



THE CHURCH CANDLE

DECEMBER 2023

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

FOOD PANTRY SUNDAY – December 3rd

“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 at the Athens United Methodist Church on South Main Street.

The Athens United Methodist Church family responded to our 87 November food donations: “Thank you for your recent donation of food items to our Feed My Sheep Food Pantry. This season is especially busy as more families reach out for help. We appreciate your faithful support!” *You should remember the words of the Lord Jesus: It is more blessed to give than to receive (Acts 20:35)*

Thank you to all who contributed to this outreach. Also, in November, the Cub Scout Pack and Scout Troop sponsored by our church, collected 576 pounds of food during the “Scouting for Food” program. Their collection was donated to a local food pantry. Great job.

Advent ... I am sharing with you something that Rev. Dr. Beth A Rupe, from the Office of Reconciliation Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) [now part of Disciples Home Missions] wrote in 2017.

Advent begins our church year and the four weeks of Advent prepare us for the twelve days of Christmas by giving space to consider what God has accomplished, is accomplishing, and will accomplish in our world. The ritual lighting of candles dates to pre-Christian days when families placed candles on an ever-green covered wheel and lit one each day for as many as twenty-four days during the cold, sun-deprived days of winter in anticipation of the sun and warmth that was coming. In the sixteenth century, this practice was adapted as Lutherans and Catholics began to light one candle each week of Advent in anticipation of the return of the Son of God, the light of the world.

RECAP OF FALL FESTIVAL OF MUSIC on November 5th ...

Thank you to all who traveled to Canton, PA for the Fall Festival of Music of the East Central District of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in PA.



Performers included: Sue Hurd, Laurel Mareck, Paula Kraus, Allan Frisk, Colleen Frisk Warren, Jerry Cain, Julie Allis and Mark Allis. Special thanks to Janet Frisk who was the pianist and Julie Allis who played her guitar.

It was a great night for music!

OUTREACH REPORT ...

Thank you to all who have participated in various outreach opportunities at the church.

- On November 13th, twenty-nine shoeboxes for Operation Christmas Child were delivered to the Athens Wesleyan Church. Thank you to Anita Kasson and Susie Kasson for delivering the boxes. They will be shipped to a final processing center and then sent around the World.
 - We have received notice of the total amount collected for the Baby Bottle Campaign for the Endless Mountains Pregnancy Care Center which was held in May and June 2023. The total was \$1,829.97! This amount came from money placed in the baby bottles and from the “Coins for a Cause” program. **THANK YOU!!** to our Church Family for your overwhelming generosity.
 - Each Sunday, the program of “Coins for a Cause” receives donations. From July to November 12th, \$205 was collected and sent to the Disciples Mission Fund of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ.)
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PAULA'S PAGE

Dear Church,

Advent is upon us; from the readings we have had over the past several weeks I hope you are receiving the message to prepare! This is a busy time for each of us and a busy time for the church. Each week we have a different focus.

The Wednesday Bible Study Group will begin their Advent Study on Wednesday, November 29th. The videos are from the Right Now Media, and you can view them on your own if you cannot join us on Wednesdays. The title of the series is "Everyday Advent" with Brenda Drost. If you go to the Sayre Christian Church page of Right Now Media, you will find this series (and others) under Pastor's Picks. If you haven't yet subscribed to the Right Now Media content, send me an email and I will supply you with a link to get you started.

Christmas Eve this year is on a Sunday, we will have two services that day, a Ten AM service and our Service of Carols, Candlelight, and Communion at 7:00 PM. I know that a lack of a permanent pianist challenges us this season. I will try to find carols that have recorded piano accompaniment, and it will be a fun and different experience for us.

More than singing carols and viewing decorations, etc. I think this is a season for us to think about what it means to live in the kingdom, what does Advent mean for us – are we looking for a baby in a manger or for the true Son of God, the Risen Christ to return? Our perspective matters you know.

I hope to see you all and wish you all a Happy Christmas Season in person!

Blessings, Pastor Paula



ELDER and STEWARDS to be determined FOR DECEMBER 2023



ADVENT DEVOTION from the Society of St. Andrew ...

