



Merry Christmas

6 p.m. Family Service, Christmas Eve

Carols, special music, candlelight and the Christmas story designed for children and families

8:00 p.m. Candlelight Christmas Eve Service

Special choir anthems, bells, carols, candlelight and the Christmas story.

Sunday, Christmas Day, December 25, 10am Worship
Service of many carols, scripture and joy.

OPEN AND AFFIRMING DISCUSSION

Sunday, December 11 will provide another opportunity for those interested to discuss our congregation proposal to become an Open and Affirming Congregation of the UCC. The Rev. Steven Price, who has been a frequent guest preacher in our congregation, will have a few words to say during the joys and concerns. After worship, he will be part of a discussion about what this means for our congregation.

At the January 8th Annual Congregational Meeting, a motion will be presented for the congregation upon which to vote. This is the current draft of the motion (subject to change). *"I move that the United Church of Christ of Honeoye become an Open and Affirming Congregation of the United Church of Christ."*

As an Open and Affirming Congregation we openly welcome lesbian, gay, bi-sexual and transgender persons (LGBT) into the worship, membership, life and ministry of our congregation as we welcome all people as God's children and brothers and sisters in Christ. We recognize that historically LGBT people have not been accepted into congregations and have often felt unwelcome, openly rejected and condemned by other Christians.

If you have questions, opinions or concerns about all this, please contact the Pastor, Jeff Brown, Judy Beers or any other members of the Board of Christian Education



A CHRISTMAS MESSAGE



December came upon us quickly this year, at least it seems to me. The unusually good weather of this fall has lulled us into thinking we had more time. The Thanksgiving holiday, however, signals the transition. If we watch any

television at all it is quite apparent that the Christmas shopping season is well underway. There is not much we can do about how the world around us celebrates Christmas, but we can do to something about how we celebrate this season.

Fortunately the church has the season of Advent to help us ease our way into Christmas. Advent is the time in which we reflect upon what Christ's coming means to our world, what it meant 2000 years ago and what it means now for our lives. The four words around which the four Sundays in Advent are focused are hope, peace, love and joy. Where do you find these at work in your life?

Hope is important in these distressing economic times. It is easy to feel discouraged and to think we have little power in the world to change things. Hope is more than wishful thinking. The best definition of hope that I ever heard is simply "faith looking forward." Regardless of what is happening to us and our world, we trust that God holds the future; God is at work seeking to transform the world. Jesus calls us to that hope that encourages us to envision something different from what is.

Peace also is important. There is the peace we think of in the world as the end of violent conflict as our nation continues with the longest war in its history. Isaiah reflected so long ago, "They shall beat their swords into plowshares and their spears into pruning hooks and nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn the art of war anymore." Jesus came to show us that there is a better way to

bring about peace than the illusion with which we fool ourselves that somehow violence will end violence. But there is another peace Advent and Christmas points to in Jesus. There is a peace between God and ourselves, all the barriers are removed, the Emmanuel "God is with us" has come. We need not fear God. Peace becomes possible in the world when we know peace within us.

Love remains the constant of Jesus' life, message and ministry, God's love for us but also our call to love one another. During the Advent and Christmas seasons love comes in many forms, in the Giving Tree that brings gifts to individuals and families that might not otherwise have them, in the Christmas dinners the Food Pantry provides and the generosity that comes because we desire for others to have a merry Christmas. This is a reflection of the great love that God has for us, God always seeking to bless us in this life and the next. We give in this season as a reflection of the great gift of love that God has given us in Jesus.

Joy is in short supply in our world. Joy is far more than feeling happy. Joy comes from a deep abiding faith that allows us to know that we are loved by God and by others. How can our hearts be sad when we trust that God's Spirit is working in the world and through us? It is easy to be a cynic, to bemoan the plight of things or to believe that nothing changes. When we can be joyful, "Joy to the world the Lord has come" it in itself brings about a better world. Joy brings more joy. It is one of the reasons I think that Christmas remains so close to us. We need this joy; the world is hungry for it.

Hope, peace, love and joy are more than words, they are at the center of our faith in the God who has come to us in Jesus Christ. Have a blessed Advent and Christmas seasons.

