



### Pastor's Message

In Church last week we looked at The Work of Christmas Begins by Howard Thurman. The work of Christmas listed eight tasks:

- to find the lost
- to heal those broken in spirit
- to feed the hungry
- to release the oppressed
- to rebuild the nations
- to bring peace among all peoples
- to make a little music with the heart
- to radiate the light of Christ

On one of those tasks I asked, what does the lost, the broken in spirit, the hungry, or the oppressed look like? Someone (I think it was Jean Coon) said "They look like us."

Now that is a profound answer. That is a true answer. That is exactly what qualifies us to be doing this work of Christmas. "They look like us" and in many cases "They are us". The way for us to acquire our own healing is to begin to serve others, to do the ministry that God has given us to do.

You may ask "Where is God's work for me?" or even "What is God's work for me?" I would say this list of eight tasks is a good place to begin. As far as "Where is God's work for me?" I step outside my door or I pick up my telephone. All you have to do is open your eyes. God will definitely give you plenty of work to do.

Or you might say that you've already got enough work to do. Well, God isn't saying to pick up another job. He's saying, "in the daily routine of your already busy day, begin to see with His eyes and consider these 8 tasks of this Christmas Work." I guarantee that you will do your regular work differently and that you will begin to accomplish God's purpose for your life.

But what is it that qualifies me to do this work? God never says "Do you qualify?" He always says "Are you willing?" Notice the difference. The only

qualifier is your willingness. Are you willing? Then open your eyes and start doing.

***But when the right time came, God sent his Son, born of a woman, subject to the law. God sent him to buy freedom for us who were slaves to the law, so that he could adopt us as his very own children.*** (Gal. 4:4, - NLT) I am completely convinced that this is the right time for you and me.. We are to share this grand news of Jesus' setting free the oppressed. Who are the oppressed? You remember the answer, don't you? They look like us. They are us. Have you been set free? Are you helping others to be set free and fed and being found? Let the Christmas work begin. May it begin with me.

Let's together radiate the Light of Christ every day in this year 2016, in every way, and in all that we do and in all that we say.

A Friend in Christ

***Pastor Vern***





# The United Church of DeRuyter ~ January 2016



## Christian Education—January 2016

— Happy New Year Everyone!

We had our Sunday School Christmas Program December 13, 2015 at church.

The PK-6<sup>th</sup> grade presented “Christmas” Store Window play and the 7<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> grade presented two plays “Naïve TV” and “Mary and Joe”.

Awesome job done by all!

The PK-6<sup>th</sup> grade also presented the Food Pantry with our collection of \$108.90 and a box full of food we have been collecting since September.

We also recognized our teachers. We are very fortunate for their dedication to our Christian Ed program. Thank you to all who help to make our program possible.

We will resume Sunday School at the Parish house and Linda Springers January 9<sup>th</sup>.

Linda will be working on the Church Nursery schedule. Anyone who is interested in taking a turn in nursery during church please get a hold of her.

We want to congratulate 2 of our Sunday School kids, Jon Brown and Connor Benedict as they will be getting baptized.

In His Service

Maurine

### Rest Safely in His Care

There are many things in life  
That we cannot understand,  
But we must trust God’s judgement  
And be guided by his hand,  
And all who have God’s blessing  
Can rest safely in His care,  
For He promises safe passage  
On the wings of faith and prayer.

Helen Steiner Rice

## Calendar of Events~January 2016

Jan 3~Sunday School 9:30 am

Worship Service 11:00 am

Communion

Jan 4~ Admin/Diaconate Bd Mtg. 6:30pm @ PH

Jan 6~Community Prayer Service 6:30 pm @ PH

Jan 8~ Youth Group 6:30 pm @ PH

Jan 9 ~Men’s Group 8:00 am @ PH

Jan 10 ~ Sunday School 9:30 am

Worship Service 11:00 am

***Guest speaker~ Mike Harris Jr ~ missionary to China***

Jan 13~Community Prayer Service @ 6:30 pm

Jan 15~ Youth Group 6:30 pm @ PH

Jan 17~ Sunday School @ 9:30 am

Worship Service 11:00 am

Jan 20 ~Community Prayer Mtg @ 6:30 pm @ PH

Jan 23~Men’s Group 8:00 am @ PH

Jan 24~ Sunday School 9:30 am

Worship Service 11:00 am

Jan 27~ Community Prayer Service 6:30 pm @ PH

Jan 31~~Sunday School @ 9:30 am

***Sunday Worship Service 11:00 am @ Parish House. We are doing a baptism service then a potluck luncheon directly afterward.***

### Bible Verse for January

*As you do not know the path of the wind, or  
how the body is formed in the mother’s  
womb, so you cannot understand the work of  
God, the Maker of all things.  
Sow your seed in the morning and at evening  
let not your hands be idle, for you do not  
know which will succeed, whether this or  
that, or whether both will do equally well.*

Ecclesiastes 11: 5-6



**Mission News-January 4, 2016**

Mike Harris Jr. is home from China and was able to attend our Christmas Eve Service with his family. It is so good to see him again and we wish him well on his home visit and his important task of raising mission funds to return to his mission in China.

Family Life Network received a \$300,000 donation that allowed them the minimum amount to purchase the Syracuse Radio Station they have been trying to raise funds for. Congratulations to them as we will all benefit by this increased Christian radio circulation in our Syracuse area.

Our local Food Pantry was able to distribute Christmas Food Baskets and many Christmas gift items to 69 families in the DeRuyter area on Dec. 17<sup>th</sup>. Thank you to all who contributed funds or food items, especially potatoes for this Christmas Mission. We also thank our young Sunday School classes who donated \$108.90 they collected to the pantry for their fall mission project.

The Christmas Mitten tree Mission project had another successful December. Thirty three gifts and gift bags were taken to the school on Dec. 21<sup>st</sup> to be distributed to local DeRuyter students.

Christmas Greetings were received from Carlos and Caryn Benitez who sent a picture while attending an annual Christmas Party given by their language teacher in Thailand with their whole family together for the holiday.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jean Whalen

**Birthdays & Anniversaries ~January**

- Jan 2~~~Ed Sautter
- Jan 8~~~Carl Wightman
- Jan 10~~Lois Damon
- Jan 10~~Kyle Paladino
- Jan 11~~Tim Etter
- Jan 12~~Marleah Marshall
- Jan 13~~Shanley Nichols
- Jan 15~~Barbara Lidell
- Jan 15~~Michael Furlough
- Jan 16~~Elliott Millet
- Jan 16~~Ted Bolton
- Jan 21~~Isabella Travis
- Jan 21~~Brooke Wood
- Jan 21~~Scott Chiesa
- Jan 22~~Bruce Zeigler
- Jan 22~~John Mauzy
- \*Jan 23~Bruce & Bonnie Zeigler
- \*Jan 24~Ed & Kristine Sautter
- Jan 25~~Melvin Coon
- Jan 26~~Rosalie Laris
- Jan 27~~Naomi McKeel
- Jan 28~~Lisa Springer Travis
- Jan 28~~Foster Cameron Wood
- Jan 29~~Rick Chiesa

***Congratulations !!***

**Memorial Fund**

The balance in the Memorial Fund as of 12/31/2015 is \$3,032.97