



Federated Church

A Place to Belong

December

2024

REV. KENNETH
MCKENZIE
PASTOR

KEVIN DIXON
ORGANIST &
CHOIR DIRECTOR

LUANNE BROOKS
CHURCH SECRETARY

Points of Interest

Pastor's Letter

Calendar

Festival of Carols

Blood Drive

Tag Tree

Animal Shelter
Drive

Concerts

December. How can it be? Where did our year go? So much has happened, and most of it happened too fast. And so, it's time to slow down, quiet ourselves, and begin to focus on Christmas. Really focus on Christmas. Not Christmas shopping, not Christmas wrapping, but Christmas. You know, "the good news of great joy that is for all people!"

The season of Advent invites us to spend four weeks in spiritual preparation, re-awakening our hearts to the joy and the glory and the peace that Christmas announces. It affords us the opportunity to reflect on the gifts of God that have shaped our lives, and it should also challenge us to share the news of Jesus Christ with those around us who may only perceive Christmas as a festive holiday with lights and inflatable penguins and snow in every Christmas movie. This is not a time for us to be silent, but rather a time for us to boldly proclaim that the child born in Bethlehem is not only God's son, but our Savior as well.

Our church is decorated and ready to go! Our Advent worship services are planned to take us through the story of the birth of Jesus—all you need to do is come and listen and experience (and possibly invite a friend to listen with you). Our Christmas Eve invitations are out and ready to go—all they need is you to deliver them. Our Christmas Eve candles are ready to go--all we need is to fill our sanctuary so that we can share the story of Christmas with all who attend.

Let's make this a Christmas to remember.

Pastor Ken

Applying Bible Principles

It is amazing to contrast our lifestyles with that of the Lord Jesus. Everywhere he went during his three years of public ministry, He reached out to people in need of his touch. He made ministering to people a top priority in his life.

Ken Gire describes one such incident in his book, *Intimate Moments With the Savior*:

. . . she thinks, if I can find this Jesus and but touch the fringe of his garment, I can be cleansed and made whole. And so, with that thin thread of faith, this frail needle of a woman stitches her way through the crowd. . . .

This desperate woman pushes her empty hand through a broken seam in the crowd and, for a fleeting moment, clutches the corner of his garment. Jesus is pulled back. Not by the grasp of her hands so much as by the grasp of her faith. Power leaves him to surge through the hemorrhaging woman, and immediately she feels the rush of her youthful health returning. In the flood of those feelings, she releases her grasp and is swept away by the crowd.

But Jesus doesn't let her get away. Although the crowd was pressing in on him, her touch was different. And that touch stopped him in his tracks. How ready Jesus is to respond to the hand of outstretched faith.

Why was Jesus ready to respond to that woman? Why did he take time to get involved? The answer is very simple: He had made needy, hurting people a top priority. This woman's touch was not an imposition or an interruption to Jesus in his ministry. In fact, according to Luke 19:10, it was for people like her that he came!

What does that great story have to do with us? The answer is also very simple: As God's people serving in ministry here at The Federated Church, we are to make the needy, hurting people we encounter along life's way a top priority. Oh, they may not have the same problem this dear woman had, but rest assured, everyone we meet has a need to be touched with the love of Christ through us.

Theresa of Avila said:

Christ has no body now on earth but yours, no hands but yours, no feet but yours; yours are the eyes through which he is to look with compassion on the world; yours are the feet with which he is to go about doing good; and yours the hands with which he is to bless us now.

As we think about our lives, may God give us the grace and the determination to use our time in ministry to needy, hurting people who are in need of a touch from the Savior. May God give us the grace and determination — for Jesus' sake — to make them a top priority, even as he did.

December

2024

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|--|-------------------------------------|---|--|--------------------------------------|---|---|
| 1 9:30 am Worship Service 2:00 pm Festival of Carols | 2 7:00 Finance, Bldgs. & Grds | 3 9:30 am Coffee, Clergy & Conv. 5:00-7:00 pm Girl Scouts | 4 WIC 9:30 am – 2:00 pm | 5 6:00 pm Bells 7:00 pm Choir | 6 | 7 |
| 8 9:30 am Worship Service 10:30 am Coffee hour | 9 | 10 9:30 am Coffee, Clergy & Conv. 5:00-7:00 pm Girl Scouts | 11 | 12 6:00 pm Bells 7:00 pm Choir | 13 1:00 pm – 6:00 pm Blood Drive | 14 |
| 15 9:30 am Worship Service 10:30 am Coffee hour | 16 7:00 pm Church Council | 17 9:30 am Coffee, Clergy & Conv. 5:00-7:00 pm Girl Scouts | 18 | 19 7:00 pm Choir | 20 | 21 10:00- Noon Diaper Distribution |
| 22 9:30 am Worship Service 10:30 am Coffee hour | 23 | 24 9:30 am Coffee, Clergy & Conv. 8:00 pm Christmas Eve Service | 25 Christmas Day Church Office Closed | 26 Church Office Closed | 27 | 28 |
| 29 9:30 am Worship Service 10:30 am Coffee hour | 30 | 31 9:30 am Coffee, Clergy & Conv. | | | | |

**Coffee,
Clergy,
&
Conversation**
Tuesdays
9:30 – 11:00 AM
Join Us!



Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year from the staff.

