

SCOTCH PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



DECEMBER 2019

PARSON TO PERSON

A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse, and a branch shall grow out of his roots. ²The spirit of the LORD shall rest on him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the LORD. (Isaiah 11:1-2)

These words from Isaiah were not spoken in a moment of reverie when the beauty of the mountain brooks and the serenity of the quiet pasturelands made the prophet aware of where it was all leading. He was not watching a dazzling sunset. He was watching the dazzling swords of the great and overpowering Assyrian army as they sliced their way through his native land of Palestine, leaving nothing but a trail of blood and agony. But the prophet spoke. "Even though the world has become a living nightmare, THE PROMISE OF GOD IS MORE POWERFUL THAN THE DESTRUCTIVENESS OF HUMANITY!"

Every now and then we see a little shoot of life bursting forth from a dead stump. What seemed like the end of everything worth living for is being transformed before our eyes, in little tiny ways, to be sure. But then, he or she does notice, and though still hurting, begins to take a step towards healing.

- A man who thought he could never risk loving again finds himself able to overcome his fear and open himself up in a new relationship.
- A woman who has always equated "security" with a spouse discovers after a broken heart that she can make a home by herself and enjoy it.
- A man who cares for his invalid wife for a number of emotionally difficult years finds after her death that he has energy for the pursuits and interests he had almost given up.
- A woman, who thought she could never enter a church again after her pastor told her to stay in an abusive relationship because "that is her cross to bear," not only enters a church, but comes alive in its worship and mission.

We could go on and on. Lives are being lived out through these Advent days of darkness and of unexpected light. The signs of all of these are not much...a shoot out of a stump, a branch out of the roots, a step forward, but they are enough.

Every now and then, peace breaks out in a place where we never would have believed it possible. Every once in a while, the deepest, oldest wound you can imagine actually heals. Every now and then, a hatchet gets buried so thoroughly that it is never dug up again, and we have no way of accounting for any of it except to say that it must come from above.

Isaiah's vision: a shoot from a dead stump, a smile from a long frozen face, a step into a church after years of hurt. A little baby crying in a manger.

It may not seem like much. But it is enough for me. I hope and pray it will be enough for you.

Peace and joy,

Pastor Rich





ADVENT SEASON CHRISTMAS JOY OFFERING

Let us celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ, the truly “indefinable gift.”

WHAT DOES THE CHRISTMAS JOY OFFERING DO?

Supporting our past and present leaders.... By supporting the Board of Pensions (BOP), the Christmas Joy Offering honors the faithfulness of current and retired church workers and their families in need. Thanks in part to support from this Offering, church workers can receive critical financial assistance to support them through life’s challenging circumstances. These generous actions bear witness to our faithful response to God’s charge to love one another as Christ commanded.

Preparing the way for future leaders.... PC (USA), with its historic commitment to higher learning, has long promoted education and leadership development through the establishment and support of racial ethnic schools and colleges. Our future racial ethnic church leaders can receive much needed assistance while they discover and pursue their professional goals at Presbyterian related schools and colleges.

Let us following the tradition of the wise men, and give this Advent season. Your gift will make a difference in the lives of individuals.

Thank you for supporting this life changing offering.

Mission Committee

~ Contributed by Trudy Fisher

Envelopes for the **Christmas Joy Offering** are available from our Greeters and have been placed in the pew seats.



**Christmas Eve Service
7:00 PM
December 24th**

**Reception following service.
Please bring cookies or finger
food to share.**

**Our Advent Season
Christmas tree was
freshly cut from the
tree orchard owned by
Miller’s Greenhouse in
Lisbon.**



**Many thanks to Munson Mil-
ler for his generous discount.**

New Beginnings.....

Thank you for your generous support of New Beginnings by donation of personal care items. Your generosity at this time of year can make such a difference, having these items gives dignity to those who cannot afford some of these luxuries.



POINTSETTIAS

Please help to give our sanctuary holiday color by donating a poinsettia; and if you wish to donate in memory of a family member or friend, please provide the name(s) to either Trudy Fisher or Mindy Fisher, so acknowledgment can be made in the bulletin.

It is an opportunity for you to dedicate a visual remembrance of your heritage, or your loved ones .



The special offering received at this year's Ecumenical Thanksgiving service on November 24th collected \$280, which will go to New Beginnings.



COFFEE HOUR.....

Providing coffee hour refreshments has been discussed by Session and beginning January 1st, we will use a system of having members/friends sign up on a calendar to provide a simple refreshment for coffee hour on a specific Sunday. We ask that it be kept minimal to avoid an excess amount of work on individuals. A calendar will be posted in the Upper Room.

For the month of December, since it is a busy time of year, we will have coffee hour on December 1st and then begin anew on January 1st.

Thank you to all those who provide refreshments for us to socialize following worship. It is greatly appreciated!

