

Nov./Dec. 2022



Happy Holidays! We are in that season again. Thanksgiving has happened, Advent is upon us, and Christmas and New Year's lie just ahead. So much is happening in the weeks to come that we will all be quite busy I suspect, so I wanted to take just a moment to share in that thought – HAPPY HOLIDAYS. Sometimes we see folks who refuse to say Happy Holidays though and they insist that Christians should stick to Merry Christmas. On one hand, I understand that for those of us who are Christians, Christmas is one of the most important Holy Days on our calendar (along with Pentecost, and Easter) and it certainly deserves a prime spot in our lives. However, it seems to me that Thanksgiving and New Years are also holidays that most Christians recognize and celebrate as well – so it seems that Happy Holidays fits the larger season even for us.

But more than that – Scripture tells us in multiple places that we should seek to be hospitable to those we encounter regardless of who they are or what their faith is. Jesus himself uses Samaritans in several of his stories, not as villains that should be shut out, but rather as folks of a different faith that we can build connections with and even learn from. In Leviticus 19 we are taught: ³³*When a foreigner resides among you in your land, do not mistreat them.* ³⁴*The foreigner residing among you must be treated as your native-born. Love them as yourself, for you were foreigners in Egypt.* In Hebrews 13 - *Let brotherly love continue.* ²*Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for thereby some have entertained angels unawares.*

It seems to me that in saying Happy Holidays, especially to those who are not Christian, we are being hospitable, sharing the joy that we feel in this season and all that it means for us, and seeking to build relationship with people of a variety of faiths, whatever their Holy Day of the season may be. For me, that is an important part of the “Holy Day” season in a world of so many faiths, to build bridges, increase dialog and develop relationships that allow us all to love one another, regardless of how we understand God.

As we prepare to celebrate the child born to be the Prince of Peace, may we seek to grow that peace in our communities, relationships, and the world we inhabit. Let the light of Christ shine through each of us in all that we do as we celebrate his birth and all that it means for the world.

Paster Dang



Wesley's Wisdom



“Thanksgiving is inseparable from true prayer; it is almost essentially connected with it. One who always prays is ever giving praise, whether in ease or pain, both for prosperity and for the greatest adversity.”

“But though I am always in haste, I am never in a hurry, because I never undertake any more work than I can go through with perfect calmness of spirit.”

DECEMBER LITURGISTS

12/4 Carol Deiulio
12/11 RoyAnn Rogerson
12/18 Children's Pageant
12/25 Jill Wesley

ADVENT LIGHTING



11/27 Byam family
12/4 Pryor family
12/11 Dunster-Wesley family
12/18 DeSorbo/Peconie family
12/24 O'Sullivan family
12/24 Flansburg family

December Birthdays 🎵🎂

12/2 Ralph Mason
12/3 Pat Knapp
12/6 Meredith Van Vorst
12/10 Christina Rock
12/15 Zachary Swain
12/18 Carol Flansburg
12/18 Amanda Buhrmaster
12/19 Darlene St. Amour
12/22 RoyAnn Rogerson
12/23 Nickolai Swain

Church Treasurer's Report
09/30/22

	YTD <u>Sep-22</u>
Individual Contributions	\$89,020
Building Use/Rent	19,165
Fund Raising/Interest Income	<u>3,055</u>
Total Operating Receipts	\$111,240
Wages & Other Employment Expenses	\$65,910
Church Operations/Program	4,937
Parsonage Expenses	8,391
Church Building-Repairs/Safety	958
Church Building-Utilities/Water	8,658
Church Building-All Other	7,988
Apportionments	6,486
Benevolences	<u>1,852</u>
Total Operating Expenses	\$105,180
Surplus	\$6,060

There is a year to date surplus of \$6,060 as of
09/30/22.

If there are any questions or requests for detailed information,
please contact Anne Heller at cheller001@nycap.rr.com.

