

DATES TO NOTE:

Christmas Concert
Saturday, December 6
7:30pm

Congregational Meeting
December 14
12:00pm

Christmas Eve
4pm
Family Service
7:30pm
Candlelight Service
11pm
Candlelight Service
*Candlelight services feature
1/2 hour prelude music
prior to each service.*

December 29
Lessons & Carols
One Service
9:30am

The Disciple

Disciples Around the Manger

This Advent, we are listening to the lives of Disciples Around the Manger. The Bible doesn't necessarily call them disciples like the famous twelve, but they are disciples nonetheless. Each of them has a connection to the baby born in the manger, the Word made flesh, the One who dwells among us. Each of them by their very lives plays a part in telling the story of God's love made real among us. By listening to their lives, we have an opportunity this Advent season to see their connection to Jesus and ponder our own. How do our lives tell the story of our faith? How do our lives wait for, prepare, proclaim, and deliver the story of God's love in Jesus Christ and what he came to do and is doing in the world today?

In a blog post entitled "Amping Up What We Always Do", author Jan Edmiston shares that she and her family have Christmas traditions that they always do. She also writes, "It's easier to name Christmas traditions than Advent traditions perhaps. And chances are that our traditions have more to do with our own families and friends than with strangers." She leads me to wonder, "What if we made Advent the time of preparation it is intended to be by doing things that will tell both the story of our savior coming into the world at Christmas and the good news that we are waiting and serving until our savior finally comes again? What if we practiced this Advent living, not only during the lead-up to Christmas, but all year long?"

Edmiston writes, "What if we started this Advent creating some new practices involving strangers that could become what we always do?"

- What if we always bought a handful of \$10 gift cards to Dunkin Donuts or Starbucks or McDonalds and handed them out to street

people sometime during the first week in Advent?

- What if we always took a bag of new thick socks to the local shelter sometime during the second week in Advent?
- What if we always wrote notes to people who've lost loved ones since last Christmas?
- What if we always kept our eyes open for Invisible People – those most people don't notice – and we made a special effort to connect with them?
- What if we always spent Advent learning about a group of people (of a different religion, race, nationality) who are not like us. Jesus was born for them too.
- What if we always spent at least one meal during Advent with someone who lives alone?
- What if we always took cookies to our local firefighters or police officers or EMT workers or crossing guards or public librarians a few weeks before Christmas?"

Edmiston's list isn't exhaustive, but her ideas point to the truth of our faith. Our God gives, and we tell the story of that good news through the gift of ourselves. She concludes, "In light of the brokenness of the world, what if we always lived as allies to those who are not in the majority, defenders of those who suffer injustice, partners of those who have a difficult road to walk? What if serving the least of these became the thing we always do – and not just during Advent?" The answer: our world will know through the story of our lives the good news of God's love made real, not just in the life of Jesus, but through us as well. That is worth celebrating this Advent and Christmas season and all year round!

Chip

Advent Schedule

Sunday, December 7 - Elizabeth and Zechariah (recognizing) – 8:30 and 10:45 am
Sunday, December 14 - John the Baptist (preparing) – 8:30 and 10:45 am
Sunday, December 21 – Mary and Joseph (God-bearing) – 8:30 and 10:45 am

Longest Night Service

Sunday, December 21 – 7 pm

A time to name the shadows of the season that remind of us our grief, pain and loss

Christmas Eve Worship - Wednesday, December 24

4pm Family Service with Children's Pageant

7:30 & 11pm Candlelight Services, with a musical prelude beginning 30 minutes before each service
Members and visitors are invited to attend the prelude, which features Christmas anthems sung by our choir and played by our handbell choir, as well as instrumental and vocal solos.

FPCY YOUTH

Youth Ministry Is Rolling!

We've begun the second year of the sustainable youth ministry program! The Design Team (Alice Chin, Karen LaBonte, Chip Low, Dave Monk) has realized that in the whirl of launching the program, we've done a less than excellent job of keeping the congregation up to date. We apologize and we appreciate your understanding that the startup has provided us the opportunity of a steep learning curve. (!) With the addition of Youth Coordinator Margery Rossi to the team, we will be providing regular updates about how the program is developing.

Congregational Support

Dozens of congregation members have volunteered to lead activities, bring snacks, drive and chaperone events.

THANK YOU, THANK YOU, THANK YOU.

