



# The View From The Park

A Newsletter of Faith & Community

January 2025

1st Presbyterian Church on the Park  
17 Park Street  
Canton, NY 13617

Phone (315) 386-2570  
[www.ChurchOnThePark.org](http://www.ChurchOnThePark.org)  
[Office@ChurchOnThePark.org](mailto:Office@ChurchOnThePark.org)

## Sundays in January

• **Worship Begins At 10:00 a.m.** •

• **January 5th** •

No Communion  
Church School Resumes  
Deacons & Food Shelf Offering  
De-Greening of the Church after Worship  
Rev. Mike on Vacation  
Chris Remick to Preach



• **January 12th** •

Welcome to Meg Dissinger!  
Baptism of the Lord



• **January 19th** •

Name Tag Sunday  
Noisy Can Offering



• **January 26th** •

Choir Sings In Worship  
Bring A Friend To Church



## Church Website

Go to [www.churchon-thepark.org](http://www.churchon-thepark.org) or scan this QR code to see the latest sermon, church calendar, link to our YouTube Channel and much more!



**Rev. Michael P. Catanzaro**..... Pastor  
**Pastor Donna Doig, CLP**..... Associate Pastor  
**Andrea Montgomery**.....Church School Director  
**Dr. Meagan Dissinger**..Director of Music & Pianist  
**Christy Dekay**.....Office Coordinator  
**Emily & Kate Ewy**.....Nursery Care Providers  
**Patience Boswell**..... Sexton  
**Cam & Aubrey Boswell**.....Stream Masters  
**Linda Potter**.....Congregational Coordinator

**Office Hours: 1:30 - 4:30 p.m. Tues. & Thursday**

## 2025 Per Capita

Our **notice of apportionment** from the Presbyterian Church (USA) for 2025 amounts to **\$35.00 per active member** to be paid on or before February 1st. This is the money that the church pays for services provided by the larger church (General Assembly, Synod of the Northeast, and the Presbytery of Northern New York).

If you are able to include a Per Capita donation during January, it would **significantly** help our 2025 budget. Thank you!

## Annual Meeting

**Mark your calendars!** Our **Annual Meeting of the Congregation** will take place on **Sunday, February 2nd** following worship in Fellowship Hall. The **deadline to receive annual reports is Thursday, January 16th**. This will give us enough time to assemble the reports and make them available to the congregation.



## Church Weather Closings Info

In the event of inhospitable weather, notice of the cancellation of our worship service, or the switch to On-Line only, will be emailed to the congregation and listed on WWNY-TV and NCPR radio.



## Family News

Congratulations to **Rebekah VanderStoep** on the birth of her granddaughter Maria Jade Holland, born December 3rd, 2024; daughter of Natasha Vokhshoori (Rebekah's daughter) and Mark Holland! Welcome to the world, little one!

Congratulations to **Olivia and Jeremiah Sullivan** expecting a **NEW BABY GIRL** on June 6! They are over the moon, and **Isabelle** is very much looking forward to being a big sister! We are thrilled for them, and excited for this new child of God being born in our midst. **Hallelujah!**

Congratulations to Dr. **JJ Jockel** who was featured in an article in the St. Lawrence Plaindealer for serving as a panelist of a session on Canada, NATO, and the War in Ukraine at the Middle Atlantic and New England Council for Canadian Studies biennial conference held in November. JJ is the Frank P. Piskor Professor of Canadian Studies at St. Lawrence University. *Good job JJ!*

Prayers for **Terry Billings** and his daughter **Terisa** on the death of their wife and mother **Martha** at the beginning of December. Our hearts ache at this devastating loss. Cards may be sent to 731 SH 310, Canton NY 13617.

Prayers **Gordy & Michelle Theisen**, and their family, on the death of his mother Mary Theisen prior to Christmas following a fall and broken hip. Cards may be sent to Gordy at 905 Farnes Road, Canton NY. Prayers also for Michelle's mother, Shirley, who also fell and fractured her pelvis.

Prayers for **Betty Fraser** who spent Christmas in the hospital and is facing health challenges. Betty is home now, and cards may be sent to 30 Sullivan Dr. Apt. 114, Canton NY 13617.

Prayers for **Edith Frazer** recovering from knee replacement surgery (down in

## More Family News

Florida). Cards may be sent to 568 Lighthouse Way, Sanibel FL. 33957.

