The Soc Chimes First United Presbyterian Church

December 2015

A Child is Born!

Volume 46 Issue 12

PASTOR'S MESSAGE

The other day I was having a conversation and in the middle of the conversation both of us started to remark at how quickly time had passed this year. It just seemed like yesterday the year was starting and, suddenly, we are getting to the end of the year. Time has passed quickly and, suddenly, from a Christian perspective we are in the midst of celebrating Our Lord and Savior's birth into our world. Over two thousand years many traditions have come into being surrounding the celebration of Jesus' birth into our world. It makes sense that so many traditions have sprung up concerning our Lord's birth as people have tried to express how much Jesus' birth means to them and to the world. As the promise was given so long ago," (Isa 9:2-7 NIV) The people walking in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the land of the shadow of death a light has dawned. {3} You have enlarged the nation and increased their joy; they rejoice before you as people rejoice at the harvest, as men rejoice when dividing the plunder. {4} For as in the day of Midian's defeat, you have shattered the yoke that burdens them, the bar across their shoulders, the rod of their oppressor. {5} Every warrior's boot used in battle and every garment rolled in blood will be destined for burning, will be fuel for the fire. {6} For to us a child is born, to us a son

is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. {7} Of the increase of his government and peace there will be no end. He will reign on David's throne and over his kingdom, establishing and upholding it with justice and righteousness from that time on and forever. The zeal of the LORD Almighty will accomplish this."

Our Advent and Christmas season is a busy season. At church we have the Christmas Cantata, the Children's Program, Christmas Eve and other activates to mark the season. In our lives we have dinners, parties, packages and bows, family gatherings, decorations and trees, etc. Jesus told us he came to give us life and abundantly. Jesus wants our Advent and Christmas season to be abundant and filled with joy. One interesting quirk about humans; we can be so busy celebrating something we completely miss enjoying or appreciating what we are working so hard to celebrate. In the busyness of this season let us not forgot to heed the Psalmists advice, "(Psa 46:6-11 NIV) Nations are in uproar, kingdoms fall; he lifts his voice, the earth melts. {7} The LORD Almighty is with us; the God of Jacob is our fortress. Selah {8} Come and see the works (Continued on page 2)

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Receive your newsletter by email and in color, too. Call the office to find out how!

The Purpose of the First United Presbyterian Church is to:

Invite people to know and glorify God Grow together as followers of Christ Serve others through the power of the Holy Spirit of the LORD, the desolations he has brought on the earth. {9} He makes wars cease to the ends of the earth; he breaks the bow and shatters the spear, he burns the shields with fire. {10} "Be still, and know that I am God; I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth." {11} The LORD Almighty is with us; the God of Jacob is our fortress. Selah"

In this season when we are so busy celebrating Our Lord's birth let us not forget to "Be Still" and enjoy the presence of God in our lives. Be still and feel God's presence. Be still and appreciate all God has brought us in Jesus Christ. Be still and enjoy God's Christmas present to us.

> Peace in Christ, Mark



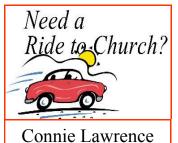


Food Pantry Abby Gazvoda and Mary Moran



\$147,884

Year-to 11/15/15 offerings Year to 11/15/15 expenses





Freighter View Assisted Living 605 West Portage Avenue

> Virginia Blair Audrey Bush Emily Hamilton Jane Kellan Margaret Olson Carmelita Schrumpf Delores Swick

Hearthside Assisted Living 1501 W 6th Avenue

David Shaw

At Home Bea Woodgate 1008 Johnston Street Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783

Tendercare- Sault Ste Marie

Jim Schmidt Jean Smith

McKinley Manor 2023 West 4th Avenue

Vera Steffens Jeanne Gantz WMH Long Term Care 500 Osborn Boulevard

Lois Myers

Out of Town

Della Porter 2920 Crystal Lane Room 426 Kalamazoo, MI 49009

Dorthea Allen Michigan Masonic Home 1200 Wright, Room 167 Alma, MI 48801

June MacInnis 900 Glen Haven Circle, Apt 2 Petoskey, MI 49770

The Soo Chimes



Kevin Tastor, Jean Smith, Carl Smart, Kady Love, Jim Schmidt, Gina Gough, Shane Miller, Delphine Porter, Wendy (Menard) James, Ruth Thesing, Dorothy Smart, Ellen Meister, Jane Kellan,

Margaret Olson, Robert Jewell, Judy Knutsen, Ellen Woodgate, Carolyn Vollick, William Kellan, Colleen Sibbald, Bea Woodgate, Margaret Vonderwerth & her family, and all members of missionaries and the U.S. Armed Forces.

