



Celebrating the true meaning of Christmas

Joy us in December as we gather together to worship the King of kings and Lord of lords.

Fri, Dec 6 @ 7:00 PM

Blue Christmas

A special service for those having difficult time celebrating the holidays

Sat, Dec 21 @ 7:30 PM

Christmas Coffee House

Open Mic Night filled with favorite holiday tunes and wonderful desserts

Sun, Dec 22 @ 4:00 PM

Christmas Caroling

Gather at Holy Name Church on Highland Ave and carol back to OMHPC for refreshments

Sun, Dec 22 @ 5:00 PM

Live Nativity

Come visit Mary, Joseph and Baby Jesus along with a whole cast of characters as we recreate the birth of our Lord. In the Memorial Garden at the far end of the Church parking lot

Dec 22 –Following Caroling

Music by the **Otisville Brass Quintet** at the Church



Dec 24 – Christmas Eve Services

5:00 PM

Children's Family Service

7:00 PM

Traditional Candlelight Service

9:00 PM

Contemporary Candlelight Service

11:00 PM

Contemporary Service with Communion

Inside this issue: Christmas activities and services, as well as other happenings in the life of the church.

Serving the Community this

HOLIDAY SEASON



Blue Christmas

The holidays can be difficult for us all. The stresses and strains of trying to offer a time of celebration take their toll. Many people find they have trouble feeling “in the spirit” of things, whether because of the recent or not so recent death of a family member or friend, a serious illness of oneself or another, the end of a marriage or relationship, the loss of work, or other trying changes. Facing Christmas may make “being merry” a trying task. It’s at such times, that we need to make the space and take the time to acknowledge our feelings of sadness, concern and more. We need to know we are not alone.

This year, we will be gathering together for a Blue Christmas Service in the sanctuary on Friday, December 6 at 7:00 PM. At this time, we will join together for prayer, scripture readings and 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. 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 Pastor 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, Jane Brighton or Tootie Canonico.

O Come Let Us Adore Him

December 22 – A day full of worship

- ✿ Caroling
- ✿ Come to the Manager
- ✿ Listen to our Brass

All of these are wonderful ways to celebrate the true meaning of Christmas. We need singers, actors, people to help with refreshments and an audience! Come and join us as we welcome the Christ Child.

Christmas Coffee House

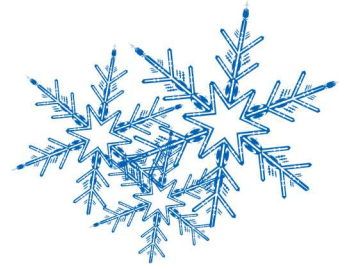
Sunday, December 21 @ 7:30 PM

Usher in the first day of Winter at the “Christmas Coffee House”!

Take a break from all the hustle and bustle and bring your family and friends for an evening of:

- ◆ Holiday cheer and fellowship
- ◆ Favorite cakes, pies and goodies from the dessert buffet
- ◆ Hot coffees, teas, cocoa and cold eggnog and punch
- ◆ And all kinds of Christmas and wintertime songs, poems, skits, etc.!

If you would like, you are invited to bring one of your favorite holiday treats for the dessert buffet, as well as partake in the famous Otisville “OPEN MIC”! Contact Sue and Mike Conklin to perform or if you’d like musical accompaniment (386-8114).



Sunday School

- Wendy Fisher, Sunday School Director

Have you heard about all the fun taking place on Sundays? If you missed any of our themed Sundays, you can check out the Joke Day video on our YouTube channel ("Otisvillepres") or pictures from Mustache Day on our Facebook page. Want to join in on the fun? Check out our December schedule on the right.

