

Celebration



*December 1, 2022
Church Newsletter*

Interim Pastor's Message

*"We'll dress the house with holly bright
and sprigs of mistletoe.
We'll trim the Christmas tree tonight
and set the lights aglow.
We'll wrap our gifts with ribbons gay
and give them out on Christmas day.
By everything we do and say,
our gladness we will show.*

*"And ye who would the Christ child greet,
your heart also adorn,
That it may be a dwelling meet
for Him who now is born.
Let all unlovely things give place
to souls bedecked with heavenly grace,
That ye may view His holy face
with joy on Christmas morn."*



Most of us, through years of experience, know pretty well how to “dress the house” for Christmas. But the second stanza of the carol above might puzzle us a bit – how do we take the advice “your heart also adorn”?

There are many ways we can try to do that – try to make ourselves ready, in our hearts and minds and spirits, to celebrate the birth of Jesus. How each of us goes about that any given year will depend on lots of things, including personality traits, time available, energy levels, and so on.

Here are a few suggestions for this Advent (which begins November 27th) for you to consider:

1. Make it a point to come to worship each Sunday – and if you’re comfortable doing so, come in person, and experience the gift of praying and singing together.

2. Each day of Advent, I'll be sending out an email with a brief quotation for your reflection. You're invited to just take those in quietly, within yourself, or if you feel so moved, to comment on or discuss them with others, via E-Connect.
3. Join us for an hour on Tuesday mornings at 10:30, via Zoom, for a look at the Nativity stories in Matthew's gospel. Matthew's and Luke's accounts of the events surrounding Jesus' birth are quite different from each other, and both have a lot to offer. Our discussions of selections of scripture each week will be enhanced by music and artwork selected by some of your DUPC comrades. There's always something to think about, something to learn – and great conversation to enjoy!
4. If you'd like to read some scripture each day in Advent (or even just some of the days!) you can find two different lists of suggested readings for each day, [here](#).
5. Consider, in this season of giving, some particular ways that you can give to others – through monetary donations to those in need, or gifts of some of your time to those who could use a helping hand, or just some company.

Whether you chose to use any or all of these suggestions, or you find your own ways to “adorn your heart” this Advent season, I pray that it may a blessed time for you, that prepares you to celebrate, with great joy, the gift of the Incarnation.

Peace and all good,
Laurie Tiberi
Interim Pastor



Liturgist

12/4 Lea Kone
12/11 John Williams
12/18 Pat Tweet
12/25 Sally Allison

***Thank you for
Serving as Liturgist!***

If you are serving as part of the liturgist rotation and you are unable to serve on a certain Sunday, please contact one of the alternates to line up your own substitute. Then email the church secretary at office@downtownpresbyterian.org to let her

know who will be serving in your place. Alternates/substitutes are: Susan Richane, Callie Babbitt, and Ed Saphar. If none of the alternates are available, please email worship@downtownpresbyterian.org for assistance.



Hope, Peace, Love and Joy

DPC Advent Festival

Sunday, December 4th, 9:30 AM – 1:30 PM

in the Hallock Lounge

Please join us as we joyfully anticipate Christmas with some of our traditional Advent activities:

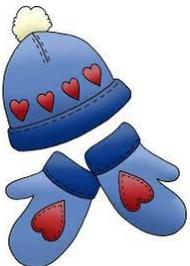
One World Goods, Angel Tree, Family Promise, Building Minds in South Sudan, Christmas Cookie Decorating and fun craft projects!



A light lunch will be available following worship
(if the Covid risk does not move to high)



One World Goods will offer gift items made by fairly-compensated adult artisans and farmers from all over the world!



To support a child from the **Jordan Health Center** (The Angel Tree), please consider donating: Games, Crafts, Hats and Gloves (any age/gender), a Gift Card (perhaps Target or Walmart), a monetary gift.

For Family Promise, we will once again collect cleaning supplies.

Please consider donating one of the following items:

Toilet bowl cleaner, Toilet bowl brush, Kitchen sponges, All-purpose cleaner, Dish soap, Toilet paper, Window cleaner, Shower curtain liners.

Building Minds in South Sudan will have many items on sale for good prices and will also be happy to accept a monetary donation.

We look forward to gathering in person with our church family as we prepare to celebrate the birth of Jesus!

