

# ***Jacob's Well***

## ***November 2019***



**Nov. 3      TWENTY-FIRST SUNDAY OF PENTECOST      *Celebration of the Lord's Supper and All Saints***

**Lectionary Readings:** *Daniel 7: 1-3, 15-18; Psalm 149; Ephesians 1:11-23; Luke 6: 20-31*

**Greeter:** *Joan Lapitsky*

**Liturgist:** *Mark Booth*

**Ushers:** *Karl Thayer/Hank Harrington*

**Counters:** *Bridget Critelli/Anne Mitchell*

**Communion Servers:** *TBA*

**Communion Cleanup:** *Carolyn Markwith*

**Nov. 10      TWENTY-SECOND SUNDAY OF PENTECOST**

**Lectionary Readings:** *Haggai 1: 15b-2:9; Psalm 145: 1-5,17-21; 2 Thessalonians 2: 1-5, 13-17; Luke 20: 27-38*

**Greeter:** *Patti Booth*

**Liturgist:** *Holly Deyoe*

**Ushers:** *Katrina Harrington/Makenzie Harrington*

**Counters:** *Amber Deyoe/Bridget Critelli*

**Nov. 17      TWENTY-THIRD SUNDAY OF PENTECOST**

**Lectionary Readings:** *Isaiah 65: 17-25;; Psalm 98; 2 Thessalonians 3: 6-13; Luke 21: 5-19*

**Greeter:** *Bridget Behrens*

**Liturgist:** *Carolyn Markwith*

**Ushers:** *Bill Olmert/Matthew Waldinger*

**Counters:** *Susanna Combs/ Anne Mitchell*

**Nov. 24      REIGN OF CHRIST      *Thanksgiving Sunday***

**Lectionary Readings:** *Jeremiah 23: 1-6;; Psalm 46; Colossians 1: 11-20; Luke 23: 33-43*

**Greeter:** *Pat Woome*

**Liturgist:** *Paula Sheely*

**Ushers:** *Eddie Fish/Terri Richards*

**Counters:** *Susanna Combs/Amber Deyoe*

***Our worship services begin at 10am. The sanctuary is handicapped accessible.  
Holy Communion is celebrated the first Sunday of the month.***

## ***From the Pastor...***

*It is good to **give thanks** to the Lord...  
to declare your steadfast love in the morning,  
and your faithfulness by night.  
(from Psalm 92:1-2)*

Dear Members and Friends of Old Saratoga,

Greetings in the Grace of God and the Peace of Christ!

November is a special month for giving thanks. Many people are making plans to gather with family or friends for the celebration of **Thanksgiving Day** on Thursday, November 28. The church will have its annual **Thanksgiving Service** on Sunday, November 24!

**"It is good"**, as the Psalmist says, **"to give thanks to the Lord."** By doing so, we're reminded that God is the Source and Giver of life and all things—that the universe is overflowing with blessing and abundance—from the breath-taking beauty of a crimson maple tree in autumn to the life-giving love of people in our lives who care.

The Psalmist says further that giving thanks to God is a good framework for the start and close of every day of our lives. This is especially important in the difficult times of life when bad things happen and our days can feel more filled with anxiety than with thank-fulness.

So we ask, What is the "good" in giving thanks to God every day?

I can think of at least three reasons—and you may have more!

First, giving thanks to God—or "counting" one's blessings as some speak of it, awakens our senses and our hearts to really seeing and appreciating what's around us--and that God is the center of all that supports our lives and gives us joy.

Second, giving thanks helps bring perspective to all that happens to us—the good and the not-so-good. When scripture says, *"be thankful in all circumstances, for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you"* ( I Thess. 5:18), we take this to mean that it's not only God's will, but to our benefit to be open to the meaning of things that happen to us. Sometimes what we consider to be the worst possible thing that could happen, can be a blessing in disguise or an opportunity to grow in strength or deepen our faith.

Third, giving thanks to God makes us mindful of the needs of others. Some of you may remember times when you had to work at being thankful for what you did have in a time of being without. Such experience makes the heart more sensitive to people who are hungry, homeless, or alone. Each time we give thanks to God, it helps us remember that ALL we have comes as a gift from the bounty of God's Goodness and Love to be **shared!**

May you and your family and friends have a **Blessed Thanksgiving**—and may this day and every day be days to "give thanks to the Lord!"

