

THE CHURCH CANDLE

JANUARY 2024

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

FOOD PANTRY SUNDAY – January 7th ...

“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 Athens United Methodist Church on South Main Street. They responded: “Thank you for your recent donation of 47 food items to our Feed My Sheep food pantry. What a blessing to receive at this busy time of the year. Thank you again. Merry Christmas!” *The generous will themselves be blessed, for they share their food with the poor. Proverbs 22:9.*

MY BROTHER’S KEEPER ...

As a reminder, this is the group that creates sleeping bags for the homeless and blankets for shelters. The group meets every Tuesday, 9:30 a.m.- to 12 Noon, at the Athens United Methodist Church on South Main Street. As they finish their 31st year, the group is in need of the following donations: (they can be gently used)

Men’s ‘M’ and ‘L’ pants, elastic waist preferred, like sweatpants

Men’s cloth hankies/bandanas

Large safety pins

Travel size shampoo, conditioner, and lotion
Shoelaces (new or used adult size)

Donations can be taken to the Athens Methodist Church or you can give them to Wendy McKeithan. Yarn is also available if anyone would like to knit or crochet mittens. Please make at least 10” from fingertips to wrist. Or, sew wool or fleece mittens. Fabric is available to use. Volunteers are always needed on Tuesdays. If you have any questions, call Gloria at 570-888-0885.

REPORT FROM THE OUTREACH TEAM ...

The purpose of the Outreach Team is to serve the needs of our community and the world as much as we are able to. A Local Outreach Fund is available from which donations are give to local organizations. These funds come through the Sunday offering and the “Coins from A Cause” program. This year, from January through December — \$4,437.97 was donated from this fund. A few of the recipients were Merakey and Adelphoi who serve foster children in the Valley; the Salvation Army; the Endless Mountain Mission Center in Troy, PA and the American Bible Society, among others.

In addition, members of our church family participated in the following activities:

- Two community dinners at the Church of the Redeemer
- Operation Christmas Child
- The Angel Tree Project for the Bradford-Tioga County Head Start Program
- Our Church Family signed Christmas Cards for the residents at the Athens Healthcare and Rehabilitation Center

If you have any questions or would like to be a part of the Outreach Team, please contact Wendy McKeithan or Laura Stephenson. Thank you to our church family who give so generously!

*welcome
Baby*

Jack Richard Frisbie, born on Monday, December 18th to Mike and Heather Frisbie. Jack weighed 8 lbs., 6 oz. Jack is Eva Kretch’s eleventh great-grandchild.

And ... A Baby Girl, born to Fallon and Jason Huck/Troxel at the Walter Reed Hospital on Friday, December 29th at 9:15 p.m. She is 7 lbs., 2 oz. and 20” long. She is Bev Anderson’s fourteenth great-grandchild. Between she and Jim Barber, they have 22 great-grandchildren.

**CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL OF THE
GREAT-GRANDPARENTS.**



PAULA'S PAGE

Dear Church,

Happy New Year! I do look forward to January every year, maybe for the new preaching opportunities although the “Church” year begins with the start of Advent, each new year brings a change in scripture readings and a change in perspective, at least for me. I always look forward to Epiphany and the Christmas story – but there is the opportunity to instead of preaching that story for the umpteenth time, we could also teach the story of Jesus’ baptism on that weekend. It’s challenging for me though to move so quickly from Jesus’ birth’ to Jesus’ baptism so I save the baptism story until before Lent begins. In addition, the challenge is how we mark the time from New Year to New Year, keeping the stories of Jesus’ life relevant to our own lives. We move so quickly from Christmas to Epiphany to Lent to Easter to Pentecost then through the long summer and fall of Ordinary time before you know it Advent comes around again.

When I reflect on this and the changes the New Year brings – I recall a reading from Ecclesiastes 3:1-13, which is a lectionary reading for New Years Day. The first verse reads: “There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under heaven.” Thank God for all the blessings of the past and praise God for all the wonders yet to come.

Blessings, Pastor Paula



ELDER and STEWARDS to be determined for January 2024.



GIDEONS INTERNATIONAL ...

