



## FIRST UNITED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF TROY

### PASTOR'S NOTE

Dear Friends,

While originally meant to mock, I think the phrase, "...can't walk and chew gum at the same time" could be a contemporary commentary on multi-tasking. In spite of myriad studies concluding our human inability to do two things well at the same time, many still believe they are the exceptions who researchers failed to test. I've driven behind some of those folks, and wonder if their text messages are as meandering as their inability to stay in their lane.

Advent poses the ultimate multi-tasking challenge for the faithful, for we often view this season as a competition between "the world" luring us to commercialize and the church inviting us to Emmanuelize. Personally, I think it is too easy to blame "the world" for choices we make, but with that said, I sense few of us are immune from veering between two lanes as we drive toward Christmas Day.

I think it wise to accept there are two Christmases we mark and consciously choose how we will celebrate both. So, I would encourage us to "mono-task" Advent this year the same way we make lists for our gifting, baking, decorating, and partying. Here are some suggestions:

- Attend worship each Sunday in Advent. With deadlines posed by other obligations, or when you have company visiting, there may be a temptation to skip a week. Try to hold to this discipline and make all the stops along our Advent journey to the manger.

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### CONTACT US

[www.unitedprestroy.org](http://www.unitedprestroy.org)

[info@unitedprestroy.org](mailto:info@unitedprestroy.org)

(518) 272-2771

[CALENDAR](#)

1915 FIFTH AVE.  
TROY, NY 12180

### WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Sunday Worship is at 10:00am.

### CHURCH OFFICE SCHEDULE

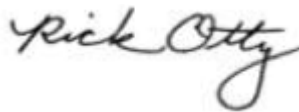
Please note that all Church offices  
are CLOSED on Fridays.

The Church Main Office is open  
Monday - Thursday, from 9am-1pm.

- Set a daily discipline of ten minutes of "quiet time," during which you might:
  - o Ponder the question, "For what am I longing, looking, listening?" Perhaps keep a journal of your thoughts.
  - o Read the weekly Scriptures (found in the newsletter) or follow a daily Advent devotional; for a number of years, Lynn and I have used Watch for the Light (Plough Publishing.)
- Think of three people not on your Christmas card list, for whom a card you send could be the only one they receive.

This Advent, my encouragement is we do not to try to multi-task between the secular and the sacred, the market and the manger, the wrapped gift in ribbons and the wrapped baby in swaddling clothes. Attempting to do so means we probably won't do either well. Instead, let us make two journeys to Christmas, and stay in our lane for each.

With Christ's peace,



## SCRIPTURE READINGS & THEMES

**NOTE:** With the children's pageant on Sunday, December 23, the Gospel texts for the second and third Sundays in Advent have been chosen to enable us to hear the voices of John the Baptist (December 9) and Mary and Elizabeth (December 16) to guide our preparations to receive the Christ child once again.

### December 2 (First Sunday in Advent):

*Texts:* Jeremiah 33:14-16; Psalm 25:1-10; I

Thessalonians 3:9-13; Luke 21:25-36

*Theme:* Advent Sprouts - as we begin the Christian year on the first Sunday of Advent, we anticipate what will be coming to us, but also are reminded to notice the signs of what is here now.

### December 9 (Second Sunday in Advent - Communion)

*Texts:* Malachi 3:1-4; Luke 1:68-79; Philippians 1:3-11; Luke 3:1-18

*Theme:* Release from Our Captivities - John the Baptist goes into all the region around the Jordan River, or perhaps it is the Hudson River, offering a call to repentance that seeks to reach all. John speaks with fiery truth and liberating freedom, both of which invite us to envision repentance as release from our current

## OUR MISSION

Together,

We worship God through Christ and explore all dimensions of life in the Spirit;

We demonstrate God's inclusive love as we work for peace and justice;

We serve God in the world as we seek to heal wounds and care for God's creation.