Prayers for **Mark Brown** recovering from open heart surgery prior to Christmas, and to **Nancy** in support of him. Cards may be sent to 201 Brewer Road, Canton NY 13617. Thanks to **Jim Franklin, Anna Eller, Ellen Grayson** and **Linda Potter** for providing meals (see Rev. Mike if you'd like to offer a meal).

Prayers for **Nicole Potter** and **Chris Melville** as they await the birth of their first child. Due date is February 7th; they are expecting a baby boy.

Prayers for **Carolyn O'Connor** now at an assisted living facility outside of Boston. Her address is: Carolyn O'Connor 216, 276 Whiting Street, Hingham, MA 02043. Any card or note one cares to send would be *greatly* appreciated.

Continued prayers for **Lew Shepard** and, **Marilyn Coir** in their days; **Rich Denison** who continues to face health concerns, **Christa Lyon** and **Josh Holbrook** facing health challenges; Janet Favro currently residing at Keene Valley Neighborhood House (Attn Janet Favro, P.O. Box 46, Keene Valley, NY 12943); **Colleen Grant** for healing and wholeness, and husband **Dale** in support of her, (55 Bird Street, Canton, NY 13617); **Alice Poole** facing health challenges (2708 Salem Church Road - Apt. 116, Fredericksburg, VA 22407); **Nick Scelzi**, a resident of the Canton Nursing Home (Willow 206, 205 State Street Road, Canton).

Prayers for 6th grader Parker Morley (friend of the **McGuires**) recovering from surgery for a tumor.

**More Family News - Pg. 3**

## More Family News

**Jane Cable** requests prayers for her brother, John Mark, as he continues chemotherapy (his 4th round of such treatment); and, for family friend, River, a young child recovering from surgery to lengthen his leg.

Long distance prayers for Pam Constantine, sister of **Barry Walch**, recently diagnosed with cancer; Dave Pierce, father of **Kristine Potter**, recovering from health issues; Jody Upton, sister of **Susan Akins**, being treated for cancer; Jeannie Lewis, and former church member who lives in NH and is the daughter of Elsie Dana, being treated for macular degeneration.

Rev. Mike reports wonderful conversations at Christmas with **Jan Moore**, daughter of Nick and Carlene Baffaro who lives in Jersey Shore PA, as well as **Helen Herzer**, who lives in Boston and is a descendant of The Rev. Dr. James Gardner who was the minister at our church from 1869-1884. Both receive the monthly newsletter and are interested to know what is happening at the Church on the Park. We are very thankful to Helen and Jan for their support of the work and mission of this church, and to all those who are part of our extended church family to be found far and wide, as well as right around the block here in Canton.

**We pray for parents raising children,  
and children caring for parents.**

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## Out With The Old...

Thanks to **Jim** and **Drew Franklin** for moving many large items from the Nursery and Selleck Room to storage in the basement (following the Budget meeting in December, done so mostly in the dark!). This "out with the old and in with the new" step tidied up the first floor and gave us some room to breathe and imagine these new spaces.



### January 5

Psalm 99; Deuteronomy 33:1-5  
1 John 2:12-17; John 6:41-47

### January 12

Baptism of the Lord  
Psalm 104; Isaiah 40:1-11  
Hebrews 1:1-12; John 1:1-7, 19-20, 29-34

### January 19

Psalm 19; Isaiah 43:14-44:5  
Hebrews 6:17-7:10; John 4:27-42

### January 26

Psalm 67; Isaiah 47:1-15  
Hebrews 10:19-31; John 5:2-18

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## Tip Of The Hat To...

Special thanks to our Church School Director, **Andrea Montgomery**, for this year's innovative Christmas Showcase which featured numerous kids from the congregation playing musical numbers, as well as a traditional pageant for all the kids to dress-up for and enjoy. It was an tremendous amount of fun, and astoundingly organized given all the moving parts. Thanks also to **Clair Fiese** who did a *wonderful* job narrating the pageant with clarity and resolve (no small feat for a little kid) and for all the "big kids" who helped children get into their various costumes. It was a joyous, creative, and low stress affair. Which is all we want for Christmas (along with a few front teeth).



