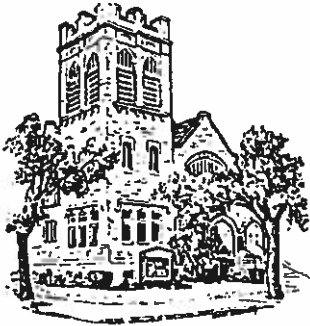
 **FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**
301 NORTH JEFFERSON STREET
KITTANNING PA 16201
CHURCH OFFICE: 724-548-4312

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Monthly Messenger



DECEMBER 2018

**JANUARY
NEWSLETTER
DEADLINE,
TUESDAY,
DECEMBER 11, 2018**



CHURCH STAFF
SENIOR PASTOR: Deb Kociban
ASSOCIATE PASTOR: Brenda Sommerville-Schall
CHURCH SECRETARY: Audrey Green
PIANIST: Emily King
SEXTON: Valerie Kachur
CHILDREN'S CHOIR DIRECTOR: Brenda Beers
NURSERY ATTENDANT: Linda Powell
MESSENGER VOLUNTEERS:
Carolyn Gallaher, Sally Krozely
June Pollard, Linda Scaife, Carol Wolfe,
Kathy Coleman

WORSHIP: 11:00 AM

CHURCH OFFICE: 724-548-4312

PARSONAGE: 724-543-4808

E-MAIL: fumchurch@windstream.net

WEB SITE: www.firstchurchkittanning.com

FAX: 724-548-5157

RAINBOW ROAD: 724-548-7569



CHURCH OFFICE HOURS: Monday-Thursday 8:00-4:00 PM

FROM THE PASTOR



For to us a child is born, to 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



Dear Brothers and Sisters,

At this time of year, I find myself crying over the simplest of things—a TV commercial, a card, a song. Christmas brings out the tender side of us all and we are drawn to nostalgia about Christmases past. As I age, I remember the Christmases of my childhood that now seem as if they were perfect in every way. I remember my first two-wheeled bike under the tree, red with red and white streamers! I remember my Dad as he went from neighbor to neighbor's house dressed as Santa with a big red sack delivering a toy for each of my friends. I remember watching in stunned silence as my mother cried when my Dad presented her with the silverware she had wanted for so long. Yes, Christmas is filled with sentiment for us all.

But that first Christmas was anything but sentimental. That first Christmas was filled with confusion for the new parents of Jesus. That first Christmas was filled with anxious dreams of the Wise Men. That first Christmas was filled with the strange song coming from the heavenly host to a bunch of ragtag shepherds.

In the midst of all that, God came to us in the form of a helpless baby, fulfilling ancient prophecies of hope and promise and salvation for all of Israel. On the night of Jesus' birth no one would realize that. They only knew that something wonderful had just occurred and somehow, in some way, the world would never be the same.

I will cry at commercials all through the season, but I will remember and celebrate the fact that Jesus came that night not for a sentimental winter holiday. Jesus came on a rescue mission to save us for everlasting life. May he always be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

Merry Christmas,
Pastor Deb



DECEMBER WORSHIP

Lectionary Readings



Oh Holy Night

December 2, 2018
11:00 AM, Communion,
First Sunday of Advent
Isaiah 64:1-3, Luke 1:5-80

December 9, 2018
11:00 AM, 2nd Sunday of Advent
Matthew 1:18-25

December 30, 2018, 11:00 AM, 1 Samuel 2:18-20, Psalm 148, Colossians 3:12-17, Luke 2:41-52

December 16, 2018
11:00 AM, 3rd Sunday of Advent
Luke 1:26-38

December 23, 2018
11:00 AM, 4th Sunday of Advent
Luke 2:1-7

WELCOME CENTER

2 Sarah Heckert
9 Melissa Flanders
16 Karen Scaife
23 Beverly Patton
30 Mary Jo Lipski



READERS

2 Mert Hellein
9 Sarah Heckert
16
23 Larry McKelvey
30



USHERS

2 Oxford/Mark Ferguson & Communion
9 Oxford/Mark Ferguson
16 Albright/Dan Wolfe
23 Albright/Dan Wolfe
30 Asbury/Mary Jo Lipski



