

# The Messenger

A Monthly Newsletter of First Baptist Church of Rochester

November 2016  
and early Advent  
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175 Allens Creek Road . Rochester, NY 14618 . (585) 244-2468

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## The Birth of a New Creation



### IN THIS ISSUE

### PASTOR'S COMMENTARY

#### Advent: the time between

Pastor's Commentary.....	1-2
Body Building.....	2
Music Opportunities.....	2
Pledge Up-to-date?.....	2
Holiday Happenings.....	3-4
Christmas Dinner.....	3
Christmas Program.....	3
Holiday Pie Sales (Habitat).....	3
Thanksgiving Service.....	3
Advent Taizé Services.....	4
Cantata.....	4
Fairport Homes Stockings.....	4
Giving Tree.....	4
Labyrinth.....	4
200th Anniversary.....	5
Brighton Food Depot.....	5
Our Community.....	5
Remington-Hubbell.....	5
Goings On.....	6
Book Club.....	6
Eldergarten.....	6
Murder Mystery.....	6
Jazz 'n Jeans.....	6

The season of Advent is quickly approaching and I hope you'll be ready to celebrate with us here at First Baptist Church. It is one of the richest, most beautiful, and most neglected seasons of the Christian year. It is a time of anticipation of the coming of Christ and is therefore often resigned in our hearts and minds to be "the season before Christmas." That is true and of great theological importance, but Advent has its own meaning and experience connected to, but quite independent of Christmas. Let me explain.

In Advent we stand between. We anticipate the coming birth of Jesus, but even as we do that we also anticipate the birth of a new creation. Advent is not just about the coming of Jesus, but also about what the New Testament imagines as the second coming of Jesus. We could easily chase an eschatological (look it up) rabbit there - and we should one of these days - but let's summarize the second coming, however you might imagine it, as the culmination of God's fondest hopes for the world - a new creation. We're waiting for Jesus to be born (the beginning) even as we're waiting for a new creation (the end) to be born. Advent is a birth process.

Wouldn't it be fantastic if we could experience a birth process during Advent as a way of imagining the ways in which we take part in the larger birth process of the new creation!? I know that roughly half of the readers of this message are biologically incapable of a birth process, and the vast majority of the rest will not wish to be a part of one for various good reasons. We can still



be a part of a birth process. Birth mothers aside, no one else could know as well what it means to birth something into the world than artists.

Artists struggle with ideas as they are conceived in the hidden places of their minds. They are frustrated with materials as their work takes on form and are gripped with worry as the day of unveiling approaches, but in the end something of beauty emerges from within. I want to invite you – no, I want to challenge you – to become an artist this Advent. Create something. Paint. Sculpt. Write. Draw. Sing. Perform. Do something creative. Give birth to something beautiful. In order to do so you will need to engage *imagination, creativity, audacity, and radiance*. Incidentally these will be the themes for each of the four services of Advent. As we explore these attributes of artists you will be able experience them as you work on your own creation and what we will learn will inform us in our participation in that larger birth process we're all a part of, the birth of a new creation around us.

Of course this exercise, to make something, to create something, to birth a thing into the world during Advent is not compulsory, but I do hope you'll take the challenge and participate. You might be surprised by what you experience and what you learn. At the Christmas Eve service and throughout the season of Christmastide we will put our visual works on display in the church. Those who choose to do a performance piece will be given opportunity to perform soon thereafter.

Does the prospect of creating something for others to experience frighten you? Delight you? Worry you? Inspire you? How about the prospect of being part of the birth of a new creation?

Let's see what we create and learn together this Advent.

*Pastor Brent*

## MUSIC PROGRAM OPPORTUNITIES

Consider participating in some of the great things happening in our music program in November and December. Please contact David Labman with any questions. We hope you will join us!

**December 4** – Handbells in Worship; Advent Handbell Choir Rehearsals – Sundays, 11:30 AM-12 PM on November 6, 13, 20 and 27. Final rehearsal at 8:45 AM on December 4. Please sign up at the Music Program Bulletin Board by the Library.

**December 4** – Children's Christmas Program; Children's Music Program Rehearsals – Sundays, 11:10 - 11:30 AM. In addition to preparing for the Christmas Program, children learn church songs, play instruments, and have fun!

**December 11** – Adult Choir Cantata in Worship; Adult Choir Rehearsals – Wednesdays, 7:15-8:30 PM and Sundays, 9:15 AM. We need singers – especially tenors! Come join us just for this short-term project or for the whole year.

Is Your  
**Pledge**  
Up to Date?

The Trustees ask that you double check to make sure that your pledge for 2016 is up-to-date and that you have turned in your pledge card for 2017. They are now in the process of determining the 2017 budget. Thank You!



**Body Building:  
A Sharing Fellowship**

## Body Building: A Sharing Fellowship Potluck Lunch

On Sunday, November 6th, following worship we will gather in Hubbell Hall for our quarterly Body Building Fellowship. This intergenerational potluck lunch and sharing time brings us together for a meal, conversation, and fellowship. Won't you join us?

No need to sign up, just come if you are able and please bring a dish to share. We will conclude around 12:15 PM. Can't stay for a meal? Then come to Hubbell Hall for a short time and grab a cup of coffee or tea.

This month our time of sharing will center around gratitude. You may want to ask yourself, "What are you grateful for?"

# Holiday Happenings

## CHRISTMAS PROGRAM

YOUTH AND CHILDREN LED

### Christmas Program

On Sunday, December 4th with song, scripture, and history, our youth and children will lead the congregation in a musical program of Christmas Carols.

They will share the story of our coming Savior in a very interactive way. The congregation will participate as we sing favorite carols which we all love. The history of some of these carols and the lyricist or composers will also be shared. It will be a great way to begin your journey through Advent and get into the spirit of the season.

The program will begin at 5:00 PM. Plan to support the youth and children of the church, even if you can not stay for the dinner.

Following the Christmas Program, at 6:00 PM, we will gather as a family in Hubbell Hall to share in a festive time of fellowship, food, stories, and fun.

## CHRISTMAS DINNER

CHURCH FAMILY EVENT

This is an event for old friends and family to come and join in with those new among us. It is a time to feel the warmth and the spirit of the season with good food and special fun for all ages.

A special mystery guest from far away in the north is sure to make an appearance and give gifts of love. The favorite poem of 'Twas the Night Before Christmas will be shared as wide-eyes gather around.

The Pensgens will once again provide a delicious meal of an old-time church family favorite (from the Lays era) consisting of: Swiss Steak, Carrot Coins, and Mashed Potatoes.

The hall will be transformed into an evening of elegance. **We hope you will bring to share a favorite dessert for our dessert bar.** Seating may be purchased in advance. Adults and Teens are \$6, Children, ages 5-11 are \$3, and Children 4 and under are free. Seat sales will begin soon.

## UNION THANKSGIVING

INTERFAITH WORSHIP



### Thanksgiving Worship

142nd Annual Union Interfaith Thanksgiving Service

November 24, 2016

11:00 AM

Baptist Temple ☞ 1101 Clover Street ☞ Rochester, NY 14610

## THANKSGIVING PIES

IN SUPPORT OF HABITAT HOUSE BUILD

Order your pies by November 6th on the Vitality Table for a future Habitat for Humanity build. First Baptist Church of Rochester, along with nine other Brighton places of worship, belong to a coalition which funds, supports, and builds a Habitat House every three years. Each holiday season, we sell Kelly's Farm Market pies from Hilton, NY to raise funds which go toward this fund-raising effort.

The pies freeze nicely and can be served for Thanksgiving or Christmas. Delivery will be made to the church on Tuesday, November 25th for pick-up.

The pies are each \$16.00 and the varieties from which to choose are:

Apple Crumb  
Pumpkin

Apple Raspberry  
Christmas Crumb

Apple Crisp is available for \$12.00

Each pie is made from scratch without preservatives and with fresh fruit grown on their farm. The pies are deep, ten-inch pies, weighing 4.5 pounds each. This is a great way to save some time over the holidays, serve one of the church's mission focus, and help a neighbor in need. Win, Win, Win!

Place your orders on the clipboard at the Vitality Table or contact the church office at (585) 244-2468. Payment should be made to Marge Forth, either by cash or by check made out to her, as she will be retrieving the pies.



# Holiday Happenings

## GIVING TREE

### FOR CAMERON COMMUNITY MINISTRIES



We are once again going to have our specially decorated Giving Tree, in the Garden Room.

We will set up the tree and string the lights but the decorations will be brought by you... Not with ornaments and tinsel but with the gifts of hats, scarves, mittens and other needed winter items for the children at

Cameron Community Ministries (CCM). At the Christmas Party for the children at CCM, they hope to give each child at least one winter item. Wouldn't it be wonderful if it could be more? Our Cameron Giving Tree will help with this effort. Help us decorate the tree with colorful varieties of boys' and girls' hats, scarves, and mittens.

Your donations may make it possible for a child in need to be able to stay warm on their walk to school this winter, so please be generous and hang your unwrapped gift right on the tree. We will dedicate these gifts on December 18th during our time of fellowship.

## STOCKING STUFFERS

### FOR FAIRPORT BAPTIST HOMES

Each Christmas, we ask for small (under \$5) unwrapped items for the residents of our Fairport Baptist Homes. These gifts will go into the Christmas stockings each resident will receive at their "household" Christmas parties.

Suggested gifts are lotions, knee-high stockings, necklaces, pins, after-shave, stationery, cards, stamps, men's socks, etc. Their Christmas parties start in early December so gifts will be collected until November 27th.

Please place these unwrapped gifts in the box on the Vitality Table in the Garden Room. Many thanks from the residents and the Women's Service Board of the Fairport Baptist Homes Caring Ministries.

## CHRISTMAS CANTATA



DECEMBER 11<sup>th</sup> @ 10AM  
DURING WORSHIP

## LABYRINTH WALK

### A CONTEMPLATIVE PRAYER-FILLED WALK

During Advent, we will be laying out a pattern of a labyrinth in Hubbell Hall for anyone who wishes to use this form of prayer, mediation, and time of reflection to draw nearer to God. The labyrinth will be available to use whenever the Hall is not in use and will be laid out soon after the Christmas Dinner which is on December 4, 2016. You may use the labyrinth any time the church is open.

Scripture references will be available for those who wish to reflect, either before, during, or after their walk. Special lighting and soft contemplative music will be available beginning at 6:00 PM and ending soon after the conclusion of choir rehearsal each Wednesday. Come walk as you journey toward Bethlehem with other Advent travelers and anticipate the birth of Christ.

## Advent Taizé Service

### TIME OF REFLECTION AND SERVICE



On Wednesdays, December 7th and 14th in the Chapel, we will have a candlelit, prayer-filled, reflective service that will add some peace and calm in the busy Advent season. Join us at 6:00 PM for a time of reflection. The service itself will start at 6:30 PM. A Brown Bag Fellowship will begin at 5:30 PM in the Garden Room.

# OUR COMMUNITY

Reaching out to others



## The Brighton Food Depot

### **Your generous gifts, continue to astound us!**

Thank you very much for your on-going support. Through your ministry of giving of food donations, 100 needy children at school #4 in the city take home a grocery bag of 10 items each month. That is 1000 items of food to leave the Depot each and every month!

**For November we are collecting:  
Pasta and Canned Vegetables**

## **Remington-Hubbell Circle News Pecan Sale Continues**



Georgia Pecans are still available at \$11.00 per pound. These are large - shelled nuts, good for holiday baking and to give as gifts to family and friends. If you would like to purchase some but have not signed up in the Garden Room, please let a member of our Circle know.

All proceeds from the sale will help us contribute to Cameron Community Ministries, Bacone College, Women's Service Board at Fairport Baptist Homes, Church Women United, Church World Service, and Teen Empowerment.

# SAVE THE DATE

**First Baptist Church  
of Rochester  
Celebrates 200 Years!  
Weekend of  
October 5, 6, and 7th, 2018**



October 2018 Proposed Weekend Agenda (to date):

- 10/05 Friday: Early evening informal gathering with reception at FBCR.
- 10/06 Saturday: Evening sit down dinner at Burgundy Basin Inn, Pittsford, NY Empire room reserved which can accommodate 200 to 350 persons.
- 10/07 Sunday: FBCR 10 AM Communion Worship service.

The current committee members are: Chuck Sparnecht, chairperson; Jack Auer, music liaison; Pastor Brent Bowden; Mark Harnischfeger, past moderator, Amanda Hefferon, mission/outreach liaison; Michele Hunt; Ivan Marable, Christian education liaison; Marilyn McClellan, current moderator; and Janet Richardson.

We are working on planning for the upcoming year-long celebration and we welcome new members and new ideas. If there is a project you might like to spearhead or work on, we welcome your help. Possible task groups will be posted soon. If you are interested, please contact any one of us.

Beginning in 2017 watch for regular references to our 200 year history; our past, present, and future!

