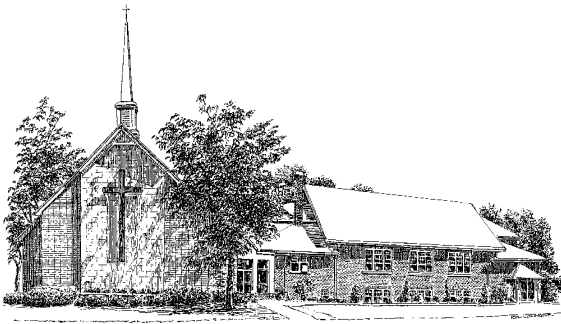


First Presbyterian Church of West Seneca

2085 Union Rd.

West Seneca, NY 14224

716-668-1115



The CELEBRATE December 2008/January 2009

*We humbly yet boldly step into the future, following
in the footsteps of Jesus on our journey of faith."*

December Highlights

December 1st ~ 6:30pm

All Committee Night

December 7th ~ 10am

Worship with Communion

December 14th ~ 5pm

Christmas Play & Potluck

December 15th ~ 7pm

Session Meeting

December 21st ~ 4pm

Blue Christmas Service

December 24th

6:30pm ~ Cookies & Cocoa Fellowship

7:00pm ~ Christmas Eve Worship

January Highlights

January 5th ~ 6:30pm

All Committee Night

January 19th ~ 7pm

Session Meeting

BRONWEN'S BY-LINE

This time of year is one filled with anticipation and excitement and anxiety! We ask ourselves if we will be ready for the holidays or not. The fact is – they come if we are ready or not. I think that is why I like Dr. Seuess's "How the Grinch Stole Christmas" so much. The Who's down in Whoville gather around the tree and sing praises without the trappings of Christmas and so the Grinch's heart is changed. Can we do the same? As the preparations for the season continue I encourage all of us to make time to reflect on what this season is all about. We are preparing for the coming of the Savior – Jesus Christ the Lord. As people of faith we have been given the greatest gift through him. And our response needs to be one of gratitude, giving, thanks, and joy! So share what you have, be aware of the love and friendship that is all around you, be patient, smile more, take time to be with God and celebrate!

See you in church,
Bronwen

FOLLOW THE LECTIONARY

December 2008

<i>December 7th</i>	Isaiah 40:1-11 Psalm 85:1-2, 8-13 2 Peter 3:8-15a Mark 1:1-8	<i>December 21st</i>	2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16 Luke 1:47-55 or Psalm 89:1-4, 19-26 Romans 16:25-27 Luke 1:26-38
<i>December 14th</i>	Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11 Psalm 126 or Luke 1:47-55 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24 John 1:6-8, 19-28	<i>December 28th</i>	Isaiah 61:10-62:3 Psalm 148 Galatians 4:4-7 Luke 2:22-40

January 2009

<i>January 4th</i>	Jeremiah 31:7-14 Psalm 147:12-20 Ephesians 1:3-14 John 1:(1-9) 10-18	<i>January 18th</i>	1 Samuel 3:1-10:(11-20) Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18 1 Corinthians 6:12-20 John 1:43-51
<i>January 11th</i>	Genesis 1:1-5 Psalm 29 Acts 19:1-7 Mark 1:4-11	<i>January 25th</i>	John 3:1-5 Psalm 62:5-12 1 Corinthians 7:29-31 Mark 1:14-20

WORSHIP & MUSIC

Please be sure to join us throughout December as we enjoy the season of Advent and prepare for the birth of Jesus. We will gather together Christmas Eve for cocoa and cookies at 6:30 (thanks to the Fellowship committee) and then celebrate the worship service at 7:00pm. Bring friends and family, and come sing carols and hear the Christmas story. Merry Christmas!



For those who may not quite feel up to the normal Christmas celebrations or those who have suffered a loss this year, we will be having a "Blue Christmas" service on Sunday Dec 21st at 4:00. This service will be a time of remembrance and healing. All are welcome.



We will be worshipping each week in January continuing the celebration of the birth of Jesus Christ!

