
please contact Wendy McKeithan at 570-596-4008.

The Program is “To Be Determined”

**OPERATION
CHRISTMAS CHILD
COLLECTION TIME ...**



If you have filled a box for Operation Christmas Child, please return it to the church by

Sunday, November 12th. The National Collection time is November 13th thru November 20th.

The Athens Wesleyan Church is the local drop-off station and will receive our boxes during that time. Thank you to all who have participated in this outreach.



Will be held on November 26th following the worship service. We will honor all those who are observing a birthday or anniversary this month.

Light refreshments will be served. Bring your favorite snack or dessert to share with others.

GIVING SUPPORT ...

The Sayre Christian Church was able to support the Reconciliation Ministry of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) with a special offering of \$130. The Outreach Team is grateful for your gifts.

GIVING REPORT FOR AUGUST 2023 AND SEPTEMBER 2023:

The following income for our church came from the weekly offering on Sunday and payments from the groups who use our building weekly:

August — 2023		September— 2023	
For Current Expenses	\$4,477.00	For Current Expenses	\$8,050.00
Designated	\$1,201.00	Designated	\$1,339.00
World Outreach	\$369.00	World Outreach	\$108.00
Local Outreach	\$239.00	Local Outreach	\$158.00
Building Fund	\$1,457.84	Building Fund	\$980.50



Once again, our church is reaching out to the children who attend the Bradford-Tioga County Head Start program. Angels will be hanging on the greenery around the choir loft beginning Sunday, November 26th. Each angel has information about a child such as gender, age, favorite colors and characters, and specific needs. It is hoped church members will choose a child to provide gifts for this Christmas. There are numbers on the angels to identify the child. Place this number on the gift tag. Share your Christmas spirit by giving to a child of our community. The gifts provided last year were very much appreciated. Deadline for gifts to be returned is Sunday, December 17th.

THE BRIDGE — 21st ANNUAL — SLEEPOUT ...

Friday, November 24th, 3:00 p.m. through Saturday, November 25th, 3:00 p.m.

Location at the Guthrie Desmond Street Practice, Parking Lot, 105 Desmond Street, Sayre, PA

Bridge board members will be joined by church, business, or individual sponsors to spend an hour or more weathering the cold in an unheated, open room. Funds raised during this event will be used to assist those in need in our community. The Bridge of the Penn-York Valley (25) churches provides emergency vouchers, food, clothing, and furniture to families who find themselves facing the loss of utilities, homelessness, and other needs. We serve those residing within the Athens, Sayre, or Waverly school districts.

The Sleepout goal is to raise \$15,000 to assist those in need in our community.

Our Challenge to You ...

- Pray for the Sleepout and the various Bridge ministries to bring awareness of those in need in the cold winter months ahead.
- Represent your church by **sponsoring a one-hour block of time** with 1-3 others from your Sunday School Class, women's and/or men's group, youth group, or family weathering the cold with a Bridge board member.
- Stop by the Guthrie Desmond Street location during the event to show your support and make a donation, or mail your tax-deductible donation to: The Bridge, PO Box 202, Sayre, PA 18840.

For more information, contact Kim at 570-867-2628 or sleepout@thevalleybridge.org.

NOVEMBER ...

- 1 ~ Nicole Boockoff
- 2 ~ Lucille Northrup
- 3 ~ Sheila Donovan
- 10 ~ Nick Rava
- 11 ~ Laura Stephenson
- 11 ~ Hazel Bradley
- 14 ~ Christopher Bennett
- 16 ~ Linda Coe
- 16 ~ Nancy Swartwood
- 18 ~ Jerry Cron
- 19 ~ Cathy Greeno
- 19 ~ Howard Sinsabaugh
- 22 ~ Joe Kraus
- 24 ~ Donald Valentine
- 27 ~ Eric Northrup
- 30 ~ Nancy Cain
- 30 ~ Deb Searfoss



NOVEMBER ...

