

HOPE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
1108 STEELROAD
HAVERTOWN, PA 19083

“The Messenger” is published eleven times a year by Hope United Methodist Church which is located at 1108 Steel Road, Havertown, PA 19083. Worship each Sunday, begins at 11:00 a.m. and includes Childcare and Children’s Sunday School. Each week, Adult Sunday School meets at 9:45 a.m. and Youth Sunday School at 11:15 a.m.

Our Interim Pastor, Maridel Whitmore, can be reached by calling the church office, 610-446-3351. Email: maridel329@aol.com

The church office hours Tuesday thru Friday 9:00 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Church Office hours during summer 9:00 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. All are welcome to join us at any service or special event. Learn more about us at our website: www.HavHopeUMC.org



DECEMBER, 2018

THE MESSENGER

From the Pastor’s Desk,

“Oh! But he was a tight-fisted hand at the grindstone, Scrooge! A squeezing, wrenching, grasping, scraping, clutching, covetous old sinner! Hard and sharp as flint, from which no steel had ever struck out generous fire, secret and self-contained, and solitary as an oyster. The cold within him froze his old features, nipped his pointed nose, shriveled his cheek, stiffened his gait, made his eyes red, his thin lips blue, and spoke out shrewdly in his grating voice. A frosty rime was on his head, and on his eyebrows, and his wiry chin. He carried his own low temperature always about with him; he iced his office in the dog-days; and didn’t thaw it one degree at Christmas.”

Did you know Charles Dickens wrote his *Christmas Carol* in less than two months? He wrote it as a response to the economic climate in a decade called the “hungry forties” in England, when thousands of workers were unemployed and famine was widespread in the north. The financial uncertainty and poverty Dickens himself had known enabled him to write realistically about the times. His old friend and biographer John Forster wrote, “How he wept over it, and laughed, and wept again, and excited himself to an extraordinary degree, and how he walked thinking of it fifteen and twenty miles about the black streets of London, many and many a night after all sober folks had gone to bed.” The manuscript is cluttered with deletions and corrections and many pages entirely rewritten as though he knew he was onto something special and wanted to make sure he got it exactly right. Dickens, out of his own pocket, paid for the publication. He insisted that it have gilt edges and a title page printed in red and blue with colored end papers and four richly hand-colored illustrations by John Leech showing old Fezziwig’s ball, Marley’s ghost, the Ghost of Christmas present with a crown of green mistletoe on his head, and finally Scrooge himself kneeling at his own lonely grave with his face buried in his hands.

I am exceedingly grateful to Charles Dickens for his masterpiece, and for the example of his Ebenezer Scrooge. After a long life of hoarding his treasure, finally he learns that there is an incalculable joy in generosity. You know the story. On Christmas morning Scrooge dressed himself “all in his best” and went out on the streets where he met two portly gentlemen who just the day before had asked him for a pledge to benefit the poor and destitute. Transformed, Scrooge whispers into their ears an amount. His new pledge takes their breath away. “Not a farthing less,” says Scrooge, “A great many back payments are included in it... Will you do me that favor?” And then Scrooge says something even more surprising. He thanks the gentleman for the privilege of giving. He thanks them for his joy! “*Thankee*”, said Scrooge. “*I am much obliged to you. I thank you fifty times. Bless you!*” He went to church, and walked about the streets, and watched the people hurrying to and fro, and patted the children on the head, and questioned the beggars, and looked down into the kitchens of houses, and up to the windows, and found that everything could yield him pleasure. He had never dreamed that any walk—that anything—could give him so much happiness.

When we finally grab hold of the fact that it is good for our souls to be generous, we never again will need any stewardship campaign. Give. Not because the church (or anyone) needs your treasure; give because it has power to bring you great joy!

MESSENGER FOR DECEMBER

DECEMBER SCHEDULE

DECEMBER

- 1 Decorate Jones Chapel for Christmas
- 2 1st Sunday of Advent - Communion Sunday
- 6 Sleeping Mag Workshop 10:00 a.m.
- 11 Casseroles for St. John Hospice 7:30 p.m.
- 15 Food Bank 1:00 to 3:00 p.m.
- 16 Last day to order poinsettias
- 23 Christmas Luncheon after Worship
- 24 Christmas Eve Candle lighting Service 7:00 p.m.
Jones Chapel

Preparation of casseroles for St. John Hospice is December 11 13th. Casseroles are prepared every second Tuesday of the month in the Thomas Hall Kitchen at 7:30 p.m. by Kathy Reisch and her helpers. Volunteers are always welcome!

Girl Scouts, second and fourth Thursday of every month, 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. - Sunday School Room

SUNDAY WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Sunday Worship is held in Jones Chapel at 10:30 a.m.

BIBLE STUDY

The Friday Adult Study/Prayer Group 1:15 p.m. All are welcome to attend!

ALTAR FLOWERS

Pastor Maridel has made arrangements with Kenny's Flowers in Media to provide a fresh altar arrangement each Sunday for \$20.00. There is a sign up sheet on the table outside the chapel for anyone who would like to dedicate an arrangement in honor of or memorialize a loved one.

SUNDAY BULLETINS

Anyone interested in sponsoring the Sunday Bulletins the cost per month is \$30.00. Please indicate all information on the sign up sheet in on the table outside Jones Chapel. Thank you.



SUNDAY LAY READERS NEEDED

If you are interested in being a Lay Reader on Sunday morning please contact the church office, e-mail or call 610-446-3351. We would appreciate your help especially during the summer months. The schedule would be once a month or every other month, depending upon the number of volunteers. Thank you.