## Church Attendance

	In-Person	Stream	CS
December 1	49	25	No CS
December 8	73	35	20
December 15	61	45	No CS
December 22	65	60	9
December 29	26	32	No CS

Average In-Person Attendance: 55  
 Average Live-Stream Attendance: 39  
 Average CS Attendance: 15

## Treasurer's Report

	Operating	Mission
November 24	\$8,101.31	\$ 412.00
December 1	\$2,032.10	\$1,119.00
December 8	\$3,599.00	\$1,211.08
December 15	\$2,128.00	\$ 300.00
December 22	\$2,005.00	\$ 0.00
<b>Total:</b>	<b>\$17,865.41</b>	<b>\$3,042.08</b>

## Selleck Room & Nursery Update

We are just about there, folks. The **cabinets, sink and lights installation** in the **Nursery** are now complete. The large, five-piece sofa surround **sectional** has been delivered, the two **bean bag chairs** assembled, the **TV** and sound bar/sub-woofer have been mounted and are up and running, and the new **foosball table** has been assembled and is ready for play.

Now that we have a sense of what goes where, we will be pursuing the purchase of a soft-tip **dart board** and Nerf **basketball hoop** for the Selleck Room, as well as lighting. We will also look to install coat hooks in the short hallway connecting the Selleck Room (SR), Conference Room (CR) and Lorna's Lounge (LL). Final steps will be to cut and rehang the closet and hallway doors; and, to cut, paint, and install baseboard trim on both sides of the new wall. **There is light at the end of the tunnel!**



## Officers & Committees

### Elders On Session

To strengthen and nurture the faith and the life of the congregation.

Joe Montgomery Patrick LaPierre Rob Ewy  
 Sarah Melville Barry Walch Jim Franklin  
 Anna Eller Heidi Ames Pat McGuire  
 Rich Grayson Michelle Theisen  
 Patricia Mace - Clerk Of Session

### Board of Deacons

Ministering to the sick, those in need, the friendless, and those in distress.

Christy Dekay Ray Erickson Mark Brackett  
 Susan Akins Jane Cable Ellen Grayson  
 Jean McGuire Bob Duda Stacie Olney-LaPierre  
 Secretary Moderator  
 Ray Erickson, Treasurer

### Committees

### Chairs

**Resources** Jim Franklin  
 Responsible for managing and dispensing funds to fulfill the mission & ministry of our church.

**Facilities** Barry Walch, Rich Grayson & Pat McGuire  
 Responsible for the maintenance and use of all church property.

**Fellowship** Ellen Grayson & Pat Mace  
 Responsible for all fellowship events.

**Nominating** Jean McGuire, Michelle Theisen, Gordy Theisen, Barb Brown & Sarah Melville  
 Responsible for filling Session, Deacons & Offices.

**Church School** Anna Eller  
 Responsible for growth, nurturing & learning.

**Worship** Sarah Melville  
 With pastor, responsible for worship.

**Communion** Pat Mace & Vicki McLain

**Stewardship** Jim Franklin  
 Responsible for securing resources and energy to fulfill the mission & ministry of our church.

**Mission** Michelle Theisen & Rob Ewy  
 Helping our church, community and world.

**Treasurer** Mary McGreevy

**Financial Secretary** Barry Walch  
**Asst. Financial Secretary** Anna Eller

**C&C Program** JJ Jockel, Sean Boutin & Michelle Theisen

**Personnel** Anna Eller, Heidi Ames & Patrick LaPierre

# The Pastor's Report

Happy New Year One And All!

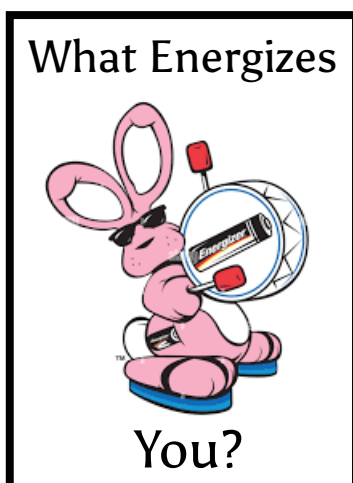
Here we go again, folks. Another year to love, laugh and give. Somehow, though, things seem *different* this year. I am not sure what it is but something is afoot...

Stop me if I've told this story before. No, wait, it is a good story so just indulge me here for a moment as it bears repeating. Once upon a time, many years ago, a young minister was endeavoring to discern his call to ministry; should he stay or should he go? Perplexed, he went to confer with the Executive Presbytery who suggested the consideration of this question, "What energizes you?"

