

First United Methodist Church
603 Main Street
Port Jefferson, NY 11777

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Keyhole

Published monthly (*except August*)
by First United Methodist Church
603 Main Street, Port Jefferson, New York 11777
for the inspiration and information of its members and friends.



Celebrating 182 Years of Service in the name of Christ ~1835-2017



First UMC of Port Jefferson Mission Statement

To love and serve Christ and others through praise, prayer, preaching of the Word of God and to welcome all to join us in our faith journey

The New York Annual Conference Vision Statement:

The New York Annual Conference, through the grace of God embodies a beloved community of hope, building up a healthy Body of Christ, with heart-warmed United Methodists in mission for the transformation of the world.

Church Telephone: (24 hours) (631) 473-0517, FAX (631) 473-0738

Church Office Hours: Friday 9:00AM-4:30PM

Church Email Address: 1stumc@optonline.net (NEW EMAIL ADDRESS)

Church Web site: www.pjfumc.org

Look for us on Facebook: Port Jefferson First United Methodist Church

STAFF and OFFICERS:

Pastor:.....The Rev. Sandra Moore

Administrative Assistant:.....Trudy Clark

Organist/Choir Director:.....Nara Avetisyan

Co-Lay Leaders:.....David and Trudy Clark

Administrative Council Chair;Stephen Schutter

President, Board of Trustees:.....Richard Cox

Keyhole Staff:....Carole Darling, Sandra Swenk, Amy Russell, Steve Schutter, Marlene and Eric Kadel, Janet McBride, Ashley Grills, Bob and Laurel Libby, Lee Nichols,

Editor:.....Ellen Cheeseman

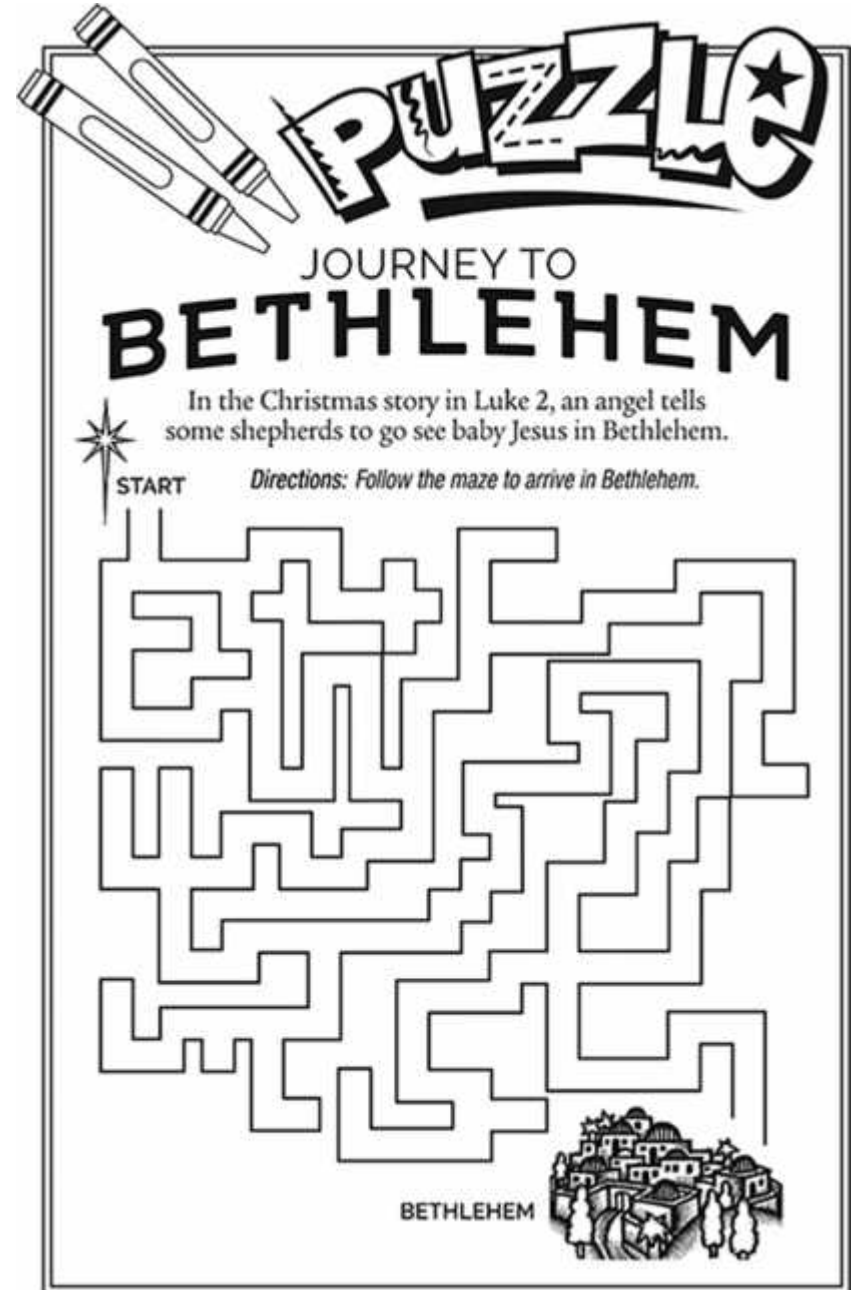
Contributing Writers:.....Rev. Sandra Moore, Jane Collins and Sandra Swenk, Gail Tilton

