

# January/February 2025 Communiqué



**John Calvin Presbyterian Church**

50 Ward Hill Road, Henrietta, NY 14467

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## God's Bright Star Light of Epiphany

The hustle and bustle of Christmas shopping, the planning of Christmas dinner, the wreckage of Christmas Day gift unwrapping amid shouts of joy and squeals of excitement slowly gives way to the 12 Days of Christmastide when people are reminiscing about the year that has past, the significant events, the generational family traditions we have kept or have reframed, and we begin to wonder about what happens next in the year ahead of us.

Yet too often we are surprised by Epiphany when is God is revealing to the world what God is doing in our midst through Jesus the Christ. We know the story of the three Magi or was it four or more who came searching for the newborn king of Israel by following God's bright star lighting their path toward the manger. They came bearing three gifts to the manger that begins telling more of the story of Jesus' identity using symbols like gold for a king, frankincense used by priests in the Temple, and myrrh used in burials.

Then, there is the story of Jesus' Baptism by John in the Jordan River where people lined the banks of river seeking to be baptized as part of the change in the direction of their lives. For Jesus, this is another moment when God reveals God's actions to be with us in the middle of our lives and when God reveals again Jesus' identity and purpose for his life. A purpose that comes in sharp focus as we read about Jesus making a wonderful proclamation in the synagogue in Nazareth: God's Spirit has anointed him to preach good news, to set

captives free, and to declare God's "favor" on the world. Beyond that, Jesus declares, "today this has come true in your hearing" (Luke 4:21b).

As we look at the world around us, at the year that has just ended, and at all that lies in front of us, what might it mean to be told that "today" all this wondrous scripture about God's activity in our world is coming true? How can we live that out?

There are intriguing clues throughout the readings for this Season after the Epiphany: for example in the first sign that Jesus performs in John's gospel, Jesus and the disciples attend a wedding and Jesus' mother Mary simply tells the servants, "do what Jesus tells you to do." Jesus then tells them to fill the empty wine jugs with water and take them out to the chief steward, who announces this is the finest wine, foretelling how wine will be the symbol for a new life flowing freely and abundantly in our midst.

Then at the end of the Season of Epiphany we read the story of how the eyes of Peter, James, and John are heavy with sleep, causing them to almost miss the moment of transfiguration. Yet, by God's grace they do not miss it, and thus have a whole new context within which to see Jesus - a context of history and heritage. The history and heritage of God acting on behalf of the people Israel in the middle of their daily lives, and the history and heritage of God calling people to act as God calls them and teaches them to do.

Here in this our Season of Epiphany, all these stories reveal God is calling us in this present moment that lies before us to participate in what God is doing in our middle of our lives because the truth is God's word is coming true today in our time. God will be anointing us to be witnesses to people being set free who are held captive to false prophets and to ideologies imprisoning them, and to preach God's news of compassionate freedom, loving kindness, and peace in the joy of God's presence.

Having said that, what exact part will we have to play?

- Well, imagine God's Spirit anointing you to act. What are some of the actions you might be called to take? Who will hear your witness statement about God's presence?
- Remember that many of the scriptures in this season carry a sense of urgency. What happens to the world around us if we "miss out" by not acting with our own sense of urgency?

As you ponder these questions, may brightness of God's light illuminate your path into Epiphany.

Peace,  
Pastor Carson



**Worship Leaders for 2024 - January and February**

January 5	Rev. Dr. Carson Mouser	February 2	Rev. Dr. Carson Mouser
January 12	Rev. Dr. Carson Mouser	February 9	Rev. Dr. Carson Mouser
January 19	Rev. Harry Heintz	February 16	Rev. Penni Farrington
January 26	Rev. Dr. Carson Mouser	February 23	Rev. Penni Farrington



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**January 12<sup>th</sup>** - “How Great Leaders Inspire Action” Video will be shown to congregation Immediately following worship as part of our Fellowship.

**January 26<sup>th</sup>** - Annual Meeting

**February 2<sup>nd</sup>** - Following worship, we will discuss with congregation how to re-write the Mission Statement to reflect who we are and why we exist as a community of faith.

# Church Office Hours

A very special thank you to all, for the warmest of welcomes, and for your genuine support and interest in helping me settle into my new position as church secretary. I have been most taken by the kindness and caring shown to me, making me feel as an important part this congregation and staff. I have thoroughly enjoyed all those I have met so far, and look forward to meeting the rest of the members and staff. A sincere thank you, I am grateful beyond words.