The past few months (going on a year, actually) I have been feeling *ENERGIZED*. At first I thought it was some prolonged manic episode or just a phase I was going through. At a point, though, I had to just accept this seems to be the new normal. Not that it is a bad thing, quite the contrary. It is, however, more than a little surprising. I mean, you'd think that after so many years at the same church the shine would start to come off the apple, or boredom would set in, or one would simply run out of steam. Amazingly, this is turning out not to be the case. Whether or not it is a "late game surge" or the start of a crescendo to the big finale I cannot say. Rather than overthink it, however, I have decided to just going to *go* with it.

Now, when I say "Energized" I do not mean to connote some kind of frenzied approach. Instead, it more a sense of having the fuel to move forward, and to do so with

a sense of vigor and hopeful expectation. Regardless of what one calls it, I have chosen to receive it as a gift. Moreover, after considerable consideration I've decided it is a gift all of *you* are giving to *me*.



When I come to the church to find Doug has moved all the Ice Melt, when Patrick takes an entire morning to assemble the foosball table, when Andrea re-makes the pageant with creativity and "in concert" with the kids, when I put a call out for meals and Anna, Jim and Ellen respond in less than an hour, when people show up to set-up, break-down and help in every imaginable way, when I walk into the "Records Room" to find Christy spent the summer orga-

nizing a mess 20 years in the making, when families pack up the kids and bring them to worship, when I see kids from the community on the church playground, when I discover all the cards sent and acts of kindness offered unbeknownst to me, when I witness the incredibly generous response to our stewardship drive, when I see the depth of this congregation's passion for mission and helping our neighbors (the list goes on and on) how can I help but to be *ENERGIZED*?

As we begin a new year, **I offer my great thanks to you for all you doing and, correspondingly, what it is doing for me.** Now, let me ask you, **"What energizes YOU?"**

In the joy of living our lives together,  
- Rev. Mike

PS - As an aside, sometimes an eggplant is just an eggplant.

## JANUARY Birthdays

- 4 Max Athanasakis, Rosie Larson
- 7 Karen McAuliffe, Maria Peacock
- 8 Emily Ames
- 9 Amanda Peacock
- 10 Jim Robertson, Rosalie Dekay
- 13 Lauren Smith, Kimberly Dildine
- 15 Rance Bell
- 17 Nathan Gibson
- 20 Gerard & Michaela Powers
- 21 Daniel Gordon
- 26 Bob Fraser, Walter Kuzmicki
- 28 Charles "Chuck" Alexander
- 30 Ryan McAuliffe
- 31 William Andes

## JANUARY Anniversaries

- 4 Rance & Kelly Davis,  
Jack & Margaret Wylie
- 20 Gerard & Michaela Powers

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### Evening Book Group

The Evening Book Group will meet on Tuesday, **January 28th** at 7 p.m. in Lorna's Lounge for a discussion of **An American Marriage** by Tayari Jones.

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### Deacon's Offering

The Deacon's Offering is the **first Sunday** of the month and a vital component of our church's work and mission. Please remember to send along a contribution to the Deacons along with your pledge or regular offering. **Thank you!**

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### Women's Circle

Women's Circle will meet on **Wednesday, January 8th** at 7 p.m. in Lorna's Lounge with topic of **"Celebration."** All women of the church are welcome. For more info contact **Linda Potter** at [nautilus@twcny.rr.com](mailto:nautilus@twcny.rr.com) or 315-229-8886.

### Virtual Worship & Fellowship

For live-streaming, fellowship, bulletins, sermons, newsletters, and other resources, **begin by bookmarking the church website:** [www.ChurchOnThePark.org](http://www.ChurchOnThePark.org). "Click" on the relevant link at the top of the page.

A **live-stream** of the worship service is on the church's YouTube Channel. Go to [www.ChurchOnThePark.org](http://www.ChurchOnThePark.org) and click on "YouTube Channel." You can choose to subscribe to our channel or simply go to this link each week.

**Zoom Fellowship** calls happen each Sunday (except July & August) from **11:30 a.m. to Noon** for fellowship only with no format or moderator. If needed, download the ZOOM app ahead of time by clicking on this link (free):

<https://zoom.us/download>. Once you have the Zoom app, go to [www.ChurchOnThePark.org](http://www.ChurchOnThePark.org) and click on "Sunday Zoom Meeting". You will be asked to enter a password which is **3862570** (the phone number of the church). The meeting will automatically begin at 11:30 a.m. & end at 12:45 p.m.

**Worship bulletins** are posted earlier in the week to the church website for those worshiping virtually through the stream on our YouTube channel. This will allow everyone the opportunity to follow the liturgy, and see the announcements and prayer requests. Go to [www.ChurchOnThePark.org](http://www.ChurchOnThePark.org) and click on "Sunday Bulletin."

