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*Rev. Kelly Warner*

**Office Manager**  
*Susan Cramer*

**Custodian**  
*Tom Chase*

**Music Ministry**  
*Cathy King*

**Church Council Chair**  
*Ilah Sisson Walser*

**Trustee Co-Chairs**  
*Gary Perkins*  
*George Mallette*

**SPRC Chair**  
*Jackie Capone*

**Treasurer**  
*Lynne Blake*

**Financial Secretary**  
*Cherrie Sanders*

**Lay Member UNYAC**  
*Linda Sheeran*

**PLEASE notify us of  
any address  
changes and/or if  
you no longer wish  
to receive this  
publication.**

# The Tidings

December 2018

**Ballston Spa United Methodist Church**



**101 Milton Avenue, Ballston Spa, NY 12020**

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## Pastor's Column

Advent is upon us, our four week countdown to celebrating the birth of Jesus, the Savior of the world. There is so much I love about this time, the seasonal music and bright lights, cookies and home-made eggnog, Balsam trees and gift-giving, seeing family and going to friends' parties.

I also treasure other experiences, like witnessing the Advent Wreath candle lighting at church each week, watching costume-clad kids put on the Christmas Pageant, hearing extra-special anthems, and singing joyous Christmas hymns. But the pinnacle of my joy is always Christmas Eve. That is when, at long last, we announce that "the babe in the manger at Bethlehem" has arrived. He came to earth, God with flesh on, Our Emmanuel, and it is this sweet Jesus who is the real reason behind this bustling season.

The poem that follows is something I came across some while ago. For me it is a whimsically-worded poem that amuses me, but also grounds me in the truth of what is at the very HEART of Christmas. A perfect gift from God, a gift that I need more than any other gift I have ever - or will ever - be given. The gift of Jesus.

The Time Before Christmas  
by Greg Buchner

"Twas the time before Christmas, and all through the town,  
Not a sign of baby Jesus was anywhere to be found.

The people were all busy with Christmas-time chores  
Like decorating, and baking, and shopping in stores.

No one sang, "Away in a manger, no crib for a bed... "  
Instead they sang of Santa, dressed up in bright red.

Mama watched Martha Stewart, Rover sat in Papa's lap,  
As hour upon hour the presents they'd wrap.

When what from the TV did they hear?  
Except an ad which told of a big sale at Sears.

So away to the mall they all flew like a flash,  
Buying things on credit with very few paying cash.

And as they made their way home from their trip to the mall,  
Did they think about Jesus? Unfortunately, not at all.

Their lives were so busy with their Christmas-time things,  
They just plain forgot to remember Christ Jesus, the King.

The Christmas cards needed to be sent, and there were cookies to bake.  
There was no time to celebrate the One who died for their sake.

To pray to the Savior, they had no time to stop.  
But they found plenty of time to shop 'til they dropped.

On Wal-Mart, on K-Mart, on Target, on Penney's,  
On Hallmark, and Borders, with a quick lunch at Denny's.

From the big stores downtown, to the stores at the mall  
They would dash away, dash away, dash away all.

But amidst all the clutter, all the busyness forlorn,  
Someone began to think about that child that'd been born.

Was it Jerusalem... no; Nazareth was not the place.  
It was in Bethlehem where salvation begins for the human race.

Jesus' eyes how they twinkled, His Spirit how merry;  
His love, how enormous. All our burdens he'll carry.

So, instead of hanging lights that flash and that swirl,  
Let's take a moment this season to invite in the Light of the World.

For it's His birthday we celebrate, it's His birthday we claim,  
Let's put Christ back at the center of Christmas, let's give Christ all the fame!

### **The Colors of Advent**

Churches often display the color purple (or blue) during Advent. In ancient times, purple was expensive and used almost exclusively by kings, other royalty and persons of wealth. Purple reminds us of Christ, who is our King, worthy of our obedience, loyalty and love. It also speaks of our need for penitence as we prepare to celebrate Christmas again.



### **The Symbolism of the Advent Wreath**

The Advent wreath is a symbol of watchfulness as the birth of Jesus approaches. The circular form of the wreath symbolizes eternity, or life without end. The candles remind us that Jesus is the Light of the World who brought light and life to a dark world (see John 1:4-5). We light a new candle on each of the four Sundays, then on Christmas Eve we light the white Christ candle. As the light grows, so does our anticipation and joy!

## Mission and Outreach News



### Fair Trade

The next Fair Trade sale will be on Sunday, December 16<sup>th</sup> after worship. We will have coffee (including hazelnut), tea and hot chocolate AND dark chocolate bars. The sale will be set up by the coat rack again this month.

