



December 2023



Lyndonville United Methodist News

Upcoming Ministries, Meetings & Programs December 2023

Dec 3	Sunday School	9AM
	Worship Service-Online & in Sanctuary	10AM
	<i>Annual Business meeting following service</i>	
Dec 9	Charge Conference	10AM
	@Newfane UMC	
Dec 10	Sunday School	9AM
	Worship Service-Online & in Sanctuary	10AM
Dec 15	Take Down Christmas Store	1PM
Dec 17	Sunday School	9AM
	Worship Service with <i>Special Music</i>	10AM
	Lasagna Dinner following service	
Dec 24	Sunday School	9AM
	Worship Service-Online & in Sanctuary	10AM
	<u>Christmas Eve Evening Service</u>	<u>7PM</u>
Dec 25	***Merry Christmas***	
Dec 31	Sunday School	9AM
	Worship Service-Online & in Sanctuary	10AM
	New Years Eve	

Hope Resales Hours

Wednesday 10AM-1PM

Thursday 4PM-7PM

Friday & Saturday 10AM-1PM



How To Contact Us:

Address:

PO Box 483

102 North Main St.

Lyndonville, NY 14098

Email: lyndonvilleumc@gmail.com

Facebook: LyndonvilleUmc

Website: www.lyndonvilleumc.org

Prayer Request email:

noahzarf@gmail.com

PASTOR TIM SCHULTZ

Office hours:

Tues & Wed

9am to 2pm

Pastor's Cell Phone:

(716)778-4655

email address:

timothyschultz@outlook.com

Church Office Phone

585-765-9313

Administrative Assistant

Office Hours

Tues & Wed

8am to 12pm

Service Times

Sunday School 9:00am

Worship in the Sanctuary &
Online 10:00 am

LyndonvilleUmc

On Facebook



**ALL ARE
WELCOME**

Location:
 Newfane
 United Methodist
 Church

Annual Church CHARGE CONFERENCE

 **Sat, December 9**

 **10:00 AM**



There is a NEED for Volunteers!!!

Take down Christmas Store:

December 15 @ 1:00PM

PLEASE CALL CHURCH OFFICE TO VOLUNTEER 765-9313



THANK YOU FOR YOUR GIVING!!!!

Let us continue practicing "Extravagant Generosity."

Send your offerings by US mail to

P.O. Box 483 Lyndonville NY 14098, or online through Tithe.ly

"Remember whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously." 2 Corinthians 9:6

Hope

RESALES

* A Community Thrift Store.

Wednesday 10 Am to 1 PM

Thursday **4 PM to 7 PM**

Friday 10 AM to 1 PM

Saturday 10 AM to 1 PM

Volunteers Always Welcome!!!

Please Call the church office 585-765-9313

December

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

2023

A Year of Change

Yes, it is the Christmas season and one would expect the pastor to write on the themes of Advent or Christmas, but I want to take this opportunity to reflect on the past year.

Our worship services continue to be meaningful. Sermons have been Bible-based and usually in a series. Our worship in music is quite good for a small church, and I am grateful to Jen, Rick, and Ian for their faithfulness each week. We usually combine a couple hymns with contemporary praise songs. I would like to see even more participate in the prayer time, but in 2023 there were four people who participated at least once. Dan Thurber, who—along with his wife-- is known here, is someone I have called upon to fill in to preach at times.

Our online audience on Sunday has grown some, part of it being relatives and friends watching. I wish those who are physically able would join with us in person. Zooming with family across the country is different than being together for a meal. You get the analogy.

Before the worship service begins each week, there are small Sunday school groups that meet at 9:00 a.m. The children and youth meet during the school year, and there is one adult class in the library, usually taught by Anne Hyndman.

This has, in all honesty, been a challenging year for our church. During my first six months or so here, we were moving in a strong direction. Our attendance was going in a positive direction and there was a sense of expectancy and hopefulness. The recent travails of the United Methodist Church are well known, and although we have not made any radical changes in our local church, the larger denomination seems to be moving in a more liberal direction. So, unfortunately, we lost several people due to their disapproval of the direction of the UMC. Our relationship with the larger UMC here at Lyndonville is minimal, and there is no mandate that we change anything here. But the affiliation with the larger body was a breaking point for those who left. It has been a discouraging season seeing the empty spots in the sanctuary and needing to deal with smaller financial support.

