

United Presbyterian Church
302 2nd Ave. SE
Jamestown, ND 58401
CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

The Communicator

United Presbyterian Church of Jamestown, ND

Volume 46 No. 12, December 2019

Sharing Christ's Love Through Service

"Sing the Messiah!"

All singers are invited to participate in a joint community and high school music department performance of Handel's "Messiah." Practices are Sunday evenings November 24, December 1, 8, & 15 at 7:00 PM. The performance will be Monday, December 16 at 7:30 PM in the Jamestown High School Theater. Call Cheryl McIntyre at 701-368-9818 and leave a message if planning to sing, or just come on November 24th.

Sunday School

No Sunday School for children/youth on Sundays, December 1, 22 and 29.

Jamestown Choralaires

Jamestown Choralaires' Christmas Dinner Concert Thursday, December 5 and Friday, December 6 at Reiland Fine Arts Center. Seating/Social at 6:30 PM and Concert at 7:00 PM. Ticket price \$40.00. Advanced reserved seating tickets on sale only at Looyesen Eye Care (821 1st Ave S) during regular business hours.

Christmas Program

The Annual Christmas Program will be held on Sunday, December 15 during worship service. Children and youth will be presenting "God's Promise Came True."

Red and Green Potluck

The Annual Red and Green Potluck will follow the Christmas Program on Sunday, December 15 in the fellowship hall. Please bring a red or green dish to pass and join us in celebrating the birth of our Savior. All are welcome!

DECEMBER WORKMONTH FAMILIES

Chairpersons:

McIntyre, Tony & Reina	368-9784
Tarpinian, Jackie`	269-1515

Burgard, Joe & Nancy	952-0051
Haag, Theresa	320-3599
Hoffman, Larry & Bev	252-2668
Johnson, Terry & Deb	763-6245
Reimers, Doug and Mary Claire	320-7680
Schmitz, Chuck & Bonnie	252-0191
Schmuhl, Carroll & Opal	269-6032
Wegner, Dean & Kathy	252-3980
Wegner, Doreen	952-1789
Wegner, Yvonne	952-2399
Weispenning, Bill & Diane	251-9084

UNITED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

302 2nd Avenue SE
Jamestown, ND 58401
Phone (701) 252-1748
website: www.upcjamestown.org
e-mail: presbyterianchurch@daktel.com

FALL-SPRING
WORSHIP HOURS
Sunday School 9:00 AM
Worship Service 10:30 AM

SECRETARIAL HOURS
10:00 AM-2:00 PM
Monday-Thursday

For corrections or additions to the newsletter
please call the church office—252-1748

From the Pastor

Blessings to All! Happy Thanksgiving and Merry Christmas!

As the wisdom of Christ's hand in our lives oftentimes is seen in retrospect, we enter another season with so much to thank God. This congregation has continually served God's ministry during the 4 years I have been working alongside you in ministry. I have been grateful for this past Pastor Appreciation Month with the outpouring of this congregation's generosity to me and my wife Ellen. Equally sweet and heartwarming are the little notes we received handwritten by the children themselves and delivered with so much love – Ellen and myself can only look up to God with humility and gratitude for this touching token. With this at hand, without any trepidation at all, we all look forward to another wonderful time of worship and fellowship with this congregation.

The gift without the giver is bare, and so is Christmas without Jesus. Christmas is the coming of light in a world of darkness. It is God breaking through all of the barriers. It is strength and power and might redefined in the form of a newborn baby. Christmas is peace, love, joy, and hope. Just as the light spreads from the advent wreath in the sanctuary to those that are singing in the pews; Christmas is the light of Christ spreading into the hearts of the faithful, and being carried out into the world. It is not about "happily ever after." It is about the presence of God in the midst of real life.

It is a reminder that right here in the world there is a promise that God is with us. That in this very time with cancer is hope. That even with the struggle and upheaval is peace. And, right here in the gathering of Christ's people is joy. Right here with this world's son and daughter hurting, sinning, and falling, is love.