Peace, Brian





TUESDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY

On Tuesday mornings from 10 to 11:30 a.m. all our welcome to read and discuss the scripture texts for the next Sunday's worship service. The discussion is free and flowing, no prior Biblical knowledge required, only the freedom to ask questions, make comments, laugh and deepen your understanding of the Bible. Come each Tuesday, or as you can. The Pastor leads this group. (Not meeting on December 27)

SCRIPTURE LESSONS FOR DECEMBER

December 4

Isa 40:1-11
Psalm 85:1-2, 8-13
2 Pet 3:8-15a
Mark 1:1-8

December 11

Isa 61:1-4, 8-11
Psalm 126
1 Thess 5:16-24
John 1:6-8, 19-28

December 18

2 Sam 7:1-11, 16
Luke 1:46-55
Rom 16:25-27
Luke 1:26-38

December 24

Isa 62:6-12
Psalm 97
Titus 3:4-7
Luke 2:(1-7), 8-20

December 25

Isa 52:7-10
Psalm 98
Heb 1:1-4 (5-12)
John 1:1-14



SERVING AT SALEM

On Monday, December 5 (first Monday of the each month) volunteers from our congregation participate in the Salem Nutrition Center (Soup Kitchen) noon lunch ministry in downtown Rochester. There are tasks for everyone helping the other volunteer staff to prepare and serve this meal. On that Monday we car pool, leave at 9 am from the church parking lot and return no later than 2:30 pm.

PLEDGES FOR 2011

Paid Pledges for 2011 must be in by Sunday, December 30th to be recorded towards your 2011 pledge. Anything received after December 30th will be recorded as a 2012 donation.

Susan Kraft, Financial Secretary

BELL CHOIR

The Bell Choir is continuing to practice on Tuesday evenings from 6:15 until 7:30. We plan to play twice during December....tentatively December 4th and then December 24th for Christmas Eve. We continue to welcome new ringers....if you are interested please call either Jerri Meys (229-4190) or Nancy Pease (229-2225). If you can only play for one of those dates that is fine...we are a flexible group. Once again I would also like to mention that a big part of these groups is the Christian companionship. We support each other through good and difficult times. We do a lot of good natured laughing during rehearsal and who can't use that?! I wish I was the "Bell Guru" as one person recently called me but I am just a "modest - still learning- back row ringer"...and hoping to have more friends join in! Jerri Meys

CHRISTMAS BIBLE STUDY

What do the Christmas stories in Matthew and Luke's gospels tell us about Jesus? How can they shape not only our Christmas celebrations but also our lives? Come on Monday, December 12 from 7:30 to 8:45 as we look at these stories together.

CONGREGATIONAL ANNUAL MEETING

The congregational annual meeting will be after the worship service on Sunday, January 8, 2012. Business items include the 2012 Church Budget, election of officers, board members, and committee chairs, receiving of reports, voting on becoming an Open and Affirming congregation and any other business that any member may wish to bring before the congregation.

ANNUAL REPORTS DUE

A reminder to all board and committee chairpersons that your written annual reports are due in the church office as soon as possible no later than December 1, 2011. The church secretary needs the time to compile them and have them ready for the congregation.



A NOTE FROM SUNDAY SCHOOL:

It is a JOY to be a part of the Sunday School experience here at UCC Honeoye. We have explored Bible facts and from the Old Testament we have studied the stories of Joshua and David--their leadership and courage as they obeyed and trusted in God's word. God always gives us choices and with these choices come consequences and responsibilities; with God's help we too can have the courage to make the good choices.

On December 18 we will have a Children's Program in Church. So it is very important that the children are here to help make props and costumes and learn songs and scripture to prepare for our program to celebrate the birth of the Lord. We would love to have all the children share in this program from the littlest preschooler to our seniors in high school. All ages celebrating a beautiful event in our wonderful church community. We may only have time for one full rehearsal and it may not be perfect but IT WILL BE WONDERFUL!

Each Sunday as we gather together in a circle for a prayer to begin Sunday School,

We thank God for the children (God's treasures) with us today--that He will give us all wisdom and knowledge and joy to share in this special time together.

And a personal thank you to everyone for such a warm welcome!!!

Beth Hughes

VISITING ON BEHALF OF THE CONGREGATION

Our congregation has a number of people who can no longer come to worship, or participate in the life of the congregation or who are in nursing homes. Visiting people in such situations is an important ministry of the congregation. It would involve visiting the same person once a month or so. The Pastor will guide you and help you understand the person visited. Please contact the Pastor about doing this for the congregation.

December 7 from 5-7pm



Spaghetti Dinner

PROFITS WILL BE DONATED TO THE HONEOYE COMMUNITY FOOD PANTRY

CONGREGATIONAL REPRESENTATIVES NEEDED

Two congregational representatives are needed to attend the Genesee Valley Association Meetings of the UCC. It meets twice a year in April and October. Two other congregational representatives are needed to attend the New York Conference Annual meeting, June 8-10 in Binghamton. The Pastor goes to these meetings. If you are interested, contact the Pastor.

