

The Messenger

The Monthly Newsletter of the

Saugerties U M C

“Your Community Church”

Office # (845)246-7802

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December 2018



O Come Let Us Adore Him!

Christmas Eve Worship Schedule

We will have two worship times on Christmas Eve:

5:00 PM with Candlelight

9:00 PM with Holy Communion and Candlelight.



From the Pastor's Desk

“Christmas Memories”

I am writing this in my office as I am listening to a cassette tape (remember those) of a favorite musical group, The Vanilla Fudge. If you do not remember them that is OK. They were very popular for a few years with their brand of semi-psychedelic music but quickly faded as that genre gave way to other forms. But I remember that what I wanted most that Christmas of 1968 was to get tickets to an upcoming concert by the band. And I did. I was elated! I could not wait for the date to come when I would see my favorite band. Only problem was at 13, my father took me to the concert. Surrounded by hippies (remember them) I looked rather out of place sitting with my dad (so did he).

There were of course many other Christmas memories such as the year 1965 when I received as a present the Lionel Army train that actually fired a missile from a special launcher. Then there was the submarine that fired torpedoes, the cowboy six guns that fired off plastic bullets, etc. You get the picture, a child with more toys than he can remember, all lost to the dust heap of history.

There are memories of a more mature type such as my first Christmas as a father. Having a child is best present one can receive as I learned when I held my daughter for the first time. Two more children were born and each successive Christmas saw massive piles of toys under the tree, thankfully assembled by the local toy store. But amidst all the glitter and glow do we forget to remember what the greatest present of all time is?

We are all rushing around buying presents, planning parties, and wondering where the time has gone. When do we take time to remember that Jesus is the reason for the season? There was no Christmas before Jesus was born, and there would be no Christmas without Him. So how do we make time for Jesus?

As I have gotten older, I have come to understand more and more about the magnitude of the Birth of Christ. When God created the world, he stopped, looked at it, and pronounced it ‘good.’ Over time that changed, the world was no longer ‘good.’ It was a corrupt and violent planet. So much so that God flooded the world and all its inhabitants except for Noah and his family. Scholars believe that 5000 years elapsed from the time of the flood until the Roman Empire ruled the known world. At that time, the world was an even more corrupt and violence occurred every day. There was no escape from the menacing hands of Rome and its minions. After the flood, God promised Noah that he would never send the rains in anger again. So what would God do this time to punish His faithless people? He sent His only begotten Son, not to condemn the world, but to save it.

In what has to be seen as the ultimate act of mercy, God sent the goodness of His Son into the world as a present to all humankind, for all time. God chose not to destroy, but to build up the world! God so loved the world that He gave us the means to eternal salvation through Jesus. Isn't this worth remembering? Isn't this reason enough for us to rejoice? If this act alone hasn't quite convinced you

how about this – “Jesus loves each and every one of us!” He sees each of us as a unique, gifted and worthy of love and respect! That is why He commanded us to love our God and our neighbors.

In a few weeks, when we sit staring at the tree all aglow with lights and tinsel, let us remember that without Jesus there would be no Christmas, and no reason to celebrate!

May God Bless you all richly and abundantly,

Pastor Tony

A Friend in Need...

As we celebrated the Thanksgiving holiday, one of our church friends, Erica Legg, was helping her mother, sister and niece recover from a devastating fire that made their home uninhabitable. We thank God they escaped the flames without injury, but all material possessions were lost.

Erica is a teacher at Mother Goose, has been for many years and is a friend to many in our congregation. Her family needs our help. First we are asking for monetary donations which we will collect this Sunday to help defray the losses not covered by any insurance and to help them get back on their feet. Our church is already assisting them in finding suitable temporary housing. They will also need clothing and we will send out the sizes for each of them soon.

If you are so moved, please bring or send a donation to church with the notation: Fire fund.

We thank you all and wish God's Blessings upon you.



Decorating Day

This Saturday, December 1, we will be decorating the church for the Christmas Season. It is always a fun time to gather to make our church sanctuary festive and bright. Everyone is invited to come out and join in on the event. We will start decorating at 10:00 AM.



A Living Nativity

The Story of Jesus' Birth

Presented by

Saugerties United Methodist Church

67 Washington Ave.

Sunday, December 9 at 4:00 PM

Free to all – a gift from our church to the community!

Begin inside where you will encounter soldiers, townspeople, the innkeeper and more! End outside singing carols around the stable with Mary, Joseph and LIVE ANIMALS!

