

THE CHURCH CANDLE

DECEMBER 2024



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

OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD ...

Thank you to all who participated in this Outreach Ministry. Thank you to Susie Kasson and Anita Kasson for taking boxes to the Athens Wesleyan Church, twenty-one boxes were delivered. Six boxes were ordered on line, for a total of twenty-seven boxes that will be given to children around the world.

A LITTLE

Question: What Bible character saw a city coming down out of heaven?

(Please find the Answer on another page in Newsletter)



SEED FAITH CIRCLE DINNER-OUT ...

We will gather on Tuesday, December 17th at 6:00 p.m. at Beeman's Restaurant in Athens. All women of the church are welcome to join us for dinner and fellowship. Please contact Wendy McKeithan at 570-596-4008, if you plan to attend.



solo. The evening was a great time of fellowship and inspirational music!

WHERE HAVE YOU SEEN GOD THIS MONTH?

- * At the voting booths where people voted for love and with concern for others in our world.
- * After much concern over health issues, all tests came out ok. Thank God for being here through it all.



SUNDAY, DECEMBER 1ST is Food Pantry Sunday ...



It is observed on the first Sunday of the month. From the Athens United Methodist Church

for the November donations: "Thank you for your recent donation of many food items for our *Feed My Sheep Food Pantry*. Last month we served over 315 people! *Whoever is kind to the need, honors God*". *Proverbs 14:31b*. (Note: There were a total of ninety items collected!)

RECAP OF THE FALL FESTIVAL OF MUSIC ...

Held on Sunday, November 10th at the Church of Christ (DOC) in Canton, PA. Thank you to Pastor Paula Kraus, Mark Allis, Laurel Mareck and Julie Allis, who performed as a group, accompanied by Julie on her guitar. Pastor Paula also performed a

PAULA'S PAGE



Dear Church,

Advent is upon us, and it came quickly, but maybe it's because as we get older time seems to fly by. There are a couple "special" services planned for this Advent Season; one is December 7th at 2:00 p.m. in our sanctuary. This is an invitation only event planned by the Urban-Lowery funeral home for the families of those who passed in the previous year. For this one I will need help – someone who knows how to set up the tablet for recording and then post it to the YouTube page, and that is so the families can view the service at their convenience. Please let me know if you can help with this. We

have our usual Christmas Eve service on Tuesday, December 24th at 7:00 p.m. and the format is the same as in previous years. If anyone wants to participate with doing a reading or singing special music, you must let me know prior to Sunday, December 15th so we can put everything together. I would like to see the Elders and Deacons of this congregation participate in this service.

We started our Advent Bible Study on Wednesday, November 27th with a four-week study on Mary. This study takes us into what Mary's life in the 21st century might look like and includes videos from Right Now Media. Here is a link to that resource if you haven't already signed up it is free to you, a gift from this church. <https://app.rightnowmedia.org/join/sayrecc>. The title of the program is "The Life of Mary" with Margaret Feinberg. Each video is about 3-5 minutes which leaves us plenty of time for discussion. After the Advent Study I would like to begin a session that coincides with the Elder's Retreats we are having for our region. That is also available on Right Now Media and is titled, "The Practicing the Way Course" with John Mark Comer. The resources available on Right Now Media can be used individually or in a group so if you cannot join us on Wednesdays at 10:00 a.m., feel free to view and study on your own - let me know if you need assistance.

I hope to see you during the Advent Season!

Blessings, Pastor Paula Kraus



ANGEL TREE: Gifts for the Children of Bradford-Tioga Head Start Program ...

Our church will be participating in the "Angel Tree" project again this year. There are fifteen "Angels" of children who attend the Head Start Program. The angels will be hung from the garland around the choir loft. They will include information of Christmas wishes, sizes for clothing, gender and age. A sign up sheet will be available so you can note the number of the Angels you have taken. We have received thank you notes the past several years, so it will be helpful to know the giver of the gifts. They will need to be returned to the church by Sunday, December 15th. If you have any questions, please see Wendy McKeithan at 570-596-4008.

GIVING REPORT FOR

October 2024:

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

October — 2024	
For Current Expenses	\$6,410.50
Designated	\$3,305.68
World Outreach	\$0.00
Local Outreach	\$175.00
Building Fund	\$852.50

“Coins for a Cause” ...

As of December 1st, we will collect for the Society of St. Andrew.

The family of Donald A. Johnson would like to send a very belated thank you for all the prayers and concerns shown us during his illness and passing . They were very much appreciated.