### Thrift Shop News

The Upper Room Thrift Shop is open on Tuesdays from 9:30 am to noon and serves approximately 20 families a week. If you would like to serve the Lord by helping in the Thrift Shop, please contact Thelma Armer at 518-885-9696 or Melody Babcock at 518-490-2015. We can always use the extra help as the shop is getting busier and busier!

Thank you to all who donate clothing. Please remember our storage is small and we ask for seasonal clothing. Our lowest stock, right now, is boys and girls sizes 3 to 5. Of course, linens are welcome, too. Towels and washcloths are in high demand.

Again, our thanks to all who donate and help. We feel blessed many times over.

### 5K Summary Report for 2018

#### ***Community Supports the 12<sup>th</sup> Annual Falling Leaves 5K Charity Run Over \$7,500 to be donated to Veterans & Community Housing Coalition***

The Ballston Spa UMC would like to thank its 33 sponsors and those local businesses that provided a total of 41 gift certificates worth about \$1,550 as door prizes for the nearly 200 race participants. Because of their generosity, the 5K Committee estimates that we will be able to donate in excess of \$7,500 to the Veterans & Community Housing Coalition (VCHC) to be earmarked for the two residences in Ballston that provide housing and services for homeless male and female Veterans. **Since the inception of the Falling Leaves 5K Charity Run in 2007, we have been able to give back \$47,000 to local charities.**

Race sponsors included: the D.A. Collins Companies (including Jointa Galusha, LLC and Palette Stone) as our Presenting Sponsor at \$1,500; LaMarco Physical Therapy, P.C., Saratoga Organic & Hydroponic Supply and Edward Jones Investments (both the Ballston Spa and Saratoga Springs Offices) as Oak Leaf Cluster Sponsors at \$500; Armer Funeral Home, Ballston Carpet & Tile, Ballston National Bank, Pizza Works, E. Stewart Jones Hacker & Murphy Law Firm, LLP, Recovery Sports Grill, Coldwell Banker Prime Properties—Joyce Garlock, Henry's Tavern, and Rainbow International Restoration as Maple Leaf Sponsors at \$250; and Agway of Ballston Spa, Alexander BlueLine, Allerdice Building Supply, Augie's Family Style Italian Restaurant, Baker's Auto Service, Ballston Spa Country Club, Ballston Spa Veterinary Clinic, Front Street Deli, Harold R. Clune Electric, The Iron Roost, Lance Evans Memorials, Malta Animal Hospital, Mangino Chevrolet Buick GMC, Mayfair Jewelers, Next Door Kitchen & Bar, O'Brien Pharmacy, RuthCaswell.Arbonne.com, T-Shirt Graphics, and Wilson Property Maintenance as Elm Leaf Cluster Sponsors at \$100. Businesses providing gift certificates for the runners were as follows: A Bead Just So, Anna's Flowers, Ballston Spa Country Club, Bella Nani Day Spa, Beverly's Eatery, Corina's Jewelry & Fine Crafts, Curtis Lumber, Cusato's Pizzeria, Daisy Dry Goods Antiques and Gifts, Dehn's Flowers, Doheny Oil Corp., Double M Haunted Hayride, Dunning Street Station Bar & Grill, Fleet Feet-Malta, Gore Mountain, Henry's Tavern, Hoffman's Car Wash (donated by BSUMC), Inspirational Touch Massage Therapy, Kimberly Leahey (Kilaarts), Lakeridge Restaurant, MyGym, Ovations Salon, Pizza Etc., Price Chopper/Market 32, Route 50 Diner, Russell's Deli, RuthCaswell.Arbonne.com, Sanders Meat Market, Straight Edge Barbershop, 13 North Restaurant, the Village Barber, and the Whitehouse Restaurant. Also, Stewart's Shops provided bagels and Target provided water, fruit, and other refreshments and paper products for the runners after the race.

**We encourage church members and friends to please remember and support these sponsors and local businesses whenever you can over the next year.**

We sincerely thank the many BSUMC volunteers that provided baked goods and helped with the race, and also those that participated by registering to run/walk. We would also like to thank the staff and veterans of the VCHC Program who volunteered or walked/ran the day of the race. Without everyone's help the race would not have been another successful year for the 12<sup>th</sup> Annual Falling Leaves 5K. Finally, we would also like to thank the many organizations that made our race a success by helping to put on the race October 6<sup>th</sup>: including the Village of Ballston Spa, especially Jeff Gawrys and the DPW crew and Chief of Police-David Bush; the Village Fire Police; David Forbes of the Town of Milton; and the Ballston Spa Ambulance Corps.