Hope, Peace, Joy, and Love took a sparkle in the pages of our chronicles as we record the precious baptism of Okanani Ekpang Ajah on September 29. Okanani is the daughter of Ekpang Ajah Ofem and Blessing Wilson Ogbada. October 6th also took a good place in the pages of this year's history as we celebrated World Communion Sunday. On October 26th we celebrated the wedding of Ryan Carlson and Carrie Orn. October 27th we all heeded the call and raised money for Relay for Life with the annual Potato Bar. Altogether on November 3rd we remembered deceased members on All Saints Sunday followed by Stewardship Sunday and a Thankful Dinner prepared by the Deacons on November 10th. On November 17th we participated in the baptism of Joy Honesty Korvah. Joy is the daughter of Helena Korvah.

(continued on page 6)



December 2019



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat
1 No SS Worship 10:30 AM 1st Sunday of Advent	2 PEO Silent Auction 1:00-4:00 PM	3	4 Confirmation Class 4:45 PM NO Wednesday Evening Service 6:00 PM Choir Practice 7:00	5 PW Women Potluck Luncheon Circle will meet Noon Christian Nurture 5:30 PM	6	7 Community Prayer Temple Baptist 10:00-10:30 AM
8 SS 9:00 AM Worship 10:30 Communion 2nd Sunday of Advent	9 Property & Finance Com. 5:00 Worship Com. 6:15	10 Reading Group 3:00 PM Tutoring 4:00	11 Confirmation Class 4:45 PM Wednesday Evening Service 6:00 PM Choir Practice 7:00	12 Session 5:15 PM AA 7:00 PM	13	14
15 SS 9:00 AM Worship 10:30 AM 3rd Sunday of Advent	16	17 Reading Group 3:00 PM Tutoring 4:00 PM	18 Confirmation Class 4:45 PM Wednesday Evening Service 6:00 PM Choir Practice 7:00	19 AA 7:00 PM	20	21
22 No SS Worship 10:30 AM 4th Sunday of Advent	23	24 Christmas Eve Candlelight Service 5:00 PM	25 Office Closed Merry Christmas!	26 AA 7:00 PM	27	28
29 No SS Worship 10:30 AM	30	31 Reading Group 3:00 PM Tutoring 4:00 PM				

More Dates to Remember . . .

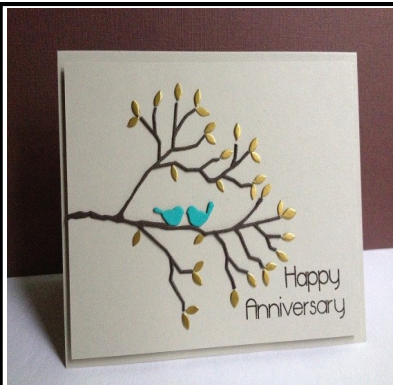
December 15
December 22

Christmas Program during worship service
Christmas Joy Offering taken during worship service



DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Theresa McMillan	1
Qualishie Hayes	10
Dixie Lee	12
Gabby Tarr	15
Erna Schwind	18
Elizabeth Sherfy	18
Mark Sherfy	18
Marge Nething	22
Ketisha Sesay	22
David Muhs	24
Nancy Fletcher	27
Linde Serba	28
Arlene Johnson	30
Blessing W. Ogbada	31



Anniversaries in December

Church established 1879	5
Bruce & Roni Berg	18



DEACON DIALOGUE . . .

The Deacons are a group of men and women from our congregation that have a heart to serve those in our church and community. The Deacons organize a variety of activities by which they share the love and joy of Jesus Christ. The service of deacons in the Presbyterian Church (USA) is to lead the church in its ministries of compassion (distributing aid, caring directly for the poor, the sick, refugees, and prisoners), and justice (working for equity) in society.

Ongoing projects include non perishable food items collected for our local food pantry. Hygiene items are collected and given to our local Salvation Army. If you have any extra greeting cards consider donating them to the Deacons. Cards are sent out to multiple Church Members every month. Thank you for your continued support so that we can continue to support the members of our church.

The Deacons will be busy going about the work of the church in December. They will be delivering home baked treats to the shut-ins of the church on Sunday, December 8 after worship; sponsoring the annual Red & Green Potluck on Sunday, December 15 following the Christmas Program; and collecting Christmas gifts for State Hospital patients. Christmas season is a busy time in the life of the church. Thank you for your generous continued giving!

