

"Red Door" News: Hanging of the Greens...

*Sent: Thursday, December 4, 2025 * Sunday Worship: 10 AM*



Dear "Red Door" members and friends,

To view or print the 2025 Advent Wreath readings, M4M about Christmas Joy offering, Poinsettia donation form, and/or this RDNews – see attachments

Hanging of the Greens will be led by Larry Brown at 9:00 AM THIS Saturday (December 6th). All are invited to help decorate the tree and other parts of the church. Thank you to Larry Brown and Mike Munson for getting a beautiful tree – and to Larry and Carol Sprague for setting it up. With the branches settling, Larry plans to put on the lights on before Saturday.

Children & youth ornaments (with their names) will be part of our Conversation with the Children on Sunday, December 7th as we remember that God knows and loves us all by name.

Advent Wreath celebrations began with Thais Burkhalter and her son Scott Genardo telling us about the Candle of Hope. Jan Andrews and her Church School class (Elizabeth Anderson and Everly LaBarr) will light the Candle of Peace. John Brooks and Paul Irwin will lead our celebration of the Candle of Joy. See Sunday Advent scripts attached for use at home.

Our Bell and Chancel Choirs are presenting special music during Advent and preparing for Christmas Eve under the direction of our new Director of Music/Musician Jean Giuda.

Poinsettias are so lovely in our sanctuary at the end of Advent and throughout Christmastide. To donate toward them in honor and/or in memory of someone, please return the attached donation form to the church office by Thursday, December 18th.

Christmas is not our birthday – but the birth of Jesus, our Lord and Savior, who teaches us to care for others. That care may take the form of a gift to the church, a ministry or mission that touches your heart, or from the Presbyterian Giving Catalog at <https://presbyteriangifts.org>

Mission & Outreach: December Mission Emphasis

Christmas Joy, a special offering of the PC(USA), supports the Assistance Program of the Board of Pensions to meet critical financial support to church workers and their families AND Presbyterian-related schools and colleges providing education and leadership development while nurturing racial and ethnic heritage (a Presbyterian commitment for nearly 140 years).

To read more about the Christmas Joy offering, see the Moment for Mission attached. Donations may be given through our church -- by text at CHRISTMASJOY to 91999 -- or online at www.pcusa.org/christmasjoy -- and see a Moment for Mission attached.

Gratitude is more than a good feeling. Research shows that practicing gratitude consistently can lower stress, improve relationships, and strengthen emotional and spiritual well-being.

Remembrance and Gratitude were our mission emphases in November. Jan Andrews, during a Conversation with All God's Children, encouraged us to write thank you notes. Here are some of them that were returned and blessed during worship:

Dear God, thank you for all the wonderful things you have provided for me. Whether it is the beautiful creation of nature or the joy my pet leaves with me.

Thank you for our veterans and our freedom to this great country we are blessed.

I am grateful for my family, and friends. I am thankful for my health and be able to see all of God's creations every day. The trees and flowers and the wonderful people in the world.

I am grateful for my partner, my home and my furry friends.

For the Church Mass – I am grateful for being here at the Red Door Church – First United Presbyterian – and making friends with other people at this church.

Both a Holiday and General Greeting Card Exchanges are near the information cabinet outside the church offices. Bring Cards / Use Cards for Christmas and other occasions.

Community News

Catskill Choral Society Christmas Concert: Friday, December 5th at 7:30 PM and Saturday, Dec. 6th at 3:00 PM at First United Methodist, 66 Chestnut St, Oneonta. Jean Giuda and Emma Kirsch are singing. Tickets at the door: \$30 or \$25 seniors, under 18 years free.

Oneonta Holiday Parade is at 3:30 PM on Saturday, December 6th on Main Street with tree lighting at 4:30 PM. History Center open until 5:00 PM for caroling around the player piano.

Friends of Music Free Holiday Concert at 3:00 PM on Sunday, December 7th at First Presbyterian, 96 Main St, Stamford with Pegasus: The Orchestra and Folk Inspirations.

The Gift of the Magi, a Short Christmas Comedy, at 7:00 PM on Tuesday, December 9th at First United Methodist, 66 Chestnut St, Oneonta to benefit Friends of Christmas Community Dinner (postponed from 12/2). Freewill donation www.friendsofchristmas.org/magi

Festival of Lights in Neahwa Park, Oneonta: The park will be lit up from 5:00 to 10:00 PM each night from Saturday, December 13 through Thursday, January 1, 2026.

Attached:

- 1) 2025 Advent Wreath weekly readings
- 2) M4M: Christmas Joy offering
- 3) Poinsettia donation form
- 4) This RDnews

Thank you for sharing this news with others – especially those who do not use email...



First United Presbyterian (the "Red Door" Church)

Worship at 10:00 am on Sundays at 381 Main Street, Oneonta

Mail: 2 Walling Avenue, Oneonta, NY 13820

Church Office: (607) 432-7520 // reddoorchurch@stny.rr.com

Pastor: Rev. Dr. Cynthia Walton-Leavitt at (607) 242-8184 cell; or cynuff@aya.yale.edu

Website: www.reddoorchurch.info