

Gracenotes

A publication of the Otisville-Mt. Hope Presbyterian Church

December Calendar of Events

- 5th-7th—Art Show (page 2)
- 7th—Christmas Concert (page 1a)
- 12th—Blue Christmas Service (page 2)
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- 20th—Coffee House (page 2)
- 21st—Sunday School Christmas Pageant
- 21st—Deacons Fellowship Coffee Hour
- 21st—Caroling at Devon's Gate
- 21st—Caroling with Holy Name Church
- 21st—Live Nativity
- 24th—Christmas Eve Services
- 25th—Christmas Day
- 28th—Service of Carols and Readings



O Come Let Us Adore Him

"For unto us a Child is born, unto us a Son is given; and the government will be upon His shoulder. And His name will be called Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace." - Isaiah 9:6

Christmas is about turning our hearts toward the birth of the Christ child and responding with welcome, worship and witness. Come and join us as we Adore Him, Christ our Lord.

Christmas Concert at OMHPC! Sunday, December 7
Join in the fun as we usher in the season with our Choirs, followed by more Holiday festivities with the village of Otisville! From 5-6 PM in the Church Sanctuary. Invite a friend!

"Blue Christmas" Service, Friday, December 12
Is someone or something missing in your life that makes you dread the coming holidays? Because this is the case for some people, our church offers a "Blue Christmas" service for those who may need to acknowledge some kind of loss in their lives. (continued on page 2)

Sunday School Christmas Pageant, Sunday, December 21
Join us at 9:30 AM in the Sanctuary as the Sunday School children tell the Christmas Story with drama, recitation and music. Refreshments will follow in Fellowship Hall.

Live Nativity, Sunday, December 21
From 5 to 7pm in the Memorial Garden at the far end of our parking lot. Visit the manger along with the Shepherds and Wise men. Welcome the coming of the Christ Child. Hot Chocolate and Hot Apple Cider will be served.

Christmas Caroling, Sunday, December 21
3:15pm Caroling at Devon's Gate
4:00pm Caroling with Holy Name Church
5:00pm Refreshments at Holy Name Church

Christmas Eve Services, Wednesday, December 24
5:00pm Children's Christmas Eve
7:00pm Candlelight Service I
9:00pm Candlelight Service II
11:00pm Communion Service



COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS CONCERT

Sunday, December 7 | 5:00 PM
Otisville-Mt. Hope Presbyterian Church

Join us as we enjoy an evening of music and fellowship.
Free Admission

25 Main Street, Otisville, New York
Ph: 845-386-3851 | www.otisvillepres.org

2014 Art Show

For all those who love fine art we are planning another art show here at the church on the weekend of December 5, 6, & 7.

This show is dedicated to sharing the wonderful art of our many church members and community friends!

Our artists will bring their works to show in a gallery atmosphere. Some works may be available for purchase, some have smaller reproductions available that would allow you to take home a bit of what our wonderful artists design, sculpt, paint, and draw using their God given and careful honed talents.

This is not a craft show. Rather a weekend to gaze upon some of the great talents in the visual arts that are part of our big family. If you would like to be a part, contact Allison Wilbur at your earliest opportunity for display information.



“Blue Christmas” Service

Is someone or something missing in your life that makes you dread the coming holidays? Because this is the case for some people, our church offers a “Blue Christmas” service for those who may need to acknowledge some kind of loss in their lives. It could be a loss of a loved one, recent or not so recent, the end of a relationship, loss of livelihood, or a serious illness of oneself or a family member. There are many reasons why one may not be feeling “in the spirit of the holidays”. It’s at such times that we need to make the space and take the time to acknowledge our sadness, concerns and maybe even guilt.

At this service we will join together for prayer, scripture reading and some music that acknowledges God’s presence is for those who mourn, for those who struggle – and that God’s Word comes to shine light into our darkness. We need to know we are not alone.

This year we will be gathering together for the Blue Christmas Service in the sanctuary on Friday, December 12th at 7:00 P.M. Candles will be available to be lit in memory of loved ones or as a symbol of hope for the future.

All are welcome. Letters announcing the service will be sent to those families from the church that had losses in the past two years, particularly if Jeff Farley performed the service as those services are on record. Letters will also be available for people to take and send to others who may be interested. Names of anyone who may appreciate getting a letter may also be given to Candy Burnett, Tootie Canonico or Jane Brighton.



Coffee House

“Deck the Halls” with lots of Christmas cheer!

Come to the Annual Christmas Coffee House on Saturday, December 20.

Desserts will be served “Buffet” style and the entertainment is “Open Mic”! Share your favorite Christmas or seasonal tune, whether serious or silly, sing alone or in a group, play an instrument or use a “track.”

The show starts at 7:30pm.

To sign-up to perform, call Sue Conklin at 386-8114.

Everyone is invited to bring a favorite Christmas treat for the dessert table.

Join the Deacons for an hour of fellowship on Sunday, December 21 from 12:30 to 1:30. Free coffee and pastries will be served after the 11 AM worship service as we kick-off the day’s festivities.



MAKE A JOYFUL Noise TO THE LORD.

ALL THE EARTH;
BREAK FORTH INTO
JOYOUS SONG
AND SING PRAISES.