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THANK YOU
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Did it seem that you didn't do much? Didn't even get called on to help? First of all, please know that the old saying is true: many hands *do* make light work. From helping to plan an event to bringing a snack, you did two things. You made a daunting project doable. And, more important, your contribution said to the youth that you see them as part of the church, and you said to the team of people who work directly with the youth that you have their backs. It is becoming more and more clear to us that *we could not do this without you*. More about this in coming months. If we didn't reach out to you, please understand that the challenges of the first year surprised us; we were doing the best we could.

Why didn't the congregation vote on the youth coordinator position?



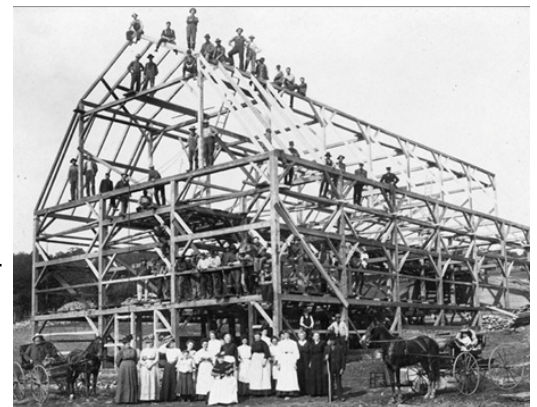
One of the outcomes of the most recent Church mission study was the need to develop a youth ministry. A small team formed and took about a year to think about what a program should be. As part of that process, numerous meetings open to all took place to discuss the program. Then, the team developed a proposal. This included a part-time coordinator position. (You can find the proposal at <http://bit.ly/1A3njK6>)

In July of 2013, the Youth Design Team brought a proposal for Sustainable Youth Ministry to Session. When Session approved the proposal, *funding for the Coordinator position was part of it*.

Session has been part of all personnel matters related to youth programming. During the 2013-2014 program year, Alice Chin was hired as interim Coordinator until we were able to find and hire the right person for the position. With the approval of session, Margery Rossi has come on board. We feel we've hit the Coordinator jackpot.

Now that Margery is here, won't she take over all the aspects of the program?

No. We've learned that a sustainable program is built on a stable infrastructure *not* any single individual. Our structure is designed to 1) make sure that many hands share the work; 2) bring many congregation members into the work and joy of youth ministry; 3) help our youth see that adult congregation members are interested in them. Think of Margery as an air traffic controller, bringing volunteers and youth together; facilitating meeting planning; helping us learn to love our youth into faith just a little bit more.



Stay tuned for more. And please reach out to any of us with questions.

Church School “Chalkboard”

Did you check out the Fellowship Hall TREE!! Doesn't it look fantastic ?? Our church school children did a fabulous job with the decorations. What a wonderful time we had. The children were busy socializing, helping each other create decorations, there was a lot of caring and sharing, concentration and fun and smiles all around. A good time was had by all!

We are moving on in our rotations, December 7th we begin Advent/Christmas. The children will learn the hymns “Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus”, “More than a Baby” and “Hark the Herald” along with an explanation of the words such as “reconcile” so they can gain understanding of what these hymns mean and understand what they are

singing. The children are also learning some Christmas Carols during gathering time as we are in the midst of Christmas Pageant rehearsals. If you child is interested in participating please let us know.

December 7th is also Giving Sunday.

The church school children have been asked to bring their gifts for The Bedford Prison Children's Center.

Just a reminder there will be no Church School on December 28th. We resume in the New Year on January 4th with “House on the Rock”.

To all our children, families and Church School staff, have a wonderful holiday season filled with Joy and Peace.

Jen Dixon and Liza Placido, Co-Superintendents



Christmas Pageant Rehearsals

Calling all Angels and Shepherds! Children in grades preK thru grade 6 are invited to participate in this year's Christmas Pageant to be presented at the 4pm Family Service on Christmas Eve. Rehearsals will be held on Saturdays, December 6, 13, 20 from 2-4 pm; Wednesday, December 24, 2-3:30 p.m. (final dress rehearsal). Contact Tami Seidel (tami@fpcyorktown.org) with questions.



Covenant Bible Study Update

Congratulations to all of the Covenant Bible study participants on completing the first module, Creating the Covenant! I certainly did not expect the first 8 weeks to go by so quickly, and I'm amazed at how much we covered, learned and shared with each other. I continue to be grateful for the Covenant community that has formed in our groups. A number of you have mentioned to me that you already miss the daily ready and weekly meetings.

