

THE STEPPING-STONE



December, 2018 Issue

Church e-mail address: tullyunitedcc@gmail.com; Our website: tullychurch.org Facebook : Tully United Community Church

FROM THE PASTOR

Ah, Advent. And so a new Church year begins. It makes sense to start the new church year with the birth of a baby, born to be Emmanuel, God With Us. In this season gifts get exchanged and there is good will toward all. Happiness and Joy abound and it seems life itself is reset and new beginnings are possible.

Well, surely the spirit of Emmanuel is here in this place. I'm not the only one to say this. Folks from outside our congregation comment to me all the time about the musical talent, the soup making prowess, the openness of our doors to the use of our building by the community. All these things and so many more are ways that we put our faith to action. It is good at the beginning of a new church year to consider our ministry in this community and how we bring God With Us to those around us.

Over the doors into the sanctuary is the phrase, "Loving People, Loving God". It might be perceived by some to be a sort of a brag; a statement that we are already loving people and that we are loving God. I don't think of it that way. As I enter, I think of it as a prayer: "God, make of us a loving people who love you and show your love to others. Help us to seek ways to love and when we fail, show us how better to love you and love one another." Had we already arrived at perfect love, we would not need the gift of Jesus. We wouldn't need God With Us to help show us the way, correct us when wrong, and set us again on the right path. God knows our frailties and our faults.

God knows that we need a Savior, which is Christ the Lord!

So in this Advent season, when we are preparing of the coming of God With Us anew, let us ponder how we have been successful at loving one another and how we have fallen short. Let us find the capacity to forgive and to seek reconciliation with others in our congregation and community with whom we may disagree. Then as Christ enters our lives anew, may he find us working hard to be the people of love, peace, justice and truth God wishes us to be.

Merry Christmas!

Rick+





SUNDAYS IN ADVENT

The season of Advent begins on **December 2nd** and is a communion Sunday. The sanctuary will be



arranged in the round as it always is during Advent and Christmas.

December 9 is the second Sunday in Advent and will feature the Hanging of the Greens Service. This service will focus on all the elements of decoration that we use in the sanctuary during this season with a brief explanation of why we use them. It will include Christmas carols throughout.

Following worship, beginning at 11am, is an Advent Craft Workshop that is open to the community. This is an Intergenerational experience and will include stations for young and young-at-heart. Please see the article about this workshop elsewhere in the newsletter.

On **December 16**, the third Sunday in Advent, the children and youth will present their Christmas program during worship time.

Also on this day, Christmas goodie baskets will be delivered and Christmas Carols sung to our shut-ins. This is a joint effort by the Lillian Bigsby Circle and the Youth Fellowship Group and any and all are invited to participate! Please see the article about this on page 4.



The **23rd of December** is the fourth Sunday in Advent.

CHRISTMAS EVE, DECEMBER 24TH

Then, on **Christmas Eve, December 24th**, there will be services at 7 and 11.

Advent is the beginning of the new Church Year and a time to await the coming of the Christ anew in our lives. If you have gotten out of the habit of coming, this is an excellent time to get back into the habit. And if you are already in the habit, look for ways to do something different to prepare yourself for the coming of Christ at Christmas!



A NOTE FROM OUR MODERATOR ROUNDISH



It was a while ago.....30 years as a matter of fact.....that my family first came to TUCC. We walked in the sanctuary on the first Sunday of Advent and it seemed to me almost like the catalog house must have seemed to Susan in the Miracle on 34th Street movie. Perfectly fluffed green swags and full wreaths hanging on the walls, pink, purple and white candles in the Advent wreath, and red poinsettias everywhere, yes, literally everywhere. The sanctuary was gorgeous!

Then we had to find a seat. Hmmm. This was different, something like a circle with the altar in the middle. We kept looking. (There was a moment of panic when I thought that I needed seats in the back row and near the exit in case one of our very young daughters needed a recess, but those seats were taken.) We found seats in the section in front of the stained-glass window and before I knew it the entire space was filled with the melodious sounds of the organ and piano four hands taking me on yet another first experience. After the service we were warmly welcomed by Marcia Martin and invited to come back to worship again!

My memory is not so good in other things, but I do remember and can visualize our first Sunday here. The sanctuary in the “roundish”, I have learned, has its pluses and minuses. The Deacons and Pastor Rick have tweaked the layout this year to try to minimize the minuses – better visibility for all and all in front of the pontificating Pastor. We thank them for their efforts and look forward to giving it a try.

A plus of the roundish is the opportunity for a change of perspective to see and hear things differently depending upon where one sits. The cross from a different angle. And the manger and candles too.

A different balance of the choir parts. And it’s an opportunity to see us.....the faces of friends who love to worship and fellowship together, who sing the carols with passion, and who have shown support to each other in big and little ways.

For me, I love this uplifting feeling of family during Advent and am so looking forward to the roundish this year. I may take a different seat each week and see what new perspective presents itself. Merry Christmas!

Bernice Potter-Masler, Moderator



Godwinks

What, you might ask, is a Godwink? As Wiktionary says, A Godwink is.... “an event or personal experience, often identified as coincidence, so astonishing that it is seen as a sign of divine intervention.” A northern New York native, Squire Rushnell, created the term ‘Godwink.’ He first wrote a book called *When God Winks: How the Power of Coincidence Guides your Life*” just before 9/11 happened. It turned out to be a message of hope and love for a hurting nation. Word of mouth has spread this term and people flooded Rushnell with so many stories of their own Godwinks that a series was born, and to date there are 7 books, the latest being *Godwink Christmas Stories*.

I will share one of my own Godwink stories with you. One winter I was living alone in a rented house on Song Lake. My marriage was ending and I was full of sadness, loneliness and grief, but trying to carry on. An overnight snowstorm had dumped a foot of new snow, and I awoke to be reminded yet again of my single status, knowing that I had an early morning of shoveling and praying my car would start so I could get to work. After shoveling about 20 feet to reach the driveway and having a car that wasn't interested in starting, I looked at the sky and said, “OK, God, if you're out there, I just need a little help. A tow truck would be nice right about now.” Those of you who live on that lake know how isolated it is, with little ‘through traffic.’ Not two minutes later, to my astonishment, I saw a tow truck out on the main road. Frantic waving on my part caught his attention and in less than 30 minutes, I was on my way to work. What are the chances of that tow truck coming along at just the time I needed him? It was truly a Godwink, a sign from God, with a little wink, that reaffirmed we are never alone.

Think about the Godwinks that have happened in your own life. So if you're looking for a little Christmas stocking stuffer for someone who could use a boost this season, or for young people who have drifted away from church, look no farther. Oh, and by the way, the NBC Today show has quarterly segments on Godwinks, and the Hallmark Channel has made a Christmas movie about one of the stories in the Christmas book. I'd love to hear about your Godwinks. Email me at

marley.barduhn@cortland.edu. Happy Christmas to all my friends at TUCC!!



CHURCH HIGHLIGHTS



HOW ARE WE DOING?

November 2018 attendance

November 4 – 96

(All Saints Memorial Service)

November 11 –76

November 18 – 67

(Thanksgiving Sunday)

November 25 –58

**TREASURER
REPORT Nov.
2018**

**Total Income:
\$12,369**

**Total Expenses:
\$6732**

YTD

Tot. Inc. \$33716

Tot. Exp. \$15127

**Hugh Reed
Church
Treasurer**



MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

We are eager to celebrate the birth of Jesus with meaningful church services, beautiful music, and the blessings of family and friends. The traditions warm our hearts and feed our souls. Included though are some uncomfortable challenges: exhaustion, stress, financial pressures, and sometimes a mix of anxiety, resentment, grief, and loneliness.

This Christmas let us commit to not only coming together in joyful celebration but also to reaching out with personal love and caring to the members of our church family. Christmas cards for the church family can be posted on the Christmas Bulletin Board. Be sure to stay for coffee hour and share love and concerns.

A service of **CHILDREN'S BAPTISM** can be held anytime during our Sunday morning worship services. Speak with Reverend Richard Reed or any Board member to set up a date for the baptism.

NEW MEMBERS can be welcomed into church membership anytime. See Reverend Richard Reed following worship, or call the church office, 696-8066.

BABY HAVEN NURSERY

Mary Burgett serves as the Baby Haven Care Giver on Sunday mornings during worship. Mary is generally in the Baby Haven beginning at 9:15 a.m. If you have questions see Pam Downey, 696-2439.

