

Rosedale United Church of Christ

# Rosedale Visitor



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December 2018/January 2019  
Issue X

## Sundays at Rosedale

**7:45 am**

Spoken Service with  
Communion

**9:00 am (Sept. to May)**

Sunday School

**10:30 am**

Choral Service with  
Communion

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### Pastor

Rev. Selina Hamilton

### Organist/Choir Director

Dr. Brenda Leiby

### Assistant Organist/Director

Judy Becker

### Secretary

Marcia Reinert

### Treasurer

Timothy Becker

### Income Secretary

Cindy Vesper

### Sexton

Carl Wolfe

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## February Newsletter

### Deadline

January 15, 2019

## December/January Highlights

### December 9

12:00 pm - Chili Luncheon

### December 16

6:00 pm – Family Caroling to Homebound

### December 24

#### Christmas Eve Services

7:00 pm - Family/Children's Service  
with Communion

10:30 pm - Candlelight Service with  
Communion

Ring-in Christmas



### December 30

7:45 am – Worship with Communion

10:30 am – Service of Lessons & Carols

### January 6

#### Epiphany



Return to regular worship services:

7:45 am – Spoken Communion Service

10:30 am – Choral Communion Service

### January 27

12:00 pm - Annual Congregational Meeting

Please Come and Bring a Covered Dish

## Leadership

### Consistory President

Steven Schory

### Consistory Members

Alexis Ames

Robert Ames

Jonathan Becker

Joanne Bilski

Michael Fowler

Michael Heller

Margaret Hoyt

Karen Sandman

Helen Schory

Susan Smith

Terry Ventresca

### Webmaster

Betsy Blankenbiller

### Facebook Editor

Alexis Ames

### Sunday School Director

Robert Ames

### Student Intern

Caroline Bashore

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We are a welcoming community of faith open to all. We would love to have you worship with us!

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[www.facebook.com/RosedaleUnitedChurchofChrist](http://www.facebook.com/RosedaleUnitedChurchofChrist)

Follow us on Twitter  
@UCCRosedale

Follow us on Instagram  
RosedaleUCC

Dear Friends in Christ,

It can be far too easy to lose sight of the truth and beauty of Advent. It's easy to be too busy or to get distracted by all of the shopping and cooking and decorating and travelling and wrapping and so much more that we do between Thanksgiving and Christmas. It can be too easy to forget to slow down and pay attention to the season of waiting that we come back into every December.

So for an hour every week (or maybe a little longer), we slow down together in worship. We look up from our work, we step away from our to-do lists, and we find God and one another in this holy place with our faith family. Each week in Advent, we will be invited in our worship to consider the ways we can spread the Hope, Peace, Joy, and Love that our world—and that we ourselves—so deeply needs.

I had so much fun using Christmas movies in my sermons last Advent that I've decided to do it again this year. If you want to watch the movies and read the focus texts along with me, here is my plan for this December:

December 2—Hope: Habakkuk 1:1-7; 2:1-4; 3:17-19; *Miracle on 34<sup>th</sup> Street*

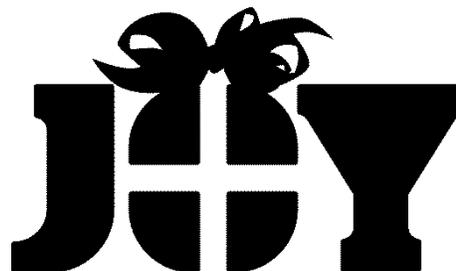
December 9—Peace: Esther 4:1-17; *The Nightmare Before Christmas*

December 16—Joy: Isaiah 42:1-9; *Elf*

December 23—Love: Matthew 1:18-25; *A Charlie Brown Christmas*

May God bless this season of Advent and help us to stay focused on the light that is breaking into the world. May God help us to shine that light a little brighter in our neighborhoods and communities. May God guide us as we seek God's Hope, Peace, Joy, and Love in our hearts and as we seek ways to bring God's Hope, Peace, Joy, and Love to our neighbors.

In Christ's Peace,  
Pastor Selina





## Sundays in December

Advent 1 Dec. 2

Faith as a Way of Life  
Habakkuk 1:1-7; 2:1-4; 3:17-19

Advent 2 Dec. 9

Esther  
Esther 4:1-17

Advent 3 Dec. 16

Light to the Nations  
Isaiah 42:1-9

Advent 4 Dec. 23

Jesus as Immanuel  
Matthew 1:18-25

Christmas Eve Dec. 24

Birth of Jesus  
Luke 2:1-14

Christmas 1 Dec. 30

Genealogy of Jesus  
Matthew 1:1-17



### Rosedale Readers

Don't forget to pass your books on Dec. 2 and Jan. 6!

