

# Leslie's Musings

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November -

December 2019



Leslie's Musings

November-December 2019

*"Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son,  
and they shall name him Emmanuel,  
which means, 'God is with us.'" Matthew 1:23*

It's almost time for Advent! As you may realize, our liturgical year ends around the end of November, and then we're off to a new main Gospel for the next year—in this case, we're moving from Luke to Matthew. It's a way for us to hear the stories of Jesus' life and ministry from different perspectives. Luke's language tends to be poetic. The author of Matthew focuses more on salvation. Early in, we find Jesus at his baptism—his first act of ministry. By the time the Gospel finishes, the resurrected Jesus commands his followers to baptize *all nations*—not just Jews but also Gentiles—in the name of the Trinity. Baptism bookends Jesus' ministry.

As we remember every time we baptize a child of God, the act of pouring water on someone is a sacramental death; a willingness to stop the life of sin, hatred, greed, and the like, and to put on the clothes of righteousness. As Isaiah says so beautifully in chapter 2:4,

*they shall beat their swords into plowshares,  
and their spears into pruning hooks;  
nation shall not lift up sword against nation,  
neither shall they learn war any more.*

The anticipation of the Prince of Peace calls for a renewal of our baptismal covenant. We set aside our sinful behavior and clothe ourselves with righteousness, faithfulness, equity, harmony, steadfastness and encouragement, unity, joy, fearlessness, and the willingness to be led by a Child—all words found in the four weeks of Advent scripture readings.

Advent is, by definition, a season of waiting for what is to come. The darkening days ask us to slow our thoughts, to delve deeply into our thoughts and motivations, and to consider what it means to follow a humble Savior, the polar opposite of the mighty Roman warrior. The one who turns a weapon of war into a weapon against hunger and poverty. The one who warns us to keep awake, to bring healing to those who need it. The one who will die to let us live. Are we willing to be part of his baptism and ministry?

Be faithful and loving and strong. Meanwhile, I'll see you in church.

*Love,*

*Leslie*

GOOD NEWS GAZETTE

## Words from the Worship Ministry Team



“Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works & glorify your Father in heaven.” Matt 5:16

### **NOVEMBER Worship 11AM**

**Sun, Nov 03<sup>rd</sup> 11a** - Worship with Pastor Leslie; Communion by Intinction; All Saints' Day Remembrance; Necrology will be read

**Sun, Nov 10<sup>th</sup> 11a** - Worship with Rev Nancy Bassett

**Sun, Nov 17<sup>th</sup> 11a** - Worship with Pastor Leslie

**Wed, Nov 20<sup>th</sup> 6:30p** - Healing Worship Service with Pastor Leslie

**Sun, Nov 24<sup>th</sup> 11a** - Worship with Pastor Leslie; Baptism - Timothy Yurek



### **DECEMBER Worship 11AM**

**During Advent, at 8:30am, an informal worship/communion service is offered in the Parlor**

**Sun, Dec 01<sup>st</sup> 11a** - **1st Sunday of Advent**; Worship with Pastor Leslie; Communion by Intinction

**Sun, Dec 08<sup>th</sup> 11a** - **2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Advent**; Worship with Pastor Leslie

**Sun, Dec 15<sup>th</sup> 11a** - **3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Advent**; Worship with Pastor Leslie

**Wed, Dec 18<sup>th</sup> 6:30p** - Healing Worship service

**Sun, Dec 22<sup>nd</sup> 11a** - **4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent**; Worship with Pastor Leslie

**Tues, Dec 24<sup>th</sup> 8p** Christmas Eve Communion Worship with Pastor Leslie

**Sun, Dec 29<sup>th</sup> 11a** - Worship with Pastor Leslie: “Carols/Lessons/Prayer Stations”



### SAVE THE DATE: UPCOMING EVENTS

- November 30: “Hanging of the Greens” at 9:30am Please join in this tradition of clothing our sanctuary in Christmas love. All are invited.
- December 1: “The Marvelous Advent Adventure” - Intergenerational Event 9am-10:30am in Fellowship Hall. All are invited.
- December 8: “PW Annual Christmas Tea” at 12:15pm Goodies and fun to share. All are welcome. Watch for the sign-up sheet in the Narthex.
- December 24: Christmas Eve Communion Worship at 8pm

