



The View From The Park

A Newsletter of Faith & Community

January 2026

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

Phone (315) 386-2570
www.ChurchOnThePark.org
Office@ChurchOnThePark.org

Sundays in January

• **Worship Begins At 10:00 a.m.** •

• January 4th •

No Communion
No Church School
Deacon & Food Shelf Offering
De-Greening of the Church after Worship



• January 11th •

Church School Resumes
Deacons' Meeting



• January 18th •

Name Tag Sunday
Noisy Can Offering



• January 25th •

Where Have You Bean!??!
Fundraiser



2026 Per Capita

Our **notice of apportionment** from the Presbyterian Church (USA) for 2026 amounts to **\$46.00 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 2026 budget. Thank you!

Annual Meeting

Mark your calendars! Our **Annual Meeting of the Congregation** will take place on **Sunday, February 1st** following worship in Fellowship Hall. The **deadline to receive annual reports is Thursday, January 15th.** This will give us enough time to assemble the reports and make them available to the congregation.



Church Website

Go to 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
Mark Darou..... Choir Director & Pianist
Christy Dekay..... Office Coordinator
Emily & Kate Ewy..... Nursery Care Providers
Patience Boswell..... Sexton
Cameron Boswell..... Stream Master
Linda Potter..... Congregational Coordinator

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

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.



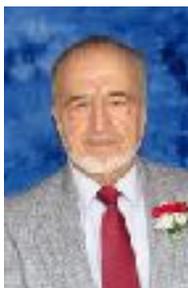
Family News

Thanks to **Jeanne Lewis** (who grew up in our church and is the daughter of **Elsie Dana**), **Jan Moore** (who grew up in our church and is the daughter of **Nick** and **Carlene Baffro**) and **Helen Herzer** (descendant of the **Rev. Dr. James Gardner**, the pastor of our church from 1869-1884) for their generous contributions to this year's Farm Family Offering. Though now living far from Canton, their connections run deep to this church and this community. We are grateful for their leadership and generosity.

Congratulations to **MacKenzie** and **Brandon Bartley** expecting their first child, with a due date of June 14th! Brandon is the son of **Faye** and **Brent Bartley**, and the brother of **UNCLE Ben Bartley!** Prayers for this couple, and this child, during this very cherished time in their life together.

Prayers for **Vicki McLain**, her family, and her mother on the death of her father Scott on December 29th. Mr. McLain was under the care of Hospice, and Vicki and Martin were able to travel to New Hampshire to be at his bedside and to support her mother, Raelene. Cards may be sent to Vicki at 6578 CR 27, Canton NY. 13617. If you've been sick or in need, chances are you've received a card from Vicki.

We are saddened to share the news that a dear friend of our church **Wayne Miller** died in December (at age 105) and, also, **Nick Scelzi** was mercifully called home in the early morning hours of December 29th. Two finer men there has never been. Though they will be missed greatly by we who loved them, we celebrate that their journey through this world has mercifully come to an end.



Family News - cont.

Traveling mercies for **Cameron Boswell**, **Emily Bolton**, and **Rich** and **Ellen Grayson** all driving long distances this holiday season.

Prayers for **Paula Eschmann** who was in a serious motor vehicle accident last month and fractured her sternum. Cards may be sent to 748 Miner Street, Canton, NY 13617.

Continued prayers for **Toby Walch** (son of Barry) and his wife, Julie, and their children as Toby continues to heal from a serious bicycle accident. Cards appreciated! 6 Fairway Dr. Scarborough, ME 04074.

Bob Fraser is now living with his daughter, **Karen McAuliffe**, and her husband, **Joe**, at 49 Bird Street, Canton NY 13617. Cards welcome. Call ahead to Bob regarding visiting, (315) 323-8416.

Prayers for **Colleen Grant** and **Dale** in support of her; and **Carolyn O'Connor** living at an assisted living facility outside of Boston (216, 276 Whiting Street, Hingham, MA 02043).

On-going prayers for **Lew Shepard** and **Marilyn Coir** in their days; **Rich Denison** who continues to face health concerns, **Christa Lyon**, **Joe Bean** (and wife **Mary**), 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); **Wanda Renick** a resident of the Canton Nursing Home (cards greatly appreciated (United Helpers NH, 205 State Street, Canton, NY 13617).

