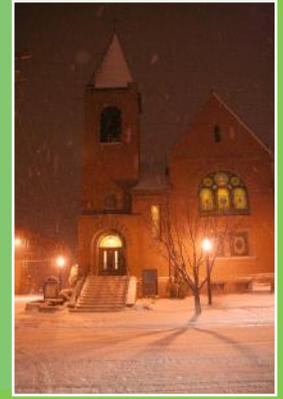




# Good News!



Dec. 2014

United Presbyterian Congregational Church  
214 Vaughn Avenue, Ashland WI 54806  
(715) 682-3093



*From the  
Pastor's  
Desk  
- and his*



“The stockings were hung by the chimney with care....”

One of the patron saints of the Advent and Christmas season is good old St. Nicholas. He is the patron of children, sailors, young women who wish to be married, and pawn brokers. Now that is an interesting group of people to have the same guardian! Yet, I would like to add one more group to the list of clients for the love of this kindly and generous old man of faith: holiday shoppers. By every advertising means at hand, we are encouraged to buy gifts for our loved ones. Christmas is the time of year when we empty our bank accounts in an attempt to satisfy our desire to find just the right gift for all those we love. Clever minds create commercials telling us that the cost of the gift speaks of the depth of our love (especially jewelry). Hassled, hurried, and haggled, we crowd our way through stores, catalogues, and online sites attempting the impossible feat of balancing our affection with our bank accounts. And each year, as the cost of goods increase, we find it harder to give a gift that truly speaks of our love. O, woe to us who struggle through purchaser's purgatory!

But then, in the midst of our struggles, comes St. Nicholas with a solution that's nearly a miracle. It is fitting that his “feast day” comes near the beginning of Advent and the beginning of the shopping season. As the patron saint of shoppers, St. Nicholas might exclaim, “Keep it simple!” Keep it simple enough to fit in a shoe (as you may recall, in Europe it is St. Nicholas who gives gifts to children, leaving presents like fruit, candy, and sweets in their shoes or stockings). True, a diamond ring or gold watch could fit inside a stocking, but that's not quite the idea behind the “keep it simple” advice.

One gift that could fit in a wooden or leather shoe, or in a stocking hanging by the chimney, is a note that speaks of one of our most precious gifts: the gift of time. Such a St. Nicholas note might read, “My gift to you, Mom, is

an offer to dry the dishes each night for the next three months.” Or, “The gift I give to you, dear, is half an hour of quality conversation each night right after the dishes are done.” We can appreciate the value of such a gift if we keep in mind that according to a recent survey, the average married couple in America has only thirty minutes a week of communication outside of the conversations that take place around the family table: that thirty minutes even includes disagreements!

So you see the possibilities are almost unlimited for St. Nicholas stocking gifts. Such gifts of love imply that what you hide in that hanging stocking of your loved one is yourself. For a season that celebrates the gift of Christ come down in the form of a simple baby, it truly is a season to believe.

So come, St. Nicholas, patron of shoppers and gift-seekers. Make this Christmas fun, creative, and love filled.

*Peace,*



*Bill*





## December Calendar

**December 1<sup>st</sup>** : Bill Handy not in office today  
**December 3<sup>rd</sup>**: 5-6:30 pm Middle school youth; 7:00 pm Choir  
**December 4<sup>th</sup>**: 7:00 am – Men’s Bible Study meets in lounge;  
 8:30 am – Women’s Bible study meets in lounge  
 10-noon: Mom’s playgroup in nursery by education wing door  
**December 5<sup>th</sup>**: Set up for Christmas Bazaar in dining room and kitchen – all day  
**December 6<sup>th</sup>**: Women’s Christmas Bazaar from 9am-2 pm  
**December 7<sup>th</sup>**: *2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Advent*  
 9:15 am Sunday School / 9:30 Adult Study  
 10:30 am worship service with communion; AFTER WORSHIP TODAY: Sunday school kids will hold practice for main speaking part for Christmas Program; 4 pm: COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS CONCERT in sanctuary  
**December 8<sup>th</sup>**: Bill Handy not in office today; 9:30 am – TEAM Meeting in dining room  
**December 9<sup>th</sup>**: 4:00 pm – Stewardship meeting in church library  
**December 10<sup>th</sup>**: 4:00 pm – Sunday School children practice for Christmas program; 5-6:30 pm – Middle School youth meet at church; 5:30 pm – Church supper; 7:00 pm – Choir;  
**December 11<sup>th</sup>**: 8:30 am – Women’s Bible Study meets in lounge; 8:30 am – AMA Meeting for local pastors in dining room; 10 –Noon: Mom’s playgroup in nursery by education wing door; 1:30 pm – Game Day at Court Manor; 4:00 pm – Christmas Program practice for entire cast in sanctuary  
**December 14<sup>th</sup>**: *3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Advent*; 9:15 am Sunday School / 9:30 am Adult Study; 10:30 am – Sunday School Christmas Program; **THE ROAD TO CHRISTMAS**; 7:00 pm - Senior High youth meet at church  
**December 15<sup>th</sup>**: 9:00 am – Staff meeting; Noon potluck - Mary Martha group meets in dining room; 7 pm – Deborah Circle meets at Marian Penn’s home  
**December 17<sup>th</sup>**: 5-6:30 pm Middle School youth meet at church; 5:30 pm – Session meets; 7:00pm – Choir  
**December 18<sup>th</sup>**: 7:00 am – Men’s Bible study group meet in lounge; 8:30 am – Women’s Bible study group meet in lounge; 10-Noon – Mom’s playgroup in nursery by education wing door  
**December 21<sup>st</sup>**: *4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent* No Sunday School today 10:30 am worship service  
**December 22<sup>nd</sup>**: Bill Handy in office today  
**December 24<sup>th</sup>**: 8:30 pm – Christmas Eve worship service with communion  
**December 25<sup>th</sup>**: OFFICE CLOSED  
**December 26<sup>th</sup>**: OFFICE CLOSED  
**December 28<sup>th</sup>**: No Sunday School today; 10:30 am worship service  
**December 29<sup>th</sup>**: Bill Handy not in office today  
**January 1<sup>st</sup>**: OFFICE CLOSED

*Come to the Women’s Association’s Annual*

## Bazaar

**Saturday, Dec. 6th**  
 9:00 a.m. ~ 2:00 p.m.  
 Tea Room opens at 10:00 a.m.

Featuring:

- ◆ Granny’s Attic
- ◆ Tea Room
- ◆ Candy Corner
- ◆ Homemade Baked Goods
- ◆ Crafts

## Women's Association

Mary Martha Circle invites all interested women of the church to join us for a potluck at noon on December 15 in the church dining room. After lunch we will have a short lesson before we package cookies to be delivered to shut-ins. If you know of shut-ins from our church who would like a visit, or if you have questions, please let us know. Kay Despard, 715-373-0309 or (cell) 763-242-1704 or [despardk@gmail.com](mailto:despardk@gmail.com).

Ladies will be setting up for the Bazaar on Friday, December 5 starting about 9:30. If you would like to drop off contributions, you could do it Friday morning, or we will be organizing food starting at 8:00 on Saturday, December 6. The Bazaar, Tea Room and Granny's Attic have something for everyone. We hope you'll stop by.

MORE PEOPLE... Are needed to help at Court Manor on the 2nd Thursday of the month from 1:30 to about 2:30. Please call Peg Steen at 715-682-8090 or RoAnn Ledin at 715-292-3762.

## ***Please Help Ashland Health & Rehabilitation Center & New Horizons North...***

Celebrate Christmas with their residents. We have eight (8) holly leaves (AHR) and gift tags for New Horizons North, with specific gift suggestions, placed on the back table by the entryway. Please take one leaf and instruction sheet and place your gift under the tree by December 17<sup>th</sup>. NOTE: No homemade food items will be accepted.

## ***Regional Hospice Happenings***

*From Nicole Brew, Volunteer Coordinator:*

**December 4<sup>th</sup>:** Tree of Life Ceremony at 6 pm in the Lower level of Memorial Medical Center: This is an ecumenical ceremony to remember and celebrate loved ones lost. This year, Rev. Mark Ricker will provide the reflection/message, and Michael McKenna will provide the music. Refreshments are served afterward.

**Ornaments for Sale:** Until November 21<sup>st</sup>, we are selling ornaments by local artist Amy Kalmon to commemorate or honor loved ones. Your loved one's name can be added to a tag that hangs from the ornament's silver ribbon. To order an ornament, call the Hospice office at 715-685-5151.

## ***Sunday School Christmas Program Practice & Presentation***

*Mark your calendars...*

**December 7<sup>th</sup>:** there will be practice after worship for the Christmas program – main speaking parts.

**December 10<sup>th</sup>:** at 4 pm, there will be practice in the sanctuary. This practice is for the entire cast of the Christmas program.

**December 14<sup>th</sup>:** at 10:30 a.m., the Sunday School children will be presenting the Christmas program: ***The Road to Christmas***. Please join us as we travel the road to Christmas with the children of our church. There will be bell ringing, singing, and really cute animals in the stable.

## ***Snow Shovelers & More Needed for Faith-In-Action***

The snow is piling up and Faith-In-Action, Ashland County is looking for lots of new volunteers to help Ashland senior citizens with their snow shoveling. Our volunteers are matched up with one household for the season. Some volunteers are needed to serve as back-up shovelers to fill in for volunteers who are gone for the holidays or to fill in for Northland students over winter break. In addition to shoveling, Faith-In-Action also welcomes volunteers willing to provide assistance with minor fix-it jobs, shopping, cleaning, transportation, respite, lamp repair, arts/sports buddy, Pets 'N Pals visits, and companionship. If you are a senior in need of assistance or you would like to sign up as a Faith-In-Action volunteer, call the Ashland County Aging Unit 715- 682-4414 ext. 3 or email [fiavolunteer@ashlandaging.org](mailto:fiavolunteer@ashlandaging.org)

## ***Thank you to:***

Kathy Miller and all the wonderful bakers, meal preparers, set-up crew, clean-up crew, servers and anyone else who helped make our annual Thanksgiving meal a success. Well done!

The Hudacks for providing the Christmas tree for our sanctuary during the holiday season and to everyone that helped decorate the church.

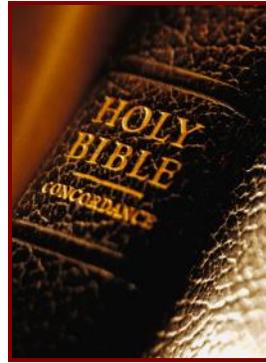


**Wednesday,  
Dec. 24th  
8:30 p.m.**

# Church Family News



If anyone wishes to write letters or send care packages to Peter Hudack, here is his deployment address:  
1<sup>st</sup> LT Hudack, Peter M.SPMAGTF ACE / (VMM0-363, Intel/52) Unit 16172 / FPO AP 96427-6172



## Women's Bible Study

The December meeting dates are:

December 4<sup>th</sup> at 8:30 am in church lounge  
December 11<sup>th</sup> at 8:30 am in church lounge  
December 18<sup>th</sup> at 8:30 am in church lounge  
OFF December 25<sup>th</sup>  
OFF January 1<sup>st</sup>

## F.Y.I.

**Remember to Bring** Your non-perishable food item(s) every 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday to worship. These items go to the BRICK each month and are much appreciated.

**Automatic Deposit** Information and forms are available in the church office for anyone who is interested in signing up for an automatic deposit through Northern State Bank for their weekly or monthly contributions.

### Annual Meeting Reports

It's not too soon to be thinking about the annual reports that will be due in the church office by January 14<sup>th</sup>!

## You are invited to the 95th Annual Community Christmas Concert

Please come to the Wednesday Music Club's Community Christmas Concert at our church at 4:00 p.m. on Sunday December 7<sup>th</sup>! Our own UPCC Adult Choir will be singing the anthem, "To Shepherds Fast Asleep". This lively anthem features both the men's and women's sections in 2 and 3-part harmony. Hearing all the different choirs from our area in this concert is a highlight of the Christmas Season for many people, year after year.

