

Clarence Presbyterian Church

Growing,
Serving,
Celebrating



Established 1817

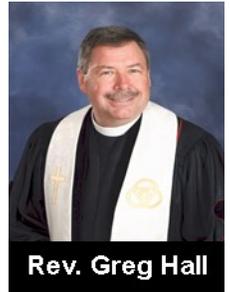
WINTER 2021-2022

December, January & February

Dear Friends,

We are about to enter our second Christmas season impacted by Covid. If you recall last year we did not worship in-person during the Advent Season. The only time we gathered in the Sanctuary was on Christmas Eve. We had very limited capacity and it was by reservation only. It felt very strange to be unable to sing Christmas Carols, hold a pageant or gather for fellowship.

This year we are **not** able to return to our full Christmas celebrations; however, we will enjoy a partial return to normal. We will be able to continue in-person worship throughout the season and continue live-streaming our 10 am worship service including all of our special events. The following plans have been made.



Rev. Greg Hall

- ✦ On Sunday, December 12 we will have a 10:00 am service only due to having special music. This will **not** be a music program as we have experienced in the past. However, Koto is planning for a couple of guest musicians to accompany the choir in a Choral Celebration of Christmas called "Come Rejoicing!"
- ✦ On Sunday, December 19 we will have a 10:00 am service only and our children will be leading this service. This will **not** be a full, wonderful Christmas Pageant as in the past as many children have not returned. Also, in order to reduce exposure to the virus we don't want to hold rehearsals. Our program will include carols, Scripture and our children dressing up to create tableaus of the Christmas Story. The children will have one rehearsal only on Saturday, December 18 at 10:00 am.
- ✦ Also, on Sunday, December 19 following the regular worship service we will hold our Advent service of Healing and Wholeness. We will gather in the sanctuary at 11:15 am for music, prayers and the laying on of hands.
- ✦ On Christmas Eve we will have our regular schedule of three services. At 5:30 pm the service will be designed for children. At 8:00 pm the service will be a traditional service of carols and candles. Our 11:00 pm service will follow a Celtic Communion liturgy. All three services will be live-streamed as well.
- ✦ For our special services on December 19 and all three Christmas Eve services we are changing a major Covid Protocol. **Because of the expected number of children and visitors we are asking everyone whether vaccinated or unvaccinated to mask while in the building.** This will make it much simpler for our ushers in giving directions and seating people. Thank you for your cooperation.

I realize we all would love to be able to enjoy the Christmas Season like we did in 2019, but we can remember one of the themes of Advent is patience. We learn to wait for the coming of new and better things. We can hope that next year we can return fully to all the traditions that we find meaningful.

Yours in Christ,

Rev. Greg Hall

Worship During Advent and Winter

During December we are following the Advent Devotional *“Come to Bethlehem and be Nourished”*. On Sundays we continue to explore the core stories of the Bible. On January 2 we will hold our annual White Gifts collection and receive an individual word to ponder for the New Year. On the Baptism of the Lord, January 9, we renew our own Baptism.

| | | |
|-------------|---|-----------|
| December 5 | <i>“Joseph Listens to His Dream”</i> Matthew 1:18-25 | Rev. Hall |
| December 12 | <i>“The Annunciation”</i> Luke 1 | Rev. Hall |
| December 19 | Christmas Pageant | Rev. Hall |
| December 24 | <i>“Shepherds and Angels”</i> Luke 2 | Rev. Hall |
| December 26 | <i>“The Presentation”</i> Luke 2:21-38 | Rev. Hall |
| January 2 | <i>“Star Words”</i> Matthew 2 | Rev. Hall |
| January 9 | <i>“Renewing Our Baptism”</i> Mark 1:1-11 | Rev. Hall |
| January 16 | <i>“The Call of Moses”</i> Exodus 1-3 | Rev. Hall |
| January 23 | <i>“The Liberation from Egypt”</i> Exodus 4-15 | Rev. Hall |
| January 30 | <i>“Provided for in the Wilderness”</i> Exodus 16-19 | Rev. Hall |
| February 6 | <i>“The Ten Commandments”</i> Exodus 20-24 | Rev. Hall |
| February 13 | <i>“David’s Anointing”</i> I Samuel 16 | Rev. Hall |
| February 20 | <i>“David and Goliath”</i> I Samuel 17 | Rev. Hall |
| February 27 | <i>“David and Jonathan”</i> I Samuel 18-20 | Rev. Hall |



5:30 pm—Family Christmas is an informal service designed for families and includes the lighting of candles.