Don't forget there is a shopping cart in the Narthex for Community Action. Please consider a donation of non perishable items for Community Action.

We also are looking for personal hygiene items for Salvation Army (toothbrush, tooth paste, bar soap, shampoo, conditioner, and etc.) There is a box in the shopping cart for those donations also.

Look for more information about future Deacon projects in the Sunday bulletin.

Merry Christmas from the Deacons!

Those currently serving as Deacons include:

Delbert Bossingham	Tiffany Dauer	Bill Hines
Colleen Nelson	Pam Van Dyke	Cindy Wermager
Diane Witzig	Sandy Worm	Clyde Young

Home Communion for Shut-Ins

Communion is brought to those unable to attend church. If you would like to receive Communion, please call the church office at 252-1748. Next Communion will be served Sunday, December 8.

Christian Nurture

Have you ever had to anxiously wait for something? Maybe it was an upcoming grade on a test, a lead role in a play, or wondering if you made it into a sports team, or even the news of a diagnosis. Whatever it is you have or are waiting for...waiting is never easy.

As we enter into the season of Advent, I reflect on the time in which Christ is entering our world. The word Advent means, "Coming." At the end of the Old Testament, Israel was in exile and had tried to do their own thing without God by following other idols, false prophets, and taking it upon themselves to rule kingdoms instead of listening to God.

In our Confirmation class the youth asked the question: "How do we know when we are following false prophets?" What a great question! We may need to re-center ourselves by praying to God, asking the Holy Spirit to intercede, and allow Him to open our hearts.

May you know that God has not left you in this time of waiting, but has kept the promise all along to be with you. The gift of Jesus is coming again to light up the world and make himself known to us. Maybe the outcome of what you are waiting for isn't the news you wanted. However, God's news to us presents us with the Savior of the World. A King that reigns eternally and will give compassion, grace, and everlasting love. Today I ask you to light a candle in what you are hoping for or anticipating. Whatever you are hoping for I want you to light a candle and pretend that you are placing it at the manger or at baby Jesus' feet. Pray these words, "Come thou long expected Jesus, born to set thy people free, from our fears and sins release us, let us find our rest in thee." From the hymn "Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus."

Rachel Holsten, Children, Youth, and Family Coordinator

Our Church Leadership

Elders

Diane Weispfenning, Clerk of Session

Class of 2019

Douglas Chimanga
Bob Martin
Mary Reed

Class of 2020

Duane Dunn
Mark Lee
Elizabeth Sherfy

Class of 2021

Angie Allmer
Charlotte Enger
Lynn Van Dyke

Deacons

Class of 2019

Tiffany Dauer
Bill Hines
Colleen Nelson

Class of 2020

Pam Van Dyke
Cindy Wermager
Clyde Young

Class of 2021

Delbert Bossingham
Diane Witzig
Sandy Worm

Church Leadership Team

Pastor: Rev. Robert Boyar (814-937-9225) email: rab316.bb@gmail.com

Commissioned Ruling Elder: William Weispfenning (320-1739)

Christian Education Coordinator: Rachel Holsten (515-419-0820)

Administrative Assistant: Sharon Watson (252-1748) email: presbyterianchurch@daktel.com

Financial Secretary: Tammie Skari email: sfamily@daktel.com

Organist/Choir Director: David Morlock (252-4572)

Treasurer: Mary Reed

Financial Update

(General fund activity as of October 31, 2019)

General Fund Revenue for October	\$19,972.84
General Fund Expenses for October	<u>\$19,550.91</u>
Excess Income/Loss for October	\$ 421.93
Year to Date Revenue	\$167,218.87
Year to Date Expenses	<u>\$199,334.58</u>
Year to Date Excess Income/Loss	\$(32,115.71)

We thank you for your continued support of United Presbyterian Church!

Per Capita Payments: We encourage all members to pay their per-capita as a gift above and beyond their annual pledge. **Our per-capita is based on \$44.00 for each active member of our church.** To submit a check for per-capita, simply write "Per-capita" on the memo line of your check.