*Thank you,
Donna Johnson*



Celebration Sunday ...

will be held on December 29th, following the Worship Service. Everyone who is observing a birthday or an anniversary in December will be honored.

Please bring a dish-to-pass to share.



“John - Revelation 21:2
Answer to Trivia Question ...

DECEMBER 2024 ...

- 01 - Nancy Edmunds
- 04 - Allen Basinger
- 07 - John Baird
- 08 - Leslie Shaw
- 11 - Oliver McKeithan
- 11 - David Presser
- 17 - Kathy Rava
- 17 - Jim Barber
- 20 - Hannah Bennett
- 27 - Bob Felt
- 28 - David Padilla
- 29 - Gregg Hayton
- 29 - Janice Brady



-
- 31 - Jerry and Nancy Cain

LET US PRAY ...

- Adleigh Parrish
- Sue Wilson
- Bonnie Beley
- Mike Spencer
- Ric Rava
- Brett Lattimer



*We have six
(6) ECD
Cookbooks
available.*

*“It would
make a great
Christmas Gift.”*



OUTREACH ACTIVITIES FOR CHRISTMAS ...

- Our church will be part of the **Christmas Card Project**, coordinated by Rev. Jeffrey Mensendiek, who is a Missionary in Japan for Global Ministries. This is the twelfth year for this project. Thirty churches around the United States are part of this outreach. We are responsible for sending a card to three churches in Japan.
- Church members have the opportunity to share some **Christmas Cheer with residents of the Athens Healthcare & Rehab Center** on South Main Street. Cards will be available during December so anyone can sign them.



ADVENT DEVOTION FROM THE SOCIETY OF ST. ANDREW ...

The Advent devotional, "I Believe," will be available this year from the Society of St. Andrew, the ministry that works to end hunger. Devotions are written by lay and clergy that describe their interpretation of Mark 9:23 or another favorite verse about believing. Why do you believe? Have you had a crisis of belief? What makes you believe? It is important during Advent and throughout our lives to know why and what we believe. The Society of St. Andrew will be the recipient of the **"Coins for a Cause"** during the Christmas season. A jar is available beside the devotion to provide a donation for the booklet. *"If you can" said Jesus – Everything is possible for him who believes." Mark 9:23*

THE SPECIAL CHRISTMAS OFFERING OF THE CHRISTIAN CHURCH (DOC) ...

will be received on Sundays, December 15th and December 22nd. Inserts and envelopes will be available in the pews. The offerings received at Christmas are given 100% to the Pennsylvania Region of the Christian Church, (DOC). Your gifts support the work of our Regional Minister and President, Rev. Thad Allen, Camp Laurelview (Pastor Paula was a counselor here in June,) new pastors, and gatherings of regional disciples. *By giving, YOU make God's love visible! But everything exposed to the light becomes visible. Ephesians 5:13*

