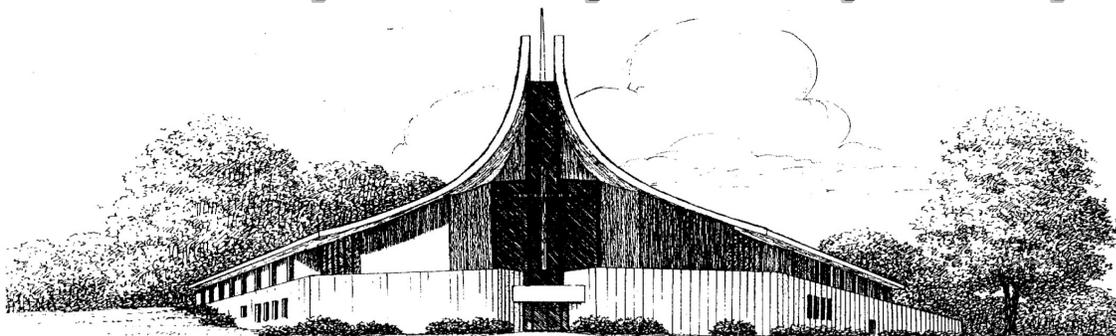




UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF DANBURY

THE FLAME

VOLUME 19
ISSUE 10
DECEMBER
2017



DECEMBER EVENTS

EVERY THURSDAY
6:00pm
Thursday Night Life

Saturday, December 2
5:00pm Advent Auction

Monday, December 4
7:00pm UMM Dinner

Wednesday, December 6
6:00pm Chapel Bells
7:00pm Trustees

Thursday, December 7
10:00am Helping Hands
7:00pm Bible Study

Saturday, December 9
12:00pm Dorothy Day Ministry

Wednesday, December 13
6:00pm Chapel Bells
6:30pm SPRC Meeting
7:30pm Church Council

Thursday, December 14
7:00pm Bible Study

Sunday, December 17
10:00am Christmas Cookie Sale
3:00pm UMW Event

Tuesday, December 19
7:30pm UMCD Book Club

Wednesday, December 20
6:00pm Chapel Bells
7:00pm ASP Meeting

Sunday, December 24
No Sunday School
CHRISTMAS EVE

Monday, December 25
MERRY CHRISTMAS
UMCD Office closed

Wednesday, December 27
6:00pm Chapel Bells
7:00pm Finance Meeting

Sunday, December 31
No Sunday School
NEW YEAR'S EVE

Monday, January 1
HAPPY NEW YEAR
UMCD Office closed

WORDS OF WISDOM FROM PASTOR KIM

“WHY WE COUNT ON CHRISTMAS”

Did you ever notice that the Christmas story as told in the scriptures begins not with the voice of God or the songs of angels, but with the order of an emperor? Emperor Augustus orders everyone to register at the town of his or her birth in order to be counted in the census. That means that Joseph and Mary, who live in Nazareth, must travel to Bethlehem. The Bible doesn't tell us anything about their journey, but we can probably imagine the physical discomfort of Mary, and the frustration she and Joseph shared at being forced to obey an emperor at the cost of endangering their baby. When they finally arrived at Bethlehem, so many people were there for the census that all the inns were full. How ironic it was that when Mary and Joseph went to Bethlehem to be counted, there is no place for them and Mary is forced to give birth in a stable intended for animals. The fact that Mary and Joseph had traveled for more than 200 miles and that she was in the early stages of labor didn't count for anything. Mary and Joseph went to be counted, but they were treated as if they didn't count at all.

All that counted for Emperor Augustus was Roman control, not human rights. And Mary and Joseph weren't even at the bottom of the social and economic ladder. The shepherds were so low on that ladder that they didn't even have to show up for the census. The shepherds were the Roman Emperor's undocumented workers and were denied any legal rights. All they counted for was counting sheep. Beyond that, they simply didn't count.

Although Emperor Augustus has the first word in the Christmas story, he does not have the last word. Someone else was traveling with Mary and Joseph on the road from Nazareth to Bethlehem. How did they ever manage that difficult journey? They managed because, as the angel Gabriel said to Mary in the very beginning, with God anything is possible. God was with them throughout their journey, bound to Mary with a cord of love.

