



News From The Heart

DECEMBER 2017

First Presbyterian Church of Cazenovia, NY

In the Heart of the Village since 1799

Pastor's Journal

GIVE US GRACE that we may cast away the works of darkness, and put upon us the armor of light, now in the time of this mortal life in which thy son Jesus Christ came to visit us in great humility: that in the last day, when he shall come again in his glorious majesty, to judge both the quick and the dead, we may rise to the life immortal. (*From the Book of Common Prayer*)

All the paradoxical themes of Advent are compressed into that handful of words: Christ coming at Christmas time in great humility and again at the end of time in glorious majesty—Christ coming as a child to save us and as a king to judge us—mortal life, immortal life. They clatter against each other like shutters in the wind with all their points and counterpoints. They all but deafen us with their message at one and the same time of sin and grace, justice and mercy, comfort and challenge. “Cast away the works of darkness,” they say, and put on “the armor of light.” Maybe those are the words that best sum up the paradox of who we are and where we are. Somewhere between

the darkness and the light. That is where we are as Christians. And not just at Advent time, but at all times. Somewhere between the fact of darkness and the hope of light. That is who we are.

“Advent” means “coming” of course, and the promise of Advent is that what is coming is an unimaginable invasion. The mythology of our age has to do with flying saucers and invasions from outer space, and that is unimaginable enough. But what is upon us now is even more so—a close encounter not of the third kind but of a different kind altogether. An invasion of *holiness*. That is what Advent is about.

What is coming upon the world is the Light of the World. It is Christ. That is the comfort of it. The challenge of it is that it has not come yet. Only the hope for it has come, only the longing for it. In the meantime we are in the dark, and the dark, God knows, is also in us. We watch and wait for a holiness to heal us and hallow us, to liberate us from the dark. Advent is like the hush in a theater just before the

Church Staff:

Pastor	Rev Tom Oak
Clerk of Session	Carla Kinney
Director of Music/Organist	Vince Guarneiri
Treasurer	Craig Buckhout
Church School Coordinator	BJ Palmer
Sexton	Tom Leone
Administrative Assistant	Kristin Schierer

Pastor's Journal—Continued

curtain rises. It is like the hazy ring around the winter moon that means the coming of snow which will turn the night to silver. Soon. But for the time being, our time, darkness is where we are.

Frederick Buechner, *Listening to Your Life*

Fred Buechner captures well the paradox of what it means to be Christian: we are Advent people living in an apocalyptic world. We are a people of Hope coping within a climate of foreboding. We are Children of Light moving through the darkening days of December. Christmastime is a stark reminder that we, as Christians, are caught in the very crux of it all; caught

in the middle of the push and pull of what the world makes of this season—of this life—and what God in Christ makes of it . . . has *already* made of it, will *yet* make of it. And, if we will take up the clarion call to “cast away the works of darkness,” then God will “lead us by paths we have not known and will turn the darkness before us into light.” [Is. 42:16ff]

May the Light of Advent shine bright this Holy season.

Love,

TOM

Christmas Wreaths and Flowers

You're invited to contribute toward the beautification of our sanctuary, by filling out this form. Your dedication will be included in the worship bulletin prior to Christmas. Poinsettia plants will be gifted post-holiday to congregants in need of cheer! Thank you for your consideration.

DONOR'S NAME: _____

In Memory of _____

In Honor of: _____

In celebration of this blessed season: _____

In the amount of: _____

Please make check payable to First Presbyterian Church, memo “Flowers.”



**First Presbyterian Church
of Cazenovia, NY**

27 Albany Street
PO BOX 306
Cazenovia, NY 13035
Phone: (315) 655-3191
E-mail:caz1stpresby@windstream.net

From The Music Director



"It's the Most Wonderful Time of the Year"

Each and every November, the immortal words of Andy Williams pop into my head as I start planning music for the Advent and Christmas season.

Possibly, it's a little early for Christmas carols at that point, but we're super excited to share the music and the message of the season with you! We have a couple new pieces to share and the kids are ready to go!

Friday December 1st – Christmas Walk

Mary Coburn and her string ensemble will play some holiday favorites in the sanctuary following the Christmas Walk and Tree Lighting

Sunday December 10th – Pageant Sunday

We're happy to welcome our student musicians and soloists to play for the pageant service. Nathan Schierer will play his cello with the pageant, Jacob and Nathan Guarneiri have some Christmas piano music to share, and Michael Guarneiri has a new organ postlude.

Sunday December 17th – Christmas in Brass!

Every year we look forward to this special service! This year Patrick Carney returns joining Nathan Kaercher on trumpet. Along with the brass music we'll have our annual Lessons and Carols service. The Caz Pres Ringers will also be joining us early in the service. We have a couple of new pieces of music to share. One is the most glorious version of "The First Nowell" arranged by Julian Wachner for brass, organ, choir *and* congregation! This piece has been performed and recorded by both the Washington Chorus, and Trinity Episcopal Church, NYC. Get your voices ready!

Sunday December 24th – Christmas Eve

Although the Sunday morning service will be a little lower-key, we're ready to ring in the holiday with our Christmas Eve service at 8:00 PM. Mary Coburn and her string quartet will join us with the Corelli Christmas Concerto. We'll sing some of your best loved carols, then Michael and I will present a four-hand rendition of the "Ukrainian Bell Carol" arranged by Zach Heyde and Frank Tedesco for the postlude. We've been working on this since September, and can't wait to share it with you!