**We would love for you to join us and make celebrating our 200th special!**

# GOINGS ON

## OCCURRENCES OF INTEREST

### Tuesday, November 1

Remington-Hubbell Circle 11:30 AM

### Wednesday, November 2

Missions Meeting 5:00 PM

No study tonight

Adult Choir 7:15 PM

### Sunday, November 6

Worship 10:00 AM - Communion

Singers' Sunday

Body Building Fellowship - Potluck Lunch

### Tuesday, November 8

200th Anniversary Meeting 7:00 PM

### Wednesday, November 9

Brown Bag Fellowship 5:30 PM

Study 6:00 PM *Missional Thinking*, with Pastor Brent

Adult Choir 7:15 PM

### Thursday, November 10

RPC Dinner Fellowship & Vespers 4:00 PM

### Sunday, November 13

Worship 10:00 AM - Jazz 'n Jeans

Fellowship 11:00 AM

Forum 11:30 AM - Sermon Discussion with Pastor Brent

Youth 11:30 AM Time of Fellowship

### Monday, November 14

Welcoming and Affirming 6:30 PM

### Tuesday, November 15

Trustees 6:30 PM

### Wednesday, November 16

Brown Bag Fellowship 5:30 PM

Study 6:00 PM *Missional Thinking* with Pastor Brent

Adult Choir 7:15 PM

### Thursday, November 17

Eldergarten— 12:00 *The 60's Music Revolution* by Chuck Sparnecht

### Sunday, November 20

Worship 10:00 AM—Thanksgiving Sunday

Fellowship 11:00 AM

Forum 11:30 David Labman - *Adoption*

Youth 11:30 AM—Lesson and Fellowship

### Monday, November 21

Library Team 9:30 AM

Council 6:00 PM

### Wednesday, November 23

Thanksgiving Eve— no programs

### Thursday, November 24

#### Happy Thanksgiving

142st Union Thanksgiving Interfaith

Service, Baptist Temple 11:00 AM

Office Closed - Thanksgiving Break

### Friday, November 25

Office Closed - Thanksgiving Break

### Sunday, November 27 - Advent 1

Worship 10:00 AM

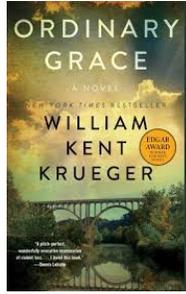
Fellowship 11:00 AM

Forum 11:30 AM *What is Hanging of the Greens?* with Pastor Brent

Youth 11:30 AM—Lesson and Fellowship

# BOOK CLUB

## Combined November/December Gathering



Because of the November and December holidays, the FBC Book Club will meet on Tuesday, December 13, at 11:30 AM at the church. The book for discussion will be *Ordinary Grace* by William Kent Krueger. In this novel, a middle-aged man reflects on his teenage experiences when during one summer many tragic events involve his family and community.

## MURDER MYSTERY

### A Youth Sponsored Event



### Murder Mystery Dinner

The Youth are sponsoring this fun, intergenerational social event which will be held on Friday, **November 4** beginning at 5:45 PM. Dinner will consist of pasta with sauce, plain and meat sauce on the side, salad, and garlic bread will be served as part of the event at 6:00 PM (allergy options will be provided). Characters will be assigned at the event. Please contact the church office if you would like to participate. This will be a fun interactive, inter-generational event. Childcare will be available. Please RSVP by Wednesday, November 2.

## ELDERGARTEN

### The 60's Revolution in Music

Eldergarten will meet on Thursday, November 17<sup>th</sup> at 12 noon for lunch. Bring a sandwich if you wish. The rest will be provided for \$1.00.

Chuck Sparnecht will present the program on "music of the 60's" Chuck always shares fascinating facts and this time even some music. Please sign up on the Vitality table if you can come so we can make the correct preparations.

Anyone age 55 or older is invited to attend. Come and make new friends and socialize. JoAnn Trolley 586-8545.

## JAZZ 'n JEANS

### CASUAL UPLIFTING SERVICE - SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 13

Sunday, November 13 will be the first Jazz and Jeans service for this season, so please mark your calendars and plan to dress casually (jeans are welcome.) Come early to fill your cup at the coffee bar, enjoy pre-service music by a great jazz combo, and be uplifted through song and word throughout the service!

We are blessed to be a church family who can regularly celebrate services of traditional worship and yet also enjoy a more casual setting once in a while. Let's utilize this special service on November 13 as an opportunity to invite friends, family, and neighbors to come check out our wonderful church community. The Music Committee will have invitation postcards available after worship for a couple of weeks leading up to the Jazz and Jeans date, so get your invite list ready!