

# Busti Federated Church

## Newsletter

December 2016

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## My Christmas Eve Story

"'Twas the night before Christmas" the famous poem begins written by Clement Clarke Moore. Driving home from the church office my thoughts of Advent, Christmas Program, Christmas Eve service, and Christmas actually falling on a Sunday morning this year swirled about in my mind. Wondering how the Christmas Eve service would affect the Sunday morning Christmas service began to stir memories of earlier Christmas' spent in church. After all isn't Christmas actually more about Jesus Christ than it is about presents, food, and taking a nap after overeating?

As I thought about my first "Real" Christmas dating back to 1974 I remembered how excited I was while driving to church to celebrate Christ. As I stood singing the Christmas hymns I realized that they actually made sense. You see I wasn't raised in a Christian home and the wording of the hymns had been foreign to me, but now they were becoming a part of me. When my pastor stepped to the pulpit I would hear the very first Christmas sermon. I was mesmerized as Rev. Gordon Beam shared God's Word that morning; the heralding of Christ's birth. My attention span was being challenged by his sermon, but I didn't care; this was God's house where I was hearing the most wonderful message; the birth of God's Son.

My first Christmas Eve wasn't December 24, 1974. Actually, for me it was March 9, 1974. That was the eve before coming to Christ and accepting Him as my Personal Savior. I remember that eve like it was yesterday. My thoughts were about going to church the next day. I had a Great Aunt whose name happened to be Mary (believe it or not her brother who was my grandfather was Joseph). Anyway, she is responsible for inviting and bringing me to church. I had only been in church the previous Sunday and the next day was going to be the second. That Sunday morning Pastor Beam preached his heart out and conviction of sin fell upon me. I didn't like the feeling at all, but I pushed it off. As Aunt Mary and I headed to her home I shared that I had a splitting headache. Thinking she'd be sympathetic I was stunned with her response, "Good, you should have been at that altar this morning asking Jesus into your heart. Are you going to church tonight?" "Yes, I'm going. I hope this headache is gone before we go."

That night a student from the Bible College I would be attending in September was the guest speaker. Again, conviction of sin fell upon me and I knew the Holy Spirit was dealing with my sinful heart. When the altar call was given I stepped from my pew and went to the altar to pray. That night I surrendered my heart to Jesus and the rest is history.

Forty two years later I find myself leading those great Christmas hymns and giving sermons about the birth of God's Son. I never tire of telling the most wonderful event in human history; Jesus, born of a virgin. The Son of God incarnate.

"'Twas the Night Before Christmas"  
When was your first Christmas Eve?  
Pastor Lee

# Around the Church

## December

### Birthdays

Ruth Serrano	7 <sup>th</sup>
Jim Chapman	8 <sup>th</sup>
Joyce Dahlgren	11 <sup>th</sup>
Ivan Pangborn	13 <sup>th</sup>
Regina Ellis	17 <sup>th</sup>
Chick Morrison	22 <sup>nd</sup>
Carol Abbott	26 <sup>th</sup>
Todd Hanson	28 <sup>th</sup>
Gordy Robbins	29 <sup>th</sup>

### Anniversaries

Jim & Jane Chapman	28 <sup>th</sup>
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## January

### Birthdays

Sandy Kearney	1st
John Siggins	2nd
Catelyn Hanson	9th
Chris Lynn	18th



## Annual Business Meeting

On Sunday, November 20th the congregation held it's annual business meeting. Among the business that was approved was the 2017 Annual Budget and the 2017 Nominations. The only position that hasn't been filled is the United Methodist Delegate.

During the meeting we also discussed several important topics that are vital to the operation and growth of our church. One of the topics was the parsonage. It is currently being rented but the Resource Team is going to move forward gathering information on our options with the property. We also discussed forming a small group to review our vision and mission statements, our denominational connections and what we are looking for in a new pastor. Pastor Lee has agreed to work with us through this process.

## The Season of Advent

Throughout the 4 Sundays of Advent this year we are going to be focusing on Hope. How we can have hope through darkness and difficulties and also through our witness and our service. On Christmas morning we will be reminded that Jesus is our Hope. Take time during this time of Advent looking forward to the Hope that Jesus has provided us and will provide us in His coming.