The following is a list of greeters for December & January:

Dec 7 th	Perillo Family
Dec 14 th	Karen Malyszka
Dec 21 st	Partacz Family
Dec 24 th	Bob Doll
Dec 28 th	Margie and John Christmann
Jan 4 th	Diane Molnar
Jan 11 th	Wendy Warren
Jan 18 th	Wendy Warren
Jan 25 th	Rowe Family

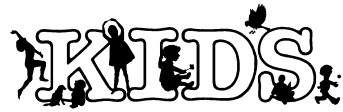
YOUNG AT HEART

By the time you read this Thanksgiving will have come and gone and we will be getting ready for Christmas and New Years. The months are flying by faster than we want. The Young at Heart lunch group will only have one luncheon in December and January. In December we will meet on the third (3rd) and in January we will meet on the twenty-first (21st). The December luncheon we will sing Christmas Carols after we eat. So please keep these dates open and we hope to see you all there.

Your Happy Cooks Dick & Edie, and we wish you all a VERY MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR

FAITH EDUCATION

Attention all children: If you missed our first play practice its alright. You can still be part of our Christmas play. We will have practice after church in the sanctuary on December 7th and 14th. Please come and join us. This is a great way to share your time and talents with your church.



Join us on Sunday, December 14th at 5:00pm as the children of our church share with you "The Christmas Story." Bring your favorite dish to share and drop it off downstairs in Fellowship Hall, then join us in the sanctuary. We need to know how many to set up for so please sign up before or after church on Sunday. The sign up sheet is on the table in the entryway. The children have been working hard so please come out and support them. Please invite your family and friends to join us this evening.

If for some reason we have to cancel due to bad weather the Christmas play will take place the following Sunday, December 21st. If you have any questions, see Dawn Corless.

Faith Education Meeting -

There will be a Faith Education meeting on Monday, January 5th at 6:30 pm. This is a great time of fellowship and also a time to serve God. We hope to see some new faces.

CHURCH & SOCIETY



This year we have chosen Pam, Dave, Alex and Marissa for our Christmas family. As most of you know, Pam is our Church custodian. On November 30th there will be a wish list for everyone to choose from. Please remember to wrap and place a nametag on your gift. Gifts must be brought in by December 21st so Santa can deliver them. "Sometimes the best gift of all is when it is given to someone else."

It's hard to believe, but cold weather is just around the corner. We will be collecting hats, mittens, underwear, etc. for the women and children at Cornerstone Manor. Check out those dollar stores for good buys. Collections for the mitten tree will be taken from the first Sunday in Advent, November 30th to December 21st.



I CAN, YOU CAN, WE CAN! That's what it takes to have a successful garage sale. Hats off to everyone! We raised \$1,890.00 that is about \$550.00 more than last



year. The bake sale alone made over \$200.00. Everyone's time, talent and effort does make a difference. Even the unsold items (treasures) went to other missions. You all deserve a big pat on the back. By Saturday afternoon, some of us were a little low on energy, but we had a lot of fun sharing some laughs, food, faith, fellowship even the birth of a new grandchild. Some how on Sunday morning we found the strength to gather together again for worship and communion. It certainly says a lot about the congregation of First Presbyterian Church of West. Seneca. Thank you again for everyone's contributions to this mission.

DECEMBER 2008						
Sun.	Mon.	Tues.	Wed.	Thurs.	Fri.	Sat.
	1 All Committee Night Cancelled	2	3 Young at Heart Luncheon 12:30pm	4	5	6
7 10am Worship w/ Communion 11:15am Fellowship Play practice <i>2nd Sunday of Advent</i>	8	9	10	11	12	13
14 10am Worship 11:15am Fellowship Play practice 5pm Christmas Play & Potluck <i>3rd Sunday of Advent</i>	15 Session Meeting 7pm	16	17	18	19	20 Wedding Rehearsal 5pm
21 10am Worship 11:15am Fellowship 4pm Blue Christmas Service <i>4th Sunday of Advent</i>	22	23	24 Christmas Eve Worship Service 7pm	25 <i>Merry Christmas to all</i>	26	27 Wedding 2:30pm
28 10am Worship 11:15am Fellowship	29	30	31			