I also wanted to let you know my office hours are Tuesday, Thursday and Fridays from 8:30 - 11:30 am. Those hours may be subject to change based on necessity.

Warmly,

Sandi

## Musings from the Deacons

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Ahh Winter Time ... The busy rush of Christmas and New Year is over. Time to settle down, at least a little. If you're like many of us who brave the Winter in New York, you no doubt start to get "cabin fever" around January 15th.

What to do in the Winter? That's the question of the day. I can only speak for myself, but as I get older the prospects of venturing out of the house into some cold and uninviting weather gets less and less appealing. None-the-less, there is a genuine need to keep busy, keep your mind and body active, keep engaged with your family and social circle. And of course there is that "cabin fever" thing.

SO ... The Deacons want to provide a list of various activities you can do right in the comfort of your own home. Most are free. Many you can find on the internet using your pc, tablet, or smart phone. Here Goes ...

### THINGS TO DO THIS WINTER

Try **Video Exercise Classes** (several on You Tube) I happen to like Tai Chi.

**On-Line Visits** with friends and family (many free services available including Zoom & Skype)

Try **Puzzles** (the newer "adult" puzzles are interesting and really hard to figure out)

Do **Crosswords, Word Search, Sudoku, or Hidden Pictures** games

Try **Instructional Videos** for cooking, or crafts, or games (WXXI Create TV - ch 21.3)

Try an On-Line Book Club (HPL has information. Also check out Overdrive.com)

Use some of your time to **DeClutter your Closets** (everybody has stuff they don't use anymore)

And of course if the weather is nice; **Take a Walk** on any of the many walking trails in our area.

written by Deacon Mark Sundman

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If you have a topic you would like to explore, please tell any one of the deacons about your idea or provide us with an article that you have written and would like to have in the Communique.



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## Revisiting Our Mission

Elders and Deacons during the November joint training began revisiting the Mission Statement to discern whether it would need to be re-written and to decide how it expresses who we are and why we exist as a community of faith here in Henrietta.

The small group discussion followed watching a video “How Great Leaders Inspire Action.” The Elders and Deacons did decide the current Mission Statement needed to be revisited to reflect the congregation’s identity more clearly and they want to have more of the congregation involved in the conversation.

So, the video “How Great Leaders Inspire Action” will be shown to the congregation following worship January 12 as part of our Fellowship. The results of the Session and Elder’s discussion will be shared at this meeting, so everyone will be included in the conversation.

Then, following worship Feb. 2 we will discuss how to re-write the Mission Statement to reflect who we are and why we exist as a community of faith. It is important for as many members of the congregation to attend both sessions as possible and for Elders and Deacons to hear from members of the congregation, so the Mission Statement is owned by everyone.

We look forward to your participation Jan. 12 and Feb. 2. If you have questions, please contact a serving Elder or Deacon.



Please join the Town of Henrietta in honoring Martha Zonneville, for her 30 years of dedicated service to the Tinker Homestead and Farm Museum



December 11, 2024, Resolution #24-361/2024  
of the Town Board of the Town of Henrietta,  
County of Monroe, State of New York.

WHEREAS, Martha Zonneville has been a dedicated volunteer who has been an integral part of the Tinker Homestead and Farm Museum for 30 years; and


WHEREAS, as a resident of Henrietta, Martha first volunteered at the Tinker Homestead and Farm Museum in 1994, playing a key role in the original inventory, accession, and documentation of their collection; and

WHEREAS, Martha continued to serve as a docent and tour guide, sharing her knowledge of local history with visitors of all ages; and

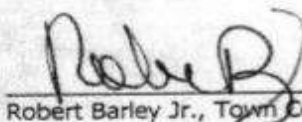
WHEREAS, the Town of Henrietta is deeply grateful for Martha's 30 years of service and dedication as her contributions have helped shape the Tinker Homestead and Farm Museum into what it is today and her commitment to their mission continues to inspire us all.

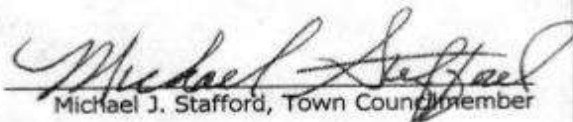
THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Henrietta Town Board recognizes this incredible 30-year milestone and thanks Martha for her outstanding work and dedicated service.

  
Stephen L. Schultz, Town Supervisor

  
M. Rick Page, Town Councilmember

  
Joseph D. Bellanca Jr., Town Councilmember

  
Robert Barley Jr., Town Councilmember

  
Michael J. Stafford, Town Councilmember