

# Whiteface Community

## Birthdays and Anniversaries

Scott Avery celebrates his birthday on December 1<sup>st</sup>

Peter VanHolten celebrates his birthday on December 12<sup>th</sup>

Benjamin Fish celebrates his birthday on December 30<sup>th</sup>

Betty Rine celebrates her birthday on December 31<sup>st</sup>

## A Note From the Pastor

*“The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light.  
For those who lived in a land of deep shadows— light!  
sunbursts of light!*

*You repopulated the nation, you expanded its joy.  
Oh, they’re so glad in your presence! Festival joy!*

*The joy of a great celebration, sharing rich gifts and warm greetings.*

*The abuse of oppressors and cruelty of tyrants—all their whips and cudgels and curses—*

*Is gone, done away with, a deliverance as surprising and sudden as Gideon’s old victory over Midian.*

*The boots of all those invading troops, along with their shirts soaked with innocent blood,*

*Will be piled in a heap and burned, a fire that will burn for days!*

*For a child has been born—for us! the gift of a son—for us!  
He’ll take over the running of the world.*

*His names will be: Amazing Counselor, Strong God, Eternal Father,  
Prince of Wholeness.*

*His ruling authority will grow, and there’ll be no limits to the wholeness he brings.*

*He’ll rule from the historic David throne over that promised kingdom.*

*He’ll put that kingdom on a firm footing and keep it going  
With fair dealing and right living, beginning now and lasting always.*

*The zeal of God-of-the-Angel-Armies will do all this.”*

Isaiah 9:2-7

Here we are entering another Advent Season. In the weeks leading up to Christmas Day, the extra demands often threaten to lead us away from Christ, rather than closer. So how can we take charge of our time and our choices? Sometimes it begins with just a couple of choices that will set the stage for the season. Take a look at your calendar ahead of time. Add in your obligations and the things you really want to do. Of the other opportunities that are left, decide



## Church Staff

Russ Mulvey – Choir/Bell  
Choir Director

Eric Klotzko – Pianist

Jeremie/Ashley Fish –

Administrative Assistant

Don Morrison – Lay Leader

**Church Phone-518-946-7757**

**Thrift Store-518-946-2922**

## December/ January Edition

**Our vision is that every person we encounter will know God's love and share it!**

### Upcoming Events

"The Star" will be shown on Friday December 6th at 6 PM in the sanctuary. All are welcome to attend, please bring friends!

### Community Events

Wood Wire and Voice held by Plattsburgh UMC at 127 Beekmen Street from 7 to 9 PM on the third Friday's of the month.

December 8th at 2 PM the Saranac Lake UMC will have an ADK singers concert.

December 12th the Saranac Lake UMC will have a banquet hosted by their UMW.

which ones to say no to. Maybe block off segments of days or whole days to just be. It is OK to decline an invitation. It is OK to choose self-care and balance. It is OK to choose only the things that bring you joy. Your friends will understand. Consider choosing a simple practice to bring you into the spirit of the season. The Gospel of Luke is considered to be the most complete account of Jesus' life. It so happens that Luke has 24 chapters, and Advent this year is 24 days! So my challenge is this: let's all read a chapter a day from the Gospel of Luke, finishing up on December 24 before we attend Christmas Eve worship! Share the idea with your friends and invite them to this challenge. Share with each other about the day's reading! If you don't have a Bible, check the Riverside Thrift Shop – they are free. Or check with me and I will help you find the Bible you want.

I am offering an Advent Bible Study entitled The Wonder of Christmas. Time will be 8:30-9:30AM on four Sundays beginning December 1. We will begin promptly at 8:30AM. Please encourage each other to come, and feel free to invite your non-church-going friends and family to join in as well! Everyone who attends the first session will receive a special Advent gift from me, with an additional gift given to each person who attends all 4 sessions!

Advent Blessings,  
Pastor Chryst

### Kids Club

The Kids Club Christmas pageant will be held on Monday, December 16 at 5PM followed by dinner. Hope to see you all there!!

### UMW

We would like to send a very big thank you to everyone who helped make our UMW holiday bazaar a success!

### Church Growth

*\*The Church Growth Team was created in January of 2018 to plan and promote avenues to our church growth and discipleship.*

Members of the Church Growth Team have continued to initiate and carry out events for congregation and community members!

## December/ January Edition

Jeremie showed the documentary, Forbidden: Growing up Undocumented and Queer in Rural America. Growing up in rural North Carolina, Moises Serrano fell in love with a country that refused to recognize his full humanity - both as an undocumented immigrant and as a gay man. The documentary Forbidden follows Moises' personal journey as an activist fighting for the American Dream. The audience that night was made up of visitors and congregation members. It was such a good movie that we will likely offer another showing – you won't want to miss it!

Ashley continues to coordinate the monthly Fruit Bowl for Lake Placid Elementary School students. Congregation members are encouraged to bring fresh fruit to church on the first Sunday of each month. Cash donations are also accepted.

David Lally organized our Adopt-A-Highway cleanups over the summer and fall. We hope to increase participation in this important part of our commitment to environmental stewardship.

On December 6 at 6PM we will be showing the family Christmas film, The Star. You don't need to have a child in order to come! In Sony Pictures Animation's The Star, a small but brave donkey named Bo yearns for a life beyond his daily grind at the village mill. One day he finds the courage to break free, and finally goes on the adventure of his dreams. On his journey, he teams up with Ruth, a loveable sheep who has lost her flock and Dave, a dove with lofty aspirations. Along with three wisecracking camels and some eccentric stable animals, Bo and his new friends follow the Star and become unlikely heroes in the greatest story ever told – the first Christmas.

This past fall, we hosted Shine On – a group from SUNY Plattsburgh that empowers girls to recognize and stand up to different kinds of bullying. We also hosted Family Forever, an organization that provides support to foster families and extended family caring for children.

Thank you to all who have supported these events and projects in various ways. The best way you can be of support is simply to come, invite, and engage with visitors! If you are interested in helping to promote our church vision and growth by being on the Church Growth Team, please see Pastor Chrys.

## December/ January Edition

### Worship News

Last year we introduced a second Christmas Eve service and it went so well that we are going to do it again this year! Both of these services are warm, relaxed and geared for all ages! Come immerse yourself in the sacred story of Emmanuel, God-With-Us:

4:00 pm - Children can choose to don a costume and become part of the story! A shorter service that includes a simple, experiential retelling of the Birth of Christ, with Christmas hymns interspersed!

6:30 pm - Full Candlelight service with scriptures, hymns, and choir.

### Christmas Caroling

Our annual Christmas caroling will be held December 12<sup>th</sup>, we will meet at the Church at 4:30 PM, and please bring a friend!

### Bible Study

**The Wonder of Christmas:**

**Once You Believe, Anything is Possible!**

**By Ed Robb**

No other time of the year captures our imagination as much as Christmas: God coming into the world on a dark winter's night; a baby's cry that would change the course of human history; the heavens bursting into song; the certain hope that God will have the last word over our brokenness. This season fills our hearts with the wonder that anything is possible.

This year, rediscover the true wonder of Christmas by sharing the love of Christ with others. Each chapter centers on one element of the Christmas story, looking to the Christmas story and the stories of real people today to offer inspiration and ideas for reflecting the light of Jesus at Christmas and throughout the year.

You can get the book on Amazon used for about \$10 and new for about \$14.

We will meet on Sundays December 1-22, 8:30-9:30AM.

## December/ January Edition



The  
United  
Methodist  
Church

**Whiteface United Methodist Church**

**1169 Haselton Road**

**Wilmington NY, 12997**