Please keep us up to date on your prayer requests.



Deacon's Cookie Walk

The Deacon's will hold a

COOKIE WALK

on Sunday, December 13th. We are asking our church family to consider bringing in cookie donations for this event.

All the proceeds raised will benefit the Deacon Food Pantry.

SUNDAY DECEMBER 20TH 2:00 PM Jeanne Shibley

Freighter View

t Worship



Christmas and New Years Thursday and Friday, December 24th. & 25th & Friday, January 1st





December 20th Endowment Committee



Help keep kids' noses, heads and fingers warm! Our **mitten tree is up in the narthex**, ready to take your donations of mittens, hats and scarves. They will be distributed to our local elementary schools. We'd like to thank PW for their donations which already grace the tree.

December 13th. Select from dozens of cookies and fill a container for \$4 per 6, or \$8 per dozen. A few pieces of candy may slip in for \$3 per 6. Specialty cookie items will be up for raffle at 50¢ or 3 for \$1. Sales will run from 8:45 am-9:45 am, then after service. The public is invited to join in the foray after service. All proceeds will go towards the purchase of groceries for the Food Pantry.

The **winter clothing rack** in the Social Hall welcomes additions of warm winter clothing – jackets, snow suits, hats, gloves, scarves, etc. – that are in good, clean condition. Many have already found new homes! A big thank you to War Memorial Hospital for the donations currently filling the rack.

Remember, the Deacons are here **if you need a ride to church**. Just call the office by Friday morning at 632-7771 and someone will be alerted to pick you up. Please alert us if a hospital visit is desired. Many times word-of-mouth is the only way we find out about requests. Help us serve you by letting us know.

Have a blessed holiday season!

Jeanne Shibley, Deacon Chairperson



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Keeping In the past I have written about Christmas tree selection in the woods,	Wonderful miracles seem to come about at Christmas time. Families reunite, love and forgiveness surrounds us, Christmas carols are sung	
Christmas The Whole when we lived on Drummond Island, using old ornaments, shopping for the right gift, Peter	by many groups, and shopping centers and radios play carols for all of us. The way we greet our neighbors and church friends are but a few examples of what takes place when we celebrate the birth of our Savior.	
Eve, and hope that can only	Let's make sure we do not become so busy celebrating the season that we totally miss the reason of the season. We may become so centered on last minute shopping for the right gifts and forget to tell others of	
	God's perfect gift, the Christ child.	
However, Christmas isn't just about tree selection or decorations, but about hope and a fulfillment.	Shopping may not be your favorite activity. However, one needs to spend time looking for that	
for they will see God." When we prepare for Jesus'	loved on in your life. There is a great joy in giving and hearing someone say, "That is just what I wanted." It might surprise many of us to know that this applies to Christ as well.	
	What does Christ seek from us? Proverbs 23:26 says, "My child, give me your heart and let your eyes keep to my ways."	
there is hunger, threats of war, rebellions, and bloodshed throughout the world. Living in a free	The greatest gift you can give to Christ is yourself!	
society, worshiping as we wish, we have an	Yes, the wonder of Christmas can come alive for you in many different ways if you will open your heart and allow God to prepare you for Christmas.	
would our lives be like if it were not for the birth in a	Have the merriest Christmas ever!	
manger, of Jesus Christ some 2000 years ago?	Don Myers, CRE	

As you begin to plan for any holiday shopping, please keep Care Net in mind. There are two quick ways you can help us meet our year-end financial obligations.