(continued on page 2)

(continued from page 1)

How do we manage to keep on going on a sometimes rough and painful journey, when sin has invaded our world and is doing its best to make us feel that our efforts for good don't count? By the end of the Christmas story, we see that those who counted for little or nothing in the eyes of the world—Mary, Joseph, and the humble shepherds—counted for everything in the eyes of God. For to them a child was born, to them a Son was given—and not just given to them, but the Christmas promise is that the child is also given to us.

And so we celebrate at Christmas because God is with us, too, when the road is hard and bumpy. God is here, hidden in the curves and turns of our lives, bound to us with a cord of love that nothing can sever.

In the end the powers of darkness will not count. We are inheritors of a particular kind of wealth - the wealth of a God whose love will not let us go; hope that will not let us down; life that will not let us die. The One who has counted every hair on our head is on the road with us this Christmas and always, no matter the bumps we face. We celebrate this Christmas because we can count on that.

Please join us this Christmas Eve as we celebrate the birth of our Lord and Savior. We hope to see you each Sunday in Advent. Because Christmas Eve is on a Sunday this year, our Music and Worship Committee has decided to do something a little differently. We will have joyful worship on Christmas Eve morning at our usual worship time of 10:30am. Then later in the day, we will have one joint Christmas Eve Service of Carols and Candlelight at 5:30pm on December 24. The joint service will feature a Christmas Eve Children's Message, Special Music, and Carols and Candlelight. We look forward to having you worship with us at this most holy time of year.

Blessings in Christ,
Pastor Kim

LEADER TO LEADER

Leadership Training Comes to UMC Danbury

We are pleased that we will be hosting one of the Leader-to-Leader training events sponsored by our District. On Sunday, January 28, from 2:00pm to 6:00pm, our leaders and committee members will have the opportunity to attend a district leadership training event at our church (along with persons from all around our district).

The event will start off with a plenary led by our D.S., Betsy Ott, followed by breakout sessions. In the following areas: Trustees, Finance, SPR 1 (Working with the Pastor) and SPR 2 (Working with Church Employees), with some new sessions on alternative community church structures, and more! It is expected that leaders in these areas will mark this date on your calendar and play to attend. Committee members in those areas are also encouraged to attend. This opportunity is not likely to come so close to us anytime soon!

Please RSVP to: danburyumc@sbc.global.net by Sunday, January 21, 2018

JOIN US FOR ADVENT/CHRISTMAS

WORSHIP



SUNDAY, DECEMBER 3 - FIRST SUNDAY IN ADVENT

9:30AM - SUNDAY SCHOOL FOR ALL AGES

10:30AM - WORSHIP - PASTOR KIM PREACHING

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 10 - SECOND SUNDAY IN ADVENT

9:30AM - ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL;

CHILDREN'S PAGEANT REHEARSAL

10:30AM - WORSHIP - CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PAGEANT

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 17 - THIRD SUNDAY IN ADVENT

9:30AM - SUNDAY SCHOOL FOR ALL AGES

**10:30AM - WORSHIP - CHRISTMAS CAROL COMMUNION SERVICE;
PASTOR KIM PREACHING**

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 24 - FOURTH SUNDAY IN ADVENT

CHRISTMAS EVE

10:30AM - ADVENT/ CHRISTMAS WORSHIP - PASTOR KIM PREACHING.

**5:30 PM - JOINT CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP WITH CAROLS & CANDLELIGHT;
CHRISTMAS EVE CHILDREN'S MESSAGE; PASTOR KIM PREACHING**

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 31 - FIRST SUNDAY IN CHRISTMAS

10:30AM - WORSHIP - PASTOR KIM PREACHING

CHILD CARE IS PROVIDED DURING OUR SERVICES

JOIN US FOR COFFEE AND FELLOWSHIP

IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING WORSHIP

United Methodist Church of Danbury

Invites you to our 2nd
Annual Advent Auction



Saturday, December 2
5:00pm

Food - Fellowship - "Fun"d Raising

Admission: A Dessert to share

Please RSVP to danburyumc@sbcglobal.net



The Altar Guild is now taking flower orders for Christmas.
They will be displayed in the Sanctuary on Christmas Eve, Sunday, December 24
at our 10:30am and 5:30pm worship services

The Beautiful Poinsettias are \$10.00 per plant.

