

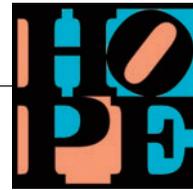


**United
Methodist
Church**

1108 Steel Road
Havertown, PA 19083-3211

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DECEMBER 2017

THE MESSENGER



From the Pastor's Study...

"The Messenger" is published 11 times a year by Hope United Methodist Church, located at Steel and Eagle Roads in Havertown. Worship each Sunday begins at 10:30 am and offers Childcare during the service. Each week, Adult Sunday School meets at 9:30 a.m.

Our Pastor, Maridel Whitmore, can be reached by calling the church office, 610.446.3351 or via her email at maridel329@aol.com. The church office hours weekly are 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. All are welcome to join us at any service or special event. Learn more about us at our website: www.HavHopeUMC.org

Catch the Spirit!



The year was 1849—the Mexican American war was just over, but small skirmishes between settlers and American Indians; between supporters of slavery and abolitionists, ignited all across the frontier. Back in New England, Edmund Hamilton Sears, a pastor and Christian journalist, expressed a longing for peace by putting onto paper a carol we sing still in a world that continues to be terrorized by violence... "It Came Upon a Midnight Clear." Sears writes of a "weary world," with "sad and lowly plains" where "man, at war with man, hears not/the love song which [the angels] bring." The carol's last verse anticipates with hope a day "when peace shall over all the earth/ its ancient splendors fling."

Little more than a decade later the ravages of the American Civil War inspired another Christmas carol, penned by Henry Wadsworth Longfellow. In July of 1861, just three months after the opening battle of the Civil War, Longfellow's wife, Fanny, died in a fire in their home. It was a devastating loss. For months Longfellow wrote nothing. In his journal that Christmas he said that he was "inexpressibly sad." On the first anniversary of her death, he wrote, "perhaps some day God will give me peace." But the days and the war dragged on. On the second Christmas after Fanny's death, Longfellow wrote that a Merry Christmas "is no more for me." In 1863, just before the third Christmas after Fanny's death, Longfellow received word that his son, Charles, had been severely wounded in battle while fighting for the Union army. Longfellow traveled south in search of his son, found him, loaded him onto a train, and brought him home. That year he wrote a Christmas poem that touched a chord of personal pain across the nation:

*I heard the bells on Christmas Day
Their old, familiar carols play,
And wild and sweet
The words repeat
Of peace on earth, good-will to men!*

Horrorstruck by the violence he had seen, Longfellow went on to write lines that never make it into Christmas carols:

*Then from each black, accursed mouth
The cannon thundered in the South,
And with the sound
The carols drowned
Of peace on earth, good-will to men!*

Next Longfellow expressed what all of us are tempted to feel:

*And in despair I bowed my head;
"There is no peace on earth," I said:
"For hate is strong,
and mocks the song
Of peace on earth, good-will to men!"*

Friends, hate is indeed strong and does mock the song. It has been so for as long as men and women have walked this earth. Is peace on earth truly possible? Is there any reason for hope?

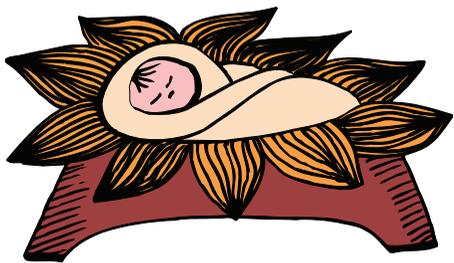
Martin Luther became so frustrated with the amount of evil he saw in his 15th century world that he cried out: "If I were God and saw people acting the way they do, I would smash the world to bits!" Friends that is not what God, in His infinite wisdom or his infinite power chose to do. What God has done is to come into the world and exercise real power. God has in Christ forgiven us. And in Christ he has called us to be forgiving of each other. There is real hope for us in that. It is our Christmas hope.