**5K Race Committee:** Gary Wilson, Lynne Blake, Stan Lockwood, Betsy Sillars and Alaina Greco

**Gratitude for Flood Buckets**

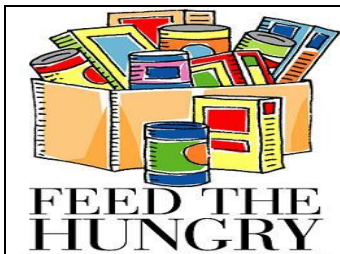
Due to your generosity, two complete Flood Buckets have been filled, with more supplies starting on a third bucket. The need for these supplies is always present so feel free to donate at any time. The complete list of items can be found at [unyumc.org](http://unyumc.org), or you can always write a check to BSUMC with "Flood Buckets" in the Memo line. Please note: the items are very specific so everything can fit into the bucket. There are no exceptions. Contact: Linda Sheeran at 518-885-1729 or [lsheeran6@gmail.com](mailto:lsheeran6@gmail.com)

**Ballston Spa United Methodist Church + Hoffman Car Wash**

The Hoffman Car Wash has ended and \$90 was made. Thank you one and all for your purchases.

**Adopt a Family**

We adopted a family for Christmas and all of the wish tags have been taken. Please remember to return your unwrapped gifts with the tags attached by Sunday, December 2. Thank you for helping to make a child's Christmas a little happier.



**The Food Pantry**

The Food Pantry continues to be very busy serving many families the month of November. Thanks to the Boy Scouts for their collection of food. The food boxes from Hannaford have also been received. This generosity has helped us to serve the people who need it the most.

Personal care items are always needed as well as dish soap and toilet paper.

Thank you for all the volunteers who have helped in any way at the Food Pantry.

**Regional Food Bank 2018 Sunday, December 16, 1-3 pm**

The need for volunteers is especially great during the holidays, so we are heading to Latham to sort their abundance of donations! Dress comfortably, and in layers. Bring a bag lunch to church. We will gather downstairs after Coffee Hour to eat, and then carpool to leave by 12:30. Guptill's is closed for the season, so Stewart's will be our ice cream and fellowship stop afterwards. All ages are strongly encouraged to help. The sign-up sheet will be located on the Mission Table in the back of the sanctuary. Contact: Linda Sheeran- 518-885-1729, or [lsheeran6@gmail.com](mailto:lsheeran6@gmail.com).



# Sunday School is Cool



Hope you have checked out the new downstairs winter bulletin board! Our kids were excited to be a part of its making. Thanks to Katie Warner for taking down the old one and putting up the awesome new one! Our Youth Group did an outstanding job decorating the large upstairs Sunday School area. Thanks for that service project.

The Sunday School asks that you do not leave your old craft supplies, sidewalk chalk, crayons, markers, etc. We have enough to supply the entire village and are finding it is creating clutter in our supply room that is small to begin with. Please consult a teacher before leaving items in our rooms. Thanks bunches!

The November First Friday was a great success! Thanks for local artist Mark Blech for helping us get into the spotlight. We are taking that momentum and having our annual First Friday on December 6 which is the same night as the Santa Parade in town. Please join us that night from 5:30 to 7:00. The parade begins around 7 but gets to our church grounds by around 7:30. We have many things in the works! Cathy King has graciously pre-recorded Christmas hymns to listen to in the sanctuary. We have a great group of people (including our youth group and SS teachers) planning on being here to serve hot cocoa and baked items to our visitors. We also will have crafts for children and for the young-at-heart! Please join us by either offering a baked or store-bought cookie item, lending a needed hand, or just by being there to show the town what we are all about! Grab a hot cocoa, some snacks and get warm in the sanctuary with the love we share and the church heating!!

The Christmas Pageant is on December 16 during regular church service. Make sure you can come and see our school kids make the Christmas story come alive!

Thanks to all those who contributed to the Christmas for a child mission sponsored by the Sunday School. Look for our next mission event in January!

## Church Happenings

### Happy One-Year Anniversary, Pastor Kelly!

It was one year ago on January 1 that Pastor Kelly started her journey with us. We are grateful for this past year, and look forward to growing together in the future. Should you ever have a concern with (or compliment for!) Pastor Kelly, or any of our staff - the Custodian, the Music Director, or the Office Manager - please feel free to contact any member of the Staff Parish Relations Committee (SPRC) - Jackie Capone, Chair; Thelma Armer, Danielle Coffey, Tom Forster, Joyce Garlock, Joan Glossner, Riley Schmidt (Youth Member), Linda Sheeran (Lay Member to Annual Conference), Diane Solotruck, or Melissa Taylor.