*Remember how spectacular the sanctuary looks when it is elegantly blessed
with multitudes of beautiful poinsettias. Please don't miss this opportunity to
help create such a wonderful sight during Christmas.*

Cash or checks made payable to: **UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF DANBURY** may be given directly to
Altar Guild Members: Valerie Bose, Tonya Clark, Barbara Fulton or Barbara Kunicki
by Sunday, December 17, 2017.

You may also mail your order & payment to Valerie Bose, 8 Hitching Post Lane, Danbury CT 06811.

For additional information, please contact Val at 203-744-5712.

*We request that you take your poinsettia(s) with you after the Christmas Eve service.
If you are not able to attend services, please make arrangements to have someone else
take your plant(s) home. Plants left behind may be damaged by the cold in the church.*

PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY - DEADLINE SUNDAY, DECEMBER 17, 2017

Your Name _____ Telephone # _____

Pink _____ # Red _____ # White _____ Total # Plants _____

Plants I will keep _____ # Plants I wish to give to a homebound member _____

Name(s) of homebound member(s) _____

Amount Enclosed _____ Check # _____ Cash _____

Flowers given in honor of: _____

Flowers given in memory of: _____



STEWARDSHIP UPDATE

***11 You will be enriched in every way so that you can be generous on every occasion, and through us your generosity will result in thanksgiving to God.
2 Corinthians 9:11***

Here is an update on our Stewardship Campaign. As of this writing we have \$130,598.00 in pledges. I want to thank everyone who pledged. With your gifts and tithes and offerings we are able to fulfill our church's mission.

It is your pledge to our church; your giving commitment for the upcoming year that helps us advance the Kingdom of God, through the ministries of our church.

Your pledge also helps our finance committee develop financial ideas on how to keep our congregation, its building and the parsonage functioning.

I would like to thank Beverly Anderson, Danielle Mazza and Sherry Tyrell for our delicious celebration lunch. I would like to thank Don and Coralee Demouth and Mark Pierce for their help in setup and cleanup for our Luncheon.

If you have not had an opportunity to send your pledge card in, we are still accepting them. You can bring it to church or mail it to the office.

Thank you all again for your commitment and dedication to our church.

Grace and Peace

Carla Pierce

Stewardship Chair



THE GIFTS WE BRING

During our meditation period this season, let's assess the gifts we bring the Christ child. We bring gifts of inviting, welcoming, hosting to God's house. Then we follow up with our gifts of teaching, preaching, giving, serving, and healing. God gave His Son for the salvation of the world.

We humbly give our gifts for God's glory. While celebrating God's Gift, let us seek new and different means of telling the story of this Holy Baby. Let us seek new and awesome ways of letting the hurting people of our world know that Love came down at Christmas. Let us study to show ourselves approved.

Christmas Blessings,

Minnie Rouse

Christian Education Chairperson



Altar Flowers

Please consider sponsoring the Altar Flowers for an upcoming Sunday. The cost to sponsor the flowers is \$25.00

This is a wonderful opportunity to honor your loved ones:

***Birthdays
Anniversaries
and Memorials***

Contact Val Bose for more information

203-744-5712

LIKE UMC OF DANBURY ON FACEBOOK

An easy way to let others know about all the good things going on at UMC of Danbury is to **LIKE** and **SHARE** us on Facebook.

Go to www.facebook.com/danburymethodist and click on the **"Like"** button at the top of the page. Then, in the box that appears, click on **"All Notifications"**. If you also click the **"Share"** button, you can help spread the word about our church with other Facebook users.

This will ensure that you will see updates and photos posted to our page.





We would first like to thank all of you who filled a shoebox for Operation Christmas Child. Your gifts will go a long way to let a child in need know he/she is not alone. Below is an excerpt from the Samaritan's Purse website about the impact of your selflessness.



"Pastors around the world host shoebox distributions in places where people may not know Christ and invite them to follow Him. Other churches use the boxes as resources for outreach in orphanages and other at-risk areas. [Your shoebox] blesses children with joy, hope, and love. Their shoebox is the first gift many children have ever received! The treasures and personal letters inside communicate that someone cares for them and give them an opportunity to experience the love of God."