## OUR INCLUSIVE MINISTRY

We invite all people of every background, condition, and orientation into the full fellowship, ministry, and mission of God's Good News in Jesus Christ.

All who join the church are extended the full privileges of membership, are challenged to lead lives of Christian discipleship, and are eligible to be considered for church office.

## CHURCH OFFICERS

### THE SESSION

The Reverend Rick Otty  
Moderator

2012

Pat Carlson  
Peg Drew  
Chandlee Gill,  
Karen Harpe

2013

David Lanoue  
Dan Rogers  
Trudi Wybourn  
Sue Steele

2014

Courtney Savaria  
Jennifer Nelson  
Florie Parmelee  
Peggy Savchik

captivities.

**December 16 (Congregational Meeting following worship)**

*Texts:* Zephaniah 3:14-20; Isaiah 12:2-6; Philippians 4:4-7; Luke 1:39-55

*Theme:* Blessing and Boldness - John's mother, Elizabeth, offers a blessing to Jesus' mother, Mary, a part of an emboldening that enables Mary to sing what one has called a "variation" on Hannah's song we heard in November. We are challenged to hear with modern ears, Mary's pronouncement that the world God envisions is upside down from the world that is.

**December 23 (Children's Christmas Pageant 2012)**

*Texts:* Micah 5:2-5a; Psalm 80:1-7; Hebrews 10:5-10

*Theme:* Children's Christmas Pageant 2012

The children of the church will lead us in a part of our worship this morning.

**December 24 - 7:00 p.m. (Christmas Eve - Candlelight Communion)**

The children's choir of First United will sing in the service.

*Texts:* Isaiah 9:2-7; Psalm 96; Titus 2:11-14; Luke 2:1-20

*Theme:* We've Reached the Manger - What Now?

The Advent prophesies of Messiah, full of liberating images, do not fit the scene we find when we follow shepherds to a swaddled child placed in a manger bed. In a service of carols and prayers, Scriptures and a meditation, we might find ourselves asking, "Do I dare hold this child?"

**December 30**

*Texts:* 1 Samuel 2:18-20, 26; Psalm 148; Colossians 3:12-17; Luke 2:41-52

*Theme:* The Anticipated Jesus

Only Luke's Gospel contains any reference to Jesus as a child or youth. Within the familiar story of Jesus being "lost" from his parents, we hear his "first words" in which he begins to define himself, and Luke leaves us with Mary pondering in her heart all she had seen and heard, and Jesus increasing in wisdom, years, and favor.

**Looking ahead:** On Sunday, January 6, we will celebrate Epiphany (the season of light) with a service of lessons and carols, followed by a potluck Fellowship Time.

THE BOARD OF DEACONS

2012

Bob Harrington  
Bonnie Kerr  
Carol Harrington  
Claudia Schwendeman

2013

Shirley Bowes  
Steven Paul Bowes II  
Dana Parker  
Shirley Street

2014

Martha Juenger  
Marsha Mintz-Botsford  
Pat Rudebush  
Kerry Welcome

CHURCH STAFF

Rick Otty,

Interim Pastor

Maury A. Castro,  
Minister of Music

Leslie Kelly,  
Faith Education Director

Carlie D'Annunzio,  
Financial Analyst

Nada Rifai,  
Office & Media Manager

Shirley Hinkamp,  
Copy Editor

## UPCOMING SUNDAYS

### FAITH EDUCATION FOR CHILDREN

**Dec. 2:** Children remain in worship

**Dec. 9:** Classes for children after the children's message (upstairs in the Wheeler Room and Godly Play Room)

**Dec. 11:** Rehearsal for Christmas presentation 5:30pm with pizza

**Dec. 16:** Classes for children after the children's message (upstairs in the Wheeler Room and Godly Play Room)

**Dec. 16:** Rehearsal for Christmas presentation after worship, 11:30 in the Sanctuary

**Dec. 22:** Rehearsal for Christmas presentation, 9am in the Sanctuary

**Dec. 23:** Children participate in worship - Christmas Presentation  
Intergenerational Time after worship to share Birthday Cake for Jesus and Christmas Memories

**Dec. 30:** No Classes

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### ADULT EDUCATION

**11:30 in the Rose Room**

**Dec. 2:** No class/Victorian Stroll

**Dec. 9:** Pastor Nominating Committee presentation: The PNC will describe the steps in the search process for the next called and installed pastor

**Dec. 16:** When I was growing up, every Christmas we looked forward to visiting with our neighbors - Mary, Margaret, Robin and Tim Wheeler. Each Christmas they added a new piece to their nativity set, which Margaret shared with great enthusiasm. In this spirit you are invited to share a meaningful "object" used for your Christmas celebration. Please bring it with you and be prepared to share a little about why it is special for you. Pastor Rick will also have a Christmas quiz for us.

**Dec. 23:** Intergenerational Time after worship to share Birthday Cake for Jesus and Christmas Memories

**Dec. 30:** No Classes

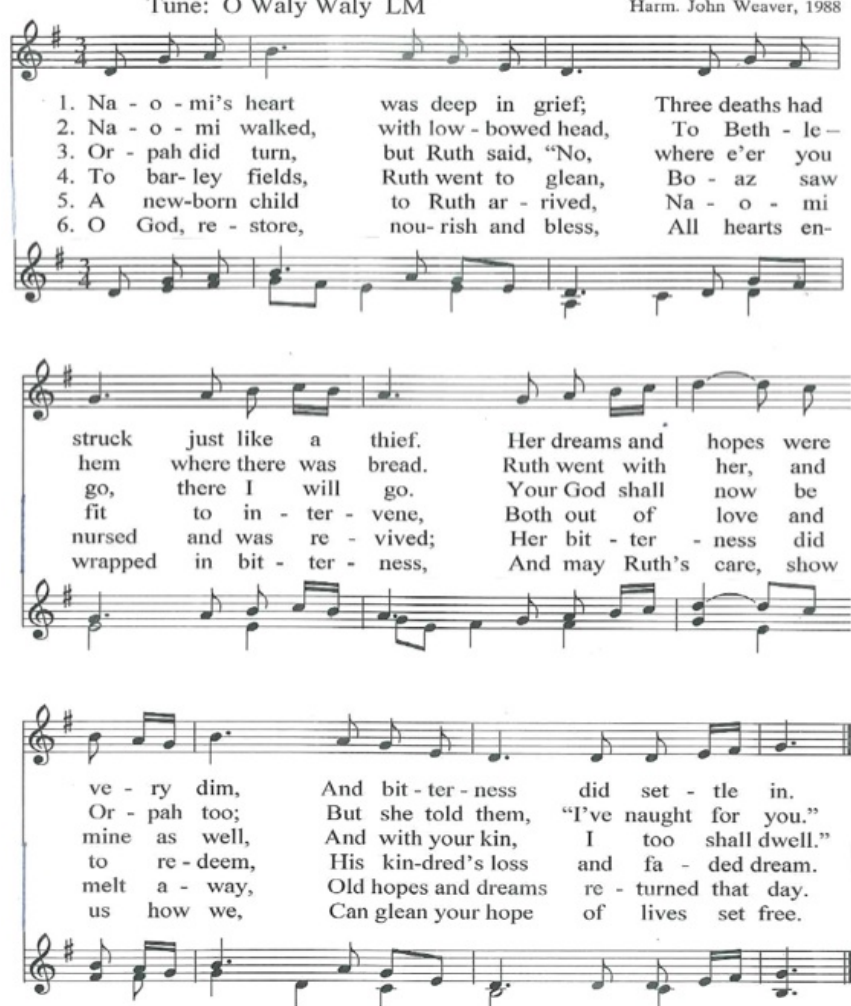
## DID YOU KNOW ...

### THAT WE HAVE A HYMN LYRICIST IN OUR MIDST??????

On Sunday, November 11 the focus of the worship service was the scripture story of Naomi, Ruth and Boaz. Printed in the bulletin was a hymn which also told the story. It is included here. Hint: the tune referenced is the tune to which we sing the familiar hymn, "Though I May Speak," #335 in our hymnal.

**Song of Naomi**  
Tune: O Waly Waly LM

English folk melody  
Harm. John Weaver, 1988



1. Na - o - mi's heart	was deep in grief;	Three deaths had
2. Na - o - mi walked,	with low - bowed head,	To Beth - le -
3. Or - pah did turn,	but Ruth said, "No,	where e'er you
4. To bar - ley fields,	Ruth went to glean,	Bo - az saw
5. A new-born child	to Ruth ar - rived,	Na - o - mi
6. O God, re - store,	nou - rish and bless,	All hearts en -

struck just like a thief.	Her dreams and hopes were
hem where there was bread.	Ruth went with her, and
go, there I will go.	Your God shall now be
fit to in - ter - vene,	Both out of love and
nursed and was re - vived;	Her bit - ter - ness did
wrapped in bit - ter - ness,	And may Ruth's care, show

ve - ry dim,	And bit - ter - ness	did set - tle in.
Or - pah too;	But she told them,	"I've naught for you."
mine as well,	And with your kin,	I too shall dwell."
to re - deem,	His kin-dred's loss	and fa - ded dream.
melt a - way,	Old hopes and dreams	re - turned that day.
us how we,	Can glean your hope	of lives set free.

Oh, so who wrote these words?? Our very own Rick Otty!!!! (Shall we refer to him now as "Rick, the Other Music Man??!!")

## WHERE'S THE CHURCH CALENDAR?

Don't worry, we didn't forget to include the church calendar in this new electronic format! If you scroll up and browse the right side-bar, you will see a section labeled "Contact Us." Immediately under the church's contact information, you will see "Calendar"-click on this blue link and it will take you directly to the church's online calendar. This link is included in every electronic newsletter so the most current calendar is only ever one-click away! Mailed newsletters will have a printed calendar.

## HELP A FAMILY IN NEED THIS CHRISTMAS

This Christmas, the Faith Ed committee invites you to help purchase gifts for a local family through Unity House. We will be helping a family with five children - four boys and one girl. Information such as age, gender and requested gifts are available in Fellowship Hall. Please return wrapped gifts marked with the child's name by December 9th. Unity House sets a \$25 limit per gift. Thank you!



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## RE-ENERGIZE MISSION ANNOUNCES BROWN BAG #3: CHRISTMAS DINNER!

Boxes and bags for Christmas Dinner became available beginning October 28, 2012. These containers are to be filled with food for families using the TLP at Oakwood Community Center. In addition to our collecting items, these boxes provide potatoes, onions, meat, and our recipe for green bean casserole!

### Suggested food item list:

- Cans of mushroom soup
- Cans of green beans
- Cans of corn
- Cans of yams
- Cans of fried onion rings
- Packages of seasonal napkins
- Personal note or card if you wish

### Additional suggestions:

- Applesauce
- Fruit cocktail
- Fruit flavored jello
- Candy canes or wrapped candy
- Hot chocolate mix and marshmallows
- Money (check to defray the cost of meat will also be appreciated)



*\*NOTE: This list was updated October 29th.*

*All collected items must be at First United by Thursday December 20th.*

For more information, please contact Pat Carlson (874-1809), Lois Jensen (274-3578), Margaret Stoner (273-2735) or Rachel Dotson.

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## CALL FOR VOLUNTEERS!

Volunteers are needed to help organize and label the central key box in the front office. If you are available to help test keys on locks around the church, please contact Nada by emailing her at [info@unitedprestroy.org](mailto:info@unitedprestroy.org) or calling the church office.

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## WISH LIST

First United is in need of a few things to boost our faith education program. The Faith Education department is currently in need of the following items: a CD Player and Digital Camera. If you have any spares laying around the house and would like to donate them to First United, please contact Leslie Kelly, our Director of Faith Education, directly at (518) 272-2771 ext. 18 or you can [email Leslie at leslie@unitedprestroy.org](mailto:email Leslie at leslie@unitedprestroy.org).



## MUSIC MINISTRY

### Troy Children's Chorus December Concerts

Catch Rensselaer County's premier children's chorus in one of several holiday concerts:

*\*Friday, November 30, 6:00 pm*

Victorian Stroll Preview Performance for Troy Night Out  
(Troy Savings Bank Music Hall)

*\*Sunday, December 2, 12pm and 1:00 pm*

Victorian Stroll engagement with Sage College for  
Holiday Music Hall Concerts (Troy Savings Bank Music Hall)

*\*Sunday, December 2, 2:00 pm*

Victorian Stroll Christmas Concert featuring soprano  
soloist Carla Fisk (Troy Savings Bank Music Hall)

*\*Friday, December 7, 4:00 pm*

Eddy Geriatric Care Center Concert (Chapel)

*\*Friday, December 7, 5:00 pm*

Samaritan Hospital Guild Giving Tree Ceremony (Samaritan Hospital, Troy)

*\*Monday, December 17, 4:30 pm*

Rensselaer County Van Rensselaer Manor Concert (85 Bloomingrove Dr., Troy)



### Christmas Eve Festival Choir

All singers are invited to join the Chancel Choir for this holy celebration. Rehearsals will be held Thursdays in the Rose Room from 7-7:45 pm. on Nov. 29, Dec. 6, 13, and 20.

### Victorian Stroll Concerts

First United will host RPI's Symphonic Band, Repertory Jazz Orchestra, and Contemporary Jazz Ensemble, as well as Troy High Jazz Ensembles, in concerts from 2-4 pm on Dec. 2.

### Christmas Eve Children's Choir

All children are invited to sing for the 7pm Christmas Eve service at First United. They will sing a simple song called "Little Hands." If you know of a child who would like to sing, please contact Maury Castro at 272.2771 ext. 14 and he can get a practice cd to you. Rehearsals will be held Dec. 11: 5-5:20 pm; Dec. 16: after church, 11-11:20 am; Dec. 23: after church, 11-11:20 am.

### Dedicate an Anthem

Congregants are invited to donate \$25 toward the purchase of new choral music, and the church will match that \$25 in order to purchase a new anthem (each anthem



in our library costs about \$50). The donor may dedicate the anthem to the person(s) or event of their choice, and when that anthem is sung in church, this will be recognized. To participate in this ongoing program, please contact Maury A. Castro.

## FAITH EDUCATION

### Christmas Pageant 2012

All children are invited to participate in the worship service on Sunday, Dec. 23. This year the children will interpret the birth of Jesus using a somewhat artistic approach. We will form live silhouette tableaus in connection with scripture, behind a back-lit screen. Rehearsals will take place on Sunday, Dec. 9 for half an hour during class time, Tuesday, Dec. 11 @ 5:30 pm (after the children's choir rehearsal), Dec. 16 after worship @ 11:30 in the sanctuary and Sat., Dec. 22 @ 9am in the sanctuary. We plan to have pizza for the Dec. 11 rehearsal. We will also need adults to assist with rehearsals and the production.

## SESSION NOTES

### Highlights of Actions at Stated Session Meeting, Monday, November 26, 2012

- Approved a fundraiser for the Troy Children's Chorus on Saturday, February 9, 2013 - "Cabin Fever Beach BBQ"
- Approved a special congregational meeting following worship on December 16th to elect a deacon, and to amend the church by-laws to change Nominating Committee size from 7 to 5 (1 active elder named by session, to chair; 1 active deacon named by Deacons; 3 at-large members elected by congregation).
- Approved request to schedule time at the beginning of the February 2013 Session meeting to discuss marriage equality issues/overtures.
- Approved purchasing the new Presbyterian hymnal (to be published in the Fall of 2013), and in early 2013, to encourage members to purchase a hymnal in memory or honor of a loved one.
- Approved a "Flooring FYI" session on December 16th to discuss floor covering needs for the church; the Facilities Committee has been investigating.
- Heard an oral report from Pastor Nominating Committee.
- Brainstormed ideas for the FUPC portion of a video Presbytery is planning to highlight its churches.
- Previewed a new FUPC website design which is in development.
- Reviewed the preliminary 2013 church budget.