SOUND SYSTEM

2 Bill Lemons
9 Gabe Smith
16 Tim Scaife
23 John Wolfe
30 Dave Yanoschick



COUNTERS

2 Coleman/Gallaher
9 Yankasky
16 Ternent
23 Yankasky
30 McKelvey



ACOLYTE

2 Joey Kachur
9 Hallie Hoffman
16 Isaac Zielinski
23 Emily Corbin
30 Dane Dimond



BELL RINGERS

2 Ashley Yankasky
9 Madelyn Smith
16 Evva Yanoschick
23 Dane Dimond
30 Max Dimond



CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE Monday, December 24th at 7:00 PM



On December 30th, Pastor Brenda and Pastor Deb will be exchanging pulpits. Pastor Deb will be preaching at Manerville and Ford Memorial while Pastor Brenda will be preaching at Union Avenue and First.

NEW CHARGE NEWSLETTER

The first ARC Link, the new all charge newsletter will be going out in February. **The deadline for submissions will be January 21st.** Please submit worship Opportunities, events, shared ministry opportunities, fund-raisers and anything That is open to all the churches to Audrey at furchurch@windstream.net or by phone 724-548-4312. **Please note that because of the expected volume of information for the 4 churches the submission deadline is firm.**





The November 9 turkey dinner provided \$1020 for the general fund and \$180 for Covenant Center Improvement. Thank you to all who contributed to turkeys, pies, potatoes, stuffing and gravy as well as all who baked pies and worked at the dinner.

DECEMBER MISSIONS FOCUS



Our church family will be “Gifting” lots of love this Christmas! Our missions will have a two-fold focus:

1. A “Warm Up Tree” will be at the back of the sanctuary, holding lots of **Mittens, Gloves, Socks & Hats**. We will collect **all sizes from babies to adults**. Whatever “warm” items we have at the end of church on December 9th, will be “gifted” to persons in need through Community Action. (Their delivery date is December 14th). Then whatever “warm” items are collected December 16-30th will be “gifted” to persons in need through Salvation Army. **Remember think Warmth & Love: Mittens, Gloves, Socks & Hats!**



2. “Christmas Cards For Heroes”

Our church family will **sign Christmas cards to our own Greg Lemons and 9 of his military colleagues**. Greg, son of Bill & Laurie Lemons is a 1st Lieutenant Intelligence officer in the US Air Force. He is currently stationed at Creech Air Force base in Nevada This signing will be on **Friday, December 7th**, following the Christmas Concert, at the cookie fellowship in the Library.



Come, listen to this lovely music and join in fellowship as we enjoy cookies & sign Christmas greetings.