Church Treasurer's Report
10/31/22

	YTD
	<u>Oct-22</u>
Individual Contributions	\$96,753
Building Use/Rent	20,625
Fund Raising/Interest Income	<u>3,058</u>
Total Operating Receipts	\$120,436
Wages & Other Employment Expenses	\$72,642
Church Operations/Program	5,709
Parsonage Expenses	8,868
Church Building - Repairs/Safety	1,410
Church Building - Utilities/Water	9,458
Church Building - All Other	9,114
Apportionments	<u>8,314</u>
Total Operating Expenses	\$115,516
Surplus	\$4,920

There is a year to date surplus of \$4,920 as of 10/31/22.

If there are any questions or requests for detailed information, please contact Anne Heller at cheller001@nycap.rr.com.



HOLIDAY CALENDAR

- 12/4 Holiday on the Ave
 - 12/10 Children's Christmas Party
 - 12/18 Children's Christmas Pageant
 - 12/24 Christmas Eve outside service (weather permitting) at 5:30 pm
 - 12/24 Christmas Eve late service inside at 11:00 p.m.
 - 12/25 Christmas combined service with Faith UMC here at SUMC - 10:00 am
- Please note the earlier time of 10:00 am, instead of 11:00.

COMING EVENTS

Pastor Doug is leading a **Zoom based study of the Advent Series** - The Redemption of Scrooge on **Monday evenings** beginning on Nov. 28th at 7 pm for 4 weeks. Please let the office know if you are interested in attending. Books will cost approximately \$10. <https://www.amazon.com/Redemption-Scrooge-Pop-Culture/dp/1501823078/>

12/4 is Holiday on the Ave - we'll be setting up a table and handing out donuts, cider & take-home Christmas ornament crafts for the children. Will also be handing out flyers with our Children's Christmas pageant info and Christmas Eve service(s) info.

12/10 Children's Christmas Decorating Party - Sat., Dec. 10th from 1:00 pm - 3:00 pm - At 1:15 we will be walking to Holyrood to deliver cards, cookies and sing some Christmas Carols. **We are asking our Church Family to bake cookies (packaged "to go") to bring to our friends at Holyrood. We also need CAROLERS to join us (we need singers!).** We should be back at church by 2:00 for the children to decorate the Loomis Room Christmas tree and enjoy cookies & snacks.

12/18 Children's Christmas Pageant - at the 11:00 am service time.

Winter Gift Bags for Children - the SUMC children will be putting together children's winter gift bags for distribution by the Street Soldiers of Schenectady. We need donations of items. Suggestions: socks, hats & gloves, coloring/activity books, crayons, markers, reading books & any small toys (fun items). Please leave your donations in the blue Sunday School room **by Sunday, 12/11 (the Sunday School class will be stuffing the bags that day & they will be delivered to the Street Soldiers that afternoon).** Thank you in advance for your generosity!

Meditation group meets every Wednesday at SUMC from 5:30 PM to 7 PM. For more details contact either Christopher Diedrich 518-847-8670 or Kim Huhtala 518-527-8623

Choir Practice Wednesdays at 7:15 pm.

Thanks to all that participated in the Thanksgiving Gift Bags for the South End Children's Cafe. The SUMC children were able to put together 2 baskets to contribute. We also had additional bags and grocery store gift cards donated by our church family. The generosity of the Sunday School families and our congregation is very much appreciated.

From the Finance Committee

Smile as you shop Amazon - Please remember if shopping via Amazon during this Advent season please use "Smile Amazon". "Smile Amazon" will donate a portion of your purchase toward Scotia Methodist. This is the same as normal Amazon, no additional charge to you. It's an easy way for your church to receive additional funds. Go to "[Smile.Amazon.com](https://www.smile.amazon.com)", click on "Supporting" then select Scotia Methodist and you are all set to shop. So far this year we have received over \$100 in donations from Smile Amazon.

Christmas Heating Fund

In place of poinsettias this year we will be accepting donations towards our winter heating bills. All donations given in memory or in honor of loved ones will be included in our special bulletins on Christmas Eve. Please complete this form along with your check and leave in the Admin. Assistant mail slot by the workroom door no later than **Fri. Dec. 16th. Specify "Heating Fund" on your check. *Any names submitted after this date will not be included in the bulletin.*** Thank you for your donation!

Given by _____

Donation of _____

In memory of _____

OR In honor of _____