## PASTOR NOMINATING COMMITTEE UPDATE



Members of the Pastor Nominating Committee (PNC) continue to meet regularly to proceed through the prescribed process of calling our next installed pastor. We invite members of the congregation to join us during Adult Education hour on December 9th for a discussion about that process.

*Don Drew, Ben Hallett, Martha Juenger, Pauline Kamen Miller, Judy Moyer, Florie Parmelee, and Sue Steele*

## PERSONNEL COMMITTEE UPDATE

The Session of First United has recently approved some minor changes to the Sexual Misconduct Prevention Policy, which was first implemented in 2006. These changes include prohibiting the use of any form of media to harass, bully or intimidate another person and the transmission of inappropriate material. Also included explicitly, as well as all programs at FUPC, is the Summer Music Day Camp and the recruiting, screening and training of staff for this program.

As an important reminder, the purpose of our Misconduct Prevention Policy is to provide three-fold protection:

- ... protection for all who enter the building for any reason, all children and members of the congregation as well as all visitors;
- ... protection for all members of the staff, both paid and volunteer; and
- ... protection for the institution of the church itself.

In an attempt to make the reporting of an alleged incident of misconduct more comfortable for children and families, our policy requires that two contact persons be named from within the membership of the congregation. We have chosen two parents of church school aged children for this purpose; they are Jennifer Nelson (678- 967-1764) and David Lanoue (782-1137). In addition, as always, the Pastor, any member of Session and the Personnel Committee may be contacted to report in incident or a concern.

The Misconduct Prevention Policy is available for viewing online at the church web site, [unitedprestroy.org](http://unitedprestroy.org). Print copies are also available on request through the church office.

As a result of several requests made at the most recent Misconduct Prevention Training , the Personnel Committee is working with the Faith Ed Committee and Leslie Kelly to create a one-session "Safe Church" event for the children in our church and their families. It will build on the bullying discussions that have already taken place during class time, and will be scheduled for some time in March / April.

It is our fervent hope that First United will never experience an incident of misconduct. However it is vital, and in keeping with Christian scripture, that we take all measures possible to prevent such an occurrence, and to provide the means for dealing with an alleged incident should one occur. Please speak to any member of Session or the Personnel Committee if you have questions.

*The Personnel Committee*

## IN THE LIFE OF THE CONGREGATION

### HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

1st: Sheri Scavone  
2nd: Mark Eadie  
Mark Robert Hallett  
Ruth Elizabeth Hallett  
3rd: Shirley Street  
4th: Kelsey Jensen  
13th: Maxine Terpening  
17th: Timothy Steele  
21st: Ron Pinkowski  
22nd: Abigail Parmelee  
Kerén Castro  
24th: Heinrich Medicus  
27th: Kate Marbot  
28th: Ian Krumanocker  
30th: Don Bowes  
Charles Turner



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### PRAYERS

Prayers for Carol Harrington who is recovering from heart surgery at home.  
If you'd like to send Carol a card, please mail it to 149 Sixth Ave., Troy, NY 12180.

Prayers for Rev. Jackie Pinkowski who is recovering from shoulder/rotator cuff surgery.  
If you'd like to send Jackie a card, please mail it to 405 E. 14th St., Dover, OH 44622.

