

PORT GIBSON UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
P.O. BOX 234
PORT GIBSON, NY 14537

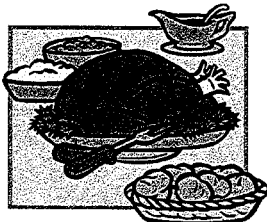
2013

November

December

THE SHINING LIGHT

Give thanks



Peace & goodwill



"THE SHINING LIGHT"

A PUBLICATION OF THE PORT GIBSON UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Published Bi-Monthly (Jan/Feb – Mar/Apr – May/June – Jul/Aug – Sept/Oct – Nov/Dec)

PASTOR: Rev. Patricia L. Brown

Parsonage Phone: 315-573-7710

LAY LEADER:

Editors: Dawn Wood and Nancy Anderson

Affirmations of Christmas Anonymous

I believe that Christmas is more than a time for parties and ornaments; it is a time for remembering Christ and the incarnation of God's love in human flesh.

I believe there are gifts more important than the ones under the Christmas tree, the things we teach our children, the way we share ourselves with friends, and the industry with which we set about reshaping the world in our time.

I believe that the finest carols are often sung by the poorest voices; from hearts made warm by the wonder of the season.

I believe in the angel's message that we should not be afraid—that the Child of Bethlehem is able to overcome all anxieties and insecurities.

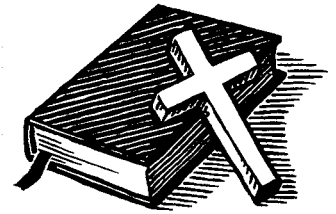
I believe in prayer and quietness as a way of appropriating Christmas—that if I wait in silence I will experience the presence of the one born in the manger, for he lives today as surely as he lived then.

I believe in going away from Christmas as the wise men went: "another way." I want to be different when these days are past—more centered, more thoughtful, more caring.

And I believe God will help me. Amen

SCRIPTURE READERS

Service begins
at 8:45 am



November 3, 2013 Bonnie Wood
Twenty-fourth Sunday After Pentecost White
Habakkuk 1:1-4; 2:1-4, Psalm 119:137-144 (UMH 840)
2 Thessalonians 1:1-4, 11-12, Luke 19:1-10

November 10, 2013 Pam Marsteiner
Twenty-fifth Sunday After Pentecost Green
Haggai 1:15b-2:9, Psalm 145:1-5, 17-21 (UMH 857)
2 Thessalonians 2:1-5, 13-17, Luke 20:27-38

November 17, 2013 Nancy Anderson
Twenty-sixth Sunday After Pentecost Green
Isaiah 65:17-25, Isaiah 12 or Psalm 118 (UMH 839)
2 Thessalonians 3:6-13, Luke 21:5-19

November 24, 2013 Karen DeSanto
Christ the King/Reign of Christ Sunday White
United Methodist Student Day
Jeremiah 23:1-6, Luke 1:68-79 (UMH 208)
Colossians 1:11-20, Luke 23:33-43

December 1, 2013 Dawn Wood
First Sunday of Advent Purple
Isaiah 2:1-5, Psalm 122 (UMH 845)
Romans 13:11-14, Matthew 24:36-44

December 8, 2013 Mary Adams
Second Sunday of Advent Purple
Isaiah 11:1-10, Psalm 72:1-7, 18-19 (UMH 795)
Romans 15:4-13, Matthew 3:1-12

December 15, 2013 Bonnie Wood
Third Sunday of Advent Purple
Isaiah 35:1-10, Luke 1:47-55 (UMH 199)
James 5:7-10, Matthew 11:2-11

December 22, 2013 Pam Marsteiner
Fourth Sunday of Advent Purple
Isaiah 7:10-16, Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19 (UMH 801)
Romans 1:1-7, Matthew 1:18-25

December 24, 2013 Nancy Anderson
Christmas Eve Purple
Isaiah 9:2-7, Psalm 96 (UMH 815)
Titus 2:11-14, Luke 2:1-20