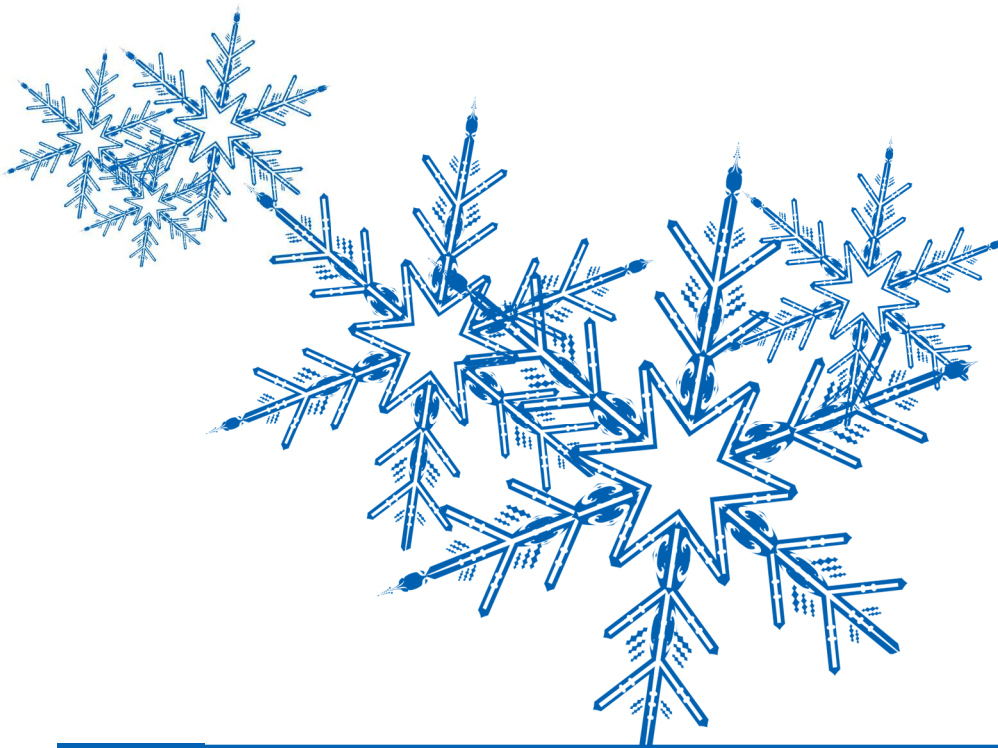
As you can see, we are cranking along in Sunday School with a great group of children and parents. We are averaging around 45 children in attendance each week. Be sure to ask your children what they did and what they liked. Also, please feel free to share with me or their teach any feedback you get, good or bad, all is welcomed. We would also like to reiterate that they are only with us for one hour a week and our teachers put time and effort in during the week to prepare, gather supplies and preparing their hearts to give our children the best experience they can. Please make an effort to attend each week, or let your teacher know that you will not be there so they know they will need one less snack or craft supply.

The **Advent Party** will be on December 15 during the Sunday School hour. Children will rotate through the classrooms (stations) making an ornament at each one, followed by a group snack.

We are currently seeking a replacement teacher in 4th & 5th grade as Katie Farley's new job will take her away from us on Sunday mornings after Thanksgiving. We wish her all the best in her new job and are sure she will be totally awesome! We also pray that a just as fabulous replacement will be revealed before that time.

12/1	No Sunday School
12/8	Christmas Colors – wear festive holiday colors to Sunday School Annual Meeting – Parents, please stay for the annual meeting in the Fellowship Hall. You must be a member to vote, but all are encouraged to attend to hear about the life of the church.
12/15	Advent Party – at 9:30 AM during Sunday School
12/22	Movie Day – bring your favorite movie snack and enjoy a movie during Sunday School
12/29	No Sunday School
1/5/14	Favorite Shirt Day – wear your favorite shirt to Sunday School





Small Groups & Other News

Yarn Works

Our crocheting ministry continues on with new things happening all the time. A few of us visited another group at St. Patrick's Church in Milford, PA. They meet every Wednesday at 6:00 PM. We donated 25 shawls and lapghans to help with their goal of one hundred for a nursing home in the area by Christmas. It seems they have many knitters and have inspired our own Karen Ketcham to take a stab (or stitch!) at it. So, those funny crochet hooks you might see her with are actually knitting needles. Go Karen!

Sue Farley was also "verb-ized" at our meeting in PA. She is now officially a crochet stitch, "The Sue Farley Stitch." Be sure to ask her about it.