Sally Allison and Becky Parks for the Engagement Team



Session Notes

NOVEMBER, 2022 SESSION NOTES

At its November Stated meeting, the Session:

- approved the 2023 budget; this includes a draw on the Endowment of 9.77%
- called a congregational meeting for Monday, December 5 at 7:30, via Zoom, for the purpose of electing Elders and Deacons
- approved a motion to engage a small task force from the congregation interested in understanding and exploring ways DUPC could become spiritually relevant to a younger demographic (families and individuals under the age of 50) of our community that are currently unaffiliated with a church. Ed Saphar was appointed as chairperson of this task force.
- Heard a report on the plans for the Advent Festival this December 5



Session Addresses A Vision for the Future: Asks for Volunteers for an Important, Captivating Project

by Ed Saphar

The Session approved an effort to look at ways DUPC can be more relevant in the lives of younger people and families who have grown up with religious affiliations, but no longer participate in a church home. If the Church is no longer one of their priorities, we need to know why. To understand this phenomenon is the first step to effectively respond to their spiritual needs.

Young families are the future of our congregation. Failure to attract this demographic has resulted in a precipitous loss of our membership. We are not alone. It is true of many mainline churches.

At their last meeting, Session approved the following motion:

Engage a small group of volunteers from the congregation interested in understanding and exploring ways DUPC could become spiritually relevant to a younger demographic (families and individuals under the age of 50) in our community that are currently unaffiliated with a church. Ask the group to report periodically on their work and make recommendations for next steps.

Ed Saphar volunteered to lead this ad hoc committee. Those interested are asked to email him at: edsaphar@me.com.

As a volunteer, there will be a variety of ways to contribute. At this time, you do not have to know where you can contribute. Your interest is the most critical factor. Some

may want to examine what is known about this subject. Others may look at what others are doing that could be helpful. Still others may have acquaintances who have contacts, whether in foundations, seminaries, or universities, that could contribute understanding and money to this project. Central to developing any kind of program will be a deeper understanding of the spiritual needs and reasons for the church not being a force in the lives of this demographic.

Normally a congregation with a membership our size might not consider undertaking an ambitious program of this importance. Though we often tire from what we have been called to do, it is our faith, and the support we give each other, that enables us to take on challenges of this importance. We do not have to know how, but we do have to maintain the strength of our faith. As with Christ's disciples, it is our faith that makes this possible.

It may be useful to see our DUPC as a catalyst for change. We have been the catalyst before, with our LGBTQ initiative, "That All May Freely Serve." As with TAMFS, we don't have to do this all ourselves. But we can engage others with the same interest. We can bring focus to the need. We are blessed with an endowment that allows us to make careful investments that can seed and leverage this effort, not only with the denomination, but also attracting foundation interest.

To start, we have approximately \$30,000 in funds that were given for the Downtown Center at the time we called our Associate Pastor. When the Associate left, the Downtown Center was put on hold while we applied our attention to doing the work necessary to prepare for a new pastor. This effort has set the stage for renewal of our congregation.

It is now time to put our attention to a vision for our future, and more adequately meeting the needs of a younger generation.



Do you wish to contribute to Downtown United Presbyterian Church? If so, click [here](#) to donate, or if you prefer, you can use the QR code to make your contribution to the church.

December Birthdays



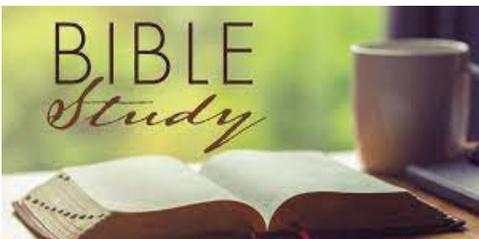
*Helen Ganotis
Pat Sanborn
Connie Ehindero
Carol Samuel
Mollie DeBoer*

*Nora Babbitt
Andrea Folan
Dolores Behrouzy-Far
Carol Blohm
Constance Valois
Sandra Knights*

APPLE PICKING AT WICKHAM FARMS

A few of us from DUPC joined about 30 other volunteers on November 1st to pick apples at Wickham Farms, after the farm's last day of business for the season.

Mary McDowell organized this event for Wickham Farms and the volunteers picked 8 huge crates of apples to be donated to local organizations. Our DUPC contingent (Mary Bookout, Mary McDowell, CarolynDeHority and Becky Parks) delivered apples to the Community Food Cupboard, Family Promise, and Webster HOPE. It looks like this is becoming an annual event – so watch for the opportunity to come up again next November 1st – and we hope you will join us!