ATTENTION ALL WRITERS

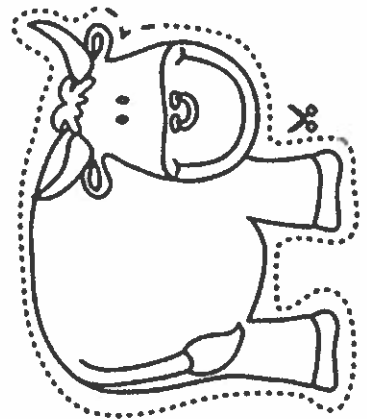
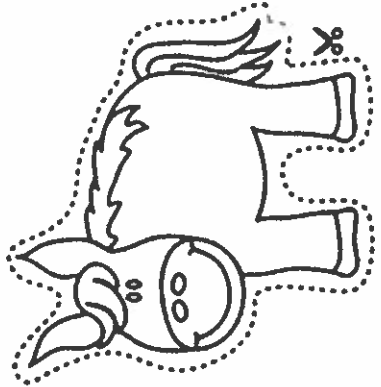
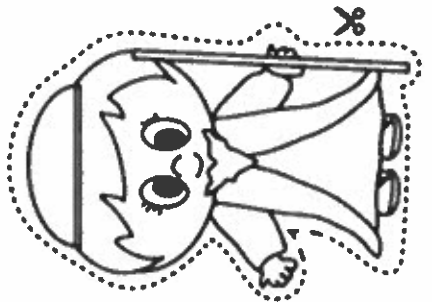
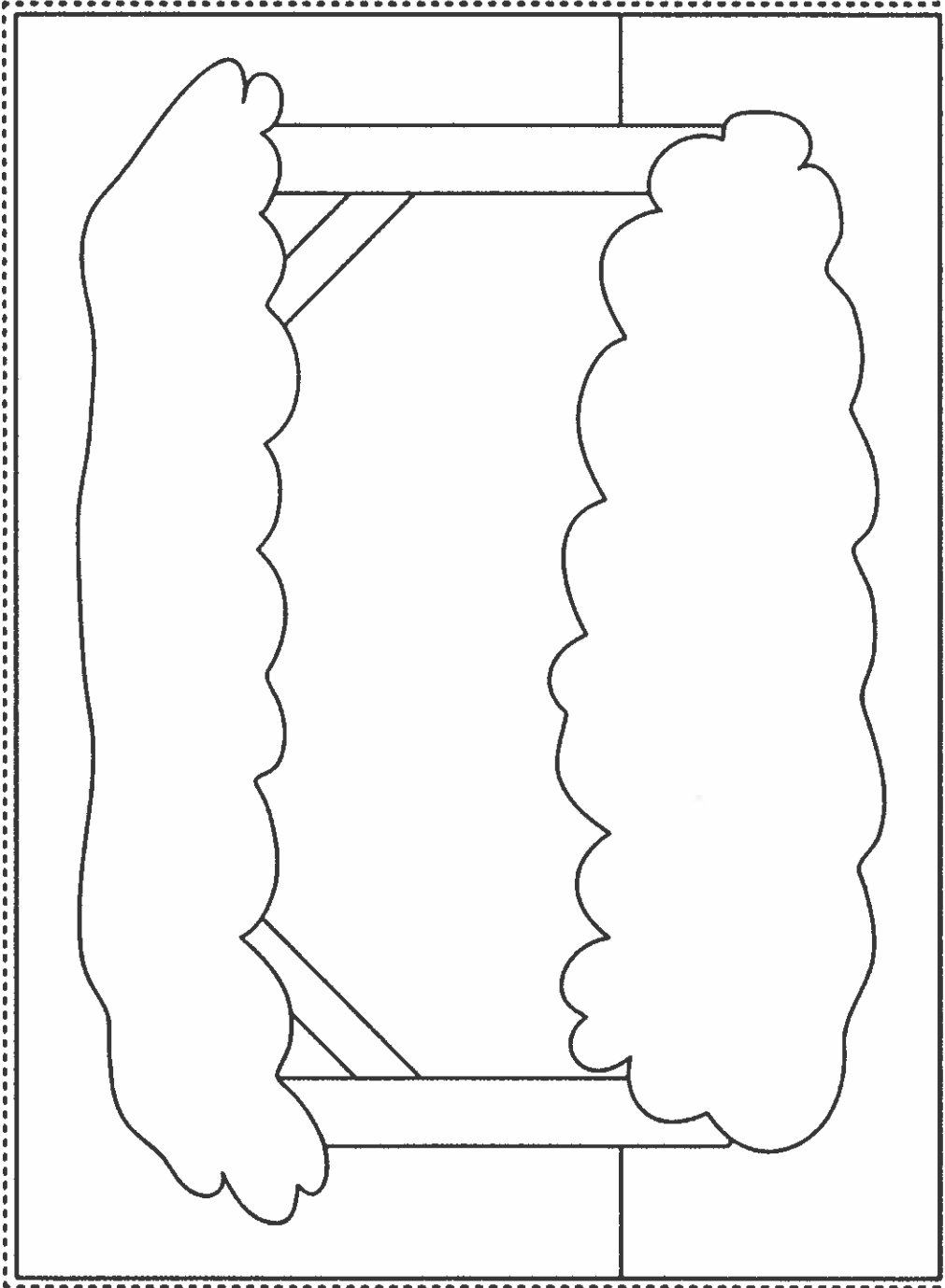
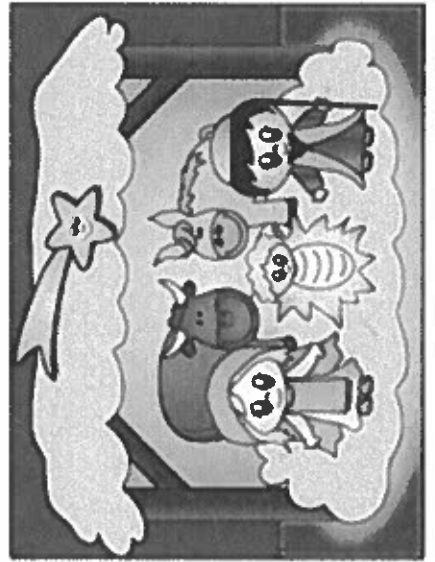
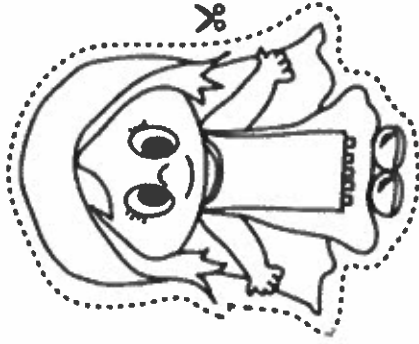
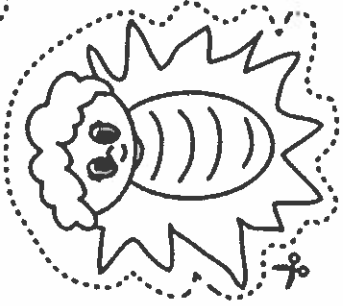
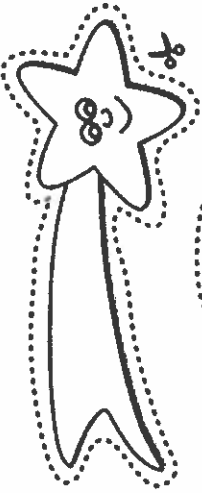
Even though we are just moving into Advent, it is time once again to begin to think about our next Lenten Devotional! We need 40 plus devotionals for our 11th addition of this inspirational daily guide for Lent, 2019. Let God lead you as you say “YES” to contributing to this worthwhile ministry. All devotionals need to be received in the church office no later than February 11th. You can mail, hand deliver or email your devotional. Any questions, contact Sarah Heckert 724-543-1083 or joeheckert@yahoo.com. God Bless