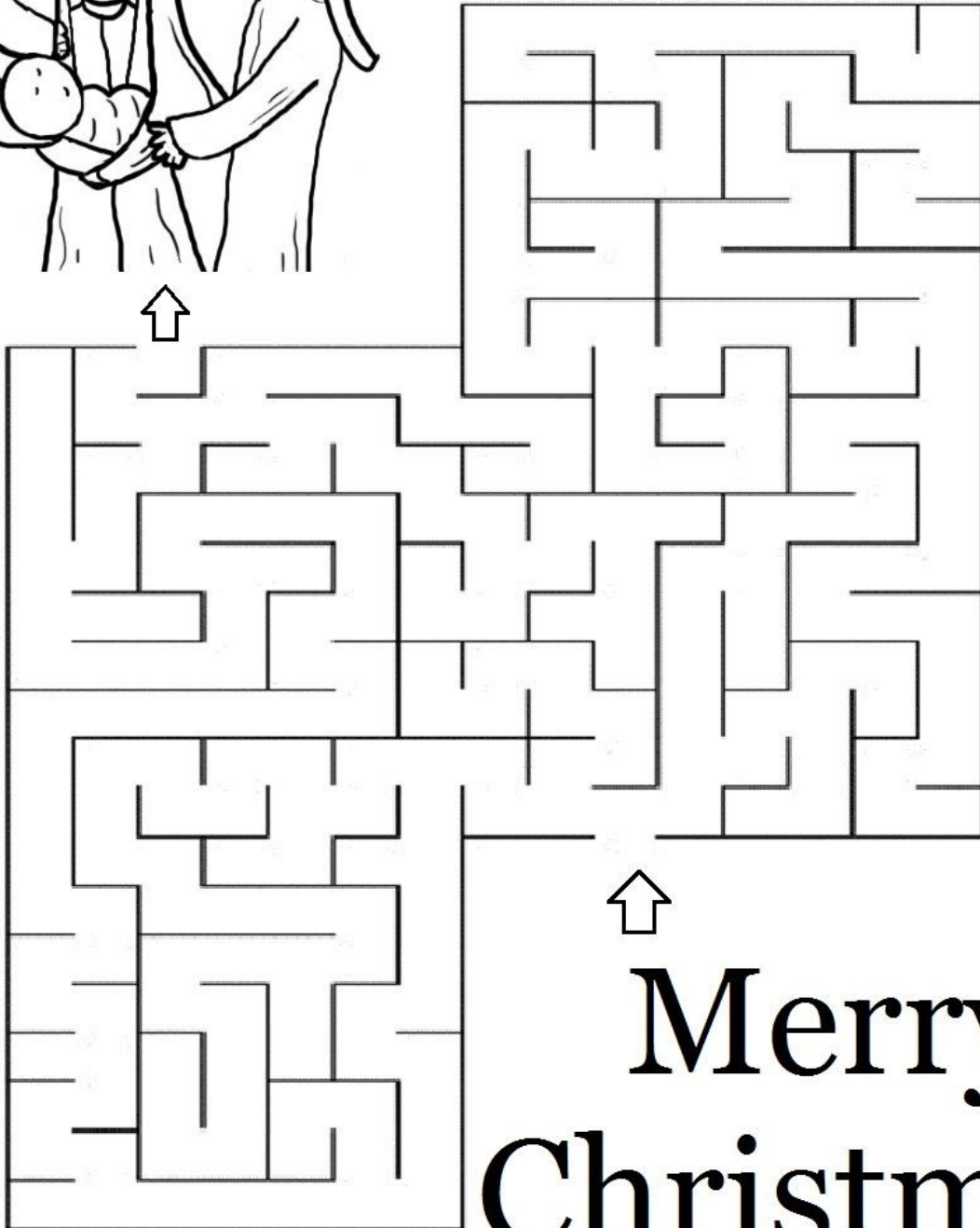
ITEMS NEEDED FOR THE BRIDGE ...

The Clothes Closet at the North Waverly Chapel is in need of winter coats of all sizes, children's winter clothing (infant through teens, especially boys,) men's casual clothing, towels, and sheets. Hours for the Clothes Closet are: Tuesday, 6:30 — 8:30 p.m. and Wednesday, 12 noon — 2:00 p.m.

The Helping Hands Furniture Ministry is in need of queen mattresses and box springs, appliances (stoves, washers, dryers, refrigerators.) Please call 570-886-1057 if you have any of these to donate.

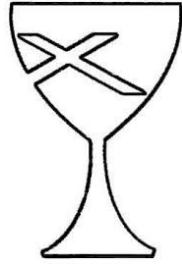


Find your way through the maze.



Merry
Christmas

Church House Collection ©



DECEMBER 2024

Sayre Christian Church
427 South Keystone Avenue
Sayre, PA 18840-1527
Rev. Paula Kraus, Pastor
Church / 570-888-2683
sayrechristianchurch@gmail.com
www.sayrechristianchurch.org

UPCOMING DATES FOR DECEMBER ...

Sunday, December 1st - First Sunday of Advent
Sunday School **every week** at 9:15 a.m.
Food Pantry Sunday
Wednesdays - December 4th, 11th and 18th / Bible Study
Group at 10:00 a.m.
Saturday, December 7th - Cub Scout Pack #4108 is hosting
a Craft and Vendor Fair from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the
Harlan-Rowe Middle School
Lowery-Urban Memorial Holiday Service of Re-
membrance at 2:00 p.m.
Sunday, December 8th - Second Sunday of Advent
Monday, December 9th - Church office closed.
Tuesday, December 10th - Board Meeting at 6:00 p.m.
Sunday, December 15th - Third Sunday of Advent
Tuesday, December 17th - Seed Faith Circle Dinner-Out at
6:00 p.m. / Beeman's Restaurant
Sunday, December 22nd - Fourth Sunday of Advent
Tuesday, December 24th - Christmas Eve Service at 7 p.m.
Wednesday, December 25th - **Merry Christmas**
Sunday, December 29th - Celebration Sunday
Worship Service at the Athens Healthcare and
Rehab Center at 1:00 p.m.
Wednesday, December 31st - New Year's Eve

SAYRE CHRISTIAN CHURCH
(Disciples of Christ)
sayrechristianchurch.org

