

## Weekly Updates - November 28. 2023



***Advent is the spiritual season of hope par excellence, and in this season, the whole Church is called to be hope, for itself and for the world.*** – Pope Benedict XVI

### **\*IN OUR HOUSE (Mark your calendars and invite Friends and Neighbors!)**

**\*Wednesday, December 6th – 2:00pm-3:00pm – Women’s zoom Bible Study (Email Gail S. for the link and the assignment )**

### **Worship Services and Sunday Happenings: (\*\*Note activities for children & youth!)**

**\*Sunday, December 3 - First Sunday in Advent -Worship at 10:00 AM – The Lord’s Supper with Rev. Keith Fagerheim; **\*\*Children & Youth Activity with Mrs. Barb D. & Mrs. Sandy M. – 10:15 AM.****

**\*Sunday, December 10 - Second Sunday in Advent – Worship at 10:00 AM with Rev. Keith Fagerheim**

**\*Sunday, December 10 at 3:00 PM-Brass and Bells with the UCF Handbell Choir & the Syracuse University Brass Ensemble - Fund-raiser for our Haiti Education Mission (HEM), one of our international outreach programs that invests in education, food insecurity and medical care in Paulette, Haiti. (F-M Food Pantry donations always welcome that afternoon too!)**

**\*Sunday, December 17 - Third Sunday in Advent – Worship at 10:00 AM with Rev. Keith Fagerheim, followed by our **Christmas Social at 11:00 AM.****

**\*Sunday, December 24 – Fourth Sunday in Advent - Worship at 10:00 AM Final Sunday in Advent and our Children’s Christmas Eve Service in one. Everyone can participate in **A Brand New Original Nativity Christmas Pageant.** No rehearsal necessary! Invite relatives, neighbors and friends!**

**\*Sunday, December 24 – Traditional Christmas Eve Candlelight Service – 9:00 pm with choir, brass and Elder-Lay Preacher, Bill Porter, and liturgists**

**\*Sunday, December 31 – 10:00 AM - Lessons and Carols with UCF led liturgists and Director of Music Ministries, Jon Bergman**

**\*Children and Youth Activities –**

**Friday, Dec. 1, 7-10pm-** *First Friday Youth Group* for all Youth at the Manlius Methodist Church (grades 5-12). Contact Mrs. Barb D. for more info.

**Sunday, Dec. 3, 10:00AM Worship and just after the Advent Ceremony** – For children and youth at UCF & friends - Join Mrs. Barb D. & Mrs. Sandy M. to learn more about Advent and to prepare special cards for our homebound members. Bring friends and neighbors!

**\*Special December Offerings & Collections-our chance to give to our “neighbors” in need!**

**\*The Salvation Army Tree is back! (Gifts due by December 10<sup>th</sup>)**

Located outside of Beard Lounge is the Christmas tree with Salvation Army tags on it. You may take as many as you wish to make the season brighter for families facing economic challenges. There are all ages from newborn to those in their 90s. Your gifts should be new and unwrapped. You may place them with their tag under the tree **by December 10<sup>th</sup>**. MJ will take the gifts to the Salvation Army that week. Please contact Mary Jane or email her at with questions. Thank you in advance for your generosity!

**\*-“Joy Offering” for retired Ministers and Christian Educators for both our denominations will be taken on December 3 through the end of the year.** By giving you honor God’s gift of Jesus Christ by providing assistance to current and retired church workers and missionaries in their time of need and help to develop our future leaders in church-related colleges.

**\*-“Christmas Offering” for 2023 will go to both our denominations for relief efforts in both Gaza and Israel.** Funds will be used for distributing ready-to-eat food parcels to churches and community centers hosting displaced families, the purchase of medicines and hospital supplies, confidential psychosocial support services for women and child victims of gender-based violence, and financial relief for displaced families in Gaza, Israel and Lebanon’s southern border who have inadequate financial resources to sustain themselves. **UCF Outreach Committee will match funds up to \$200.**

**\*-“White Christmas Collection” for the F-M Food Pantry (throughout December)**

We are collecting bar soap, shampoo, toothpaste, paper towels, toilet paper and feminine hygiene products. These cannot be bought with SNAP funds. Please help us fill our baskets and bins! *Thanks, Nico & family*



### \*More Special Happenings in Our House

**\*Thursday, December 7, at 2:00 PM, Women's Lounge—Mmmm! COOKIES!!!**

Who doesn't love a homemade Christmas cookie exchange?! Your Congregational Care Committee is sponsoring our annual appeal. Just bring 3 dozen small cookies (So we can get them in the tins)! **One dozen is distributed in the tins for our homebound**; the remaining two dozen we exchange among ourselves! Be sure to bring a container for yourself to cart the loot home. If you are unable to join us for this yummy activity and want to donate a dozen for our homebound friends, you may leave them in the kitchen labeled 'Congregational Care'. Hope to see you then!