Our group meets every 2nd Tuesday from 6:30 to 8:00 PM under the direction of Wendy Fisher and every 4th Saturday at 10:00 AM under Karen Ketcham's Kareful Kare. J

Jewelry Group

Jewelry continues to meet the 4th Tuesday at 6:30 PM. We actually had more than just two people there the last time, so come on by and make yourself something pretty to wear or to give as a gift. Bring your own supplies or share ours, there is always plenty to go around.

Kafe News

There will be no hot sandwich Sunday in December, however, we will have our regular assortment of bagels and hard rolls, spreads, coffee, tea, and co-coa. Join us before, after or in between worship for a time of fellowship and breakfast.

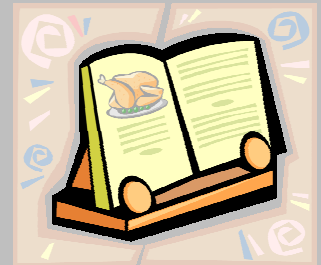
CROP Walk Update

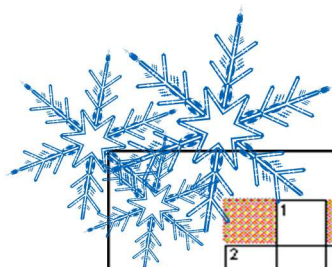
The final totals are in from our church and we raised **\$2,611.00!!** Fantastic! God is good and we are blessed. Thank you so much for sharing with others locally, nationally and around the globe..

Church Cookbook

The recipes are in and typed so we are getting ready to print very soon! Keep your eye out for the release of the new Church Cookbook. Information will be posted in our church bulletin and in email news! We have sections for Soups & Salads, Main Dishes, Side Dishes, Desserts of many kinds and This & That! This is going to be a keeper! See Wendy Fisher or Candy Burnett for more information or to reserve your copy.

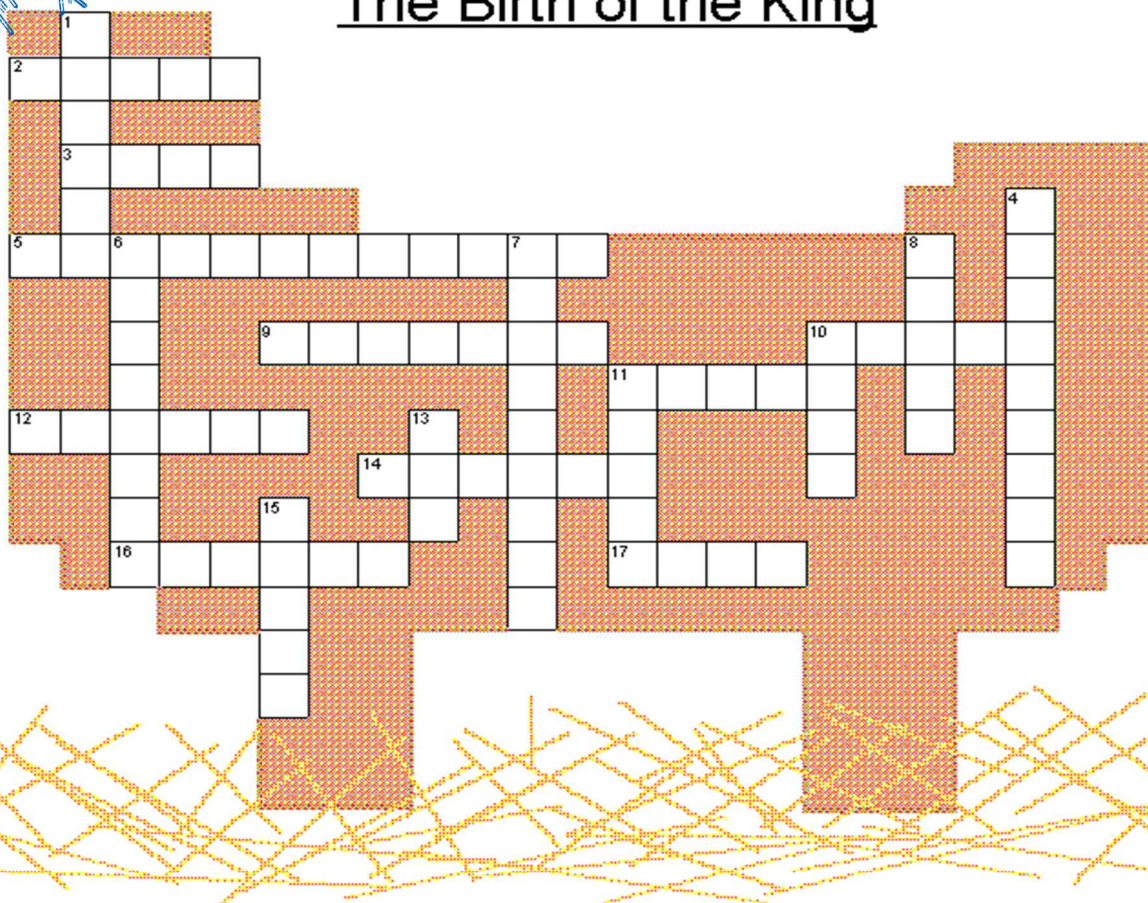
A special thank you to all our contributing cooks!





