

The Good News

First Presbyterian Church of Hudson Falls

"We're making friends of ALL people through Christ."

December 2018

Elder Thoughts - Pat Barron

Each Christmas, we celebrate the birth and life of Jesus Christ, the "Light of the World". By following His teachings, we let his light shine-in our lives and in the lives of others.

This year during Advent, the time in our Church life leading up to the birth of Christ, take time to use these suggestions for inspiration as you plan your Christmas activities to help "Light the World" by serving those in need. Good Stewardship is not all about money! Did you know that these things are also a part of Stewardship? Here are five ideas. Choose one to do each week of Advent, Christmas and through Epiphany!

"Freely you have received, freely you give" Matthew 10:8

Jesus made it clear that everything we have is a gift freely given from God. We should be grateful for all that we have and be willing to give just as freely to others. Put down the electronics and give time to your family by talking with them - without using electronics.

"I was sick, and you visited me." —Matthew 25:36

Sickness and hard times affect us all eventually. We can help lift those who are suffering, even if all we do is devote a little time to visiting them. Did you know that there's a shortage of donations of all blood types around the winter holidays? Give blood at a local blood drive this month.

"Blessed are they that mourn." —Matthew 5:4

Crushing burdens and tragic losses can nearly overwhelm people at times. To show Christlike compassion, we should comfort



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Church Office:

9 River St.,
Hudson Falls, NY 12839
747-3013

Open Tues-Fri, 10-2

Church:

5 River St.
747-2203

Rev. Michael Plank, Pastor

Home Phone: 636-3200

Pat Barron, Clerk of Session

Home Phone: 747-4573

Sunday Worship 10am

Nursery Care Available!
Church School K-8 (Sept—May)

Elder of the Month:

Pat Barron

Trustee: Ron Shaffer

Care & Compassion:

Roberta Clute, Pat Barron,
Marie Mercure

This newsletter is made possible through our giving to FPC Hudson Falls.

Pastor's Corner



Greetings friends!

I remember when I was a kid always having a big let-down around 4 or 5pm on Christmas day. I spent so much time looking forward to it (looking forward to the presents, if I'm being totally honest), and then it was done. And when it was done, it meant no more presents, no more excitement, no more holidays (New Year's barely counted – no presents!), a return to school, and *months* before Spring Break.

By contrast, one of my first Christmases here, I was moved to tears during the Christmas Eve service. The difference for me, was that I was a little bit better at living in the present moment instead of relentlessly looking forward to the next big thing. And I think that's a tremendous gift of the Advent season. It allows us to take the time – a full 4 weeks – not to relentlessly dream of the presents under the tree on Christmas morning, but to pause and think about what Christmas actually meant for a people oppressed, and what it could actually mean for us.

It's not as flashy as Christmas trees in October (which I saw this year). But it *is* more miraculous, because it calls us to listen to that still, small voice that promised that even in the depths of the Roman occupation of Palestine, that a light shines in the darkness and the darkness has not overcome it.

May this Advent bring you hope and love and joy and peace as you prepare for Jesus' coming.

Peace,
Michael



Session Notes

The Session met on November 8 at 7 PM. Worship with Communion was held. Scripture was Psalm 147: 12-20.

The minutes for October were approved as were the Treasurer's Report, Consent agenda including the Pastor's report, Clerk's report, Trustees report; and committee reports.

Pastor's Report: *One vacation Sunday in November and one in December and 11/25 and 12/9 as Sundays off.

*I have spent the month of October settling back in to the program year.

*I did a hospital visit, 2 home visits.

*The October 15 Service was good.

*I am very much looking forward to working with Jodie Leight next year (she did really well). I met with the Worship Committee too and am looking forward to our worship leading up to Advent and then through Advent and Christmas.