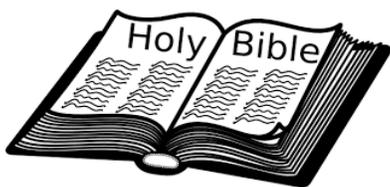
There will be a free will offering with all proceeds to benefit the Saugerties Food Pantry.

For more information contact the church at: (845) 246-7802 or saugertiesunitedmeth@hvc.rr.com



Adopt a Family for Christmas

It is that time of year when we think of helping families less fortunate than many of us by purchasing gifts for their children. We have traditionally helped the families whose children attend the Head Start program in our parish house. Envelopes are attached to the poster in the lobby, one for each family. The envelopes are numbered (1-13) and the number of children in the family is listed. If you would like to participate, write your name on the envelope of the family you have chosen and remove the information sheet about the children in that family. After you purchase the gifts for that family, put the family number on the bags that contain items for that family and leave the bags in the church office. The deadline for returning the gifts is December 16.



Thursday Morning Bible Study – Advent Study Continues

On December 6 and 13, we will continue with the Advent Study - “Because of Bethlehem Love is Born, Hope is Here” by Max Lucado. On December 6, we will discuss how God guides the wise; and on December 13, we will discuss how there is room for every heart in the manger. Feel free to join us even if you missed the first two weeks of the study. We meet from 10:30 – 12 in the lounge. See Joan Robinson if you have any questions.



Saturday, December 8, 2018 9-10:30 AM
Saugerties United Methodist Church
67 Washington Avenue Saugerties, NY
FREE!

**Please join us for a pancake breakfast
and the opportunity to take a picture with Santa!**

ALL WHO BELIEVE ARE WELCOME!!

**For more information contact the church at 845-246-7802
or saugertiesunitedmeth@hvc.rr.com**



COOKIE SALE FUNDRAISER

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 9!! Our Youth Group will be raising funds for their 2019 Summer Mission Trip by selling home baked cookies for \$5 a dozen. There will be at least 10 different varieties for you to mix and match as you'd like. Why bake when our youth can do it for you?! Thanks in advance for supporting our wonderful youth!



The next meeting of the Book Club is scheduled for January 19, 2019 at 10:30 a.m. We will be discussing the book 'Sisters: The Lives of America's Suffragists' by Jean Baker. All are welcome!



In place of Sunday School on December 2, we will have our **Annual Advent Workshop**. Everyone should come to the Opening Assembly as usual. After that we will all go to Fellowship Hall together to hear the Christmas Story and work on some projects to take home that will enhance the season.

SAVE THE DATE FOR OUR ANNUAL CHRISTMAS PAGEANT!! This year our pageant will be held on Sunday, December 16, during the 10:30 worship service. All children and youth are invited to participate as well as any visiting grandchildren or other friends or relatives. There will be rehearsals on Saturday, Dec. 15 from 1-3 and Sunday morning Dec. 16 at 9 AM. A sign-up sheet is in the lobby. Please see Debbie Mecca for more information.

On Sunday, December 23 instead of regular Sunday School classes we will have a **Happy Birthday Jesus Party!** All children and youth should go to the Opening Assembly at 9:15 AM as usual and they will then be taken together to the party for crafts, games and of course birthday cake!

There will be **NO** Sunday School on December 30. Classes will resume again on January 6.

BFF KIDS for those in grades 4-6 will meet on December 7 & 21! We meet in Fellowship Hall from 6-7:30 PM and supper is included! This program is open to the public so invite anyone in grades 4-6 to attend! For more information contact Debbie Mecca.



DECEMBER 2: **FUN & GAMES NIGHT!** We will meet for a time of active games. Possibly some board games or manhunt or sardines or the fruit game or maybe something new. Come to find out! From 6-8 PM in the Youth Room.

DECEMBER 9: **COOKIE FUNDRAISER AFTER WORSHIP!!** Everyone is asked to bake a batch or two of Christmas cookies for this Mission Trip fundraiser. We will sell them after worship (11:30) so come and help sell too! There will be a sign-up sheet in the Youth Room so that we can have as many different kinds as possible.

DECEMBER 9: **LIVING NATIVITY!!** Plan to be part of our re-telling of the birth of Christ in this drama with live animals. Everyone is invited to participate but those who plan to go on the 2019 Mission Trip **MUST** be involved in some way. The program begins at 4:00 but be there no later than 3:00 to be ready to do your part. (Earlier is even better)

THERE WILL BE NO REGULAR YOUTH GROUP THE 9th!! So why not be a part of the fun or come out at 4:00 to support your friends. Invite your family & friends to come too!