8:00 pm—Christmas in the Cathedral is a traditional candlelight service; worship will contain scripture, carols, a Christmas message, and lighting of candles.

11:00 pm—Celtic Christmas is a less formal service in the Celtic tradition; it will include scripture, a Christmas message and the Lord’s Supper. The music for this service will include traditional Celtic music. Again the service will include the lighting of candles.

Growing, Serving, Celebrating During Advent & the New Year...

Come to Bethlehem and Be Nourished: Advent's Hunger Gives Way to Christmas Fulfillment

This devotional explores not only the comfort of Emmanuel, God with us, but the transforming power of God with us in community. Together we will be fed by Scripture. Together we will break open the life-giving words from Jesus, who was sent to us as the "Bread from Heaven." We will journey to Bethlehem, which in Hebrew means "House of Bread" and in Aramaic means "House of Meat." We will discover how the placing of our newborn Savior in an animal's feeding trough, because there was no bed available for him, was symbolic of how in him all our Advent hungers would indeed turn into Christmas joys — how he would and still does nourish us to do the work he had begun with his first infant cry to his last cry on the cross.



If you are entering this holy time weary and worried, you are not alone. Let us find hope again. [Read the devotional here or download.](#) There are also hard copies located in the Narthex.

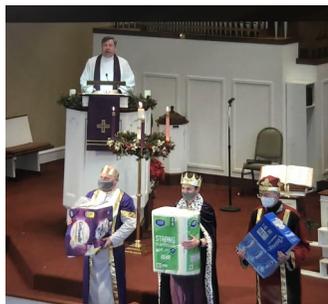


Service of Healing & Wholeness

Sunday, December 19 at 11:15 am—In this season of Advent we remember those for whom the holidays are not joyful. The service which is held in the sanctuary, is brief, offering prayer, music and the laying on of hands, and anointing for ourselves and on behalf of others – those who are ill, grieving, lonely. You are cordially encouraged to attend and to invite anyone who would welcome healing prayers.

Children's Christmas Tableaus

Sunday, December 19 at 10 am worship—Children from K—6th grade are invited to participate in the tableaus that will be presented at the 10 am worship service on Sunday, December 19. Our program will include carols, Scripture and our children dressing up to create tableaus—still images with their bodies—to represent scenes of the Christmas Story. The Children will have one rehearsal: Saturday, December 18 from 10 to 11 am. (*Remember—there will be no 8:30 am service on this day.*)



Epiphany Sunday/White Gift Celebration

January 2, 10:00 Service—It is our tradition to join the three kings in bringing gifts to Jesus. Remembering the need in our community and Jesus' care for the poor, we offer White Gifts to serve the Food Pantry which may be left in the Narthex in the white box. We especially welcome: Kleenex, toilet tissue, soap, paper towels, napkins and any monetary donation in a white envelope!

Special Celebration of Baptism Sunday, January 9 at Both Services—

This special service will celebrate the meaning of the Sacrament of Baptism and afford each person the opportunity to renew and reclaim their Baptism. Don't miss this special opportunity!



There will be a Meeting of the Congregation on Sunday, December 5, at 9:30 am (between services) for the purpose of electing new board members.

Growing, Serving, Celebrating On Sundays...

Preschoolers—During worship at the 10:00 am service, preschoolers, 3 & 4 years old are excused from the sanctuary following the children’s sermon. Their lessons are a variation of what the K-6th graders are studying. We are looking for more volunteers...let the office know if you can help! Note: there is no nursery care provided at this time.



Sue Zografos
Sunday School
Superintendent

K-6th Graders—We continue to follow our model of teaching the same lesson each Sunday for a month, but have adapted to a more scaled back approach due to Covid. Depending on our group size on any given Sunday, presentations may be in Tales from the Script (acting), David’s Palace Theatre (movie), Creation Station (art), or PC Oasis (computer). We have eliminated the kitchen as a venue due to Covid but have added the Upper Fellowship Hall to accommodate a larger class. [Click here to see our Heroes Alley](#)



During the 10:00 am worship service, children Pre-K—6th grade are excused from the sanctuary after the Children’s sermon at the beginning of the service. They go to their Sunday School classroom and remain in Sunday School until 10:45 am. The themes in winter are *Christmas through Mary’s Eyes* (December), *Jesus’ Baptism* (January), and *Call of the Disciples* (February). Pre-K children follow the same lessons but do not follow the rotation model. They continue to meet in the Lower Fellowship Hall. For more information about the Sunday School program, contact Sue Zografos (716-759-8396 / 716-438-0791/sue@clarencepresby.org).