Clerk's Report:

Business conducted via e-mail:

Several building requests voted via e-mail with no objections:

Correspondence:

- Thank you from Washington County DSS Food pantry for the donation of \$37.
- *Request from Mariko Fukuoka (Ph.D.), National Museum of Japanese History Associate Professor (History Division) She is looking for a baptismal record for Townsend Harris who was born in Sandy Hill and baptized Presbyterian. His DOB is 10/7/1803. Our records go back only to 1875. I checked with Stated Clerk of Presbytery, Dan Rogers. He has nothing either. I also referred her to the Washington County historian and the Town of Kingsbury historian. Showed her our church on November 9, referred her to McCann's, the building where he was born.

*Check for \$250 from Irving Tissue which will be used for Stewart's Coupons. Jen will send thank you for the check and for the tissue and toilet paper donations, which are used by our food pantry.

*Attendance: 10/7 - 74; 10/14 - 60; 10/21 - 62;

10/28 - 74; Communion 10/7 - 70

Outreach and Mission: Pennies for Hunger collected in October: \$31.67 Food Pantry \$37

Worship we will have order forms available in the bulletins starting Nov. 18 through Dec. 2. Also make them available on Facebook page. We decided on 5 types of flowers to order: They will be delivered December 22 at 10:30 AM. Announcements in bulletin and on Facebook page.

4" pot - Pixie Poinsettia \$4.00

6" pot - 1 poinsettia plant \$6.50

6" pot - 1 Winter Rose plant \$6.50

7.5" pot - 2 poinsettia plants \$13.00

7.5" pot - 2 Winter Rose plants \$20.00

Hanging of the Greens service will be Sunday, Dec. 2nd at 4:59 pm (dinner & ornament making) and service to follow at 7 pm

Sanctuary set-up will be Saturday, Dec. 1 at 10 am. Announcements to be made on Nov. 11, 18, and 25 for the set-up and 18 and 25 for the hanging of the greens service.

Old Business:

*Borderlinks committee will be Zac Perry-LaPoint, Sue Gilbert, Mike Barron and Rev. Plank. They will discuss fund raisers, inviting St. Joseph's church in Fort Edward and the Presbyterian/Congregational church in Saratoga to see if any of their parishioners are interested (those two churches work with the local Immigrant population).

*Personnel update on organist: Tim's last day is November 11. Jodi Leight will play on November 18 and Kent Baker will return November 25 - January 19. Ms. Leight will begin permanently on January 26.

New Business:

*Fifth Sunday will be December 30.

Presbytery: No one is able to attend the November 13 meeting in Albany.

The meeting adjourned with prayer by Trudy Scheidegger.

Pat Barron, Clerk

Trustee Notes

TRUSTEE MINUTES, November 6, 2018

The Board of Trustees held their regularly scheduled meeting in the church house conference room.

Present were Dale Dickinson, Dave Trevett, Ron Shaffer, Randy Clark, and Bill Scheidegger

The minutes of the last meeting were read and approved.

The treasurer's report was also read and approved.

The following items were discussed and /or actions were taken:

1. Contacted our snow removal personnel to clear the sidewalks and steps and plow the driveway. Also purchased bags of calcium chloride
2. Painting of the church fellowship room

and the church house hallway was discussed.

3. Everything Under Foot removed the curtain pile in the fellowship room.

4. The Hudson Falls village will inspect our Church and church house facilities. This is done annually to be sure we are up to code.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:00

The next meeting will be December 4th 2018

Dale Dickinson, President
Dave Trevett, Secretary



Hanging of the Greens service will be **Sunday, Dec. 2nd at 4:59 pm** (dinner & ornament making)
Service to follow at 7 pm.

Sanctuary set-up will be Saturday, Dec. 1 at 10 am.

A Visit from Dr. Fukuoka

Early this November the church was visited by Dr. Mariko Fukuoka, a Japanese researcher who is writing a book about Townsend Harris. Dr. Fukuoka was interested to see if we had any baptismal records for Harris. Although we did not find those particular records, she was able to glean valuable information for her research project while she was in town. It was an honor to meet Dr. Fukuoka and to assist her in her work.



