

DECEMBER 2019

Scotia UMC

Thomas Merton on the Uninvited Christ and the Meaning of No Room in the Inn: "Into this world, this demented inn, in which there is absolutely no room for him at all, Christ comes uninvited. But because he cannot be at home in it, because he is out of place in it, and yet he must be in it, his place is with those others for whom there is no room. His place is with those who do not belong, who are rejected by power because they are regarded as weak, those who are discredited, who are denied the status of persons, tortured, exterminated. With those for whom there is no room, Christ is present in this world. He is mysteriously present in those for whom there seems to be nothing but the world at its worst."

During Advent we are watchful, we are paying attention...will we come to know, really know, this uninvited Christ child that is a revolution from outside the pattern? Remember, this child will grow up to say, "My Kingdom is not of this world." The pattern of the old reality does not invite the Christ, it says there is no room at the inn—the keepers of that old reality always resist the one who will bring the new reality—they resist him all the way—from Christmas through good Friday. Who are these people that resist the Christ child? Well, maybe it is me...maybe I say there is no room at the inn when I follow the old pattern...or more to the point, when I am the old pattern that worships success, that says self-centered ambition should be praised, that covertly exalts self through pushing the agenda. Folks, there is a new reality...it is right there...in the face of the humble one that is told "there is no room at the inn."

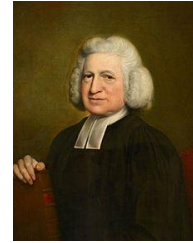
Peace,
Chris



December is shaping up to be a very busy month for the children & youth of SUMC!

The **Children's Christmas Party** will be Saturday, December 7th. The children will be leading all who'd like to join them on a caroling trip to Holyrood (a housing facility for the elderly and people in need on Fifth Street.) Cookies & Christmas cards will be delivered along with lots of Christmas Carols sung!

All are welcome - the more voices, the better. We will be meeting at 12:30 in the church parking lot to walk over. Afterwards we will return to the Loomis Room to decorate the Children's Christmas tree and enjoy some cookies ourselves.



Wesley's Wisdom

"Hark, the herald angels sing, 'Glory to the new-born king.' Peace on earth, and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled!" ~Charles Wesley

Worship Schedule

Liturgists

12/1 Belinda Wagner
12/8 Sean Flansburg
12/15 Wendy Liebl
12/22 Rick Frederick
12/24 Children
12/29 TBD

Counters

Dick Knapp

Ushers & Greeters

12/1 Sean & Mary Connors
12/8 Carole & Eric Jacobson
12/15 Sue Sykes, Linda I'Anson
12/22 Holly Russo, Deb Cieslak
12/24 TBD – early
12/24 Martha Hatt, Christina Rock – late
12/29 Pat & Dick Knapp

Social

Nikki & Kevin Margas
Barbara Hanley
RoyAnn Rogerson
Jill & Steve Wesley
Kim Huhtala
TBD
TBD

Please Note: Donations are being accepted at SUMC for the YWCA Holiday Wish List for the Women's Shelter. A complete list is posted on the hallway bulletin board outside the Fireside Room, ***along with extra copies if you would like to take one for reference. Deadline is December 8th.***

Christmas Heating Fund – In place of poinsettias we will be accepting donations towards our winter heating bills. All donations given in memory or in honor of loved ones will be listed in our Christmas Eve bulletins. Please complete form and submit no later than DECEMBER 15th. Any forms submitted after this date will not be listed.
Given by _____ Donation of _____

In memory of _____

OR In honor of _____

CALENDER & EVENTS

12/4 Trustees Meeting 7 pm
12/7 Children's Christmas Party 12:30
12/8 Stewardship Celebration
12/14 Community Breakfast
12/16 – 1/3 Regina Caeli on winter break
12/17 Regional Food Bank 2:30 pm
12/17 Finance Meeting 7 pm
12/18 Admin. Meeting 7 pm

Christmas Eve Services 5:30 pm – Children's Christmas Pageant
11:00 pm – Worship & Song Service

With our eyes focused on Jesus, may we all celebrate this Christmas season with a thankful heart filled with faith, hope and love as we rejoice in the timeless message of our Savior - Emmanuel God with us.



Thursday Morning Bible Study – from 9:30 -11:00 in the Fireside Room. Pastor Chris will be leading the group through a study on the current lectionary readings.

2019 Stewardship Drive - will end with a celebration on December 8th. Please prayerfully consider joining us this year in our stewardship drive. We want everyone to be a part of the growing excitement at Scotia United Methodist Church.

Regional Food Bank – Volunteers, meet at the Food Bank at 2:30 pm on Tues. December 17th. If you need to carpool, contact Dick Knapp at 518-393-5737. -Jill Dunster-Wesley (cell) 423-3546 (home) 372-4047 jldunster@hotmail.com

Sunday School

On Sunday, December 8th, the students will begin advent lessons as they get ready to celebrate the birth of Jesus on Christmas. Also - planning is already underway for the Children's Christmas Pageant which takes place at the 5:30 pm Christmas Eve service. Don't miss it. It's a great opportunity to see the SUMC children & youth "in action."

**Church Treasurers Report
31-Oct-19**

	YTD Oct-19
Individual Contributions	\$89,820
Building Use/Rent	32,987
Fund Raising/Interest Income	149
Other Designated Giving	-
Total Operating Receipts	\$122,956
Wages & other employment expenses	\$59,453
Church Operations/Program	7,669
Parsonage Expenses	2,181
Church Building-Repairs/Safety	10,033
Church Building-Utilities/Water	9,365
Church Building-All Other	6,852
Apportionments	16,942
Benevolences	732
Total Operating Expenses	\$113,227
Surplus	\$ 9,729

There is a surplus of \$9,729 as of 10/31/19.

If there are any questions or requests for detailed information,
please contact Mary Connors at mechardball@yahoo.com.

"For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder, and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace." – Isaiah 9:6