Well, I do not mean to depress you this Christmas season! But I wanted to share some of what has been going on this past year. I am looking forward to this Advent season, and then beginning a long-term sermon series based on the book of Acts in the new year. Remember us in prayer. The Christian life is not all smooth sailing! Churches across America are struggling these days, post-Covid. The gospel of Jesus Christ is the hope for the world. Who knows, 2024 could be a year of new beginnings, transformed lives, and a greater sense of who we should be as a church in this place and time.

Let it be!



Pastor Tim Schultz



Cliches for Christmas

“It just doesn’t feel like Christmas”... Ever utter those words in mid-December when your cookies are half-baked, mass texting keeps your phone buzzing, you’re not done sending out Christmas cards and you just spilled coffee on the stamps, the dogs are barking at the cat swatting bulbs

off your Christmas tree, while someone is outside singing carols, and your favorite Hallmark Christmas movie is on TV and you just don’t understand how it all looks so easy and everything comes out so perfect for them while it’s utter chaos for you?

Maybe you’ve had to adjust to changes, suffered a loss, or a health issue, and the world of holly jolly goes merrily on its way while you’re stuck in neutral. Maybe everything just feels ... off, so you’re going through the motions feigning Christmas joy when it’s a real struggle to join in. Getting into the swing of the season is harder than Aunt Mabel’s fruitcake. (No offense, if you actually have an Aunt Mabel that makes great fruitcake.)

I’m no expert on what the Christmas spirit looks like or feels like but I think I can guess at a couple of things it’s not... I don’t think it’s about wearing ourselves out baking, shopping, decorating, spending all of our efforts preparing and little time enjoying. All of those things are part of our Christmas experience but should not be the Christmas experience. I don’t think Christmas spirit correlates to how much money we spend. Just for fun I Googled “How to catch the Christmas Spirit” to see what was suggested. The top few ideas were pretty consistent - listen to Christmas music and sing along, bake cookies, decorate the tree, bust out the reindeer and snowmen, and watch a Christmas movie. These aren’t bad ideas necessarily but how many of these things actually speak to your soul?

Yesterday was Thanksgiving. We have now embarked on the “full” season. Full of turkey, stuffed with pie, plump little cherubs sing on high, crowded stores, sales galore, shop until your swollen feeties ache, and does anyone really like holiday fruitcake? Yep, it is without adoubt... the most wonderFULL time of the year.

In Galatians 4 Paul tells us “⁴But when the fullness of the time came, God sent His Son, born of a woman, born under the Law, ⁵so that He might redeem those who were under the Law, that we might receive the adoption as sons and daughters.” “In the fullness of time”.... What does this mean? John F. MacArthur Jr., in his book God With Us the Miracle of Christmas states that “the fullness of time” is God’s sovereign timing. He suggests that world events, as ordered by God, had made the people ripe for the advent of Christ. Politically the Roman Empire ushered in a time with good roads where people could travel more easily. Culturally, people were becoming more educated many knew both Greek and Latin. Spiritually, the world was diverse, but open. So... at the most opportune time, at the pinnacle of infrastructure, communication and open hearts... God sent His Son. I don’t know who coined the phrase “God’s timing is perfect” but this is certainly its best example.

What does the “fullness of time” have to do with finding the “Christmas spirit”? Maybe nothing... but I think maybe everything.... I think that if anything embodies the Christmas spirit it’s Love. The reason the cookie baking, gift giving, tree decorating, carol singing and maybe even fruitcake helps us get in the Christmas spirit is because we do them with and for the people we love. Selfless acts of Love are the epitome of Christmas giving. Acts of Love help us to catch the Christmas spirit.

The Christmas spirit isn’t a feeling you get upon completion of your yuletide tasks. It’s the assurance of “God with us”, Love, as it warms your heart. God sent Jesus when the world was ready to receive Him. I suspect, in the same manner, amid all of the clamor of the season, when the moment is right, when your heart is receptive, you will be filled with the spirit of Love and it will feel like Christmas.