Diana Mann

*Singing lightens our loads, singing cheers our day,  
and singing together makes us part of a community.*  
~Denton and Kriete



### Christmas Memorial Plants

Anyone wishing to donate a plant for Christmas in honor or memory of a loved one(s), please indicate below the plant you wish to have purchased. Forms are also available in the church office. Plants will be ordered through the church office; the deadline is December 15<sup>th</sup>. Make checks out to UPCC – Christmas Memorial Plant. \* Note: You may purchase your own plant and bring or send to church. Please indicate who it is in memory of.

\*Indicate plant and how many you wish purchased:

\$23.50 for 6.5"\* Poinsettia (red or white) \_\_\_\_\_

\$32.50 for 6" Fantasy poinsettia/BLUE: \_\_\_\_\_

\$25.00 for 6" Christmas Cactus: \_\_\_\_\_

\$19.50 for 6" Norfolk Pine: \_\_\_\_\_

\*All pots are wrapped in foil; 6.5" and 6" refer to pot size.

Total Amount: \_\_\_\_\_

IN MEMORY OF: \_\_\_\_\_





# DECEMBER NEWS & SCHEDULES



## Happy Birthday

2	Linda Fischer
3	Gerard Randall
6	Janice Tomlinson Erickson
7	Todd Erickson, Alice Friesen
8	Cheryl Drevlow, Emily Hagstrom
13	Nancy Hudack, Amanda Krueger
15	Cassidy Perry
16	Haille Stuart, Latricia Dugger
17	Garth Robertson, Seija Anderson
18	Robert Mahnke, Dennis Liphart, Doug Liphart,
19	Vernell Mercer, Hank Martinsen Jr.
20	Anne Chumbler
21	Brian Hammond
22	Megan Gottschall
23	Mike Yankee, Brea Ann Hoglund
26	Mary Woods, Judi Holevatz
28	Nils Wickman, Laura Nabozny, Aaron Swanson
29	Terry Biglow, Jennifer Martinsen
30	Ryan Adams
31	Eric Adams, Jim Miller



### Coffee Hour/Greeters Schedule

7	Doug Liphart, Beth Reed and family
14	Dennis and Kristy Liphart and family
21	Pete and Diana Mann
28	Dale and Paula Moyer, JoAnn Weister
Jan. 4	Jim and Kathy Miller

### Recording/Radio (played at 10:30 am 1400 AM)

7	Eric Adams
14	T. Jay Jones
21	Chuck Gottschall
28	Bruce Beilfuss
Jan. 4	Dick Whitten

### Lay Readers

7	Zach Whiting
14	Anna Radke-Dufford
21	Victoria York
24	Bill + recruits Christmas Eve
28	Julia Waggoner

### Children's Chat Schedule

7	Bea Hagen
14	Christmas Program
21	Bill Handy
28	Sheila Urling
Jan. 4	Doug Liphart and Beth Reed

### Usher Schedule

7	David and Pieper Brunsvold and Ike
14	Middle or High School Youth
21	Todd and Joanne Erickson and recruit from cong.
24	Christmas Eve Service: 8:30 p.m. TBD
28	Clyde Eilo & Chuck Whiting and recruit from cong.

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Merry Christmas  
Merry Christmas

### Contact Information

Bill Handy <b>Interim Pastor</b>	682-3093	williamhandy18@gmail.com
Kate Bernardo <b>Secretary</b>	682-3093	tbpresbych1@presbych.com
Allison Radke <b>Youth Minister</b>	682-3139	upccyouth@gmail.com
Cindy Johnson <b>Treasurer</b>	682-3093	blueharley@centurytel.net

**Moving or new email address?** Please give all information for your address or email change to the church office.

**Information for the church newsletter.** Please forward your information for the Feb. issue of *Good News!* to leadams@centurytel.net by Jan. 22nd.



Ben Cogger

***Our Vision:***  
*“To be a welcoming family of God that joyfully embraces the servant life in Christ.”*

LOG ON at:  
<http://www.presbych.weebly.com>