FAMILY DAY REMINDER... Family Day will be held Sunday, December 2, 2018 during our 9:30 a.m. 1st Sunday of Advent/Holy Communion worship service (Communion will be served in your seat and gluten free wafers will be provided). Children will attend morning worship with their families and Sunday School classes will be held following worship from 10:30 – 11:00 a.m.

LEADERSHIP NIGHT- December 3, 2018... Boards of the church meet at 6:30 p.m. followed by the church council meeting at 8 p.m.

PRAYER SHAWL REMINDER

The only meeting for December will be held on Monday, December 10th at 7pm.

COMMUNITY ADVENT EVENT: Dec. 9th

“Intergenerational Craft Workshop” This

Event is open to the public. We will hold this on Sunday, **December 9** from 11:00 to 1:00.

There will be different stations including:

Evergreens: Kim Guttendorf

Christmas Cards: Laura Currie

Cookie Decorating: Hollis Rotella

Advent Paper Chain Tree: Pam Downey

Ornaments or other crafts:

Jaci Colombo, Nancy Corey and Kay Butkus will make chili. Cocoa and cookies will also be served.

All are invited to come and join in.

CHILDREN’S CHRISTMAS PROGRAM December 16, 2018

The children in our Sunday School Program will participate in the Children’s Christmas program during our 9:30 a.m. morning worship service Sunday, December 16, 2018, with special music to be shared during that morning worship.

Sunday School classes will not be held December 23rd or 30th due to the Christmas and New Year’s Holidays. Classes will resume January 6, 2019 which is FAMILY DAY. Children will attend worship with their families at 9:30 a.m. and Sunday School classes will be held from 10:30 -11:00 a.m. If you can help teach the class please see Pam Downey 696-2439.

YOUTH GROUP NEWS

The youth would like to thank all those that helped with the cookie taste-off, either by

baking or tasting. The first cookie sale yielded \$96, almost enough to send one youth member to the SOLID retreat in January. Thanks to all who contributed so generously.

Karin Dykeman and Del Wayne continue to serve as the teachers/advisors for the 7th – 12th grade Sunday School Class and Youth Group. We remind you that the class continues to meet every other Sunday... Sign up for text message alerts about youth group activities by sending the message “@tuccyouth” to 81010. We welcome new members or visitors at any time. Not ready to commit, but want to check it out? Join us for any meeting or event. The more, the merrier! Call Karin at (315) 559-0189 any time.

The youth has a full slate of activities from now through January.

11/25/18 SOLID Registration and \$10 deposit due

12/2/18 Xmas Cookie Baking

12/9/18 Xmas Cookie decorating & sale

12/9/18 Community Christmas Craft Party 11-1

12/16/18 Xmas Play

12/16/18 Senior Shut-in Xmas delivery 11-1

1/13/19 or 1/20 Cinnamon Roll Sale

1/25-27/19 SOLID Retreat

LILLIAN BIGSBY CIRCLE NEWS

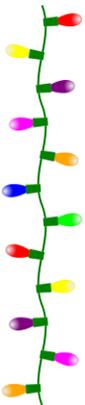
Members of the Lillian Bigsby Circle will meet **December 3rd at 10:30 a.m.** to prepare Christmas greetings and a small token gift to our freshmen college students.

Bring a bag lunch. Beverage and dessert will be provided. This year, the Ladies will meet at a later date to prepare cookies for our shut-ins to accompany the Christmas care packages that our youth are preparing. Reminder: that we do not meet January, February, or March.

CARE PACKAGES FOR SHUT-INS

We are looking for members of the congregation to participate in Caroling & Delivery of the Care Packages. Please see Pam Downey or Karin Dykeman.

Our Youth are assembling care packages for our shut-ins. There is a list of items requested at the Welcome Center in the Narthex, which includes: Stamps, puzzles, sm. flash light, lotion, small package of tissues, lip balm, calendar, snack cups (pudding, applesauce, etc.), cards, slipper socks, pens, gift wrap for shoe box size container. In addition to the cookies that the Lillian Bigsby Circle is providing, cookies are needed for other shut-ins



that we are reaching out to. Please sign up at the welcome center if you can provide any of the above.