## Consistory Highlights

Consistory discussed the proposed merger of the PNE and PSE Conferences and concluded that the Rosedale delegates to the Nov. 10th meeting should vote NO on the proposed merger. While the idea of a merger may be OK, information currently available regarding the costs and benefits of the proposed merger are very limited. Additionally, the timeline for approval seems to be very rushed and we feel that more time is needed for development of facts regarding how the new Conference would operate and how member churches would be affected.

(On Nov. 10<sup>th</sup> it was decided at the conference meeting that more time was needed because of the reasons listed above.)

## Church In Society

### Students Experiencing Homelessness

We continue to collect hygiene items year-round for **Students Experiencing Homelessness**. We are now also collecting hats, gloves and scarves for these students for the winter months. Thank you to all who bring in items to add to the basket. So far we have given three or four overflowing baskets full of items to the students.

### Halloween Thanks

On Halloween we handed out all 400 hot dogs, all the pretzels donated by Unique and Sandy Hower, potato chips from Dieffenbach's, most of the big bowl of candy, and lots of hot chocolate. We received \$14 in donations from our members, and \$29.16 in donations from "trick or treaters" that night. A big thanks to all for all of the donations. We had 10 people helping that night to make the evening run smoothly: Terry Ventresca, Karen Sandman, Bob Ames, Bob Bankes, Caroline Bashore, Joanne Bilski, Sharon Lutz, Dennis Blair, Peg Hoyt, & Marcia Reinert.



### Our Neighbors in Need

We received \$125 in donations for Neighbors in Need, and \$248 for St. Peter's Building Fund to help them recover from extensive flood damage to their church building.



## Sundays in January

Epiphany Jan. 6  
Magi Visit  
Matthew 2:1-23

Epiphany 1 Jan. 13  
Jesus' Baptism  
Matthew 3:1-17

Epiphany 2 Jan. 20  
Tempted in the Wilderness  
Matthew 4:1-17

Epiphany 3 Jan. 27  
Beatitudes  
Matthew 5:1-20



### Chocolate Bars

We have received a total of 151 chocolate bars for the Berks County Jail to be given out at Christmas. Thank you!

### Christmas Giving Trees

We have designated the tree in the back of the sanctuary to be used for the animals at the Animal Rescue League. You can take an ornament from the tree which has a list of items on the back and purchase those items, bringing them back to church by December 24. They don't need to be wrapped. The ARL was so grateful for our donations last year and it was fun shopping for the animals.



### Ridgeway Tree

The tree in the Ridgeway stairwell will be decorated by the Sunday school children with decorations they make in class. Some of these will then go to our homebound members with their fruit baskets.

### Outreach to Muhlenberg Elementary

We are collecting sweat pants for the elementary school to be delivered at the start of school in January. Needed are boys sweat pants, sizes 4 to 12 (especially bigger sizes). For girls, sweat pants sizes 4 to 12 (need some larger sizes). Please place your items in the basket in the rear of the sanctuary. If you have questions, Peg Hoyt is the person to ask.

### Pantry Help Needed

The Muhlenberg Churches Food Pantry is looking for a few additional folks to help roll out and load shopping carts of food into clients' vehicles during our monthly distributions. The time for this volunteer opportunity is 3:15 p.m. on the third Thursday of each month. If you are interested in helping with this, please see Brenda.

### Veterans Making A Difference

We have a sign-up sheet in the rear of the sanctuary for anyone who wishes to sign-up and sponsor our local veterans for a month. The donation amount is \$30/month.

### Christmas Caroling

Come out and join us for Christmas caroling on December 16 at 6:00 pm. All family members are invited to participate. We will car pool to a few homebound members and sing a couple songs and deliver their fruit baskets. They really enjoy seeing everyone, and especially enjoy seeing the kids. Afterward we return to the church for hot chocolate and cookies. Bring a flashlight!



## **Worship Resources**

### **Order Poinsettias**

We are selling poinsettias which will be placed in church December 23 and may be taken home after the late service Christmas Eve. The cost is \$8 each. We have a choice of red, white, or jingle bell.

<p>Poinsettias \$8          Deadline Dec. 16          Env. # _____</p> <p>Name _____          _____</p> <p># Red _____</p> <p># White _____</p> <p>#Jingle Bell _____</p> <p>In Memory of/in honor          of _____          _____          _____          _____          _____</p>
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Stay connected by email. Please consider giving us your email address. Contact us at [rosedaleucc1301@yahoo.com](mailto:rosedaleucc1301@yahoo.com) or [church@rosedaleucc.com](mailto:church@rosedaleucc.com).