- Anne Hyndman

CHRISTMAS

**Season
EVENTS**

Children's Christmas Store

December 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Children up to 6th grade can shop from 3-5PM on the highlighted days ** Anyone can shop the Christmas Store during normal Hope Resales business hours**					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16

Clean up Crew

December 15

@1:00PM

VOLUNTEERS

NEEDED

Please call the church
office to volunteer
(585)765-9313

DECEMBER 17, 2023



LASAGNA DINNER AFTER SERVICE

****BRING A LASAGNA TO PASS****



December 24, 2023

@7:00pm

With Christmas Carols



Grief, the Holidays, and a Biblical Christmas

by Thomas Kidd
Thomas S. Kidd (@ThomasSKidd) / X (twitter.com)

There's a stark difference between the tranquil, happiness-filled Christmas that companies market to us beginning every Black Friday, and the Christmas that many of us actually experience. If you are reading this blog post, you're certainly old enough to have experienced the difference. Remembering loved ones no longer there at the celebrations. Estrangements that the holidays only magnify.

Financial stress that the holidays exacerbate. If we're honest, I suspect that many of us sitting in church (not to mention those absent from church) struggle with the gap between the idealized Christmas, and the real holiday experiences of sadness, loss, or anxiety. The good news is that the biblical Christmas accounts for the difference. This is one more reason why Christians need to stick close to the biblical meaning of Christmas, lest our "American cultural Christmas" set us up for amplified disappointment. Biblical Christmas is full of *great hope*, but it hardly *resolves* the grief and suffering rooted in the world's sin. At least it doesn't resolve everything *yet*.

Just look at the Bible's Christmas narratives. Fear, danger, and trouble are woven into the accounts. Yes, the angels proclaimed, "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased!" But that hardly resolves all trouble. This trouble begins with the eternal Son of God becoming a baby, laid in a feeding trough in a backwater town, destined to die a criminal's death on a cross. He was born in exclusion, as there was no room

at the inn. He was likely born to impoverished parents, as indicated by their offering of two doves or pigeons, the poorest gifts permissible at the temple. In Luke 2, godly Simeon prophesied that the infant Jesus was the Messiah. But he also acknowledged that the coming of the Messiah meant the time had come for Simeon to die. ("Lord, now you are letting your servant depart in

peace, according to your word.") He told Mary that "this child is appointed for the fall and rising of many in Israel, and for a sign that is opposed (and a sword will pierce through your own soul also), so that thoughts from many hearts may be revealed." A sword piercing Mary's soul? No wonder that the Song of Simeon (the "Nunc Dimittis") is a standard for funerals, not for Christmas services!

Don't get me wrong: I would not advise your church to make this into "the most depressing Christmas ever"! But don't try to make it the "merriest Christmas ever," either.

Don't get out beyond what Scripture teaches about Christmas. The long-awaited Messiah has come, a stunning, seminal moment in the history of redemption. This incarnation leads the saints to rejoice and worship. But Jesus's earthly career had only begun, and the crucifixion still lay ahead. Not even Easter resolves all troubles and grief. At Christmas, we know that the time of complete resolution and reconciliation lies yet in the future, when God will wipe away the tears of the saints, "and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning, nor crying, nor pain anymore, for the former things have passed away" (Rev. 21:4).





Wilbur the Church Mouse was thinkin' to himself as he was out foraging for crumbs that he's been havin' a hard time remembering what time it is since turnin' the clocks back. Seems like he's always late for everything... This morning was no exception... cause while he was checkin' out the pastor's pulpit for bits of Chrismassy cookies (cause he overheard that the pastor likes to keep a couple of 'em on hand in case his blood sugar gets low during the service.) Chrismassy cookie crumbs are

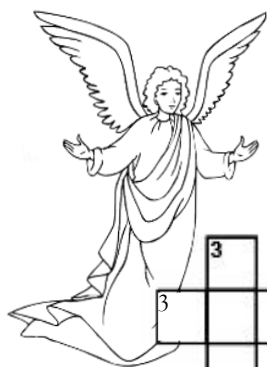
the best because Edith makes a wonderful Holiday Santamental Fruitcake (he calls it that because she uses a bit of the communion grape juice to give it just the right amount of fruity sweetness.)

Just as Wilbur was climbin' up the microphone to see what he could see didn't the pastor walk up to him and start talkin'! Late again Wilbur showed up to for crumb collectin' and instead got caught in the middle of worship. Wilbur froze in place hangin' on to the microphone hopin' the pastor wouldn't notice him. Ut Ohhhh... he did... but the pastor seemed to think he was an ornament or Halloween decoration so Wilbur just stayed where he was and tried not to move...