USHERS ARE NEEDED for our morning worship services in 2018. The sign-up sheet for each month in 2018 is posted at the Welcome Center..see Lee Winger, head usher, on Sunday mornings if you have questions...

DEACONS

SUNDAY MORNING REFRESHMENT FELLOWSHIP AND COMMUNION

In December Marcia Martin and Nancy Corey are the refreshment fellowship providers and communion preparers. If you can provide cookies etc. for refreshments please sign up on the sheet located on the refreshment table on Sunday mornings. All monies collected help cover the cost of the coffee and any refreshments needing to be purchased.



FISHERMAN'S NET REMINDER

The Fisherman's Net Program is a joint effort of TUCC, P.E.A.C.E. Inc. and the St. Leo's Outreach Program. If you have furniture or household items to donate, please contact the P.E.A.C.E. office at 696-8203 to arrange for the items to be dropped off (or picked up if needed). P.E.A.C.E. has a storage area in the three bay shed at the far end of the church parking lot. Monetary donations are also needed to help those in need. Checks should be made out to the church with your *offering # and Fisherman's Net* written on the memo line.

ADULT FELLOWSHIP PLANS FOR DECEMBER

The Adult Fellowship group annual Christmas party and gift exchange will be held Friday, December 14, 2018, at 7:00 p.m. at Ken and Sharon Hoogs' home, 1550 Rt. 11 North. Those planning to attend are reminded to sign-up at the welcome center; indicate if you will bring an appetizer, dessert or beverage for refreshments. Also, those attending are reminded to bring a wrapped gift for the annual gift exchange. If your gift is specifically for a woman or man, please write either *woman* or *man* on the gift tag.



Also, on Saturday, December 15th at 7:30 pm, Adult Fellowship will be going to the Cortland Rep. Theatre to see "Sisters". Tickets are needed in advance. If you have questions, see Sharon 315- 696-5009. All adults of the church are welcome to join in the fun!

SMALL CHRISMONS TO DECORATE THE ANGEL TREE

When the angels are removed from the tree in the Murdock Lounge, the new smaller Chrismons made by Carol Guyre will decorate the tree. Each Chrismon symbol has a special meaning. We again thank Carol for her many, many hours of work making the Chrismons for the tree. As you may remember, the Chrismons on the tree in the sanctuary were also repaired and/or made by Carol.

THE TULLY COMMUNITY

CHRISTMAS BASKET PROGRAM is a community outreach effort that provides food and gifts, toiletries and some household items to low income families or families who are dealing with an illness or unplanned circumstance.

* Angels are distributed to the local churches so that gifts or household needs can be purchased for children and families.



* Angels (**should be attached securely to the gift which NEEDS to be wrapped**) will be due back to TUCC by Sunday, **December 16th** so that they can be organized and distributed by December 17th.

* The food baskets will be packed on Friday evening, December 14th from 6:30 PM until 8:30 PM at the Tully Masonic Lodge. Volunteers are welcome!

* Donations are being collected now. Checks can be made out to "Tully Community Christmas Basket Program" and dropped off or mailed to PEACE, Inc. @ PO Box 312 Tully NY.13159.

*Fruit and goodie holiday baskets are done for local shut- ins as well as several seniors in our area. Volunteers are needed to deliver them on Tuesday, December 18th at 1 PM.

Thank you for all your help!

Barb

If you have questions, contact Barb Kohberger at the P.E.A.C.E. office 696-8203

SNOW SHOVELERS' SCHEDULE

The trustees have the following volunteer snow shovelers' in place for the 2018-2019 winter season.

The schedule is as follows:

MONDAYS – Ed Hillenbrand

TUESDAYS – Robert Kemp

WEDNESDAYS – Sam Colombo

THURSDAYS – Bob Thompson

FRIDAYS – Jim Butkus

SATURDAYS – Cleave Snow, Jeff Phelps (as available)

SUNDAYS – Mel Moore

Alternates are: Len Foster

Jan Kublick

Brad Smith

MEETING TIME FOR THE ROTARIANS

The Tully Rotary Group meets at the church on Thursday mornings at 7:00 a.m. for breakfast and a program. Nancy Chawgo and her crew of volunteers continue to co-ordinate and provide the weekly breakfast. Work begins at 6:00 a.m. for breakfast that is served at 7:00 a.m.