**Written sermons** continue to be emailed, or snail-mailed, on *Tuesday* to everyone each week; as well as being posted to the church website. Go to [www.ChurchOnThePark.org](http://www.ChurchOnThePark.org) and click on "Written Sermons."

The monthly **Newsletter** will continue to be emailed to most, and snail-mailed to a few; as well as being posted to the church website (click on "Newsletter").

Contact the church office with your birthday so we can keep our list current!

## Yearly Christmas Giving & Mission Recap

Through our church's Mission Budget and special offerings this year, our congregation has provided around **\$10,000** in mission funding in 2024. Some of this was for international work through the denomination, **One Great Hour Of Sharing Offering**, and the **Clint McCoy Feeding Center** in Malawi. We fund **25%** of the budget for **MINC**, or Ministry In The North Country; a work within our presbytery to rehab houses and help farmers in Jefferson, Lewis, Franklin, Lewis and St. Lawrence Counties. As it does every year, a sizable portion of our Mission Budget went to the **Church & Community Program** to feed, clothe and tend to those in need here in our own community. We also supported the ministries of several small Presbyterian "sister" churches in our area, and provide funding to help fill their pulpits.

This year, our annual Christmas Giving Program has distributed over **\$8,900** in monetary gifts to over **50** individuals and families primarily in and around Canton; none of whom asked for any help, but all of whom were sure glad to receive it. Of this amount, **\$3,300** went to families with young children, **\$3,100** went to Farm Families, with the balance going to folks with acute need, illness, who have suffered an accident or misfortune, or are just struggling hard against very strong currents. The funding for the Christmas Giving Program comes from our monthly Deacon's offering, the Farm Family Offering, and a few additional individual donations. Envelopes are hand-delivered, with either "Merry Christmas" or "Thank you for all your hard work this year" written on the inside of a church note card. Occasionally, in return, we receive a thank you note which is deeply humbling in its earnestness and gratefulness. **2024**

## Giving & Mission Recap - cont.

**donations to the Farm Family Fund, saw a 50% increase in giving!** Begun in 2002, over the past **22 years** our annual Christmas Giving Program has provided over **\$148,000** to **hundreds** of families at Christmas.

While the Mission and Christmas giving just described is something our church does *every* year, this past year our church again received a substantial gift to the Pastor's Discretionary Fund in the amount of **\$30,000**. With this our church is once again providing **50 lbs.** of **ground beef** a month for a year to the Church & Community Program's food pantry, purchasing all of the **fresh fruits** and **vegetables** for the "Bear Pack" program at Banford Elementary School for the 2024-2025 school year, continues to fund an **art program** for kids through the Canton Free Library, help with **college** and **educational expenses**, support **environmental initiatives**, provide financial support to smaller, sister Presbyterian churches, and provide **emergency assistance**. In the new year we will once again endeavor to purchase / forgive **medical debt** owed by Canton families without health insurance (in process).

To date, this totals over **\$38,000** in mission funding **this** year alone, with approximately \$10k more earmarked for distribution. The majority of these gifts have gone to people and programs right here in Canton; but regionally, nationally, and internationally as well. Moreover, all this from a church with an operating budget of only about \$160,000. Which is nothing short of remarkable, I am sure we all would agree. **We are an amazing congregation with glad and generous hearts! Great thanks to everyone for you incredible generosity!!!**

## Prayer Warriors

Would you like to help your neighbor, stretch spiritually and be a part of the mystical movement of the church? We are always looking for new prayer warriors to join **the church**

**Prayer Chain** to offer prayers for folks who are ill, troubled or in need.

If you want to learn more about the prayer chain, call **Rev. Mike** at 386-2570 or **Wanda Renick** at 386-3474.



## Photo Directory

Our Photo Directory is no longer available online through the website. If you would like a copy (print or digital), please contact Rev. Mike or the church office and we'd be happy to send one with you. We endeavor to keep the photo directory as up-to-date as possible. If you find that you have been inadvertently omitted, would like to be included or would like a retake, please contact **Rev. Mike**. Updates easily done.