Dr. Fukuoka next to the plaque dedicated to Townsend Harris, at the Hudson Falls Middle School; Left: a marker in honor of Townsend Harris outside the HF Village Offices, Main Street.

- Rev. Michael, Pat, and Jen



Townsend Harris - Did you know?

(October 3, 1804 – February 25, 1878)

Harris was a successful New York City merchant and minor politician, and the first United States Consul General to Japan. He negotiated the "Harris Treaty" between the US and Japan and is credited as the diplomat who first opened the Empire of Japan to foreign trade and culture in the Edo period.

Townsend Harris' family was part of our early church, although he was baptized prior to any of our records, which start in 1875. Harris was born in the village of Sandy Hill (now Hudson Falls), in Washington County in upstate New York. He moved early to New York City, where he became a successful merchant and importer from China.



Townsend Harris in 1855 (painted by James Bogle)

More information about him can be found at: https://en.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/Townsend_Harris or just Google his name Townsend Harris.

Monthly Scripture Readings

December 2018 Revised Common Lectionary for Sundays and Festivals

DECEMBER

[Begin Year C]

1st Sunday of Advent—December 2, 2018

Jeremiah 33:14–16
Psalm 25:1–10
1 Thessalonians 3:9–13
Luke 21:25–36

1st Sunday after Christmas Day—December 30

1 Samuel 2:18–20, 26
Psalm 148
Colossians 3:12–17
Luke 2:41–52

2nd Sunday of Advent—December 9

Malachi 3:1–4
Luke 1:68–79
Philippians 1:3–11
Luke 3:1–6

3rd Sunday of Advent—December 16

Zephaniah 3:14–20
Isaiah 12:2–6
Philippians 4:4–7
Luke 3:7–18

4th Sunday of Advent—December 23

Micah 5:2–5a
Luke 1:46–55 or Psalm 80:1–7
Hebrews 10:5–10
Luke 1:39–45 (46–55)

Christmas Eve—December 24

Isaiah 9:2–7
Psalm 96:1–13
Titus 2:11–14
Luke 2:1–14 (15–20)

Nativity of the Lord / Christmas—December 25

Christmas Dawn
Isaiah 62:6–12
Psalm 97:1–12
Titus 3:4–7
Luke 2:(1–7) 8–20

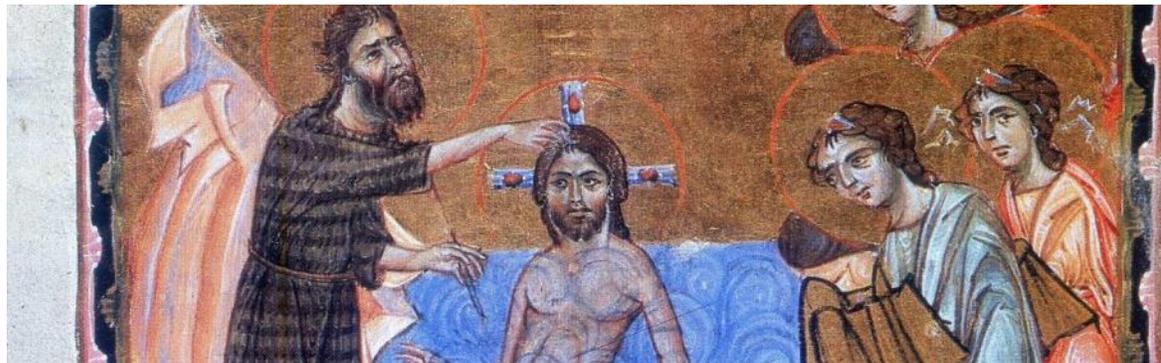
Christmas Day

Isaiah 52:7–10
Psalm 98:1–9
Hebrews 1:1–4 (5–12)
John 1:1–14

Sermons are posted on
our website!