Session Highlights November 2019

- 7 Youth attended the lock-in from Jamestown, 23 youth signed up from Fargo.
- Youth helped with clean up of the Potato Bar Fundraiser, Kiwanis Kids Against Hunger, and going to Ave Maria Village for fellowship with the residents. Youth also helped out with clean up at the Thankful Dinner.
- Confirmation youth are also underway making fleece tie blankets for those that are homeless. There have been a lot of generous donations from the congregation.
- Confirmation is learning the Old Testament. We have learned material from Genesis to Babylonian Exile and have incorporated a church scavenger hunt for them to learn the history behind this church.
- The Christmas program is underway with the older kids learning the narrator parts and the younger kids learning the songs and trying on costumes.
- Rachel has met with the youth connection team of the Northern Plains and we have discussed future events such as summer mission trip, Crystal Springs Retreat, and Snow Camp.
- High school youth is meeting on Wednesday mornings at 8:30 AM at Babbs. Attendance ranges from 1 to 3 youth. Continuing to communicate with parents on the time and place and if there is a better option for youth to meet.
- Christian Nurture Committee: Recommended approve Snow Camp at Clearwater Forest on January 24th-26th and to cover the cost of any chaperone costs that it would come out of the youth fund.
- Rachel has been reaching out to teachers and parents to get goals set for the children in their schoolwork. Lana Meissner, the Jamestown Public School Literacy Coordinator, has offered grant money to the HERBB Tutoring Program for materials that help with literacy.
- Angie Allmer reported the pledge cards are coming in; Hopefully, automatic withdrawals will start January 1, 2020; a more detailed report will be obtained from Tammie Skari for the December meeting.
- The Red and Green pot-luck will be held after the Christmas program. Dixie Lee is calling workers for December 15, 2019.
- November 24, 2019, the church will be decorated for Advent/Christmas season following worship. The decorations will be removed and stored on January 6, 2019 after worship. Christmas Eve worship service will be at 5 PM on December 24, 2019.
- **The Mission committee recommends, “to approve giving \$500 to the Salvation Army; \$3000 to the University of Jamestown; \$500 to Youth for Christ; \$1000 to Bdecan ministry; \$2000 to Presbyterian Disaster assistance; and \$500 to SAFE Shelter.” MOTION CARRIED**
- At the December session meeting, giving to Dorcas Ministry (Douglas Chimanga’s ministry in Africa) will be on the agenda.
- Charlotte Enger reported the following have consented to being nominated to serve: Elders Class of 2022: Kevin Thoele (1st term); Gail Martin (1st term); Sylvia Pringle (1st term) Deacons Class of 2022: Jim Bond (1st term); Dixie Lee (1st term); Doreen Wegner (1st term) Reverend Boyar will be holding new deacon and elder training
- The next regular meeting will be December 12, 2019 at 5:15pm

Respectfully submitted,
Diane Weispfenning, Clerk

Women’s Ministries

Connecting women to God and one another

PW Circles Faith and Hope will meet together at the church at noon on December 5 for a potluck luncheon. Our annual Thank Offering will be received at this time. The gifts from this offering go to support the following mission projects in our country and abroad: Food bank in Missoula MT, Cancer center in South Atlantic Synod, Food and medical projects in Southern CA, and projects in Cameroon, Congo, Dominican Republic, Ghana, Madagascar and Zambia. It’s amazing how our gifts can help so many.

Our study will be lesson four in the Guide, “Carved in Stone” about the Ten Commandments. All women of the church family are invited and urged to attend this special PW time.

A Little Christmas Humor

What’s the best Christmas Present? A broken drum - you can't beat it.

Why are Christmas trees so bad at sewing? They always drop their needles!

What did Adam say the day before Christmas? It's Christmas, Eve!

Knock knock. Who's there? Snow. Snow who? Snow use - I've forgotten my name!

Where do snowmen keep their money? In a snow bank.

When asked about his job, Frosty always replies, “There’s no business like snow business.”

What do you get when you eat Christmas ornaments? Tinsel-itis!

How does a sheep say “Merry Christmas”? “Fleece Navidad!”

Have a Very Blessed Christmas from the Staff of United Presbyterian Church!

