

The Messenger

Palmyra Reformed Church Newsletter

December 2017 and January 2018



SUNDAY MORNINGS

- 10:00 a.m. - Morning Worship
- 10:00 a.m. - Nursery
- 11:00 a.m. - Coffee & Goodies
- 11:30 a.m. - Sunday School

Phone:

315-597-4341

Webpage:

www.palmyrareformedchurch.org

Email Address:

palmyrareformedchurch236@gmail.com

ALL ARE WELCOME!!



Palmyra Reformed Church

236 Canandaigua St.

Palmyra, NY 14522-0323





A Word from Rev. Will:

Advent

Advent is a time for **prayer**. A quick glance through the Gospels will find God's people responding in **prayer** as they awaited their Messiah. Zechariah is found at **prayer** in the temple. Mary's song of praise, the "Magnificat," is a **prayer** of gratitude. Shepherds glorify God in songs of **prayer** and old Simeon **prays** while holding the infant Jesus in his arms. **Prayer** is the natural response to the Child's coming.

Unfortunately, prayer in these days before Christmas can be seen as merely another obligation among many in an already over-scheduled season. Prayer is meant to center us in a time when we can easily be thrown off balance by demands and expectations.

This Advent offers yourself (and your family) the gift of prayer as Christmas Day draws ever near. Set time aside to light candles on an Advent wreath before reading verses from the Old and New Testaments. Then, pray briefly and reflect on the themes. Over the course of the Advent days the themes of "**watching,**" "**hoping,**" "**joy**" and "**wonder**" will infuse your Advent with the presence of your coming Lord. God bless you as you pray your way to Christmas!

"For Us"

"For a child has been born for us, a son given to us." Isaiah 9:6

Lord Jesus, it is not enough for us to remember in these days of Advent that once you were born. You were born for us.

It is not enough to retell the old stories of Mary, Joseph, shepherds and wise men.

The whole story, start to finish, was for us.

It would not be enough in a week or so to look back at these days and grade this Christmas alongside of all the others, as just another holiday. This was a holiday that exists because God loved us so much he gave a Son...for us. When you unwrap gifts this Christmastime, please be reminded of the gift given of us? Thank you, Lord. Amen



Amen!

Pastor Will

Palmyra Reformed Church¹



Accessible to Persons with Disabilities

COMMITTEE MEETINGS:

Consistory	First Wed. of the mo.
Women's Mission Ministry	First Mon. of the mo.
Prayer Meeting	Last Wed. of the mo.
Christian Education	Second Sun. of mo.
Youth Group	

CHURCH DIRECTORY:

CONSISTORY AND COMMITTEES:

Rev. Willard Barham	President	585-319-8729
Chris Bucknam	Vice President.	315-597-5668
	Sacraments Co.	
Jack Thompson	Building & Grounds Co.	315-597-9394
	Education Co.	
Gary Wood	Treasurer	315-521-6212
	Finance Co.	
	Sacraments Co.	
	Music Co.	
David Ondra	Pulpit Supply Co.	585-831-1941
	Music Co.	
	Building Superintendent	
Dave Fanelli	Clerk	585-545-0908
	Finance Co.	
	Head Usher	
	Building & Grounds Co.	
Scott Thompson	Building & Grounds Co.	585-944-9177
	Building Superintendent	

SUNDAY SCHOOL OFFICERS:

Superintendent	Lisa Premyslovsky	315-597-4877
Ass't Super.	Jack Thompson	315-597-9394
Treasurer	Gary Wood	315-521-6212

¹Reformed Church in America

OUR CHURCH FAMILY

FOR PRAYER SUPPORT

- Call Rev. Barham at 585-319-8729
- Leave a message on the phone at church 315-597-4341
- Fill out a Prayer Request Form (found in the tract rack)
- To have the Prayer Chain started, call Carol Fanelli at 716-512-0589

Prayers Are Asked For:

- ♥ **Elsie VanGee**
- ♥ **Larry Murphy**
- ♥ **Chuck Lehman**
- ♥ **Charlie Meck**
- ♥ **Elaine Bushart**
- ♥ **Cheryl Opdyke**
- ♥ **Lisa Eldridge** (Cody Majewski's girlfriend's Mother)
- ♥ **Kailee** (Anita Manuel's granddaughter)
- ♥ Those of our church family facing personal challenges
- ♥ PRC members in assisted living facilities
 - **Lillian Barham** (Hill Haven, Webster)
 - **Jean Craft** (Wayne County Adult Home)
 - **Clara DeNearing** (Wayne County Home)
 - **Ann Milliman** (Wayne County Adult Home)
 - **Ruth Moore** (Wayne County Adult Home)
 - **Phil Proeto**
- ♥ The family of the Palmyra Reformed Church
- ♥ All victims of recent senseless terrorist attacks
- ♥ Those in the military and our veterans
- ♥ Our national government and local officials
- ♥ Those persecuted for their faith
- ♥ Our Missionaries



If you got this newsletter by US mail and would like to save the church the postage cost, please consider receiving it by email instead. Call Carol Fanelli at 315-926-0305 to be switched over.