Read or hear the weekly
sermon and read our
monthly newsletter.

fpchudsonfalls.org



Prayer Chain

For prayer requests, please call one of the people on the following list. That person will call the next person, and the last will call the first, so all members of the chain receive the request:

Pat Barron	747-4573
Windy Clark	926-0523
Mary Dickinson	792-0654
Daryl Fowler	747-5876
Connie Fuller	747-5259
Carol Moyer	793-1960
Bonnie Trevett	747-4530

Care & Compassion

Nov. 25 - Dec. 8	Roberta Clute
Dec. 9 - Dec. 22	Pat Barron
Dec. 23 - Jan. 5	Marie Mercure

Coffee Hour



Dec. 2

Dec. 9

Dec. 16

Dec. 23

Dec. 30

(See December sign-up sheet or Trudy Scheidegger with Coffee Hour questions)

Thanks to all who have volunteered! Please sign up in the Narthex or kitchen if you'd like to volunteer next month.

Adult Fellowship

Upcoming Dates 2018 - 2019 - Mark Your Calendars!

Saturday, Dec. 1 at 10 am - Decorate the Sanctuary for Christmas

Sunday, Dec. 2 - **Hanging of the Greens**

(January - February - March ~ No activities planned)

Saturday, April 27 - **Dinner at Sweet Basil's**

May - TBA - **"Old Friends at Saratoga"** Greenfield Center & Lunch - Families Invited

June - TBA - **Roger's Island Museum**, Ft. Edward & Lunch at Anvil Inn

Saturday, July 20th at 1:30 pm, **Lake Party at the Gilberts'**

Saturday, August 17th at 1:30 pm, **Pool Party at the Otoupals'**

September -TBA- **SUNY ACC Culinary Institute Dinner**

October 19th at 5:00 pm, **Progressive Dinner** - Hosts TBA

Women's Association

The **Spring 2019 Rummage Sale** will be held **May 16th - 18th**. Donations for spring will be accepted in January.



Operation Santa Claus is Underway!

OPERATION Santa Claus



Every year, Operation Santa Claus works to provide a happy Christmas to hundreds of local children in need. Our church opens the church house basement to OSC so that they can store and organize donations.

So that the elves can efficiently do their work, please remember that the church cannot accept rummage sale items until January 1st.

Thank you for your consideration!

Prayer Shawl Ministry & Craft Night

Do you like to knit or crochet? Would you like to learn? How about joining the Prayer Shawl Ministry Group? We meet on the first Thursday of each month. Yarn, hooks, needles and instruction are all available.

If you like doing crafts but aren't into knitting or crocheting come to "Any Craft Night" on the third Thursday of each month. Bring a craft to work on while enjoying wonderful fellowship.

Prayer shawls and lap blankets are available. If you know of someone who would benefit from the love, warmth and prayers that are worked into each one, please contact the Church Office or complete a request card (located in the narthexes).



Questions?

See Diane Lapan, Diane Macintosh, Mary Dickinson or Sue Gilbert.

Newcomers are always welcome!

- **Prayer Shawl**
Dec. 6 @ 7pm
- **Any Craft**
Dec. 20 @ 7pm



Birthdays & Anniversaries

Happy December Birthday to:

2	Luke Mance	16	Ellie Bancroft-Arenas
3	Ashley Grant	17	Bonnie Trombley
7	Doug MacIntosh	22	Anna Mae Tift
13	LeAnn Wilson	24	Miles Mandwelle
14	Mary Rose Holzhauser	24	Breanna Prevost

Happy December Anniversary to:

Lauren & Sue Palmer (Dec. 20th)



Amazon Shopping

The church has set up an account with Amazon Smile where Amazon donates 0.5% of the purchase to our church at no cost to you or the church. In order for us to receive a donation when you shop at Amazon login into



smile.amazon.com and you will see a spot when you can donate to a charitable organization. Just type in “**First Presbyterian Church of Hudson Falls**” and our church name will pop up with our address of 9 River St., Hudson Falls, NY 12839. Shop as normal and our church will receive a donation from your purchase.