The dead line for the January issue of

“The Keyhole” is Sunday December 10, 2017

Articles submitted after the 10th will be included in the February issue. Please email your articles and reports to:

EllenGCheeseman@optonline.net



Rollin Haffer	My Mom, Aunt Anne, Grandfather Roland Bennett & My Father Robert Haffer, Cathy Grayson Roland Bennett
Betty Korner	my husband, Andrew/My Parents Bess & Richard Gruzelier
Lorena Nichols	George Nichols
Arthur Olsen	Mary Lou Stein and My Family
Janet Olsen	Shirley Leonard
Carol Polly	MaryLou Stein
Judy Scholl	Jim Scholl
Lyn & Steve Schutter	Joel, MaryLou & Shirley parents Edna & Douglas Bliven Olive & Walter Schutter Harriette Pollack
Dawn Short	Anna & Ewald Haupt
Elaine Short	Rich Short and Robin Corradino
Spears Family	Joseph & Julie Geary
Judy Spencer	My Mom and Dad, Marjorie & Olliver Pryer
Sandra Swenk	husband, John R. Swenk
Gail & Bob Tilton	Stanley & Hazel Tilton
Christian Wood	Gene Wood
Jamie Zahn	James E. Zahn, Sr.
Natalie Zahn	Natalie Grassman & Ethel Kolff
Given By: Rollin Haffer	In Honor Of: Vickie Fong
Emma Farrell	My Grandma Mema

ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS SCHEDULE

Friday November 30th
Decorate the Church 7:00PM



Saturday December 2nd
10:00 A.M. – 4 P.M.
Annual Church Christmas Fair and Cookie Walk
7:00 P.M. Dickens Festival Concert and Santa



Sunday December 3th
First Sunday of Advent
Hanging of the Greens
Communion 10:00 A.M.

Friday December 8th
Woman's Group Christmas Party 12:00 NOON
Mount Sinai Yacht Club



Saturday December 9th
SCAMPS Christmas Party 5 PM
at Laurel and Bob Libby
25 Hillside Road Sound Beach NY



Sunday December 10th
Second Sunday of Advent
Worship Service 10:00 A.M.

Saturday December 16th
Port Jefferson Arts Council Concert 7:30PM



Sunday December 17nd
Third Sunday of Advent
Christmas Pageant Sunday 10:00 A. M.



Sunday December 24th
Fourth Sunday of Advent
Worship service at 10:00AM
Christmas Eve
Family Worship and Candle Light 7:00 P.M.



The Great Date Debate

In *Lessons of Christmas* (Xulon Press), Daniel Armah notes that ancient scholars expressed more than 130 opinions about Jesus' actual birthdate, covering every month of the year. "Even with a debatable date," he concludes, "the blessing of Christmas is obvious."