**\*\*PLEASE come & join the Worship Ministry Team! A great way to use your gifts behind the scenes! We need your input. Informal. Usually the 1<sup>st</sup> or 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday just before choir. Check the bulletin for the date!**



**PLEASE: The WMT needs YOUR help! Please consider learning how to set up for COMMUNION. It's very easy. It takes only a short amount of time/effort. Contact Shirley Hagle, Jane Crossan, Pat Loeswick or Janet Haacker for the instructions/shadowing opportunity. Please help!**

All AGES are welcome to become an ACOLYTE

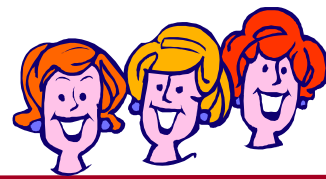
See Janet Schurr for more information.



#### WMT Members:

Co-Chairs: Elders Mary Ferro and Pat Loeswick;  
Members: Jane Crossan, Kurt Ebsary, Janet Haacker,  
Shirley Hagle, and Janet Schurr.  
Spiritual Advisor: Pastor Leslie Latham

# Women's News



## **“Happy Holiday Sale”**

**Wednesday, November 6, 2019**

**10am-1:00pm**

**Lunch 11am-12:30pm**

**Chicken and Biscuits,**

**Fresh Baked Pie and Beverage**

**Cost: \$6.00 (Takeout \$6.50)**

**Proceeds to benefit local charities.**

## **“Classic Bag Sale”**

**Saturday, December 7**

**10am-12pm**

**Fill a grocery bag for \$2.00**

**Please remember items you no longer need are still accepted. Please be sure they are reusable and in clean condition. Please no electronics.**

## **Church Women United**

**2019 World Community Day**

**Friday, November 1 at 1pm**

**O.L.C. Church**

**34 Center Avenue, N. Tonawanda**

**Topic: Habitat for Humanity**

## **2020 Dates for Circle II Sales**

**Wednesday, April 1**

**Wednesday, May 6**

**Wednesday, June 3**

**Wednesday, September 2**

**Wednesday, October 7**

**Wednesday, November 4**

## **Presbyterian Women's Annual Christmas Tea**

**Sunday, December 8 at 12:15pm**

**in the Parlor**

**The menu will include:**

**Tea sandwiches~cookies~cheese & fruit trays**

**If you have a favorite tea cup, feel free to bring it with you.**

**All women of the church are invited,  
and men are always welcome too!**



# Deacon's Notes

## Hunger Sunday: November 17 and December 15

Don't forget that the third Sunday of the month is **Hunger Sunday**. Food and cash donations are welcome and proceeds are donated to the Twin Cities Community Outreach. Thank you for your support! Many thanks to Donna and Bruce Blinston for delivering the food to the food pantry every month.



## Thanksgiving Fruit Baskets

The Deacons will be assembling fruit baskets for our homebound folks on Saturday, November 23 at 9:30am. Baskets will be available for pick up on Saturday, Nov 23 and Sunday, Nov 24. Please consider signing up to deliver a basket. All are welcome to come and help assemble the baskets on Saturday morning. See Jane Crossan for questions.

## Tonawanda City Schools Holiday Party Food Drive

Please help the Deacons collect food for those children in need right here in our own city. Bags will be filled with particular food items and will be given to the kids at the holiday party to take home to have during the Christmas break. In the spirit of Christmas, won't you please consider donating to this worthy cause? Items especially needed for the food bags are 16 oz. jars of peanut butter and grape jam/jelly. This is our second year participating in this worthwhile project and donations need to be here by December 8. See Jane Crossan for further information.