Continued long distance prayers for Jeannie Lewis living in NH being treated for macular degeneration.

Thanks to **Michelle Quinelle-Gayle** for being our Facebook Page Administer and for her many years of service to our church in keeping us connected.

Session Report

Session met on November 24th. The next meeting will be the special **budget meeting** on December 15th. **Rev. Mike** reported that the Presbyterian Foundation Fund is \$39,606. The **membership rolls** were reviewed with some members moved to inactive. One member was moved from inactive to active. The church's profit and loss statement was reviewed.

Michelle Theisen was thanked for her work in getting **Bibles** for the kids of the church. A special **bookmark** was given as well.

It was voted and approved to terminate the church's **Zoom subscription**. A report for **Stewardship** was shared and it was reported that many pledges have **increased**. For Fellowship, **Sarah Murphy** will be making **cookies** with the children which will be given to the shut-ins. **Fifty-nine** people received **Communion** in November. The **Baptism** of Stella Russ was held on November 9th. The music position was discussed.

For the Facilities Committee, **Nick Dekay** reported on work that has been done including door locks. There is a problem with the heat in the ladies' restroom. There are storms that need replacing. The question of whether to use plexiglass or glass was tabled. The **Manse Committee** has done a walk-through. Their next meeting is December 21st. **Stacie LaPierre**, a representative of the Deacons, will be on the nominating committee.

The next Regular Session Meeting will be on **January 26th**.



January Lectionary Readings

January 4

Jeremiah 31:7-14
Psalm 147:12-20
Ephesians 1:3-14
John 1:(1-9), 10-18

January 6 - Epiphany of the Lord

Isaiah 60:1-6
Psalm 72:1-7, 10-14
Ephesians 3:1-12
Matthew 2:1-12



January 11

Isaiah 42:1-9
Psalm 29
Acts 10:34-43
Matthew 3:13-17

January 18

Isaiah 49:1-7
Psalm 40:1-11
1 Corinthians 1:1-9
John 1:29-42

January 25

Isaiah 9:1-4
Psalm 27:1, 4-9
1 Corinthians 1:10-18
Matthew 4:12-23

Evening Book Group

The Evening Book Group will meet on **Tuesday, January 27th** at 7 p.m. in Lorna's Lounge to discuss **Isola** by Allegra Goodman with the discussion led by **Vicki McLain**.



Women's Circle

Women's Circle will meet on **Wednesday, January 14th** at 7 p.m. in Lorna's Lounge with the topic of **"Hospitality."** All women of the church are welcome!



Church Attendance

	In-Person	Stream	CS
November 30	48	27	No CS
December 7	52	45	5
December 14	78	48	No CS
December 21	70	44	12
December 28	17	25	No CS

Average In-Person Attendance: 53
 Average Live-Stream Attendance: 38
 Average CS Attendance: 9

Treasurer's Report

	Operating	Mission
November 30	\$10,665.00	\$ 1,170.00
December 7	\$1,880.00	\$ 818.00
December 14	\$2,749.94	\$ 50.00
December 21	\$2,873.00	\$ 55.00
Total:	\$18,167.94	\$2,093.00

Bean Fundraiser

Our 2nd Annual **"Where Have You BEAN?!"** soup/chili sale will be **Sunday, January 25th** from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Batches of **soup** and **chili** containing **beans, peas, or other legumes** are requested. They may be brought to the church on **Saturday, January 24th** from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. or on Sunday morning before church. These will then be packaged in **pints** and **quarts** and sold for **\$4.50 a pint** and **\$8.00 a quart**.



Who doesn't enjoy soup or chili on a weather intense North Country January Day!

Get out your favorite recipe....**chili, pea soup, bean soup, white chili, lentil soup, baked beans...**and plan to make a batch. A **sign-up sheet** will be at the church beginning on **January 11th**. Sign up is not mandatory, it is just to get an idea of what we have coming in. Questions? Please contact **Beth Hayes**: text (315) 244-7902 or e-mail hayebe27@gmail.com.

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 Nick Dekay Jim Franklin
 JJ Jockel Heidi Ames John Christopher
 Michelle Theisen Beth Hayes
 Patricia Mace - Elder & Clerk Of Session

Board of Deacons

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

Christy Dekay Ray Erickson Christa Lyon
 Susan Akins Jane Cable Mark Brackett
 Georgia Vose Bob Duda Stacie Olney-LaPierre
 Ray Erickson, Treasurer

Committees

Chairs

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

Facilities Nick Dekay & Joe Montgomery
 Responsible for the maintenance and use of all church property.

Fellowship Beth Hayes, Ellen Grayson & Pat Mace
 Responsible for all fellowship events.

Nominating B Hayes, JJ Jockel, R Grayson, B Brown
 Responsible for filling Session, Deacons & Offices.

Christian Education Jim Franklin
 Responsible for growth, nurturing & learning.

Worship Rob Ewy & Sarah Melville
 With pastor, responsible for worship.

Communion Pat Mace & Vicki McLain

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

Mission Michelle Theisen & Sarah Melville
 Helping our church, community and world.

Treasurer Mary McGreevy

Financial Secretary Barry Walch

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

Personnel Heidi Ames & Patrick LaPierre

Manse Renovation Committee Jim Franklin,
 Pat Mace, Sarah Melville, Rob Ewy, Joe Montgomery,
 Christy and Nicholas Dekay

Thanks to our Elders & Deacons for their good work!

The Pastor's Report

Well, another year has come and gone my Sisters and Brothers. How about that?!?

I have never been one to invest too heavily in New Year's Resolutions. To me, if you want (or need) to make a change (i.e. repent) why wait until January? Might as well get after it now, today. Best not to dawdle. That said, I don't mind telling you that I have been working on a couple of new mental bones to chew on for the next chunk of time. I figure since you will almost certainly be bearing the brunt of these in some way, shape, or form it is only right that I give you a heads up and fair warning.

The first "bone" is the MOLST. This acronym stands for "Medical Orders for Life-Sustaining Treatment." While New York uses MOLST, other states use POLST (Physician Orders for Life-sustaining Treatment) or similar acronyms, but they all serve the same purpose: **"to turn patient treatment wishes into actionable medical orders that travel with the patient."** A 4 page document (typically hot pink in color for easy recognition and discovery) the MOLST covers just about every possible permutation of end of life decisions.

While other documents such as a Living Will or Healthcare Proxy are certainly helpful, the MOLST is **the GOLD STANDARD for end of life care.** It is recognized by *every* healthcare professional from EMTs, Paramedics, and First Responders to ER Doctors and ICU Nurses. The MOLST leaves no area of dispute with regard to treatment at a time, and during circumstances which are tremendously and tragically ill-suited for such discussions.

Ideally, the MOLST should be shared with loved ones or family (or, even, com-

pleted with them present) so they understand in the clearest terms what you will be seeking at the end of life. In order to be enforceable, the MOLST must be signed by a Physician, Nurse Practitioner, or Physician Assistant.

In the months to come we will be speaking about the MOLST as a congregation, and we will be making resources available for folks to complete a MOLST should they desire. The reason I feel this is an important bone to chew on is that all of my friends are getting older and I want each one of you to have as much agency as is possible in your life and in your death.

The other bone I'm fixing to chew on is a quote/concept from German Existential Philosopher Friedrich Nietzsche, **"Where one can no longer love, there one should pass by."** Closely related to this as a corresponding concept is the notion of "abiding." Again, a quote from Nietzsche, **"One who has a why to live can bear almost any how."** I was reminded of these ideas having read an article on the CBC website which was addressing the ever growing political divides in society. "We are almost talking too much. There is this constant need to correct, refute, criticize. It's not clear that our constant need to engage is helping us move forward in any way. If anything it is making partisan divides even more pronounced." (Click [HERE](#) if you'd like to read the article.)

As we tout on our website, ours is "a different kind of church." At the root of this difference, I believe, is the strength to "pass by" and the wisdom to "abide."