Likewise, our Christmas celebrations aren't diminished by the possible timing of Jesus' birthday with secular festivals. "If December 25th was chosen to rival other pagan worship activities ... for want of a real date," Armah writes, "then that decision has been successful. Indeed those ancient pagan festivals have all been swallowed up, and Christianity has been growing since."



Free Nesting No Longer

For many years various birds including pigeons and sparrows (not necessarily Methodists) have accumulated twigs and grasses in the arched areas of the Spring Street entrance to the church. These open areas offered a perfect and safe nesting place for their families. But while the birds were friendly, they often dropped bits and pieces from their free housing as well as feathers, eggs and newborns. Screening was installed at intervals to prevent new nests from being built. But the clever birds found a way into the corners and once again, avoided rent for their families.

This past summer, the Trustees contracted with Noel Swords to clean and repaint the entire arched entrance along with the staircase. Once this work was completed, George Grassman, a Trustee with carpentry skills, volunteered to seal the spaces long used by the birds. His creative solution has blended in with the architectural aspects of our beautiful church so that those

All Saint's Day Lantern Release *Sunday November 5, 2017*

Given By:

Sylvia

Carol Newton Addressi

Mia Amundsen

Martin White & Ellen Cheeseman

Bob & Jane Collins

David & Trudy Clark

Richard Cox

John & Phyllis Cuttone

Carole & Robert Darling
Barbara & Dennis Wells

Robert & Carole Darling

Michelle Downs
Robert Darling Jr. & families

Emma Farrell

Joan Fuhman

George & Roberta Grassman

The Grills Family

David Grills

In Memory Of:

Dad & Mom

Jenny Addressi, Bill Newton

Thomas Scully
Radhi Ramchandran

Karen Larson

Loved ones, Shirley Leonard, Mary
Lou Stein, James Scholl

Evelyn & Roy Koehn
Kent Koehn
Martha Jo & Wayne Clark

Martha Cox Mazzaferro
My loving late sister

All our loved ones
who have passed

Anna & Kenneth Wells

Bertha & Kenneth Darling

Kenny Darling

My mother's wonderful
grandmothers & Grandpa Joe

Peter Fuhman

Our parents

Our 3 Angel babies

Charles Grills, Dorothy Grills
Ken Page, Greeba Page

Birthdays

- 1: Max Amundsen
Ashley Grills
- 2: Nathaniel Hubbard
Michael Filimon
- 3: Lisa Farrell
Holly Gallo
Emily Mantz
Timmy Moss
- 4: Taryn Morlock
- 5: Jeanne Fletcher
Erin Miller
John Blazejewski
- 7: Michael Cardillo
- 12: Michael Filimon, Jr.
- 14: Dennis Finn
- 15: Alexander Steiner
- 19: Denis Cardineau
- 20: Chase Jaden McKean
Diane Eggerman
- 21: William Leonard
- 22: Hugo Schleiffelder
- 24: Lorraine Curson
- 25: Susan Nilsen
Carol Passarelle
Steven Mansourbeigi
- 27: June He
- 28: Eliza Meier Ozorio
- 29: Philip Schade
- 30: David Okst
Annie Mae Welsh
Makenna Rose Nappo
- 31: Jamie Zahn
Kenneth Bohler, Sr.

2017 Anniversaries

12. Donna and Jim Conforti

Lectionary Readings for December

3rd First Sunday of Advent

Isa. 64:1-9

Ps. 80:1-7, 17-19

1 Cor. 1:3-9

Mark 3:24-37

10th Second Sunday of Advent

Isa. 40:1-11

Ps 85:1-2, 8-13

2 Peter 3:8-15a

Mark 1:1-8

17th Third Sunday of Advent

Isa. 61:1-4, 8-11

Ps.126

1 Thess. 5:16-24

John 1:6-8, 19-28

24th Fourth Sunday of Advent

2 Sam 7:1-11, 16

Luke 1:47-55

Rom. 16:26-27

Luke 1:26-38

24th Christmas Eve

Isa. 9:2-7

Ps.96

Titus 2:11-14

Luke 2:1-20

31st Watchnight

Isa. 61:10-62:3

Ps. 148

Gal. 4:4-7 and Luke 2:22-40

once open areas will no longer be accessible as starter homes for our feathered friends in the neighborhood.