Faithfully yours,  
*Pastor Joyce deVelder*

# Church Family

## OUR FRIENDS IN HEALTH CARE FACILITIES/HOMEBOUND

*(We've listed the names and addresses of our church members/friends for the purpose of remembering them in prayer or with a card.)*

**Chauncey Mabb**, Crescent Manor, 312  
Crescent Blvd. , Bennington, VT 05201

**Shirley Mabb**, Saratoga Center A 110, 149  
Ballston Ave., Ballston Spa NY 12020

**Bette Tucker**, Wesley Community, Victoria 212,  
133 Lawrence St. Saratoga Springs, NY 12866

**Pat Burke**, Wesley Community, Victoria,  
133 Lawrence St. Saratoga Springs, NY 12866

**Anna Bierma**, c/o Loughlin, 1305 Westridge  
Drive, Mansfield, TX 76063

**Florence Brown**, The Sentinel, 10 Market Street,  
Room 10, Amsterdam, NY 12010

**Susie Murphy**, Center for Nursing and  
Rehabilitation, Rm 184, 21 Danforth Street,  
Hoosick Falls, NY 12090

**\*\*John Bodnar**: Indian River Rehab and Nursing  
Center, 17 Madison St. Granville, NY 12832\*\*

## THANKS RECEIVED

*"Thank you so much for your (\$1000) support. I  
will use it toward a well at a school in Kenya. I  
am so grateful for your support."*

**Karen (Flewelling) Drilling for Hope**

*(This donation came from our Mission Fund, which is  
supported by the bottle and can donations which  
Mikael and David deVelder collect and redeem.)*

## JAMES THAYER TO STUDY IN SPAIN

**James Thayer**, son of **Karl and Kim Thayer**, will  
spend his spring semester studying Business at the  
University of Salamanca, in Salamanca (The City of  
the Golden Stones) Spain. His courses will be  
taught in English, with one exception, and he will  
be living with a host family. He plans to do some  
traveling around Europe while there.

## BIRTHDAYS

1: Roger Sherman  
2: Carol Burch  
3: Roger M. Sherman  
3: David Woomer  
6: Wendy (Russell) Fedderly  
10: Emily Buchanan  
11: Lily Russell  
12: Robert Haney  
12: Thomas Pooler  
13: Peggy MacMillan  
14: Sawyer Russell Fedderly  
18: Linda Barter  
20: Melanie (Whitehouse) Casey  
22: Sandy Jones  
23: Ryan Markwith  
24: Chauncey Mabb  
24: Allison Cummins  
25: Timothy Cox

## ANNIVERSARIES

9: Donald and Kimberly MacMillan, 2002  
10: Anne and Doug Mitchell 2012  
25: Bill and Duffy Whitehouse, 1967

## UPDATE ON ANNA BIERMA



**Anna Bierma** was the happy recipient of a  
beautiful quilt, made with love for her by  
the OSRC Crafters (**Cindy Brockman, Patti  
Booth, Robin Woomer, and Sue Derby.**)

Anna is making progress, and is in the  
process of being fitted for a prosthetic leg.

## IN OUR PRAYERS

"Pray at all times in the Spirit....making supplication for all the saints." (Ephesians 6: 18)

Ruth Hayes	Bette Tucker
Dwight Colvin	Tom Wilbur
Alyson Fitzgerald	Anne Mitchell
Thomas Altrogge	Anna Bierma
Rod Borgman	John Bodnar
Trevor Lewie	Naomi Thayer
Pat Hayes-Howd	Sandy Horsfield
Evie Senecal	Alicia Lewie
Gerry Barber	Susie Murphy
Sandy DeGregory	Charles Thayer
Mona Perkins	Danny MacMillan
Suzanne Guerineau	Clyde Wells
Peggy MacMillan	Jim Miers

## Church Life

### ST. NICOLAAS BRUNCH

Sat. Nov. 30 at 10am



Everyone is invited to come to the St. Nicolaas Brunch on Sat. Nov. 30 at 10am to help decorate the church for the Christmas season. First we will join together for the meal, and then do the decorating of the sanctuary and Loomis Hall. Please bring a brunch item (sweet breads, rolls, muffins, egg casseroles, fruit, juice, meats) to share. See you there!