Ken, Kevin, Luanne, and Brett

**Festival
of Carols**

**Sunday,
December 1st,
2PM**

The graphic is framed in red and contains several festive illustrations: a Christmas tree with gifts, a string of colorful lights, wrapped gifts, a wreath, and three snowmen singing. The text "Festival of Carols" is written in a large, black, serif font, with the lights string passing through the letters. Below the title, the date and time "Sunday, December 1st, 2PM" are written in a red, serif font.



Community Singers

Present their annual Christmas Concert

Sunday, December 15th, at 7:00 pm

Mt. Markham High School

No admission charge – Refreshments



**American
Red Cross**

Blood Drive

**Friday, December 13th is the last blood drive of the year.
Please note the day change it is on a Friday not a
Wednesday.**

Time 1pm – 6pm

To schedule your appointment

Call 1-800-Red Cross, RedCrossBlood.org or Download the
Donor App.

Everyone who donates will receive a \$15 e-gift card to
merchant of your choice

December 21st
10am - Noon

Running low? We can help!
It Takes a Village Diaper Bank
West Winfield
VillageDiapers.FedChurch@gmail.com

Gently Used. Greatly Needed.
PASS IT ON
Community Closet for Baby
West Winfield
VillageDiapers.FedChurch@gmail.com
An Outreach of the Federated Church of West Winfield

Christmas Eve Worship Service December 24th, 8PM



Logan Clark's 8th Annual Animal Shelter Food Drive



We'll be collecting
pet food and supplies
through Sunday the 15th
to help support Logan
as he once again donates
all of his birthday gifts
to local shelters.

Items Needed:

| | |
|-----------------------|------------------------|
| Paper towels | 39 gallon garbage bags |
| Method floor cleaner | Dish Detergent |
| Dry Dog food | Dry Cat food |
| Puppy food | Kitten food |
| Blankets, Towels etc. | Pet Friendly Ice melt |
| Martingale Collars | Canned Dog food |
| Canned Cat food | Dog and Cat treats |
| Dog and Cat toys | Clay Cat litter |
| Pine Pellet litter | Sponges |
| HE Laundry detergent | Pine Sol |

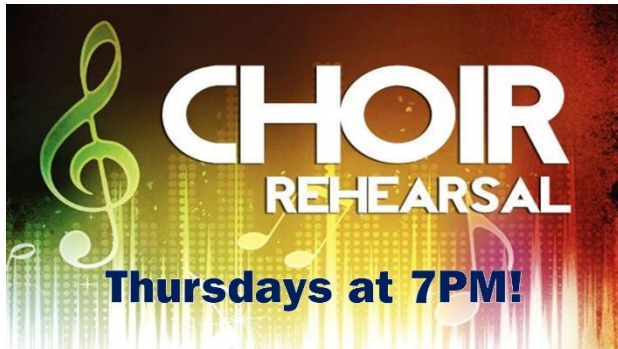
Poinsettias

We will be adorning the sanctuary with poinsettias for the Christmas season.

Please let Luanne know if you would like it in memory of loved one for the bulletin.

Tag Tree

The tag tree is in the sanctuary. Each adult has one tag and each child has two. There are suggestions on the tags use your own judgement you are not required to purchase everything. The deadline to return gifts is December 15th. Please have them wrapped and the original tag taped on package. This will give us time to get everything arranged and ready for delivery on Saturday, December 21st.



White Gift

The Worship Board provides Christmas gifts to our sick and shut-ins each year. This year they are gifting 2025 Daily Guidepost. The envelope marked "White Gift Offering" are for this purpose. Thank you for your generosity.

A Christmas Mosaic

Presented by Mohawk Valley Choral Society



Directed by Mr. David Kolb

Sunday December 8, 2024 @ 3:00 pm

Our Lady of Lourdes Church of Mary,

Mother of Our Savior Parish

2222 Genesee Street, Utica

Tickets: \$12 in advance, \$15 at the door

For more information see Gail Royce

FAX: 315-822-6321

CHURCH: 315-822-6321

WEBSITE:

WestWinfieldFederatedChurch.org

E-MAIL:

Fedchurch66@gmail.com

PastorKen.FedChurch@yahoo.com



THE FEDERATED CHURCH

P.O. BOX 337

452 EAST MAIN STREET

WEST WINFIELD, NY 13491