## Presbyterian Worship

The next **Partridge Knoll service** is on **February 5th** and will continue through the winter (except January) on the **1st Wednesday** of the month at **11:00 a.m.**



## Like Us On Facebook!

The Church On The Park has a **Facebook page** which changes regularly - <https://www.facebook.com/TheFirstPresbyterianChurchonthePark>

## New Church Website Live



Christy and Rev. Mike have finished the **NEW Church Website** which is brighter and easier to use. We have switched to a different platform which will allow us to keep the site updated weekly (i.e. calendar)

The Church's email address:

[Office@ChurchOnThePark.org](mailto:Office@ChurchOnThePark.org)

Reverend Mike's email address:

[RevMike@ChurchOnThePark.org](mailto:RevMike@ChurchOnThePark.org)

## Sermons & Services

**Written Sermons** in PDF format are now available for viewing or downloading on Monday at [www.ChurchOnThePark.org](http://www.ChurchOnThePark.org) then click on "Written Sermons."

If you'd like to have a copy of the weekly sermon emailed or snail-mailed to you directly, please contact [RevMike@ChurchOnThePark.Org](mailto:RevMike@ChurchOnThePark.Org).

To view recordings of previous worship services, please subscribe to our [YouTube channel](#).

## Newsletter Deadline Is The 15th Of The Month

We are still sending out the monthly newsletter! Please submit articles (emailed preferably) to the church office, or directly to the Newsletter Editor, Linda Potter, at:

[nautilus@twcny.rr.com](mailto:nautilus@twcny.rr.com)

## Hello, my name is...

Remember - **Name Tag Sunday** is **January 19th**.

Come early to church and make your own name tag.  
**Get to know your neighbor.**



## Session Report

Session met on **November 25th**. Corrections were approved for the October minutes. The budget meeting was set for December 16th.

Thank you notes for donations sent by our church were shared from the **Dailey Ridge Church** and the **Holiday of Lights Committee**.

The **counters** will be installed soon in the **Nursery** and **furniture**, a **TV** and **foosball table** have been purchased for the **Selleck Room**. There is \$12,000 remaining in the Selleck Room budget.

**Dr. Meagan Dissinger**, Visiting Assistant Professor of Choral Music Education at Crane, has been hired as our new Director of Music. She will start with the first choir rehearsal on **January 16th** and the first worship service on **January 26th**.

The Stewardship Committee reported that **44 pledges** have been received. For the Nominating Committee, Michelle Theisen reported **Nick Dekay, Beth Hayes, JJ Jockel, and John Christopher** have agreed to serve on Session. **Georgia Vose** will return to Deacons. Barry Walch reported that **Doug Wingerath** has volunteered for the Facilities Committee.

Rev. Mike's **Terms of Call** were reviewed. A copy of Sexual Harassment Policy was given to Session members.

It was voted and unanimously approved to create the position of **Congregational Coordinator** which will be part-time at a salary of \$18,000. per year with pension benefits to be funded through reallocation of existing funds. A congregational meeting will be held **December 15th** after church.



## Many Hands, Light Work!

As you know, December is a busy month with many activities at the church. Hearty thanks to those who baked extra Christmas cookies for the Deacons to deliver to the homebound: **Jean McGuire, Anna Eller, Ellen Grayson, Pat Mace, Beth Hayes, Mary Christopher, Sarah Melville, Marilyn Rodee, Gail Abplanalp** and **Jim Franklin**.

Thanks as well to those who helped set-up Fellowship Hall for our annual Christmas Potluck: **Nick, Christy, Rosalie** and **Sebastian Dekay, JJ Jockel, Jean McGuire, Ellen Grayson, Pat Mace, Linda Potter, Patience, Cameron & Aubrey Boswell**. And **Sean Boutin** who tried to do his best (but he could not).

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*Saving  
Grace*

Jesus, our Friend,  
it's good to know  
that you lived in the flesh,  
walked where we walk,  
felt what we feel,  
had sore and dirty feet,  
and needed to eat.

But it's better to know  
that you enjoyed your food,  
the feel of perfume on your skin,  
the wind in your face,  
a child in your arms,  
and good wine at the wedding.

Thank you for sharing  
in all our pain and pleasure;  
and thank you  
for joining us at this table.