### THANKSGIVING SUNDAY Nov. 24

We will celebrate the gifts of God's bounty on Sunday, Nov. 24 at our regular service.



## WORSHIP SERVERS AND VOLUNTEERS

Beginning in the month of November, members and friends of OSRC will have the opportunity to indicate how they would like to serve in worship (greeter, liturgist, or usher) or to volunteer to help do any of the many jobs that help to make OSRC run smoothly (phoning, helping with dinners.)

We especially hope that more people will volunteer to participate in the Prayers of the People. On the last Sunday of the month, each of three people offer the Prayers of Thanksgiving and Intercession, either writing their own part or using a prayer from a resource, such as the Internet. The schedule of servers for 2020 will be distributed by mid-December.

## UPDATE ON DOUGHNUT SALES

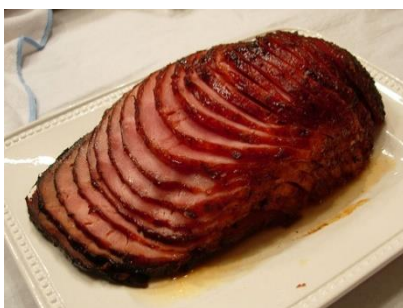
Our Krispy Kreme doughnut fundraiser netted the church **\$684!! 114 doz.** were sold, at a profit of **\$6** per dozen. That entitled the church to 8 free dozen to sell in addition! Thank you to **Amber Deyoe** for organizing the sale, and to **Bridget Critelli** and **Susanna Combs** who went to Pennsylvania to pick up the doughnuts.



# **HAM HARVEST SUPPER**

## ***Sat. November 2***

**4:30pm through 6:00pm**  
(continuous serving)



**OLD SARATOGA REFORMED CHURCH**  
**48 Pearl Street, Schuylerville**  
**NY**

**Menu: Baked Ham, potatoes, squash,  
green beans, Dutch Kraut, rolls & butter,  
homemade Apple and Pumpkin pies, beverage**

**Adults \$12      Children 5-12 \$6      Under 5 free**

**Dine in or take out**

**Reservations Recommended - Walk ins welcome**  
**Call 518-695-6638 or 518-695-3479**

## 4<sup>TH</sup> QUARTER MISSION

### *The Giving Circle*

The Mission for the fourth quarter (October-December) is The Giving Circle, whose purpose is to shape better lives by building and teaching sustainable solutions in education, health, farming and economic self-empowerment, to end poverty and hopelessness. It is an all-volunteer, non-profit organization, originally founded in response to Hurricanes Katrina and Rita. It has since expanded its efforts to work with underserved families in Saratoga County, helped to found and serve the Code Blue homeless shelter, and supports the Koi Koi House orphanage in Africa. For more info, go to [www.thegivingcircle.org](http://www.thegivingcircle.org). Coin boxes will be available and will be due back **Dec. 15**.

## CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS

If you would like to memorialize or honor a loved one with a poinsettia in the sanctuary for the Christmas season, please call the office and order your plant before **Nov. 24**. The red poinsettias will be **\$10**. You may prefer to make a memorial donation instead. Both will be printed with your wording and included with the bulletins for Christmas Sunday (Dec. 22) and Christmas Eve.

## PASTOR JENN'S INSTALLATION

On **Sunday, Nov. 10 at 3pm**, **Pastor Jenn Legg** will be installed by the Presbytery of Albany as the Minister of Word and Sacrament of the First Presbyterian Church of Ballston Spa. Pastor Jenn, who served as minister with the Turning Point Churches (Old Saratoga, Bacon Hill and Fort Miller) from Nov. 2017-July 2019, began her new ministry with the Ballston Spa Church this past August. All are welcome to come to the installation service on Nov. 10.

## HYMNS OF OUR FAITH

*"Sing to the Lord, you saints of his; praise his holy name."* Psalm 30: 4

*"Marvelous grace of our living Lord, grace that exceed our sin and guilt, Yonder on Calvary's mount outpoured, there where the blood of the Lamb was spilt. Grace, grace God's grace, grace that will pardon and cleanse within; Grace, grace, God's grace, grace that is greater than all our sin."*

Julia H. Johnson wrote poetry as did her grandmother and mother before her. Her father was a Presbyterian pastor. In addition to authoring over 500 hymns, Julia worked as a Sunday school Superintendent and teacher for over forty years, and served as president of the Presbyterian Mission Society.

