



# FIRST UNITED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF TROY, NY

## FEEDING the HUNGRY in BODY and SOUL

**Spirit, Service, Community**

**VISION NEWSLETTER**

**December, 2017**

### **Words of Wisdom**

Dear friends on the journey,

As we turn toward the darkest days of the year, it may feel as if we are also turning toward a collective "dark night of the soul."

Questions abound on how to remain faithful to our call to proclaim the reign of God when fear and anger and abuse consume our cultural conversation.

In the midst of this dark night, the words of wisdom from the apostles Peter and Paul offer hope.

And the peace that passes understanding.

And even joy in the darkness!

What we will find, as we grope our way through this dark night of the soul, is the mystery of love disclosed to us, in the form of a baby, and a promise of new life.

May we welcome the wisdom this dark night beholds.

**With deep love and gratitude,**

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### **CONTACT US**

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First United Presbyterian Church  
1915 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue  
Troy, NY 12180

10:00am worship with nursery care available.

## **VIBRANT WORSHIP and SPIRITUAL LIFE**

### **“Words of Wisdom”**

**Advent through Epiphany 2017 - 2018**

*Based on The Letters from Paul and Peter to the Early Church*

### ***You Are Not Lacking***

**First Sunday of Advent – Communion**

**December 3, 2017**

*Based on 1 Corinthians 1:3-9*

Time With Young People: Gifts of The Spirit

Children remain in worship for the Sacrament of Communion

Birthday Sunday/Extended Fellowship/Victorian Stroll

### ***Justice At Home***

**Second Sunday of Advent – Communion**

**December 10, 2017**

*Based on 2 Peter 3:8-15a*

Time With Young People: Cleaning Our Own Nest

Children's Church: God's Way of Love Lasts Forever

Extended Fellowship/Reflection

### ***An Unquenchable Spirit***

**Third Sunday of Advent – Communion**

**December 17, 2017**

*Based on 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24*

Time With Young People: A Spirit of Joy

Children's Church: Shout With Joy

Extended Fellowship/Reflection

### ***Disclosing the Mystery***

**Fourth Sunday of Advent/Christmas Eve – Communion**

**December 24, 2017 – 4:00pm**

**[NOTE: ONLY ONE SERVICE THIS DAY]**

*Based on Romans 16:25-27*

This special service will begin with the celebration of the Fourth Sunday of Advent and then transition to the celebration of the Nativity of Christ

### ***The Fullness of Time***

**First Sunday of Christmas**

**December 31, 2017**

*Based on Galatians 4:4-7*

Time With Young People: Chronos and Kairos

Children remain in worship - Extended Fellowship/Reflection

## VIBRANT WORSHIP and SPIRITUAL LIFE



First United Presbyterian Church is proud to continue to be the home of Troy Children's Chorus, originally started by our former Minister of Music Maury Castro.

**As a thank you to FUPC, the Chorus is presenting a concert on Tuesday, December 5th at 5PM.**

We are not having adult education during Advent. The Worship Committee is asking that you enjoy extended fellowship each Sunday and come to the presentation by the children that they have prepared for us all. Also, call friends and neighbors as this event is open to the public and is sure to be a fun time.



**Festival Celebration Choir presents "Christus Paradox" on Sunday, December 10 at 3:00pm at the First Lutheran Church of Albany.**

Julie Panke, Director, and Andrew Krystopolski, accompanist.

Music of Healey Willan, Alfred Fedak, Kenneth Jennings, Richard Dirksen and Daniel Gawthrop's  
"This Child, This King"  
for choir, organ, harp and timpani.

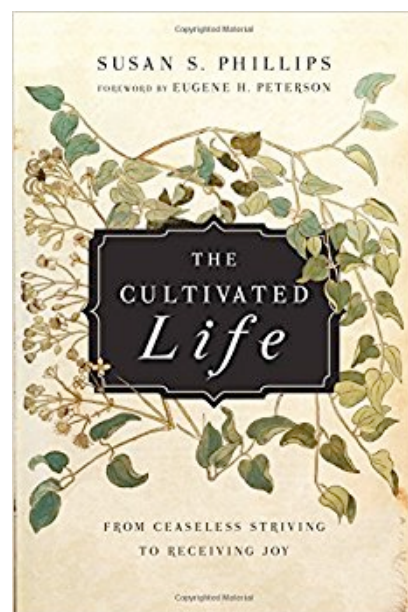
Come explore the paradoxical nature of the birth of Jesus in song.  
Tickets are \$18, \$13 for seniors and students.

