

The Connection

News from The United Church of Warsaw

Who We Are:

The United Church of Warsaw is called by the Holy Spirit to follow Jesus Christ through loving and serving God and all God's people.



Volume 3, No. 12 – December 2014



Reflections from 'The Rev'

An Un-Wrappable Gift

Gift.

In this holy/holiday season, the four-letter word “gift” seems to represent unspeakable expectation and to carry immeasurable weight.

Many of us--too many of us--have spent incalculable quantities of time, money and energy in stressing and distressing over...a gift.

Many of us--too many of us--have obsessed over finding, ordering, hiding, storing, re-locating, wrapping, delivering and paying for...a gift.

This season, I offer an alternative gift...that defies wrapping.

First, may you consider these words from the Apostle Paul's first letter to the Corinthians on the subject of another four-letter word:

If I speak in the tongues of mortals and of angels, but do not have love, I am only a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal.

If I have the gift of prophecy and can fathom all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have a faith that can move mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing.

If I give all I possess to the poor and surrender my body to the flames, but do not have love, I gain nothing.

Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It is not rude, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. Love always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres. Love never fails.

But where there are tongues, they will be silent; where there are prophecies, they will cease; where there is knowledge, it will pass away....

Now these three remain: Faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love.

1 Corinthians 13:1-8, 13

Continued on Page 2

*Faith
Hope
Love*

1 Cor 13:13

Reflections from 'The Rev' (Continued from Page 1)

Now, may you consider the Apostle Paul's words as translated into the "language of Christmas":

*If I slave away in the kitchen, baking dozens of Christmas cookies,
preparing gourmet meals and arranging an elegantly adorned table,*

but do not show love to my family and friends,

I am just another baker or another cook.

If I decorate my house with Nativity scenes,

strands of twinkling lights and shiny balls,

but do not show love to my family and friends,

I am just another decorator.

If I work in a soup kitchen,

sing carols from the church steps and give all that I have to charity,

but do not show love to my family and friends,

I gain nothing.

If I adorn the tree with ribbons and ornaments

and attend a myriad of Christmas programs and parties,

but do not focus on the Christ Child,

I have missed the meaning.

Love stops the baking to hug a child.

Love sets aside decorating to listen to needful ones.

Love is kind, though harried and tired.

Love doesn't envy another's home

that has coordinated Christmas china and Martha Stewart table linens.

Love doesn't yell at the kids to get out of the way,

but is thankful they are there to be in the way.

Love does not give only to those who are able to give in return

but rejoices in giving to those who cannot give in return.

Love

bears all things,

believes all things,

hopes all things,

endures all things.

Love never fails.

Video games will break,

pearl necklaces will be lost,

golf clubs will rust,

but giving the gift of love will endure.



This season, may each of you give a gift that cannot fit into a bag or a box.

This season, may each of you give an un-wrappable gift: Love. An attitude of love. Words of love. A spirit of love.

Give generously of your time. Speak kindly with your lips. Share selflessly from your heart.

Generosity. Kindness. Selflessness. These are gifts that no one will take to a Courtesy Department for return or exchange.

This season, give an un-wrappable gift.

Love.

Beside you in the journey of faith,

Rev. Barbara

Important Dates in December

December marks three different occasions:

1. The holy season of Advent
2. The blessed day of Christmas
3. The final month of the calendar year

Thus, December brims with important days and dates.

Mark your own calendar and join your family of faith in celebrating and honoring the following dates:

***Sunday, December 7:* Second Sunday in Advent - 10 a.m. in sanctuary
Sacrament of Holy Communion
Copies of Budget for 2015 available for review**



***Sunday, December 14:* Third Sunday in Advent - 10 a.m. in sanctuary
Christmas Pageant**

**Cookie Sunday - 11 a.m. in East Room
Bring 2 dozen cookies to church to share!
Bring 2 dozen cookies home to enjoy!**

**Annual Congregational Meeting - 11:15 a.m.
Church members vote on Budget for 2015
Church members vote on Commissioners for 2015**



***Sunday, December 21:* Fourth Sunday in Advent - 10 a.m. in sanctuary
Wednesday, December 24: Christmas Eve Candlelight Service - 7 p.m. in sanctuary**

* * * * *

***Plan now to participate with your family of faith
on these important days and dates in December!***

Clerk's Corner

Notes from Clerk of Commission, Lance Bush

Highlights from Commission Meeting of November 10, 2014:

Budget was presented and approved by Commission. It will be presented to the congregation during the Annual Meeting on December 14, 2014.

The Commission approved the baptism of Levi Jared Wood, son of Jared and Christine (Flint) Wood, and grandson of Cindy and Doug Flint, for November 23, 2014.



The tree for the White Christmas gifts will be put up during the Hanging of the Greens activities on November 30.

The old lift was removed on November 11, and the new one will be installed on December 22-23. This time schedule coincides with the recess of Starburst and Project Head Start.

The Commission approved the purchase of a new computer from KCS Computers for the Church Office to replace the current eight-year old computer.

Important Notice: Reduction of Mailing List for Monthly Newsletter



Our family of faith--The United Church of Warsaw--acknowledges the significant increases in mailing costs in the past year. Moreover, our family needs and seeks to honor our covenant to serve God and God's people within our budgeted means.

Therefore, beginning with the January 2015 edition, *The Connection*, the monthly newsletter of The United Church of Warsaw, will be mailed by United States Postal Service only to those members and friends who have actively participated in or contributed to the life of our family of faith within the last calendar year, i.e., 2014.

Those who no longer receive a mailed copy of *The Connection* may request that the monthly newsletter be emailed to their email address. Kindly communicate your personal request for an emailed copy of *The Connection* to Cindy Kiel, our Church Administrative Assistant, at: ucwarsaw@frontiernet.net.

Our family of faith appreciates your understanding of this necessary reduction of the mailing list for our monthly newsletter.

Greetings from Starburst!



November was a very busy month! We celebrated the season by counting our blessings and by entertaining each other's classes with turkey songs. As part of our celebration, we made corn bread, butter and popcorn. Then, we imagined what it might have been like to live as the pilgrims did in America many years ago.

We give many thanks to God for the Starburst Christian Preschool Program and for all the families who attend. We are honored to be able to serve them.

We will continue to celebrate God's goodness in December by presenting a Christmas Program for the residents of The Cloisters on Wednesday morning, December 11. Then, our preschool Christmas Program will be presented on Wednesday, December 17, at 10:30 a.m., in the sanctuary of The United Church of Warsaw for Starburst families, friends and all who want to attend.

We give much gratitude to everyone who participated in Operation Christmas Child this year. Every filled shoebox puts a smile on another sweet, little face. What a privilege to be a part of this special mission! In the January newsletter, I will report the total number of shoeboxes that were collected and donated.

A most blessed Christmas to all!
Larene and Virginia

Wish List



- *Stickers (themes: winter, Christmas and dinosaurs)
- *Clear packing tape
- *Individual pencil sharpeners
- *Toys for Treasure Box (i.e., small toys appropriate for three- and four-year olds; please, no weapon-like toys)
- *Brown package wrapping paper

Sunday School's Annual Christmas Pageant



Our annual Christmas Pageant, presented by the Sunday School, will be held on Sunday, December 14, during worship. Practice for the pageant will be held after worship on Sunday, December 7, at 11:15 a.m. All participants in the pageant must attend this practice. On Sunday, December 14, please be at church by 9:30 a.m., for final preparations.

Joy and Gratitude for Our Thanksgiving Community Meal

What a blessed mission and meal!

We planned. We shopped. We cut. We chopped. We mixed. We blended. We baked. We cooked. We set up. We served. We cleaned up.

In our faith community, our annual Thanksgiving tradition was a united mission.

In our Warsaw community, our annual Thanksgiving tradition was a joy-filled meal.

Thank you to everyone who played a part in our annual Thanksgiving Community Meal! From donating food items, cooking turkeys, baking pies, preparing side dishes and giving monetary donations to sharing in the set-up, serving and clean-up: Everyone who participated helped to make our "gift" to the community a caring and memorable event. We can be proud to have served 270 people.

Bountiful thanks go to the Howard family (Brian, Jenn, Lauren, Emily and Taylor) for their culinary skills and for coordinating this event. Plentiful thanks go to those who prepared Communion Jelly (Ellen Chandler, Linda Demers and Barb Litz) as a special gift to those who attended the meal.

Both our faith community and our greater community were abundantly blessed!



F.A.C.E. Group: Doing Much for the Least

*Truly I tell you,
just as you did to the least of these who are members of our family,
you did it to me.*

Matthew 25:40



The lost, the **least** and the last.

Holy Scripture records Jesus of Nazareth speaking often of the three themes: the lost, the **least** and the last.

In October, the F.A.C.E. Group (i.e., the **F**aith **A**nd **C**aring **E**ncounter Group) intentionally got lost--and then got found--in a corn maze.

In November, the F.A.C.E. Group intentionally gave to those who are often viewed as “the **least**” in our society. F.A.C.E. Group members helped in the preparation, the set-up, the serving and the clean-up of the Thanksgiving Community Meal that fed many who are regarded as “poor and disadvantaged” within our community of Warsaw.

