



Orchard Park United Methodist Church

WEEKLY NEWSFLASH

How are you starting to get ready for Christmas? What things do you see taking place in your home, in your church, in your community? What are your hopes and expectations as you begin getting ready for Christmas? Isaiah the prophet wrote about John when he said, "In the desert someone is shouting, 'Get the road ready for the Lord! Make a straight path for him.'" (Mark 1:3)

John the Baptist was a prophet who preached in the desert, telling people that they needed to get ready for something new that God was going to do. He warned them to get ready by turning back to God and being baptized. As you continue to get ready to celebrate the birth of Jesus, be open to ways you can "get the road ready for the Lord." To whom might you tell the good news about Jesus?

Lord God, prepare my heart for the many wonderful and new things you are planning for me. Teach me to prepare for the coming of your Son, Jesus, and to tell others the good news. In all I do may you be glorified. In Jesus' holy and precious name I pray. Amen.

American Bible Society. (n.d.). An Advent Devotional Based on Readings from Mark. Retrieved November 29, 2020, from <https://bibleresources.americanbible.org/resource/an-advent-devotional-based-on-readings-from-mark>



Due to Orchard Park being in a designated "Covid-19 orange hot spot zone," **the church building is CLOSED.**

There is NO SUNDAY SERVICE, Sunday School, or in-person Advent Bible study until further notice.

Sunday services are available online!



This Sunday is the second Sunday of Advent.

This Second Sunday of Advent, we light the candle of love, as we continue our preparations for the coming of Jesus. During Advent, we pray that we may remember again God's gift of Jesus to the world and know that God's love for all people is the reason for this gift.



Do you shop at TOPS?
Virtual "Little Brown Bags of Hope" will be available through December 26 at Tops Friendly Markets.

By making a \$5, \$10 or \$20 donation at the register, food will be donated directly to **FeedMore of WNY.**

Many families rely on FeedMore WNY for support during the holiday season. As our region continues to adapt to the ongoing health crisis, your donation of food or funds can have an even greater impact on those affected.



December Birthdays

Marie Gorman (12/5)
Jane Varney (12/7)
Robyn Pugh (12/18)
Julie Waters (12/30)

Thank you to this month's St. Pauly's Clothing Shed volunteers!

Linda Carroll (12/6)
George Slocum (12/13)
Dan Liggett (12/20)
Rich Spinelli (12/27)



RECONCILING MINISTRIES NETWORK

Orchard Park United Methodist Church

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Pastor Jennifer Stamm, CLM

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This year's Angel Tree ministry has gone virtual!

Even though we will not be picking up physical paper angels, we are still able to bless three local families with Christmas gifts. Call the office at 716-662-7912 to choose your angels.

Prayer Requests

- Pray for Pastor Jen's family, as Jen's grandmother has been put in hospice.
- Pray for the family of Jack & Lisa Waterhouse. Jack's mother passed away on November 26, after testing positive for COVID-19 the day before.
- Pray for *Lurly Hunsberger*, who was moved to the Memory Care unit of Fox Run recently.
- Pray for Donna's cousin *Ron*, who is home from the hospital but will be receiving ongoing treatment.
- Pray for continued healing for Beth Stuart's friend *Tony*.
- Pray for the families that we bless through our AOK program.
- Pray for people in our community, as the COVID-19 pandemic affects all of us in different ways.

Have a prayer request you'd like to share? Has God answered your prayer? Email opumc@verizon.net or call Pastor Jen at 603-4470. We will include your prayer request or praise report in next week's NewsFlash.

Therefore confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective.

James 5:16

Orchard Park United Methodist Church is a Reconciling Congregation.

We affirm the sacred worth of all people and strive to practice Christ's example of unconditional love without exclusion. All are welcome to participate fully in the life and ministries of this congregation. Whatever your race, ethnicity, economic situation, background or belief, age or condition of ableness, whether single or partnered, you are God's beloved and are welcome here. God calls us to acts of love, grace, and advocacy to promote healing and reconciliation. We welcome and affirm our LGBTQIA+ brothers, sisters and siblings, sons, daughters and children, people of all sexual orientations and gender identities.

We desire to follow God's vision to be a place without barriers, a sanctuary for all.