
Pastor

Rev. Patti Molik

Minister of Music

Cathy King

Asst. Minister of Music

Kathy Haeger

Office Assistant

Kelly Schmidt

Custodian

Barbara Cope

Lay Leaders

Kerri Preston

David Lotto

Lay Member UNYAC

Linda Sheeran

SPRC Chair

Pat Brewster

Treasurer

Lynne Blake

Finance Chair

Donald VanVranken

Trustee Chair

George Mallette

Christian Education

Grace Paster

Church Council Chair

Gary Wilson

Church Office Phone

885-6886

Office Hours

Mon., Tues., Wed. & Thurs.

9:00 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.

Pastor's Cell Phone

281-4453

E-Mail

bsumc@albany.twcbc.com

Pastor's E-Mail

pastorpatti07@gmail.com

Web Site

ballstonspaumchurch.org

Sunday Worship

10:00 a.m.

The Tidings

December, 2015
Ballston Spa United Methodist Church
101 Milton Avenue, Ballston Spa, NY 12020

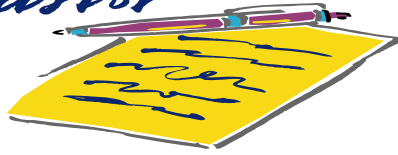
12-1 Finance (P)	7:00 PM
12-2 Bible Study (P)	10:00 AM
12-2 Bible Study (P)	7:00 PM
12-3 Trustees (P)	7:00 PM
12-4 BSHS Orchestra (FR)	5:00 PM
12-4 Youth Groups offering refreshments/activities (P)	5:45 PM
12-5 Roast Beef Dinner (FR)	4:00-6:30 PM
12-6 Worship and Sunday School	10:00 AM
12-6 LIFE Youth Group (SS)	after worship
12-6 Adult Bell Choir Rehearsal	after worship
12-6 Children's Bell Choir Rehearsal (S)	6:00 PM
12-7 Gracious Notes (P)	6:00 PM
12-7 Voice Choir Rehearsal (P)	7:00 PM
12-8 Church Council (P)	7:00 PM
12-9 Bible Study (P)	10:00 AM
12-9 Bible Study (P)	7:00 PM
12-12 Holiday Childcare (P)	10:00 AM-2:00 PM
12-13 Worship and Sunday School	10:00 AM
12-13 Adult Bell Choir	after worship
12-13 Children's Bell Choir Rehearsal (S)	6:00 PM
12-13 Ecumenical Choir Christmas Concert @ First Baptist Church	6:00 PM
12-14 Gracious Notes (S)	6:00 PM
12-14 Voice Choir Rehearsal (S)	7:00 PM
12-18 FOGGS (4 th & 5 th grade) Youth Group (FR)	6:00-7:30 PM
12-19 LIFE Youth Group (P)	11:00 AM-2:00 PM
12-19 Free Lunch (FR)	11:30 AM
12-20 Worship/Sunday School Christmas Program	10:00 AM
12-20 Fair Trade Sale after worship	
12-20 Adult Bell Choir Rehearsal	after worship
12-20 Children's Bell Choir Rehearsal (S)	6:00 PM
12-21 Gracious Notes (S)	6:00 PM
12-21 Voice Choir Rehearsal (S)	7:00 PM
12-24 Christmas Eve Service	7:00 PM
12-25 Merry Christmas	
12-27 Worship and Sunday School	10:00 AM
12-27 All Choirs Party (FR)	after worship

S=Sanctuary, FR=Fellowship Room, P=Parlor, CH=Church House, HSR=High School Room, SS=Sunday School Area



December

From the Pastor



Greetings in Jesus Name,

We begin the season of Advent with words which we hear spoken and sung, "peace on earth, good will to men".

This year seems to be one where we need God even more. We are surrounded with acts of violence all around the world. All you have to do is pick up the newspaper or watch the world news these days to be bombarded with senseless acts of violence against all people.

Jesus came into a world that is not much different today than it was in his time. The people of Israel were being persecuted by Rome and all the others that were trying to have some type of power and control over them.

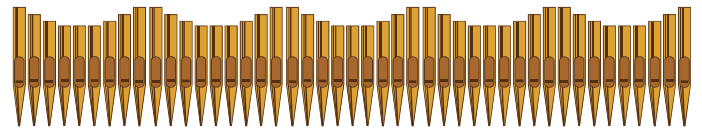
Yet God sent Jesus for that specific purpose, to bring peace through the life of God's son. That all the world would know that love does prevail, if we allow God to rule and reign in our hearts.

So then, during the Season of Advent, let us always pray for peace; in our homes, towns, churches, countries, but most of all pray to have peace in your heart, that only Jesus can bring through his saving grace.

