

The Family Circle

A Publication of Fairview United Methodist Church
Rev. Janet B Clark, Pastor

607-724-6886 FairviewUMChurch1@gmail.com
Website: www.fairviewumcbinghamton.wordpress.com

DECEMBER 2021 - JANUARY 2022

From the Pastor...

Matthew 25:40 *"The king will reply, I tell you the truth, whatever you did for one of the least of these, you did for me."*

Every Christmas I try to find the right gifts for the people I love. I enjoy the process of gift giving and spend months preparing. Many of the gifts I will give this year are things I have purchased or made months ago. I often ask, "What is on your wish list?" Maybe they have a desire for something I haven't even considered!

This year I wonder if we should consider what is on Christ's wish list? After all, it's his birthday that we are celebrating! If we asked him, what do you imagine he would ask of us? How can we change the traditional focus of Christmas from materialism to giving Jesus what he desires most? Don't get me wrong. I bet he loves that we offer gifts to each other. (I sure hope so, or I am doomed) But what else can we offer him? Jesus made it clear that we can't separate our relationship with God from our responsibility to other people.

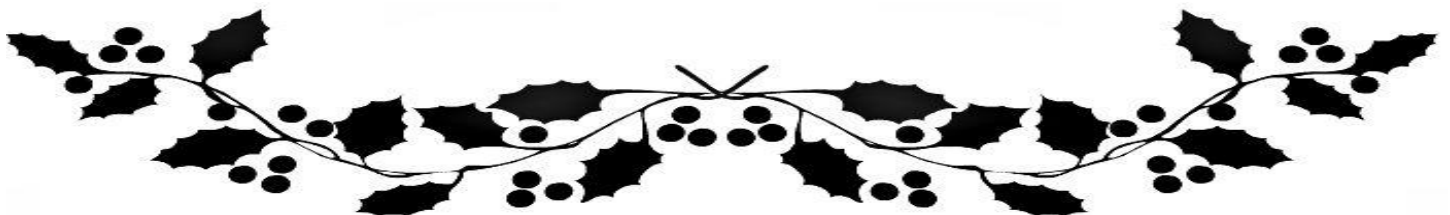
We serve God when we serve others. We give to Jesus when we offer back our time, talents and treasure to help another. The church is the body of Christ. Mike Slaughter says "We are the only hands, feet and wallets that God has! The resources of heaven do not fall from the sky; they are released through God's people!" We were created to be the channels through which God's blessings flow."

I have been blessed. How about you? How can you bring Christ's light into the world this month? Visit that person who's on your mind. Make that call. Write that check. Give away that extra coat. Volunteer an hour. Offer that prayer. Consider some Advent discipline. Send that note. Go the extra mile. Pay it forward. Forgive. Give. Notice the stranger. Take better care of yourself. Get some rest. Drop off some cookies. Invite someone to church. Be a peacemaker.

What do you suppose is on the wish list for Jesus this year? How can you help him offer something to fulfill his wishes for our world right now?

Merry Christmas to you and yours. I can't begin to tell you what a gift you are to me. You are a church with a light that burns brightly for Christ

Pastor Jan



Remember Our “Seniors”

Can you set aside some time to remember our seniors and those who are shut-in....with a call or a note. It means a lot!

Good-Shepherd Fairview Home

Bob Smith 80 Fairview Ave (Rm B14a)
Binghamton NY 13904

Dawn Spencer 80 Fairview Avenue (Rm 20)
Binghamton NY 13904

Hilltop Community

Jean Barker Rm 1044
286 Deyo Hill Road
Johnson City NY 13790

Bob Muth Rm 120B
286 Deyo Hill Road
Johnson City NY 13790

Valley View Manor Nursing Home

Pat Reynolds Valley View Manor Nursing Home
40 Park Street
Norwich NY 13815

At Home

Dan & Estella Armstrong 30 Harry L Drive
Kirkwood NY 13795

Sarah Baker 146 Old State Road
Binghamton NY 13901

Dawn Dressler 47 Moeller Street
Binghamton NY 13904

Leona Fiske 10 Gregory Avenue
Binghamton NY 13901

John Hillard 54 Bigelow Street
Binghamton NY 13904

Peg Muth 725 Lee Circle N-58
Johnson City NY 13790

Sheila Runyon Hamilton House Apts
16 St John Avenue Apt 107
Binghamton NY 13905

Betty Waffle 12 Burton Avenue
Binghamton NY 13904

Helping Us in our Worship..... December 2021

December 5 - Second Sunday of Advent

Scriptures: Malachi 3:1-4, Philippians 1:3-11
Luke 3:1-6

Sermon: “Turning it Around”

