

First Presbyterian Church

Pres Notes

First Presbyterian Church
2943 Westinghouse Road
Horseheads, New York 14845



Phone: (607) 739-3854

Fax: (607) 739-3855

www.horseheadsfirstpres.org

Secretary's email: hfpcoffice@verizon.net



“While it is good that we seek to know the Holy One, it is probably not so good to presume that we ever complete the task.”

— Dietrich Bonhoeffer, *God Is in the Manger: Reflections on Advent and Christmas*

Happy Advent! That's not a phrase folks generally use, but it might be more appropriate than beginning to say Merry Christmas on December 1st, the date that Advent begins this year. If we're patient, Advent is a time of preparation for the Christ child and is full of joy, of wonder, and even of mystery. Often our patience wears out sooner than we can cross off the days on the seasons' calendar. This is the wonderful instruction of Dietrich Bonhoeffer's quote, above. When we embrace the mystery of the season, the opportunity to grow spiritually is unlimited. It is, as he says, “probably not so good to presume that we ever complete the task.”

This Advent, amidst Christmas planning, gift giving and eggnog toasting, it is worth noting and reflecting on the fact that all the major religions of the western world celebrate holidays in this season. Even some non-religious folks celebrate, “in the bleak mid-winter.” My daughter has chosen not to celebrate Christmas anymore but still celebrates the Winter Solstice on December 21st. So, even if we've read all the Advent lectionary texts and the birth narratives of Matthew and Luke and completed our Advent devotionals, there is still so much more to learn about God's incredible creation from our sisters and brothers.

Advent is truly a season of joy, wonder and mystery! The time spent with family and friends, some seldom seen, can be rejuvenating and inspiring as we share stories and memories. The joy children bring to our gatherings warms the heart as we take in their wonder at the season – setting up the crèche nativity, retelling the story of the holy child, the kindnesses exchanged between strangers and neighbors. For adults, this wonder is something for us to soak up. We too often lose our sense of the mystery of Advent and the Christmastide. Wrapped up in to-do lists and daily routines, the excitement of the first snowfall can be lost on us. The mystery of God taking the form of a baby, can be perplexing, but still lost in our busy-ness.

Friends, this holiday season there is much mystery for us to ponder – within our own faith, for certain, but also in our sister faiths, as Jews celebrate Hanukkah, the dedication of the Second Temple, and as Muslims celebrate Mawlid An-Nabi, the birth of the prophet Mohammed; and, even for our non-theistic family and friends this is a season of wonder.

As we journey through Advent making time to ponder Christ among us, God's love made manifest, the king of kings born in a stable, these are wonder inspiring ideas. May we be inspired to explore the mystery of this holy season. Happy Advent!

God's Grace and Peace be with you,
Aaron



Thank you to all who participated in
Operation Christmas Child.

We collected 28 boxes!

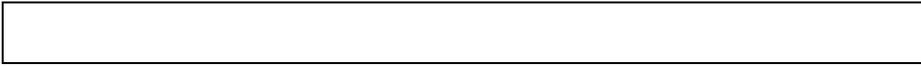
These boxes will make a huge difference in
the lives of children around the world.

God Bless You!

The Mission Committee



There is a Hat and Mitten Tree in the
Narthex for the Advent Season. Clothes
pins are available to hang the hats and
mittens on the tree. The hats and mittens
will be donated to a local school.





Please join us

for the

Men's Breakfast

Saturday, December 7th at 9:00 am.

On the Menu:

French Toast, Bacon, Home Fries, Coffee,
and Juice.

FREE COMMUNITY DINNER



Friday, December 13th
4:30 pm

**The newsletter deadline for January's
issue of Press Notes is Wednesday
December 18th**



December 2019

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 10:30a Worship Service	2	3 10:00a Bible Study	4 10:00a Coffee & Conversation 6:00p Bell Choir 7:15p Choir	5 1:00p Prayer Shawl Group	6	7 9:00a Men's Breakfast
8 10:30a Worship Service	9	10 10:00a Bible Study	11 10:00a Coffee & Conversation 6:00p Bell Choir 7:15p Choir	12	13 4:30p Free Community Dinner	14
15 10:30a Worship Service	16	17 10:00a Bible Study	18 10:00a Coffee & Conversation 6:00p Bell Choir 7:15p Choir	19	20	21
22 10:30a Worship Service 11:30a Deacon's Meeting	23	24 7:00p Christmas Eve Service	25 <i>Christmas</i>	26	27	28
29 10:30a Worship Service	30	31 10:00a Bible Study				



December	LAY READER	HEAD USHER	Coffee Hour	Intinction Communion
1st	Ellen Benedict	Guy Stillman	Deacons	Pastor Lay Reader Doug Laney Marty Oldfield Jan Stillman Susan Cotton
8th	Allen Oldfield	Joe Matejka	B&G / Mission	
15th	Marty Oldfield	Jim McIntosh	Community Meal	
22nd	Jan Stillman	Doug Day	Christian Discipleship	
Christmas Eve	TBA			
29th	TBA	TBA	Session	

POINSETTIAS FOR CHRISTMAS

Provided by Zeigler Florists



Once again, Our Sanctuary will be filled with the beauty of pink and red poinsettias in bloom.

If you would like to purchase one of these beautiful, Christmas plants in honor or in memory of a friend or loved one, please fill out the information below & return the form with a check and drop it in the offering plate during the morning worship service. You may also slip it under the church office door.

**Make checks payable to: First Presbyterian Church
Memo: Poinsettia**

The name of our donors will be acknowledged in our Christmas Eve bulletin. Donors may take the plants home or give them away after the Christmas Eve worship service.

***Orders MUST BE turned in to the office by
Sunday, Dec. 8th by 11:30 am
(Sorry, no late orders will be accepted...)***



Please detach and return order form

Number of plants (\$15.00 EA):

_____ Red

_____ Pink

In Honor Of:

In Memory Of:

Given by: