

# NEWS FROM THE CENTER

Church and Community News

Sponsored by the First Congregational Church of Shelburne

## Second Saturday Suppers

**Saturday, December 10**

### **HOLIDAY HAM BUFFET**

All proceeds from the dinner will benefit the Johnson Clan **Relay for Life** team.

\$12 for adults and \$6 for age 10 and under

For **reservations** call

413-625-0127 or 413-625-2343

About the **Johnson Clan Team**: Linda Manners Tyler writes that the team was formed in 2001 and walks each year. The team is made up of friends and family, "Family by chance, Friends by choice." All are either cancer survivors themselves or have been caregivers for family members touched by cancer. The team name originates from Betty Manners' maiden name. The Johnson Clan team is a spirited one that puts everything into the Relay!



**The First Congregational  
Church of Shelburne, on  
the Mohawk Trail,  
welcomes you.**

Are you seeking good old-fashioned community events? Find some right here in Shelburne Center...

### **Holiday events**

#### ***Christmas Caroling***

On December 18, come join members of the Shelburne Center community for caroling to shut-ins and other friends who could use a burst of cheer. Meet at the church at 1:45 p.m. A warm-up party will follow the caroling. ***If you know someone who would like a visit by the carolers, please contact Barbara Goodchild, at 413-625-8203.***

*Many thanks to the Flaccus family who donated the Christmas tree on the front porch of the church.*

Shelburne Grange

On Friday, December 16, 7:00 p.m.

“Native American Holiday Traditions” presented by Laurie York-Risse.

Followed by a gift exchange (all participating should bring a wrapped gift suitable for anyone, not to exceed \$10.00)

Festive refreshments, laughter and smiles will be served.

Everyone welcome!

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Eventide Singers

The Eventide Singers are volunteers who offer songs of hope and comfort for the ill, homebound, dying, and their caregivers who may benefit from the healing power of music. To request this free service, contact Joe Toritto at 413-774-5828 or Judi Truesdell at 413-625-9326.

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***Christmas Pageant***

All children in the community are invited to participate in the annual pageant, a long-standing Shelburne tradition! Presentation of the Christmas story followed by a community Christmas tree and a visit from Santa. The pageant will be held on Friday, December 23, at 7 p.m.

Drop-in rehearsal for the pageant will take place after school on Thursday, Dec. 22. Also, the kids in Sunday School will rehearse through the month of December.

***Christmas Eve Service***

On Saturday, December 24 at 7 p.m. A service of readings, music, candle lighting, ending with a circle of lights and the singing of Silent Night.

The first night of ***Hanukkah*** also begins on December 24 at sundown. However you let the light into your life, may you be blessed.

***Christmas Sunday Worship Service, December 25, at 10:00 a.m.***

***Opportunities to serve the community***

Our Church is newly involved in the ***Cathedral in the Light***. This outdoor service is held every Sunday, in any weather, at 2 p.m. on the Greenfield Common. The service includes a short worship time, Communion, and a simple meal and is open to all, especially the homeless. Our task is to provide a hot meal, sandwiches to go, and dessert. The first opportunity to serve is on Dec. 18. If you are interested in participating or just attending to see what it is all about, contact Martha Wholey at 413-6256846 for more information.

## ***Advent Blessings-***

It is the season of Hope, Peace, Love and Joy. However, it often feels like the season of rushing, bustling and busy plan making. It may feel hard to slow things down, because the calendar is a constant reminder that Christmas is coming and time is running out on 2016. It's okay. It's all going to be okay. Take a deep breath. Center yourself and your thoughts. And know that whatever else is going on in life- the church is going to keep us grounded in the sacred and mark the liturgical time with tradition, heritage, and sacred practices.

While I preach about slowing life down while waiting with faith-filled expectation for the birth of the coming Messiah- the church is busy making plans. We will be having our annual caroling event with warm-up party. The Sunday school is rehearsing for another amazing Christmas pageant. The Worship ministry team is making preparations for another awe inspiring Christmas Eve candlelight service.

I want to share with you all that in addition to the exciting events surrounding Advent and Christmas- the church has been very busy with the planning and 'business' of the church. We have just recently accepted bylaw revisions which will help us live into our future while adapting to current changes that affect our church. And we will be discussing the parsonage; if and how it is viable to continue to maintain three buildings.

There is a regular Bible study meeting on Sunday mornings at 9 am in the Memorial room at the church (on Sunday's when the choir doesn't sing). Also, we are continuing our book discussion on Tuesday nights, at 7 pm (again, in the Memorial room). The book we are discussing is *Beyond Resistance* by John Dorhauer. All are welcome!

Please come to worship in the coming weeks as we celebrate Advent and prepare ourselves for Christmas. There are so many opportunities for community, missions, outreach and connection. Blessings to you in this season of hope, peace, love and joy.

In Christian Love,

Rev. Will Sencabaugh

*And finally...**Free Piano!** The church received a generous donation of a replacement piano for Fellowship Hall. Would you like the old one? If you are interested or know someone who definitely wants the piano, call Will at 508-333-0348.*

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**The First Congregational Church of Shelburne, on the Mohawk Trail**  
**holds services every Sunday at 10:00 a.m.**

*Our pastor is the Rev. Dr. Will Sencabaugh*

*Our website is [shelburnechurch.org](http://shelburnechurch.org), where you will find up-to-date  
information on Church, Grange, and community events.*

Find us on Facebook too!