INSIDE:

...Our Church Family News
...Thank You's
...Announcements
...Helping Hands
...Calendar
...Children's Page
...The Funny Bone

Update:

- **Elsie VanGee** is home. She has had testing which proved negative. That is good but now she needs to find out what is making her ill.
- **Chuck Lehman** fell and had hip surgery. He is home recuperating
- **Larry Murphy** (Mysty's son) has a couple of more same-day surgeries scheduled.
- **Elaine Bushart** – neck and arm are improving slowly.
- **From Anita** (Rochester Classis secretary) on her granddaughter who is battling cancer:
"Kailee turned 6 and started first grade. She just learned that she will have three more rounds of treatment, so another 9+ weeks. She goes in today for platelets - she has had about 30 transfusions of platelets

and blood since the end of January. She is a trooper - loves riding the bus to school."

Address Changes:

- **John Marsille** has moved, his new address - it is 3503 Canandaigua Road, Apt 310, Macedon, NY 14502.
- **Jacob Bucknam's** address needs to be corrected: it should be A1C Bucknam Jacob L, P.O. Box 1877, Holloman AFB, NM 88330. I had the zip code wrong.
- **Charlie Meck** has moved into the apartment house at Parkwood Manor.

Please change your address directory for these friends.

Congratulations:

- Our sincere congratulations to **Lisa Bucknam Mariconti and David Ondra** who were joined in wedlock October 14. May God bless and keep you as you begin your life together. We pray you had a marvelous honeymoon in Mexico.
- Congratulations to **Joyce Bucknam** who has completed her studies and passed the Accredited ARH Professional (AAP) exam. A lot of hard work and studying. Congrats!
- **Dr. Bob Ike** – "The New York State Council of School Superintendents has announced Dr. Bob Ike of the Pal-Mac Central School District has been named the "2018 New York State School Superintendent of the Year". Dr. Ike assumed this current position August 2007.
- **Emily Pulcini and Hana Premyslovsky** were selected for lead roles in the Jr. High Musical – Shrek which was held Nov. 17 & 18. What a great performance – awesome girls!

Grieving

- Our sincere sympathy to the family of **James Thompson**. He is the brother to Heidi Swartele and Judy O'Daniel. Please keep these families in your prayers.
- **Petr Premyslovsky's mother, Miloslava Premyslovsky** passed away. Lord, please give Petr and his family your loving comfort.
- **Carol Wandersee's** neighbor, **Harry Dangle** passed away. Please keep his wife, **Myrna**, and family in your prayers.

Lord give all of them comfort and a sense of your presence.

Happy Birthday (Please contact Carol Fanelli for corrections or additions)

Dec. 2 Doug Bushart
6 Lonnie Hohenboken

9 Rev. Willard Barham
13 Lenny Main
19 Bob Ike
20 Dave Ondra
20 Brandon Jones
20 Dee Plumley
21 Misty Wadsworth
30 Greg Wood
31 Steve Marsille
2018
Jan. 5 Jack Thompson
5 Brenda Lehman
11 Kaylie (Thompson) Cauthen
12 Emily Ondra
14 Hunter Thompson
22 Collin Clark
24 Cal Bucknam
29 Donovan O'Daniel
29 Logan Dayton
31 Tina Haak

Happy Anniversary

Dec. 9 Dave & Carol Fanelli
Jan. 2, 2018 Cal & Joan Bucknam



THANK YOU

When you look at your bulletin on Sunday morning this is what it takes to get it to you. A lot of volunteers put a lot of energy into this informational guide for YOU.

1. Pastor selects bible text and topic he intends to bring to the congregation
2. He then relays this via e-mail to the secretary who adds her weekly information and activities for all to read and understand
3. She then emails that to this week's organist for selection of music appropriate to chosen scripture.
4. Then it is re e-mailed to secretary for music insertion
5. Next it goes to our printer, Dave Ondra, who adds a beautiful cover picture and maybe scripture verse and runs off the necessary number needed of the regular bulletin; "large print bulletins"; and Children's Bulletin (of which there are 2 sets for 2 age levels)
6. The final step is folding of all of these bulletins for use by greeter

WOW, quite a bit is involved isn't there, and we all take this for granted. This is just one job that is done by many hands.

Another thank you to **Calvin Bucknam** for his writing talent and his willingness to share it.

There are a number of people to thank for the **Youth Group apple picking day**. **Chastity & Scott Thompson and Lisa & Petr Premyslovsky**, I believe, were chaperones. They even picked apples to make applesauce for the Chicken-n-Biscuit dinner. They had a great time.

Chicken-N-Biscuit Dinner

- Thank you to **the children** and **Scott & Chastity Thompson** for making the applesauce – we had rave reviews at the dinner about our applesauce. They loved it!
- There are quite a number of people to thank for their help at the dinner. **You ALL are so appreciated.**
- Approximately \$739 is now available for the mission fields.

We could not raise money for mission programs without **YOU! THANK YOU!**

UNICEF

Thank you so much to **the children** and those who went Trick or Treating for UNICEF. Note from Lisa: “It went really well! Despite the rainy weather – I think that it has rained for the past 3 years now – it’s kind of become a tradition!! The children all had great attitudes about helping others and collected about \$150. We came back to the Church where Emily Ondra had snacks ready for them and we all enjoyed some yummy **HOT CHOCOLATE** with whipped cream!!”

Thank you also to those who donated to UNICEF.

Operation Christmas Child - Thank you to those who brought in items; helped wrap boxes; filled boxes; and/or brought in filled shoeboxes. We sent 42 boxes to Operation Christmas Child.

Thank you also to **Carol Wandersee** for delivering the boxes to East Rochester – the drop of point.

Thank you to **Kristen Jones and Carol Wandersee** for decorating the choir loft.

Our thanks to the following for making lasagna for Congregational Meeting: **Audrey Hohenboken, Chastity Thompson, Elma Fox, Carol Wandersee, Roberta Main, Candy Barham and Lisa Premyslovsky.**

Thank you to **Marcia Marsille** for getting the Nursery curriculum for the Christian Education Committee (Candy Barham).

Cookie Baking Day was awesome. What fun! We needed a bigger kitchen. We had chocolate chip, cut out, sugar drop, peanut butter blossoms, and probably some cookies that I didn’t see. We had both ovens going and cookie sheets covering the racks. As fast as one came out one went in. **THANK YOU TO ALL WHO PROVIDED AND HELPED.**

Thank you to **Chastity Thompson and Lisa Premyslovsky** for arranging the Cookie Bake. It was so much fun – and tasty. These cookies will be used to fill the cookies boxes being handed out at the Christmas Party.

Thank you to our readers for the weeks of Advent: **Emily Ondra, Janet Bushart, Lonnie Hohenboken and Steve Marsille.** Thank you for giving of yourself.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Reformation Sunday was Oct. 29 – 500th anniversary of Martin Luther’s 95 Theses

The year 2017 marks 500 years since Martin Luther published his 95 complaints and launched the Protestant Reformation, a momentous religious revolution whose consequences we still live with today. The Reformation divided the Western church and transformed millions of people’s understanding of their relationship with God.



ADVENT

Advent – The Reason for the Season . . . Christian people are beginning to rediscover the meaning and power of Advent. No longer captivated by the countdown of “20, 19, 18 shopping days until Christmas,” we are beginning to see what a rich experience Advent can be when separated from the mad rush to buy, buy, buy. Advent is loaded with opportunities to prepare ourselves for the genuine joy our celebration of Christmas is meant to bring.

Advent is a time to slow down and practice the art of waiting patiently. Advent is a time to relish looking forward, a time to reinvigorate the spirit, to recall the reason why we celebrate.

The results of the **Congregational Meeting:**

- The budget for 2017-2018 was accepted
- Dave Fanelli was re-elected as Deacon for 2 years
- Gary Wood was re-elected as Elder for 2 years

Membership Classes – There is still time to sign up for the Communicants classes. The study will be during Sunday School time with Rev. Will and will start after Christmas. The “Sign-Up Sheet” is in the sanctuary.

Sunday School has started for ALL ages. When we do not have a special event, S.S. will start promptly at 11:30 for children and adults.

- The children will gather in the “Meeting Room” for class.
- The adult class will meet in the Comfy Room, bring your coffee with you.