Christmas without Christ is just a mess.



CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PLAY PRACTICE BEGINS SUNDAY, DECEMBER 2ND DURING WORSHIP ALL CHILDREN INVITED



Christmas



Christ

Child

Baby

Born

Wisemen

Shepherds

Angels

Sing

Hallelujah

Savior

King

Prince

Peace

Love

Joy

Manger

Hay

Swaddling

Mary

Joseph

OPPORTUNITIES AT OTHER CHARGE CHURCHES



FORD MEMORIAL UMC~ Soup & Sandwich dinner, **every Thursday** from 4:00-6:00 PM. Free, donations accepted. Food Bank and Care & Share Shop 2nd and **last Tuesday** of month from 10:00-1:30 PM.



MANORVILLE UMC~ **Wednesday, December 12th**—Casual Church at Manorville UMC-- 6:00 PM. Enjoy some hearty homemade soups and holiday desserts. Play some holiday games, then enjoy the beautiful vocals of Bob Croyle and Layla. If you're not in the Christmas spirit by then, this should do it.



UNION AVENUE UMC~ United Methodist Women, 1st Monday of the month except for months with a holiday falling on Monday and during the summer. The meetings are held at the Kittanning Cottages Community Room at 4:00 PM. Our next meeting will be **December 3, 2018**. Please come join us!

COMMUNITY ADVENT SUPPERS

The Ford City Ministerium is planning to hold their Community Advent Suppers again this December 3, 10 & 17th at 6:00 PM at the Ford Memorial United Methodist Church in Ford City. There will be a covered dish meal followed by a brief devotional message. All are welcome to attend. Call 724-763-1540.