Christmas comes one more time into a troubled fear-filled world. A light shined in the darkness long ago and after not one century, but after twenty, we can say this much... no darkness has ever snuffed that light out! *“Those who lived in a land of deep darkness; on them a light has shined.”* A savior is born. A Son is given to a weary world

Despite all odds even Henry Wadsworth Longfellow caught a glimpse of the Christmas hope as well as a vision of God’s purpose for history that is a radical alternative to the harsh realities of the warring world around him. From somewhere deep in his soul, he added a word of hope to his poem...

*Then pealed the bells more loud and deep:
“God is not dead; nor doth he sleep!
The wrong shall fail,
The right prevail,
With peace on earth, good-will to men!*

May it be so. Soon, and forever!



December Birthdays



- | | |
|------------------------|--------------------|
| 1 William (Bill) Hoyle | 14 Ethan Wojnovich |
| 6 Grace Brown | 17 Eric Jacobs |
| 7 Karen Karosas | Tom Osborne |
| 8 Ann Manzi | 22 Ron Brunner |
| 9 Jo Cauffman | 26 Joyce Cobb |
| 11 Desire Bennett | 30 Kathy Reisch |
| 12 Judy Rejent | |
| 13 Shane Barry | |
| Jane Stager | |

FALL/WINTER WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Worship will move to the Sanctuary for the Advent Season beginning December 3rd.

ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL

Adult Sunday School with the Pastor is suspended until January 21st. Please join us for the Advent Study, “First Christmas” Monday Evenings at 7pm.

ADVENT STUDY

Pastor Maridel will conduct a four-week Advent Study, **THE FIRST CHRISTMAS**, on Monday evenings through Advent; 7:00 p.m. The first session is Monday, November 27th, followed by: December 4, 11, & 18.

BIBLE STUDY

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

Serving in December

LAY READER

- 5 Communion Sunday
- 10 A. Merrell
- 17 C. Bersheim
- 24 TBA
- 31 A. Merrell

USHERS

- 3 WE NEED YOUR HELP TO USHER ON 1ST AND 3RD SUNDAYS. THANK YOU!
- 10 J. Engler, R. Brunner
- 17 TBA
- 24 W. Hoyle
- 31 J. Engler, D. Molnar
J. Hoyle, P. Cutillo

OFFERING COUNTERS

- 3 J. Engler,
C. Hoffmann
- 10 P. Jacobs, R. Brunner
- 17 M. Kelleher,
M. Black
- 24 L. Medica, H. Scheck
- 31 J. Engler,
C. Hoffmann

ACOLYTES FOR THE MONTH OF DECEMBER

- B. Popky, M. G. Popky,
TJ Osborne

CHILD CARE

Miriam Gallagher

COMMUNION STEWARD FOR DECEMBER

Barbara Ameisen

Thank you for volunteering



Casseroles for the Homeless

The second Tuesday of each month casseroles for St. John Hospice are made in the Thomas Hall kitchen, thanks to Kathy Reisch and her helpers. Casseroles are prepared at 7:30 p.m. all volunteers are welcome.

The work involved is cutting up celery, and assembling twelve tuna casseroles for St. John's Hospice and cleaning up afterward.

December Schedule

- 2 Decorate the Sanctuary for Christmas 9:45 a.m.
- 3 Worship Schedule 10:30 a.m. in Sanctuary December 3rd thru January 7th. Christmas Giving Tree to support Community Action in Chester in the entry way.
- 4 Advent Study – “First Christmas”, with Pastor Maridel 7:00 p.m.
- 11 Advent Study – “First Christmas”, with Pastor Maridel 7:00 p.m.
- 12 Casseroles for St. John Hospice, 7:30 p.m.
- 14 Girl Scouts Meeting-7:00 to 9:00 p.m. Sunday School Room
- 17 Hope’s Christmas Luncheon after worship Giving Tree gifts with tags to be returned during worship
Final day to order Poinsettias
- 16 Food Bank 1:00 to 3:00 p.m.
- 18 Advent Study-“First Christmas” 7:00 p.m.
- 24 **Christmas Eve- The Sacrament of Communion will be available in Jones Chapel between 10:30 and 11:00 a.m. The Christmas Eve Candlelight Service is 7:00 p.m.**