Focus on Financials for 2019

Church Budget Through 46 weeks \$221,429

Church Giving Through 46 weeks \$185,546

Amount needed per week \$10,794

The expenses (that are within the 2019 budget) exceed our revenues by more than \$32,000. A continued shortfall will require that we tap the church's reserves to continue to meet our financial obligations. We ask for your prayerful consideration in helping United Presbyterian Church meet this year’s expenses.

Mary Reed, Treasurer

From the Pastor (continued from page 2)

You might have noticed that we are having periodic Name Tag Sundays. We had one on November 10th so that people would know people's names during the Passing of the Peace and at our Thankful Dinner. Our next Name Tag Sunday will be on December 15th with our Christmas program and Red and Green Potluck that follows.

We also would like to make it known how delightful it is to behold with gratitude for all those who have participated in the Stewardship Program with the theme of Transform, Engage, Serve. We will gladly share the results with you soon. Surely, the Christmas program on December 15th with the Youth and children is an exciting date to look forward to. Not stopping yet, we also will have our annual Red and Green Potluck. My heart already anticipates the overwhelming feeling of love and serenity that is shown on our faces that will softly reflect the glow of the lighted candles on Christmas Eve. December is coming but here inside the United Presbyterian Church, the cold we feel only amplifies the warmth of such enduring love shared at this time of the year.

Blessings,
Pastor Bob Boyar

Clearwater Forest Camp

Clearwater Forest Camp in Deerwood, MN is hosting a Snow Camp for 6th to 12th Graders on January 24th-26th. This is a time where youth can gather with other youth in the Presbytery, play games, and have fun at camp in the winter! The cost is \$100 per participant. Each person must sign up online at clearwaterforest.org with a username and password. Chaperones for this event are needed as well as a mode of transportation. If you or someone you know is interested in helping out with this youth event please let Rachel know. Registration is due by January 5th.

Poinsettias



Would you would like to donate a poinsettia for the beautification of the church and/or in honor/memory of a loved one? If so, please write poinsettia on the memo line of your check along with the name(s) of the person(s) you would like to honor. You may drop your check in the offering plate or mail to the church office.



CHRISTMAS GIFT PROGRAM for STATE HOSPITAL PATIENTS

Volunteers at the State Hospital wish to give you all an opportunity to be “**Family**” to patients on Christmas. Here are a few suggestions which may be of interest to those individuals who wish to respond to this appeal:

For Men & Women: Hair brushes and combs, hair accessories, body wash, toothpaste, toothbrushes, shampoo, conditioner, deodorant and chap-stick.

For Women: Pajama sets, night gowns, lounge pants, panties, slippers, blouses or tops, sweat-shirts, sweatpants, socks, make-up (eye shadow, mascara, foundation, lipstick), lotions, nail polish, slipper socks, stretch gloves, winter hats, Christian devotionals, journals, book markers, notebooks (no spirals), planners and fleece throws.

For Men: Sweatshirts, sweatpants, hooded sweatshirts, colored t-shirts, socks, briefs/boxers, lounge pants, winter caps and gloves, billfolds, hand lotion, slippers, handkerchiefs, pajama sets, notebooks (no spirals), planners, playing cards, book markers, Christian devotionals, journals and fleece throws. **We always run short of items for men.**

For Wards: Games, supplies for arts and crafts (especially yarn and fuzzy posters), adult coloring books, crayons, colored pencils, colored markers, new boxes of all occasion greeting cards, stationary, Bibles, Christmas candy, calendars, blankets, and quilts.

Please note: Please **DO NOT** wrap gifts or give used clothing or used items, glass metal, aluminum, ceramic, breakable knick-knacks, books; or calendars with spiral binding, alcohol based - perfumes, mouthwash or deodorant.

Our volunteers work with staff members to make sure patients receive suitable gifts (i.e. proper size, suitable items, etc.).

The unwrapped gift items need to be brought to the church by the first week of December. There will be a large box in the narthex to collect the items. Delivery will be made at the end of the first week in December.

Appreciation is expressed to all of you for your interest in the patients at the North Dakota State Hospital in Jamestown.