## **Social Media**

As many of you are aware, social media is today's best way to advertise, communicate, and stay updated with the world around us. Social media is comprised of website and applications that enable users to create and share content or to participate in "social networking". Rosedale has jumped full force into social media. We are connected to many apps, and groups. I encourage you to find us and keep up to date on events, posts, and some other fun stuff.

You can find us on the following social media platforms:

**Facebook** - checkout our Facebook page "Rosedale United Church of Christ". Please "Like" our page, share our posts to your timeline, and invite your friends and family to "like" our page as well. Also on Facebook, we have a private group for Rosedale Members Only. Here you will be able to access prayer concerns, birthdays and even more personal posts. Please see Alexis if you have questions about joining our private page - "Rosedale UCC".

You can also like and share us on **Instagram** and **Twitter**. On Instagram find us at "RosedaleUCC". On Twitter you can find us by searching for "@UCCRosedale".

The **Rosedale Website** is located on the web at [www.rosedaleucc.com](http://www.rosedaleucc.com). Here you can find out everything Rosedale, from seeing our church calendar, using the donation button, reading about who's who at Rosedale, income reports, and of course reading our monthly newsletter! Thank you to Betsy for keeping our website updated.

Last, but not least, is a new social media outlet called "**NextDoor**". You can find this app on the Google play store. It is free and you can interact with Rosedale events and also events in your neighborhood. Find us there under "Alexis Ames".

Have fun surfing! We can't wait to see you!

Alexis Ames  
Social Media Coordinator

## **Rosedale Happenings**

### **Rosedale Lunch**

Anyone can come out for lunch at Margherita's on December 10 at noon. Just let Marcia know that you're coming so we have enough seats. Thirteen of us enjoyed lunch on October 15.

### **Apple Dumplings**

In October we made 1310 apple dumplings! Thank you to all of our helpers! We have frozen dumplings for sale if you are still hungry for apple dumplings!



### Giant & Redner's

Buy gift cards to use at Giant and Redner's to help Rosedale financially.

Rosedale then gets 5% of the gift card sales. **It is money you will spend anyway**, so why not help Rosedale at the same time? Cards are available in \$25, \$50 and \$100 amounts.

If you have a Save-A-Tape card at Redner's, and you hand in your grocery receipts to us, we receive 1% of the total submitted.



Our Property Committee is looking for volunteers to help with projects around the church.



### Women's Fellowship

Thank you to everyone who purchased baked goods and sandwiches last month!



goods

Our sandwiches will be back on March 16th!! I am looking for more ladies to help with all aspects of sandwiches, helpers, sellers, etc. Please contact me for more detailed information.

Our next **Bake sale** will be December 16th after both services. This sale will be our annual Christmas cookie sale! Don't bake cookies this year! Get them from us! Donations are always welcome and, if you are craving a particular type of cookie, mention it to us and we can bake it for you.

We are also collecting funds to make Christmas fruit baskets and other goodies for our shut-ins. Canisters for donations can be found in the back of the sanctuary or see me. Remember every little bit helps!

Our next ladies night will be Friday, **January 18th** at Carini's Italian Restaurant in Laureldale. We hope to see you there - and bring a friend or a youth to join us! Restaurant suggestions are always welcome!

Our regular bake sales will return on January 13th.

We will holding a Yankee Candle fundraiser in January. The catalogs include a wide assortment of candles, products, and accessories - plus WoodWick candles and a limited selection of everyday products from Ball, Oster, Rubbermaid, Contigo, and Calphalon!

In the New Year watch for these and other events... including ham raffle, soup sales, quiche sales, and women's Sunday!

As a reminder, all women of Rosedale are welcome to join us for our meetings - you are already a member! We meet at 6:30 pm on the 2nd Tuesday of each month. We would love to see all of you!

The Women's Guild was proud to donate \$1,000 to Erase The Debt last month.

May the Good Lord fulfill you with His promises and bestow on you His many blessings!

Alexis  
President, Women's Guild



### Movie Night

Save the date for movie night, December 5, at 5:30 pm. We will have snacks to munch on. The movie is *Miracle on 34<sup>th</sup> Street*, and we're making it early enough that kids can come and enjoy the movie before they have to get home to bed.

## Theology With A Twist

Tuesday, December 11, 7:00 pm

Dr. Greg Carey presents  
"The Politics of Christmas"

The second Tuesday of the month. 7:00 – 8:30 pm  
Kutztown Tavern, 272 Main St., Kutztown, PA 19530

## Spirit on Tap

January 29, 2019, 7:00 pm  
"The Future Isn't What It Used To Be"

Dale Graff & Dr. Harry Serio

Spirit on Tap is usually held the last Tuesday of the month at 7:00 pm at the Doubletree, 701 Penn St., Reading, 19601.