Greeter: Blenda Smith

Worship Leader: Sarah Gaeta

Candle Lighter: Delilah Kachmarik

Ushers: Dave Gardiner, Kevin Emmons
David Tyler

Sound Board: Mike Purdy

Nursery: Tina Taylor & Linda Purdy

December 12 - Third Sunday of Advent

Scriptures: Isaiah 12:2-6, Philippians 4:4-7

Sermon: “The Gift that Keeps on Giving”

Greeter: Gail Merritt

Worship Leader: Ellen Gardiner

Candle Lighter: Lexi Rose

Ushers: Korin Spencer, Riley Spencer

Sound Board: Stacey Rose

Nursery: Tina Taylor & Jenn Evans

December 19- Fourth Sunday of Advent

Scriptures: Luke 1:39-45, Luke 1:46-55

Sermon: “A World Turned Upside Down”

Greeter: Sue Barton

Worship Leader: Kevin Emmons

Candle Lighter: Maddie Button

Ushers: Paul O’Malley, Mike Purdy,
Aaron Noonan

Sound Board: Stacey Rose

Nursery: Tina Taylor & Sarah Gaeta

December 24 – Christmas Eve

Worship Leader: Debbie McMichael

Candle Lighter: Aariana Reid

Sound Board: Darnel Reid

Greeters: Brenda Ernst, Linda Purdy

December 26 –

Preaching: Amber Gregory

Greeter: Karon Lewis

Worship Leader: Blenda Smith

Candle Lighter: Elena Rose

Ushers: Joan Murray, Penny Daugherty
Karon Lewis, Linda Purdy

Sound Board: Mike Purdy

Nursery: No nursery (room can be used by
parents)

THANK YOU goes to:

- ~ Karen Wood & Carol Carpenetti, Pat Kavalesky & Sue Boucher for cooking November community meals and to Karon Lewis and Phyllis Smith for their homemade cookies.
- ~ Anyone who made a financial pledge for the coming year!
- ~ All those who have sent a card to "Think of a Friend" this month
- ~ Kris and Kathy Ballard for painting two of our downstairs rooms
- ~ Gary Loichle for continuing to return cans & bottles (for Sky Lake Camperships) and for the many other odd jobs cared for.

A Special Thank you.....

I wish to extend a heartfelt thank you to all those who sent me get well cards and offered prayers on my behalf following my recent hospitalization and recovery. I am on the mend and almost back to full strength. Fairview Church is a wonderful and caring community. Again thanks to all of you.

Joe Coons



CHICKEN & BISCUIT DINNER

\$10.00

Saturday, December 11

Pick-Up 4:30-6:00

Preorder Only

contact the church office by

Wednesday, December 8

to place order

(607-724-6886 or

FairviewUMChurch1@gmail.com)

**All proceeds will go toward
Ministry Shares**

Our condolences to Patty Comency and all her family on the passing of her mother, Laura Commency. Laura and her mother transferred membership from High Street to Fairview.

BLUE CHRISTMAS

Once again Pastor Jan will offer a devotional from her house. It will be a chance to reflect on our losses and offer care to those who are a bit "Blue" this season. It will be recorded and put on Facebook sometime mid-December. Stay tuned for this "fireside chat."

CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP

Join us for our service of Lessons and Carols on December 24th at 7 PM. (Gathering music to begin at 6:45) We will enjoy music from our Chancel Choir, Festive Ringers and Organ and Piano music. We hope to have some of our church members who are home for the holidays offer the readings. Familiar Carols and the lighting of candles during Silent Night are holy moments that embrace us all. *(Due to the pandemic, we will not be sharing Holy Communion during this service)*

ADVENT WORD CHALLENGE

In order to be more attentive to the Advent Journey, I am offering a "Word of the Day" challenge. Consider it as a spiritual discipline to keep you focused on God at work in our midst. Check out the bulletin or Fairview Facebook page and note the word of the day. Then find a picture you have or take one on your phone that seems to fit the word. Write a brief phrase in the comments and upload your picture. Feel free to do this every day or just as the spirit moves you. Scroll down and comment on what others have shared and please share the Fairview post with your friends and family! You don't need to be a member to join in the fun.

FINANCE/STEWARDSHIP

Everyone should have received a pledge card for 2022 in the mail. If you have not yet sent in your financial pledge for 2022 please mail it in to the church or place it in the offering plate during worship. Everyone's pledge adds up and helps to continue the ministry of Fairview Church.



FROM THE SUNDAY SCHOOL

We are so excited to welcome Christina Taylor (goes by Tina) as our Nursery paid staff member working in the Nursery on Sundays from 9am-12pm. She is a sophomore at Binghamton University studying pre-medicine, originally from Poughkeepsie, NY. She is still learning everyone's name, so please introduce yourself and help us welcome her into our awesome church family.

Despite hard times for all, we have so much to be thankful for! Sunday School students and teachers created a Gratitude Tree to remind us of the blessings God has given us. It's in the Narthex if you'd like to see it. Thank you to Pastor Jan for painting such a lovely tree.

You can look forward to seeing the Sunday School students doing a special Christmas candle dance during worship on Sunday, December 19, choreographed by our very own Amber with music by the Chancel Choir

Please note: There will be NO Sunday School or Nursery during church (can still bring a child into the room on your own) Sunday, December 26 or Sunday, January 2.

Wishing you all Merry Christmas and joyous New Year! May we continue to seek and be God's light to all this holiday season and beyond!

~ Amber Gregory and Liz Gdovin

Please note: All children are invited to a little Christmas celebration Sunday, December 12 in the fellowship hall with some special surprises for all.

PAJAMA PROJECT

Remember from your childhood days the soft feeling and the fun of a new pair of pajamas? For some time Kathy Ballard has been giving that experience to many children at the Children's Home. Now our Mission Committee is partnering to help in this project. Kathy will do the shopping for pajamas for residents of the Children's Home. You can help by making monetary contributions now through December 15th. See Kathy Ballard or your donation can be placed in the offering plate clearly designated for the "Pajama Project." Also needed are wrapping paper and tape. There is a basket in the narthex where these items can be placed.



SPIRITUAL DEVELOPMENT

Well how time flies, we are currently in the Season of Advent which symbolizes hope, love, joy and peace. Our spiritual development efforts certainly live up to those word of hope and caring.

You can read more about the Sunday School efforts in this bulletin but much thanks to the team who is working so hard to provide our youth with a positive learning experience each and every week. The children choir's recent singing performance is just one example of these efforts.

Java and Jesus, our adult Sunday School has been very well received and we are starting a short study on Advent. There has been a change in how this group operates with topic areas being shorter in length, usually about 4 to 6 Sundays each. Thanks to Blenda Smith, who presented on the Max Lucado work Enough and Pastor Doug Clark, who covered religions of the world. The Wenzingers are starting a new session on Isaiah.

Pastor Jan is starting a short-term Advent Bible Study. Please sign up in the Narthex if interested. Those who take the time to visit with our shut-ins through our Shepherd's Ministry are out and about making sure all are included in our church family, and the Prayer Messengers have maintained their effort through all of the shut down time of Covid but have now gone back to an in-person meeting time to pray for those requesting prays.

Last, but not least, we are about to start a new effort which you have heard about called, Sacred Circles. These groups will be small, have a lead person but decide how they function together. They are going to start happening soon. If you have signed up recently great and if you signed up a while ago, we would appreciate if you would add your name to the list in the Narthex if still interested. This is going to be a journey to share with a few people our faith journey and further our spiritual growth.

