

# ***The Messenger 3.0***

*The Newsletter of the Centerville/Saugerties Churches*

*December 2024*

**Dear beloved church family,**

**Hello! The Christmas season is already upon us. Every year, I feel how quickly time flies. As we approach Christmas, I wonder how you all are spending these days wrapping up the year. I hope that this year has been filled with many happy moments for you.**

**Reflecting on my own year, I realize there were many things I went through, but I am filled with gratitude. There were difficult times, and I faced some pain, but now, looking back, all I remember are the happy moments.**

**Christmas is coming. It is the most joyful and happy day when Jesus came to us. No matter what kind of year you had, I pray that at this moment, as we wrap up the year, your heart will be filled with the happiness and peace that Christ gives.**

**I also pray that each one of you experiences these precious gifts from God this Christmas. As we move into the New Year, I wish you good health. My hope for our church is that we continue to grow in love and unity in Christ. It is a time when we need a lot of love and prayer for one another. I hope we can all be gifts to each other, supporting one another like a strong family. Just as you have become my family, I will become your family. I will always pray for you.**

**Thank you and I love you all.**

**Warm regards, [Jay Yoon]**



The trustees are always looking for volunteers for some of the work that gets done at the church. Depending on your skills/talent/availability if you can volunteer that would be great! We could use weeders, filers in the office, someone to come and clean the drain strainers on the flat roof, painters (indoors or out), plumbers, electricians..... if you would

be willing to share your skills with us that would be great! Again, please contact me either using the above information or during coffee hour after church.

**Nancy Forsythe**



**United Women in Faith will meet on December 10 at 5:30 pm.**

The Saugerties Council of Churches is once again sponsoring a Christmas toy store for families in need in the Saugerties area. This year will be our 32nd year of operation! The Saugerties Reformed Church on Main Street will host our annual event on December 13 and 14. We are asking for donations of **NEW, UNWRAPPED items for infants through fifteen-year-olds or we also are accepting monetary donations.** There is a box in our lobby for donations of toys. If sending a check, please make payable to Reformed Church of Saugerties and in the memo, please put 'Toy Store'.

Mail to SACC TOY STORE

c/o Amanda Buckman

Po Box 312

Saugerties, NY 12477

God's Vision for our Church - the Hudson Valley Cooperative Parish 40 days of prayer, discernment, and discussion is continuing (November 11 through December 29, 2024). There are weekly Zoom meetings to discuss the tough issues we are all facing. Everyone is encouraged to attend these sessions and have their voices heard. Everyone received emails from Margaret Howe with the details. There are also printed copies on the table at the entrance to the sanctuary. The dates for the weekly Zoom meetings in December are:

Wednesday, Dec. 11, 7-8:30 pm

Thursday, Dec. 19, 7-8:30 pm

Friday, Dec. 27, 7-8:30 pm

Thank you to everyone who contributed to the Hudson Valley Cooperative Parish mission project of providing warm, new coats for children living in the county motel system. A total of 12 new children's coats from our Church were delivered to Pastor Joy MacVane at Clinton Ave. UMC on December 2.

Thank you for your generosity!

Our Christmas eve worship service will begin this year at 7:10 pm with a hymn sing followed by a candlelight service at 7:30 pm.



**SAUGERTIES UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**

**UPCOMING EVENTS**

(updated 12/2/24)

## DECEMBER 2024

- 12/10 United Women in Faith @5:30
- 12/11 Parish meeting via Zoom “God’s Vision for Our Church” @7-8:30 pm
- 12/13 Cookie Walk at Highland UMC @5:00
- 12/14 Cookie Caper & Gift Fair at St. James UMC in Kingston @9-3
- 12/15 A Very Mixed Up Christmas Pageant with a carol sing & free community dinner at St. James UMC in Kingston @4pm
- 12/19 Parish meeting via Zoom “God’s Vision for Our Church” @7-8:30 pm
- 12/21 Christmas Cantata at Rondout Valley UMC in Stone Ridge
- 12/22 Jazz for Christmas Time at St. James UMC @6pm
- 12/24 Christmas Eve candlelight worship service: hymn sing @7:10 pm and worship service @7:30 pm
- 12/27 Parish meeting via Zoom “God’s Vision for Our Church” @7-8:30 pm
- 12/29 Parish common worship service @10am – location TBD



A 🎵 from Phyllis

### ***O Come, O come Emmanuel***

Choosing hymns that correspond to the scripture, the season or a holiday has become part of my Monday schedule since June ( I had the help of Diane McDowell when I first joined you.)

The study of hymns and their texts has always engaged me, the message of the words speaks to me first. In the season of Advent we are preparing, looking towards the future, coming to

our homes to light a lamp in the early dark. The specific music for this type of season is sometimes somber, sometimes alive with exuberant expectancy. It is not yet the birthday of a King,

but rather, how can we each individually prepare. I begin my second Advent with you, and hope to share in the newsletter some of the ways that music has traditionally and globally honored God and all creation.