## Christmas Poinsettias

Memorial Poinsettias add beauty and joy to our Sanctuary at Christmas. The Deacons will be selling Memorial Christmas flowers before and after worship on November 24 and December 1. The cost is \$10.00.

## Charlie Brown Mitten Tree

Our Charlie Brown Mitten Tree will soon be accepting your beautiful handmade or purchased hats, mittens, or scarves. These warm items will be distributed to the children in need in Tonawanda. All items need to be on the tree by December 11th. Watch for the Charlie Brown Tree in the Narthex.



# A STEPHEN MINISTRY MESSAGE

by Janet Haacker



*"For God has not given us a spirit of fear & timidity,  
but of power, love & self-discipline." 2Timothy 1:7*

When you read that verse, what came to your mind? Do you remember a time that you said "no" to a request to help in some situation you felt unqualified for - OR, did you take that "leap of faith" & accept the challenge?

Whichever path you chose at that time/& now, God was/is right there with you - ready, willing, & able to provide you with the tools to "get the job done."

Each day we face decisions that may be hard & even frightening at first. Listening to the Holy Spirit's whispering in your heart & obeying, is the day you answer God's call! We are never alone when we are doing His work.

Perhaps you might find a way to help on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of each month as we welcome our "guests" in our MEMORY LANE Respite program! We, Stephen Ministers, are ready to help you help others!



## COOKIE EXCHANGE & OPEN HOUSE

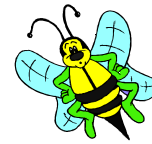
~ Saturday, December 14

1pm-3pm

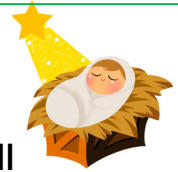
You're invited to Pastor Leslie's  
Annual Cookie Exchange/Open House.  
Feel free to bring a dozen cookies to exchange.  
I'll provide the food and beverages.

We hope to see you there!

51 Rockne Road, Tonawanda



## "THE MARVELOUS ADVENT ADVENTURE" - INTERGENERATIONAL EVENT



**Sunday, December 1 from 9am—10:30am in Fellowship Hall**

When Pastor Leslie, Billy, and some of the youth came back from the Triennium, they told us (the CE Committee) they learned about intergenerational events and could we have one here. An Intergenerational event is one when people - families - singles (all different ages) work together. The CE Committee has planned an Intergenerational Event for December 1 at 9am in the Fellowship Hall. So mark your calendars and enjoy getting ready for Christmas. We'll be making ornaments, a gift or two, playing games, singing songs, and sneaking a cookie while we frost them, as we learn about the Season of Advent. Breakfast will be available. This event is for all ages, so everyone in the church is invited!

**See you on December 1st at 9am**

### **Worship Circle: Sunday, December 15 at 9:30am**

Meet in the parlor with Nancy Bassett; she has some fun things planned for the Sunday School kids.

### **Happy Birthday to all the kids who celebrate their birthday in November and December!**

#### **November**

10 Jeremy Bearfield  
24 Timmy Yurek



#### **December**

5 Jackson Haacker  
15 Benjamin Anthony

**No Sunday School Classes on 12/29/2019, but come right back on January 5, 2020.**

#### **Christian Education Meeting:**

Monday, November 18 - 6pm  
(Parents & Teachers are always welcome)

Adult Sunday School meets every Sunday at 9:45am. All are welcome to come and join the class. Any questions, contact Janet Haacker.

Adult Bible Study meets the third Sunday of the month right after worship. All are welcome to come and join the class. Any questions, contact Nancy Bassett.

# Music Notes - November and December

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## Choir Rehearsal: 7:30pm

November: 7, 21

December: 5, 12, 19

As always, new members (or even sporadic drop-ins) are always most welcome!