Pregnancy Center of the EUP As you shop online, use <u>smile.amazon.com</u>. Select Care Net Pregnancy Center of the EUP as your charitable contribution recipient. Any item you purchase counts toward donations for Care Net.

Remember that Tuesday, December 1st, is designated as Giving Tuesday. Make a special contribution to Care Net online (under the Donation tab of our web site <u>www.eupforlife.org</u>) or by check.

Our new donor-focused website (<u>www.eupforlife.org</u>) also lists the items Care Net currently needs or would like. We also have a link to <u>amazon.com</u> for our "Wish Lists". Please note we have one for client and volunteer focused items and one for our medical center items. Some of the items listed are also items we need to purchase to be compliant with MiOSHA regulations.

Thank you for your generous support of this ministry to the men, women and children of the Eastern Upper Peninsula.



Please remember our JOY offering taking place for the month of December. We will collect the JOY offering on Sunday, December 13th during the Children's Christmas Program.

Thursday, December 24th 7 р.т.





Presented by

First United Presbyterian Church

Saturday, December 5th, 2015

9am to 11am

Children can get

their picture taken at "The North Pole"!

Tickets - \$5.00 each All children should be accompanied by an adult.

First United

Presbyterian Church 555 Bingham Ave.

Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783

Games,

activities,

and stories.

We will be

serving a breakfast

fit for an Elf!

 With the presence of Christ on earth. Each group of children will add wrapped presents to the "Christmas Presence" our Sunday School and Youth will build a tower of Christmas presents to honor the presence of Christ on earth. Each group of children will add wrapped presents to the "Christmas Presence" tower while talking about the presents we offer Christ on His birthday this year.

 Stay after church for a grand party celebrating Jesus' Birthday!

 Guests are invited to enjoy Birthday cake, coffee, tea and cold beverages in Fellowship Hall.

 Mark your calendars today!

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DINNER

December 20, 2015

Everyone is invited for a delicious turkey dinner with all the fixings on Sunday, December 20th after the Cantata and Worship Service

This is annual event is sponsored by the FUPC Endowment Committee.

Come join us in the Social Hall for a good meal and fellowship!







The Deacon's Mitten Tree will be going up on November 15th. Hats, gloves, scarves, and mittens will be collected and distributed to the elementary schools in town. They are much appreciated by both the teachers and students. Help keep the children warm, during the long winter months.



SUNDAY

DECEMBER 20TH

This year's Cantata will be "Joy to the World" by John Peterson



There will be no regular Sunday School classes on December 20 or 27.

On December 20 the church choir will be presenting its annual Christmas Cantata and the children and youth are invited and encouraged to attend this joyful celebration.

On December 27 our worship service will consist of Christmas scripture reading and carol singing. This is a fun service the entire family will enjoy attending together.

Regular Sunday School will resume January 2, 2016.

Our Christmas Offering will be collected during the 7 pm Christmas Eve Candlelight Service







DEACONS' WINTER CLOTHING DRIVE

The Deacons will be collecting winter clothing throughout the months of December and January to distribute to those in need. If you have new or gently-used winter coats, hats, gloves/mittens, boots, or sweaters that you are willing to donate, please bring them to the church office. Clothing collected will be offered to those attending Soup Kitchen and Food Pantry.





Melissa and Mark Gabbard, Chad and Denise Folkersma would like to thank everyone for the continued prayers as we begin our Youth Group. We had 5 students at our Nov 8 meeting and look forward to seeing them continue to attend and grow in the love of Christ.

Our next meeting is Nov 22 6:30 followed by Dec 13 6:30. If you have any questions please contact Denise Folkersma 231-233-6717 or Melissa Gabbard 712-330-3429.



Thanks to everyone who donated to the Samaritan's Purse Operation Child". A total of 72 boxes were donated to spread

smiles to children in countries worldwide. The

filled boxes of gifts will be distributed to children along with the message of Jesus Christ and his love for each and everyone of these children. Thank you!



ANNUAL COMMITTEE REPORTS'

It's Annual Report time again. Your ANNUAL reports are important. REPORT Deadline for submission of your FUPC Annual Reports

is January 2, 2015. Submit to the church office or email (office@soopresbyterian.org) your reports to the attention of Audrey Zane.