December 29, 2013 Karen DeSanto
First Sunday After Christmas White
Isaiah 63:7-9, Psalm 148 (UMH 861)
Hebrews 2:10-18, Matthew 2:13-23

Scripture Readers

January 5, 2014	Dawn Wood
January 12, 2014	Mary Adams
January 19, 2014	Bonnie Wood
January 26, 2014	Pam Marsteiner
February 2, 2014	Nancy Anderson
February 9, 2014	Karen DeSanto
February 16, 2014	Dawn Wood
February 23, 2014	Mary Adams

GREETERS

<i>November</i>	Nancy Anderson & Sandy Henline
<i>December</i>	Dave & Bev Dayton
<i>January</i>	Nancy Anderson & Sandy Henline
<i>February</i>	Dave & Bev Dayton

COMMUNION ASSISTANTS

Communion is served the first Sunday of the month.

<u>November</u>	Dawn Wood
<u>December</u>	Pam Marsteiner
<u>January</u>	Karen DeSanto
<u>February</u>	Nancy Anderson



PLEASE NOTE:

*If you are unable to greet,
read or serve communion,
please call Dawn 315-331-5621.*

Thank you, Lord, for the gift of your love.
May I be a shining example of that love to
others.

Amen.
Thoughts-about-god.com

The PRAYER List

- ◆ Sally Borland
- ◆ Mabel Appleman
- ◆ Bev Sherman
- ◆ Betty Oakleaf
- ◆ Liz Combs
- ◆ Jean Hammond
- ◆ Esther Deys
- ◆ Henry Goellner
- ◆ Bert Mattison
- ◆ Tricia Bush
- ◆ Jessica (Bush) Thomas
- ◆ Old friends and new friends
- ◆ Every person who feels alone
- ◆ Everyone struggling with health issues
- ◆ All families who are struggling
- ◆ The leaders of our nation and of the world
- ◆ All Service Men and Women serving our country, home or abroad
- ◆ All families of service men and women
- ◆ All shut-ins



"Pray without ceasing."
1 Thessalonians 5:17.

Our sympathies to the family of

DORIS COOK

Christmas Caroling
December 11 at 6:30 pm
Refreshments

~ Dress warmly ~
wear mittens and boots

(We will be walking)
Please bring a flashlight for safety.
Everyone is welcome to join us.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY & HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

(Please notify the Editors if a date is incorrect)

November

- 04 Chris Deys
Kristi Rude Crance
- 06 Tim Goodall
- 11 Connie Dorscheid
- 15 Sue Burgess
Denise and Steven Rosenberger (A)
Krystin Turazzo
- 19 Leigh Sherman
Henry Goellner
- 20 Matt Crance
- 21 Sharon and Robert Bade (A)
- 25 Dolores Parker
- 28 Gloria Shippers
Amy DeCook



December

- 03 Wayne Guest
Robert Bade
- 06 Rick Bush
Adam Smith
- 07 Noreen Allen
- 10 Beth Rothfus
- 11 Nancy Anderson
- 12 Bonnie Frank
- 13 Brittney Hammond
- 14 Jessie Rice
- 16 Jonathan Hedges
- 19 Richard Yost Jr
- 24 Maria Carrier
Diane Schall
Melissa Wood Veeck
- 25 Doris Bush
Dolores Farnsworth
Jason Trowbridge
- 28 Photoula (Fay) Cummings
Peter Ross
- 31 Esther Deys



My life is in such disarray. I don't understand how I made such a mess of things. I am ready to listen to your teachings. Please speak to me and guide my way. Amen.

Job 6:24 NRSV

Administrative Council—September 2013

- * Mary called the meeting to order and Dawn lead with a prayer.
- * Secretary's Report was read. Motion to accept, seconded and passed.
- * Financial Reports were read and discussed. We are paying \$200 monthly toward our Shared Ministries. Trustee's financial report included the cost to repair the sink hole. Motion made to accept the financial reports, seconded and passed.
- * Pastor's Report-We have received and invitation to attend Newark 1st UMC on Nov 3— The Bishop will be speaking.

Our Charge Conference is Nov 23 at 9:00 am. Please have all your reports ready.

- * SPPRC meeting is scheduled for Oct 8 to discuss the Pastor Compensation Package.
- * Old Business: the youth are not meeting on Friday nights right now. We tried the mid-week service through the summer— no one attended.
- * New Business: CarolAnn discovered Port Gibson historical documents have been scanned and are available at Cornell. She gave us information on how to get the copies. The cost is \$40. Motion was made seconded and passed, to proceed with getting a copy, with the funds to be taken from the Memorial Fund.
- * Turkey Supper is Nov 2. We will be preparing the squash on Oct 12, and peeling potatoes on Oct 30.
- * New service time of 8:45 begins October 6.
- * Mary will be attending Hand2Plow this week.
- * Discussion about All Saints Day service.
- * December 1 is the beginning of Advent.
- * December 11 at 6:30 is Christmas Caroling
- * There was discussion about having one joint Christmas service at Clyde. We need to discuss this with the rest of our church family.
- * December 29 is Talent Sunday. Mary will lead the service.
- * Next meeting October 15 at 6:00

“You are the light of the world—like a city on the hilltop that cannot be hidden. No one lights a lamp and then puts it under a basket. Instead, a lamp is placed on a stand, where it gives light to everyone in the house. In the same way, let your good deeds shine out for all to see, so that everyone will praise your heavenly Father.”

Matthew 5:14-16

Lord, May I faithfully hold my light high, reflecting the light of your glory. Amen

(Simply Refreshing, Ellen Banks Elwell)

Administrative Council—October 2013

- * Mary called the meeting to order and Pastor Patricia lead us in prayer.
- * Secretary's Report was read. Motion to accept, seconded and passed.
- * Financial Reports: Treasurer's Report was discussed. Trustee's Report was discussed. Motion to accept financial reports, seconded and passed.
- * Pastor's Report: Pastor Patricia asked for assistance with completing the Conference reports which are due soon. Nancy advised that she has most of Port's reports almost done, and that Pastor Patricia will not have to worry about completing the reports on-line.
- * Pastor Patricia has not heard any more information about the Bishop speaking at Newark First UMC on Nov 3.
- * SPPRC Report: the committee met to discuss the Pastor's Compensation Package for 2014. Although we have not heard from Newark or Clyde yet, by our figures, our 18% for 2014 will be \$7896.06 for the Pastor's salary. There is also other charges from Conference which we are responsible for. These will be listed in our annual budget proposal for 2014.
- * Discussion about Accountable Reimbursable Policy and salary.
- * Pastor's vacation will be December 25 through January 5, 2014. We will provide laity to lead the service for the first Sunday in January. We will have Communion on the second Sunday.
- * Pastor Patricia advised the other churches agreed with a joint Christmas Eve service. However, Port is not comfortable with closing our church on Christmas Eve. Therefore, Port will make arrangements to have a Christmas Eve service at 7:00 on December 24, at Port Gibson.
- * Next meeting, November 19, 6:00

CHURCH/CHARGE CONFERENCE
Sunday
NOVEMBER 24
AT 3:00 PM
At Port Gibson UMC
(please note date and time change)

**BUY POINSETTIAS
FOR CHRISTMAS,
OR IS THERE ANOTHER CHOICE??**

You can...

1. Purchase a poinsettia to decorate the church.
2. Make a donation to our Community Christmas Stockings Mission.
3. Make a donation to Dominiak (our mission child) His picture and information is on another page in this newsletter.
4. Make a donation toward our Shared Ministries.
5. Make a donation to the Open Door Mission Shoe Boxes for Christmas

(Please see the attached form in this newsletter.)
Thank you for your support.
May God bless you.