## SIGN(S) OF THE TIMES

**A Thrill of Hope**

**The Weary World Rejoices**

**For Yonder Breaks**

**A New and Glorious Morn**

**How silently, how silently  
the wondrous gift is given!**

**So God imparts  
to human hearts  
the blessing  
of the heavens.**

**Keep It In Canton**

**Shop Local**

**Create Community**

**Change The World**

**O star of wonder, star of night**

**Star with royal beauty bright**

**Westward leading,  
still proceeding**

**Guide us to thy perfect Light**

O, Come, All Ye Faithful

**Service Of Lessons & Carols  
This Sunday 10 a.m.**

**Christmas Eve**

**Candlelight Service 7 p.m.**

Joyful and Triumphant

**O Come, Desire of Nations, Bind**

**All People in One Heart and Mind**

**Bid Envy Strife and Quarrels Cease**

**Fill All the World with Heaven's Peace**

**Rejoice! Rejoice!**

**Silent Night,  
Holy Night**

**All is Calm,  
All is Bright**

**What child is this**

**who laid to rest,**

**on Mary's lap is sleeping?**

**Whom angels greet**

**with anthems sweet,**

**while shepherds watch are keeping.**

# News From Our Church Family



## Thanks Bob!

The Congregation, Session and Rev. Mike would like to offer thanks to Bob Duda for serving as our pianist (and musical muse) throughout the entire Advent season. It was inspiring to have Bob “the Christmas Elf” on the piano bench; and a whole lot of fun as well. **Bob, quite literally, saved Christmas this year!**



## Happy New Year!

My name is Meg Dissinger and I am honored to work with the choir at the Church on the Park this year.

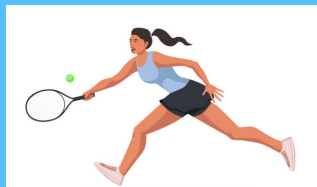
**Rehearsals will be held on Thursday evenings from 6:30-7:30 p.m. beginning Thursday January 16th.**

We invite all singers of all abilities and voice types to join us in song. I look forward to serving as a part of this special congregation and a wonderful year of music making.

See you on the 16th!



Linda Potter enjoyed a warm reunion with our friend **Abhi David** (now attending Colby College in Waterville ME, Linda was there visiting her daughter). Abhi is doing very well at her new school and squash team, and sends her love to our congregation.



High school friends, Olivia Sullivan and Nicole Potter, reunited at the Christmas Eve Candlelight Service over a decade later, with each of them pregnant.

Olivia and husband Jeremiah are expecting a baby girl (their second) on June 6th, while Nicole and husband Chris are expecting a baby boy (their first) on February 7th.

Thanks to **Alina Kuzmicki (Eller)** who helped begin the Christmas Eve Candlelight Service this year with a wonderful rendition of “O Come All Ye Faithful” on the piano!

Congratulations to **Kate Ewy** who passed her road test (on the first try) at the start of December and now is a licensed driver in the state of New York. How much fun is *that!*



Congratulations to **Rosalie Dekay** who won the 2024-2025 Green Team T-shirt Design Contest at McKenny Middle School!  
**Very Creative, Rosalie! Well Done!!!**



"Fastest Kid (s) in the North Country"



Congrats to Porter & Nellie!!



Thanks to **Patrick McManus** who helped assemble the new foosball table in the Selleck room. Huge help!

Thanks to **Beth Hayes, Emily Ewy, and Kate Ewy** for making the caramel corn for the Christmas Eve Candlelight Service. A Church on the Park tradition for many years it was first begun by "The Three Kings" **Harry, Willie, and Barb.**

# Holiday Of Lights



Each year on the Friday after Thanksgiving our church plays host to hundreds of children and their families who come to the Park to visit Santa. We provide cookies and cocoa, and a warm place to gather out of the elements. Special thanks to Whitney who donned the Frosty costume with Sophia as guide, and Avery Seymour as Rudolph guided by Emily Ewy. Great fun for so many families!