EVENING WORSHIP OF COMMUNION AND HEALING

On Sunday evening, December 4, at 6:30 pm there will be an Advent Worship with Holy Communion and Healing in the sanctuary of the church. This is a simple service of prayer, reflection and sacrament. Come if you are seeking God's healing in any aspect of your life, (physical, emotional, spiritual, relational, etc.) or for a loved one or to support others who are present.



Caroling
All youth, children, adults, and friends are welcome to go Christmas caroling on Sunday evening, December 18th 6-9 pm. We will be driving to various church members' homes and

singing. We will begin at the church and end at the parsonage (8832 Main St.) for some refreshments and warmth. All are invited.



The number to call to listen is
585-229-2022.



TELEPHONE MINISTRY

Callers can dial a telephone number and listen to any functions in the sanctuary using the sound system, i.e.: Sunday worship, weddings, funerals, etc. The equipment operates automatically anytime the sanctuary sound system is used and provides the potential of up to five simultaneous callers. This opportunity is funded by sponsors who pledge to cover the cost of a month; at \$120. Over the last six months the phone lines have been used consistently. If you are interested in sponsoring a month or part of a month, please contact the church office or any of the Board of Christian Stewardship members. A pledge can remain anonymous. If you would like any additional information on the benefits or the technology of this ministry, please contact Charlie Johnstone.

- 7 Lindsey Pestle
- 8 David Makepeace (son), Angela Wohlschlegel
- 9 Carl Roberts
- 13 Andrew Hohmann, Bess Englehardt
- 14 Laurie Card, Heather Shepard
- 17 Maren Tompkins
- 21 Nathan Krause, Michael Johnson
- 23 Mike Mitchell
- 24 Alison Holmes Simpson
- 26 Chris Hillegeer
- 27 Javy Makepeace
- 29 Craig Jackson
- 30 Neil Petty

Meals on Wheels

- | | | |
|-----------------|----|---------|
| December | 5 | Donna |
| | 12 | Lillian |
| | 19 | Kerry |
| | 26 | Kathy |

Senior Dining

Meals in the dining room run Monday — Thursday serving at 12:00noon. 24 Hour advance reservation required call Andrea DiBello at 738-3385. All meals are provided through the Office for the Aging of Ontario County.

PARKING

As winter with snow and ice approaches please be considerate of those who may have problems walking. If you are sure of foot, please park farther back in the parking lot to keep open the spaces for those who may have difficulty walking or who fear falling. Also, keep your eyes open for those who park in the handicap spaces (or elsewhere). Offer to lend an arm to help into the church and afterwards back to the car.



AN OPEN HOUSE AT THE PARSONAGE

You are invited to the parsonage (8832 Main St), on Sunday, December 18th from after worship to 3 p.m. for a Christmas Open House. Stop by for a while or for a few minutes. Children are most welcome.

Wendy and Brian Krause



Rebecca



An evening of good food, good company and a good movie is waiting for you on Saturday evening, December 3, at church. All are welcome for dinner and a movie. Dinner will at 6 p.m. and be simple and designed potluck: please bring prepared soup, salad, bread or dessert to share. At 7 p.m. we will move to the "movie theater" in the basement of the Christian Ed building to watch Rebecca.

Rebecca (1940) is a gothic psychological/dramatic noir thriller directed by Alfred Hitchcock, faithfully adapted from Daphne du Maurier's novel of the same title. The story begins with a shy ladies' companion, ([Joan Fontaine](#)) staying in Monte Carlo with her stuffy employer. She meets the wealthy English aristocrat Maxim de Winter ([Laurence Olivier](#)) and they fall in love, marry and return to Manderley, his large country estate in Cornwall. Max is still troubled by the death of his first wife, Rebecca, in a boating accident the year before. The second Mrs. de Winter clashes with the housekeeper, Mrs. Danvers, and discovers that Rebecca still has a strange and haunting hold on everyone at Manderley. The movie won 2 Academy awards (including Best Picture and Best Cinematography).

January 7 is our next dinner and a movie. If you have any suggestions for a movie to watch, the pastor is always interested.

EMAILS NEEDED

If you are not receiving Church News and Information, it is due to last month's computer crash -- many emails were lost. I was able to recover many but not all. SO... If you would like to receive information and updates on happenings within the church, and are NOT getting them, please send me your email address at:

ucchone@frontiernet.net

Thanks, Lizz

SAVE THE DATE:

Sat. Jan. 28, the Board of Christian Education will be hosting an all day retreat at Ontario County Park. ALL generations can enjoy both indoor or outdoor games and activities. Lunch is provided.