JANUARY 2009

Sun.	Mon.	Tues.	Wed.	Thurs.	Fri.	Sat.
				1 <i>Happy New Year</i>	2	3
4 10am Worship 11:15am Fellowship Confirmation	5 All Committee Night 6:30pm	6	7	8	9	10
11 10am Worship 11:15am Fellowship Confirmation	12	13	14	15	16	17
18 10am Worship 11:15am Fellowship Confirmation	19 Session Meeting 7pm	20	21	22	23	24
25 10am Worship 11:15am Fellowship Confirmation	26	27	28	29	30	31

FROM THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY

This year the last day for the recording secretary to accept pledges and Per capita is December 28th. If you want credit for your tax returns please submit by this date. Your cooperation is greatly appreciated. If you have any question as to what you have left to complete your pledge call me and I will be glad to assist you. Thank you

Edie Fischer
Recording Secretary

DECEMBER & JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

December	1 st	Richard Jones
		Tim Miller
	3 rd	Nancy Galley
		Marion Labby
	5 th	Amber Wurl
	8 th	Mary Kate George
		Pearl Weber
	9 th	Barb Kissel
		John Lindak
	11 th	Bob Barnhart
		Carol Vaughan
	12 th	Donna Cieslinski
	13 th	Paul Rasp
	22 nd	Ethan Rowe
		James Wojcik
		Thomas Wilczak
	24 th	Kristen Wright
	25 th	Jason Perillo
	26 th	Deanna Pagliaccio
	31 st	Elizabeth Marrero

January	2 nd	Amanda Bohin
		Heather Komanski
	4 th	Ashley Bohin
		Russell Molnar
	9 th	Bruce Barrows
	11 th	Ellyn Reed
	14 th	Vincent Pagliaccio
		Chris Saeli
	15 th	Marge Christmann
	19 th	Justin Wurl
	22 nd	Sam Corless
	24 th	Mary Gutowski
	26 th	Thom George
	27 th	Lillian Kieffer
	28 th	David Bohin

Births

Brody Robert Stoklosa November 1, 2008



PRAYER CONCERNS

Members of our congregation

Bruce Barrows ♦ Dawn Dulski ♦ BJ Rustic ♦ Bill Seifert

Family & Friends of our congregation

Bill Baco (Sandy Pakenham) ♦ Claudette Bapst (Marilyn Mohr) ♦ Caryn Brown (Leona Wojcik) ♦ Clara Cieslinski ♦ Kathy Miller Colmerauer (Jane Lankes) ♦ Dan & Judy Cravotta (Janice Jones) ♦ Pauline Deletti (Sandy Fiegl) ♦ Linda Dories (Sandy Fiegl) ♦ Cathy Folaron (Cheryl Wilczak) ♦ James Groves (Nancy Lesakowski) ♦ Ed & Dorothy Gutowski (Ed Gutowski) ♦ Carolyn Halley (Marilyn Mohr) ♦ Harold Hanna ♦ Garrett Kensity (Marilyn Mohr) ♦ Barry McCaskey (Helen Sommer) ♦ Jill Miller-Kisker (Jane Lankes) ♦ Marguerite Kobel (Dennis Fiegl) ♦ Lee Kruszka ((The Fischer's) ♦ Dee Dee Labby ♦ Sibby Mielcarek (Marge Christmann) ♦ Aaron Miechurski (The Halligan's) ♦ Steve Milley (Leanne Wurl) ♦ Josh Miszko (Sue Piersa) ♦ Dave Miszko ♦ Abigail Nathlich and her parents (Marcy Partacz) ♦ Erv Noblett (Diane Molnar) ♦ Mary Orofino (Marilyn Mohr) ♦ Maureen Patti (Helen Somer) ♦ Elizabeth Shaffer (George Shaffer) ♦ Paul Sipos (Sue Maciejewski) ♦ Annalynn Surace (Sue Piersa) ♦ Patrick Weir (Sandy Pakenham)