Communion Sunday - Dec. 3

- Rev. Will and the Elders are available to serve communion to those unable to receive it at church. If you wish, call Rev. Will or an elder.
- Gluten-free bread is available for those with special needs

Mission of the Month -

- **Dec. 3 - The Gift of Hope**
 - A special offering will be taken during the Offertory.
 - RCA has partnered with CEPAD (the Council of Protestant Churches of Nicaragua): through this program the families learn new farming principles.
 - **Missionary Program** during Sunday School time, presented by Lisa Premyslovsky. Thank you, Lisa!
- **Jan. 7 - TBD**
 - A special offering will be taken

Christmas Caroling – If you like to sing Christmas Carols, come join us for caroling on Dec. 15. It is a great way to share our faith in the neighborhood.

Dec. 17 - Christmas Luncheon and Children’s Program.

We will have lunch immediately after the morning service. Chicken-N-Biscuit will be the main dish. Please bring:

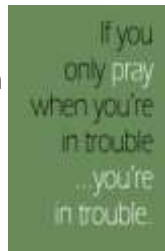
- Your table service
- A food item to go with the chicken
- Each family will get a box of Christmas Cookies
- Each person gets an oranges and candy cane
- Children are asked to go downstairs after the Program to get their presents
- Come watch the children perform “The Story”



The **Pal-Mac-Farmington Food Pantry is in desperate need of cereal, bread and milk.** For the next two weeks, please bring in cereal and bread – let’s see how many grocery bags we fill.

Children use cereal for breakfast, lunch and dinner.

Bible Study/Prayer Meetings will be December 27 and January 31. It is open to all! *“Prayer –the world’s greatest wireless connection”*



The following items are saved for area organizations. The **containers are in the kitchen** on top of the recycling shelves.

- Food Pantry donations, including plastic grocery bags for the Food Pantry
- Used stamps - Alliance Stamp Ministry
- Used greeting cards – VA Hospital
- Campbell Food labels – local school
- General Mills box tops for education – schools
- Pull top tabs from beverage cans – for dialysis
- Unused greeting cards given to Candy Barham
- Books & recent magazines can be brought to the Newark Hospital

December is Poinsettia Memorial Month

- During Poinsettia Month, bring in a poinsettia in memory of a loved one or in honor of a loved one. You may have it delivered or bring it in yourself.
- Tell Carol Fanelli so you can be added to our Memorial List.

Women’s Ministry - All ladies are invited to come and enjoy caring and sharing.

- **Dec. 4** - Please bring a Christmas story, poem or experience to share and 2 dozen cookies. We will be doing a cookie exchange.
- **Jan. 8** – Our new activities for 2018 will be discussed. Carol will have refreshments.

Consistory Meetings are at 7:00 pm Dec. 6 and Jan. 3 – the meetings are open to all.

Chili Cook Off – tentatively Jan. 21, 2018

– The New Year –

Dear Master, for this coming year, just one request I bring,

I do not pray for happiness or any earthly thing;
I do not ask to understand the way Thou leadest me;
But this I ask – Teach me to do the thing that pleaseth Thee.

I want to know Thy guiding voice, to walk with Thee each day.

Dear Master, make me swift to hear and ready to obey;
And thus, the year I now begin a happy year will be.
If I am seeking just to do the thing that pleaseth Thee.

HELPING HANDS

Greeter(s):

Dec. 3 Doug & Janet Bushart
 Dec. 10 Gordon & Elaine Bushart
 Dec. 17 Dave & Carol Fanelli
 Dec. 24 Chuck & Sandy Lehman
 Jan. 7, 2018 Steve Marsille
 Jan. 14 Karl & Carrie Nies
 Jan. 21 Dave Ondra
 Jan. 28 Premyslovsky Family

Dec. 10 David Premyslovsky
 Dec. 17 Jack Thompson, Lisa Premyslovsky
 Dec. 17 Deb Thompson, Karl Nies & Kaylie Thompson
 Dec. 24 Carrie Nies, Hana Premyslovsky
 Dec. 31 Candy Barham, Carol Fanelli & Thomas Premyslovsky

Jan. 7, 2018 Scott & Chastity Thompson
 Jan. 14 Jack Thompson, Lisa Premyslovsky & Kaylie Thompson
 Jan. 21 Deb Thompson, Karl Nies & Thomas Premyslovsky
 Jan. 28 Carrie Nies, Hana & David Premyslovsky

Flowers:

(Please tell Carol if you are providing a poinsettia so your name can be added to the Memorial List.)