On Saturday, November 15, the youth of our family of faith set up a dozen tables and eight dozen chairs. They put table settings--table cloths, forks, knives, spoons, napkins, condiments--in place. They chopped apples for Waldorf salad. They peeled and cut onions for turkey stuffing. They scraped squash for squash side dish. They did these tasks in preparation for guests who are often viewed as “the **least**” in our society.

On Sunday, November 16, the youth of our family of faith greeted and welcomed guests who are often viewed as “the **least**” in our society. The youth poured beverages, cut pies, cleared dishes, washed dishes and cleaned up from a meal where many guests are often viewed as “the **least**” in our society.

F.A.C.E. Group members and their families did much for a feast where no one was made to feel like “the **least**.”

The pastor as well as the friends and members of The United Church of Warsaw are profoundly proud of the youth within our family of faith. The youth demonstrated how to do much for the so-called “**least**.” In the always and everywhere powerful presence of God, there is no “**least**.” Rather, all who are present are loved.

The F.A.C.E. Group members, their families and Rev. Barbara are deeply thankful for the help and support offered to them. Moreover, they are grateful for the variety of choices and opportunities to build their faith and to communicate their care within their family of faith and beyond.



Congregational Care
MINISTRIES

Written by George Ann Carter

While our five-year old grandson, Liam, was visiting us this past August, a catalog arrived which appealed to his five-year old spirit. Hour after hour, he loved looking through the catalog. Over and over, we heard him say, "I want this! I want this!"

At first, he circled all of the items he wanted. Finally, Grandpa Jim said to him, "Why don't you just 'X' out the things you don't want? That will be easier!"

Of course, Liam did not understand what his Pa was really saying to him. Liam presumed that all he had to do was ask Santa for what he wanted, leave Santa some cookies and milk, and everything he wanted would be there waiting for him on Christmas morning.

"I Want, I Want, I Want!"

Every day you hear people saying what they want.

Well, this is what I want:

I want people who are sick to be healed.

I want children with no families to be adopted.

I want people to never have to worry about food and shelter and heat.

Most of all, I would like to see our people care for one another.

Anonymous



What do you really need as opposed to what you want? Remember: Happiness isn't getting what you want all the time. Happiness is about loving what you have, and being grateful for it.

* * * * *

Please keep these individuals in your prayers:

Residents of The Cloisters, 171 North Maple Street, Warsaw: Flora Parmelee, Hope Rase

Residents of Eastside Nursing Home, 62 Prospect Street, Warsaw: Lucille Carlson, Jane Ferguson, Betty Mayle, Doris Montgomery, Judy Plowe

Residents of WCCH Skilled Nursing Facility, 400 North Main Street, Warsaw: Jack Kibler, Verna Schneckenburger

Resident of the Batavia Nursing Home, 257 State Street, Batavia 14020: Jack Spencer

Prayers of comfort, healing, peace and strength: Jeannette and Willis Allen (parents of Cyndi Nugent); Arlene Baker; Eloise Colter; Barbara Hardin (aunt of Lynn Saxton); Bill Heubusch; Andy Murray (grandson of Ellen Chandler); Tammy Pickard; Judy Plowe; Austin and Laura Saxton (parents of Rich Saxton); and, Ruth Stevenson (mother of Ellen Chandler)

Prayers of condolence: Family of Avis Munger and family of Aileen Tuttle

If you know of others in need of our prayers or contact, please let Donna Mager or me know.

Things money can't buy:

Manners, morals, respect, character, common sense, trust, patience, class, integrity and love.

Warsaw Food Pantry

We helped 136 families in October. There were 184 adults, 106 children and 50 seniors, for a total of 340. There were 22 new families.



Food donations were received from the following:

Our United Church of Warsaw congregation
Immanuel United Methodist Church
Valley Chapel Free Methodist Church
YMCA

Warsaw Central School Elementary Student Council
Sandra Corey
Sue Schell
Warsaw Central School Sports Boosters

First United Methodist Church
St. Michael's Roman Catholic Church
Warsaw Save-A-Lot
7-Eleven
Warsaw Moose Club
Dorothy Keenan
Randy Sitarek

Monetary donations totaling \$1,640 were received from the following:

Helen Derrick
Geraldine Smith
Marjorie Yarrington
Family Life Church

Dennis and Lucy Krajewski
Virginia Warren
Warsaw Central School Sports Boosters
Anonymous

Thank you to everyone for your support.