We don't know of any single event that became the impetus for writing the poem that became a hymn. But, without a doubt, Julia was well versed in scripture, reflecting Paul's letter to the Romans (ch.5) "...since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through our lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have obtained access to the grace in which we stand..."

Throughout humankind's history we have been trying to earn God's grace through our labors and our "good works." Margit Ernst-Habib, a German theologian, wrote, "We cannot redeem ourselves- and we do not have to!.. We cannot do enough to earn God's grace." She reflects the words of Peter that we are redeemed "not with perishable things such as silver and gold...but with the precious blood of Christ." Grace is the "free and unmerited favor of God." Our good works are not unimportant, but are an expression of gratitude for the gift of God's grace.

The last verse leaves us with a question:  
*"Marvelous, infinite, matchless grace, freely bestowed on all who believe:  
You who are longing to see God's face, will you this moment God's grace receive?"*

**Dick Behrens**



# **St. Nicolaas Holiday Sale**

**at Old Saratoga Reformed Church**  
(corner of Pearl and Burgoyne Streets)

**Saturday, Dec. 7**

**8 am-2 pm**

(to help celebrate Schuylerville's Celebration of St. Nicolaas)



**Gently used Christmas decorations,  
baked goods, fudge, basket raffles,  
refreshments**

*(All proceeds will benefit the General Fund)*

***Donations will be accepted beginning  
Monday, Nov. 18 Thanks!***

## PECANS

We will again be selling pecans for holiday baking. We will only have **48 bags of each type**, so get an order in early to be sure that you get what you need. Spread the word!

**Pecan halves - \$10 per 1 lb. bag**

**Dark chocolate halves - \$10 per 12 oz. bag**

## ADVENT WREATH



Advent begins on Sunday, Dec. 1. On each of the four Sundays of Advent, leading to Christmas, and on Christmas Eve, we light candles to remind us of Christ the Light of the World. We hope that 5 families, individuals or groups will volunteer to take a turn lighting the candles on the four Sundays in Advent and on Christmas Eve. If you would like to participate, please look for the sign-up sheet in the church entryway.

## COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS CONCERT

**Sunday, Dec. 8 at 3pm**

Plans are underway for the Annual Community Concert to be held at Old Saratoga. Area choirs will again each sing an anthem, and there will be audience carol singing in between. Refreshments will follow the hour long concert. Please come and get in the Christmas spirit by attending with your neighbors and friends in Schuylerville!

**A free will offering will benefit**

**"Caring and Sharing"**



## HOLIDAY SALE Dec. 7

Though we are currently enjoying the leaf changes and colors of Fall, it's not too early to think about checking your Holiday decorations to see what items in good condition you no longer want. We depend on your donations of gently used items, baskets for raffle, baked goods, and, especially, your time, to make this fundraiser a success. Thanks go to **Amber Deyoe and Terri Richards** who have volunteered to chair the sale.

## ANNUAL MEETING AND CONSISTORY NOMINATION FORMS

**Sunday, Nov. 17**

OSRC will hold its Annual Congregational Meeting on **Sunday, Nov. 17 following worship**. At this meeting the Plan for Ministry 2020 (budget), reports will be presented, and elders and deacons will be elected. All members and friends are urged to attend and be involved in the decisions that continue the ministry and mission of OSRC.



## WORSHIP COMMITTEE AND OSRC 250<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY

The Worship Committee met recently and, among the items of business, discussion was held about the celebration of the 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the church during 2020. We are very interested in forming a committee which will do the planning of several events throughout the year, and are eager to have volunteers who would like to help. Please see or call **Duffy Whitehouse** if you are interested. Thanks!



## ROOM FOR ALL



The consistory is in the process of forming a leadership team that will meet from now through the coming year to help engage OSRC in this process. If you are interested or feel called to be part of this team, please contact **Elder Paula Sheely**, V.P. and let her know. An initial report will be given at the Annual Congregational Meeting on Sun. Nov. 17.