### Music Notes

The voice choir rehearses on Monday evenings from 6:00 to 7:30 pm in the Connections Café. We are learning new pieces for the Christmas season. Come join and enjoy the warm fellowship of this group as we lift our voices in praise!

Bell choir rehearsals are on Sundays after church in the sanctuary. All interested ringers are welcome, whether they have experience or not. Come experience the joyous friendship of this group!

If enough children in the second grade and above are interested, we will start a children's bell choir. A minimum of six ringers are needed. No experience is necessary. Rehearsals will take place Sunday evenings from 6:00 to 7:00 pm in the sanctuary. Please contact Cathy King with questions or to let her know of your interest. Cathy can be reached at (518) 538-4523 or [cathys.notes@gmail.com](mailto:cathys.notes@gmail.com).







### **First Fridays! #LiveBspa**

On December 7<sup>th</sup> we will have our annual First Friday Christmas event! Some activities include crafts stations for the children in the Connections Café and the high school orchestra performing in the Fellowship Room, as well as hot cocoa and baked items for all participants. It gets topped off by watching the annual Holiday parade! Activities are as follows:

- Crafts for Kids 5:30 to 7:00 pm
- High School Orchestra 5:00 to 6:00 pm
- Enjoying pre-recorded music by our own Cathy King in the decorated Sanctuary 5:30 to 7:00
- Hot cocoa and refreshments all night until after the parade.

Please see Karen Groff if you can help out in any manner with these events at 518-928-1656.

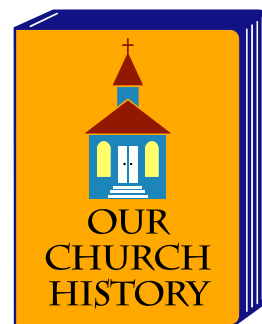
### **Craft Night – Get Creative!**

Do you enjoy doing crafts? Come to the Connections Cafe on Thursday December 6<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 pm. Try a craft or bring one of your own to work on. Learn something new. This is hosted by our church, but hopefully friends in the community will join us. The vision is for this to be low (or no) cost, but a great time of fellowship.

Come and check this out, even if you haven't made up your mind. We promise you lots of great conversation, some laughs and a nice dessert to enjoy also.

### **Celebrating the Work of Our Trustees**

There has been much activity in our church buildings and on our grounds as the year ends. In the church house some much needed rails have been placed on the front and back set of stairs. In front of the church and in our parking lot much time and care has been taken in cleaning up fall leaves. Our outside lights are now set to come on as darkness falls. This is another small but important task that trustees take care of each fall, along with furnace inspections and upkeep. A large lift has been in use replacing tiles and doing routine roof work. One of the most visible changes is the new, updated, handicapped accessible bathroom in the front of the church.



### **A Blast from the Past.....**

Here is part two of the story of the construction of our church building. The new cornerstone was laid on October 19, 1892 and work was progressing on schedule for the new church. Then tragedy struck on January 4, 1893 when Nelson R. Vandenburg, the carpentry contractor, fell from the scaffold in the church and died three days later. He was sixty years old, survived by his wife, two sons, three daughters, one step-son, three brothers and three sisters. He was an honorary member of the Eagle Hose Co. #1, a member of the Franklin Lodge No. 90 and served as a Village Trustee in 1871 and 1884 - 1886.

Mr. Vandenburg's bondsmen refused to go on with the contract and demanded a settlement from the Building Committee. The Committee was not able to re-let the contract for a reasonable price. The church stood there in mid-winter without a roof, exposed to the elements. Finally, the Building Committee made a decision to carry on with the work only during daylight hours. Workers were hired and work was pushed ahead as quickly as possible. Eventually a contract was made with R.C. Vandenburg for materials and DeRoy DeGarmo for the carpentry work at a cost of \$5300. This was a very difficult time for our church as the congregation was deeply anguished over the tragic accident, and there was a lot of time and money lost bringing the church to completion.

The Dedication Service for the new building was on December 17, 1893 which included both a morning and evening service. Bishop John P. Newman preached at the morning service and former pastor Rev. John H. Coleman preached at the evening service. The December 19, 1893 article in *The Saratogian* described the new church. The building was built of red brick with grey stone and terra cotta trimmings. The roof has numerous gables and in front are two small towers and on the north is a steeple over 100 feet high. There are two entrances and main auditorium that is 80 feet by 70 feet and can seat about six hundred people.