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### IN MEMORY OF:

**Catherine Hyatt**

1913 - 2012

Age: 99

[Obituary can be read here](#)

## LOCAL EVENTS



#### **SHOP LOCAL!**

**October 26th - December 22nd**  
**The Shop | Inside The Arts Center |**  
**256 River St., Troy**

Avoid the mall, find unique hand-crafted gifts and shop locally -- at The Arts Center! Don't miss the wide variety of beautiful artisan gifts, all at a great price for everyone on your holiday shopping list. The items sold in the shop are all from local and regional artists. The pieces are sold on consignment, so the majority of the money goes right back to local artists. The Shop has all kinds of items: jewelry, housewares, accessories, toys, clothing, décor, and more!

*The Shop*  
 at The Arts Center 

#### **56th Annual Holiday Greens Show: Christmas Melodies** **December 1st & 2nd**

**Rensselaer County Historical Society, 57 Second Street in Troy**

The Rensselaer County Historical Society (RCHS) and the Van Rensselaer Garden Club will present the 56th Annual Greens Show. This year's theme is Christmas Melodies. The Annual Holiday Greens Show, is a Troy holiday tradition that transforms 12 rooms of the 1827 Federal-style Hart-Cluett House into a unique showcase. Members of the Van Rensselaer Garden Club incorporate fresh trees, greens and flowers to create beautiful history-inspired displays. This year's inspiration draws from beloved holiday songs. **FREE COMMUNITY NIGHT** on Thursday, November 29, 5-8pm Families get free admission to the show. Children can make winter crafts. **CANDLELIGHT TOURS** on Friday, November 30, 5:30 - 8pm View the Hart-Cluett House and decorations through the allure of candlelight. The guided tour is \$10 per person. Limited slots available for timed tours. **TROY TREASURES LUNCHEON** on Thursday, November 29 and Friday, November 3; 11:30am or 1:00pm Enjoy lunch at the Illium Café located on Monument Square and then tour the decorated Hart-Cluett House. Reservations required by November 21, 2012. Cost is \$30 per person, \$27 RCHS members. For many families, the Annual Holiday Greens Show is the start to their holiday season. The Greens Show is one of the signature events during the Victorian Stroll which takes place on Sunday, December 2. **COST:** \$7 adults, \$5 seniors, \$3 children over 4, **FREE** for children under 4. For additional information, please call 518-272-7232 x13.

#### **Victorian Stroll, 30th Anniversary Celebration**

**Sunday, December 2, 11am - 5pm**

Enjoy a day of fun, food, shopping and activities for all ages in the streets of our historic Downtown, transformed into a magical winter wonderland. The Stroll is the largest free outdoor holiday festival in the Northeast and is presented by the Rensselaer County Regional Chamber of Commerce. For more information, visit

[www.victorianstroll.com](http://www.victorianstroll.com)





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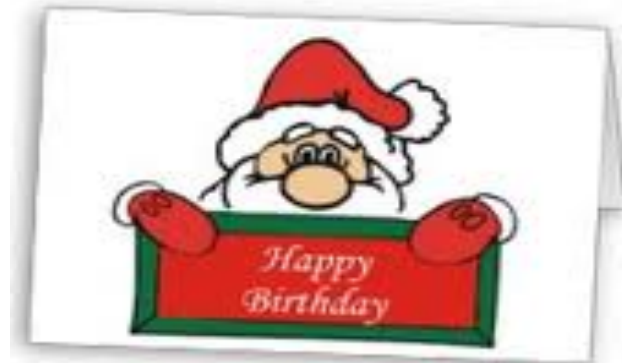
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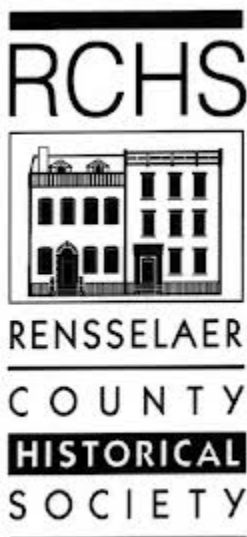
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**FOR PASTORAL EMERGENCIES, CONTACT:**

Rick Otty, Interim Pastor  
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