Yours in faith,
the Spiritual Development Committee



MISSION AND OUTREACH

I am making a list and checking it twice of all the activities happening at Fairview!!

We will be bringing in the Blessing Box for the Winter and putting up the clothesline for hats, scarves, gloves and mittens for Adults and kids on December 15. Donations will be happily accepted M-W-F 9-2 or on Sundays 9-12.

The Food Pantry has been giving out food on Wednesdays 11:30-12:30 along with the 1st and 3rd Mondays. The Diaper Ministry is doing quite well since starting up in October. Our next diaper giveaway is December 1st from 11:30-12:30. We need diapers of all sizes and accept monetary donations plus do the shopping.

Community Meals are growing in leaps and bounds. A BIG thank you to all who have participated in one way or another. If interested in helping please sign up in the Narthex or

contact Sue Boucher. We just received an order from the Food Bank of the Southern Tier with meat and sides to be used.

Ugly Quilts are being created every Monday from 1:30-3:30 pm. If interested contact Karon Lewis.

We are no longer collecting cellphones as the Crime Victims Assistance program has received a grant to purchase new phones. This year alone we donated 10 phones. The Lions Club is still collecting used glasses to send to those in need. We have donated 4 pairs this year.

We are purchasing pajamas for the Children's Home again this year. Kathy Ballard is in charge of this project. She feels that money is the easiest way to contribute. She bought about 60 pairs last year. The Home can also use wrapping paper, tags and tape to wrap these special gifts.

Looking forward to 2022..... we are planning to do a Soup giveaway again on Saturday, February 12th from noon to 2pm. We will need soups if anyone wants to make a crockpot . A sign up will be in the Narthex after the first of the year.

Lastly and foremost we are so blessed to have so many loving and giving friends at Fairview UMC. Thank you all! Merry Christmas and Happy 2022!

~ Sue Boucher, Chair

"COME TIE ONE ON !!!



The quilters just completed number 50!!!!
46 quilts were knotted before COVID, we have managed to finish four more since a short time in May and resuming in October. Thanks to all my loyal knotters!!!!

Join us on a Monday afternoon to simply tie knots in a quilt! Ugly Quilts has resumed in the Bouton Room, 1:30-3:30 on Mondays. Please call or text Karon Lewis (607-427-1533) to reserve your spot. Masks required.

~ Karon Lewis, project coordinator



THE ANCIENT AND THE MODERN

Welcome to the seasons of Advent, Christmas and Epiphany. What a joyous time of the year! Stephen King (The Colorado Kid) once wrote, "Sooner or later, everything old is new again". Some of the oldest preserved sacred music comes from these liturgical seasons. This year our service music will be a blend of the ancient words and music done by contemporary composers.

The first Sunday in Advent starts this theme with "Ye Watchers and Ye Holy Ones" by Althelston Riley. "This hymn echoes Psalm 103, "Bless the Lord, O you his angels, you mighty ones who do his word, obeying the voice of his word! Bless the Lord, all his hosts, his ministers, who do his will!" Based in part on the Te Deum Laudamus, this ancient hymn is used in many liturgical churches still today. (Hymnary.org) Simon Mold (b. 1957) arranged the Richard Mant (1776 – 1848) song "Lo! He Comes, An Infant Stranger" into a lovely arrangement for choir. Finally, the Mark Hayes arrangement of two early church chants "Let all Mortal Flesh Keep Silence" and "O Come, O Come Emmanuel".

The second Sunday in Advent begins with the beautiful organ arrangement of "Quem Pastores Laudavere", a lighthearted Latin carol praising Christ and rejoicing in His birth. The original manuscript dates back to the 14th century. Rev. Cindy Wenzinger will sing "Welcome Home" written by Rev. Bill Carter, minister at 1st Presbyterian church, Clark Summit, PA as part of the communion celebration. We close the service with another Mark Hayes arrangement of "In the Bleak MidWinter".