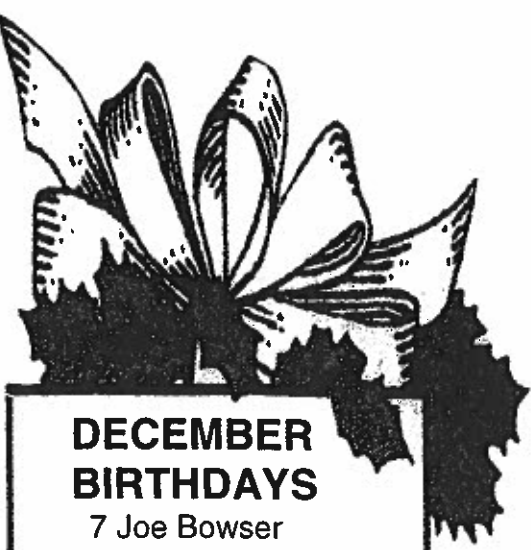
8TH ANNUAL SING-ALONG CONCERT

Calvary United Methodist Church presents Handel's Messiah. Two performances Saturday, December 1 & Sunday, December 9th at 4:00 PM. Tickets available now-CalvaryPgh.com. Tickets \$18.00 General--\$12.00 students and Seniors. Free admission to Children 12 and under, Military & Veterans. Family friendly and handicapped accessible.

CHRISTMAS OPEN HOUSE

Manorville UMC and St. John's Lutheran Church of Ford City are sharing a Christmas Open House on **December 9th from 2:00-5:00 PM** at each of their churches. Manorville will have a nativity display downstairs. St. John's will have a Chrismon display. Light refreshments will be available at each church. Come out and share the excitement as we await the coming of our Lord.





DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

- 7 Joe Bowser
- 10 Janine Muir
- 12 Donna Lazan
- 24 Linda Scaife
- 25 Holly Heigley
- 27 Bill Lemons
- 27 Abby Yankasky
- 30 Arianna Aires



DECEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

- 15 Dan & Linda Cornman
- 21 John & Beverly Patton-6 years
- 23 Greg & Lynn Toth-35 Years
- 31 Franklin & Milly Tarr
- 31 Jesse & Janessa Shriver-2 years

SIFT LUNCHEON

Thursday, December 20th

12:00 Noon-Covenant Center

PROGRAM: Healing Gardens by Patty Bruno,
Patty Goldman-Master Gardeners

MENU: Ham, Scalloped potatoes, Greenbeans,
Rolls & butter. Everyone attending is asked to bring
Cookies to share for dessert.

Reservations by Monday, December 17th

2019 VBS ALUMINUM CANS

Our aluminum can collection for Habitat for Humanity continues:

Cans received (October 15-November 15) 2,199

Cans received since end of VBS 2018 (June 22) 13,708

Please continue or start saving aluminum cans of all sorts (pop, tea, fruit juices, health drinks, power drinks, beer and any other type of aluminum cans).

Drop them off at the ramp behind the church at any time.

Thanks to the folks at Arc Manor for continuing to save their 331 drink cans and to be in Mission with us.

Thank you, The Can Man



DECEMBER'S LIBRARY NEWS

The following Christmas books have been donated to the children's section of our church's library.

"Stories for Christmas" selected and edited by Sally Grindley

"Why Christmas Trees Aren't Perfect" by Richard H. Schneider

"The Amazing Christmas Extravaganza" by David Shannon

These 3 Christmas books have also been donated.

"Classic Christmas" edited by Helen Szymanski

"The Christmas Visitor" and "Becky Meets He Match" both were written by Linda Byler.



The DVD "Santa Bddies...The Legend of Santa Paws" by Disney was also donated to FUM's library.

In Iceland, books are exchanged on Christmas Eve. Then the tradition is to spend the rest of the night reading and eating chocolate. Brooke Hampton

Carol Wolfe, Librarian



ADVENT 2018

DAILY DEVOTIONAL READINGS

It is difficult to keep a holy advent in our Christmas crazy season. With all of our to-do lists, with all of our shopping lists and with all of the “stuff” that needs to be completed before we can properly welcome Jesus, Advent as a consecrated time of keeping watch for the arrival of our Savior gets lost in the hustle and bustle. Consequently we run the risk of diluting the magnitude of what God has done for us in sending his Son to us. This Advent let’s set aside a few moments each day to refocus our thoughts, our attitudes, our lives on the only meaning of the season, Jesus the Christ. As you daily read the scripture ask for the Spirit’s leading for your path that day and as an act of gratitude place into the offering envelope provided an amount that reflects your joy in Jesus.