**OUR 2013
CHRISTMAS MISSION**

Community Christmas Stockings

Again this year, we would like to reach out to our community this Christmas Season. We would like to welcome new families to our community, remind our neighbors we are thinking and praying for them, and bring cheer to shut-ins. Also, it has been called to our attention that there are some families in our community that are going through tough times. As an outreach for our church, we would like to show our love for these families with a Christmas Stocking that will be handed out while we are Christmas Caroling on **December 11 at 6:30 pm**. In addition, to our usual items in the Christmas Stockings, we would like to include a food gift card. To be able to do this, we need some donations. Please indicate on the attached form in the newsletter and include your donation with the form in the preaddressed envelope.

Thank you and have a
blessed Christmas Season.

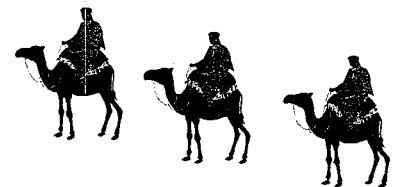
**ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS
ACTIVITIES**

- December 1—First Sunday of Advent
December 1—Advent Festival at Palmyra Presbyterian Church. 4:00 pm Port Gibson, Palmyra and Manchester UMC joint choirs will be participating.
December 11—Christmas Caroling around town beginning at 6:30 Refreshments afterwards at the church. Everyone in town is invited!!
December 24—Christmas Eve Service at 7:00 pm in Port Gibson UMC.
December 29—Talent Sunday during the morning service. Come and share your talent with us— sing, read a poem, play an instrument.

We miss you. Please join us !



☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆
☆ For to us a child is born, ☆
☆ us a son is given, and the ☆
☆ government will be on his ☆
☆ shoulders. And he will be ☆
☆ called Wonderful ☆
☆ Counselor, Mighty God, ☆
☆ Everlasting Father, Prince ☆
☆ of Peace. ☆
☆ Isaiah 9:6 ☆
☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆



Peace on Earth

This is God's Christmas Greeting. In the beautiful story of Jesus' birth, it was sung by a chorus of angelic voices. Heard at first only by Judean shepherds outside the town of Bethlehem, nevertheless, it is a message that the whole world should hear. On each Christmas Day, God repeats his greeting.

—anonymous

THANKSGIVING

"O, give thanks unto the Lord, call upon his name: make known his deeds among the people. Sing unto Him, sing psalms unto Him: speak of all his wondrous works" Psalm 105:1-2.

This year we observe Thanksgiving Day on November 28th. We may gather with our family, have a feast of food, and talk about being thankful. But is it enough to eat turkey and spend time with our family? What is it to be thankful? Really thankful? What are we thankful for? Who are we thankful to?

Encarta defines THANKFUL as

1. feeling gratitude; feeling or expressing gratitude
2. glad about something; glad or relieved about something

As we read the Bible, we are repeatedly told to give thanks to God, especially in our prayers.

"Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, in everything give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you" (1 Thessalonians 5:16-18).

"Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God" (Philippians 4:6).

"Therefore I exhort first of all that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks be made for all men" (1 Timothy 2:1).

Has God blessed you this year? Has God answered your prayer? Sometimes He doesn't answer our prayers in the way we want Him to, or when we want Him to. We need to remember that God sees the whole situation better than we do. We just see a small part of the big picture. Those are the times we may find it difficult to give thanks to God. We find it difficult to be thankful that God is in control of our lives, not us.

There are always things in life that we can complain about—and many times we do. We all have heart aches and disappointments in our lives. But, just like the Pilgrims who endured many hardships, we have a choice. There are also many things to be thankful for, every day.

Do you remember the service a couple weeks ago, when Pastor Patricia talked on the parable of the ten lepers? (Luke 17:11-19) Jesus healed ten lepers. Only one, when he saw he was made clean, turned back to praise God. Only one was thankful, and yet Jesus healed ten. Where were the other nine? Are we like the "one" or the "nine"?