KNITTING MINISTRY

The Knitting Ministry continues to meet and we would welcome any interested folk to join us. We typically meet the first Sunday of each month following worship, in the church library. We have recently decided that if that meeting time should fall on a holiday weekend (Labor Day, for example), or conflict with a church-wide program (Advent Event, for example), that we will meet on the second Sunday of the month.

We knit prayer shawls and lap robes that we give to those who are experiencing difficulties in their lives, such as, but not limited to serious health problems. To date we have given nearly (or more than) 100 shawls to members and friends of our congregation.

We have yarn and some needles available and are more than willing to help anyone learn to knit, so please join with us when we meet together on Sunday, December 4.



JANUARY 2, 7:00PM, 2012

Hostess: Ellie Jordan
Devotions: Dottie Blewitt
Refresh: Ellie Jordan
Program: Secret Pals

NEWS FROM THE FOOD PANTRY

THANK YOU to everyone who supported our "Adopt a Family for Thanksgiving" program. This year we had 62 dinners go out...that was a record. This would not be possible without all of you!! Our families are very appreciative and we feel very blessed that we are able to provide them this special meal in addition to their regular food for the month.

As I write this in November, we just had our busiest month on record in October with 79 clients coming in for food. We did have some very nice food donations come in from Curves, the Boy Scout Food Drive, the Honeoye Teacher's Assoc and the HCS Middle School Food Drive and many individual drop-ins. The 11-11-11 Mission brought us in about \$900 and some wonderful food donations. We had a couple of our "annual" donators come through as well as our faithful "regular" contributors. Overall it was a great month, but we also know we are not out of the woods yet if we have more months like October, so please continue to keep the Food Pantry in your thoughts and prayers.

NOW ONTO CHRISTMAS.....

This year our Christmas give-out will be on Christmas Eve. **We will be looking for volunteers to help us organize the gifts and pack up the food boxes on Friday 12/23. We plan to start at about 9am.** We are done when we are done, so if you can stay the whole time or even just a short time it'd be appreciated. We personally love this day as we watch months of work all come together by the loving hands of our volunteers. Yep, usually every year when we sit back and see all the food boxes lined up and all the bags of gifts ready to go out, I have a good old crying spell, but it's always a happy cry!

If you take a gift tag from the Giving Tree this year...**THANK YOU!!!** Please be sure to have the gifts returned to church **no later than Wednesday, December 21st.**

The Church Challenge! Once again this year we will be asking the local churches for help with our Christmas food boxes. We are hoping that we can get 100 of each: desserts (either brownies or cake/frosting mixes), quick breads, hot cocoa (boxes/canisters), and microwave popcorn. If you can help us out with this challenge we'd be very grateful. Please bring all donations to the Food Pantry on or before **Sunday, December 18** so we can organize, count and purchase any shortfalls. Our Christmas food boxes are absolutely beautiful and these special extras make them extra special!!

We thank everyone for all you do to support this vital ministry. After this last year, it has been a real eye opener how important the Food Pantry really is to so many struggling individuals and families. The Food Pantry is their God save and you are ours, for that we are truly blessed.

Thank you and have a very Merry Christmas!!

Tom & Renee



The Meaning of Christmas

C Carry a smile everywhere you go. In today's world each one of us is so busy in our own affairs that we are not only hesitant to smile at others but we ourselves have forgotten to smile. This Christmas let us make a sincere attempt to smile more and be cheerful.

H Hold on to our morals. Today all of us are so busy chasing the ladder of glory and fame, that we are ready to compromise on our ethics. This Christmas let us make an attempt to stick on to our morals and values, whatsoever the situation may arise.

R Receive others the way they are. Most of the times we fail to realize that all are not alike and perfect and tend to blame and condemn people who do not fit into our framework. This Christmas let us learn to accept others and acknowledge our differences.

I Inspect one self. We fail to retrospect ourselves and our drawbacks and thereby cause trouble to others. This Christmas let us make an attempt to peep into ourselves and make good those little negativities we carry.

S Share with those in need. Let us make an effort to share with not only people who have lots and can repay us, but with those who cannot repay us.

T Trust in the Almighty. All of us have become so self sufficient that we fail to seek the assistance of God. And when things crumble in life we lose hope. In this Christmas let us learn to trust in God at all times, good or bad.

M Make genuine relationships. Today all our relationships have become a means to achieve something, the purity and innocence is lost. This Christmas let us learn to value and build true and lasting relationships.

A Add a dash of love in everything you do. This Christmas let us make a strong resolution to carry the essence of love wherever we go and in whatever we do.

S Shine as people of God. In this Christmas let us learn to follow Christ not only in words but also through our deeds and uphold the values of Christ through our life.

