

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Today, December 24th

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service,
11:00pm (Elders, Doug & Deana N.)

Wednesday, December 25th

Birth of Jesus

Sunday, December 29th

Adult Sunday School, 8:45am
Youth Sunday School, 9:30am
Worship, 10:00am

Wednesday, January 1st

New Year's Day

Thursday, January 2nd

Church Office Hours, 8am-12pm

December Birthdays & Anniversaries

1st - Nancy Taylor

15th - Storm Smith

22nd - Ivan & Priscilla Andreae

28th - Brock Johnson



Epiphany Sunday Party

Sunday, Jan. 5th, 2014 after worship we will be taking down the sanctuary decorations. After we have finished we will travel to Jackie Roy's home at the corner of Washington St. and Rt. 9. We will have our third annual Epiphany party. Please see Jackie for food detail. It will be soup and pie. We are looking forward to the youth leading us in a small devotion.

Lord, We ask thanksgiving, comfort, healing and faith for these friends and family members

Georgia Turner, Marcella Woodworth, Sue Moore, Kitty Anderson, Brent Lawrence, Robin Niewold, Priscilla Andreae, Jeff & Barb Legener

Continued Health of Cancer Treatment Patients

Janet Goudy, Alan Turner, Ivan Andreae

Homebound or in Nursing Homes

Sue Moore, Donald Rhodes, Jani Fraim, Marcella Woodworth

For the month of December, please bring peanut butter, cake mix, sugar & flour for the Food Pantry.

As always, all non-perishable food items are welcomed.

Pastor Colleen Lawrence, Minister
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Organist - Priscilla Andreae

Poinsettia Memorial/Honorariums

In Memory of Bill Anderson
Given by Maxine, Greg & Kitty Anderson

In Memory of Ray & Betty Todd
Given by LaVonna Bane

In Memory of Pearl Clampitt & Edna Hantz
Given by Larry & Joyce Clampitt

In Memory of Dale Johnson, Shirley Johnson & Ralph Keller
Given by Kammy, Victor & Brock Johnson

In Memory of Maurice & Lena Weaver, Maurice Weaver, Jr.
& Cora Niewold
Given by Wayne & Janet Niewold

In Memory of Dorothy Rhodes
Given by Don, Linda, Stan, and Judy Rhodes

In Memory of Mildred Laxton, Vernon Wilson,
Ann Henkel & Bill Goudy
Given by John & Janet Goudy

In Memory of William Cofel & William Cofel II
Given by Josh & Megan Kaiser & Family

In Memory of Lee & Elaine Lampe
Given by Don and Pastor Colleen Lawrence

In Memory of Don & Leola Lawrence
Given by Don and Pastor Colleen Lawrence

THE
Bright Star
OF BETHLEHEM
is Born

December 24th, 2013 • Christmas Eve
The Federated Church of Paxton
11:00 p.m. Worship Service

Welcome to our guests!

Please take a minute to sign our guest book located at the back of the sanctuary.

Christmas Eve Greetings

***Opening Hymn** *“The First Nowell”* PH, #56

The Bright Star Responsory

The Lighting of the Advent Candles

***Hymn** *“Angels, From the Realms of Glory”* PH, #22

Youth Moment

Old Testament Reading Micah 5:2-4

Epistle Reading Galatians 4:4-7

Gospel Luke 2:1-16

Anthem *“Baby, What You Gonna Be?”*

Christmas Message

The Candlelight Service

(As you approach from the center aisle, please drop your offering in the plate and accept your lit candle and move to the outer perimeter of the Sanctuary.)

Words

It came upon the midnight clear, that glorious song of old,
From angels bending near the earth to touch their harps of gold:
“Peace on the earth, good will to all, from heav’n’s all-gracious king.”
The world in solemn stillness lay to hear the angels sing.

Words

Why lies he in such mean estate where ox and ass are feeding?
Good Christian, fear; for sinners here the silent Word is pleading.
Nails, spear shall pierce him through, the cross be borne for me, for you;
Hail, hail the Word made flesh, the Babe, the son of Mary!

*All who are able, PLEASE STAND

Words

Angels sang about his birth, wise men sought and found him;
Heaven’s star shone brightly forth, glory all around him.
Shepherds saw the wondrous sight, heard the angels singing;
All the plains were lit that night, all the hills were ringing.

Words

Hymn *“Silent Night”* Led by Guitarist Russ Taylor

Silent night, holy night! All is calm, all is bright
Round yon virgin mother and child, Holy Infant, so tender and mild,
Sleep in heavenly peace, sleep in heavenly peace.

Silent night, holy night! Shepherds quake at the sight;
Glories stream from heaven afar, heav’nly hosts sing, Alleluia!
Christ, the Savior, is born! Christ, the Savior, is born!

Silent night, holy night! Son of God, love’s pure light
Radiant beams from thy holy face with the dawn of redeeming grace,
Jesus, Lord, at thy birth, Jesus, Lord, at thy birth.

(Candles are extinguished)

*Lord’s Prayer

(Said quietly in the darkness; we move back to pew closest to us)

The Confession and Assurance of Pardon

One: The Psalmist said, “When I consider your heavens, the work of your fingers, the moon and the stars, which you have set in place, what is mankind that you are mindful of them, human beings that you care for them?” The sheer number of stars sometimes makes us feel insignificant. But our sin makes us more than insignificant; it condemns us to darkness and death. Let us take a moment to silently confess our sins to God, our heavenly Father.

(Silence for reflection and self-examination)

One: On Christmas Eve the Bright Star of Bethlehem was born to shine the light and love of God to a world filled with darkness and sin. His light has conquered the darkness, and his death and resurrection have given birth to forgiveness and life.

Sacrament of Holy Communion

*Benediction

From him who is the Bright Star of Bethlehem, be the light of grace that covers all your sin, the light of mercy that brings freedom from guilt, and the light of peace that permeates your heart and your mind. Amen.

***Closing Hymn** *“Away in a Manger”*

Away in a manger, no crib for a bed,
The little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head.
The stars in the sky looked down where he lay,
The little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.

The Bright Star of Bethle’m shines down on us all.
He grants us his favor and issues a call:
Bring light to all people who sit in the dark
And live in the glow that forgiveness has sparked.

Be near me, Lord Jesus; I ask thee to stay
Close by me forever and love me, I pray.
Bless all the dear children in thy tender care,
And take us to heaven to live with thee there.

*May you all have a
Merry & Blessed
Christmas*