Here is a prayer for you this month: "Lord, peace is the foundation of life; grant us the peace and stability that will enable us to live with each other without fear and anxiety." (www.paulinesafrica.org.Nov.17,2015)

Until next month, be blessed and meet the giver of eternal peace, JESUS!

Pastor Patti



Church Organist/Keyboard Player

The Ballston Spa UMC is in need of a church organist/keyboard player beginning Jan.1, 2016. The responsibilities are Sunday morning for 10 am service, special services during the holiday of Easter and Monday evenings for Gracious Notes/choir practice. If you or anyone you know is interested please contact the church office.



Birthdays

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
12-24 Mary Jane Hale
12-31 Shelley Fenton

Please let the Church Office know if there are any additions and/or corrections.



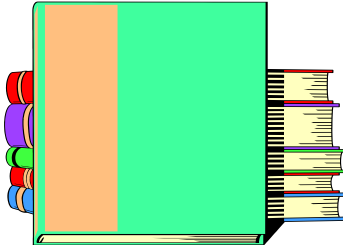
Does the office have your e-mail address?

Contact the office at bsumc@albany.twcbc.com so we can add you to our mailing list. Please let us know if you'd like to receive **The Tidings** electronically. Also, remember to visit our website (www.ballstonspaumchurch.org) and find BSUMC on **Facebook** so you can keep up-to-date on all of the good things happening at our church!



Hanging of the Greens

Saturday, November 28th at 10:00 am. Everyone is invited. Many hands make light work so any time that you can give would be much appreciated. Light refreshments will be served.



Library Corner

THE CHRISTMAS CANDLE

Max Lucado

In a tiny town straight out of a Dickens novel, the citizens believe in miracles. Every twenty-five years the candlemaker is visited by an angel—and when one single candle is lit, miracles aren't far behind.

But this year it seems that the age of miracles is past. The new reverend is uncomfortable with the villagers' belief in angels and miraculous candles. Yet a string of miracles is just what the village needs this Christmas. And no one could use one more than the cynical young reverend.

The Christmas Candle explores the mystery of faith and the wonders of love. It's a reminder that when hope and forgiveness meet, miracles are always possible. (from the book jacket)

Marilynn Peterson

BSUMC EMAIL PRAYER MINISTRY

If you are interested in being a member of our BSUMC email prayer ministry, please contact Peggy Traver at pchurchmouse@earthlink.net.

Anyone may also submit prayer requests in this way, but be certain to get permission from the individual or family concerned.

Fair Trade items will be offered for sale following the worship service on November 29th and December 20th, just in time for the Christmas!! We will have dark chocolate candy bars, hot cocoa, tea and coffee (including hazelnut).

Thank you to all members for supporting the BSUMC Fair Trade efforts through the purchase of these fair trade items for your own use, or as gifts, and also through your support of the church coffee hour following Sunday church services.



♪ Praise singers and guitarists are needed to lead the praise set the first Sunday of each month. Rehearsals are at 9:15 prior to the service – you do not have to be a part of the voice choir to sing with the praise team!

♪ Adult voice choir is rehearsing on Monday nights at 7:00 pm.

♪ Children's voice choir will be on a break until further notice.

♪ ABC (Adult Bell Choir) is rehearsing on Sunday after worship.

♪ CBC (Children's Bell Choir) is rehearsing at 6:00 pm on Sunday evening.



New Tunes

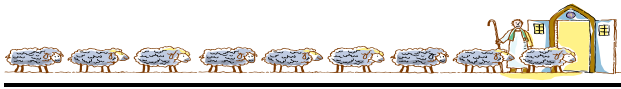
Do you ever listen to some of the new songs we sing in church and wonder how other folks seem to already know them? Christian radio is the answer. If you would like to give it a try, check out these local stations.

93.7- Air1

94.5- KLove

94.9- Sounds of Life

Money raised from local charities from the 9th Annual Falling Leaves 5K run was \$5,668.



What's New in Sunday School

Beginning on December 6th, we will be having Sunday School every week, even on Communion Sundays. It is our hope that this will enable more children to take part in the Sacrament of Communion each month with their families.

We are also looking forward to another Group Gathering on November 29th, which is the first Sunday of Advent. Group Gatherings are a time for all of the children (pre-k through 6th grade) to join together in one common activity/lesson. Any adult in the church is welcome to help with a Group Gathering. Please see Holly Flynn or myself if you are interested.

Thank you to everyone who returned their bags of food for the Food Pantry. If you haven't already done so, you can bring them in anytime and put them in the red boxes in the back of the sanctuary. The Food Pantry is always in need of donations so that they can continue to serve so many needy families in our community.

Another 'thank you' to our church family for your support of our Adopt-A-Family program! We feel very blessed that we are able to help a family in our community every year by providing gifts to help them have a Merry Christmas.