## WOMEN'S RETREAT FOR THE TURNING POINT CHURCHES

The Turning Point Reformed Churches Women's Retreat was held the weekend of Oct. 25-27. Close to thirty women participated, including **Susanna Combs**, **Amber Deyoe** (and her friends **Amy** and **Cheryl**) and **Anne Mitchell** from OSRC. It was a weekend of Bible lessons, discussions, music, arts and crafts, walks to the lake, a local mission project, fellowship and friendship. The retreat was held at the Chi Rho House at Camp Fowler

## OFFICE CLOSED

The church office will be closed on **Monday, Nov. 11 for Veteran's Day**, and **Friday, Nov. 29** (the day after Thanksgiving.) It will reopen on Monday morning, Dec. 2.

## MISSION UPDATE

Our offerings in support of the following missions totaled the following:

<b>Mariposa Foundation DR</b>	<b>\$98.87</b>
<b>Dorian Relief</b>	<b>\$140</b>

## TURNING POINT REFORMED CHURCHES FELLOWSHIP TEAM REPORT

For two years now, since **Old Saratoga, Bacon Hill and Fort Miller Reformed Churches** came together as the "**Turning Point Reformed Churches**" to participate in the Albany Synod Fellowship Program, along with our "fellow" in ministry, **Pastor Jenn Legg**, we have been having regular meetings.

Two representatives from each of the three churches and the pastors attend these meetings which used to be monthly, but are now quarterly. We thank **Anne Mitchell** and **Susanna Combs**, who are currently representing Old Saratoga. At a recent meeting in October, it was decided that the Turning Point Churches would hold three joint worship services on Sundays following holidays when attendance is typically lower at all three churches. Here is the schedule:

**Sunday, Dec. 29 at Old Saratoga**

**Sunday, April 19 at Fort Miller**

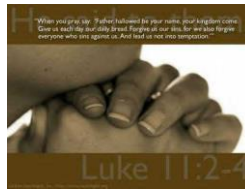
**Sunday, Sept. 6 at Bacon Hill (includes the Lord's Supper)**

The committee talked about the success of the Community Picnic on Sept. 9, and the plan to do it again next year; reports on Room For All were shared; an update was given on the Women's Retreat to be held Oct. 25-27 at Camp Fowler for all three churches; the possibility was raised of having another consistory leadership retreat in 2020; and developing a Turning Point Churches website or Facebook page that would have a calendar of events for the three churches.

Note was made of Pastor Jenn's Installation date on Sunday, Nov. 10, 3pm at the First Presbyterian Church in Ballston Spa. Congregations are encouraged to attend and arrange for car-pooling!

The Fellowship Team is planning to meet again at Fort Miller on Jan. 29, 2020.

# THE LORD'S PRAYER



Over a series of eight prior articles we have focused on individual sections of the Lord's Prayer. We learned that it is a prayer that Jesus taught in response to one of his disciple's request, "Lord, teach us to pray." (Luke 11:1) We find that the full text of the prayer, recorded by Matthew (6: 9-13) and in an abbreviated form, with some difference in wording, in Luke 11: 2-4. I would encourage the reader to look at Jesus' advice about prayer, which precedes Matthew's account (6:5-8) Here Jesus addresses our attitude while in prayer, suggests where we should pray, and warns against simply : "babbling like pagans" (vain repetitions.) I trust that the reader will find extreme comfort in the words which close out verse 8: "for your father knows what you need before you ask him."

In looking at the Lord's Prayer, we were reminded that it is a universal and communal prayer, and so we do not say "my Father," but rather "Our Father." We acknowledge God's sovereignty and our dependence upon his grace. We discover that the prayer contains seven petitions: the first three are centered on God, and the last four are about our human needs, both physical and spiritual. We honor and glorify God's name, seek the coming of God's kingdom, as we pray that we may be ruled by God's Word and Spirit, and confess our need for obedience to God's will. As we petition the Father concerning our human needs, we pray for provision of what we need physically for each day; plead for forgiveness of our debts and the grace to forgive others; ask for deliverance from the time of trial, and rescue from the evil one. We close the prayer on a note of praise to God, "...because, as our all-powerful king, you are both willing and able to give us all that is good; and because your holy name, and not we ourselves, should receive all the praise, forever. Amen" (Heidelberg Catechism answer to question 128)

As we offer the Lord's Prayer each Sunday, it is vital that we move beyond ritualistic recitation to a heart and soul-felt understanding of this all-inclusive prayer. To grasp its full meaning, it is helpful for us to consider other expressions of this prayer as offered by saints of God over many centuries.