Joy

## Hearts4Worship Rehearsal:

### 6:30pm

November: 7, 21

December: 5, 12, 19

Happy Birthday to our Church Family who celebrate their birthday in November and December.

Thank GOD For You!

### NOVEMBER

- 2 Mary Anne Rados
- 10 Janet Schurr
- 11 Kellsie Nolan
- 15 Shirley Hagle
- 21 Nancy Burns
- 28 Jean Marquette

HAPPY  
BIRTHDAY

### DECEMBER

- 8 Walter Frech
- 9 Leslie Dugan
- 16 Marge Klinger
- 23 Ina Charsley
- 29 Kurt Ebsary
- 30 Linda Liberti



# Worship Assistants

## Greeters: November

3 Mary Zielke  
10 Linda Barry  
17 Jane Crossan  
24 Nancy Dietrich

## Greeters: December

1 Laura & Alvin Marohn & Nathan Harrington  
8 Janet & Sue Schurr  
15 Yurek Family  
22 Shirley Hagle & Bonnie Zimmer  
24 Marlene Tyrrell & Girls  
29 Jack Seager & Jackie Roxford

## Liturgists: November

3 Sue Schurr  
10 Pat Loeswick  
17 Bonnie Zimmer  
24 Marilee Mathias

## Liturgists: December

1 Billy Welch  
8 Janet Haacker  
15 Sue Schurr  
22 Diane Charsley  
24 Mackintosh Barker  
29 Ryan Tasevski

## Coffee Hour: November

3 Linda Barry & Bonnie Zimmer  
10 Janet Haacker  
17 Leslie & Tom Dugan  
24 Jane Crossan & Nancy Dietrich

## Coffee Hour: December

1 Laura Marohn  
8 PW Christmas Tea  
15 Cheryl Yurek  
22 Lynn Weber  
29 No Coffee Hour

## Communion Servers

**November 3:** 11am By Intinction  
Bonnie Zimmer, Sue Schurr, & Mary Ferro

Pew Server: Janet Haacker

**December 1:** 11am By Intinction  
Laura & Alvin Marohn & Nathan Harrington

Pew Server: Pat Loeswick

## Ushers: November

3 Team 3  
10 Team 4  
17 Team 1  
24 Team 2

## Ushers: December

1 Team 3  
8 Team 4  
15 Team 1  
22 Team 2  
24 Team 3  
29 Team 4

## Usher Teams

### **-Team 1**

William Welch, Jessica Schurr, Alvin & Laura Marohn, Nathan Harrington, and Mary Ferro

### **-Team 2**

Tom & Leslie Dugan, Jeremy Bearfield, Ryan Yurek, Shelby Bearfield, and Pat Loeswick

### **-Team 3**

Randy Marohn, John Greth, J. William Haley, Linda Barry, Joya Palermo, and Ryan Tasevski

### **-Team 4**

Brian Burns, Kelsey Burns, Kaitlyn Burns, Diane Charsley, John Faux, and Bonnie Zimmer

<b>November 2019</b>						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					<b>1</b> Church Women United World Community Day 1p  UFO 7p	<b>2</b>
<b>3</b> Sunday School 9:30a  Worship/Communion 11a	<b>4</b> AA 9a	<b>5</b> Deacons 1p	<b>6</b> "Happy Holiday Sale" 10:00a-1:00p	<b>7</b> AA 9a Yoga 6:30p Hardcore 30 Fitness 6:30p  Worship Team 6p  H4W 6:30p Choir 7:30p	<b>8</b> UFO 7p	<b>9</b>
<b>10</b> Sunday School 9:30a  Worship 11a	<b>11</b> Office Closed AA 9a	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b> Circle II 9a	<b>14</b> AA 9a Yoga 6:30p Hardcore 30 Fitness 6:30p	<b>15</b> UFO 7p	<b>16</b> Prep for Advent Adventure 10a
<b>17</b> Sunday School 9:30a  Worship 11a  Hunger Sunday  Bible Study 12:15p	<b>18</b> AA 9a  CE Mtg 6p Session 7p	<b>19</b>  Memory Lane 10:30am-2:30pm	<b>20</b> Circle II 9a  Healing Service 6:30p	<b>21</b> AA 9a Yoga 6:30p Hardcore 30 Fitness 6:30p  H4W 6:30p Choir 7:30p	<b>22</b> UFO 7p	<b>23</b> Assemble Thanksgiving Baskets for Shut-ins-9:30am All are welcome to help.
<b>24</b> Sunday School 9:30a  Worship 11a  Deacons sell Memorial Flowers	<b>25</b> AA 9a	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b> Circle II 9a	<b>28</b> Office Closed AA 9a	<b>29</b> Office Closed  UFO 7p	<b>30</b> "Hanging of the Greens" 9:30a