Thank you, George.

Sandra Swenk

“Classy Cushions” Revisited

Our church has undertaken numerous fund-raising efforts over the years, but does anyone recall the Classy Cushion Committee of 1984? This was a grass roots effort spearheaded by some active ladies, namely Jane Collins, Miriam Dudek, Ruby Swenk and Sandra Swenk whose ultimate goal was to recover the aging pew covers in the sanctuary in time for the 150th anniversary of the Church.

Raising funds usually needs a “gimmick” as an inspiration for giving. The Classy Cushion Committee was no exception. Members and friends could donate in the following categories: \$5 for a running foot; \$25 for a comfortable seat; \$50 for a family plan and a memorial gift. With an expected cost of \$5600, the project got off to a

running start with an initial gift of \$800 from the Fair Committee and the Memorial Fund.

Specially Sewn, a small home business owned by Amy Mersereau (now Lund) was retained to purchase 100 yards of a Scotchgard finish fabric that would blend with the décor of the sanctuary. With the assistance of Brenda Swenk, a recent art school graduate, the tedious sewing began in earnest. Donations were gratefully received and noted on a “Progress Chart” and in several issues of *The Keyhole*. There were 105 gifts received during the fundraising drive, so the project was declared a great success. The final piece the curved communion rail cushion which was completed as Rev. Alan Carvalho returned from vacation. What a wonderful surprise for the congregation to see the result of their gifts as the church prepared for its 150th anniversary in 1985.



Sandra Swenk

Operation Christmas Child

Thank you to everyone who donated a "Shoe Box" to Samaritan's Purse Christmas Child. We donated a total of 47 Christmas Child shoeboxes. At the distribution center they mentioned a truckload had already been sent and were working on filling another. So they were very happy with the response from everyone.



~Gail Tilton~

Joyful Noise and Thanksgiving

Thank you to all who donated non-perishable food to the Thanksgiving food collection. We had a "Joyful Noise" collection of \$500 and the collection from Sunday made a total of \$610.00 which I took plus the food to the Infant Jesus RC Church of Port Jefferson Food Panty. They are very grateful for our support and contributions.

~Gail Tilton~

Women's Group Mission Project

Thank you to everyone who contributed "hotel size" toiletries to the Women's Group appeal. This is an ongoing mission to the men at the Pax Christi Home in Port Jefferson. The basket will remain on the table in the back of the sanctuary. Please contribute to it whenever you can.



November Altar Flowers

5th In memory of Claire Alder by the Kunz Family

12th In honor of Ashley Downs and Ginny Anderson's mutual birthday by Ginny and Ted Anderson

19th In memory of George and Theresia by the Kunz Family

26th In memory of Loved Ones by Lee Nichols.

Thank you to everyone who donated flowers!



November

5th Jane & Bob Collins and Phyllis and John Cuttone

12th Ellen and Martin White

19th Ashley and David Grills and Anastasia and Andre Tarasov

26th Lyn Schutter & Carol Polly

Thank you to all the Coffee Hour Hosts and Hostesses. We all enjoy the time of fellowship!

Visit Our Chrismon Tree

First United Methodist Church is sponsoring a **Chrismon Tree** at the Port Jefferson Village Center. Traditionally the decorations for a Chrismon Tree are hand crafted and white and gold. The theme of our tree this year is "**The Angels said**"...



The trees will be on display every day from Friday December 1st until Tuesday January 2nd. Admission is free and parking will also be free! The Village Center is located at 101 E Broadway Port Jefferson

Special Giving Restoration/Mtn Fund/Special Envelopes

Kent and Barbara Edwards

Bob and Jane Collins

Bob and Lillian Spears

Sandra Swenk

Lee Nichols

Ellen and Marty White

Ken and Elizabeth Combs

Donna and Jim Conforti

Bill Leonard

In Memory of Shirley Leonard

Given by

Michael Lee

Memorial Fund

In Memory of Joan Farrell

Given by Carol Polly



"At least they saved themselves a co-pay."