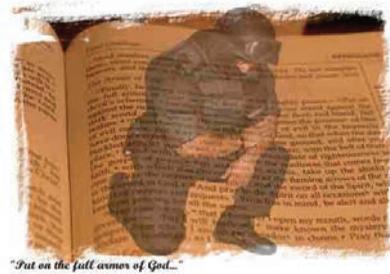
Casseroles for St. John Hospice meet every second Tuesday of the month in Thomas Hall Kitchen 7:30 p.m.

Girl Scouts, 2nd Thursday of every month, 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. - Sunday School Room



ALL ARTICLES FOR THE MESSENGER ARE DUE IN THE CHURCH OFFICE BY THE 15th OF EACH MONTH
Any items received after the 15th will appear in the following month’s mailing

News From Outreach



Adopt-A-Soldier Project

CHRISTMAS SUPPORT FOR THE TROOPS

Help make a warm Christmas season for our troops abroad. We will send these packages to Sgt. Mark Cooper, our recent contact for a group of soldiers (110 men & 10 women) stationed in South Korea. They reportedly live in old barracks with minimal comforts, so will really enjoy a bit of "home". These packages are shared with all soldiers in the group, as needed, and all items are truly appreciated.

Requested items are **toiletries** (chapstick, razors, sunblock, foot spray, deodorant, toothpaste, body wipes, lotion, eye drops, etc.) **snacks** (nuts, sunflower seeds, cookies, crackers, ramen, granola bars, jerky, coffee & filters, fruit cups, **flavoring for water**

(**Mio, Crystal Light**), tea bags, peanut butter, cough drops, etc.) as well as laundry pods, paperback books, magazines, small games, postcards. Special holiday treats and some decorations would also be welcomed.

Thank you to everyone for continuing such generous support to bring a bit of home comfort to our troops deployed abroad.

Boxes will be sent in Early December, so please place items in the basket by December 1st.

Many thanks from the Outreach Committee,
Linda Gonzales

THANK YOU HOPE CONGREGATION FOR ANOTHER SUCCESSFUL MONTH OF HOUSING THE HOMELESS. I hope you envision the comfort of our loving God as each person is escorted to our hall for warmth, cleanliness and sustenance. Everyone so generously contributed time, snacks and money which was used to make hygiene packets, treat bags for Halloween night and clothing donated by the Wesleyan Circle. We are blessed to be able to participate in this program.



Community Action Toy Drive

SOMETHING NEW THIS YEAR

Hope United Methodist Church will continue its Holiday support of "Community Action of Delaware County" collecting toys in our narthex barrel. This year we've added something new. We've asked the good folks at Community Action to provide us with the Christmas Wish lists from some of the children and parents in their care. Gift tags will be hung from a small Christmas Tree in the

church entry way on December 2nd, each with an individual item from one of the wish lists. You are encouraged to choose a gift tag, take it with you as you shop for your family, purchase the wished-for item, and return it to the church on Sunday December 17th. Community Action of Delaware County is located in Chester and serves those who are less fortunate than us. Please participate in Hope UMC's Christmas Giving ministry!

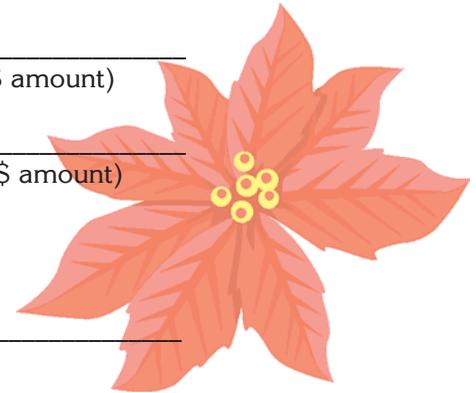
CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS

The poinsettia orders for Christmas MUST BE PLACED WITH CAROLYN SHAW OR THE CHURCH OFFICE BY SUNDAY, DECEMBER 17, 2017. 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!