We will begin our next module, Living the Covenant, the first week in January, so the Tuesday morning group will meet again on January 6 and the Wednesday evening group on January 7. In the meantime, keep your eyes and ears, hearts and minds open for signs of God's covenant as we celebrate the Advent and Christmas season. ~ Tami Seidel

New in the Church Library

Prolific writer Philip Yancey's book *Soul Survivor; How my Faith Survived the Church* (270 Y) chronicles his quarrel with the church of his childhood, which turned him off to organized religion. He describes his spiritual path back to Christianity, using as guides 13 notable people such as Martin Luther King Jr., Leo Tolstoy, Fyodor Dostoyevsky, John Donne, Henri Nouwen, Gandhi, and Paul Brand (an orthopedic surgeon). "These are the people who ushered me into the Kingdom. In many ways they are why I remain a Christian today, and I want to introduce them to other spiritual seekers."

Carol Jensen, Church Librarian

Senior Lunch Bunch

Senior Lunch Bunch will not meet in December as they are going to the Dinner Theater. The next meeting will be Wednesday January 21st at 12:00 noon for a potluck lunch in the Fellowship Hall. Mark your calendars and plan to join us!

Pat and John Prauda for the Lunch Bunch

Mission Commission



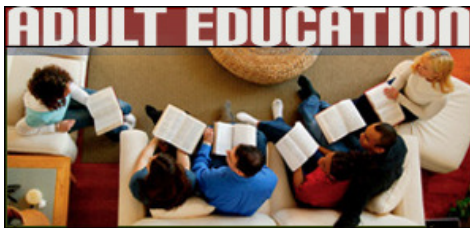
Save the Dates! The Mission Commission is planning an international mission trip to the Dominican Republic with Bridges to Community this summer. The tentative dates are August 1 through August 8. More to come!

Funds from the Thanksgiving Offering will provide hams for the holidays for our Food Pantry clients, supplementing the usual bag of food.

We will be celebrating Giving Sunday on December 7th. Items for the Hat and Mitten Tree, Bedford Prison and Toys for Teens will be collected during both services. Items for the hat and mitten tree will also be collected outside Fellowship Hall for an early distribution at the December 6th Food Pantry.

Thanks to all who participated in the Alternative Giving Fair. We raised over \$200 in donations for the two Legacy Christmas CDs. These funds will support Birthday Offering - Presbyterian Women - Mission and Ministry - Presbyterian Mission Agency and Living Waters for the World.

Sunday Morning Adult Education



A Thrill of Hope

Sunday Morning Advent-Christmas-Epiphany Study

Come enjoy a fresh look at the familiar story of Christmas as told in the gospels of Matthew and Luke. Each scripture passage in this study is illustrated and interpreted in the stunning artwork of John August Swanson along with commentary by some of America's premier Biblical scholars.

Sundays, 9:30 am in the lounge.

December 7, 14, 21, January 4 and 11 (No class on December 28).

Advent Taize Service at Mariandale in Ossining - Wednesday, December 10 @ 7pm

Come join us in an ecumenical evening prayer service modeled upon those designed by the Inter-denominational Christian community of Taize, France. These sacred candlelight services include beautiful seasonal chants, sacred readings, generous time of silence for personal reflection, and prayer of intercession.

We'll meet in FPCY Parking Lot at 6:15 pm to carpool

Call or e-mail Shawn Cribari if you are interested in coming: skcribari@aol.com; 914-275-8015

Longest Night Service



On Sunday evening December 21 at 7:00 the church will offer its Longest Night Service in preparation for the Light coming into the world on Christmas morning. Sometimes known as "Blue Christmas", this beautiful candle-lit worship service

offers hope, support, prayer and quiet reflection to those for whom the Advent season may also bring sadness, loss, and worry. Please join us for this peaceful and comforting worship which provides solace and hope for the Light which is coming.

Poinsettias for Christmas Eve

Many of members and friends remember their loved ones at Christmas by helping to decorate the sanctuary with poinsettias. Please fill out the form below or contact Kim in the office (kim@fpcyorktown.org / 914-245-2186). Names will be published in the Christmas Eve bulletin. You may purchase as many flowers as you wish. Each can be in honor or in memory of as many people as you wish. The cost of each poinsettia is \$10.

