

GERMONDS PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
39 Germonds Road – New City, New York 10956

December 8, 2024

Ten-thirty o'clock



CORE VALUES OF GERMONDS PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

We answer Christ's call by:

Worshiping God

Welcoming All

Caring for Human Dignity

Serving in the World

Participating in Worship
Pastor and Teaching Elder
Music and Choir Director
Pianist/Organist
Liturgist
Ushers
Fellowship

Rev. Abbie Huff
Melissa Alexander
Sue Buffington
Karin Valvo
Tom Milbury, Hudson Fuller
Personnel & Administration Committee



THIS WEEK'S CALENDAR

Sunday, December 8

10:30 am Worship/Sunday School
11:30 am Fellowship Time

Wednesday, December 11

10:30 am Bible Study
7:30 pm Stewardship & Finance

Thursday, December 12

7:30 pm Choir Rehearsal

Saturday, December 14

9:15 am Joyful Noise Rehearsal in Sanctuary
4:30 pm Caroling at Venture Houses (meet in Jensen Hall at 4:00pm)

Sunday, December 15

10:30 am Worship, Pageant
11:30 am Fellowship Time
Herald Deadline

Rev. Abbie Huff – AbbieHuff@germondschurch.org – 267-664-3180

Email: Marion.Stefanoff@germondschurch.org-Office – 845-623-2120

Website: www.Germondschurch.org

Cemetery – 845-641-4192- Cemetery Superintendent – Dan Madar – spookrock@aol.com

LIFE IN THE CHURCH

We extend a warm welcome to all this morning! We invite you to join us for the fellowship time after worship. If you are looking for community, fun, fellowship, and a place to go deeper in your faith, we would be happy to tell you more about Germonds Presbyterian Church. Find out more on our website at germondschurch.org.

Bible Study – Wednesdays, at the Manse.

9:30 a.m. fellowship time, 10:00 a.m. study time. Contact abbiehuff@germondschurch.org for more information.

Next opportunity Soup Angels will be Monday, December 30, 4-7 pm. Please talk to Des Olori (descobb@gmail.com) if you're interested in volunteering. For more information on Soup Angels go to: <http://www.nyackreformed.org/soup-angels.html>.

Poinsettia orders given in honor or in memory of loved ones will be printed in the bulletin on Christmas Eve. Orders are due in the office by no later than **December 15th**. There are forms available in the office and on the back of the last Herald. Poinsettias given in honor or in memory of loved ones will be printed in the bulletin Christmas Eve, and you can take home your flower then.

Advent Devotionals – Pick up an Advent Devotional in the Narthex to reflect on this sacred season with daily reflections from Henri Nouwen.

On **December 1st** after worship in the Walkthrough Room, **12:00 p.m.** we will have an Adult Education Conversation on **the Mysteries of Christmas** – what it's all about. Bring your questions and reflections.

December 14 – Caroling at Venture

Join us to sing Christmas Carols for our friends at Venture starting at 4:30 p.m. Meet in the Christian Education Building at 4:00 p.m. to put cookies on plates to be distributed at the Venture houses.

LIFE IN THE CHURCH

December 19, 4:30 p.m. – “**Blue Christmas**” at Nauraushaun Presbyterian Church, Pearl River. A service of healing for anyone feeling grief, loss, and sadness this season.

December 21 - Salvation Army Bell Ringing is scheduled for that **Saturday**, at the Stop & Shop in Nanuet, from 9:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. Look for sign-up sheet in Jensen Hall if you can spend some time on this worthy cause. The need in Rockland is great and your help is very much appreciated.

December 22 – The GRO committee will be hosting a cookie share during fellowship hour. Please contribute a plate of your favorite cookies on this day. A favorite homemade recipe would be great, but the cookies can also be store bought.

Calendar of Events

- December 8** – 2nd Sunday of Advent, 10:30 a.m.
 - Conversation on the Mysteries of Christmas, 12:00 p.m.
- December 14** – Caroling at Venture, 4:00 p.m.
- December 15** – Children's Christmas Pageant, 10:30 a.m.
- December 19** – Blue Christmas, 4:30 p.m. at Nauraushaun Pres. Church
- December 21** – Salvation Army Bell Ringing (all day -sign up)
- December 22** – A Service of Lessons & Carols, 10:30 a.m.
 - GRO Cookie Share
- December 24** – **Christmas Eve**
 - 8:00 p.m. – Christmas Candlelight Service**
- December 29** – Sunday Morning Hymn Sing, 10:30 a.m.
- December 30** – Serve at Soup Angels, 4:00 p.m.
- January 5** – Epiphany Sunday, 10:30 a.m.

GOD'S PEOPLE GATHER

Second Sunday of Advent

PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP

For love would be love of the wrong thing; there is yet faith, but the faith and the love and the hope are all in the waiting.
~T.S. Eliot

PRELUDE Pastoral Sinfonia from *The Messiah* G.F. Handel/arr. Gouin

WELCOME AND LIFE IN THE CHURCH

INTROIT *While We Are Waiting, Come*

*CALL TO WORSHIP

One: Before you came to earth, your people had to wait:

All: Days... weeks... months... years... generations.

One: Through darkness, uncertainty, struggle and pain, your children waited; hoping, believing, praying - so much waiting. As we now remember this waiting, we recognize that our lives are also filled with waiting -

All: Waiting for a check to clear, a traffic light to turn, a friend to call back, our plans to grow, a baby to be born.

One: In these varied everyday moments, when we find ourselves waiting, we ask You to meet us anew; change us in our waiting. Whether it be mundane or extraordinary, painful or easy, long or short -

All: Let waiting do its good work in us, make us patient and thoughtful and aware. Thanks be to the God who waits for us.

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH Sheridan-Siegler Family

*HYMN *Prepare the Way, O Zion* GG: 106

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (in unison)

In this season of sales, shopping, and stress, God of Light, we confess how easy it is to slip off your paths. We can become so focused on having good times, on trying to capture joy that we forget to take the time to do good for your people. We slip easily into Santa suits and holiday outfits, but sometimes find Jesus Christ an

uncomfortable fit for our lives. We focus so much on finding the right gifts to wrap up, yet we have trouble accepting those gifts of peace and serenity that you offer so freely. Forgive us, God of breath and peace. By your mercy, teach us the joy of waiting, the calm of patience, and the restoration of our spirit that comes when we walk in your ways.

One: Let us silently confess our sins before God.

(A time for silent examination and confession.)

Amen.

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

One: This is the good news that is both coming - and is spoken to us today. You will be swept away in the waters of grace and mercy, carrying you home to God's heart.

All: Peace, serenity, healing, hope – these gifts, and more, are ours in this Advent season of watching and waiting. Thanks be to God.

*CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE *Il Est Né le Divine Enfant* (see insert)

*PASSING OF THE PEACE

One: Hear the teaching of Christ: A new command I give you, that you love one another as I have loved you. The peace of Christ be with you all.

All: And also with you.

One: Let us share the peace of Christ with one another.

HEARING THE WORD

ANTHEM *Anthem for Advent-Spanish Carol* arr. Eugene Butler

A TIME WITH YOUNG DISCIPLES

*HYMN *For You, O Lord, My Soul in Stillness Waits* GG: 89

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE: Habakkuk 1:1-5; 2:1-3, pg. 871

SCRIPTURE: Luke 1:5-23, pg. 56

One: This is the Word of the Lord

All: Thanks be to God.

SERMON

“Waiting, Waiting, Waiting”

Rev. Abbie Huff

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

OFFERING

OFFERTORY

But Who May Abide the Day of His Coming

G.F. Handel
trans. Godowsky

*DOXOLOGY

Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow

GG: 606

All: Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;

Praise God all creatures here below;

Praise God above ye heavenly host;

Creator, Christ, and Holy Ghost.

JOYS AND CONCERNS

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD’S PRAYER

All: Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name.

Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread and forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For

Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen

GOING OUT INTO THE WORLD

*HYMN

Comfort, Comfort Now My People

GG: 87

*BENEDICTION

Please be seated for the Choral Benediction and Postlude. Instead of applause at the end, please respond with a loud, “Amen!”

CHORAL BENEDICTION

Prepare the Way of the Lord

POSTLUDE

While By My Sheep

trad. German carol