____ of RED POINSETTIAS . . . x \$8.50 each = _____
(\$ amount)

____ of WHITE POINSETTIAS . . . x \$8.50 each = _____
(\$ amount)

____ of PINK POINSETTIAS . . . x \$8.50 each = _____
(\$ amount)



In addition to and/or instead of a plant, please accept my donation to be used (\$ amount) toward decorations.

TOTAL AMOUNT ENCLOSED \$ _____

PLEASE COMPLETE!

- () I WILL PICK UP MY PLANT AFTER WORSHIP, CHRISTMAS EVE, Dec. 24th. There will be one Christmas Eve Service the Traditional Candlelight Service at 7:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary.
- () 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 OUT THIS INFORMATION BELOW.

Write it as you would like it to appear in thr church bulletin on December 24th

PLANT PRESENTED BY: _____

() IN MEMORY OF: _____

() IN HONOR OF: _____

f you have any questions regarding your poinsettia order, please contact the church office (610-446-3351) or Carolyn Shaw (610-259-6245). You could also speak to Carolyn or Gloria after Worship Service. The Poinsettias this year are ordered from Taddeos Nursery.

REMINDER: LATE ORDERS CANNOT BE ACCOMMODATED.



MANY THANKS FROM THE FOOD BANK

The Food Bank Committee would like to thank the congregation for their generous donations 50 plus families the past two months and were able to give out \$10 gift cards to Dollar Tree. Your continued support allows us to serve our families in need. We appreciate your contributions to the food bank.

We would also like to thank the Llanerch Presbyterian Nursery School for their continued support. The children decided to donate apple juice for our families. We are always short on juice so it was greatly appreciated.

At this time of Thanksgiving I am extremely grateful for the food bank team. Their faithfulness has blessed many, many people including me. Thank you does not even begin to express my gratitude.

Blessing to all who have made the food bank a place of comfort and joy....

Elizabeth McKelvey



COMMUNITY DINE AROUND

Temple Lutheran Church will host the next Haverford Township Community Dine Around on December 11th, "Christmas Celebration" at 12 Noon. The cost is \$7:00. Please make your reservations the Wednesday prior to the luncheon



HOPE'S CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON

Holiday luncheon following service on Sun. Dec 17th. Please

sign up with number attending and, if able, sign to bring a salad or dessert. NEW THIS YEAR, The Giving Tree, everyone should pick an ornament and buy a gift for a child who is in need this Holiday, This is a lovely way to give to those who are less fortunate during the Christmas season. These ornaments will range in price from \$10 and up, with specific wishes of boys and girls, I hope you all enjoy the gift of giving this holiday season.

Please Mark the Following Dates on Your Calendar

The Worship Committee will decorate the Sanctuary for Christmas at 9:45 a.m. on December 2nd. Please start the Advent season well and help to decorate your Sanctuary.



WORSHIP WILL BE HELD IN THE SANCTUARY FOR ADVENT BEGINNING DECEMBER 3rd thru JANUARY 7TH.



Christmas Eve morning the Sacrament of Communion will be available in Jones Chapel between 10:30 and 11:00 a.m.



On Christmas Eve the Traditional Candlelight Service will be held in the Sanctuary at 7:00 p.m.

Altar Flowers Request

If you have missed the sign-up sheet in the Narthex for Altar Flowers please fill out this form and either mail/or bring to the Church Office.

DATE REQUESTED: _____

PRESENTED BY: _____

IN HONOR or MEMORY of:



If the Altar is not available for the date you request, the Church Office will contact you for an alternative date. The cost of flowers is \$20.00.