Name: _____

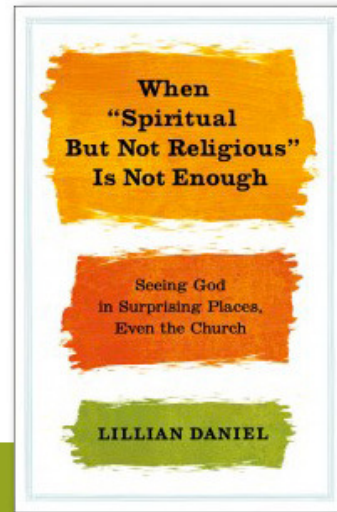
How Many: _____ Enclosed: \$ _____

Inscription: _____



**A Night of Presentation
& Conversation
with author Lillian Daniel**

**Monday, December 8th
7-9pm
FPC Yorktown**



The Ministry of Our Deacons

Jesus spoke often of the Kingdom of God, the coming Kingdom, the Kingdom within, and building the Kingdom. It's hard sometimes in our everyday busy lives to grasp or remember or even experience what Jesus meant when he spoke about the Kingdom.

But recently I found myself involved in a marvelous example of what The Kingdom and Kingdom Building experience means. In mid-November, Todd Child reported to the Deacons his great concern that the persistently high cost of turkey and the lack of available funds meant that FPCY would not be able to supply all of the Food Pantry clients and families with turkeys for Thanksgiving this year. Then, amazingly, just before Thanksgiving, the concerns were "heard" on high because two major supporters of the Food Pantry in our greater Yorktown community – Polymedco and the Yorktown Lions Club - along with the monetary donations from our FPCY members produced enough funds to purchase over 2,000 pounds of turkeys.

That Food Pantry Saturday was an exceptionally busy day!! Dozens and dozens of volunteers - young and "older" – Girls Scouts - middle school, high school and college kids – adults and Seniors worked alongside some of the very clients the Food Pantry serves bagging and organizing the food for 1 ½ hours to prepare for the 9:00 AM opening! There was incredible excitement in the air and somewhat of an "organized chaos" as Todd put it. The Food Pantry distribution was an incredible time too. Volunteers continued to pack up bags of groceries for another 1 ½ hours. There were several men who spent their time breaking down all of the empty boxes to be placed out for recycling. And yet, by late morning all of the 7,000 pounds of food had been distributed, the turkeys

were all given out and the hallways and classrooms on the east side of the building cleared out and cleaned up. Families left with food, produce, meat and baked goods to enjoy the Thanksgiving Holiday – and if that wasn't "Kingdom Building" then I don't know what is!!!!

Your Deacons need your help again this month of December. We are now collecting in anticipation of the need at Christmas. In addition to "Toys for Tots" we are asking that you help by donating "Toys/Gifts for TEENS". Items collected will be used locally as well as at the Bedford Womens' Prison so the women serving their time will be able to choose a gift for their child or teen for when they are permitted their Christmas visitation. And don't forget the "Hat and Mitten" tree located in the Gathering Space where you can bring new hats and mittens to be disbursed this winter season!

It is a busy Advent season as we all prepare for the excitement of the birth of our Lord and Savior. Let us all remember the reason for Jesus' coming. Love came down at Christmas – to show us God's love for each and every one of us. This was Jesus' message; the loving Fatherhood of God and our brother and sisterhood as God's beloved children. We welcome your part in "Building the Kingdom." Join in the excitement! Join in the fun!

Remember, for every dollar you donate directly to the Food Pantry another dollar is added from the "Matching Grant." Please help your Deacons reach \$10,000.00 in giving so we can benefit from the full amount of the matching grant again this year.

Carol Thorne-Gaetani for the Deacons

**Food Pantry
Items-of-the-
Month**

Oatmeal

Peanut Butter

*Next Dates:
December 6 & 20
9 to 11 am*

*December 13
Toys for Tots Distribution*

*We need volunteers
to load bags from
8-9 am on the
pantry days.*



*Please remember
in your prayers:*

Debbie Amorese
Peg Bertsch
Deanna Collins
Lynn Fischer
Brian Froehlich
Jim Gerth
Phillip Gresh
Mary Hamblen
Heidi Haring
Ken Hardy
Eleanor Hibben
Marie Hodgkinson
Nellie Keller
Caryl Kerber
Bonnie Konnerth
Kay Lieberman
Dave Monk
Genevieve Palmer
Fran Proceller
Dixie Robinson
Ruthann Scheffer
Kim Sherman
Dottie Slehta
Maxine Travis

Knitting Groups

Prayer Shawl Group meets Wednesday, January 7 at 9:30am and January 21 at 10:30am. Join us!