We'll talk more later. Happy New Year.
- Rev. Mike

"One who dwells in the shelter of the Most High will abide in the shadow of the Almighty." - Psalm 91:1

JANUARY Birthdays

- 4 Max Athanasakis, Rosie Larson
- 7 Karen McAuliffe
- 8 Emily Ames
- 10 Jim Robertson, Rosalie Dekay
- 12 Joanne McQuade
- 13 Lauren Smith, Kimberly Dildine
- 15 Rance Bell
- 17 Nathan Gibson
- 20 Gerard & Michaela Powers
- 21 Daniel Gordon
- 26 Bob Fraser
- 28 Charles "Chuck" Alexander
- 30 Ryan McAuliffe

JANUARY Anniversaries

- 4 Rance & Kelly Davis,

C&CP Giving Tree

Thanks to folks from our congregation, and so many **generous hearts** in our community, this year's Giving Tree was able to provide **toys, clothes, and PJs** to **141** families with **360** kids! We have made Christmas so much more the merrier for children right here in our community.

Thank You!

Our congregation is the best! At the **Christmas Eve** service, the offering for the **Deacons** brought in **\$608!** We also made Christmas brighter with donations for the **Elf Shelf** at Lisbon Central. Thanks to **Erin Wiggins** for making the request for small gifts the kids could purchase for \$1 or less and thanks to all of you for your generous response.



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

Virtual Worship & Fellowship

For live-streaming, fellowship, bulletins, sermons, newsletters, and other resources, **begin by bookmarking the church website:** 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 and click on "YouTube Channel." You can choose to subscribe to our channel or simply go to this link each week.

Worship bulletins are posted earlier in the week to the church website for those worshipping 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 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 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").

Holy Rollers

Have a bowl full of pennies? Did you discover a lot of coins in the cushions? If you have too much **loose change** to bring to church for **Noisy Can** Sundays, call the Holy Rollers. We will come to your house to sort, roll, count your change, and make sure it gets deposited so that you can donate to the Noisy Can Youth Mission. Contact **Michelle Theisen** at (315) 742-2172 or **Rob Ewy** at (315) 212-9425 to schedule a time.

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 2025. 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 **\$8,880** 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 a *whopping* **\$4,300** went to 17 Farm Families (a \$1,200 increase over last year and the most we've ever raised!), **\$4,400** went to 24 families with young children and 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

Giving & Mission Recap - cont.

card. Occasionally, in return, we receive a thank you note which is deeply humbling in its earnestness and gratefulness. **2025 was a particularly generous year for donations to the Farm Family Fund, saw a 25% increase in giving** (after a 100% increase in 2024)! Begun in 2002, over the past **23 years** our annual Christmas Giving Program has provided **\$154,982** to *hundreds* of families at Christmas.

While the Mission and Christmas Giving just described is something our church does *every* year, owing to gifts to the Pastor's Discretionary Fund this past year our church was again able to provide **50 lbs.** of **ground beef** a month for a year to the Church & Community Program's food pantry, purchase all of the **fresh fruits** and **vegetables** for the "Bear Pack" program at Banford Elementary School for the 2025-2026 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**.

To date, this totals over **\$28,000** in mission funding *this* year alone. 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 \$170,000. 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 your incredible generosity!!!**

Prayer Warriors

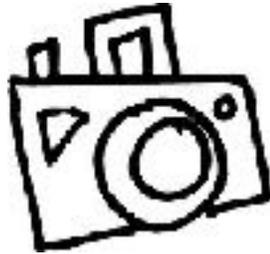
Would you like to help your neighbor, stretch spiritually and be a part of the mystical movement of the church? We are always looking for new prayer warriors to join **the church Prayer Chain** to offer prayers for folks who are ill, troubled or in need.

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



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 to 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 4th** 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

Reverend Mike's email address:
RevMike@ChurchOnThePark.org

Sermons & Services

Written Sermons in PDF format are now available for viewing or downloading on Monday at 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.

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

Hello, my name is...

Remember - **Name Tag Sunday** is **January 18th**.