OUR SERVICE MEN & WOMEN

Chris Kalinowski ⊛ Matthew Jones ⊛ Patrick Baskerville ⊛ Sammy Russo ⊛ Kimberly Trudeau ⊛ Steve Odebralski ⊛ Jason Zimmerman ⊛ Andrew Zalikowski ⊛ Nick Turvey ⊛ Kristen Pelc ⊛ Ben Schauss ⊛ Phillip Schott ⊛ Josh Winkler ⊛ Russell Molnar ⊛ Pat McCullough ⊛ Ryan M. Ratigan ⊛ Larry Lloyd ⊛ Joshua Feldman ⊛ Dan Dudziak ⊛ David Ferg ⊛ Zachery Goggins ⊛ Alison Lankes ⊛ Erik Brown



Yuletide



Enjoy the Christmas season with these games, centered around the theme of Jesus, our greatest gift.

JESUS' BIRTH FROM A-Z

What you need:

- Paper
- Pencils or pens
- Bibles (optional)



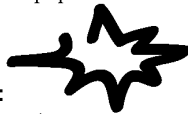
What you do:

Instruct players to think of as many Christmas-related words as they can that start with each letter of the alphabet. Start with A and give everyone a minute to brainstorm words for each letter. For example, M words include manger, Mary and miracle. If you get stuck, look at the Nativity accounts in Matthew 1 and 2, and also Luke 2. Players get a point for each word not repeated by others.

PIN THE STAR ON THE MANGER

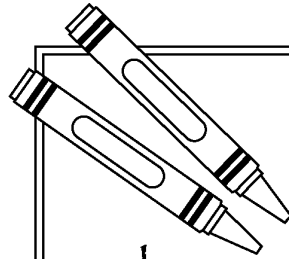
What you need:

- Butcher paper, poster board or plain wrapping paper
- Markers, paint or crayons
- Construction paper stars
- Tape
- Blindfold



What you do:

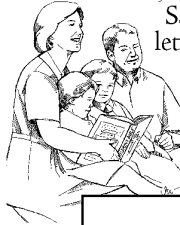
On large paper, draw a picture of a stable. Give each player a star cutout. Put a small + above the manger where the star led the shepherds and wise men to baby Jesus. Like in Pin the Tail on the Donkey, the blindfolded person who puts his or her star closest to the + wins.



Just for **KIDS**

The Story of Jesus' Birth

Jesus' birth is recorded in three New Testament chapters: Matthew 1 and 2, and Luke 2. Follow some important words about our Savior's birth by starting at a word beginning with the letter **A** and finishing with a word starting with the letter **Z**.



	angels	Bethlehem	car	dance	easel
cat	bear	child	donkey	egg	fast
holy	glory	flocks	Earth	feathers	gap
inn	jacket	grapes	peace	quiet	hat
Joseph	King	Lord	only	righteous	shepherds
kelp	loop	Mary	night	unique	tidings
last	maze	paper	wise men	virgin	water
open	nest	word	excitement	young	zillions saved by this baby called Jesus



Answer: angels, Bethlehem, car, dance, easel, cat, bear, child, donkey, egg, fast, holy, glory, flocks, Earth, feathers, gap, inn, jacket, grapes, peace, quiet, hat, Joseph, King, Lord, only, righteous, shepherds, kelp, loop, Mary, night, unique, tidings, last, maze, paper, wise men, virgin, water, zillions saved by this baby called Jesus

The Celebrate
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Rev. Bronwen Boswell.....Pastor
George Shaffer.....Clerk of Session
Donna Cieslinski.....Church Treasurer
Edie Fischer.....Financial Secretary
.....Property Manager
Corinne Northem.....Secretary
Sue Maciejewski.....Organist/Choir Director
Pam Miszko.....Custodian

Elders		
Class of 2009	Class of 2010	Class of 2011
Tom Kalinowski	Dawn Corless	Janice Jones
Shaun Wilson	Debbie Goggins	Ron Partacz
Wendy Warren	Erik Rowe	

Deacons		
Class of 2009	Class of 2010	Class of 2011
Sandy Fiegl	Dennis Fiegl	Marsha Barnhart
Bruce Barrows	Richard Jones	