



THE PARISH NEWS

DECEMBER 2016

HOLIDAY ISSUE

VOLUME 76-No. 74

A MESSAGE FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK



Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

We are preparing for Christmas which is the season of praise and thanksgiving for the incarnation of God in Jesus Christ. It is a season which begins with Christmas Eve or Christmas Day and continues through the Day of Epiphany.



According to the United Methodist Book of Worship, the name Christmas comes from the season's first service, the Christ Mass. Epiphany comes from the Greek word epiphania, which means "manifestation." New Year's Eve or Day is often celebrated in the United Methodist tradition with a Covenant Renewal Service.

During this holiday season, we celebrate Christ our Savior and Lord.



Often, our world, country, neighborhood and homes witness violence, hatred, fear and bias. Christmas is a time for us to counter these ills by loving each other as God loved us by sending his Son.

As we celebrate this Christmas Season, we turn our thoughts to that blessed moment when the Prince of Peace and the Light of the World was born. His promise to us is: "The one who follows me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life."



I pray this Christmas season that the light of the Savior will come into our hearts, that our lives will reflect his life, and that we will accept the blessings of his mercy and grace which have been made possible through his sacrifice on the cross at Calvary.

"God demonstrated his love for us in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us." The good news is, he offers us the gift of eternal life. What a wonderful gift!

May we take time to remember the real spirit of Christmas—the love and generosity of God. And may we share the gift of God's love with others this season and always.

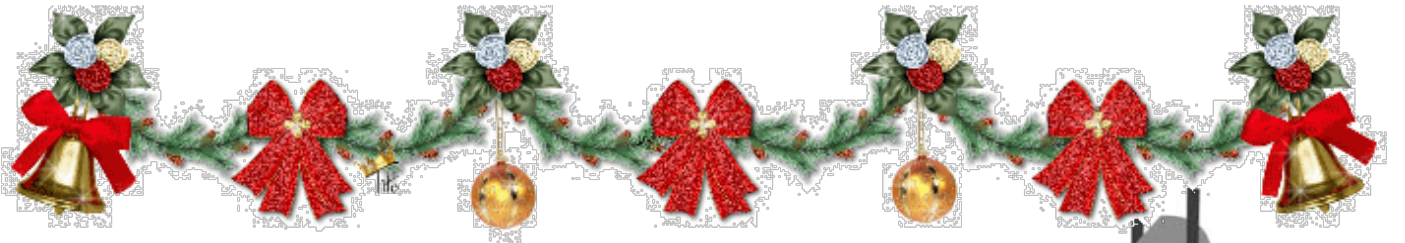
Brenda joins me in expressing love and best wishes to all of you during this Holy Season.



Sincerely yours,

Rev. St. Clair A. Samuel





In the Spotlight

Dr. William R. Smith



Pictured above (L-R): Jim Ross, Dr. Smith, and Duncan Chase.



Members of the choir and their spouses, along with Kevin Gray, Organist and Choir Director at the UMC of Hempstead, enjoyed a 90th surprise birthday celebration this month in honor of Dr. William Smith's birthday. The group had dinner together at Davenport Press Restaurant in Mineola, shared the delicious cake, complete with 90 birthday candles, and socialized in a fun and festive atmosphere. Happy Birthday Dr. Smith!








Pictured above: Members of the UMC of Hempstead Choir, their spouses, and Kevin Gray, organist and choir director.

Photos, courtesy of Kevin Gray.



