

THE CHURCH CANDLE

DECEMBER 2025

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

A LITTLE

Question: Where in the scriptures will you find these words - but the one who stands firm to the end will be saved?

(Please find the Answer on another page in Newsletter)



SEED FAITH CIRCLE DINNER-OUT ...

We will gather on Tuesday, December 16th at 5:30 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.

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

During the Advent season, the Society of St. Andrew provides a devotional, "Embrace Joy," for your daily reading. Supplies of the booklet are limited, but you can also download this devotion by visiting endhunger.org. The Society of St. Andrew will be the recipient of the "**Coins for a Cause**" and our Christmas Eve offering. This ministry's focus is gleaning America's fields in order to feed America's hungry.

WHERE HAVE YOU SEEN GOD THIS MONTH?

- * I thank God for the kindness of strangers.
- * I thank God for the favorable result of a biopsy.
- * Oh, what a wonderful feeling this season. The holiday decorations, the smiles, the true meaning of Christmas are here in church. I'm glad I'm here!



SUNDAY, DECEMBER 7th is Food Pantry Sunday ...

It is observed on the first Sunday of the month. For the month of November fifty-four (54) food items were collected and delivered to the "Feed My Sheep Food Pantry" at the Athens United Methodist Church. Thank you to all who contribute to this outreach ministry.

THANK YOU FROM CHURCH OF THE REDEEMER MEAL TEAM ...

"Dear Pastor Kraus and Community Meal Team, Thank you so much for your financial and in-person support of the Church of the Redeemer's Community supper. We are especially grateful for Wendy and her team for their help, wonderful desserts and great suggestions. We are so blessed. Thank you, Alice Bennett and the Meal Team".

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

will be received on Sundays, December 14th and December 21st. 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, new pastors, and gatherings of regional disciples.

PAULA'S PAGE



Dear Church,

Greetings and Shalom as we begin this Advent Season.

Thank you to those who participate in our worship services regularly, it is a blessing to share worship with you all. Advent has snuck up again – even though each Sunday, we prepare ourselves for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Advent Season brings this to the forefront of our hearts and minds. This church is doing the usual preparations for the Advent and Christmas seasons as I hope you and your family are as well. My prayer is that you can include worship in those plans and that you find time to join your siblings in Christ at the Sayre Christian Church.

We will begin our Wednesday Advent Bible Study on December 3rd at 10:00 a.m. This video study will focus on taking a deeper look at Jesus as Emmanuel, our Wonderful Counselor, the Everlasting Father, and the great I Am. When you know Jesus, you will realize Christmas is more than a nice story — the arrival of Jesus changes everything. The storyteller for this 4-session series is J.D. Greear a presenter known to our group. Our Adult Sunday School class will continue our study in the book of Ecclesiastes. In addition, this church will have our usual Christmas Eve service on Wednesday, December 24th at 7:00 p.m. Our service of Candlelight, Carols, and Communion has become a tradition well loved by those who attend, I invite you all to consider joining us for that special evening.

One final thing to note, the winter weather season is approaching fast. I want to remind you that our church services will continue every Sunday, however if the weather is such that travel for you is hazardous – PLEASE STAY HOME! I do not think anyone will hold it against you if you miss a Sunday or two or three due to weather. If Sunday comes and no one is here, I will record an abbreviated service to put on Facebook and YouTube, so you won't miss a thing!

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 seventeen (17) "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 14th. If you have any questions, please see Wendy McKeithan at 570-596-4008.

Sunday, December 21st is the "First Day of Winter."



GIVING REPORT FOR

October 2025:

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

October — 2025	
For Current Expenses	\$4,896.00
Designated	\$917.00
World Outreach	\$175.00
Local Outreach	\$165.00
Building Fund	\$1,278.00



Celebration Sunday ...

will be held on December 28th, following the Worship Service. Everyone who is observing a birthday or an anniversary in December will be honored.

Please bring a snack to share.

DECEMBER 2025 ...

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 ...

Ric Rava
Bonnie Beley
Jane Donahoo
Anthony Stella
Brett Lattimer
Mike Spencer
Ed Kretsch
Bruce Bach



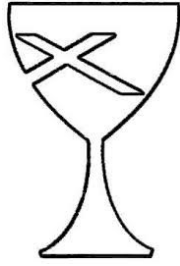
OUTREACH ACTIVITIES FOR CHRISTMAS ...

- 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 thirteenth year for this project. Thirty-three (33) 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.

SONSHINE CARD STATION ... The Elders and Deacons of the church wanted to reach out to the individuals who are on our Sunday Prayer List each week. So, a "Sonshine Card Station" was begun. Once a month cards are available and the congregation is encouraged to sign them. The table with the cards is located in Matthew's Place, usually the last Sunday of the month. We hope these cards will provide an uplifting message to those individuals who are dealing with difficult circumstances ... the Sayre Christian Church is keeping them in prayer.

Answer to Trivia Question ...
Matthew 24:13 (Luke 21:19 is similar)





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UPCOMING DATES FOR DECEMBER ...

Sundays, December 7th, 14th, 21st, and 28th - Sunday School
at 9:15 a.m. / Worship Service at 10:00 a.m.
Sunday, December 7th - Second Sunday of Advent / Peace
Food Pantry Sunday
Wednesdays - December 3rd, 10th, 17th, and 24th - Bible
Study Group at 10:00 a.m.
Tuesday, December 9th - Board Meeting at 6:00 p.m.
Sunday, December 14th - Third Sunday of Advent / Joy
Angel Tree Gifts are due
Tuesday, December 16th - Seed Faith Circle Dinner-Out at
5:30 p.m. / Beeman's Restaurant
Sunday, December 21st - Fourth Sunday of Advent / Love
Happy First Day of Winter!
Wednesday, December 24th - Christmas Eve Service at
7 p.m. / The Christ Candle
Thursday, December 25th - ***Merry Christmas***
Church Office Closed
Sunday, December 28th - Celebration Sunday
Worship Service at the Athens Healthcare and
Rehab Center at 1:30 p.m.
Wednesday, December 31st - NO Bible Study
New Year's Eve

SAYRE CHRISTIAN CHURCH

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sayrechristianchurch.org