Respectfully,
Joyce Neeley, Director



Thank You

Dear Church Family,
During a time like this, we realize how much our friends and relatives really mean to us... Your expression of sympathy will always be remembered.
Thank you so much for the wonderful luncheon for the family and friends of Aileen Tuttle.

Sincerely,
Warren Tuttle
JoAnn and John and family
Linda and Jerry and family
Donna and Steve and family

*A good conscience is a
continual Christmas.
Benjamin Franklin: Poor Richard*

Project Head Start's White Gift Christmas Tree

'Tis the season for giving!
And, beginning November 30, the White Gift Christmas Tree will stand--decorated and ready--in the East Room. This very special tree offers the opportunity to make the Christmas season just a little bit brighter for a young one.

The White Gift Christmas Tree will be adorned with gift tags marked with the first names and the ages of children living with designated families. New children's books are suggested as preferred gifts. However, if you want to add extra joy, then winter hats, mittens and socks are always appreciated.

Please take and save a gift tag from the White Gift Christmas Tree. Wrap the gift in white tissue paper. Place gift tag on the outside of your gift package to ensure its safe delivery to that special young one whom you have chosen.

The White Gifts will be presented and collected during Sunday worship at The United Church of Warsaw on December 14, the day of our Christmas Pageant.

Please join us in making a young one's Christmas just a little bit brighter. And God bless your giving heart!



What's Happening?

Each week, check out the bulletin boards in The Connection to learn what's happening in our area churches and in our community.



Warsaw Kiwanis Seeks Salvation Army Bell Ringers

The Warsaw Kiwanis will again be "bell ringing" for the Salvation Army.

They are looking for volunteers to ring at Tops and Walmart. If you would like to volunteer at either of these locations, please contact one of the following:

Tops Fred Heller at 585-786-2490

Walmart Kevin Carlson at 585-786-2871

Thank you!

Snackpaks for Kids

Food items needed include: juice boxes, fruit cups, puddings, cereals, peanut butter, jelly (in plastic containers), macaroni and cheese, spaghetti, granola bars, and peanut butter crackers. A complete list of needed food items is attached to the collection box in The Connection. Thank you to all who have generously donated.



'The Rev' Ran a Race

On November 2, Rev. Barbara ran in the 39th Annual Tarzan Brown Race in Mystic, CT. She was one of 600 runners who braved a brisk wind and brisker temperatures to compete in the five-and-a-half mile race.

Before relocating to Western New York, Rev. Barbara had run the same race on five previous occasions. She thanks those who offered prayers and encouragement as she "ran with endurance the race God had set before her." (Hebrews 12:1)



The United Church of Warsaw Presbyterian (U.S.A.) and United Church of Christ (Congregational)

10-22 South Main Street

PO Box 205

Warsaw, NY 14569

585-786-3868

Office Hours: Monday-Friday

9 a.m. to 12 p.m.

Office Email: ucwarsaw@frontiernet.net

Website: www.ucwarsaw.org

2014 Commission

Pastor

Rev. Dr. Barbara Therese

Clerk of Commission

Lance Bush

Congregational Care

George Ann Carter and Donna Mager

Education Committee

Jeff Thomas and Jim Carter

Facilities Committee

Brian Howard and Dave Bassett

Ministry Committee

Sherry Cousins and Jean Bassett

Mission Committee

Linda Thomas and Linda Demers

Personnel Committee

Cindy (Fisher) Flint and Donna Perkins

Mission Committee News

Linda Thomas and Linda Demers say "Thank you!" to everyone who helped in any way for the very successful Thanksgiving Community Meal on November 16.



This Christmas season, The United Church of Warsaw is sponsoring three families through Angel Action. Please contact Linda Thomas (home: 585-786-5735) if you want to contribute to the support of the three families or if you want more information on Angel Action's Christmas outreach.

December Birthdays

3	Travis Jones
4	Mary Kunze
10	Arlene Baker
	Kayla Folse
	Kate Sheer
12	Ellen Chandler
13	Karl Kunze
14	Debra Davies
15	Cindy Kiel
17	Patrick Chandler
	Allison Pickard
18	Anna Marie Flint
	Holly Mager
22	Meghan Coogan
24	James Diver
25	Donna Mager
26	Sandy Domnissey
28	Jack Spencer
29	Adam Clark
31	Jennifer Howard
	Mary (Pierce) Clark



December Anniversaries

7	Steve and Donna Perkins	1996
20	Rich and Lynn Saxton	2003
27	Michael and Pat Griffith	1986

If your birthday or anniversary is not listed, please accept our apologies. Kindly advise the Church Office (in writing or by email) of your birthday or your anniversary and wedding year and we will add your information to our data-base. Thank you!