Of all of God's gifts, the greatest one he has given, is the gift of his Son. The gift of His Son. The gift which meets our greatest need. The Apostle Paul says ...

"Thanks be to God for His indescribable gift!" (2 Corinthians 9:15).

So, what are YOU thankful for this Thanksgiving?

Advent Wreath Meditations

by F. Richard Garland

First Sunday—December 1, 2013

Read Isaiah 2:2-5

Reflection

The Season of Advent is an invitation to reflect on faithful vision and what it means to live in expectation of its fulfillment. Consider what the prophet Isaiah sees: . . . the Lord's house established on the highest of the mountains . . . people seeking instruction and the Word of the Lord . . . a righteous Lord who will bring peace . . . an invitation to walk in the light of the Lord. How then do we live as those who believe that the promises of God will be fulfilled? . . . as those who are faithfully present in the house of the Lord? . . . as those who are willing to be instructed in the Word of the Lord? . . . as those who would seek the peace that the Lord brings? . . . as those who would daily walk in the light of the Lord? If we are willing to trust in a faithful vision and are willing to live in the expectation that it will be fulfilled, then our discipleship will prepare us for the coming of Immanuel.

Second Sunday—December 8, 2013

Read Psalm 72:1-4, 18-19; Isaiah 11:1-4a

Reflection

Christmas is about the birth of good news, fulfilling an ancient hope for righteousness, justice, and deliverance. In Advent, we have an opportunity to look at our roots of faith and see what may come forth from them. The Psalmist prays that the leader will be righteous and just. The Prophet Isaiah speaks of a righteous branch: . . . one who lives in awe of God. . . . one who will be wise and understanding. . . . one who treats the poor and meek with righteousness and respect. . . . one who will be a strong advocate for justice. How then do we make ourselves ready for this appearance? . . . by living as those who are in awe of God? . . . by demonstrating a spirit of wisdom and understanding? . . . by caring for the poor and the meek? . . . by blessing the name of the Lord always? If we faithfully anticipate a new growth of the Spirit, then we will be ready for the birth of good news, as Christ is born again into our lives.

Third Sunday—December 15, 2013

Read Luke 1:46-53; Isaiah 35:4,6b-8a,10

Reflection

At the heart of the events that lead to the birth of Jesus is Mary's exultation: "My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior." It is more than a song of praise - it is a prophetic commentary on what this birth means. People shall, as Isaiah proclaims, "...obtain joy and gladness, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away." Advent is an invitation to rejoice in the power of God's salvation. Consider the prophetic implications of this birth, and the promise it holds for people of faith: . . . the mighty removed from positions of power - the lowly lifted up. . . . the hungry satisfied - the rich emptied. . . . the fearful receiving strength and salvation. . . . the exiles returning to obtain joy and gladness. How then do we share Mary's joy and receive the renewal promised by Isaiah? . . . by believing that God can lift us up and use us for good? . . . by trusting that God has the power to redeem? . . . by confidence that God will come and free us from fear? . . . by resolving to live in joy and gladness? When we live in the certain expectation that God will restore righteousness and show people the way of faithfulness, then we will see what the birth of Immanuel can portend.

Fourth Sunday—December 22, 2013

Read Matthew 1:18-25, Psalm 80:19

Reflection

Christmas can be a disrupting time. More often than not we come up against the unexpected and have to make adjustments. Consider Matthew's account of Mary and Joseph: . . . Mary, found to be with child from the Holy Spirit . . . Joseph, disgraced and ready to dismiss his betrothed . . . An Angel of the Lord, with other plans . . . Immanuel! God coming among them! How do we prepare for the unexpected and make necessary adjustments? . . . by trusting the power of the Holy Spirit? . . . by thinking outside the boxes of our plans? . . . by making room for Immanuel? . . . by living in gratitude for the salvation of the Lord? If we trust the power of the Holy Spirit and prepare ourselves for Immanuel, we will experience again the redeeming birth of Jesus the Christ.