**The "Soul Feast" group meets monthly to discuss**

***The Cultivated Life:  
From Ceaseless Striving to Receiving Joy  
By Susan S. Phillips***

***Chapter Two: Finding and Receiving Refreshment, and  
Chapter Three: Listening as a Way of Receiving Cultivation  
Monday, December 11, 7pm  
McCarty Room***

Contact the church office  
if you would like us to order your copy.  
Monthly drop-ins are welcome.



## December Birthdays



3rd Shirley Street

8th Pauline Kamen Miller

13th Maxine Terpinig

14th Noel Hains

17th Timothy Steele

22nd Abigail Parmelee

27th Kate Marbot

31st Marie Dzikuni

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The Session did not meet during the month of November. Our next Stated Meeting is Tuesday, December 12, 7pm, at the home of Peg Smith: 16 Hyland Circle, Troy, NY 12182. Visitors are welcome and encouraged.

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## FUPC Shawl Ministry

The shawl ministry will not be meeting in December.  
The next meeting will be on Tuesday Jan 9 at 1 pm

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**Building Visionaries Updates**  
**coming to the Annual Meeting, January 28, 2018**

## CARING, INCLUSIVE COMMUNITY

### Stewardship Update:

We are pleased to report we have received 33 pledges totaling \$99,000. Another 8 families and individuals who normally pledge will be contacted in the next weeks to determine their willingness and ability to continue their giving into 2018.

If you have not yet pledged – and wish to – please use the form below and send it to the church office.

Remember that a financial pledge is what you are inspired to contribute; understanding if circumstances change in your life the amount can be adjusted.

Don Drew  
(518) 274-9966  
[drewd3@rpi.edu](mailto:drewd3@rpi.edu)

Dan Rogers  
(518) 783-7472  
[hdr27@juno.com](mailto:hdr27@juno.com)

### HERE TO STAY!

#### Annual Pledge for:

#### ***First United Presbyterian Church Faith Community & Mission in 2018***

I/We \_\_\_\_\_

Plan to support FUPC in the total annual amount of \$\_\_\_\_\_ in 2018.

I/We plan to pay my/our pledge weekly at \$\_\_\_\_\_ per week; monthly at \$\_\_\_\_\_ per month; quarterly at \$\_\_\_\_\_ per quarter; or as a lump sum of \$\_\_\_\_\_ in \_\_\_\_\_ 2018.

☐ I/We need envelopes. *Note: Envelopes are not dated and can be used until depleted.*

#### **Long range commitment:**

- ☐ Please send me/us instructions on how to transfer stock to the church.
- ☐ Please contact me/us about endowing a ministry.
- ☐ I/we have remembered the church in my/our will.

***First United Presbyterian Church, 1915 Fifth Ave., Troy, NY 12180***

Please place this card in the offering plate (or mail it to the church) by Nov. 19, 2017

## Mission Committee and More Light - we have merged!

The Mission Committee and More Light Team have been meeting jointly since March, sharing common interests, including justice and environmental issues. Last week, we decided to formally merge and to call ourselves the **Social Justice Team**.

The following ministries were identified as vital to our mission: Immigration; food pantry; transgender concerns; Bread for the World; Inn from the Cold; Green faith; Spiritual care for activists; Activism/advocacy of all kinds

More will be added going forward.

As we are now a personal size church, this means working in teams rather than long term committees. There is less structure, but more freedom to "just do it". Plus, others can become involved in short term projects without needing to attend lots of meetings. So, stay tuned, let us know your ideas and help out with future projects!

**Team Members:** Margaret Stoner, Laura Rogers, Joan Rogers, Pat Carlson, Trudi Wybourn, Rebecca Rector, Lois Jensen, Sue Connolly, Noel Hains, Dana Crobok, Florie Parmelee, Marsha Mintz-Botsford, Pauline Miller, Betsy & John Eadie, Don Lutz

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## MISSION COMMITTEE THANKS YOU!

The "**Breads and Spreads**" Fellowship Time on November 12, in celebration of FUPC's long-standing support of Bread for the World, was a huge success! You generously donated just over \$150.00 to the Oakwood Food Pantry. Thank you for supporting the Mission Committee's **HUNGER** advocacy efforts!

**Joseph's House Inn From the Cold** We also received enough cash and donated food items to not only meet our first session "snack" obligations, but are well on our way to supplying our week in the second session! Thank you again for your generosity as FUPC continues to support this community **HUNGER** program.

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## Environmental Theme Program

### Tips for the Month



Use a house thermostat that has been designed to be energy efficient

Set your thermostat to a setting a bit lower than you think you need and wear more layers of clothes

Tote bags make nice souvenirs. Create a small collection of totes and take them to the store to use when you shop

When possible, car pool

When time and location allow, use public transportation (City buses, subways, shuttles...)