MINC EMERGENCY FUND

A total of \$525 was raised through our special collection during the month of November.

These funds will support MINC's mission of helping those who find themselves in the position of not having enough to cover a heating bill or other emergency need. Thank you for sharing what God has given you!

Turn to page 5 of this newsletter to see a Summary Report of the MINC Emergency Fund (provided by MINC)



DECEMBER'S UPCOMING EVENTS

Calendar on page 7 for additional events and to pull out for your bulletin board....

Dec 15.... Congregational meeting called to hear report from Nominating Committee (see below right for full announcement.)

Dec 21.... Christmas Open House at the Hinkle's home, 4:00—7:00 pm. See page 6 for address.

December 8.... Sunday School Children's Christmas presentation during worship. No coffee hour on this date, to allow members to attend Dailey Ridge's Ham Dinner, if they wish.

December 24 Christmas Eve Service, Chipman with Communion, 7:00 PM

December 25 Christmas Day - Have a blessed day!

December 30 No coffee hour this morning.



NOTICE: A congregational meeting is called for Sunday, December 15, 2019 for the purpose hearing a report of the Nominating Committee and to elect two elders; members of a Nominating Committee.

December CELEBRATIONS

We celebrate your special day !

HAPPY "December" BIRTHDAY to...

2....Jim Hargrave
7.... Mary Lou McKnight
8.... Ruth Hargrave Shippee
10.... Jeff Dominy
16.... Helen Lalone
16.....Micaela Hargrave
18.... Leah Easterwood
18.... Grayson Easterwood
19....Bill Porteous
20....John Hobkirk
24....Irene Hargrave
25... Jesus
30....Corbin Fisher

"December" ANNIVERSARIES

27Rich & Carolyn Hinkle
27.... Rick & Carolyn Taylor

Please email or phone your dates to me to be added to the calendar so that we can recognize your family's special days.

HEATING SEASON IS UPON US....

REMINDER..... Please contact Bill Fisher well in advance of your need for heat for a function or meeting at church so that thermostats can be programmed. Call cell # 315-323-1235

or email at fisher@potdam.edu

NOTE.....As our winter season approaches, scheduling meetings in home settings whenever possible will help with the heating costs of our church building.



MINC Emergency Fund Summary Report – Jan. – November 13, 2019

Contributions: \$10,967.01

Expenses:

Auto	\$0
Food	\$0
Fuel (heating, includes gas)	\$7788.11
Medical	\$0
Housing (mortgage)	\$0
(rent)	\$0
(security deposit)	\$700.00
(insurance)	\$0
Utilities (electric)	\$600.00
(water)	\$0
Miscellaneous	
(replace water heater)	\$960.00
(restart furnace)	\$37.80
(furnace service)	\$170.00
Total expenses:	\$10,255.91

The MINC Emergency Fund continues to meet a variety of needs, the most prominent of which are heating fuel and the costs associated with owning a home or living in rented housing. To date we have served 57 households, 5 in Jefferson County and 52 in St. Lawrence County. Thanks to all the faithful individuals and congregations who make this ministry possible.

Cynthia Coleman, Interim Treasurer

HOLIDAY OPEN HOUSE

The cider is mulling with sweet spices.

The table is laden with sweet and savory goodies.

The tree is trimmed and the stockings are hung.

It must be time for the Hinkle Family annual open house (1350 County Rd. 31, Lisbon)!

Please join us Saturday, December 21st, 4-7 P.M. and share in this festive time!

Pastor Rich, Carolyn & Jeff



Charles Dickens's classic story, *A Christmas Carol*, was originally titled *A Christmas Carol in Prose, Being a Ghost Story of Christmas*—a curious title to say the least. Dickens's story is not a song, though like a traditional carol, it is divided into staves, or verses, with each section offering an independent thought.

At the beginning of the story, on Christmas Eve, Scrooge is just as good as dead—his soul is as frigid as the bleak midwinter air. He goes on a difficult and frightful journey, and eventually wakes up on Christmas morning a changed man. If Scrooge can be redeemed, then so can we!

Please join us during Advent as Pastor Rich guides us through an exploration of this classic tale as it reflects the themes of Advent: Hope, Peace, Joy, and Love.



December 2019



Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

1 1st Sunday of
Advent

**Holy
Communion**

2

8 2nd Sunday of
Advent & Sunday

**School Christ-
mas Program**

9

15 3rd Sunday
of Advent

**Congregational
Meeting**

16

22 4th Sunday
of Advent

23

29 1st Sun-
day after Christ-
mas Day

30

3

4 PW Christ-
mas Luncheon
at Lobster
House, 11:30 am

11

12

13

14

17

18

19

20

21

24

**Christmas Eve
Candlelight
Service, 7:00**

25

**Christmas Day
Nativity of the
Lord**

26

27

28

31

**New Year's
Day**

**NOTE: There
will not be a
Session meet-
ing this month**