



The Lighted Tower

Center Congregational Church, Meriden.
474 Broad Street – Meriden, CT 06450

December 2018 Vol. 3 No 10

Dear Center Church Friends,

December is always a busy month in our lives. This is not just with family and friends, but also with the church. Your staff and the Deacons have been busy planning and organizing for you. Please review the events listed below. We are chock-full of good offerings for you this Advent, Christmas and Epiphany.

A Merry and Blessed Christmas from Joan, Anna, Maureen and myself.

Kendrick

12/2 First Sunday of Advent 8:30 & 10 AM

Hanging of the Greens Service and Communion

Advent Candle of Peace: Sharon Eaton & Maureen Hamilton

Scripture Readings: Jeremiah 23:5-6, Isaiah 9:2, 6-7, Luke 2:14, John 1: 5-9, 9-14

Advent Workshop and Potluck Luncheon 11:30 AM to 2:30 PM

Saturday 12/8 Christmas Party at First Church 1-3pm.

12/9 Second Sunday of Advent 8:30 & 10 AM

Advent Candle of Hope: The Halla Family

Scripture: Psalm 62:1,2, 5-6 , Psalm 130:1-2, 5-6 Debbie Gaffney

Sermon: "Sacred Waiting" Kendrick Norris

Gift Sunday

12/16 Third Sunday of Advent 8:30 & 10 AM

Advent Candle of Joy: The Rochette family

Scripture: Romans 15:7 and Hebrews 13: 1-2 Avery Rochette

Sermon: "No Room or Welcome" Kendrick Norris

Aubrey Rochette baptism

Friday 12/21 Longest Night (Blue Christmas) Service 7 PM. Rev. Tobin offered this last year and there was a very positive response to it. Therefore, we will offer this "Service of Remembrance and Healing" again.

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12/23 Fourth Sunday of Advent

Advent Candle of Love: Juanita Irvine

Text: Luke 1:26-38 Steve Gorman

Sermon: "Mothers of God"

Monday 12/24 Christmas Eve

Pageant 5PM

Lessons and Carols Service 11PM

12/25-12/27 Office Closed

Sunday 12/30 8:30 & 10 Maureen Hamilton preaching

Sunday 1/6 Epiphany 8:30 & 10 Sermon:

No scripture, part of sermon

Sermon: "The Story of the Fourth Wiseman" Kendrick Norris

Epiphany Stars with a single motivational word will be given out for your reflection during 2019.



MISSION MOMENT

Thank you to everyone who donated to our Upper Room project in October. We collected \$352 for this project in October. Since this project began in July, donations for the Upper Room have totaled \$1,438.

Reminder - Gift Sunday is December 9th this year. The agencies chosen this year are Catholic Family Services, Kuhn Center, and the Albert J. Solnit Children's Center. A list of recommended gift items was included in last month's Lighted Tower and is also listed in the Sunday bulletin. Please bring an unwrapped gift on the 9th and place it in one of the boxes in the front of the sanctuary. Cash contributions are also welcome.



December's Mission project is the Christmas Fund, which is one of the four special missions offerings of the UCC. This fund provides assistance to active and retired UCC ministers and church staff members who are facing unexpected financial needs, health premium supplementation for lower-income retired clergy and lay employees, and pension supplementation for lower-income retired clergy and lay employees.

Thank you all for your support of Missions' projects this year. We really appreciate your generosity!!

MERRY CHRISTMAS from the Missions Committee!!

Upper Room Donation

Heartfelt thanks to The Wadsworth Family Foundation for their generous support of the Upper Room. The foundation recently donated \$6,000 to be applied towards the money spent for renovating and furnishing the apartment (\$25,000). We are grateful for their support of our mission to improve life for victims of domestic violence—one family at a time.

Storm Closings



Information regarding storm cancellations will be posted on the following TV stations: WFSB 3, NBC 30, and FOX 61.



Advent Workshop

December 2nd, 11:30-1:00PM, is the Annual **Advent Workshop and Potluck Luncheon**. Everyone is invited to bring a dish to share and enjoy the fellowship, crafts and songs of the season.

The CCC Youth Group will be traveling to the Westfield Mall in Meriden on **December 9th** to purchase items for the **Giving Tree**



LOL class will meet on **December 16th**

The CCC Youth Group will host a **Coat Giveaway** will be after church on **December 16th** in Fellowship Hall. Hats, gloves, socks, and coats may be donated for our local neighbors in need.



There will be a **rehearsal for the Christmas Pageant on Friday, December 21st at 5:30**.
A **dress rehearsal for the pageant will be held after church on Sunday, the 23rd**.
The **Christmas Pageant will be shared at the 6PM service on Christmas Eve**.

There will be **no Sunday school classes held on December 30th**, but everyone-young and not so young, are welcome to attend regular 8:30 and 10am worship services.

FELLOWSHIP

Koinonia's Christmas Lunch will be on Tuesday, Dec. 4 at 11:30 am at Sans Souci. The men are invited to attend. Sign up with Lorraine White.

Koinonia will deliver poinsettias and cookies to our shut-ins on Tuesday, December 18. Plan to meet in the Fellowship Hall at 10:30 am.

Others: Hello everyone, Wow where has the year disappeared to? **Others** will meet in Pauline Blakeslee's home for our Annual December meeting. We will celebrate the belated birthday of Betty Leidy due to a snow storm in November. Our December birthday is Pauline Blakeslee's. Please call Pauline at 203-265-0271 (home) or 203-215-1944 (Mobil) and let her know if you are contributing an appetizer or desert. We will meet on December 13th at 6:00 pm and enjoy the lovely decorations that Pauline will treat us to.

Wishing you all the best throughout the Advent season.



UPCOMING EVENTS

- Adult Bible Study – Wednesday mornings at 10:30 am in the Federal Room
- Dec. 2 Communion Sunday
- Dec. 2 First Sunday in Advent
- Dec. 2 Advent workshop and potluck lunch
- Dec. 4 Koinonia Christmas Luncheon at 11:30 am at San Souci
- Dec. 9 Gift Sunday
- Dec. 16 Coat Sunday
- Dec. 18 Koinonia will deliver cookies meet at 10:30 am.
- Dec. 21 Dress Rehearsal for Pageant – 5:30 pm
- Dec. 21 Longest Night Service – 7 pm
- Dec. 24 5:00 pm Christmas pageant
- Dec. 24 11 pm Christmas Eve Service
- Dec. 25 Christmas
- Dec. 26 Office closed
- Dec. 27 Office Closed
- Dec. 28 Office open at 9:00 am.

Sunday Worship

- 8:30am - Chapel Service – enter by rear parking lot, 30-minute service – Communion 1st and 3rd Sunday of each month.
- 10:00 am. - Worship in Sanctuary
- Holy Communion first Sunday of each month and all are welcome