A speaker from Gideons International will speak to our congregation on Sunday, January 21st during our worship service. Please make him feel welcome. You should be familiar with the Gideons International group established in 1899. These men work to supply scriptures that reach the unreached in hotels, hospitals, schools, prisons, and across the globe through donations and sponsorship from churches and individual Christians – like you.

Baskets will be available at church that Sunday for donations that will go to the Gideons International organization – there is a chapter right here in Bradford County. You can register as a Friend of Gideons to make a real difference in our community – visit www.FriendsofGideons.org for more information.

Regarding the Cookbooks ...

The cookbooks arrived the second week of December and this church has sold about twenty-five. They have been selling "like hotcakes" at some of the other churches - if you want one and haven't bought one yet I do have a few left and they are \$20.00 each. The proceeds from the sale of these cookbooks go to our district and the outreach efforts of the ten churches in our district. ALSO - if you have purchased a cookbook, please check that all over 120 pages are present in the book, somehow, I have some extra pages!!



A LITTLE TRIVIA ...

True or False: The Bible says— “Neither a Borrower, nor a Lender be.”

(See answer on a later page in the Newsletter)

GIVING REPORT FOR NOVEMBER 2023:

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

November — 2023	
For Current Expenses	\$4,827.50
Designated	\$1,274.00
World Outreach	\$430.00
Local Outreach	\$225.00
Building Fund	\$1,062.50



Will be held on ...
January 28th following the
Worship Service. Every-
one who is observing a
birthday or anniversary in
January will be honored.
Please bring a snack to

pass and be shared with others.

SEED FAITH CIRCLE ... We will gather for dinner on Tuesday, January 16th at 6:00 p.m., at Beeman's Restaurant. All women of the church and friends are welcome to join us for this time of fellowship. Please contact Wendy McKeithan at 570-596-4008 or mckeithanwendy@gmail.com if you plan to attend.



Thank you to everyone who participated in our "Angel Tree" program. We received seventeen children's names from the Bradford-Tioga Head Start at the Lynch-Bustin Elementary School. All of the children received gifts from our church. The families do appreciate your generosity!



BIRTHDAYS

- 2 ~ Zachary Yale
- 8 ~ Holly Kline
- 9 ~ Juanita Cron
- 13 ~ Calvin Preiser
- 15 ~ Rick Rava
- 15 ~ Darci Bard
- 16 ~ Mark Allis
- 16 ~ Kathi Hunsinger
- 20 ~ Jeff Robert
- 20 ~ Art Johnston
- 23 ~ Candace Carlson
- 24 ~ Lorie Anderson
- 27 ~ Jessey Lacko
- 28 ~ Laurel Mareck



JANUARY ...

- 15 ~ Darin and Brenda Yale

LET US PRAY ...

Ric Rava
Don and Donna Johnson
Michael Spencer
Jane Hibbard



Our Condolences to Family and Friends of Judy (Felt) Fuller, who passed away on Friday, December 15th.



Calling hours for Judy will be held on Friday, January 5th at 12 Noon. A Memorial Service will be held at 1:00 p.m.

Trivia Question Answer ... (from Page 2)
False — that statement is from Shakespeare's "Hamlet."

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JANUARY 2024

UPCOMING DATES FOR JANUARY ...

- 2 - Elder/Deacon Meeting at 3:00 p.m.
 - 3 - Bible Study at 10:00 a.m.
 - 5 - Judy Fuller Calling Hour and Memorial Service
at 12 Noon and 1:00 p.m.
 - 7 - Food Pantry Sunday
 - 9 - Board Meeting at 6:00 p.m.
 - 10 - Bible Study at 10:00 a.m.
 - 16 - Seed Faith Circle at 6:00 p.m. / Beeman's
 - 17 - Bible Study at 10:00 a.m.
 - 21 - Worship with the Gideons at 10:00 a.m.
 - 24 - NO Bible Study
 - 28 - Celebration Sunday - bring a snack to share
 - 28 - Worship Service at Athens Healthcare & Rehab
at 1:00 p.m.
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**FROM THE:
SAYRE CHRISTIAN CHURCH
(Disciples of Christ)
sayrechristianchurch.org**