Contemporary German theologian, Margit Ernst-Habib, commenting on the Lord's Prayer as thankfulness, had this to say: "God requires us to pray, and prayer is not just one, but the most important part of thankfulness...Prayer is, first and foremost, thankful response to God's grace, because in prayer we give thanks for all God has done for us in Christ, and we continually ask for the gift of grace. In doing so, we, as those who have been delivered by God, surrender ourselves completely to this Deliverer, trusting in God's promises and not ourselves." <sup>1</sup>

To God be the glory. Amen

1. Ernst-Habib, Margit, But Why Are You Called a Christian: An Introduction to the Heidelberg Catechism, Vandenhoeck & Ruprecht LLC, Bristol, CT. p. 141

Dick Behrens

# Community Life

## SECOND HAND ROSE THRIFT SHOP

116 Broad Street, Schuylerville NY



Tues.- Sat. 11am -4pm

Donations gladly accepted during store hours

Volunteers are always needed!

Call Charlotte at 518-695-4640

Next Board meeting Nov. 15 at 9:30 at OSRC

---

## SAFER

Schuylerville Area Food Relief

Open 9-12 noon M, F & 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday

(Mobile Food Pantry at Schuylerville  
United Methodist Church 4<sup>th</sup> Tues.

1:30-3pm)

518-507-6043

---

## THURSDAY NIGHT PRAYER

Faith Chapel opens its doors every Thursday evening from 5-8pm to anyone who wants to come in and pray or meditate. Hot chocolate and tea are available.

---

## GLENS FALL NATIONAL BANK COMMUNITY DAY

Friday, Nov. 1

Benefits SAFER (Schuylerville Area Food Relief)

Donations of baked goods are greatly appreciated. Please have them at the bank in the morning.

Food, fun, community spirit!



*Last year \$7300 was raised for SAFER, which translates into \$73,000 worth of purchasing power at the Regional Food Bank!!*

## LOCAL DINNERS AND EVENTS

Nov. 2 Sat. 4:30-6pm OSRC

Ham Dinner -call 518-695-6638

Nov. 9 Sat. Lasagna Dinner Bacon Hill

4:30 and 5:45 T O available

\$10 A, \$5 Kids 5-12 Benefit of  
Church camperships

Nov. 23 Sat. 4-7 Quaker Springs UMC

"Pasta With a Purpose" at the American  
Legion to support the mission trip to  
Guatemala

Dec. 7 Sat. 8am-2pm OSRC

Holiday Sale

Dec. 8 Sun. 3pm OSRC

Community Christmas Concert

---

## WREATHS ACROSS AMERICA

Wreaths Across America is an organization that helps raise money to provide a wreath for each veteran's gravestone. The goal of the Gerald B.H. Solomon Saratoga National Cemetery is 10,000 wreaths. For more information, to donate or to register as a volunteer, go to [WreathsAcrossAmerica.org](http://WreathsAcrossAmerica.org).

***On Saturday, Dec. 14 at 12 noon, a ceremony will be held and wreaths placed.***

---

## FREE COMMUNITY SUPPER

Wed. Nov. 20

5:30pm

St. Stephen's Episcopal Church

Grove Street

Schuylerville

All are welcome!

Old Saratoga Reformed Church  
48 Pearl Street, Schuylerville NY 12871  
PASTOR: Rev. Joyce deVelder  
OFFICE MANAGER: Duffy Whitehouse  
**Consistory Members:** Amber Deyoe, Paula Sheely,  
Anne Mitchell, Bridget Critelli, Susanna Combs  
***Published ten times yearly in Schuylerville, NY 12871***  
Sunday Worship: 10:00 am  
E-Mail:oldsaratogareformed@gmail.com  
[www.oldsaratoga.rcachurches.org](http://www.oldsaratoga.rcachurches.org)  
[www.facebook.com/oldsaratogareformedchurch](http://www.facebook.com/oldsaratogareformedchurch)  
Phone and Fax: 518-695-3479

***Annual Ham Harvest Supper***  
***Sat. Nov. 2 4:30-6pm (see inside for details)***

*(Daylight Savings –set clocks back one hour overnight on Nov. 2)*

***Communion Sunday***  
***Sunday Nov. 3 10am***

***Thanksgiving Sunday***  
***Sunday Nov. 24***

***St. Nicolaas Brunch and Church Decorating***  
***Sat. Nov. 30 10am***