The church has received over **\$106.33** from Amazon Smile this year to date!

Prayers & Concerns

Each month we'll list all of the people that we've had in our prayers for the past month. If you'd like to add someone to our weekly list, please place their names in the offering plate during Sunday Worship, or call the church office at 747-3013. Please notify when name is to be removed.

Hospital Admittance Update

Due to HIPAA (Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act) the First Presbyterian Church will not be notified if you, or a loved one, are hospitalized. **Please call the Church Office (747-3013) to let us know that you, or a loved one, have been hospitalized.** When admitted, be sure to list Hudson Falls First Presbyterian Church as your affiliate and **give permission to release the information so that Rev. Plank or a member of the Care and Compassion Committee can visit.** **Otherwise, your admittance and room number will not be available.**

Those in Our Prayers

Paradise, CA

Emily Hilder
 Timothy Oathout
 Cindy French
 Paula Coon
 Hayes Doster
 Adam Omiecinski
 Alisha Ingram
 Alonzo Clark
 Andrew Blalock
 Bentley Smith
 Breanna Ruffing
 Brian Peceu
 Bruce Barron
 Carolyn Spangler
 Chuck Bailey
 Clute Family
 Concetta Weatherwax
 Dottie DeMell
 Florence Phillips
 Gary & Dolores Dingmon
 Helen Rauch
 S. Jane Story
 Steve Rice

Pat and Don Hassett
 Jim Hirst
 John Coon
 James Harney
 Janet Monroe
 Jerry Sweet
 Jim and Becky Smith
 Kathy Harrison
 Kathy Nolte
 Kathy Rezendes
 Keri Rooks
 Lacy O'Quinn
 Linda Honaker
 Margot Vankempen
 Marian Lemery
 Mary Carpor
 Pam Corenetto
 Rebecca Rozell
 Rene Peceu
 Rita French
 Rob Mackle
 Robert Smith
 Tanya VanVranken

For Longterm Consideration

Edward Thompson
 Kathleen McKernon
 Jean Wood
 Nancy Ellis
 Elaine Fitzgerald
 Lukas Lemery
 Dawn Bishop
 Virginia Fitch
 Deborah Scarpetti
 Those In The Armed Services
 Hunter Chase
 Volunteer Firefighters
 Carol LaPoint
 Government Leaders
 Emergency Medical Technicians
 Jane Stuebing (Martin)
 Edna Sheldon
 Kendall & Cindy McKernon
(Bold = New this Month)
 11/21/2018

In Nursing Homes:

Jane Stuebing (Martin)
 Judy Bronk

First Presbyterian Church of Hudson Falls

December 2018



Nativity, Sandro Botticelli

Sundays

10 am, Worship

Sunday, Dec. 2 - **Bible 101 after Service,**
Hanging of the Greens, 4:59 pm

Mondays

8 pm, AA - Fellowship Hall

Dec 24, Christmas Eve Service, 7 pm

Tuesdays

6 pm, TOPS

6:30 pm, OSC

Dec 11, 9 am Operation Santa Claus Disbursal Day, Church House

7 pm, AA - Fellowship Hall

Dec 25, Christmas Day

Wednesdays

7 am, AA Meditation -- Classroom

10 am, Exercise Group -- Fellowship Hall

Thursdays

8 pm, Al Anon -- Classroom

Dec 6, Prayer Shawl, 7 pm

Dec 4, Trustees, 7 pm

Dec 13, Session, 7 pm

Dec 20, Craft Night, 7 pm

Dec 20, Woodmen, 7 pm

Saturdays

10 am, AA -- Lounge

Dec 1, 10 am- Decorate the Sanctuary for Christmas

Dec 15, OSC Disbursal Day 2 --- Dec 15, Shakespeare