By the third Sunday in Advent, we are well into our preparations. We want to hear those traditional Christmas songs! Prelude on "Greensleeves" (What Child is This") by arranger

Richard Purvis provides a haunting arrangement to open our service. The choir presents the early 20th century Kentucky folk carol "Jesus, Jesus, Rest Your Head" and "At the Right Time" written in 1987 by southern gospel composer Mosie Lister. We end our service of rejoicing with the jazz arrangement of "Good Christians All, Rejoice".

The organ resounds with "And the Glory of the Lord" from Handel's "Messiah" to begin our final Sunday in Advent. This is a Sunday full of music and celebration with choir, bells, children all in joyful celebration. Variations on "O Sanctissima" turns the Latin 12th century songs "Salve Regina" into a joyful hymn of praise in anticipation of Christmas Eve and a service of Lessons and Carols. We continue our themes of ancient and modern as we weave the beautiful ancient scriptures with the traditional congregational hymns and the modern choral arrangements.

It will be a joyful celebration of the birth of Jesus in our beautiful church as we gather together this year to sing and worship. In the words of our Pastor Jan, we are grateful and we are so blessed. Let's share our Christmas joys with others and fill our sanctuary.

With a joyful heart and grateful thanks for the wonderful music ministry of Fairview United Methodist church,

Claudia



FESTIVE RINGERS and CHILDREN'S MUSIC

Our Festive Ringers Bell Choir has enjoyed the chance to be together again. Currently we are a three octave choir and are working hard to ring our praises to God. We are still looking for one Bell Choir Sub for February and March.

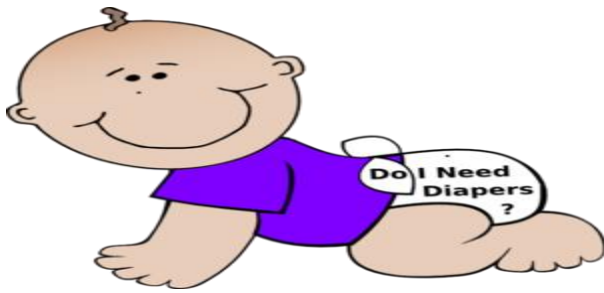
I have been teaching the Sunday School children music at the beginning of class. We meet together for a short music lesson, cheer and prayer. This month we will learn "Away in a

Manger” and a candle dance to be offered December 19.

The most valuable gift you can give another is a good example.

For I have given you an example, that ye should do as I have done to you.

John 13:15



OUR DIAPER BANK IS OPEN!!

The diaper bank is off and running! We have had plenty of donations and have given away diapers two months now. The first month we had 8 families and the second month we had 7 families.

We are still getting the word out, but the families who have used us couldn't have been more thankful!

Windsor UMC Secret Sisters have contacted us and want to contribute to our mission and will be gathering diapers or giving monetary donations.

We have found out when re-packaging the diapers that packages of 20, 40 or 60 are the most helpful.

Thank you so much for making this mission a success!

~ Amber Gregory, project coordinator

DIAPER BANK - HOW CAN YOU HELP?

Spread the word!

Donate diapers.

Donate money.

Give of your time to help package diapers or to sit at the Diaper Bank.

Contact Amber Gregory
607-237-9376 / aearle9999@aol.com



Greetings from the pantry. Our Wednesday's are working well. Still a light crowd but we feel that the word will spread. Our clients are so thankful and express their gratitude each week.

On November 20th we distributed 26 turkeys and a bag of other Thanksgiving sides. These items were received through the Food Bank with the turkeys being picked up at Wegmans. A shout out to Wegmans for handling all the Pickups on a Saturday on top of their regular business.

Starting in December we are going back to pantry shopping on our pantry days. Clients can shop for the food they need not what is pre-packed for them. We will do this in a safe manner and will be monitored by the trustees.

Many blessings to each of you this Holiday. Remember those less fortunate and share your wealth with time as well as monetary gifts. We are still looking for people to help out. Please consider giving an hour of your time for this important mission.

Merry Christmas

Karen Gdovin - on behalf of the pantry