Please consider signing up to usher, host community friendship time or clean the church. Sign-up sheets are at the church or you can email the office at [bustifederatedchurch@gmail.com](mailto:bustifederatedchurch@gmail.com)

# Around the Community

## Living Christmas Tree

***“Let There Be Christmas”***

**Performances:**

**December 2nd at 8 PM**

**December 3rd at 5 PM & 8 PM**

**December 4th at 5 PM**

**Hosted by:**

**First Covenant Church**

## Blue Star Mothers

The Blue Star Mothers will be packing the boxes on December 3rd at the Fluvanna Community Church Beginning at 9:00am and will also have a float in the Jamestown Christmas Parade on December 2nd. For a list of items you can visit their website at

[www.bluestarmotherswny.com/donation-list/](http://www.bluestarmotherswny.com/donation-list/)

## Wreaths Across America

The annual Wreaths Across America ceremony will be held by the Civil Air Patrol's Jamestown Composite Squadron on December 17th at noon at Lakeview Cemetery in Jamestown. During the ceremony, evergreen wreaths will be laid on the graves located in Soldier's Circle as well as on the graves of the Medal of Honor recipients which are located in a different area.

Wreaths Across America was founded in 1992 by Maine businessman Morrill Worchester in remembrance of veterans, with the first wreath-laying ceremony taking place at Arlington National Cemetery. The goal of the organization is to eventually have enough sponsors to lay a wreath at every gravesite in Arlington.

Locally for the last several years the Civil Air Patrol Squadron has hosted the event at Lakeview Cemetery and are asking for the public's help in their annual campaign. The wreaths are sold through the Wreaths Across America program and are delivered a few days prior to the event. For every two wreaths they sell the group receives a third wreath free. Their goal is to sell 800 so they will get 1,200 wreaths in return.

Please consider showing your support by attending the event on December 17th and stand beside those that have served and honor those that are no longer with us. For additional information you can contact Todd Hanson at 716-499-5179. There is also a complete article in the Jamestown Post Journal

## Congregational Christmas Program

Sunday, December 18th

This service will be primarily presented by members of the congregation. If you have a poem that you would like to read, a song to sing or anything else you would like to share please see Pastor Lee or Julie. We will be singing Christmas carols and there will be a special treat for community friendship time.

### Christmas Did You Know

Germany made the first artificial Christmas tree out of goose feathers dyed green

Electric lights for Christmas trees were first used in 1895

In 1836 Alabama became the first state to recognize Christmas as an official holiday, Oklahoma was the last in 1907

The real St. Nicholas lived in Turkey where he was Bishop in the early 4th century

In Greek, X means Christ, which is how the word "X-mas" came to be.

"It's a Wonderful Life" appears on TV more often than any other Holiday movie.

One reason we leave milk and cookies for Santa is because Dutch kids would leave food and drink for St. Nicholas on his feast day.

The word Advent comes from the Latin word "adventur" which means arrival.

It takes an average of seven years for a Christmas tree to reach six feet tall.

Yuletide is a term derived from the yule log, a huge log used as the foundation of the holiday fires.

## Christmas Eve Service

Saturday, December 24th

This year for Christmas Eve there will be a fellowship time from 9:30-10:00pm and the service will be from 10:00-11:00pm. Please join us as we celebrate the birth of Jesus and finish the evening with a candle light sing of Silent Night.

### Church Outreach

This past June the congregation was asked to give their input on where they would like to see our outreach money go. These are funds that we have collected through the 10% of our giving as well as a couple of other sources. The Resource Team took these suggestions into consideration and here are the groups that we financially contributed to:

Busti Hazeltine Library

Love Inc.

Chautauqua County Footsteps

Liberty's Way

The Baer Family

Blue Star Mothers

Wreaths Across America

Psalm 91 Bandanas (sponsored Collin's Platoon)

Thank you to everyone for your generous giving and for allowing us to support these worthwhile causes.



# December

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 Community Sewers	2	3 Blue Star Mothers Packing Day
4 Worship Service 10:30am 2nd Sunday Of Advent	5 Busti VFD Christmas Tree Lighting at the 5 Corners	6	7	8	9	10
11 Worship Service 10:30 am 3rd Sunday Of Advent	12	13	14	15 Scrapbook & Card Making 6:00-8:30pm	16	17 4H Meeting at Church Wreath's Across America
18 Christmas Program 10:30am 4th Sunday Of Advent	19	20	21	22	23	24 Christmas Eve Service 9:30-11:00pm
25 Christmas Service 10:30am	26	27	28	29	30	31 

# January

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 Worship Service 10:30am	2	3	4	5 Community Sewers	6	7
8 Worship Service 10:30am	9	10	11	12	13	14
15 Worship Service 10:30am	16	17	18	19 Card Making & Scrapbooking 6:00-8:30pm	20	21
22 Worship Service 10:30am	23	24	25	26	27	28
29 Worship Service 10:30am	30	31	Notes: Resource Team Meeting Dates is still TBD			

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