Solution will be posted on our Facebook page on December 29, 2013.

The Birth of the King



Across

2. Mary and Joseph went to Bethlehem to pay these
3. A precious metal: one of the gifts from the 3 kings
5. A fragrant gum used to make incense: one of the gifts from the wisemen
9. The 3 kings from the east
10. A pungent tasting herb: A gift from the wisemen
11. Bethlehem is here
12. Mary's husband
14. These appeared to shepherds and told them about the birth of Christ
16. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a _____, which is Christ the Lord
17. This led the wisemen to Jesus

Down

1. An open box to hold food for livestock: Mary laid Jesus in one
4. The city of His birth
6. The Roman emperor who taxed everyone
7. Angels told these guys about His birth while they were watching their flocks
8. The king of Judea when Jesus was born
10. His mother
11. And she shall bring forth a son, and you shall call His name _____
13. He was born in a stable because there was no room here
15. We celebrate His _____ at Christmas

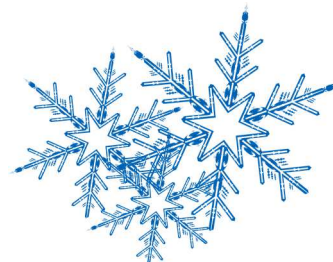
©A Kid's Heart at akidsheart.com

Anniversaries

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

Birthdays

Ann Rader-Hayes, Shealey Hughes,
Justin Fischer, Jack McConaghay,
Allison Struck, Steven Struck,
Lindsey Grebeldinger, John Thibodeau,
Joshua Thibodeau, Justin Pauley,
Ruth Rivers, Cassie Jennings,
Aubrey Ketcham, Todd Michelitch



**Worship Schedule:**

8:30 | 9:30 | 11:00 AM
Sunday School—9:30 AM

*To submit information, articles or
stories, contact us via email:
Newsletter@otisvillepres.org*

**Otisville - Mount Hope
Presbyterian Church**

25 Main Street
P.O. Box 628
Otisville, NY 10963

Phone: 845-386-3851
E-mail: info@otisvillepres.org
www.otisvillepres.org

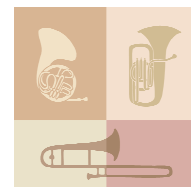
Address Service Requested

Poinsettias

Each year we order about 10 poinsettias for church folks to dedicate in memory or in honor of loved ones. They are perfect plants from Wessells Farms. If you would like one, please let the office know. Often we are blessed with additional plants from the greenhouses! Those will be available after the 11:00pm service on Christmas Eve.

***Otisville Brass Quintet Christmas Concerts***

- * Sunday, December 8, St. John's Lutheran Church, Middletown
- * Saturday, December 14, South East Towers, Middletown
- * Friday, December 20, Galleria Mall, Middletown
- * Sunday, December 22, Otisville - Mt. Hope Presbyterian Church



REMINDER: Sunday, December 8 @ 9:30 AM—Annual Meeting

We will be electing new officers as well voting on the terms of call of the pastor, and discussing the church's life and ministry.