Sunday School

Sunday School Calendar

December 3-Regular Sunday School

December 9-Dress Rehearsal for pageant at 10:00 AM

December 10--Christmas Pageant during service

December 17--Lessons and Carols -children remain in service

December 24-Group Activity

December 31-Game Day

Operation Christmas Child

Many thanks to the congregation for all of their support for our project. The Sunday School delivered 49 shoe boxes to Samaritan Purse for children around the world.

Annual Christmas Pageant

Our annual Christmas Pageant will take place on December 10 during the church service. This year's pageant is "Just A Little Christmas" by Sharon Kay Chatwell and features many cute animals and shepherds as well as kings and angels. The Christian Education Committee will host Coffee Hour after the service.

In Our Prayers

In our Nation and our World

Prayers for the victims of the shooting at the First Baptist Church of Sutherland Springs, Texas

Prayers for the victims of the shooting in Northern California.

In our Presbytery

Please pray for following congregations and faith communities of the Presbytery of Cayuga-Syracuse: Amboy Belle Isle; First, Auburn; Westminster, Auburn; United Ministry of Aurora; First, Baldwinsville.

In our Congregation's Circle of Concern

To ensure that our prayer list stays current, prayers will be listed for 4 weeks. If you have a prayer concern that you would like to continue longer than that, please note that on a prayer card, or notify the office.

Kristen and Paul Zimmerman (Paul is nephew of Carol and Craig Buckhout)

The family of Jamie and Joelle Zimmerman (brother and sister-in-law of Carol Buckhout) (

Fred Vaerewyck (Deanna Raymond's uncle) (

Friends and Family of Brian Ball (Bruce Ball's brother)

Family and Friends of Eila Duguid (Grandmother-in-law of Shelly Brooks)

Family and Friends of Gabe Kinney (Carla Kinney's Husband)

Family and Friends of Marion Freedman (Beth Freedman's Mother-in-law)

Family and Friends of Bonnie Arnold (Nancy Loffredo's sister)

Family and Friends of Ann Harries

Schedule of Events

Date	Event
12/1/2017	Soup Cafe
12/2/2017	Ann Harries Memorial Service
12/3/2017	Christian Ed Meeting
12/3/2017	Outreach Meeting
12/6/2017	Advent in Narnia - Bible Study
12/9/2017	Pageant Rehersal
12/9/2017	Christmas Pageant
12/11/2017	Trustees
12/12/2017	Worship and Music Meeting
12/13/2017	Men's Breakfast
12/13/2017	Advent in Narnia - Bible Study
12/17/2017	Deacons Meeting
12/18/2017	Session Meeting
12/19/2017	Newsletter Deadline
12/20/2017	Advent in Narnia - Bible Study
12/20/2017	Alice Edwards Circle
12/24/2017	Fellowship Meeting
12/30/2017	Annual Report Deadline
12/31/2017	OFFICE CLOSED

Help is Available!

If you, or someone you know, is in occasional need of help to take care of small items around the house or yard that used to be handled personally, the Deacons would like to offer assistance. If the task is a larger one, we may be able to coordinate efforts of local youth volunteer groups that are looking for community service projects. Please contact one of the Deacons personally or call the church office at 655-3191.

Information Update

To make sure that we have current information listed in the new Directory that will be printed in January, Kristin is asking that everyone please provide their current mailing address, phone numbers and email. Forms were mailed out with the Giving statements this past week, or the forms can be found on the website at cazpres.org/forms. You can bring them to the office, drop in the offering plate, mail them back, or send in an email to the office. Thank you for your assistance in this matter.

Cereal for Caz Cares

We are beginning our annual collection of boxes of cereal as our church's contribution to the Food Giveaway at CazCares. Last year we collected and donated 90 boxes of cereal! This year CazCares is expecting to put together and distribute 200 baskets of food. There will be a box in the Narthex through Friday, December 15th for your contributions. Also, if you have any new toys for the Toy Giveaway, please bring them to the church as well by Sunday December 10th. Thank You for your generous contributions!

Fellowship Committee Update

We had a great turnout and delicious food at our annual Reformation Sunday brunch and we are now busy planning events for the new year.

Game Night and Taco Bar Dinner - Saturday, January 20th

We are hosting a fun evening with games, dinner and fellowship. Taco basics, beverages and table service will be provided, we ask that attendees bring taco toppings, appetizers or dessert to share. Please RSVP by Wednesday, January 17th. There will be sign-up sheets during coffee hour or contact Sue Perriello (sgperriello@gmail.com or 315-655-5826)

Winterfest Snow Sculpture - Saturday, February 10th

We are hoping to participate in Cazenovia's Winterfest Snow Sculpture competition with a warm lunch to follow - more details to follow!

*Glory to God in the highest,
and on earth peace,
good will toward men.*
Luke 2:14

Merry Christmas!

From the Staff of The First Presbyterian Church



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27 Albany Street
PO BOX 306
Cazenovia, NY 13035



Phone: (315) 655-3191
E-mail:caz1stpresby@windstream.net

Non -Profit Organization

U.S. Postage Paid

Cazenovia, NY 13035

Permit No. 2

Upcoming Events

Alice Edwards Circle

Noon, Wed., Dec.20, 2017

Meeting House

Hostess: Diane Campbell

Program: "Manger," a play
by Carol Penner

Presenters: AEC Members

Christmas Luncheon: No
sandwich needed. Smiles
and personal care products
for CazCares welcomed.



American Red Cross

Blood Drive

Thursday,
January 4th,
1-6pm

Men's Breakfast

7:30 a.m. December 13th

Meeting House

All men are welcome to
gather for breakfast and
discussion