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

Student News

Congratulations to the following Student-Musicians from the church on a *fabulous* Winter Concert at Canton HS: **Maria Franklin** (Soprano) and **Jeremy Potter** (Tenor), Senior Chorus; **Aubrey Boswell** (Soprano), **Gwen LaPierre** (Alto), **Luke Elvy** (Alto) 7th & 8th Grade Chorus; **Natasha Rossiter** (Clarinet), **Maria Franklin** (Sax), **Jeremy Potter** (Trumpet) Senior Band; **Aubrey Boswell** (Clarinet), **Gwen LaPierre** (Horn), and **Darren Potter** (Low Brass) 7th & 8th Grade Band. **You each should be very proud of your time, efforts, and accomplishments! We sure are!**

Congratulations to **Natasha Rossiter**, WWNY Channel 7's Academic All-Star for the week of December 17th! Natasha is ranked first in her class. She has acted in school theater productions, plays clarinet in the band, and was a member of the Science Olympiad team. She has also been part of the soccer and track teams. Natasha plans to major in physics. See her interview by clicking [HERE](#). Natasha is the daughter of **Cliff** and **April Rossiter**. Way to go Natasha! Hard earned and well deserved!



Congratulations to **Emily Ewy** who was one of ten SLC members of the Class of 2026 recently named as a recipient of the Northern New York Community Foundation Evergreen STEM Scholarship. Students are awarded the scholarship due to their interest and intent to study in a science, technology, engineering, or mathematics field while in college and apply during their junior year of high school for selection in the summer. Recipients will receive a one-year \$3,000 scholarship toward their freshman year of college next fall. Emily's area of interest and study is Dietetics. Nicely done Emily! See the article on [NCNow.com](#) by clicking [HERE](#).

Dr. Dave's Joke(s) of the Month

I decided my dog is a genius. I ask her what is 20 minus 20? She said nothing.

Why do soccer players take so long to eat? They don't realize they can use their hands.

A new feature in the View From The Park, we thank (Dr.) David Hornung for his contributions and for our chuckles; both now and in the months to come.

Dessert Donations

For the Annual Meeting on Sunday, February 1st, Beth Hayes will be preparing **sandwiches** for coffee hour. We are looking for the **donation** of a few **desserts** to serve that day as well. If you can help out, please contact **Beth Hayes**: text (315) 244-7902 or e-mail hayebe27@gmail.com

*Saving
Grace*

O Lord:

In a world where many are lonely:

We thank you
for our friendships.

In a world where many are captive:

We thank you
for our freedom.

In a world where many are hungry:

We thank you
for your provision.

We pray that you will:

Enlarge our sympathy,
Deepen our compassion,
And give us grateful hearts.

SIGN(S) OF THE TIMES – THE MONTH'S MESSAGES

**Be Smart
Be Safe
Be There
For Each Other**

**Silent Night,
Holy Night
All is Calm,
All is Bright**

**Merry
Christmas!
Peace on earth,
Good will to all.**

**Oh By Golly
Have A Holly Jolly
Christmas
This Year!**

**O star of wonder, star of night
Star with royal beauty bright
Westward leading,
still proceeding
Guide us to thy perfect Light**

**Worship & Church School
Begin at 10:00 a.m.**
Sunday's In-Person and On-line
Sermon Nursery Care Provided
"Saving Presence"
www.ChurchOnThePark.org
DEC 28 9:06 AM 2° 315.386.2570

**Holiday Farmers' Market
Friday at the Church
Produce, Meat, Maple, Honey,
Baked Goods and More!
10 a.m. to 2 p.m.**

O, Come, All Ye Faithful
Service Of Lessons & Carols
This Sunday 10 a.m.
Christmas Eve
Candlelight Service 7 p.m.
Joyful and Triumphant

Christmas On The Park 2025



Thanks To The Kids Who Made & Decorated Cookies Which The Deacons Delivered To Those At Home



Thanks To Natasha, Linda, Sarah & Christy



The Park Was Quite Beautiful This Year In A White Christmas Kind Of Way



The Robin Crowell Memorial Tree (Robin was the son of Bob and Billie Crowell who were members of our church.)