Anyone who would like to knit a blanket or who would like to join us in knitting is most welcome. We meet on the first Wednesday of the month at 9:30 and the third Wednesday of the month at 10:30. Any questions please call Marianna Sherman at 914-737-8294 or Fran Schiel at 914-245-5396.

Knit Togethers meet next on December 8, 2014

Faith in Action – In December we will give over 215 hand-knitted items to the Field Home, the Visiting Nurses of the Dominican Sisters, and to the Deacon's Mitten Tree at the Food Pantry.

All who knit or crochet are welcome to join us. Our meetings are held on the 2nd and 4th Mondays, 10:00am to 11:30am, in Lounge 15. For information: Norean Radke (962-4370) or Lois Ostling (962-2809).

Noontime Meal

FPCY's Noontime Meal preparers will mobilize again on December 9 at Peekskill Presbyterian Church at 2:30pm. We invite any of you to consider one or two hours of volunteer work per month on the Tuesday prior to the second Wednesday. This is a rewarding task and many hands make the work light and fun. Call Andy Mavian (914-788-4198).

Jan Peek Meal

Jan Peek House is a shelter for homeless men & women, run by Caring for the Homeless of Peekskill. On the 4th Saturday of each month we provide dinner at Jan Peek. It is rewarding to share food and conversation with the residents, and it is an important part of our congregation's ministry to the community. New volunteers always welcome. Call Bud Coccodrilli (245-6475) to talk about it. Thanks to the McGrath family for the November dinner. The December dinner will be prepared by the Gilbert family. Call Bud to volunteer for future months.

Congregational Meeting

The Session has called a congregational meeting for Sunday, December 14 at 12noon to elect 6 adult elders, 2 youth elders, 4 adult deacons, and 2 youth deacons.

Church History - Early 1970's

Pastor Ronald James stated that of the 108 churches in the Hudson River Presbytery, we are 7th in overall giving, 6th in size, 6th in benevolences, 4th in number of baptisms, 3rd in size of church school and 2nd in the rate of growth.

The Gospel ministry has continued to be preached without interruption. Surely the church has been richly blessed as many families and friends will testify, spiritually and in service to others. Ron James was our 17th pastor. William Kenny served as pastor from 1977-1980, Charles Barton as the 19th pastor in 1982, followed by Chip Low as our 20th pastor.

In 1989 the pipe organ was installed at a cost of \$72,000. It has 561 pipes. To provide space for the pipes, the walkway at the top of the balcony stairs was closed off."

Remember to check the history bulletin board in the hallway for pictures and interesting facts that Dick Hunter puts up and changes frequently.

Offering Hospitality

COFFEE HOUR

Join us for Communion Brunch on December 7 after each Service. Please bring something to share and plan to stay a little while longer and chat with friends. Help with coffee hour is always needed. Check with Pat or check the book on the table by the goodies to sign up. We all love a cup of coffee, so any help would be appreciated!

Are You Connected?

Are you getting all the news of FPCY and messages from Chip in your email inbox? You can sign up for our eNewsletter right from our home page: www.fpcyorktown.org to get your name on our mailing list.

Are you on Facebook? "Like us" and get our updates in your news feed. Just search for us on Facebook or click the Facebook icon on the homepage to get connected.

Do you want to receive the Disciple by e-mail only? Send an e-mail to Kim in the office and we'll save the stamp and the paper!

Holiday Bake Sale

You are invited to YPP's Annual Bake Sale on Sunday, December 14 from 9-1 in Fellowship Hall. Each year we have a wide variety of delicious baked goods...cakes, pies, breads...let us help you with your holiday baking or gift giving! This sale supports our cultural enrichment programs such as Jonathan Cruik, Storyteller; puppet shows, nature programs, and other activities. Our special programs are offered to our students, as well as children from our church family. We look forward to your continued support and we'll see you on December 14!