- Dec. 1. Prepare the Way, Luke 1: 16-17
 - Dec. 2. Mary’s Magnificent God, Luke 1: 46-55
 - Dec. 3. The Long-Awaited Visitation, Luke 1: 68-71
 - Dec. 4. For God’s Little People, Luke 2: 1-5
 - Dec. 5. No Detour from Calvary, Luke 2: 6-7
 - Dec. 6. Peace to Those with Whom He’s Pleased, Luke 2: 12-14
 - Dec. 7. Messiah for the Magi, Matthew 2: 1-2
 - Dec. 8. Bethlehem’s Supernatural Star, Matthew 2:2
 - Dec. 9. Two Kinds of Opposition to Jesus, Matthew 2: 3
 - Dec. 10. Gold, Frankincense, and Myrrh, Matthew 2: 10-11
 - Dec. 11. Why Jesus Came, Hebrews 2: 14-15
 - Dec. 12. Replacing the Shadows, Hebrews 8: 1-2
 - Dec. 13. The Final Reality Is Here, Hebrews 8: 1-2
 - Dec. 14. Making It Real for His People, Hebrews 8: 6
 - Dec. 15. Life and Death at Christmas, John 10:10
 - Dec. 16. God’s Most Successful Setback, John 17: 18
 - Dec. 17. The Greatest Salvation Imaginable, Jeremiah 31: 31
 - Dec. 18. The Christmas Model for Missions, John 17: 18
 - Dec. 19. Christmas Is for Freedom, Hebrews 2: 14-15
 - Dec. 20. The Birth of the Ancient of Days, John 18: 37
 - Dec. 21. That You May Believe, John 20: 30-31
 - Dec. 22. God’s Indescribable Gift, Romans 5: 10-11
 - Dec. 23. The of God Appeared, 1 John 3: 7-8
 - Dec. 24. Three Christmas Presents, 1 John 3: 7-8
- 



Dear Church Family,

Christmas! A season of celebration! A celebration of friends, family, blessings and most importantly, the gift of God on earth, Jesus. As we endeavor to keep our eyes upon Jesus this Christmas season, let us celebrate those who make that endeavor easier: our Pastor and the church staff.

The SPRC committee asks that you prayerfully consider celebrating those individuals through a monetary gift. We ask that your **CASH ONLY** gift be placed in the special envelope provided. Your gift may then be placed in the weekly offering or mailed to the church office (301 N Jefferson St) by Sunday, December 16.







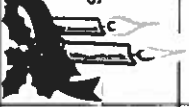

Wishing you and yours a blessed Christmas season.





December



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
2 1st Sunday in Advent 9:30 AM Sunday School 11:00 AM Communion 12:00 PM Advent Event-CC	3 CC Clean Team 	4 8:30 AM 3R's 6:00 PM Women Fellowship 7:00 PM New Found Freedom-CC	5  10:00 AM Clergy Communities-Library 3:45 PM ARC Manor 6:00 PM Adult Choir	6  6:00 PM Ladies Christmas Dinner-CC	7 6:30 PM Suzy & Byron Christmas Concert	1 6:30 PM We Surrender- Church
9 2nd Sunday in Advent 9:30 AM Sunday School 11:00 AM Worship 2:00 PM Camp 43-CC IHN-CC	10 7:00 PM Rainbow Road Board IHN-CC	11 8:30 AM 3R's 6:00 PM Women Fellowship 6:00 PM Prayer Time 7:00 PM New Found Freedom-Church IHN-CC	12 3:45 PM ARC Manor 6:00 PM Adult Choir IHN-CC	13 7:00 PM Heavenly Daughter IHN-CC	14 IHN-CC 	15 3:00 PM Fink-CC 6:30 PM We Surrender- Church IHN-CC
16 3rd Sunday in Advent 9:30 AM Sunday School 11:00 AM Worship IHN-CC	17 6:30 PM Finance NEWSLETTER 	18 8:30 AM 3R's 6:00 Women Fellowship 7:00 PM New Found Freedom-CC NEWSLETTER DEADLINE IHN-CC	19 3:45 PM ARC Manor 6:00 PM Adult Choir IHN-CC	20 12:00 PM SIFT Luncheon 7:00 PM Heavenly Daughter	21  First Day of Winter	22 6:30 PM We Surrender-CC
23 4th Sunday in Advent 9:30 AM Sunday School 11:00 AM Worship	24 7:00 PM Christmas Eve Service 	25  7:00 PM New Found Freedom-CC	26 3:45 PM ARC Manor	27	28	29 6:30 PM We Surrender-CC
30 9:30 AM Sunday School 11:00 AM Worship	31					