Reminder - FUPC 2015 Annual Meeting will be January 31,



Poinsettia Order Form

The Christmas season is here again, time to decorate the Sanctuary with the Poinsettia Tree. You may honor a loved one with one of these beautiful plants, at a cost of \$8.00 each. Please fill out the form below and return it to the church office with your payment by December 16th.

During the Christmas Eve Service, a booklet will be available, with all donors and their messages. Please list the message exactly as you want it printed. If you would like to take your plants home, you may do so after the Christmas Eve Service. Please contact the church office, if you have questions or to drop off the form.

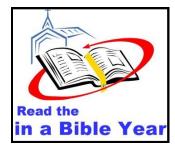
Your	name(s):
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Phone:

Plant #1 Message:

Plant #2 Message:





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	31	Luke 5:1-26	Ezekiel 48	Isaiah 66



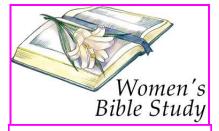
Diane McMeeken and Mary Stanaway



Men's Bible Study every Friday morning at 9:00 am. Studies cancelled on December 25th &January 1st All men are welcome to join us!

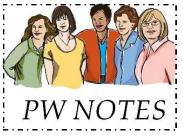


^{9:00} am



Woman's Bible Study every Wednesday morning at 9:30 am

Our lesson is on "Twelve Women of the Bible". All women of the church are invited to join us.





Stocking Stuffers! The Ultimate Cloth \$6.00 each/5 for \$25.00 Sunflower Dish Cloths \$1.00 each

PW Bazaar Wrap-Up

If we're to have a tea & bazaar in November 2016, we need to have a Chairperson and a Decorating Person in place as soon as possible. Please consider volunteering for this annual event.



Circle 3 will have their Annual Christmas Party at the home of Sandy Borg (213 Hursley) on

December 10th at 9:30 am. Please bring a dish to pass and a present for a gift exchange (Approximate \$10 value).

All ladies welcome to join us.



PW Luncheon on Sunday, December 6th at Applebee's.

Please RSVP to the church office if you are planning to attend.

All ladies are welcome to join us!



Tuesday at 9:30 am December 15th (the 3rd Tuesday),

All ladies are welcome to join us for an informal gathering.

Quilt Winner

Congratulations to Phyllis McKechnie of Sault Ste Marie.

Phyllis is a member of the First United Presbyterian Church and is this year's winner of the Quilt Raffle.

Thanks to all who bought and sold tickets.

Many thanks to Carolyn Shaw making and quilting this beautiful quilt.



THANK YOU, THANK YOU, THANK YOU!

To all the wonderful women, young ladies and men, who helped in the dining room and kitchen for the Bazaar and Tea. We really appreciate all that you did from ironing table cloths, serving tea, passing sandwiches, cookies, bussing tables, etc. etc. to cleaning up. Thanks to everyone who donated items and helped in the booths. We couldn't have done it without each and everyone of you.

Blessings to all of you.



New Food Safety Manual now available in the kitchen.



<u>Cooking for Crowds A Volunteer Guide to Safe Food Handling</u> contains a wealth of information concerning food safety. The manual is designed for use by nonprofit groups preparing food for the public such as we do in the church kitchen. Items covered include preventing conditions that can lead to food borne illness, personal hygiene, purchase and storage of food, time temperature requirements for safe food handling, conducting bake sales

and more. Anyone preparing food in the kitchen should find the manual useful.

Lee Mason , Serve Safe Certified (906) 635-0226

Dear friends and participants of Three Lakes Lay Academy,

As most of you know we have taken a semester off, but with great excitement and anticipation we will begin another round of classes starting in January 2016. Below you will find the classes that will be taught in the winter term. We are still looking for one person to complete the roster of teachers for the winter term. There are some things you can do for us for this term.

Spread the word

Register yourself

3LLA academy exists to be a ministry of the Northern Great Lakes Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church and the Presbytery of Mackinac. People are invited to participate for whatever reason works for them.