Operations Report

Winterization Work:

We have completed our work to winterize our facilities and grounds. All A/C units have been covered or taken in. Snow stakes have been put out as well as buckets of sand and ice melter. All hoses have been stored inside and the outside water spigots shut off and drained. The underground water line to the outdoor prayer area has been blown out so that no freeze damage will occur. The grasses have been cut back and the Iris beds trimmed. All debris was taken to Yorktown Recycling.

Other Maintenance & Improvement Efforts:

- We have made excellent progress on the work we are doing in the Sanctuary Balcony to spruce things up and repair areas that have been chipped and scraped. All of the pews on the east side of the balcony have been hand sanded, primed and painted. This includes the wrap-around railing immediately in front of the pews and the top flat surface. The safety railings in front of the three windows have been removed, rehab'ed with new "spokes" and all paint removed. The safety railings are now ready to be primed and painted. These railings will be put back in place when there are services in the Sanctuary as they are critical safety devices.
- We now have energy saving bulbs (CFL's and LED's) installed throughout Room 14. Also, we have LED's deployed in the Gathering Space.
- Both sets of the new Bilco Cellar Doors have been installed at the basement entrances. These doors have air plungers which hold the doors open and are much safer than the old

doors which deteriorated and were no longer safe to use.

- EnerPath in conjunction with NYSEG has performed a lighting energy audit. The audit is designed to determine the cost of moving to more energy efficient lighting. A portion of the cost of switching over to more energy efficient lighting would be offset by NYSEG. The costs and energy efficiency resulting from such an upgrade endeavor are not yet known. We will have to determine whether the costs are affordable and whether the payback period is reasonable for us.

In conjunction with Eleanor Hibben, we have selected and planted two Kousa Dogwood trees in honor of Craig. These trees are over 12 feet high and are excellent specimens. All of our new trees were watered regularly throughout the Fall and are doing fine. This includes the two pinky-winky hydrangeas that were planted by the Sherman's and the Colorado Spruce that replaced the one we lost in the late Fall. All of these trees are memorials to loved ones. Many minor maintenance items have been completed over the past couple of months. We depend on feedback when something is not up to par. Therefore, if you see something amiss, we would very much appreciate knowing about it. We will endeavor to remedy any issue quickly or plan for a longer range improvement if that is what is called for.

Thanks!

Dick Seymour, Chair of Operations & Facilities Coordinator

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The Disciple

December 2014

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914-245-2186

office@fpcyorktown.org

Office Hours:

Monday-Friday, 8:30-4:30

Pastor:

Rev. Chip Low

Parish Associate

Rev. Tami Seidel



office@fpcyorktown.org



@fpcyorktown



Facebook.com/fpcyorktown

December

			3	4	5	6 Christmas Concert
7 ADVENT 2 Worship Services 8:30am & 10:45am 9:30 Church School Adult Ed 4:30pm Confirmation Class Middle School Youth Group	Knit Togethers 10am Lillian Daniel presentation	Noontime Meal Prep @ 2:30pm 7:30pm Worship	10 10:30am Stewardship Taize service at Mariandale-7pm	11 10am Messiah Study 6:45pm - Bells 8pm - Choir	12	13 9am Toys for Tots Distribution Pageant Rehearsal at 2pm
14 ADVENT 3 Worship Services 8:30am & 10:45am YPP Bake Sale 9:30 Church School Adult Ed 12pm Congregational Meeting 4:30 Confirmation Class	15	16 7:30pm Operations	17	18 6:45pm - Bells 8pm - Choir	19	20 9am Food Pantry Pageant Rehearsal at 2pm
21 ADVENT 4 Worship Services 8:30am & 10:45am 9:30 Church School Adult Ed 7:00 - Longest Night Service	22	23	24 Pageant Rehearsal at 2pm	25 MERRY CHRISTMAS!	26	27 Jan Peek Meal by the Gilbert Family
28 Worship Service at 9:30	29	CHRISTMAS EVE 4pm Family Service 7:30pm Candlelight Service <i>Preludes begin at 7pm</i> 11pm Candlelight Service <i>Preludes begin at 10:30pm</i>		1 <i>(office closed)</i>	2	3
					January	
4 Worship Services 8:30am & 10:45am 9:30 Church School Adult Ed	5	6 7:30pm Session	7	8	9	10 9am Food Pantry