December 6 – Ed & Janet Hillenbrand

December 21– Trudy Krewson & Karen Prince

SYRACUSE HEALTHY START **REMINDER: ALL THOSE WHO SEW,** **KNIT OR CROCHET....**

The program continues seeking donations of new, handmade baby items such as blankets, hats, sweaters, and booties. If you have questions, or need more information please call 435-2000, or see Dawn Cox, Church Secretary.



2019 ALTAR FLOWER CALENDAR **NEWS**

A draft copy of the 2019 altar flower calendar is posted on the bulletin board in the church narthex. If you do not want to provide flowers this year, be sure to cross your name off. Also, if someone is already scheduled on the date you wanted, just write your name next to theirs. Many times there is more than one flower arrangement for our worship service.....If you have questions, please see Nancy

Corey, (810-4074) or call the church office 696-8066. Thank you!

SHUT-INS FOR DECEMBER

December 2-Don & Joyce West
Walden Place, 839 Bennie Rd.
Cortland, NY 13045

December 9– Eleanor Burt
2196 Rte 11-A
Tully, NY 13159

December 16– George Cook
Jewish Home-Menorah Pk
4101 Genesee St.
Syracuse, NY 13214

December 23 – Helen Williams
17 Grove St.
Tully, NY 13159

December 30- Tom Richards
PO Box 358
Tully, NY 13159

We invite you to take a moment each week to send a holiday greeting card or note to those listed and to sign the card located at the welcome center on Sunday mornings. If you have a friend or family member that you would like included on the shut-in list, please get his/her name and mailing address to the church office (696-8066).

COMMUNITY NEWS

TULLY SENIOR CITIZENS' GROUP NEWS

The Tully Senior Citizens' Group will meet at the church Wednesday, December 12, 2018 at 6:00 p.m. for their annual catered Christmas dinner. Kim Griffin is the caterer and the cost is \$10 per person for members and \$15 per person for non-members. Those planning to attend should make reservations and payment as soon as possible with checks made out to: Tully Senior Citizens' Group and sent to Sue Swayze, treasurer, P.O. Box 965, Tully, NY 13159-0965. All those 50 and over are welcome to become a member of the Tully Senior Citizens' Group. Yearly dues continue to be \$5.00 per person. Questions: See Esther Hoose, 315-317-1618.

During the months of January, February, and March the regular second Wednesday of the month gatherings will be held at NOON at the church. Those attending are reminded to bring their own table service and a large dish to pass for the noon meal.

F.I.S.H. NEWS

The Tully and LaFayette F.I.S.H. Program (Friends in Service Here) Is in need of drivers who could drive clients medical and dental appointments. Volunteer drivers are scheduled to drive once a month on either a Tuesday or Thursday. If you are able to help drive, please contact Barb Kohberger at the P.E.A.C.E. office 696-8203.

Anyone living in the zip code area of 13159 or 13084 needing transportation to medical or dental appointments is asked to call the F.I.S.H. number 696-8659 or 696-8506 no later than three working days prior to the appointment.

ST. LEO'S HOLIDAY BAZAAR

Saturday, December 1st, 2018, from 9:00 a.m.–2:00 p.m. at the church hall including baked goods, Christmas arrangements, candles, homemade crafts and wreaths etc. available to purchase. Lunch will also be available -- a great chance to do some Christmas shopping right here in Tully.

7th ANNUAL TREE LIGHTING



In front of the Tully fire station on Railroad Street, on Dec. 7th from 6:30-8:00 pm. Refreshments provided. Santa arrives at 7pm.

T.A.G. CHRISTMAS COOKIE SALE

T.A.G. is sponsoring a Christmas cookie sale to benefit the Cornerstone Park. Homemade cookies can be ordered at a cost of: 2 Doz. - \$15; 3 Doz. - \$20. To place your order call Sally Greene 696-5562 by the December 7th deadline. The pickup date is Saturday, December 15, 2018, from 10 a.m. – 1 p.m. here at TUCC.



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COUNTRY PEDDLER NEWS

The Country Peddler Thrift Shop will be closed Dec.25 – Jan. 02, 2019 for the holidays.

Give Blood, Save a Life

+ The next community blood drive will be held at St. Leo's Hall on Saturday, December 8, 2018 from 8:00 a.m. - NOON.

