

The Messenger 3.0

The Newsletter of the Centerville/Saugerties United Methodist Churches

Christmas Eve Services :

Morning service - 10:30am

Candlelight service - 7:00pm

December 2023

We've certainly had some challenges to overcome in the last few years, wouldn't you agree? Changes in administration, the pandemic, becoming a "charge" with Centerville UMC. Some of the challenges were painful, some were exciting, and because of them, we are becoming a "new" CUMC/SUMC.

It's been a while since the last issue of **The Messenger** was released, so there is some catching up to do:

We welcomed our new pastor, **Pastor J. Yoon** and his wife Alex in September. They've brought new ideas, experience and hope, and we wish them much joy and love as they begin their new journey with us.

From the Pastors heart

Dear Church Family,

As we approach the end of this year, my heart is filled with gratitude for the time we've shared together. Being part of this church for the past three months has been a transformative experience, and I am truly thankful for the warmth and love that have made this community feel like home.

Reflecting on our shared moments, the warm hospitality, and the genuine love within this community, I am reminded of the joy of being part of a spiritual family. As we continue to build on these shared experiences, I am excited about the prospect of deepening our connections and growing together.

Christmas is a time often associated with the joy of giving and receiving gifts. In this spirit, let us remember that the greatest gift we have received is Jesus. He is the embodiment of God's love and grace, and my heartfelt desire is for us to explore and emulate Him more closely in the days ahead.

As we celebrate the season, recognizing Jesus as the ultimate gift, let us anticipate a journey of getting to know Him better, growing more like Him, and creating precious memories and moments together. Just as Christmas brings the joy of exchanging gifts, my hope is that we, too, can share daily moments that feel like gifts – times of fellowship, kindness, and shared growth.

The past three months with all of you have been truly precious, and I eagerly anticipate the joy and blessings that every future moment with you will bring.

Merry Christmas!

With love and anticipation, Jay Yoon Pastor

Sunday school News

The Sunday school is in full swing. We begin in the sanctuary with a children's message and each month we sing a song. The children learn by doing one verse a week. In December I chose, "Go Tell It On The Mountain", a simple christmas story. The children will have some fun wearing costumes for this. A shepherd with a blow horn, an angel, a star, and some sheep.

We will learn about advent each week in addition to building up to the birth of Jesus.

We welcome anyone who would like to observe our class to sit in. We are looking for those with a passion for the Bible stories to teach the children your version. It is extremely rewarding.

We have endless resources to use. They love the I-pad, of course, but I do not use it often. You tube has the music videos that make the songs we do in church come to life.

A flier is in the classroom with my contact information if you have any questions or concerns.

Pam, Ann, Laura, and Joan

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 18 .

United Women in Faith

The next meeting of United Women in Faith will be Wednesday, December 20, at 5:30. It will be held in the lounge. We will start with a covered dish supper, followed by a program at 6:30. The program is called "A Light That Interrupts." Participants will connect how the birth of Jesus was an "interrupting hope" that reveals deeper opportunities to see the "invisible" in our midst.

Santa's visit

The word on the street is that **Santa Claus** himself stopped to visit with the children at Mother Goose this past Tuesday, Dec. 5th. He had a little conversation with each of the children (he did say that they were all very good according to his list), and had a small gift for each of them. Wouldn't it be wonderful to have Santa come to church with us every Sunday? What a nice old elf (he doesn't look his age. I saw him).

Christmas Poinsettias

Poinsettias for Christmas

Our altar will be decorated for Christmas eve with poinsettias. If you would like to order a poinsettia in memory of someone or to honor someone, please fill out the form below and get it to the Church office. The cost is \$11.00 for each plant, and the deadline to order is December 11.

Poinsettias for Christmas

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

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 _

Advent Walk

The Advent Walk sponsored by the Saugerties Area Council of Churches will be held on Sunday, Dec. 17. The walk will start at 2:00 at our Church, and then proceed to the Saugerties Reformed Church, and then the First Congregational Church. The walk will end at the Atonement Lutheran Church where there will be an offering collected for their food pantry. We will share in the Christmas story told progressively through bible readings and carols as we visit each church.

This is a wonderful way to celebrate the true meaning of Christmas.

Mother Goose Holiday Show

Mother Goose is having their Holiday Show on Thursday, Dec. 14. Performances will be at 9:30 a.m. and 11:30 a.m. We are invited to attend these performances by all the wonderful children in Mother Goose Nursery School. The children have been practicing very hard to make the shows special!

Book Club

The Saugerties UMC Book Club is taking a break for the holidays, so there is no meeting in December. The next meeting will be on Monday, January 8 at 2:00 in the Lounge. We will be discussing the book 'The Orchid House' by Lucinda Riley. Everyone is welcome to attend.

Craft Group

The Saugerties UMC craft group meets twice a month to create all types of crafts which are then offered for sale at the November Church Holiday A-Fair each year. We have lots of supplies for our use – to participate just bring your imagination and craft skill! This past year the group met on the 1st and 3rd Monday of each month at 2:00, but if this schedule is a problem for anyone who is interested, we can create a new schedule that works for all.

If you are interested, see Cece Sciortino or Diane McDowell for more information. And watch for an organizational meeting in January!

Church Envelopes for 2024

Church envelopes for 2024 will be in the lobby starting December 10. Many in the congregation are no longer using the envelopes. Some send their donations electronically and others who using a service to pay bills, have the service mail the church checks. We had so many boxes of envelopes from 2023 that were not used that Finance decided to use them for 2024. We cancelled our order for new envelopes to save money. If you use envelopes, you will find a box with your name on it but a different number and the dates will be from 2023, so the Sundays

will be off by one day. Finance will accurately record your donations on the church computer. If you have any questions, see Joan Robinson