UPCOMING DATES

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

Hope's annual Christmas Party is being held on December 23rd after Worship Service. There is a sign up sheet on the table outside the chapel. **Please be sure you list the number attending.**

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE

Christmas Eve Traditional Candlelight Service will be held in Jones Chapel at 7:00 p.m.

POINSETTIA ORDERS

Last day to order poinsettias to beautify the chapel is December 16th. Thank you.

CARE TO CARE

Bob Davis has recently moved into a retirement home at Arbour Square. His phone number remains the same and his new address is as follows:

Arbour Square, 1201 Ward Avenue, Apt. #1316, West Chester, PA 19380

SERVING IN DECEMBER

LAY READER

2 Communion Sunday
9 P. Cutillo
16 A. Merrell
23 C. Bersheim
24 P. Cutillo
30 A. Merrell

USHERS

2 WE NEED YOUR HELP TO USHER ON 1ST SUNDAYS. THANK YOU!
9 J. Engler, R. Brunner
16 B. AmEisen, K. Friedenber
23 W. Hoyle, J. Hoyle
24 TBA
30 J. Engler, D. Molnar, J. Hoyle, P. Cutillo

OFFERING COUNTERS

2 J. Engler, C. Hoffmann
9 P. Jacobs, R. Brunner
16 M. Black, M. Kelleher
23 L. Medica
24 L. Medica
30 J. Engler, C. Hoffmann

ACOLYTES FOR THE MONTH OF DECEMBER

B. Popky, M. G. Popky, T.J. Osborne

CHILD CARE: Miriam Gallagher

COMMUNION STEWARD FOR JANUARY: Kathy Reisch

Thank you one and all for volunteering.

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT

NEW PASTOR ASSIGNMENT

Bishop Peggy Johnson is pleased to announce the appointment of the Rev. Mary Jane Kirby to Hope United Methodist Church. Rev. Kirby currently serves the Havertown Union United Methodist Church and will be serving both churches, effective January 1, 2019.

FOOD BANK - MANY THANKS

The food bank have had a Thanksgiving blessing. We were very low on food as of the October distribution. It was concerned. However, thanks to all of you and the community we were showered with an amazing amount of food. What a blessing!

We were also able to give our families a \$10 gift card to Dollar Tree. We hope this blessed our families at this time of year.

We thank all of you who continue to support our families in need.

Elizabeth McKelvey

COMMUNITY ACTION OF DELAWARE COUNTY TOY DRIVE

Each year the Outreach Committee has a toy barrel in the Narthex to collect toys for children in emergency shelters transitional housing and other homeless programs. This year we will have the barrel outside of Jones Chapel. The program begins Sunday November 19th through December 21st. Thank you for your generosity in helping with this Outreach program. Any questions please contact Pat Cutillo. Thank you.

COMMUNITY DINE-AROUND

Haverford Township Community Dine-Around is an event with fellowship and friendship, good food and meaningful programs that bring people of the community together. They meet the second Monday of selected months at noon. The next luncheon will take place on December 10th at 12 Noon at Temple Lutheran Church, "A Christmas Celebration". All are welcome to attend.

Happy
Birthday

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

- Dec. 1 William (Bill) Hoyle
- 7 Karen Karosas
- 8 Ann Manzi
- 9 Jo Cauffman
- 13 Shane Barry
Jane Stager
- 14 Ethan Wojnovich
- 17 Eric Jacobs
Tom Osborne
- 22 Ron Brunner
- 26 Joyce Cobb
- 30 Kathy Reisch

“Tuareg”

Sculpture by Kathie Friedenberg

The bronze sculpture, currently representing one of the three wise men on a camel, in the Chapel, is a Tuareg tribesman from North Africa.

I created it several years ago, using photographs, including some I took in Israel, and, while on a camel safari in the desert of Rajasthan, India. I also spent some time checking details of an Arabian camel at the Philadelphia Zoo.

Kathie Friedenberg.



The poinsettia orders for Christmas **MUST BE PLACED WITH THE CHURCH OFFICE BY SUNDAY, DECEMBER 16, 2018.** The cost this year is \$8.50 per plant. Indicate preference below. Payment **MUST BE INCLUDED WITH YOUR ORDER.** All checks made payable to “Hope United Methodist Church” designated “POINSETTIAS.” Please **FILL OUT THE FOLLOWING FORM COMPLETELY!**

Numbers of RED POINSETTIAS _____ x \$8. 50 = \$ _____
(Amount)

Number of WHITE POINSETTIAS _____ x \$8. 50 = \$ _____
(Amount)

Number of PINK POINSETTIAS _____ x \$8.50 = \$ _____
(Amount)

In addition to/or instead of a plant, please accept my donation to be used toward decoration.

PLEASE COMPLETE!

I WILL PICK UP MY PLANT AFTER WORSHIP, CHRISTMAS EVE, Dec. 24th. There will be only one Christmas Eve Service at 7:00 p.m.

PLEASE HOLD MY PLANT (S) FOR LATER PICK-UP. If possible please arrange to pick up your plants, as we do not have members available to deliver to shut-ins.

*****PLEASE FILL IN THE INFORMATION BELOW*****

WRITE IT AS YOU WOULD LIKE IT TO APPEAR IN THE CHURCH BULLETIN, DECEMBER 24TH.

PRESENTED BY:

IN MEMORY OF: _____

IN HONOR OF: _____

If you have any questions regarding your poinsettia order, please contact the church office (610-446-3351). You could also speak to Gloria Downs after Worship Service.

REMINDER: LATE ORDERS CANNOT BE ACCOMODATED.