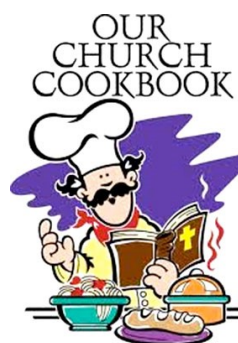
- 17 ~ Jeff and Kathy Robert
- 20 ~ Donald and Donna Johnson
- 22 ~ Rick and Kathy Rava

LET US PRAY ...

Ric Rava
Don and Donna Johnson
Bonnie Beley
Mike Spencer
Dawn Anderson
Friends in Nursing Homes or
unable to get out on their own.



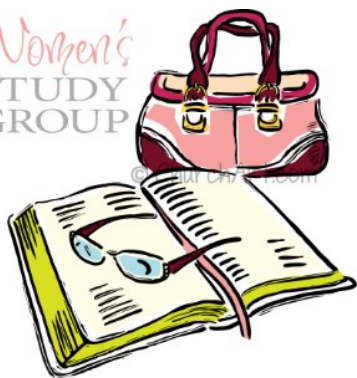
**To Family and Friends
of Mark Williams,** who
passed away on Sunday,
October 22nd. Mark is the
Cousin of Eva Kretsch.



**OUR
CHURCH
COOKBOOK**

We are anticipating that the
cookbook "*Gathered
Around the Table: Delect-
table Dishes from the East
Central District of Chris-
tian Church (Disciples of
Christ)*" will be available
by the second week of No-
vember. The cost of each
cookbook is \$20. Let Pastor Paula know if you
are interested in a copy, or if you have any
questions.

Women's
STUDY
GROUP



BIBLE STUDY GROUP — NOVEMBER AND DECEMBER STUDIES ...

On Wednesday, November 1st the Wednesday Morning Bible Study group will begin a study on the Women of the New Testament. This is a video study, published by Seminary Now and will cover about 11 weeks. Each session examines an aspect of the social and cultural world of the New Testament and explores a biblical woman's story in relation to her context. The course looks at marriage, at motherhood, at discipleship, at patronage, at teaching, and at leadership as New Testament women live out their callings before God and in the Christian community.

That said, we will break after the first four weeks to begin an Advent Study titled "Everyday Advent." The Everyday Advent is a 4-week devotional study for the holiday season that will help us refocus on our personal relationship with Jesus and heighten our sense of expectancy to see his promises fulfilled in our everyday lives. After Christmas, we will pick up with our study of Women in the New Testament.

I am excited about these two studies, they are available to us through our association with Right Now Media and the exciting thing is if you can't join us in person, you can listen to the videos on your own and join us in spirit.

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THE "CHURCH CANDLE" NOVEMBER 2023

UPCOMING EVENTS NOVEMBER

- 01 ~ All Saints Day
 - 05 ~ All Saints Day Observed
Sunday School - (Every Sunday) 9:15 a.m.
Food Pantry Sunday
 - 05 ~ Fall Festival of Music at Canton Church of Christ - 4:00 p.m.
 - 07 ~ Elders/Deacons Meeting - 3:00 p.m.
 - 08 ~ Bible Study (Every Wednesday) - 10:00 a.m.
 - 12 ~ Thanksgiving Offering
Operation Christmas Child (Shoeboxes are due)
Congregational Meeting (following worship)
 - 14 ~ Board Meeting - 6:00 p.m.
 - 19 ~ Thanksgiving Offering
 - 21 ~ Disciples Christian Fellowship Dinner - 6:30 p.m. at Sayre Christian Church
 - 23 ~ *Thanksgiving Day*
 - 24 ~ *Christmas Parade*
 - 26 ~ Celebration Sunday (following worship)
Worship Service / Athens Healthcare - 1 p.m.
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from the
SAYRE CHRISTIAN CHURCH
(Disciples of Christ)
sayrechristianchurch.org