Eleanor Farjeon (1881 - 1965) was an award-winning English author of primarily children's literature. She was friends with many leading authors of her time, including D.H. Lawrence and Robert Frost.

Though Eleanor produced a tremendous amount of work--more than eighty books of children's stories and poems, adult novels, and other work, plus numerous school plays--

her best known creations are the poem, "Morning Has Broken," made popular in the song by Cat Stevens, and this poem, "People Look East,"

which someone paired up with an old French melody to create a Christmas carol that first appeared in 1928. Our choir offers this lovely pairing of text and melody for December 1st.

People, look east. The time is near  
Of the crowning of the year.  
Make your house fair as you are able,  
Trim the hearth and set the table.  
People, look east and sing today:  
Love, the guest, is on the way.

Furrows, be glad. Though earth is bare,  
One more seed is planted there:  
Give up your strength the seed to nourish,  
That in course the flower may flourish.  
People, look east and sing today:  
Love, the rose, is on the way.

Birds, though you long have ceased to build,  
Guard the nest that must be filled.  
Even the hour when wings are frozen  
God for fledging time has chosen.  
People, look east and sing today:  
Love, the bird, is on the way.

Stars, keep the watch. When night is dim  
One more light the bowl shall brim,  
Shining beyond the frosty weather,  
Bright as sun and moon together.  
People, look east and sing today:  
Love, the star, is on the way.

Angels, announce with shouts of mirth  
Christ who brings new life to earth.  
Set every peak and valley humming  
With the word, the Lord is coming.  
People, look east and sing today:  
Love, the Lord, is on the way.

Thank you.

Phyllis



Help Wanted

Lectors - in some denominations they are called “readers.” In other churches they are called Liturgists. In all churches they are an important part of the mornings worship. We have enjoyed the service of our lectors for many years. It is a very pleasant way to assist the pastor in spreading the Good News Of Christ. The position has a rich history, and some interesting functions. If you’re interested in becoming a lector, or just want to know more, great! Please see Al or Diane McDowell.

Lay Servants - Are you interested in learning more about our Methodist roots, our interesting history and our evolution and growth into a vibrant and relevant faith community? Do you feel the call to do more than just sit in a pew every week, a call serve both God and community? A 6 week basic Lay Servant course could help you discern your call to serve in today’s church. If you’re willing to serve, think about taking the basic course. If you have an interest, please talk to Joan Robinson, Karen Reynolds or Diane or Al McDowell.

Ushers - You can never have too many ushers, right? Or is it not enough ushers? It seems like it might be another small, unnoticed, thankless kind of job in the church, but it isn’t. It might be one of the more important Sunday morning worship leadership roles in our church. Greeters and ushers are frequently among the first to be noticed when guests enter for worship. “You never get a 2nd chance to make a first impression.” The usher is a font of information on the church and the service. Many times the usher is the first person someone will ask a question - “Where is \_\_\_\_\_?” You fill in the blank. The ushers alone can make a guest feel welcomed or ignored and unwelcome. We would love to have you consider being an usher. Everyone is welcome. Please see Al McDowell if you are interested.



## **Adopt A Family for Christmas**

As we have done in the past, we are asking church members to adopt a family from Head Start for Christmas. Head Start has several families that would like to be included in our program this year. If you decide to adopt a family, you need to buy gifts for each of the children in that family. Head Start sent a form home asking the family to provide gift ideas for the children. That form is in an envelope on the board in the front lobby. If you select one of the families, remove the form from the envelope and write your name on the envelope so we know who is adopting the family. When you buy items for a family with more than one child, please put the child’s first name on the item. Do not wrap the gifts, but you can provide wrapping paper. Put all the items together in bags - garbage bags work - and label the bags with the identification number of the family you have. The families are identified as Family 1, Family 2, etc. The deadline for turning in the gifts is Monday, December 16.



## Poinsettias For Christmas

We will be decorating our altar with poinsettias for Christmas Eve. The cost of each plant is \$11, and the deadline to order is December 16. The completed form for ordering poinsettias can be placed in the offering plate or turned in to the Church office.

## Poinsettias for Christmas

Order a poinsettia for Christmas in memory of a loved one or to honor a loved one. The cost is \$11 per plant. The deadline for ordering is December 16.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Phone number \_\_\_\_\_

Ordering a poinsettia for

Name \_\_\_\_\_

In memory or honor of (please circle one)

Name \_\_\_\_\_

In memory or honor of (please circle one)

Name \_\_\_\_\_

In memory or honor of (please circle one)

Total money enclosed

\_\_\_\_\_





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**LIVE LIKE JESUS DIED  
YESTERDAY, ROSE THIS  
MORNING, AND IS COMING  
BACK TOMORROW.**

MARTIN LUTHER KING JR.

*Your tango*

**Voices of the Angels**