Middle & High School Youth Program (7th-12th Graders)—We have a unique program for youth on Sundays. Each Sunday of the month has a separate agenda. On the second Sunday of the month, our youth help to lead worship by being an usher, greeter, lay reader or a musician under the music director’s guidance. Other Sundays of the month the youth leave 10 am worship following the children’s sermon. These classes may include a speaker who will share their life experience; sermon feedback time; or participation in a mission project. At this time we are meeting in the Upper Fellowship Hall with snacks provided. Our meetings conclude at 10:45 am.



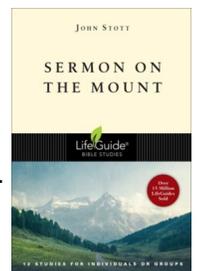
Melissa Bertrand
Youth Coordinator



Confirmation Class begins January 2022—Because we were unable to have a Confirmation class in 2021 this class is open to 9th and 10th graders who are ready to explore what it means to confirm for themselves the promises made at their baptism and to be commissioned to serve as full members of the congregation. The classes are led by Rev. Dr. Greg Hall and the Confirmands are accompanied through the year by a mentor of their choosing. It is our hope that the mentors will become trusted adults through the Confirmands’ teen years and beyond.

Confirmands meet for education and mission on 10 occasions between January 9 and their Confirmation in worship on June 5. For more information on 2022 Confirmation, please see Greg.

Sunday Morning Adult Education—8:30 am in the south end of the Lower Education Wing. Facilitated by class members, this group selects its own study material as they seek to learn more about their faith and themselves. The class is currently discussing [The Sermon on the Mount by John Stott](#). What does it mean to seek first the kingdom of God in life? According to John Stott, Jesus’ Sermon on the Mount describes what human life and human community look like when they come under the gracious rule of God—different! We welcome all who would like to join in the discussion. Contact Steve & Margie Dale (716-634-8077) for information.



Those who would like the Prayer Chain to pray for themselves or someone else may contact Barbara Schreiber (716-633-2184) or Marsha Brauer (716-741-2700) or email office@clarencepresby.org.

Growing, Serving, Celebrating Education & Mission Opportunities



Christmas Angel Project offers our church family the opportunity to give to someone who might not otherwise receive. Help put some *real* joy and meaning to the message of the Christian “Christ”mas by taking a numbered angel from the display table in the hall outside the sanctuary. Each angel represents an individual or family from our own Clarence Community Food Pantry and has some information about the person (age, sex, sizes, needs) and their assigned identification number. ***That number is the only link between you and that special person. It is very important that the number be attached securely to your wrapped gift(s)*** when you bring them to church on December 12. If you have any questions, please don’t hesitate to call or text Jim Owen @ 716-310-5447.

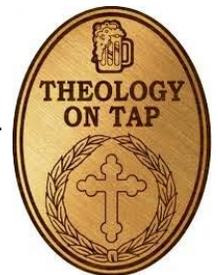
Fruit baskets will be filled for our Clarence Community Food Pantry families on Tuesday, December 14 at 10:00 am in the Upper Fellowship Hall. If you are free, please join us. It is a joyful time knowing we are easing the burdens of those less fortunate. We will be collecting baskets of all sizes and non perishable items such as tea, coffee, hot chocolate, candy, cookies, crackers and snacks in the weeks prior. A collection box is in the Narthex for your contributions. Monetary donations for the purchase of fruit are also welcome.



Our Knitting Ministry continues despite Covid. We have been meeting in the Lower Fellowship Hall on the 3rd Thursday of the month through the fall. We will not meet in December, but will restart on January 20, 2022. We have accumulated quite a few afghans, shawls and squares. On Sunday, December 5 at the 10 am service we will dedicate these items. Laurie Dentinger will then graciously wrap each item and deliver to Cornerstone Manor, a women and children’s shelter and/or Journeys’ End, a refuge resettlement organization. We thank Laurie for her kind and giving care in this endeavor.

We thank all of our very special knitters who give so much to this ministry and invite all interested knitters to be a part of this ministry. For information, patterns, or yarn please contact Rosemarie Adams (716-634-6365) or Laurie Dentinger (716-982-7800).

Theology on Tap, last Monday of the month, 6:30 pm—This is our men’s group formed to discuss theology and modeled on the *Inklings*. If you recall, C.S. Lewis and J.R.R. Tolkien and friends created a group called the Inklings that focused on the life of the mind in a Christian context, in a pub, with no women. We seek to follow this pattern by meeting on the last Monday of the month (**no December meeting**) at the Angry Buffalo, 2753 Wehrle Dr, Williamsville. If you want to join us for dinner we will meet at 6:30 pm; for discussion only come at 7 pm. An article for discussion will be available on the Narthex kiosk and linked in *Staying Connected* a couple of weeks prior to the meeting. Hope to see you there!