### **Rensselaer County residents speak out against ICE program application**

By Massarah Mikati

Albany Times Union

Wednesday, November 29, 2017

TROY — About a dozen Rensselaer County residents attended a public hearing for the proposed 2018 budget Tuesday night to speak out against Rensselaer County Sheriff Patrick Russo's application to implement the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement 287(g) program.

In October, Russo applied to the program which, according to the ICE website, "allows a state or local law enforcement entity to enter into a partnership with ICE," allowing the county to enforce federal immigration law on a local level.

The 287(g) program, however, has raised both social and financial concerns among those in opposition.

"When local law enforcement is deputized as ICE, what happens to the communities, the real lives of mothers, fathers and children in my congregations, is pure and utter fear," said Rev. Gusti Linnea Newquist, pastor at the downtown Troy First United Presbyterian Church. "I beg you to consider that the people who are most vulnerable in our county would be hurt the most if the proposal was acted upon."

Last week, Russo told the Times Union he decided to apply for 287(g) to increase revenue because "ICE would pay us to house ICE detainees in our facility."

The 287(g) program reimburses a portion of the cost of detainment, and also provides a four-week training program for officers.

However, a study by the American Immigration Council found that state and local governments are still responsible for costs such as "travel, housing, and per diem for officers during training; salaries; overtime; other personnel costs; and administrative supplies," and that the reimbursement of detention costs would "only cover a fraction of the costs spent by states and localities."

Attendees of Tuesday night's meeting echoed financial concerns.

"We don't need to spend our money paying deputies to be sent out-of-state for training and upon return do the federal's job on our dime," county resident Richard Ring said at the podium. "It is likely to cost the county a great deal of money to remove our neighbors."

Russo said he isn't worried about financial implications since the county already detains federal inmates through the U.S. Marshals Service with no issues. That agency pays the county to house and guard its prisoners.

"I don't know how this is going to work out because I don't know the volume of people we'll be housing," Russo said, "but I do think if we house a number of people it could offset the cost."

# CALENDAR

**Friday, December 1**

**Saturday, December 2**

**Sunday, December 3**

**First Sunday of Advent**

10:00 a.m. Worship  
10:00 a.m. Nursery Care  
11:15 a.m. Extended Fellowship/  
Birthday Sunday  
**Victorian Stroll in Downtown Troy**

**Monday, December 4**

4:30 p.m. Social Justice Team ~  
Sanctuary

**Tuesday, December 5**

5:00 p.m. Troy Children's Chorus  
Concert~ Sanctuary

**Wednesday, December 6**

4:00 p.m. Teach the Preacher~  
McCarty RM

**Thursday, December 7**

7:00 p.m. Chancel Choir Rehearsal ~  
Sanctuary

**Friday, December 8**

**Saturday, December 9**

**Sunday, December 10**

**Second Sunday of Advent**

10:00 a.m. Worship  
10:00 a.m. Nursery Care  
11:15 a.m. Extended Fellowship/  
Reflection  
3:00 p.m. Festival Choir Concert ~ First  
Lutheran, Albany

**Monday, December 11**

7:00 p.m. Soul Feast/Cultivated Life ~  
McCarty Room

**Tuesday, December 12**

7:00 p.m. Stated Session Meeting ~  
Peg Smith's home

**Wednesday, December 13**

4:00 p.m. Teach the Preacher ~  
McCarty Room

**Thursday, December 14**

7:00 p.m. Chancel Choir Rehearsal ~  
Sanctuary

**Friday, December 15**

**Saturday, December 16**

**Sunday, December 17**

**Third Sunday of Advent**

10:00 a.m. Worship  
10:00 a.m. Nursery Care  
11:15 a.m. Extended Fellowship/  
Reflection

**Monday, December 18**

**Tuesday, December 19**

**Wednesday, December 20**

**Thursday, December 21**

7:00 p.m. Chancel Choir Rehearsal ~  
Sanctuary

**Friday, December 22**

**Saturday, December 23**

**Sunday, December 24**

**Fourth Sunday of Advent/  
Christmas Eve**

4:00 p.m. Worship  
4:00 p.m. Nursery Care  
**Please note we will only have one  
worship service this day**

**Monday, December 25**

**Nativity of Christ  
OFFICE CLOSED**

**Tuesday, December 26**

**Wednesday, December 27**

**NO TEACH THE PREACHER TODAY**

**Thursday, December 28**

**Friday, December 29**

**Saturday, December 30**

**Sunday, December 31**

**First Sunday of Christmas**

10:00 a.m. Worship  
(no nursery care today)

**Please note new office  
hours for Kirby Kay Clark,  
Administrative Assistant:**

**Monday, Wednesday,  
and Friday**

**9am – 1pm**