Ministry Team Chairs, Deacons, Church School, Presbyterian Women & Circle groups – it is your responsibility to submit announcements and/or information on events or meetings to the office by the following date if you wish them to be published.

**January-February Newsletter Articles DUE: DECEMBER 15, 2019**

Announcements for the weekly bulletin must be submitted to the office by Tuesday before Noon, preferable by email, to be included in the following Sunday's bulletin.

<b>December 2019</b>						
<b>Sun</b>	<b>Mon</b>	<b>Tue</b>	<b>Wed</b>	<b>Thu</b>	<b>Fri</b>	<b>Sat</b>
<b>1</b> Advent Worship 8:30a Sunday School 9:30a  Worship/Communion 11a  Deacons sell Memorial Flowers  "The Marvelous Advent Adventure" – Intergenerational Event 9a-10:30a	<b>2</b> AA 9a	<b>3</b> Deacons 1p	<b>4</b> Circle II 9a	<b>5</b> AA 9a Yoga 6:30p Hardcore 30 Fitness 6:30p  Worship Team 6p  H4W 6:30p Choir 7:30p	<b>6</b> UFO 7p	<b>7</b> Circle II Bag Sale 10a-12p
<b>8</b> Advent Worship 8:30a Sunday School 9:30a  Worship 11a  PW Christmas Tea 12:15p	<b>9</b> AA 9a	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b> AA 9a Yoga 6:30p Hardcore 30 Fitness 6:30p  H4W 6:30p Choir 7:30p	<b>13</b> UFO 7p	<b>14</b> Cookie Exchange 1p-3p  Pastor Leslie's House
<b>15</b> Advent Worship 8:30a  "Worship Circle" 9:30a Sunday School 9:30a  Worship 11a  Hunger Sunday  Bible Study 12:15p	<b>16</b> AA 9a  Ecumenical Blue Christmas Service 7p Church of the Nativity	<b>17</b> Memory Lane 10:30am-2:30pm	<b>18</b> Healing Service 6:30p	<b>19</b> AA 9a Yoga 6:30p Hardcore 30 Fitness 6:30p  H4W 6:30p Choir 7:30p	<b>20</b> UFO 7p	<b>21</b>
<b>22</b> Advent Worship 8:30a Sunday School 9:30a  Worship 11a	<b>23</b> AA 9a	<b>24</b> Office Closed  Worship 8p	<b>25</b> Office Closed	<b>26</b> AA 9a Yoga 6:30p Hardcore 30 Fitness 6:30p	<b>27</b> UFO 7p	<b>28</b>
<b>29</b> Worship 11a  No Sunday School	<b>30</b> AA 9a	<b>31</b>				



**Elders**

**Class of 2020**

Tom Dugan, Elizabeth Crocker

**Class of 2021**

Laura Marohn, Mary Ferro

**Class of 2022**

Diane Charsley, Patricia Loeswick

**Deacons**

**Class of 2020**

Judy Geerkin, Alvin Marohn, Marlene Tyrrell

**Class of 2021**

Lynn Hyland

**Class of 2022**

Jane Crossan, Donna Blinston, Leslie Dugan

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