*Cindy, Chair*



Syracuse University Brass Ensemble



United Church Handbell Choir

**\*Sunday, December 10, at 3:00 PM - Brass and Bells** with the **Syracuse University Brass** (including our own **Jon Bergman**) and the **United Church of Fayetteville Handbell Choir** will present a holiday concert with many of your favorites. A Free-will offering for our Haiti Educational Mission (HEM) will be taken. **Donations can also be given with "Haiti" in the check memo.** Click on <https://theucf.org/ministries/outreach-mission/haiti-education-partnership/> to read more about UCF's partnership. Invite friends and neighbors to this concert and enjoy holiday-inspiring tunes!

**\*December 17<sup>th</sup>, 11:00 AM - 🎄🎄🎄 The HORS D' HOUR 🎄🎄🎄 - Back by Popular Demand!**

**Join our Christmas Social Fellowship on Sunday, December 17, after worship.  
Bring your best party appetizers and we'll have coffee and punch!  
Sign up coming soon! Thanks, Marti**



**\*STEWARDSHIP REPORT**

Our goal for 2024 is \$128,000. As of November 28<sup>th</sup> we have pledges totaling \$116,132. We are missing pledges from about seven families for about \$11,868. As we “move forward together”, won’t you pledge?

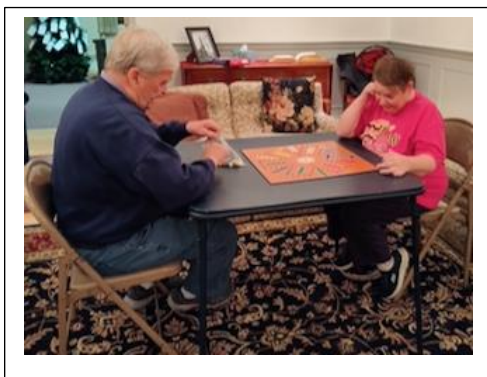
**\* UCF IN THE WORLD**

**\*Brown Memorial United Methodist Church Christmas Eve Cookie/brownie Request for Christmas Eve-**

**\*Sunday, Christmas Eve at Brown Memorial-** Diane and Rich have agreed to help deliver sandwiches, salad and dessert for a Christmas Eve meal to Brown Memorial folks who would otherwise be without. UCF Outreach Committee will provide \$150 toward the meal. **Please contact Diane at 914-649-7734 if you can provide UNWRAPPED cookies/brownies.** Please bring to church **by December 17<sup>th</sup>** or call Diane at 914-649-7734 for pick-up. See sign-up sheet in hallway. Thank you! *Diane and Rich*

**\*This Week’s Thanks –**

-To those who made **Fall Game Night** happen on Friday, November 17, and to those who came for fellowship and some laughs! Fun was had by all! There was laughing, shouting, camaraderie and good snacks. A group played Taboo. If you aren’t familiar with the game the object is to get your partner to say the word on the card without using a set of words that would be good descriptors. When you see John P, ask him about the word *princess* and Mary Jane about *bounce*, two of the memorable words of the night. Sarah G and Janet were the team to beat. Others played the classic Aggravation. We will have a winter game night so watch for the announcements and come spend a Friday night with friends!



## Reminders:

-Please return your Poinsettia and Music gifts info to UCF by December 10<sup>th</sup>.

-Salvation Army Tree unwrapped gifts need to be in by December 10<sup>th</sup>.

-Please use our website [www.theucf.org](http://www.theucf.org) to check the calendars and to also see copies of our Weekly Updates <https://theucf.org/resources/newsletters/> as well as old ones and other info on the Homepage and in our ministries.

## Our Guest Preacher for December 3, 10 and 17-

**Rev. Keith Fagerheim** is an ordained minister living in the Cortland/Homer area with his wife, Doreen, who works remotely for Belhaven University in Jackson, Mississippi. They have two sons in college, Andrew, a senior at Columbia University in NYC, studying Earth and Environmental Engineering and Matthew, a freshman at Notre Dame University in South Bend, IN studying Architecture.

After graduating from Houghton University Rev. Fagerheim attended Reformed Theological Seminary in Orlando, FL. Keith has served churches as a Youth Pastor at Covenant Presbyterian Church in Panama City, FL; as an Associate Pastor at the Armor Bible Church in Orchard Park, NY and Church of the Redeemer in Cortland, NY. He has also been an Interim Pastor at New Hope Presbyterian Church in Vestal, NY and a Stated Supply/Interim Pastor at Valley Christian Reformed in Binghamton, NY. Keith also works as a Quality and Compliance Analyst at the Automotive Lift Institute in Cortland. He enjoys being a pulpit supply and has also spent time as a Homer School Board member. We welcome Rev. Fagerheim back to our pulpit!



Rev. Keith Fagerheim