Once again, a booklet, "The gift of the PRESENT" is available from the Society of St. Andrew for daily devotions. Devotions are written by volunteers about their personal experiences based on the Scripture, Matthew 6:34. During the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus admonishes us not to worry about tomorrow. We are to stay in the present moment worshipping, praising, and serving him. A jar is available on the table for a donation for the booklet as well as your loose coins. For the month of December, our collection for "Coins for a Cause" will be sent to the Society of St. Andrew, a ministry that is focused on gleaning America's field to feed America's hungry.

*Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself.
Each day has enough trouble of its own. Matthew 6:34.*

CHRISTMAS OFFERING of the CHRISTIAN CHURCH (Disciples of Christ) ...

The Special Christmas Offering will be received on Sunday, December 17th and Sunday, December 24th. Envelopes and inserts will be available in the pews. One hundred per cent (100%) of your Christmas Offering will support our own Pennsylvania region of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). These gifts will impact children and adults at camp, ministers in the PA region, congregations and much more.

GIVING REPORT FOR OCTOBER 2023:

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

October — 2023	
For Current Expenses	\$6,346.50
Designated	\$1,712.00
World Outreach	\$125.00
Local Outreach	\$240.00
Building Fund	\$1,427.50



Our church is reaching out to the children who attend the Bradford-Tioga County Head Start program. 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.



Will be held on ... December 31st following the Worship Service. Everyone who is observing a birthday or anniversary in December will be honored. Please bring a dish-to-pass to

be shared with others.

SEED FAITH CIRCLE ... The women will gather for dinner on Tuesday, December 19th at 6:00 p.m. at Yanuzzi's Restaurant in Sayre. All women of the church and friends are welcome to join us. Please contact Wendy McKeithan at 570-596-4008 or mckeithanwendy@gmail.com if you plan to attend.



- 1 ~ Nancy Edmunds
- 7 ~ John Baird
- 8 ~ Leslie Shaw
- 9 ~ Jane Hibbard
- 11 ~ Oliver McKeithan
- 17 ~ Jim Barber
- 17 ~ Kathy Rava
- 20 ~ Hannah Bennett
- 27 ~ Bob Felt
- 28 ~ David Padilla
- 29 ~ Gregg Hayton
- 29 ~ Janice Brady



DECEMBER ...

- 31 ~ Jerry and Nancy Cain

LET US PRAY ...

Ric Rava
Don and Donna Johnson
Mike Spencer
Dawn Anderson
Jane Donahoo
Anthony Stella
Our Friends who are unable to attend our service in person.



Grayson John Shaw, son to Shawn and Kirsten Shaw (brother to Lydia and Blakely Shaw);

Grandson to Les and Toni Shaw and Great-Grandson to Anthony and Jean Stella. **CONGRATULATIONS!**

Grayson was born on November 14th, 2023 at 2:56 p.m., he weighed 7 lbs. 14 oz. and is 21" long. Baby and Mom and doing great!

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UPCOMING EVENTS DECEMBER

- 03 ~ First Sunday of Advent - Hope Candle
Sunday School - (Every Sunday)9:15 a.m.
Food Pantry Sunday
- 05 ~ Deacons/Elders Meeting - 3:00 p.m.
- 06 ~ Bible Study (December 6, 20, & 27) - 10:00 a.m.
- 10 ~ Second Sunday of Advent - Peace Candle
- 12 ~ Board Meeting - 6:00 p.m.
- 17 ~ Third Sunday of Advent - Joy Candle
Christmas Offering
Angel Tree Gifts are due to be returned
- 19 ~ Seed Faith Circle Dinner Out at Yanuzzi's
Restaurant - 6:00 p.m.
- 24 ~ Fourth Sunday of Advent - Love Candle
Christmas Offering
Christmas Eve Service -7:00 p.m. - The
Christ Candle
- 25 ~ ***Christmas Day***
- 31 ~ Celebration Sunday - Bring a dish to pass to
share with everyone celebrating their birth-
days and anniversaries this month.
New Year's Eve



from the
SAYRE CHRISTIAN CHURCH
(Disciples of Christ)
sayrechristianchurch.org