Mark your calendars! The Sunday School Christmas Program will be held on **Sunday, December 20th**! Practices will take place during Sunday School time prior to the service on the 20th. You won't want to miss it!

Wishing you all the blessings of the season,
Grace Paster, Director of Children's Ministry



A HUGE "thank you" to everyone that helped with BSUMC's first Make-A-Difference Day!!

We had 14 volunteers working at either the Shelters of Saratoga, or the Gateway House of Peace in Ballston Spa. Many different projects were tackled at each site. In addition, other BSUMC volunteers graciously contributed food for meals to be brought to each site, which were very appreciatively received.

Look for more Make-A-Difference Days in the future!



Africa 360 is an initiative of the Upper New York Conference of the United Methodist Church. It combines initiatives of Imagine No Malaria and Africa University to fight poverty and disease in Africa and train its future leaders. Our Bishop, Mark J. Webb, has challenged each church in our conference to bring \$1000 to Annual Conference in 2016. The "God Blesses Us" t-shirt sales got us started in that goal bringing in \$104. More activities will be planned for the year.

Linda Sheeran- 885-1729 or lsheeran6@gmail.com

Impact at a Glance:

Malaria kills **1** child every minute.

Approximately **1500** students are enrolled full-time at **Africa University** each academic year.

In Africa, the most affected continent, deaths due to malaria have **declined** by **49%** over the last decade, yet **594,000 deaths** still occur yearly.

More than **50%** of Africa University's students are **female**.



Regional Food Bank Warehouse- Sunday, January 10, 2016, 1-3 pm

We are on calendar for volunteering in the Warehouse in Latham! We will be sorting and re-boxing donated food or other supplies. Bring a bag lunch to eat after church and we will car pool down together. Anyone 12 years of age and older is most welcome. Contact: Linda Sheeran at 885-1729 or lsheeran6@gmail.com.

Don't want to wait that long to help? See Linda to set up a time this fall to volunteer. Weeknight and Saturday shifts need to be filled too!



Helping to decorate our sanctuary with a poinsettia is a beautiful offering to symbolize the Christmas Holiday. The church office is accepting orders for Christmas poinsettias. All orders must be placed by Thursday, December 10th. Make checks payable to the Briarwood Flower & Gift Shoppe.

CHRISTMAS POINSETTIA ORDER FORM

Given by: _____

Phone Number: _____

In Memory/In Honor of: _____

Poinsettia: \$13.00

Please feel free to remove your plant after the Christmas Eve Service to use in your home or share with someone special.





Please join us for worship at 10:00 am on Sunday Mornings.

November 28th – Hanging of the Greens at 10:00 am.

December 13th – Christmas Ecumenical Choir Concert 6:00 pm at the
First Baptist Church.

December 20th – Children's Christmas Program during the worship service.

December 24th – Christmas Eve Service at 7:00 pm.

*Christ
IS Coming!*



Finance Corner

If you are like me, you looked at the date on this issue of **The Tidings** and wondered if there's a mistake. It can't be December so quickly, the last month of the year.

What happened to the other eleven months of 2015? It really is December and, together with all the activity in celebration of the birth of our Lord Jesus, we are facing the end of yet another year.

The time has come to settle accounts in anticipation of preparing for another new year that begins, ready or not, with next month. The Treasurer advises that we are carrying over a deficit of approximately \$8,000, current to October 31st. This figure will correct somewhat when collections for the holidays are added in a final accounting at year's end, but I regretfully report here that we will most likely end the 2015 fiscal year with a significant deficit.

The amount of deficit depends upon the extent to which members honor their pledges. Members are respectfully reminded how much the Church depends upon your pledges. At this time of year, it seems particularly appropriate to turn to Matthew for the Christmas story. The Magi who sought the newborn King of the Jews brought gifts when they visited the Christ child. They had travelled across the desert, relying solely on faith and following a star. Matthew 2: 10-11. As a Church family, we are relying on faith, and members are asked now to fulfill contracts that were entered into voluntarily. Your contribution is tax deductible and you will receive appropriate documentation in time for income tax filing. If you elect to participate in the VANCO program, your contribution can come directly from your designated bank or credit union account. You'll then be freed from the weekly obligation of writing a check. Simply call me or contact the Church Office for more information. With VANCO, you'll receive an itemized accounting statement at tax time and you'll be amazed by how efficient and unburdened you feel all the time.

It really is December. I established that in the first paragraph. Make your life a little easier and join me in celebrating the joy and gift that is Christ's birth!