***** Warning paparazzi have been seen sneaking around the lower Clapboard Ridge Road area. *****

Breaking News from GPZ! (God Praising Zone)

A woman was almost blinded by the dozens of flash bulbs going off in her face when paparazzi caught up with her leaving choir rehearsal. Somehow clips were leaked from the UMC's Christmas Pageant rehearsals and they have gone viral! The discovery that this church was full of young Mark Wahlbergs and Christopher Walkens or young Melissa McCarthys and Zoe Saldanas has been made!

If your Sunday School student would like to participate in the pageant in some way (we have many different types of tasks to be done) but has not yet attended a rehearsal; please be sure to come on Saturday, December 2 from 10:00am – 12:00pm; and during Sunday School December 3 & 10 from 9:30am – 10:20am. The pageant will be held during the church service on Sunday, December 10.



We had a group of students attend our second Youth Group meeting. We want to thank them for their time, input and ideas for what they want this group to become. We also want to thank Darren Cain for taking his mentoring skills and sharing them not only with our church but also with the community. Keep an eye out for a new Youth Group Facebook page. The next Youth Group gathering is scheduled for Sunday, December 10, 2017. It will start right after church (11:30am) and run until 12:45/1:00pm. A light lunch will be served. The theme for the next gathering is **'Bring A Friend'**.

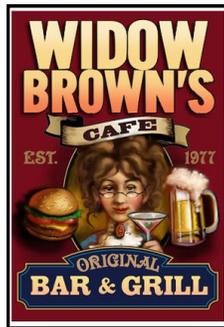
Sincerely,
Kim Cain-Moreira & Lorena Tesbir
Sunday School Superintendents



**The United Methodist Men
meet for dinner on the
1st Monday of each month at 7:00pm**

Please join them for comradery, good food,
and interesting discussions on
Monday, December 4 at 7:00pm

Widow Browns
128 Federal Road,
Danbury, CT



The Altar Guild is looking for volunteers to set up the luminaries before our 5:30pm Christmas Eve service. In addition we need a team to put the luminaries away after worship. Our Driveway and walkways look lovely with the lights leading the way into the sanctuary.



Please contact
Barbara Kunicki 203-746-5814
if are willing and able to help
with this beautiful service.

Men's Bible Study



Please come join Marti Foster and Jim Teer at 9:30am Sunday mornings in Room 3 for Bible study and discussion. The session is Informal. Come and enjoy learning about the Bible. There will be interesting discussions to better understand what the passages meant when they were written and what they mean to all of us today.

*This is not a Sunday School class.
There are no tests or homework!*

We will study the Old and New Testaments. Books we have studied include Genesis, Exodus, Psalms and Acts. We also use supplemental materials, other Bible versions and the Internet to enhance our discussions.

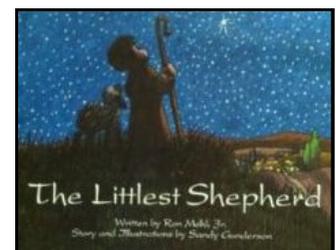
*Learn how we are, to quote Jones UMC:
"Shaped by God's word, Serving God's World".*



**The United Methodist Church Book Club
meets the 3rd Tuesday of each month.**

The December meeting will take place on
Tuesday, December 19, 7:30pm at the home of Mary Lou Heyel, 23 Larch Drive, Danbury. Everyone is welcome to attend.

Book Selection:
***The Littlest Shephard*
By Ron Mehl, Jr.**





CHRISTMAS BASKET FOR DOROTHY DAY SHELTER

Our Outreach Team is collecting items for the homeless shelter for Christmas Eve. Please Donate to our Christmas Basket in the Narthex. We are accepting donations until December 24.

Here is a suggested list of items:

- ◆ Gloves, Hats, Scarves
- ◆ Warm Socks, Hair Combs
- ◆ Hand Warmers
- ◆ Chocolate or other candy
- ◆ Dunkin Donut gift cards
- ◆ Small memo pads, pencils and pens
- ◆ Pocket size tissues
- ◆ Gently used backpacks

**If you have any questions please contact
Bev Anderson 203-746-4800**



Helping Connecticut's Children in Need.

THANKSGIVING FOOD BAG PROJECT

It is with a grateful heart that I can report I was able to deliver 35 Thanksgiving bags to our social worker at DCF to be distributed to families in need. The filled bags were received with smiles and gratitude.