1-800-RED CROSS Walk-ins are always welcome.

TULLY HIGH SCHOOL CRAFT FAIR

The Tully High School will hold a craft fair fundraiser on Saturday, December 1, 2018, from 10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. in the High School main gym. Several local crafters will be on hand for the craft fair; food and live holiday music will be provided. Santa will be there, too! This event is sponsored by the Jr. High Student Council. For more information please call: 315-696-6235.

P.E.A.C.E. HOT LUNCH PROGRAM

P.E.A.C.E. Inc. sponsors the senior citizens' hot lunch program that is held each week at TUCC on Tuesdays at noon. A donation of \$3.00 per meal. (Those who bring guests: \$6.00) Menus for the month are available at the luncheon.

All seniors 50 & up are welcome to attend the weekly lunches. If you have questions, call Velda Bumpus (683-5833). In order for enough food to be available each week, you need to let Velda know the week before if you plan to attend.

COMING IN JANUARY WELCOME 2019!

THE ANNUAL WINTER HUDDLE

Tentative date and time is **Saturday, January 12, 2019, 8:30 a.m. – noon to do planning for the year ahead. Check the Sunday Bulletins for update.**

ADULT FELLOWSHIP JANUARY ACTIVITIES –

The Adult Fellowship January activity planned for Sunday, January 13, 2019 is a trip to Highland Forest-sleigh riding, & etc. Watch the Sunday bulletin announcement sheet for more details.

Jan. 25th-27th-“SOLID” youth retreat. (TUCC)

**ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED
TULLY UNITED COMMUNITY CHURCH
5872 MEETINGHOUSE ROAD
TULLY, NY 13159**

Non-Profit Organization

Permit # 6

**THE STEPPING-STONE
DECEMBER 2018**

(315) 696-8066

Rev. Richard G. Reed, Interim Pastor

Bernice Potter Masler, Moderator

Dawn Cox – Church Secretary

ABOUT OUR CHURCH The Tully United Community Church has both United Methodist and American Baptist affiliation.

OUR MORNING WORSHIP SERVICE is held each week at 9:30 a.m.

SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSES are held during morning worship. Children are dismissed for classes following the Children's Moment. **FAMILY DAY** will be celebrated December 2, 2018. Children attend worship with their families and Sunday School is held from 10:30-11:00 a.m.

HOLY COMMUNION will be celebrated during our 9:30 a.m. worship service Sunday, Dec. 2, 2018

NO Sunday School classes will be held December 16th, 23rd, & 30th. The Children's Christmas Program will be held during our 9:30 a.m. worship service that morning. Classes will resume January 6, 2019.

LEADERSHIP NIGHT-Dec. 3rd, Boards meet at 6:30pm & Council meets at 8pm

COMMUNITY ADVENT EVENT: Dec. 9th, 2018 "Intergenerational Craft Workshop" open to the public, 11am-1pm

COMMUNITY BLOOD DRIVE AT ST. LEO'S CHURCH HALL – December 8, 2018, 8 am – NOON.

THE LILLIAN BIGSBY CIRCLE will meet Monday, December 3rd at 10:00 a.m. to send Christmas greetings and a token gift to freshmen college students and then enjoy a luncheon.

PRAYER SHAWL-Dec. 10th at 7pm. is the only meeting for December.

TULLY SENIOR CITIZENS-December 12, 2017 -6:00 p.m. catered **Christmas dinner** - \$10 per person members/\$15 per person non-members. Reservations and payment needed in advance.

CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PROGRAM-Dec. 16th during Sunday morning services.

ADULT FELLOWSHIP DECEMBER ACTIVITIES – Saturday, December 14th, 2018 – 7:00 p.m. Christmas party/Gift exchange at Ken & Sharon Hoogs home, 1550 Rt. 11 North.

COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS BASKET PROGRAM – Deadline for angel tree gifts – Sunday, December 16, 2018.

YOUTH GROUP SENIOR SHUT-IN Xmas delivery- Dec. 16th 11am-1pm

TWO CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES: Sunday, December 24, 2018 at 7:00 p.m. Family Christmas Eve Worship Service and **11:00 p.m.** Traditional Candlelight Communion Service

NEWSLETTER DEADLINE – JANUARY 2018 ISSUE: December 21, 2018