Dear Members and Friends of New Bedford Church,

I want to begin this newsletter with a challenge. This Christmas Season invite a friend, a neighbor, a co-worker, a class mate to join you in the celebration of Christ's birth here at New Bedford Church. We are offering great opportunities to reach out to our community. Invite a family to join you at Breakfast in Bethlehem. Invite a friend to the Christmas Cantata. Often people not active in church will join you for a Christmas Eve service. On the 29th invite a family to see our children in our Christmas Pageant at 10:40. Everything we do is to reach into our community with the great news of our Lord Jesus Christ.

My wife sent this story to me. I want to share it with you. It was written about ten years ago by Sharon Jaynes It is entitled 1 Corinthians Christmas Style.

If I decorate my house perfectly with lovely plaid bows, strands of twinkling lights, and shiny glass balls, but do not show love to my family – I'm just another decorator.
If I slave away in the kitchen, baking dozens of Christmas cookies, preparing gourmet meals, and arranging a beautifully adorned table at mealtime, but do not show love to my family – I'm just another cook.
If I work at the soup kitchen, carol in the nursing home, and give all that I have to charity, but do not show love to my family – it profits me nothing.
If I trim the spruce with shimmering angels and crocheted snowflakes, attend a myriad of holiday parties, and sing in the choir's cantata but do not focus on Christ, I have missed the point.
Love stops the cooking to hug the child.
Love sets aside the decorating to kiss the husband.
Love is kind, though harried and tired.
Love doesn't envy another home that has coordinated Christmas china and table linens.
Love doesn't yell at the kids to get out of your way.
Love doesn't give only to those who are able to give in return, but rejoices in giving to those who can't.
Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, and endures all things.
Love never fails. Video games will break; pearl necklaces will be lost; golf clubs will rust. But giving the gift of love will endure.

Let us remember that Christ must be the center of our Christmas Celebration and that good news must be shared with others.

Kim and I, and the staff of New Bedford Presbyterian Church, want to wish you a very Merry Christmas.

In Christ,
Doug

SESSION HIGHLIGHTS

Administration Committee

- Reviewed the Financial Report
- Ordered roof heating mats to alleviate ice jams and roof leak over kitchen
- Thank you to Duane, Chuck and Jim for installing the new lights in the Fellowship Hall (the added brightness is amazing)
- Thank you to Chuck and Jim for adding insulation to our Bell Tower
- Approved purchase of Carpet/Floor cleaner

Christian Ed. Committee

- Approved new curriculum for JAM (junior church time)
- New battery votives for luminaries purchased

Evangelism Committee

- "Sharing the Reason for the Season" ministry outreach begun. Yard signs have been ordered and will be distributed on December 1st

Mission Committee

- Heard report from Sam Jones on his trip to Haiti. Thank you to Sam for helping Autumn get these critically needed medicines to Haiti
- Approved collecting a Special Christmas Offering. All gifts will go to the ministry of Autumn Marshall in Haiti

Worship Committee

- Choir is working on Cantata
- New hearing assistance devices have been ordered
- Two new non-wax candles and the needed fuel has been purchased. Candles are on the Communion Table

Personnel Committee

- All annual staff reviews have been conducted. Confidential Reviews are in Personnel File
- Approved purchase of computer for Financial Secretary
- Approved updated Position Description for Treasurer. Only change was updating of Fund names

New/Old Business

- Approved 2020 Budget. Budget will be presented to the congregation at the Congregational Meeting on December 1st
- Approved Restaurant Gift certificates for all staff as a Christmas gift
- Reviewed Membership Roll as required by the EPC

Next Session Meeting will be December 19th

Birthdays in December

12/01 – Adam Marshall
12/02 – Diana Halt
12/04 – Alexis Lambert
12/05 – Betty Komar
12/07 – Kyle Jones
12/09 – Chuck Bell
12/09 – Bob Bell
12/09 – Alexis Jones
12/11 – Caroletta Doverspike
12/13 – Katee Paglia
12/14 – Evelyn Exley
12/14 – Jo Ruby
12/16 – Wanda Boyles
12/16 – Hannah O'Brien
12/16 – Glenn Hepler
12/17 – Angela Houk
12/17 – Addie Moore
12/19 – Rebecca Halt
12/20 – Eric Keller
12/21 – Ruth Hunt
12/21 – Lavon Rogers
12/24 – Florence Allison
12/28 – Darlene Robison