I would like to thank all who participated in helping make it a happier Thanksgiving for some members of our community. I am constantly amazed at the generosity of our congregation. Reaching out to the less fortunate is what the people of God are called to do. I am so very grateful to be part of a church family that puts faith into action.

With gratitude,
Phyllis Tranzillo





Christmas Cookie BAKE SALE

There will be a cookie bake sale on Sunday, December 17 in the Narthex right after church. Would you please consider baking one or two batches of Christmas cookies for our bake sale? This will be a great way to get Christmas cookies for your holiday! We request that the cookies be packaged 4 per bag. If you have any questions please contact Bev Anderson 203-746-4800.



COME TO THE HOLIDAY GATHERING

**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 17, 2017 AT 3:00PM
AT THE HOME OF VAL BOSE
8 HITCHINGPOST LANE, DANBURY, CONNECTICUT**

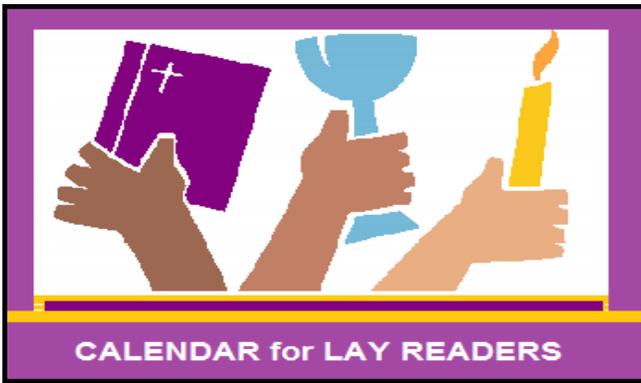
Please join us for a special opportunity for the women of our church to gather together for a celebratory Christmas Tea at the home of Valerie Bose on Sunday, December 17, from 3:00pm to 5:00pm. This annual Christmas meeting will feature tea, coffee, and punch with finger foods and a "Chinese Auction" grab bag gift exchange. Valerie Stagen will have Christmas cards to sign that accompany the gifts we deliver to our homebound members.

Please bring an appetizer, cookies, dessert or tea sandwiches to share. Beverages will be provided. The gift for the exchange should cost no more than \$12.00. This meeting is open to all women of our church and in our community. Bring a friend! If you like to have fun and join in with singing and fellowship - this is the meeting for you!

The United Methodist Women will also be collecting: paper plates, disposable hot & cold cups, plastic cutlery, paper towels, paper napkins, and powdered cocoa mix, for the Shelter from the Cold Program.

*If you would like to get a ride from the church, or have any questions call:
Karlene Lombardo at (203) 743-1260, or Valerie Stagen at (203) 792-9641.*





December 3

Scripture Reader	Roger Warmbir
People's Prayers	Jim Davis
Counters	Carla Pierce Don DeMouth

December 10

Scripture Reader	Beverly Anderson
People's Prayers	Carla Pierce
Counters	Phyllis Tranzillo Will McWilliams

December 17

Scripture Reader	Pastor Kim Bosley
People's Prayers	Barbara Kunicki
Counters	Myra Tesbir Norma Bucko

December 24 CHRISTMAS EVE

December 31

Scripture Reader	Jim Davis
People's Prayers	Mark Pierce
Counters	Carla Pierce Don DeMouth