The Tuesday morning Bible Study during advent will reflect on the nativity stories in the Book of Matthew which are very different from those in the Book of Luke. Over the four weeks we will discuss the following: Nov. 29 - Joseph and his own annunciation; Dec. 6 - The various dreams that occur in the nativity story; Dec. 13 - The Story of the Magi; Dec 20 - Choosing which nativity story we liked best, and why; Matthew's or Luke's?

You are welcome to attend all or some of these discussions which will begin each Tuesday in Advent at 10:30 a.m. and last a little over an hour. More specific information will be shared as we approach each meeting with the zoom link and scripture for that morning via eConnect.

DUPC YOUNG DISCIPLES MISSION IN ACTION

On Thanksgiving Sunday our Young Disciples collected many bags of food from the congregation during worship.

This bounty will be used in the outdoor food pantry by our parking lot that was actually built by a member of the Spiritus Christi Youth Group. Barbara Simmons, a member of Spiritus and manager of the pantry, said she will fill the pantry this week with items that best meet the needs of those in our area who come for food. She is going to store what is left in Rev. Celie's office, and take to the Community Food Pantry any items that are a better fit for indoor shelving.



She extends her gratitude to members of the Downtown Church and looks forward to continued collaboration in this food outreach ministry. Deacons hope we can keep a basket by the reception desk for further collections of food. We'll keep you all posted.

Thank you and Happy Thanksgiving
Your Deacons



December 25, 2022

There will be no in-person worship.

A service will be pre-recorded and available to stream at 11:00 a.m. that morning, or at anytime thereafter.

DECEMBER 2022

MEETING AND EVENTS

Newsletters arrive the 1st of every month.
Newsletter deadline is the 20th of every month.

Thursday, December 1, 2022	4:30PM	Worship Team
Sunday, December 4, 2022	10:00AM	Choir Warm-up
	10:00AM	Nominating Committee
	10:45AM	Nursery
	11:00AM	Worship
	11:15AM	Sunday School
	12:00PM	Coffee Hour in the Narthex
	12:00PM	Advent Festival
Tuesday, December 6, 2022	10:30AM	Bible Study via Zoom
Wednesday, December 7, 2022	5:30PM	Justice League Mtg. via Zoom
	5:00PM	Finance Team Mtg. via Zoom
	7:00PM	Choir Rehearsal
	7:30PM	Property Team Mtg. via Zoom
Saturday, December 10, 2022	10:00AM	Advent Special Music Rehearsal
		
Sunday, December 11, 2022	10:00AM	Choir Warm-up
	10:00AM	Nominating Committee Mtg.
	10:45AM	Nursery
	11:00AM	Worship–Advent Special Music Sunday
	11:15AM	Sunday School
	12:00PM	Coffee Hour in the Narthex
	12:00PM	Cookie Sunday
7:00PM	Sophia Circle	
Tuesday, December 13, 2022	10:30AM	Bible Study via Zoom
	6:30PM	Deacons Mtg. via Zoom
Wednesday, December 14, 2022	7:00PM	Choir Rehearsal
Friday, December 16, 2022	12:00PM	Round Table Book Group via Zoom



Sunday, December 18, 2022	10:00AM	Choir Warm-up
	10:00AM	Nominating Committee Mtg.
	10:45AM	Nursery
	11:00AM	Worship – Pagent/Carol Sunday
	11:15AM	Sunday School
	12:00PM	Coffee Hour in the Narthex
	12:30PM	Choir Rehearsal for Christmas Eve
Tuesday, December 20, 2022		Newsletter Deadline
	10:30AM	Bible Study via Zoom
	7:00PM	Session Mtg. via Zoom
Wednesday, December 21, 2022	7:00PM	Choir Rehearsal
Saturday, December 24, 2022	7:00PM	Christmas Eve Service



Sunday, December 25, 2022

Christmas Day

There will be no in-person worship. A service will be pre-recorded and available to stream at 11:00 a.m. that morning, or at anytime thereafter.

Monday, December 26, 2022

Christmas Holiday – The building is closed.

Tuesday, December 27, 2022

10:30AM Bible Study via Zoom



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 585-325-4000

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