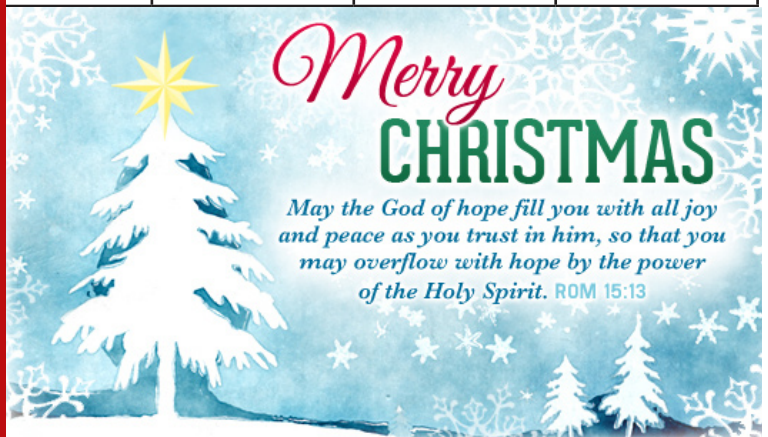
December Calendar

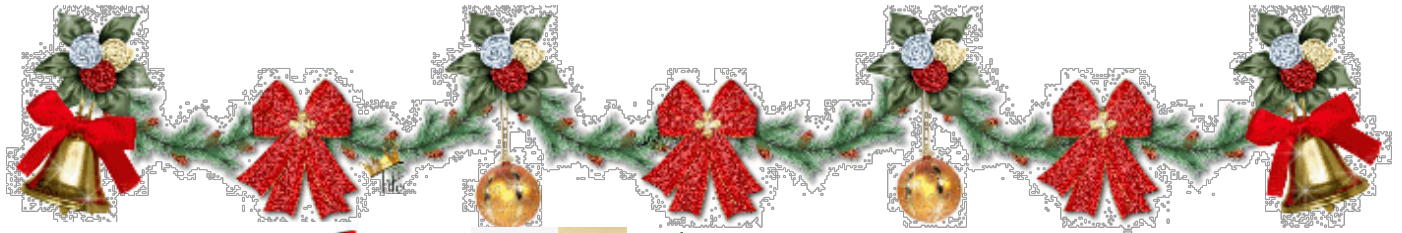
| SUNDAY | MONDAY | TUESDAY | WED. | THURSDAY | FRIDAY | SATURDAY |
|--|--------|---|--|---|---|---|
| | | | | 1 | 2 | 3 |
| 4 Bible Study | 5 | 6 | 7  | 8 | 9 | 10 |
| 11 Bible Study | 12 | 13 UMW Christmas Luncheon, 12-3 pm Pompei Restaurant | 14 | 15  | 16 | 17 Board of Trustees, 9 am Hempstead Fellowship Brunch 11-1pm |
| 18 Lessons in Carols, 10 am Christmas Pageant White ChristmsToy Drive | 19 | 20  | | 22 | 23  | 24 Christmas Eve Service, 7:30 pm |
| 25 Christmas Service, 9 am | 26 | 27  | 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 New Year's Eve Service, 10:30 pm |

Annual Christmas Toy Drive



Each year, the UMC collects toys for distribution by the Long Island Council of Churches to children in need in the community. Please assist in this effort by bringing a toy for a boy or girl on Sunday, Dec. 18, 2016. If possible, please wrap the gift in white paper, noting the appropriate age and whether it's for a boy or a girl. Thank you for your continuing support and generosity! - Jackie Morgan, UMW





CHURCH NEWS



On *October 30th*, the women of the church met with members of the Executive Board of the UMW. Interest was shown in the organization but more information was wanted. There will be a second meeting on January 8th, and hopefully all questions will be answered. By virtue of being a member of the church, all women are already members of the UMW. We would welcome more involvement to make the UMW of Hempstead one of the strongest units.

The UMW would like to thank everyone who helped with our Christmas Fair. We hope all enjoyed the fresh veggies, cheese, baked goods, etc. The funds raised are given to the church as our gift; our pledge to UMW LIE District; and donations to local charities. Thank you for helping us fulfill our mission.

Don't miss service on December 18th - it will be special. The Sunday School will be performing their Christmas Pageant and Kevin Gray will present "Lessons and Carols." Nothing can raise your Christmas spirit more. The tradition in our church is to bring wrapped gifts for children in need. Mark each gift with boy or girl and the age. They will be presented to the children of our Sunday School during the service. The gifts are then delivered to the Long Island Council of Churches for distribution.

There is still time to add your name to the Christmas Card Tree, sending holiday greetings to your church family. By donating to NY Methodist Hospital's Red Stocking Campaign, you will be included in the wishes listed in the Christmas bulletin and the next *Parish News*. Visit the tree during coffee hour through 12/18.

On November 16th, \$892.72 was donated to UMCOR for relief to the victims of Hurricane Matthew. Thank you all.

At the NYAC meeting, in June, the UMC of Hempstead received the Silver Local Mission Award for 2015. The five areas needed to be considered are: a. Pay apportionments; b. Local Mission project (food collection/Pastor's discretionary fund); c. Contribute to "Special Sunday Offerings"; d. Support Advance Project (Napal earthquake relief); e. Participate in volunteer mission work (monthly Fellowship Brunch). **In 2016, we are going for the GOLD.**

Steeple Repair and Painting

Did you notice three men hanging precariously from the steeple lately? These "steeple people" have been giving the UMC of Hempstead church steeple much-needed paint and repair work. When they first began, a helicopter was needed to help hang the rope on top of the steeple spiral so they could do their magic.

The last time the steeple was painted was in the mid-1980s. It cost \$20,000 at that time.

Today, the job cost over \$40,000 to both paint and repair it. The steeple has a brand new look, and is once again a beautiful sight to behold. This project has depleted the money the trustees have to repair our



buildings. If you would like to help, and we pray you will, use the gold capital funds envelope in your offering envelope box and mark it "STEEPLE."

Pictured above: The steeple, in the finishing stages. The photo to the left shows the men just beginning the work.

Photo above, courtesy of Zoe Gomes.



Sunshine Column

DECEMBER BIRTHDAY LIST - HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

| | |
|--------------------|---------------|
| Lance Koplitz | December 2nd |
| Frederick Draudt | December 7th |
| Christine Thomson | December 10th |
| Grace Brammer | December 10th |
| Claudia Byam | December 12th |
| James Scantlebury | December 16th |
| Jonathan McCullers | December 17th |
| Raymond Gomes | December 20th |
| Nicole Clarke | December 22nd |
| Soibhan Daley | December 22nd |
| Bea Draudt | December 22nd |
| Natasha Davidson | December 24th |
| Rick Edwards | December 29th |



If your name is not on the list, please contact Mary Johnson, Karen Bonnet, or Lavern Thompson in the Church office.

PARISH NEWS ANNOUNCEMENTS

Please submit all information (articles, announcements, photos) about events, committee/ministries news, and other information that you can share with our church family to: hempsteadumc@gmail.com, or drop them off in the church office by December 19th.

The next *Parish News* will be distributed in the first week of January. Your church-related articles and photos are welcome!

If you are new to the church and wish to become a member, please see Pastor.

CHURCH SCHEDULE

Sunday: 8:30 AM Bible Study
 9:00 AM Choir Rehearsal
 10:00 AM Morning Worship
 (Social Hour to Follow)

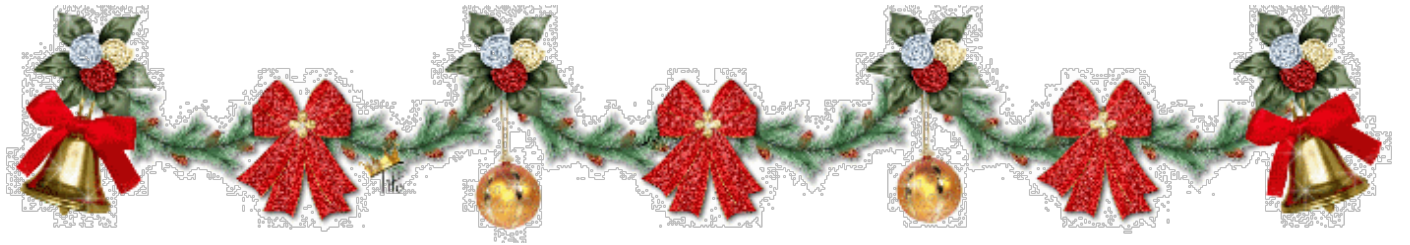
After service, Sounds of Praise
 Choir Rehearsal
 (5-11 years old)

Sunday: Service in Spanish, 12:30 PM
 Thursday: 7:30 PM Choir Rehearsal
 Friday: 8:00 PM Youth Fellowship
 (Alternate Fridays)



2016 CHURCH FAIR: CELEBRATING THE HOLIDAY SEASON





ANNUAL CHURCH FAIR ON NOV. 12TH A FESTIVE EVENT!

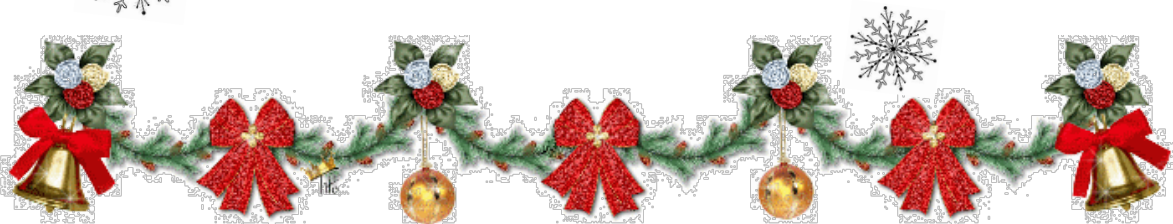


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December 2016 / Editor and Art Director: Karen Bonnet



HARVEST SUNDAY - NOVEMBER 20, 2016



Photos above, courtesy of Grace Brammer. More photos to will appear in the January issue of the Parish News. Stay tuned!

HEMPSTEAD FELLOWSHIP BRUNCH THANKSGIVING FEAST - NOVEMBER 19, 2016



Pictured above: The dedicated volunteers of the Hempstead Fellowship Brunch prepared, cooked, and served a delicious Thanksgiving meal, with all the trimmings, to the people in the community who came to enjoy it. Hats off to the Committee for their generous spirit!



Pictured above: Ruth Robinson, Janice Wellington, and the family who won the Thanksgiving raffle basket at the HFB. Photos, courtesy of Judy Quinn.