Birthdays in January

1/01 – Jakki Gardner
1/03 – Bud Freeman
1/04 – Corigan Quinn
1/05 – Lois Adams
1/05 – Philip Book
1/05 – Ashley Fox
1/05 – Shirley Janoski
1/05 – Jacob Taylor
1/06 – Nancy Bretz
1/06 – Joel Phillips
1/09 – Brenda Miller
1/11 – Marshall Whiting
1/12 – Linda Feil
1/12 – Diane McConnell
1/14 – Gary Geisinger
1/14 – Allen Jones
1/17 – Terri Quinn
1/19 – Rosalie Moore
1/19 – William Moore
1/20 – Mikayln Duffy
1/20 – Amanda Miller
1/24 – Lori Smith
1/26 – Mike Duffy
1/26 – Mackenzie McCarthy
1/26 – Julie Whiting
1/27 – Joyce Goist
1/27 – Morgan Whiting
1/28 – Taylor Allison

Glenn Hepler will be 103 years old on December 16th! Happy Birthday Glenn!

Pray FOR Healing

Please remember in prayer the following persons who are hospitalized, receiving treatments, recuperating at home and those who have requested prayer.

Dot Jones----------Avalon Nursing Home
Jo Ruby----------Avalon Nursing Home
Pearl Reed----------Overlook Nursing Home
Lavon Rogers----------John XXIII Nursing Home
Larry Pence----------Shenango Home



BREAKFAST IN BETHLEHEM

Saturday, December 14th
8:30A.M. – 11:30A.M.

Please invite your friends, family and neighbors. This event is FUN for children and adults of all ages! If you have never come, please try to come this year! The church is transformed into the streets of Bethlehem. There are live animals for petting, a Christmas movie, crafts, face painting, a puppet show and breakfast. Breakfast is served until 10:00A.M.

****Help is needed with setting up the church for Breakfast In Bethlehem, there is a lot of work that goes into getting the church transformed for this event. Set up will begin at 9:00A.M. on Saturday, December 7th and set up will continue after church on Sunday, December 8th. Please come and help if you are able****

BETHLEHEM MORNING!

Sunday, December 15th at 6:00P.M.



New Bedford E.P.C. Choir presents…*Bethlehem Morning!* Bethlehem Morning tells the miraculous story of Christmas through traditional carols and Christmas favorites, but also reminds us that the story of God's love didn't stop there, and our choir will be sharing this message at 6PM on December 15th, with dessert to follow.

1 John 4:10 says, *"This is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins."* Jesus came for us when He was born in Bethlehem, and it was for us He went to Calvary. All are welcome to join with us as we take this Gospel message into our community with this cantata, Bethlehem Morning!



CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP: On Tuesday, December 24th at 7:00P.M., please plan on attending our Christmas Eve Worship Service. There will be Christmas Carols, music from our amazing Choir, Candle Lighting, and a Message of Hope and Joy. Please come and join us for a time of remembering the night that our Lord Jesus was born.



CHRISTMAS OFFERING: This years Special Christmas Offering will go to the ministry of Autumn Marshall in Haiti. There will be Special Envelopes in your bulletins on 12/22 and 12/24.

DEACONS NEWS



Poinsettias - The Deacons are taking orders for poinsettias again this year, this Sunday, December 1st is the last day to order, poinsettias will be $7.00 each. Look for inserts in your bulletins to order, call the church office or see Larry Bluedorn.

Church Christmas Card Banner – We invite every family to share their Christmas wishes to the congregation by hanging a Christmas card on our banner on display in the narthex.

Donations needed – We are collecting canned goods and non-perishable foods for our Christmas food boxes to be delivered to several church families. Please bring your items by Thursday, December 19. Before you donate, please check the expiration dates since we cannot give expired items. Thank You!!

New Ministry – The Deacons are starting a Sunday Second Service Shuttle to help individuals who are unable to drive to church. We will be asking for drivers and assistants to sign-up to drive the church van and pick-up individuals between 9:45am and 10am on Sunday mornings. If you know of anyone who is in need of a lift to church or if you are willing to be a driver/assistant, please contact one of the Deacons.

