



# THE MESSENGER

NEWSLETTER

Avon United Methodist Church \* 130 Genesee Street, Avon, NY 14414  
585 226 8600 \* [www.AVONNYUMC.org](http://www.AVONNYUMC.org)

Have you ever asked yourself these questions: Why Christmas? Why do we celebrate the birth of Jesus?

I know the initial answer is: Well, it's in the Bible. We're told about Jesus' birth. And yes, that's true for two of the four gospels; Matthew and Luke, but that's only half. Mark just jumps right to the point of an adult Jesus who comes to his cousin John the Baptist before he starts his ministry. And in John's gospel he starts with deep theology— *"In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God .... The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us."* (John 1:1 & 14) And then we go to the adult Jesus.

Did you know the early Church didn't consider Jesus' birth something to celebrate, well not for the first 300 years. It wasn't until around 330AD that we find a reference to celebrating Jesus' birth by any of the early Church Leaders. (That was just five years after Christianity was no longer outlawed.) From the Apostles to the New Testament authors, to those called "the early Church Fathers," the Good News was all about Jesus' Crucifixion and Resurrection, and that was and is the central point of our faith. Actually, the Feast of the Epiphany, the arrival of the Magi, was celebrated before there was a celebration of Jesus' birth.

Now if you have an adult Jesus who was a Rabbi and he ends up being Crucified by the Romans then that means he was born. Nowhere within orthodox Christianity will you find some strange pagan idea that he appeared full-grown with no idea of where he came from. In the gospels we even have references to his parents; in Luke: *"Now Jesus himself was about thirty years old when he began his ministry. He was the son, so it was thought, of Joseph..."* (Luke 3:23)

So then, why did the Church start to celebrate Jesus' birth? Well, it was and is an acknowledgement of the fulfillment of God's Promises! As we approach and then celebrate Christmas it is all about God's promises and God coming to us! Just consider a few... *"But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, though you are small among the clans of Judah, out of you will come for me one who will be ruler over Israel, whose origins are from of old, from ancient times."* (Micah 5:2) *"Therefore, the Lord himself will give you a sign: The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son and will call him Immanuel."* (Isaiah 7:14) *"For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace."* (Isaiah 9:6)

Those are just a few of the Old Testament passages that the Holy Spirit helped the early Church to understand that in Jesus they were fulfilled. It was his coming into the world and dwelling among us. Christmas reminds us that it was the totality of his life; birth, teaching, dying and rising that brings us salvation and new life. May this Advent, Christmas and Epiphany be a time of blessing for you as we celebrate the birth of the Light of the World into our lives.

*Pastor Leuk*



## UMC YOUTH UPDATE

The youth would like to thank all those who donated candy for the Trunk of Treat event in October. Four youths attended the event. They dressed as dinosaurs, handed out candy and inspiring stickers and reminded the recipients that “Jesus is Dino-mite”!

In December we will be Christmas Caroling at the Avon Nursing Home. More information will come soon.



### Acolytes Needed

Do you know a child or youth, grade 3 to high school, interested in lighting the candles for worship service? We are looking for volunteers to participate in this very important element of worship. We are also looking for families to light the advent wreath during the Sundays of advent from November 30<sup>th</sup> through December 21<sup>st</sup>. Please contact Rachel Giso, at [gisorachel@charter.net](mailto:gisorachel@charter.net) for more information.





## Election Day Chicken & Biscuit Dinners



Many thanks to all who helped in any way with our chicken and biscuit dinner. Whether it was helping to make gallons and gallons of applesauce, preparing food before the dinner, or helping serve the take-out meal on Nov. 4<sup>th</sup>, it was all greatly appreciated. Without all of your help, we could not have served 325 meals!

# December 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	<b>1</b> 3pm Food Addicts – SSR 7pm Advent Bible Study	<b>2</b> 1pm Book Club – SSR 1:30pm TOPS - FH	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b> 7pm SPPRC - Zoom	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>7</b> 9am Coffee Hour - FH 10am Worship Service	<b>8</b> 3pm Food Addicts – SSR 6pm Girl Scouts – SSR 7pm Advent Bible Study	<b>9</b> 1:30pm TOPS – FH 6:30pm UMW	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b> 12pm Girl Scouts - SSR	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>14</b> 9am Coffee Hour - FH 10am Worship Service	<b>15</b> 3pm Food Addicts – SSR 7pm Trustees - SSR 7pm Advent Bible Study	<b>16</b> 1:30pm TOPS – FH	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b> 7pm Interfaith Meeting	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>
<b>21</b> 9am Coffee Hour - FH 10am Worship Service	<b>22</b> 3pm Food Addicts – SSR 7pm Advent Bible Study	<b>23</b> 1:30pm TOPS – FH	<b>24</b> <u>Christmas Eve</u> 7pm Family Christmas 11pm Lessons & Carols	<b>25</b> <u>Christmas Day</u>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>
<b>28</b> 9am Coffee Hour – FH 9:30am United Singers 10am Worship Service	<b>29</b> 3pm Food Addicts – SSR	<b>30</b> 1:30pm TOPS – FH	<b>31</b> <u>New Year's Eve</u>			