## Join a committee – get involved!

Or –

Join Women's Guild.

Help at a dinner.

Express an interest in serving on Consistory.

Volunteer to be a counter.

## End of Year Giving



All giving for 2018 must be in by Sunday, Dec. 30. Any giving after that will be put toward 2019.

## 2019 Offering Envelopes

Your 2019 offering envelopes are available in the sanctuary. Please take yours and those of your family members or close neighbors.

## Fruit Baskets



The Women's Guild will be collecting donations for the fruit baskets which they make up to be delivered to our homebound members when we go caroling. They ask that you give your monetary donations to any Women's Guild member.

## Chili

Looking forward to our 7<sup>th</sup> Annual Chili Dinner on December 9. All those who can, bring a chili dish to share with others, and those who do not wish to do chili can bring cookies to share. This event takes place in the social hall following the 10:30 am service. Mark your calendars! It's always fun to sample several of the different chili recipes.

## Fall Dinner

At our recent dinner we served 261 and made \$2,030.06! Thank you to all who worked and all who bought dinners!

## In the News: 40 Under 40

### Honoring Rising Leaders in our Community



#### **The Rev. Selina Hamilton**

*Pastor, Rosedale United Church of Christ, Laureldale  
Minister of Word and Sacrament*

**YEARS WITH COMPANY:** one.

**PLACE TO MEET FOR BUSINESS OUTSIDE OF THE OFFICE:** I like to meet over coffee or a meal.

**HOW DO YOU UNWIND?** I love playing with my kids, reading and baking to relax and manage my stress.

**Podcast or playlist?** My favorite podcasts make me laugh, help me think in new ways about my faith and the world around me or show me what the world looks like from others' perspectives. If I'm not listening to podcasts, the "Hamilton" soundtrack is playing on repeat.

**IF YOU HAD \$1 MILLION TO GIVE, WHAT CAUSES WOULD YOU SUPPORT?** I would support local ministries that work on feeding the hungry, housing the homeless and caring for the sick. I'd also help fund theological education and training for future pastors.

**MY TED TALK TITLE:** "Be Loved; Be Lovin'."



- 12/5 Movie Night 5:30 pm
- 12/9 Chili Dinner - Noon
- 12/16 Christmas Cookie Sale  
Christmas Caroling  
6pm
- 12/20 Pantry
- 12/24 Christmas Eve  
Services at 7:00 pm  
& 10:30 pm
- 12/25, 26 & 27 Office Closed
- 12/30 2018 Giving Deadline
- 12/31 Office Closed
- 
- 1/1 Office Closed
- 1/17 Pantry
- 1/18 Ladies' Night Out
- 1/27 Annual Meeting &  
Luncheon at Noon

**Christmas Stockings**

If you would like to donate candy, small trinkets, or monetary donations toward the stockings the children receive on Christmas Eve, Bob Ames is the person to see. Monetary donations can also be marked "Christmas Stockings" and placed in the offering plate.

**Advent Envelope**

Included in this mailing is your Advent Envelope. This envelope replaces the coin folders we used in the past, and all offerings received in this envelope will help us pay our "current" expenses.

**Annual Reports Due**

Please turn in or email your reports to the church office by January 2<sup>nd</sup>. They may be emailed to [rosedaleucc1301@yahoo.com](mailto:rosedaleucc1301@yahoo.com) or [church@rosedaleucc.com](mailto:church@rosedaleucc.com). All church groups and committees should submit a report.

**Holiday Recipe for the Whole Year**

- |                  |                     |
|------------------|---------------------|
| 4 c. love        | 5 spoons of hope    |
| 2 c. loyalty     | 2 spoons tenderness |
| 3 c. forgiveness | 4 qt. faith         |
| 1 c. friendship  | 1 barrel laughter   |



Take love and loyalty, mix thoroughly with faith, blend it with tenderness, kindness and understanding. Sprinkle abundantly with laughter. Bake it, with sunshine. Serve.



**The Christmas Fund**

There is a Christmas Fund envelope included with this mailing and we will receive donations to this fund throughout December. This fund helps provide pension and health premium supplementation to lower-income retired church workers, emergency assistance to clergy or lay church employees in need, and Christmas "Thank You" Gift Checks to hundreds of annuitants; administered by the Pension Boards.

**Financial**

YTD Income	\$109,860.37
YTD Interest Income	7,815.52
YTD Expenses	143,824.99
YTD Variance	26,149.10
Total Debt	37,098.93