We have two classes each Thursday. They are held at Zion Lutheran Church, St. Ignace and begin at 4 pm. We take a break at 5:30 for a shared meal and worship. This winter, Leslie Henderson has volunteered to prepare meals for the last 5 weeks, but we need volunteers to fill in the first 5 weeks. So if you can provide a meal for one of the weeks we will appreciate that. Please get hold of Dave Van Dam if you would like to volunteer.

You can register anytime. Call or send a message to either pastor Dave Tielbar (<u>david.tielbar6@gmail.com</u> 906-643-7870), or pastor Dave Van Dam (<u>davidvandam68@gmail.com</u> 231-439-5069)

Winter – January 14 – March 17, 2016

- 1. Genesis Nehemiah 10 weeks from 6:30 8
- 2. Creedal Formulations 5 weeks 4 5:30 pm, Jan. 14 Feb. 11
- 3. Ministry at the End of Life 5 weeks 4 5:30 pm, Feb. 18 Mar. 17



Scrip cards helps to make your gift giving easy! We have over 600 places we can order from. Scrip purchasing is easy and does not cost

Fundraiser you any extra money. The more we start to utilize this program, the more we can help out our church organizations such as the food pantry, youth activities, and so much more! We do have many cards available for immediate purchase in the office and orders are always going in! If you have questions, please see Brenda .

> Brenda Ransom, elder tallulah@lighthouse.net



The New Offering Envelopes are here!

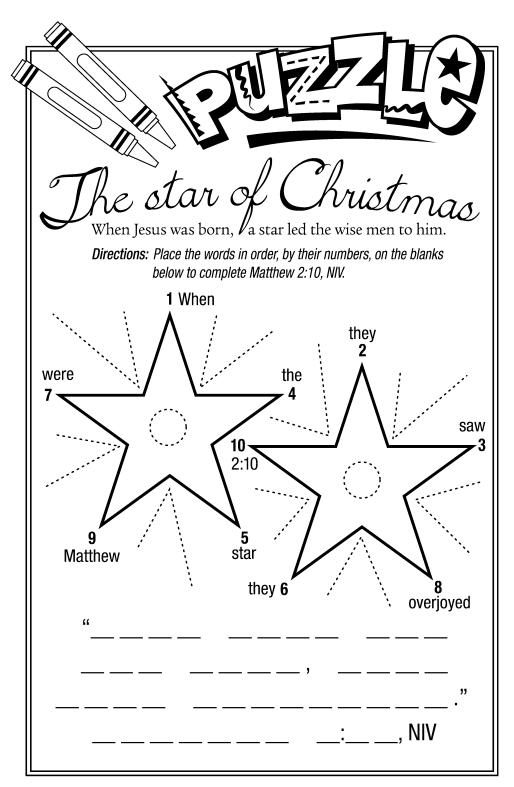
Envelopes will be available in the Narthex starting on December 6th.

If you or you know a youth or an adult who would like to have offering envelopes please contact the office at 632-7771 or email us at office@soopresbyterian.org.

We would gladly provide you with envelopes for your convenience.



- foam and cut them out. Punch a hole atop a point of each star.
- 4. Tie one small star to each outer-rim ribbon.
- 5. Thread a longer ribbon through the center hole and tie the large star to the other end.
- 6. Write a verse on the plate or large star. Hang the mobile from the ceiling with another piece of blue ribbon.



Answer: "When they saw the star, they were overjoyed." Matthew 2:10, NIV



The Soo Chimes

ay Saturday	s Study Grp 5 9:00a R H Breakfast 7:00p A.A. 7:00p A.A. 7:00p A.A. 7:00p A.A.
y Friday	9:00a Men's Study Grp stmas party 9:00a Men's Study Grp
Thursday	 3 3 10 10 10 7:00p SAHS Concert
Wednesday	2 9:30a Women's Bible Study 6:30p Cantata Rehearsal 7:45p Choir Rehearsal 9:30a Women's Bible Study 6:30p Cantata Rehearsal 7:45p Choir Rehearsal
Tuesday	1 9:00a-12:00p Food Pantry 8 9:00a-12:00p Food Pantry
Monday	7:00p Boy Scout Mtg (SH)
2	

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