The designer of the interior was W.H. Ayers of Gloversville. The walls are painted a soft salmon color with reliefs in light blue and darker shades of salmon. All the windows are stained glass and are memorials to various people with the exception of two windows. (Histories of the window dedications will be in another issue.) The organ stands directly behind the pulpit. It was built and installed by J.W. Steere and Sons of Springfield, MA for \$1600. It had a water motor with 23 stops and nearly 1000 pipes.

The upstairs Sunday School area has six spacious classrooms and decorations and woodwork that correspond to the auditorium. The basement will be used as a kitchen and dining room, with church parlors where all the social events will be held. The building is lighted by electricity and heated by hot air. The ceiling is finished in spruce. The woodwork finish is red oak.

The bell was purchased from the Meneely and Co. in West Troy. The bell was installed in September 1893 and weighs 3069 pounds and is made of genuine cast bronze. The inscription reads as follows:

THE FIRST METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH  
BALLSTON SPA, NEW YORK 1893  
"LOVE ONE ANOTHER"  
GLORY TO GOD IN THE HIGHEST AND ON  
EARTH PEACE, GOOD WILL TOWARD MEN.  
COMMITTEE: M.J. ESMOND  
J.C. RUSSUM

Thanks be to God for all the hands that built our beautiful Church! Happy 125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of our building!

Historically submitted,  
Karen Staulters

### **Bishop Webb to host Fall Gatherings centering around "A Way Forward"**

Following the 2016 General Conference, the Commission on a Way Forward was formed to deliberate and help the General Conference address the issue of sexuality in The United Methodist Church. The Commission was made up of 32 individuals, including eight bishops, 13 other clergy members, and 11 lay members. They will present a report during a Special Session of the 2019 General Conference, which will be held February 23-26, 2019 in St. Louis, Missouri.

This fall, Upper New York Area Resident Bishop Mark J. Webb is hosting six gatherings around the Conference in preparation for Special Session of General Conference to talk about Commission on a Way Forward for The United Methodist Church.

The regional gatherings will include a presentation of the plan and process of General Conference, a time to remember our mission, and worship and prayer. The next session nearest to the Adirondack District is December 2, 4-6 PM at Shenendehowa UMC. For more information contact Linda Sheeran, [lsheeran6@gmail.com](mailto:lsheeran6@gmail.com) or 518-885-1729.




### **Looking Ahead in Worship**

**December 2** – First Sunday in Advent – Hope; Keep Alert!  
**December 9** – Second Sunday in Advent – Peace; Getting Ready For Jesus  
**December 16** - Third Sunday in Advent – Children’s Christmas Pageant  
**December 23** – Fourth Sunday in Advent – Love; Mary’s Contagious Joy  
**December 24** – Christmas Eve; **Jesus is Born!**

### **“Adventus”**

By Lauren Kay Shock

How shall I decorate my life for your coming -  
 with baubles and garlands and wreaths?  
 Rather, enlighten me with your Spirit, O God,  
 that my being would shine with your light.  
 Decorate my heart with kindness and love,  
 Adorn my life with garlands of joy!  
 And may your peace be a wreath upon my head  
 that I might glorify you forever.

	<p>12/1 Marian Phillips, Cherrie Sanders          12/4 Louisa Heffernan          12/6 Melody Babcock          12/7 Michael Conley          12/10 Jean Keehan, Henry Lotto, Grace Lotto          12/14 Heather Leggieri          12/15 Dan Fenton, Glenn Harrison          12/16 Mark LeRoy          12/23 Kesandra Husselbeck          12/31 Shelley Fenton</p>
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**Please let the Church Office know if there are any additions and/or corrections.**



### **Losses in our Church Family**

Gertrude E. LaDucer 10/28/1946 – 11/12/2018

Betty R. MacMillin 11/23/1931 – 11/15/2018



# December

## Newsletter Deadline:

The deadline date for the January issue of *The Tidings* newsletter is December 20<sup>th</sup>. You may e-mail your article to [bsumc@albany.twcbc.com](mailto:bsumc@albany.twcbc.com), drop it off, or mail it to the office. Anyone may submit an article for the newsletter.



**Sunday Worship 10 AM - Nursery Care Available**  
**Sunday School 10:15 AM**

## Ballston Spa United Methodist Church

101 Milton Avenue  
Ballston Spa, NY 12020

Address Service Requested

## *December Tidings*

### **Church Office Phone**

518-885-6886

### **Office Hours**

Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday  
10:00 AM – 2:00 PM

### **Pastor Kelly Warner**

Tuesday – Thursday (all day)

### **Email**

[bsumc@albany.twcbc.com](mailto:bsumc@albany.twcbc.com)

### **Web Site**

[Ballstonspaumchurch.org](http://Ballstonspaumchurch.org)

*“Open Hearts, Open Minds, Open Doors.”*