The people sang and the preacher talked and all in all it was a pretty nice hour even if he was tired from hangin' on. The pastor talked some guy named Jonah and that havin' compassion for people is a really important thing. Wilbur used to think that compassion should be saved for the people who he liked or who earned it... but Jonah's story showed him that he doesn't get to decide who gets compassion. Grace and compassion wasn't his to dole out but is God's blessing and all he should do is offer it to anyone who needed it. Anyone.

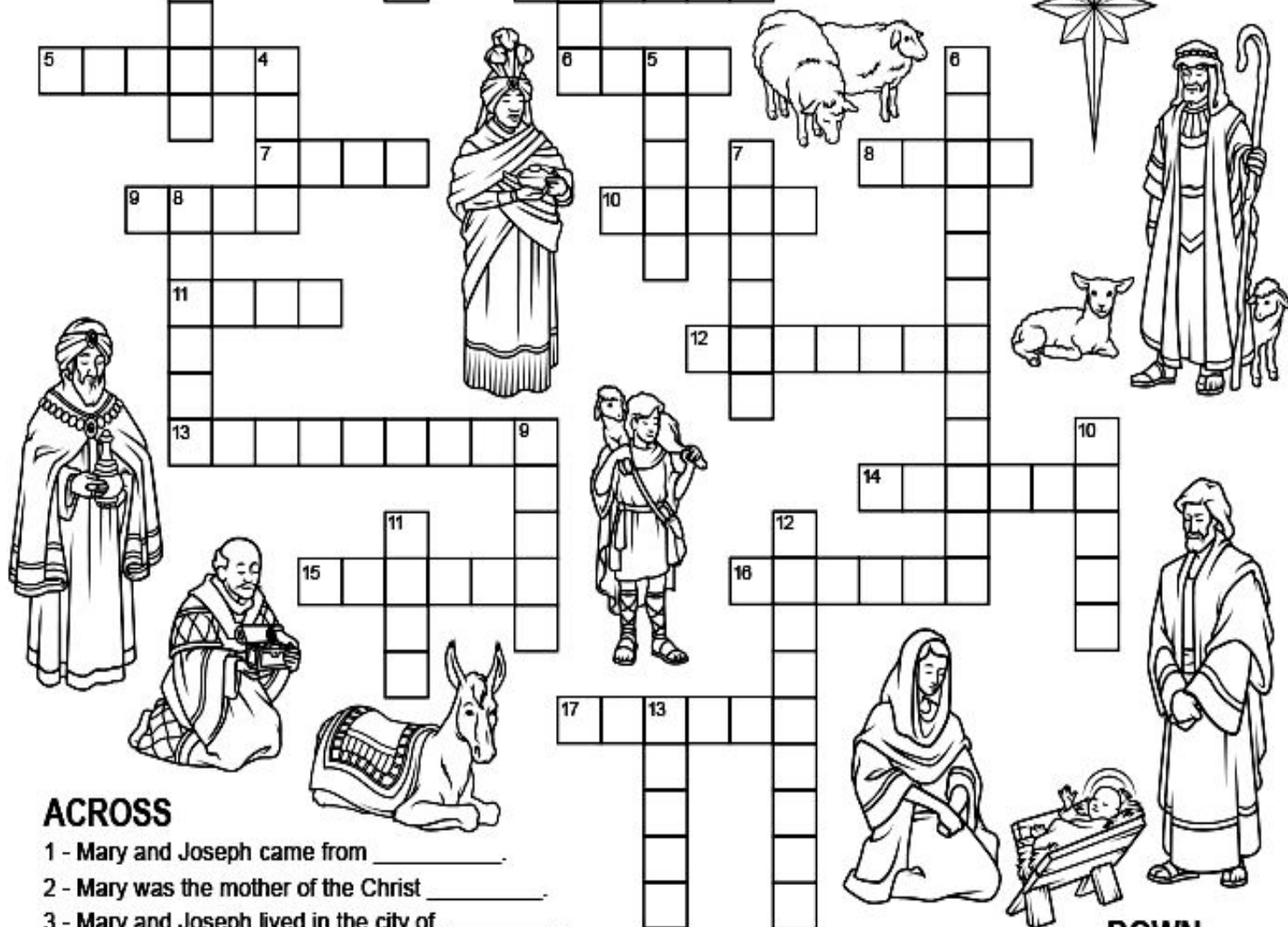
This was all a little new to Wilbur and he admits now that he sort of understands the excitement ol' Scrooge felt after the ghosts of Christmas past, present and future got done talkin' to him. He couldn't wait to get home and share all he learned with Edith. All this would make that Santamental Fruitcake taste even better! As Wilbur scurried through the Chrismassy store he seemed to see everything with new eyes... it all seemed brighter and more festive. Wilbur felt a sense of Chrismassy Joy that was a whole lot more hopeful than anything he felt before.