Dec. 3 Poinsettia Memorial Month
 Dec. 10
 Dec. 17
 Dec. 24 Christmas Sunday
 Dec. 31
 Jan. 7, 2018 Poinsettias
 Jan. 14 Lenny & Roberta Main loving memory of John & Kate Blankenberg
 Jan. 21 Carol Wandersee in loving memory of deceased church members
 Jan. 28 Cornie VanderWerf in loving memory of Bonnie VanderWerf



Refreshments:

Dec. 3 Linda VanderMere
 Dec. 10 Candy Barham
 Dec. 17 Joan Bucknam
 Dec. 24 Tina Haak
 Dec. 31 Joyce Bucknam
 Jan. 7, 2018 Janet Bushart
 Jan. 14 Carol Fanelli
 Jan. 21 Sandy Lehman
 Jan. 28 Roberta Main

Nursery:

Dec. 3 Scott & Chastity Thompson &



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

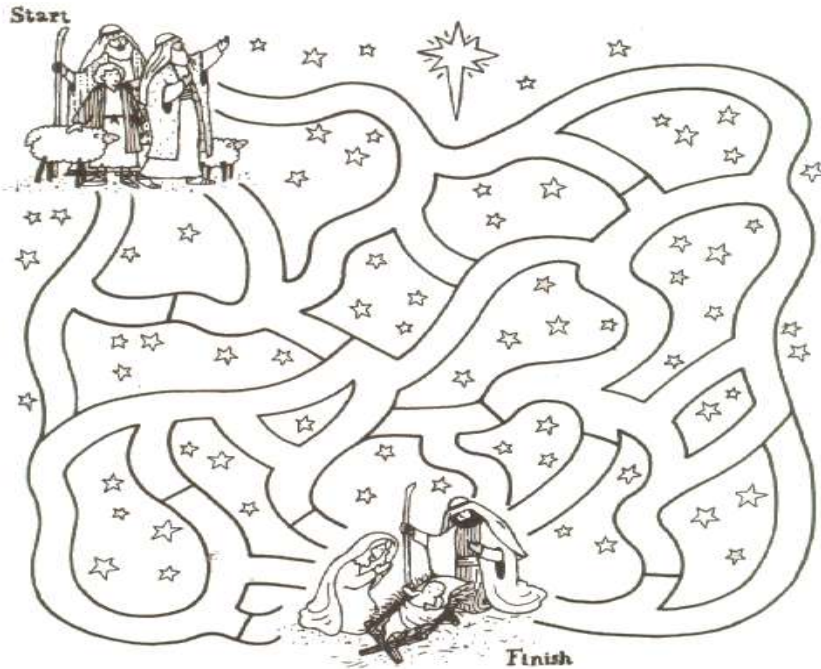
Dec. 3 **Advent Begins**
 3 **Communion Sunday**
 3 **Missionary Sunday**, Special offering will be taken
 3 **Mission of the Month program**
 4 **Women's Ministry 4:00p.m.**
 6 **Consistory 7:30 pm**
 10 **Sunday School meeting 11:45**
 11 **4H meeting at church**
 17 **Christmas Luncheon and Children's Program**
 25 **HAPPY BIRTHDAY JESUS**
 27 **Bible Study/Prayer Meeting 7:00pm**
 31 **New Year's Eve**



Jan 1 **Our Lord's New Year begins**
 3 **Consistory 7:30pm**
 7 **Missionary Sunday**, Special offering will be taken
 7 **Mission of the Month program**
 8 **Women's Ministry 4:00p.m.**
 8 **4H meeting at church**
 14 **Sunday School meeting 11:45**
 21 **"Tentative" Chili Cook-Off**
 22 **4H meeting at church**
 29 **Food Pantry supervision**
 31 **Bible Study/Prayer Meeting**
 31 **Food Pantry supervision**

Children's Page

Help the shepherds find the path to Jesus.



WHAT'S IN A CANDY CANE?



The Funny Bone

The light turned yellow, just in front of him. He did the right thing and stopped at the crosswalk, even though he could have beaten the red light by accelerating through the intersection. The tailgating woman behind him was furious and honked her horn, screaming in frustration, as she missed her chance to get through the intersection. As she was still in mid-rant, she heard a tap on her window and looked up into the face of a very serious police officer. The officer ordered her to exit her car with her hands up. He took her to the police station where she was search, fingerprinted, photographed and placed in a holding cell.

After a couple of hours, a policeman approached the cell and opened the door... She was escorted back to the booking desk where the arresting officer was waiting with her personal effects.

He said "I'm very sorry for this mistake. You see, I pulled up behind your car while you were blowing your horn, giving the guy in front of you the finger and cursing at him. I noticed the 'What Would Jesus Do' bumper sticker, the 'Choose Life' license plate holder, the 'Follow Me to Sunday School' bumper sticker, and the chrome-plated Christian fish emblem on the trunk, so naturally I assumed you had stolen the car.