# January 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 <u>New Year's Day</u> 7pm SPPRC - Zoom	2	3
4 9am Coffee Hour - FH 10am Worship Service	5 3pm Food Addicts - SSR	6 1:30pm TOPS - FH	7	8	9	10
11 9am Coffee Hour - FH 10am Worship Service	12 3pm Food Addicts - SSR 6pm Girl Scouts - SSR	13 1:30pm TOPS - FH	14	15 7pm Interfaith Meeting	16	17 12pm Girl Scouts - CPR
18 9am Coffee Hour - FH 10am Worship Service	19 <u>Martin Luther King Jr. Day</u> 3pm Food Addicts - SSR 6:30pm Girl Scouts - SSR 7pm Church Council - L	20 1pm Book Club - SSR 1:30pm TOPS - FH	21	22	23	24
25 9am Coffee Hour - FH 9:30am United Singers 10am Worship Service	26 3pm Food Addicts - SSR	27 1:30pm TOPS - FH	28	29	30	31

# Schedule of Holiday Services

*December 24<sup>th</sup> – 7:00 PM Christmas Eve Family Service*

*December 24<sup>th</sup> – 11:00 PM Lessons with Carols & Communion*

## **Red Bird Mission Thanks You!**

Thank you all for your wonderful support and participation in sending boxes to the Red Bird Mission in Kentucky. We filled 33 boxes that will be delivered to Dansville, transported to Kentucky, and distributed to those in need. Christmas will be a little happier for 33 adults and children because of your love, caring, and support of our church mission project. 33 people will have warm hands and feet, happy smiles, basic hygiene items, and small toys and gifts to make this Christmas holiday a little nicer for them. Thank you! Jackie Tickner

## **Safe Sanctuary Training**

On Monday, February 9<sup>th</sup> from 5:00-8:30 pm a Safe Sanctuary Training will be offered at the church. “The Conference Safe Sanctuaries Team has announced an important change to the minimum standards for Safe Sanctuaries training across Upper New York churches and ministries. Effective immediately, all staff and volunteers who work with children, youth, and vulnerable adults will be required to renew their Safe Sanctuaries training every five (5) years in order to remain in compliance.”



## DECEMBER

### Anniversaries

Dec 18 Dan & Julie Brokaw

### Birthdays

Dec 1 Jolene (Barret) Rugg

Dec 2 Jackie Tickner

Dec 3 Micki Stephenson

Dec 7 Bob French

Dec 10 Lorraine Southern

Dec 10 Benjamin Amey

Dec 15 Ralph Duryea

Dec 17 Anne Czymmek

Dec 18 Gary Davis

Dec 19 LuAnn Lottes

Dec 21 Lill Johnson

Dec 27 Jackie Doyle

Dec 31 Donna House



Hello, I am your new Office Manager, Becky Kelsch. A little about myself . . . I live here in Avon and enjoy this wonderful community. I have many good friends and a beautiful family of three children, all adults, two who live locally and one who lives in Australia with my only two (also adults) grandchildren. Needless to say, I miss them always. I am blessed to be close to each of my children and we spend as much time as we can manage together. I've enjoyed a "big" life, have traveled to many countries and have had many tremendous experiences. I tend to be a positive and happy person and hope I can be the support and assistance you need in this position. Thank you all for the warm welcome into your church community.

## JANUARY

### Anniversaries

Jan 5 Sullivan, George & Nancy

### Birthdays

Jan 4 Brandon Moses

Jan 6 Mark McKeown

Jan 6 Barb Montesano

Jan 10 Josh Deragon

Jan 11 Jodi Rowcliffe

Jan 15 Gary Henderson

Jan 19 Roy Moses

Jan 19 Sue Moses

Jan 20 Judson Gage

Jan 27 Mark Brennan

Jan 31 Krista Moses



# Tops Gift Cards - The Easiest Fundraiser Around

**Start using Tops Gift Cards while shopping and support Avon UMC!**

**Tops Gift Cards are incredibly convenient to use, and are a great, easy fundraiser for our church.**

Our church benefits by receiving a 5% profit from the cards sold. Though 5% may not seem significant, if 40 families in our church each spent \$50 a week at Tops using these cards it would mean an additional \$100 every week for our church. This totals over \$5,000 annually! Suddenly, that 5% feels quite substantial!

The cards are available in denominations of \$24, \$50, and \$100. They function like a debit card and can be reused until the balance is depleted. Once they are purchased, anyone can use them, which makes them great gifts!

Jackie Tickner and Sue Moses have the cards ready for you every Sunday and are happy to answer questions.



**DECEMBER 2025 / JANUARY 2026 EDITION**

**The Messenger**

Avon United Methodist Church

130 Genesee St.

Avon, NY 14414

(585) 226-8600

[www.avonumc.org](http://www.avonumc.org)

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