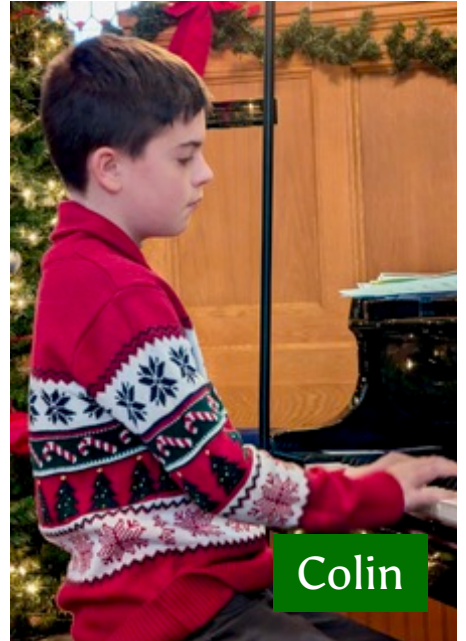
# Christmas on the Park



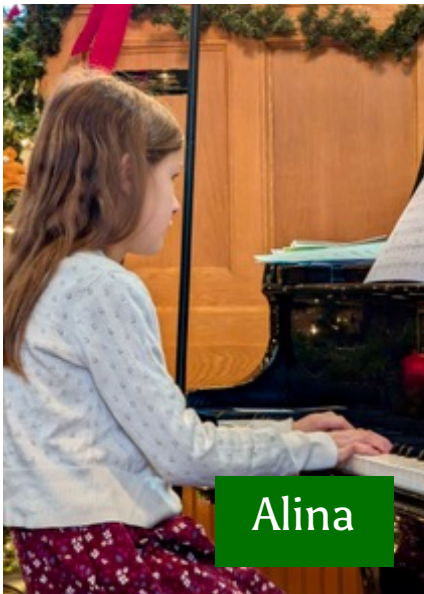
Wes



Rosalie



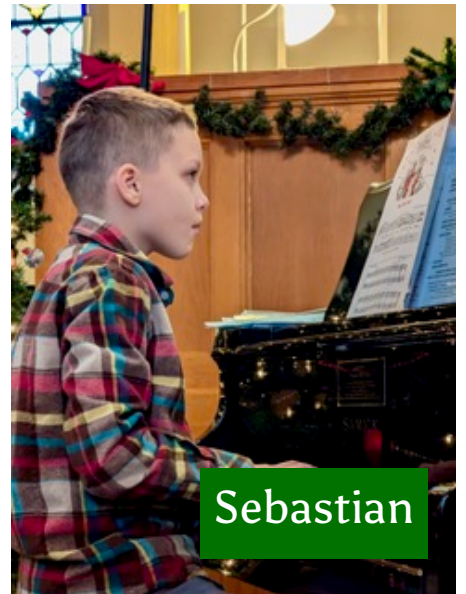
Colin



Alina



Walter



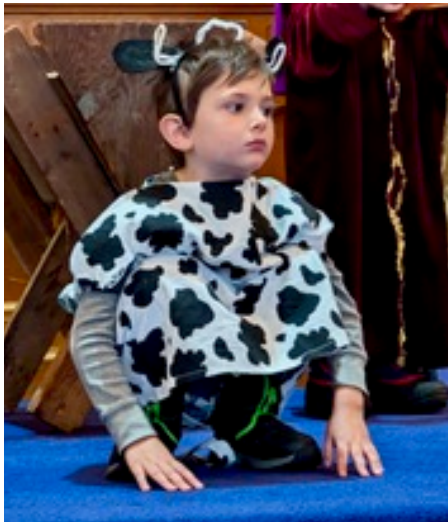
Sebastian



Emily & Kate

Church  
School  
Musical  
Showcase

# Church School Pageant





# Special Music (and help)



# Potluck & Deacon's Deliver...



## ...Poinsettias & Cookies







Men of the Church sing "White Christmas"

# January 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
29 No Church School 11:15AM Church Fellowship Zoom Meeting	30 Rev. Mike On Vacation	31 Church Office Closed New Year's Eve	1 New Year's Day	2 1:30PM Church Office Open	3	4
5 Rev. Mike On Vacation Christ Remick To Preach CS Resumes Deacon & Food Offering No Communion 11:15AM Church Fellowship Zoom Meeting	6	7 1:30PM Church Office Open	8 7:00PM Women's Circle	9 1:30PM Church Office Open 4:15PM C&CP Board Meeting	10	11
12 Baptism Of The Lord Welcome Meg Dissinger! 11:15AM Church Fellowship Zoom Meeting	13	14 1:30PM Church Office Open	15 Newsletter Deadline	16 Deadline for Annual Reports 1:30PM Church Office Open 6:30PM Choir Practice	17	18
19 Name Tag Sunday Noisy Can Offering 11:15AM Church Fellowship Zoom Meeting	20 Inauguration Day Martin Luther King Jr. Day	21 1:30PM Church Office Open	22	23 1:30PM Church Office Open 5:30PM Deacons Meeting 6:30PM Choir Practice	24	25
26 Bring A Friend To Church Choir Sings In Worship 11:15AM Church Fellowship Zoom Meeting	27 7:00PM Session	28 1:30PM Church Office Open 7:00PM Evening Book Group	29 Lunar New Year	30 1:30PM Church Office Open 6:30PM Choir Practice	31	1