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Women's News

December Circle Meetings

Deborah **~ Tuesday 12/10 at 9:30AM**

Ruth **~ Tuesday 12/16 at 9:30AM**

Rebecca **~ NOT MEETING IN DECEMBER**

Lydia **~ Tuesday 12/17 at 1:00PM**

Elizabeth **~ Thursday 12/19 at 6:30PM**

Bazaar 2019 – A special thank you to everyone for all your help with the BAZAAR. We were able to raise over $6400. This could never happen without the combined efforts of the Women's Association, the men and youth of the church. -2019 Bazaar Committee

With the holidays fast approaching, everyone will probably have an abundance of plastic caps from bottles and containers. Please save them for a project the youth will start after the first of the year. More complete details will be in the January Redeeming Times Newsletter.

SAVE THE DATE……Women's Retreat 2020 will be April 17 & 18

There will be a Congregational Meeting on Sunday, December 1st following the second Worship Service. The purpose of this meeting is for electing officers and receiving the budget.



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The Church Office will be closed Christmas Day through New Year's Day, the office will re-open on Thursday, January 2nd. Please have all information and/or announcements for the 12/24 and 12/29 bulletins submitted no later than 10:00A.M. on Monday, December 23rd . The staff would like to wish everyone a very Merry Christmas and a Blessed New Year!!

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OFFICER TRAINING 2020 – On Saturday, January 11th from 8:30AM until NOON. All Officers, Elders and Deacons, returning and new, are encouraged to attend this training. This training is required by our Book of Order and is also a great time of fellowship and for making goals for the upcoming year.

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IMPORTANT - Annual Reports: All committee and board secretaries or chairmen should start thinking about getting their Annual Reports ready to be turned in. ALL REPORTS MUST BE TURNED IN NO LATER THEN TUESDAY, JANUARY 14 to be included in the 2019 Annual Report. There is a folder on my desk or you can email your reports to me at newbedfordchurch@verizon.net or addietwinstrips@gmail.com Thank You!! Addie

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WEEKLY BULLETIN – Please have all bulletin information and/or announcements submitted no later than 9:00A.M. on Thursday mornings to be printed in that Sundays bulletin.



MONTHLY NEWSLETTERS – Please have all newsletter articles and/or information/announcements submitted no later than the 25TH of every month to be included in the following months newsletter. The January Newsletter will be completed later than normal because of the holidays, the deadline for the January RT will be Monday, January 6th.

**All bulletin and newsletter submissions can be sent to newbedfordchurch@verizon.net or addietwinstrips@gmail.com or left on Addie's desk.

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There will be a combined Worship Service on SUNDAY, DECEMBER 29TH at 10:30A.M. for the Children's Christmas Play. There will NOT be an 8:30 service on this day.

Family Ministries Calendar
December 2019

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 Jr high 12:30-2 Sr high 1:30-3:30	**2**	**3**	**4**	**5** E.P.I.C. trip to Butler for dinner and Christmas lights. The van will leave the church at 5pm	**6** Young Adult Christmas party at Fulkmans' house at 7pm. Bring an appetizer.	**7**
8 Jr high 12:30-2 Sr high 1:30-3:30	**9**	**10**	**11**	**12**	**13**	**14**
15 Jr high 12:30-2 Sr high 1:30-3:30	**16**	**17**	**18**	**19** E.P.I.C. Meeting 11am	**20** Youth Christmas Party Van will leave at 5:45pm and return at 8:30pm	**21**
22 Jr high 12:30-2 Sr high 1:30-3:30 Gift exchange	**23**	**24**	**25**	**26**	**27**	**28**
29 No youth group	**30**	**31** Youth New Years Eve party at Fenati's house Starts at 6:30				



MERRY CHRISTMAS

A NOTE FROM DIRECTOR OF FAMILY MINISTRIES

As I look back over the year there are definitely many things to be thankful for in 2019, although a couple things do stick out. First, the new ministries that were started this year. Ministries like E.P.I.C, a God fearing, fun loving group of seniors that come together on the first and third Thursdays of the month for Bible study, lunch, and fellowship. Second, the new ministry at New Bedford for the college group. We are currently in the process of getting an online study group started and also encouraging them with care packages in October.

The other thing that stands out is all the love and support for everything from the youth to E.P.I.C.. I would like to take a minute to thank everyone who helped support all of the Family Ministries over the past year. On behalf of myself and everyone who has been the beneficary of your generosity and kindness, thank you. Getting to witness God work through all of you is truly a blessing and I can't wait to see what God has in store for us in 2020.

