

Dear Church Family, for the week of **December 2nd**

Sunday of Advent

Sunday morning worship is at 10:00 a.m.

Pastoral Concerns: Pastor Jeff Long-Middleton **978-273-6399** pastorjeffuccbradford@gmail.com

Emergency Assistance: Care Coordinator Carole Taylor **802-222-4590**

Pastor Jeff says: What if you're waiting for the wrong thing? UPS shows up with a package. It's addressed to you but has no return address other than the one belonging to UPS. You open it, but it isn't what you were expecting, what you truly wanted, what would have made this Christmas special. Well, maybe that's why we missed the coming of Christ long ago and why we might miss it today. Other than a few shepherds and some wise men from the East, the world slept through Christ's coming. The world received God's package, but we wanted something else. This Advent, let's not make the same mistake.

Our scripture for this Sunday is Jeremiah 33:14-16

¹⁴The days are surely coming, says the Lord, when I will fulfill the promise I made to the house of Israel and the house of Judah. ¹⁵In those days and at that time I will cause a righteous Branch to spring up for David; and he shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. ¹⁶In those days Judah will be saved and Jerusalem will live in safety. And this is the name by which it will be called: 'The Lord is our righteousness.'

Lectionary readings for this coming week: (Year C) December 2-8

Jeremiah 33:14-16 (God's promise will be fulfilled)

Psalms 25:1-10

1 Thessalonians 3:9-13 (Paul thanks God for faith growth)

Luke 21:25-36 (live attentively for God's coming)

theme hymn: "*Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus*"

Pastor Jeff's office hours

Sunday afternoons

all day Mondays

978-273-6399 is his recommended number to use at any time;

calls to 802-222-4610 are only answered when he is in the parsonage, but you may leave a message

Community Christmas Dinner

The annual Community Christmas Dinner will be held on Christmas day at Bradford Congregational Church. We are seeking volunteers to assist with the following tasks:

- Food prep – Saturday, December 22, from 9 am to 3 pm in the kitchen at Oxbow High School
- Delivering meals – Tuesday, December 25, from 10 am to 1 pm, meet at Grace UMC
- Final dinner prep and serving – Tuesday, December 25, from 10 am to 2 pm
- Clean up – Tuesday, December 25, from 2 pm to 4 pm
- We are also looking for people interested in becoming actively involved in the organization and production of this wonderful community event to keep it going for many years to come.

If you have questions or are interested in helping in any way, please contact Bethanne Tillotson (bandgtillotson@gmail.com). Thank you.

North Country Chorus ~ Concert Sunday afternoon

Featuring *Laud to the Nativity* by Ottorino Respighi and *Lux Aeterna* by Morten Lauridsen.

- 3 pm on Sunday **2 December** at Peacham Congregational Church

Soloists will include tenor Phil Brown and sopranos Katharine DeBoer and Jennifer Zabelsky, in her NCC debut. Singers will be accompanied by organist Peter Beardsley, pianist Joseph Hansalik, and a woodwind ensemble. Musical Director Alan Rowe will lead the musicians.

Tickets in advance through catamountix.org: \$15 (\$5 students)

Admission at the door: \$18 (\$5 students) Details at northcountrychorus.org

Dec. 8 10:00-3:00 at Oxbow High School, **The Giving Fair**

- **Volunteers are needed** to host the Fellowship Time following the worship service. The sign-up sheet is displayed in the vestry. Please find the Sunday(s) you will help!
-
- The calendar in the downstairs hall ... please do not write on it until you have contacted Building Use trustee Janice Larabee. Thank you!
-
- **Please be sure to attend worship this week to receive your Advent celebration guide!**

2018 Christmas Memorial Poinsettias

If you would like your poinsettia(s) displayed on the altar platform
Christmas Sunday (Dec 23) and/or **Christmas Eve** (Dec 24) please:

- get the memorial details to Janice Larabee by Thursday, Dec. 20th (see below*)
- deliver the plant(s) to the church kitchen on Saturday, Dec. 22nd.

*The details Janice needs:

- in whose memory the plant is
- from whom the plant is being dedicated
- if you wish the plant to be saved for the Christmas Eve Candlelight service

How to contact Janice with the details:

- call her at 802 222 9920 or
- mail her at PO Box 216, Bradford VT, 05033 or
- email to bradfordvtucc@gmail.com (reply to this email) with "Memorial Poinsettias" as the subject line

If you do not live in our area and wish to order a memorial poinsettia through a florist, please let us know now via the above email address, with "florist poinsettia" as the subject line. A Deacon (Marcia Tomlinson) will work with you.

- Click on **EPISTLE** to get this month's Lectionary readings.
- Past Sermons can be accessed at [News & Sermons](#) .

- The latest “back story” can be accessed at [“Upcoming Worship”](#) or at [Church News](#)
- Our congregation's activities are listed on our [online calendar](#)
- Our Facebook page link is [Bradford Congregational Church](#)