Christmas Eve—December 24, 2013

Read Titus 2:11-14, Psalm 96:1-4, Luke 2:10-11

Reflection On this night of nights Immanuel is born, full of grace and truth. In the company of a heavenly host, we are offered an opportunity to join the celebration. We are invited . . . to accompany the shepherds to see the holy child. . . . to join the Angels in a song of praise. . . . to treasure with Mary the Word made flesh. . . . to respond with lives that are just, kind and faithful. On Christmas Eve we are offered the gift of salvation. . . . Let us come to the Light of Christ . . . Let us sing a new song, bless his name, and tell of his salvation from day to day. . . . Let us offer our reverence to Immanuel. . . . Let us be moved to live lives that are faithful and righteous. May Christ be born in us this night, and forevermore.



Talent Sunday

December 29

At Port Gibson

Do you play an instrument, sing, act,
read poems, tell stories?
Come share your talent!

If you have joined us for the past
several Talent Sundays, you know just
how great this service can be!!!!
Don't miss it!!

GIVE THE FOLLOWING GIFTS:

To your enemy.....forgiveness
To your opponent.....tolerance
To a friend.....your heart
To a customer.....service
To all men.....charity
To every child.....a good example
To yourself.....respect

-author unknown

www.portgibsonumc.com

Wanted! Old pictures of activities at
PGUMC: MYF trips, variety shows,
dinners, activities, etc. Please email any
items to theshininglight@gmail.com

Find us on facebook.



WHAT IS ADVENT? Advent is a season of preparation and refers to the holy season of the Christian church which celebrates the birth of Jesus Christ. It begins on the Fourth Sunday before Christmas and ends on the 25th of December. During the season of Advent, Christians across the world prepare for the celebration of the arrival of the Lord into the world through the birth of his Son, Jesus Christ. Advent is a time to celebrate light in the midst of darkness. It is also a time to look forward to when Jesus will come a second time.

Dear God, thank you for this season of Advent that helps us to prepare for the coming of Christ at Christmas. As we read the Bible and light a candle, may excitement for Christ's coming burn in our hearts. Amen.



Dominiek is the Native American Indian child the Port Gibson UMC sponsors. He is with the Oyate Networking Program in South Dakota in the Rosebud Reservation with Child Fund International. He is 13 years old.

All Scripture is inspired by God and is useful to teach us what is true and to make us realize what is wrong in our lives. It corrects us when we are wrong and teaches us to do what is right. God uses it to prepare and equip His people to do every good work.

2 Timothy 3:16-17

Father,

The gift of Your Word makes is rich. May we value all of it. Amen

(Simply Refreshing, Ellen Banks Elwell)

NOVEMBER 2013

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2 4:00 pm Turkey Dinner at Firehall
3 Time Change: Fall Back 8:45 am: Worship	4	5	6 6:00 pm: Choir	7	8	9
10 8:45 am: Worship	11	12	13 6:00 pm: Choir	14	15	16
17 8:45 am: Worship	18	19 6:00 pm: Ad Council 7:00 pm: Trustees	20 6:00 pm: Choir	21	22	23 Hand 2 Plow: Casowasco
24 8:45 am: Worship 3:00 pm: Charge Conference	25	26	27 6:00 pm: Choir	28 Thanksgiving: Be Thankful!	29	30

DECEMBER 2013

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 8:45 am: Worship 4:00 pm: Advent Christmas Concert: Palmyra Presbyterian Palmyra	2	3	4 6:00 pm: Choir	5	6	7
8 8:45 am: Worship	9	10	11 6:30 pm Christmas Caroling in the community.	12	13	14
15 8:45 am: Worship	16	17	18 6:00 pm: Choir	19	20	21
22 8:45 am: Worship	23	24 7:00 pm: Christmas Eve Service at Port Gibson	25 Merry Christmas Jesus is Born!	26	27	28
29 Worship TBA Talent Sunday	30	31	Reverend Patricia Brown on vacation Dec. 25 to January 6, 2014			