PSALM 98:4, NRSV

Christmas Carols Word Find

A S A M T S I R H C F O S Y A D E V L E W T H
N A L E T I T S N O W M A C H I N E C T A W C
G M A N O L I T T L E D R U M M E R B O Y E N
E T O O S E V E E L S N E E R G W A X I A N I
L S A T A N Z E B R A A X E R O X I F U R E R
S I R W E T H R E E K I N G S F I R I T P E G
W R P I W N P M Y L O V E S E L O A R E F D R
E H O N H I R B U F D H E R O S A M S U G A M
H C G T I G A R I S L E T I T F R E T L E L E
A R O E T H N O C A R L E Y Q I Z V N W L I N
V O R R E T C W L D O P T L B K S A O H S T O
E F A W C Q E N L D W H B E L I E V E J L T N
H E Y O H J R S E V E U E F S L I P W E L L A
E M W N R A B O O S H C O K F R A A C L E E E
A O K D I M R H N A T O K P J M X E C I B C M
R H U E S S A O A M O N U T C R A C K E R H A
D E A R T E W L E T T U R W H U J R Y P E R E
O B E L M M A Y B A Y B O P E E P A S T V I R
N L T A A U R N F T O Y S L I T H K V Q L S U
H L E N S T P I L E J S A N T A B A B Y I T O
I I N D I A L G U T J I N G L E B E L L S M Y
G A M E D I R H G I E L S I E S U O H L I A J
H A T U P O N T H E R O O F T O P K X F S S A

The words will go horizontal, vertical, diagonal and backwards (in any direction).
The following Christmas carols are hidden in our puzzle:

Angels We Have Heard on High
Ave Maria
Believe
Deck The Halls
Noel
Frosty The Snowman
Greensleeves
I'll Be Home For Christmas
Jingle Bells
Joy To the World
Let It Snow
Little Drummer Boy
Noel

Nutcracker
O Holy Night
Santa Baby
Silent Night
Silver Bells
Sleigh Ride
Twelve Days of Christmas
Up On The Rooftop
We Need A Little Christmas
We Three Kings
White Christmas
Winter Wonderland
You're A Mean One, Mr. Grinch



Annual Meeting

Is coming on Sunday, December 14 at 9:30am in the Fellowship Hall/Kafe. All members and friends are invited to come and hear about our past year and be part of our peek at 2015!

“Oh the weather outside is frightful...”

Winter weather reminders:

Church Snow Policy

The church snow policy is: because the pastor lives next door to the church, services in even the craziest of weather will be held, although the best bet for a service to happen would be at 11:00am on a Sunday! In any case, we advise you not to venture out if the conditions make your travel even the least bit hazardous. We would rather have you come safe and sound on another day than make a dangerous trip to church. For smaller groups, check with your group leader to see if your group is on. If you need assistance, please call the church office at 386-3851.



Snow Shoveling

If there is a big storm and you want to help our paid snow remover, give the office a call or come on over and shovel away! Many hands makes lighter work. Also, if you are aware of folks who need help shoveling during a big storm because they aren't in good health, call the office as well and we will see if we can get a team out to “make a difference”!

DECEMBER CELEBRATIONS

ANNIVERSARIES

Roy & Jane Brighton
Mark & Gemma Frank
Ben & Candy Burnett

BIRTHDAYS

Ann Rader
Shealey Hughes
Justin Fisher
Jack McConaghay
Allison Struck
Steven Struck
Christine Yuengling
Lindsey Grebeldinger
John Thibodeau
Joshua Thibodeau
Zoe Schultz
Justin Pauley
Carolyn Smith
Beth Ricks
Ruth Rivers
Cassie Jennings
Tucker Vreeland
Aubrey Ketcham
Theresa Mann
Todd Michelitch

a QUICK RECAP

CROP Hunger Walk

The CROP Walk totals are in from our church. We raised \$2,175. Fantastic!! God is good and we are blessed. A huge thank you to our OMHPC CROP Hunger Walk team: The

McConaghay family, the Rader-Hayes Family, Marchrista, Melissa and Michael Jones, Candy Burnett, Riley Grainger, Marilyn Komstedt, Grace Carmondy, Cameron Ten Eyck, Gerda Krogslund, Donna Mattern. Also, thank you to all of you who donated to help others locally, nationally and around the globe.

Operation Christmas Child Shoeboxes

Christmas started before Thanksgiving at OMHPC! Sixty-two (62) shoeboxes filled with children's gifts were joyfully received at the November 16 shoebox collection

table. Choir members processed each box and then they were dropped off at a Middletown collection point. Sixty-two children around the world will now know that someone cares about them this Christmas! The most important part is that they will receive bible stories in their own language, spreading the message of Jesus Christ. Many thanks to all the donors, box collectors, transporters, including our very own Sunday school classes who showed-up with many boxes and smiles!

Thanksgiving Baskets

On Saturday, November 22, the Board of Deacons had the privilege to distribute 42 baskets to help families in our community have a blessed Thanksgiving. We are able to do this every year through the generous gifts from our congregation, and groups such as the Kiwanis, VFW, and others who support our Food Pantry.

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GraceNotes

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A Christmas Prayer

Almighty God and Father of light,
A child is born for us and a son is given to us.
Your eternal Word streamed down from heaven
in the silent watches of the night,
and now your Church is filled with wonder
at the nearness of her God.
Open our hearts to receive his life
and increase our vision with the rising of dawn,
that our lives may be filled with his glory and his peace,
who lives and reigns for ever and ever.
Amen.