DECEMBER 16: **CHRISTMAS CAROLING AT THE MILL!!** We will meet at the church at 6 PM and then travel to The Mill to sing for the residents there. What a great way to bring some joy to others! We will be back at the church by 8 PM for pick up. Everyone must have a signed permission slip to go. They will be available in the Youth Room and will be emailed.

DECEMBER 23: **YOUTH GROUP CHRISTMAS PARTY!!** Everyone is asked to bring a grab bag gift that costs no more than \$5. We'll play Christmas games and have a merry time! From 6-8 PM in the Youth Room.

UMW

The UMW will meet for their Christmas program on Tuesday, December 4. Pot-luck dinner will be at 5:30, followed by the program at 6:30. We will look at a vision of shalom as rooted in our foremothers. Members of UMW will dress as Miriam – sister of Moses, Hannah – mother of Samuel the prophet, and Mary – mother of Jesus. They will discuss their role in God's vision and plans for His people. The group will enjoy chai tea latte and learn how the ingredients in the tea come from around the world and the UMW has a strong presence in each of these countries. All women of the church are invited.

WOMEN'S WINTER RETREAT - January 25 -27, 2019

Come away from the busyness and noise. Come to pray, play, renew and refresh with a group of Christian women from all over the Catskill-Hudson region of the United Methodist Church.

Enjoy the pristine mountain surroundings at the Harpersfield Retreat Center in Prattsville, NY. Single, double and triple rooms are available with very comfortable beds and baths. Several women from Saugerties UMC will be going. Speak with Carolyn Newkirk, Diane McDowell, Karen Reynolds or Joan Robinson who went last year for further information. See Joan Robinson, who is the registrar for the weekend.

Update on the ***FAIR***

The 2018 Holiday-A-Fair was a success! We raised a total of \$2,738 for the Church and had a lot of fun! Here is the break-down by area.

Crafts & Boutique: \$908	Kitchen: \$836	Recycled Treasures: \$373
Baked Goods & Nuts: \$314	Recycled Toys: \$115	Recycled Books: \$81.25
Recycled Jewelry & Clothing: \$110.75		

THANK YOU to everyone who helped to make the Fair a success!

Diane McDowell & Joan Robinson, Co-Chairs



TAI CHI – MIND, BODY, SPIRIT

Clear your mind, warm your heart and boost your spirit! It is a wonderful way to start the New Year. Come and play Tai Chi and embark on a beneficial journey.

The program is designed to help individuals become aware of their mind, body and spirit connection through slow, continuous Tai Chi movements that promote muscle strength, joint flexibility and balance. The principles of Tai Chi, combined with modern (Western) medicine, have proven effective by enhancing movement and lessening the risk of falls.

Presenter – Roberta Gavner, MS, Board certified instructor with the Tai Chi for Health Institute (TCHI). The programs designed by Dr. Paul Lam, TCHI founder, are being used world-wide and are approved and recommended by The Arthritis Foundations and the Center for Disease Control and Prevention.

The program will be offered shortly after the New Year. More details such as days and times will follow.



December Birthdays

3 – Kailey Zimmer
4 – Travis Stade
4 – Sophie Turner
10 – Faye Cartmell
13 – Alivia Dyke

16 – Doug Byrne
16 – Ann Mittag
18 – Peyton Rose
20 – Ava Machione
21 – Laura Holzauer

22 – Sarah Kopycinski
23 – Diane McDowell
27 – Addison Vines

While we all know that giving to the church is essential if we are to have a church at all, the treasurer will tell you that it is important that monies donated to the church come on a regular basis. Nothing could be easier. Go to our church website <http://saugertiesumc.org/>

Note the words – **New Online Donation**. Click! You are immediately whisked to the web site for e-giving to the church. The next questions relate your donation and setting up your password. Your log in click brings you to the page where your donations are listed.

Very easy to sign up, nice not to have to write a check each week, and you can, if you wish, add donations for special occasions, Christmas, Easter and etc. Try it, and if you like using the computer for payments etc, you will like this. Thank you - **The Finance Ministry**.



Poinsettia's For Christmas

The poinsettia has long been the traditional Christmas decoration. When filled with these beautiful plants, the Altar area of our sanctuary heralds in a stately way that “unto us a Savior is born.” We invite you to order poinsettias to beautify our sanctuary and honor or remember a Loved One at this time of year. They are \$11.00 each and an order form is below and also in the church bulletin.

Poinsettias - \$11 each number _____ Amount enclosed \$ _____

Given by _____

In Honor of

In Memory of