By faith, not sight,
Lee Harris

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THANK YOU……..

Thank you Lee, Dawn, and everyone at NBEPC for the care package! The goodies, snacks, and knick-knacks are greatly appreciated. I also want to thank those who continually keep me in your prayers. Special thanks to Bobby, Retta and Judy S. for the Halloween cards. One last thanks to Grace F. The book is so cute and I love the message it portrays.
Yes! Many roads will always lead home; especially back to NBEPC.
Many thanks & blessings ~ Olivia Eppinger

To my New Bedford Church Family,
Thank you so much to everyone that contributed to my care package! I appreciate it so much. I am currently working full time with Retina Doctors of Cleveland, Ohio. Nursing is still in my plans. I will put to good use my items in my care package, daily at my full time job. ~Aleah Deal

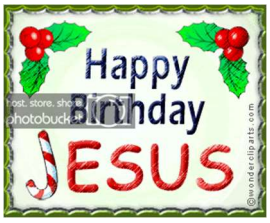
Thank you to everyone for my care package, it was so nice!! I've gotten so many little notes from church members, it's all been wonderful and I appreciate it so much.
~Meadow Whiting

Thanks to whoever donated for my care package. It truly made me feel so loved.
~Madison Liddell

Regular Club Night - Wednesdays 5:00-7:00
Ages 2 – Grade 6

Awana is in 'full swing'….it is such a blessing to be in the hustle and bustle of this ministry and to see children learning about Almighty God! Please lift the faithful servants in prayer as they serve the children of our church and community. <u>There is still a need a need for substitutes and also adults to assist in game time from 5:50-6:25 and Bible memorization from 6:25-6:55.</u> Please see Dawn if you have any questions on what the responsibilities are for these positions. *Prayerfully consider being a life changer at Awana.* You are welcome to stop in and visit any Wednesday evening, 5:00-7:00.

****UPCOMING CLUB NIGHTS****



December 4th – Double Double Point Night

December 11th – Regular Club Night

December 18th – Happy Birthday Jesus Party
Clubbers can wear festive Christmas clothes & colors as we celebrate the true meaning of Christmas. We will have pizza, chips, drink, and cake….beginning promptly at 5:00. The T&T Clubbers will be going Christmas caroling, a signed permission slip is needed for them to go with the group.

December 25th & January 1st NO AWANA Merry Christmas & Happy New Year!

Awana will resume on Wednesday, January 8, 2020

Inclement Weather Notification



Awana does not always follow Wilmington Area School District closing schedule. A decision will be made *by 3:00 on Wednesday* if Awana will be cancelled for the evening. I will send email to the email address that was given on the registration form. There are a few families that didn't give an email, therefore I will send a text to those families and to the leaders.



Children's Christmas Play

Join us was we celebrate the birth of our Savior!
Sunday, December 29th at 10:30 AM

Practices: Dec. 14th at 11:20 AM (after Breakfast in Bethlehem)
Dec. 28th at 9:30 AM

Director of Children's Ministry, Dawn Harris Email: dawnhnbpc@aol.com Call/Text: 330-881-8110

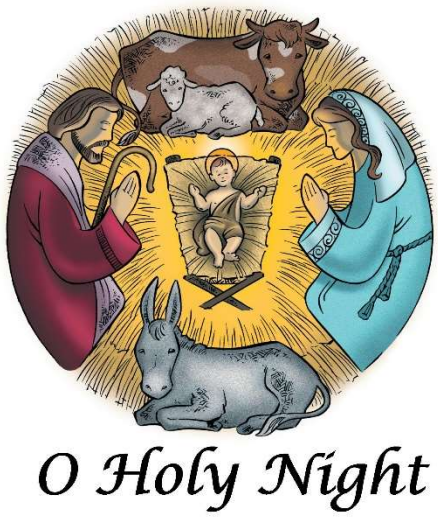
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Redeeming Times Newsletter
DECEMBER 2019

Church website: www.newbedfordepchurch.org
Church e-mail: newbedfordchurch@verizon.net



JOIN US FOR WORSHIP!
Sunday Schedule:

8:30a.m. – Contemporary Worship Service

9:30a.m. – Sunday School for all ages

10:40a.m. – Traditional Worship Service

Join us Christmas Eve at 7PM for our Candlelight Worship Service!
Merry Christmas & Happy New Year!