My Christmas Remembrance—Each year poinsettias fill our sanctuary during Advent. You have an opportunity to donate a Christmas Remembrance towards poinsettias or to the general gifts and memorials fund. If you wish to donate a poinsettia you may pick it up after the **11 pm Christmas Eve Service**. Just fill out the envelope to be found in the pew racks. You may also call (716-759-8396) or email the church and give the needed information: office@clarencypresby.org. The office needs the names of those being honored or remembered in the bulletin by **Sunday, December 12**. Dedications will appear in December 19 and December 24 bulletins. If you have questions regarding this program, please call Barbara Utter at 716-741-3208.

This year’s Christmas Offering as approved by Session will be used as follows: 50% to the Christmas Joy (PCUSA) offering and 50% to Clarence Presbyterian Church Mission Fund. If you pledged in 2021 there is a designated envelope in your box of envelopes or you can use a pew envelope, but note “Christmas Offering” and your name/number.



Growing, Serving, Celebrating Our Church Family



In past months we have welcomed new members:
Ken Burke, Melinda Knoell, Gene & Marilyn Koszarek,
Linda Snell, Sue Stenson and Chuck Tripi.

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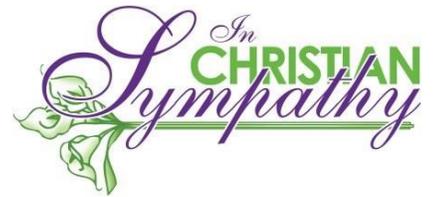
On Sunday, October 17 we celebrated our fifty year member—Janet Hodges
Thank you for your faithfulness to this congregation!

Thank You:

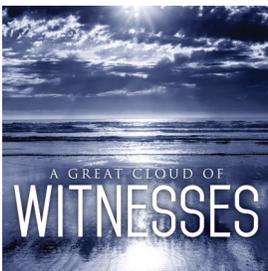
Dear Church Family, Please accept our sincere thanks for your prayers and messages in support of our family. I have been overwhelmed with the outpouring of love from friends, family, students, fellow musicians and the CPC family. We are blessed to be part of this church. Mike truly loved being part of such a wonderful organization. He especially loved helping out in the kitchen and of course the wonderful music program. I look forward to getting back to in person worship soon. Best wishes to you all. Sylvia Nascimben

We extend our deepest sympathy:

- ◆ To Priscilla Tripi and family on the loss of husband, Chuck Tripi on August 27, 2021. Condolences may be addressed to Priscilla at 5251 Crittenden Road, Akron, NY 14001.
- ◆ To Sylvia Nascimben on the loss of husband, Mike Nascimben on September 2, 2021. Condolences may be addressed to Sylvia at 14130 Rosemary Lane, #5107, Largo, FL 33774.
- ◆ To the family of Sally Moehlau who died on September 12, 2021. Condolences may be addressed to the family c/o Curt Moehlau, 5658 Francesca Lane, Shelby TWP, MI 48316.
- ◆ To Rick and Judith Bryan, on the loss of mother/mother-in-law, Anne Fiery Bryan on October 8, 2021. Condolences may be addressed to Rick and Judith at 40 Windrush Drive, Moreland Hills, OH 44022-6841.
- ◆ To Sandy Hill, on the loss of her mother, Henrietta Hill on November 5, 2021. Condolences may be addressed to Sandy at 23 Odessa Drive, East Amherst, NY 14051.



All Saints Sunday, November 7, 2021—Those we remembered:



- | | | | |
|-------------------|-------------------|----------------|-----------------|
| Helen McIntosh | Gretchen Crego | Patricia Bernd | Kevin McNamara |
| Virginia Hill | Bob Mitscher | Floyd Nawrot | Donna Dentinger |
| Don Adams | Marge Parks | Louise Dann | Joan MacDonald |
| Evelyn Van Voorst | John Knerr | David Hill | Alice Mason |
| Wende Janas | Barbara Gustafson | Charles Tripi | Mike Nascimben |
| Sally Moehlau | | | |



Spring Newsletter deadline is Sunday, February 13.
This newsletter will cover March, April and May.



Find weather closing on local channels, social media and our website.

Dash's Receipts
Thanks to everyone who gives us their tapes and please keep them coming!

What We've Been Up To...



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