Wilbur and Edith wanna wish alla the church people a Chrismassy filled with lotsa Joy!



The CHRISTMAS STORY

Crossword Puzzle



ACROSS

- 1 - Mary and Joseph came from _____.
- 2 - Mary was the mother of the Christ _____.
- 3 - Mary and Joseph lived in the city of _____.
- 4 - Jesus _____ is the Son of God.
- 5 - An angel also visited _____.
- 6 - _____ was the cousin of Elizabeth.
- 7 - Jesus would be know as the _____ of God.
- 8 - A new _____ was a sign of Christ's birth.
- 9 - The King of Kings came to Earth as a _____.
- 10 - Jesus was a descendant of Kind _____.
- 11 - A precious gift given by the wisemen.
- 12 - These men followed a star to find Jesus.
- 13 - _____ saw angels outside the city.
- 14 - Mary rode a _____ to Bethlehem.
- 15 - The only place Joseph could find for Mary.
- 16 - At the _____ Simeon met the Christ child.
- 17 - The wisemen travelled on _____.

DOWN

- 1 - The angel _____ revealed Christ's birth.
- 2 - Christ was born in _____.
- 3 - Away in a _____, no crib from a bed...
- 4 - The _____ One of Israel.
- 5 - Bethlehem was _____ David's city.
- 6 - _____ was one of the wisemen's gifts.
- 7 - The Christ child would be born to a _____.
- 8 - _____ appeared to the shepherds.
- 9 - A shepherds job is to care for his _____.
- 10 - Jesus was a descendant of Kind _____.
- 11 - Another gift from the three wisemen.
- 12 - _____ was the capital city.
- 13 - The House of Israel awaited their _____.

December

2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 Hope Resales 10AM-1PM Christmas Store Open For Children 3PM-5PM	2 Hope Resales 10AM-1PM
3 Sunday School @ 9:00am WORSHIP SERVICE 10AM Annual Business Meeting following service	4 Christmas Store Open For Children 3PM-5PM	5 Christmas Store Open For Children 3PM-5PM	6 Hope Resales 10AM-1PM Christmas Store Open For Children 3PM-5PM	7 Hope Resales 4PM-7PM	8 Hope Resales 10AM-1PM Christmas Store Open For Children 3PM-5PM	9 Charge Conference @Newfane UMC-10am Hope Resales 10AM-1PM
10 Sunday School @ 9:00am WORSHIP SERVICE 10AM	11 Christmas Store Open For Children 3PM-	12 Christmas Store Open For Children 3PM-5PM	13 Hope Resales 10AM-1PM Christmas Store Open For Children 3PM-5PM	14 Hope Resales 4PM-7PM	15 Hope Resales 10AM-1PM Clean up Christmas Store @1:00PM	16 Hope Resales 10AM-1PM
17 Sunday School @ 9:00am WORSHIP SERVICE 10AM SPECIAL MUSIC  LASAGNA DINNER	18	19	20 Hope Resales 10AM-1PM	21 Hope Resales 4PM-7PM	22 Hope Resales 10AM-1PM	23 Hope Resales 10AM-1PM
24 Sunday School @ 9am WORSHIP SERVICE 10AM CHRISTMAS EVE Service @ 7:00pm	25  MERRY CHRIST MAS	26	27 Hope Resales 10AM-1PM	28 Hope Resales 4PM-7PM	29 Hope Resales 10AM-1PM	30 Hope Resales 10AM-1PM
31 Sunday School NEW YEAR'S EVE WORSHIP SERVICE 10AM						

December 2023

LYNDONVILLE
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
102 NORTH MAIN STREET
PO Box 483
LYNDONVILLE, NY 14098

← ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED →



Phone: 585-765-9313

Lyndonville UMC Newsletter

GLORY TO GOD IN THE HIGHEST,
AND ON EARTH PEACE,
GOOD WILL TOWARD MEN.

LUKE 2:14