Church School Christmas Showcase



(Top Row) Claire, Stella & Sophia

(Middle) Rosie, Lachlan, Sam, Sully, Derby & Sebastian

(Front) Hunter & Nico



Thanks To Andrea For Her Leadership
& The Kids & Youth For Their Efforts



Kate



Rosalie



Emily

Special Music



The Men of the Church Sang "White Christmas"



The Canton Goldenaires (Barbershoppers) Joined Us To Sing A Few Tunes



And It Was Great To Have The Choir



Lachlan, Sean & Kristin



Jeremiah, Isabelle, Olivia & Leah



Bob Gives The Christmas Countdown



Special Thanks to Bob for Playing Piano Through the 4 Sundays in Advent, Christmas Eve, and the 2 Sundays in Christmastide. What a Gift!

Christmas Potluck!!! (Best Ever?)



Only one plate was broken in the enjoyment of this meal!





Star
Of
W
o
n
d
e
r



Porter Did an AWESOME Job Reading and Stole the show!!!



Kids Are What Christmas Eve on the Park is All About!

Life In A Small Church



Christa Celebrated her 12/10 Birthday with Food, Friends & Festivities



Thanks To Michelle & Gordy For the NEW and Very Festive Christmas Tree for the Sanctuary! Thanks also to (L-R) Derby, Jackson, Beau, Gavin, Sully, Sam & Sophia For Helping to Decorate The Tree.



Silversmith Nancey Brackett Participated in This Year's STLC Chamber Craft, Food & Holiday Market Click [HERE](#) to Visit Nancey's Website

We invite and greatly welcome all photo submissions for the "Life In A Small Church" section of the monthly newsletter.



Click [HERE](#) To Send Photos



(Top) Jorge Returns! (Left) Isabel with Grandpa Mark



Lorien, Anastasia, Giselle Participated in a Tree Trimming Event at Higley Flow State Park. They are the daughters of Jason and Krista, granddaughters of Mary and Allen.



Our Cupboard Is Full!!!

Thanks To the Congregation For Your Support of the Kids' Monthly Noisy Can Offering!

Thanks to Sarah Melville and Michelle Theisen who used proceeds from the monthly Noisy Can Offering to go shopping for items to restock our church's Emergency Food Pantry and, then, filled the "larder." This included:

- 8 cans Progresso soups
- 4 lg boxes saltine crackers
- 6 pkgs pasta & 6 jars spaghetti sauce
- 6 cans baked beans / small & lg
- 4 cans corn, 4 cans carrots
- 4 cans peaches , 4 cans pears
- 5 boxes instant potatoes
- 4 boxes Mac & Cheese
- 3 Lg cans tuna fish
- 2 bottles apple juice



(L) Lincoln and Audrey Fit Just Fine on Santa's Lap
(R) Micah is ALL IN on Christmas!



Visitors From Afar Receive A Christmas Miracle!

Late morning Christmas Day Rev. Mike received an alert on his phone from the church's video doorbell. Seems this family from Ottawa was in Canton for Christmas, decided to go for a short hike on the Kip Trail starting on the Pike Road but took a wrong turn and ended up in the village. The kids were quite cold and they were seeking shelter, so Rev. Mike opened church for them so they could warm up (and have some candy from his "candy dish") before being picked up by their family.

January 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
28 Natl Call A Friend Day No Church School	29	30 1:30PM Church Office Open	31 New Year's Eve	1 New Year's Day 1:30PM Church Office Closed	2	3
4 De-Greening of the Church Deacon & Food Offering Deacons & Food Shelf No Church School No Communion	5	6 1:30PM Church Office Open	7	8 1:30PM Church Office Open 4:15PM C&CP Board Meeting 6:30PM Choir Practice	9	10
11 Church School Resumes 11:15AM Deacons Meeting	12	13 1:30PM Church Office Open	14 7:00PM Women's Circle	15 Annual Report Deadline Newsletter Deadline 1:30PM Church Office Open 6:30PM Choir Practice	16	17
18 Name Tag Sunday Noisy Can Offering 11:00AM Manse Committee Meeting	19 MLK Day	20 1:30PM Church Office Open	21	22 1:30PM Church Office Open 6:30PM Choir Practice	23	24 Bean Fundraiser Prep
25 11:00AM Bean Fundraiser	26 7:00PM Session	27 1:30PM Church Office Open 7:00PM Evening Book Group	28	29 1:30PM Church Office Open 6:30PM Choir Practice	30	31