All the Season's Best,

Don VanVranken



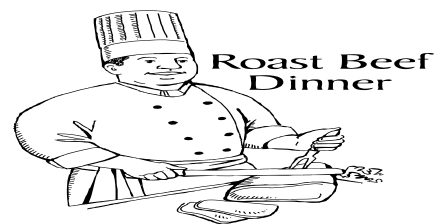
Upper Room Thrift Shop & Food Pantry

The Thrift Shop has lots of good used clothing of all sizes available for \$2.00 a bag, as full as you want to get it. It is open every Tuesday from **9:30 am to noon**. Just come in the front door of the Church House and go up the stairs. Good used clothing in all sizes is accepted. Thank you to all who donate to the thrift shop. For those who are donating clothing we ask if it is possible to try to give seasonal items as our storage is extremely limited in the shop.

The Food Pantry is open every Wednesday from **9:30 am to noon**. Our new entrance is now open, up the ramp and in the side door of the Church House, so come and receive a good variety of food. Visits are limited to once a month.

We are fortunate to have such a giving community that helps provide the pantry with all kinds of food. They sometimes give money in memory of someone. We use that to purchase from the Regional Food Bank in Latham at a good price. We also receive a grant once a year from the Food Bank.

The items we usually need are cereal, canned vegetables, spaghetti sauce and personal care products. Donations for the food pantry and thrift shop can be brought in any time the office is open. Thanks to everyone who has helped in any way to make these projects such a success. Thanks also to those who work in them.



Roast Beef Dinner December 5, 2015

We will hold our annual Roast Beef Dinner on Saturday December 5th in the Fellowship Room ---- 4:00 pm to 6:30 pm. The family-style dinner consists of roast beef, mashed potatoes with gravy, green beans, butternut squash, rolls, pie and a beverage.

Cost: \$13 for adults, \$5 for children 4-12, children under 4 are free. Tickets are available at the door. Take-out dinners will also be available. There will also be a bake sale of homemade goodies.

Come and enjoy the food and hospitality!



Adirondack District Day with Bishop Webb- October 26

A Radical Church!

"Our mission has been given to us and it's the same that has been given to any other church; it comes from Jesus," Bishop Mark J Webb declared. "When the Upper New York Conference was formed, the leadership that led through that formation crafted a vision statement. That vision statement is a picture of God's preferred reality when, together, we are living the mission that Jesus gave us."

Bishop Webb called attendees of the evening session to be the "radical church." "I believe we are here to celebrate the call, not just to be the Church but to be the radical Church, a Church to be used to bring hope and healing and joy and life," Bishop Webb said. "A radical church is intimate and solidly connected to the root, to the stem, to the vine, and that root has been and always will be Jesus Christ."

There are three main characteristics of a radical church: being willing or ready to be used, communicating in other languages, and boldly declaring faith. All three are demonstrated in Acts 2:1-13, 37-47 as the disciples waited in one place when the Holy Spirit came upon them (willing to be used), Acts 2:2-8 as the disciples were given different tongues by the Holy Spirit (communicating in other languages), and Acts 2:14 as Peter proclaims the truth of Jesus (boldly declaring faith). "If we will take on the characteristics of a radical church, we will see the results I believe God intends for the Church," Bishop Webb said. "Radical! Dangerous! That is who and that God is calling us to be. God wants to change us, so that we can be used to change the world through the grace and power of God. Church, it is time for us to rise up; it is time for us to stop letting the world define us and allow God to use us to define and shape the world."



Outreach to Embury Apartments at the Wesley Community

We will be having a Carol Sing at Embury Apartments on Lawrence St. on Sunday, Dec. 13. Set-up time is from 3 - 4 pm, singing from 4-5 pm and Fellowship from 5 - 6 pm. We need help as this is a big undertaking and so important to take Christ out of Church and into the world of the lost.

We will be continuing this outreach in January 2016 but the schedule has not been decided. More dates will appear in the January Tidings. All of BSUM Church is welcome and encouraged to get involved in this new and exciting activity. Come for just the Carol Singing or volunteer to help with setting up, baking for the fellowship time or helping to pack up my car after the event.

I am arranging for some special music at this Christmas event. I am looking for a volunteer soloist from our choirs to do a special song. Let me know if you are available and willing to share your talent at any of these outreach events. Speak to me at church, call me or e-mail if you can be involved in any way. Shirley Andrews, 490-2006, sandrew1@nycap.rr.com.

In the words of Jesus, "GO and make disciples, baptizing them in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit and Lo, I will be with you unto the ends of the earth." (Great Commission)

In Him, with Him and for Him,
Shirley



Newsletter Deadline:

The deadline date for the January issue of *The Tidings* newsletter is December 10th. You may e-mail your article to 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

Ballston Spa United Methodist Church

101 Milton Avenue
Ballston Spa, NY 12020

December Tidings

"Open Hearts, Open Minds, Open Doors"