**BEST WISHES AND GOD'S BLESSINGS
TO THOSE
CELEBRATING BIRTHDAYS IN**



Betty Zeigler December 1

Allison McWilliams December 3

Dorothy Gadoci December 4

Clarence Holston December 4

Edgar March December 4

Bishop Rouse December 4

Kathy Curran December 6

Debbie Davis December 6

Leslie Gartland December 8

Robert Fulton December 10

Phyllis Tranzillo December 11

Robert Elwell December 16

Carol Spaulding December 16

Martin Zahara December 17

Joseph Rouse December 18

Vincent Kempter December 21

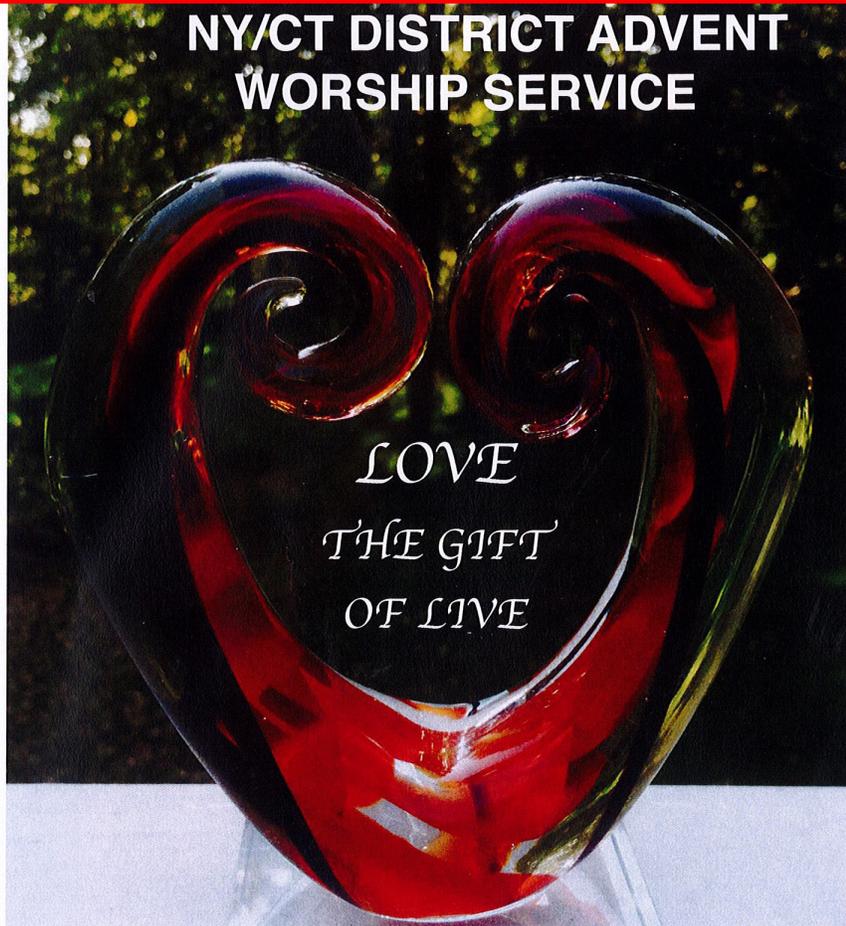
Elizabeth March December 23

Kimberly Bosley December 26

Chris Ziegler December 27

**NY/CT DISTRICT ADVENT
WORSHIP SERVICE**

**SAVE THE
DATE
DECEMBER
10TH!**



**WHAT A WAY
TO GET READY
FOR THE
CHRISTMAS
SEASON !!!!**

**OUR ADVENT CELEBRATION IS ONE
YOU DON'T WANT TO MISS
EVERYONE IS WELCOME
MAKE IT A FAMILY TRADITION!**

MANY CHOIRS

**SPECIAL MUSIC SPIRITUAL DANCE
CHILDREN'S CRAFTS ADULT & CHILDREN MESSAGE**

REFRESHMENTS

**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 10, 2017
AT 4:30 P.M.**

**Yorktown United Methodist Church NY
2300 Crompond Rd, Yorktown Heights 10598**



**THURSDAY NIGHT LIFE
DINNER IN FELLOWSHIP HALL**

6:00-6:30PM

Thursday Night Life is an informal, affordable dinner served buffet style.
Cost is only \$3 per person with a family maximum of \$15.

EVERYONE IS WELCOME!

Thursday, December 7
Thursday, December 21

Thursday, December 14
Thursday, December 28

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF DANBURY



5 CLAPBOARD RIDGE ROAD, DANBURY, CT 06811

PHONE: 203-743-1503

WEBSITE: WWW.DANBURYMETHODIST.ORG

EMAIL: DANBURYUMC@SBCGLOBAL.NET

MINISTERS: THE CONGREGATION

PASTOR: REV. KIMBERLY A. BOSLEY

ASSOCIATE MUSIC DIRECTOR: CAROL SPAULDING

CHURCH ADMINISTRATOR: PATTI COHEN-HECHT

LAY LEADER: CHRIS RUSSOCK

DECEMBER 2017 FLAME

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PHYLLIS TRANZILLO.

DEADLINE FOR JANUARY FLAME IS FRIDAY, DECEMBER 15, 2017.