January Newsletter Deadline



The January 2015 Newsletter deadline is Monday, December 15, 2014.

Crossroads House

Crossroads House is a comfort-care home for those who suffer a terminal illness and who have been medically determined to be in the last three months of life. Crossroads House is an alternative to a hospital or Nursing Facility when care can no longer be provided in the patient's own home. Services, which are free of charge, provide care for residents of Genesee County, Wyoming County and surrounding counties.



Wish List

Forever Postage Stamps
Cases of white copy paper (8 1/2" x 11")
Copy paper, any color (8 1/2" x 11")
Mailing labels (Avery 5260/8160)
Gift Cards: Office Max, Walmart, Tops, Aldi's, Tim Horton's, Dunkin Donuts, Kmart
Brita water filters
Regular and decaf coffee
Half & Half or flavored liquid creamers
Brownie, cake, cookie and muffin mixes
Individually packaged containers of pudding and applesauce
Hearty canned soups
Large bags of candy for candy machines: M&M's (peanut/regular), Skittles, Chicklet gum
Manufacturer coupons for above candies
Tissues (Puffs or Kleenex)
Tall kitchen garbage bags
Paper towels
The complete list is posted on the Connection bulletin board. Please bring your donations to church, or give them directly to Betty James. Thank you!

Sunday Morning Ministries

Sign-up Sheets for Sunday Ministry for December are on the tables in the East Room. Following Worship and during Fellowship Time, please add your name to the lists for Greeters, Scripture Readers, Ushers, Communion Servers and Refreshment Providers.

Our acolytes for December 2014 are listed below:

December 7	Lauren Howard
December 14	Katie Fisher
December 21	Joe Fisher
December 28	Mason Johnson





2014

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	¹ Food Pantry 9-11 a.m.	² Weight Watchers 8:00-10:30 a.m. Food Pantry 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.	³ Choir Practice 7:00 p.m.	⁴ Food Pantry 9-11 a.m. Weight Watchers 5:00-7:30 p.m.	⁵ Food Pantry 9-11 a.m.	⁶
⁷ Choir Practice 9 a.m. Worship, Communion, Sharing-the- Light Food Collection 10 a.m.	⁸ Food Pantry 9-11 a.m. Commission Meeting 6:30 p.m.	⁹ Weight Watchers 8:00-10:30 a.m. Food Pantry 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.	¹⁰ Choir Practice 7:00 p.m.	¹¹ Food Pantry 9-11 a.m. Weight Watchers 5:00-7:30 p.m.	¹² Food Pantry 9-11 a.m.	¹³
¹⁴ Choir Practice 9 a.m. Worship Service and Christmas Pageant 10 a.m. Congregational Meeting 11:15 a.m. Cookie Sunday	¹⁵ Food Pantry 9-11 a.m. January Newsletter Deadline 12 noon	¹⁶ Weight Watchers 8:00-10:30 a.m. Food Pantry 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.	¹⁷ Starburst Christmas Program 10:30 a.m. Choir Practice 7:00 p.m.	¹⁸ Food Pantry 9-11 a.m. Weight Watchers 5:00-7:30 p.m.	¹⁹ Food Pantry 9-11 a.m.	²⁰ 
²¹ Choir Practice 9 a.m. Worship Service 10 a.m.	²² Food Pantry 9-11 a.m.	²³ Weight Watchers 8:00-10:30 a.m. Food Pantry 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.	²⁴ Candlelight Service 7:00 p.m.	²⁵ 	²⁶ Food Pantry 9-11 a.m.	²⁷
²⁸ Choir Practice 9:00 a.m. Worship Service 10 a.m.	²⁹ Food Pantry 9-11 a.m.	³⁰ Weight Watchers 8:00-10:30 a.m. Food Pantry 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.	³¹	Congratulations, Rev. Barbara, on the 27th Anniversary of your Ordination on December 12.		

**The United Church of Warsaw
Presbyterian (U.S.A.) and
United Church of Christ (Congregational)
10-22 South Main Street
PO Box 205
Warsaw, NY 14569**



Worship Service: Sundays at 10 a.m.
Sunday School 10:20 a.m.
Please join us! All are welcome!
585-786-3868
ucwarsaw@frontiernet.net
www.ucwarsaw.org



Mark your calendar! Mark your memory!

*You are invited
to
A Candlelight Service of Carols and Bells
and
A Christmas Story for the Ages
on
Wednesday evening, December 24,
at
7 p.m.
in
The Sanctuary of The United Church of Warsaw*

Make room in your heart for the Christ Child!