



December 2023 Snapshot



Sunday Sermons:

Dec 3rd, 1st Week of Advent: "Usher in God's Victorious Presence" (Mark 11:1-10; Isaiah 64:1-9)

- Communion will be served

Dec 10th, 2nd Week of Advent: Children's Program

Dec 17th, 3rd Week of Advent: "Claim the Enduring Hope that Comes Through Christ" (Zephaniah 3:14-17; Isaiah 61:1-4)

Dec 24th 10 AM, 4th Week of Advent: "Respond to the Messiah for All People" (Isaiah 52:7-10; Luke 2:8-17)

Dec 24th, 7 PM Service: Candlelight Service

Dec 31st: "Sing with joy for Jacob! Make your praises heard." (TBD)

SCC Events

December

- 2:** Fellowship Hall reserved
- 6:** Ladies Bible Study, 9:30 AM
- 7:** Christmas Food Pantry, 2-4 PM
- 9:** Women of Worship, 11:00 AM (Fellowship Hall)
Men's Breakfast, 8:00 AM (McCarty Room)
- 14:** Christmas Food Pantry, 2-4 PM
- 22:** Commission Annual Reports are due
- 23:** Fellowship Hall reserved
- 24:** Christmas Eve Services (10:00 AM & 7:00 PM)
- 28:** Feeding America Mobile Food Truck, 4:30 PM for Ionia County residents



Other Reminders:

- Annual Meeting Minutes and Council Minutes are located in the Narthex
- Need more volunteers for running sound, video, and the PowerPoint presentations on Sundays.
- Still needing to fill the Missions Commission Chair position.

Celebrating the birth of Jesus!

Isaiah 9:2 NIV

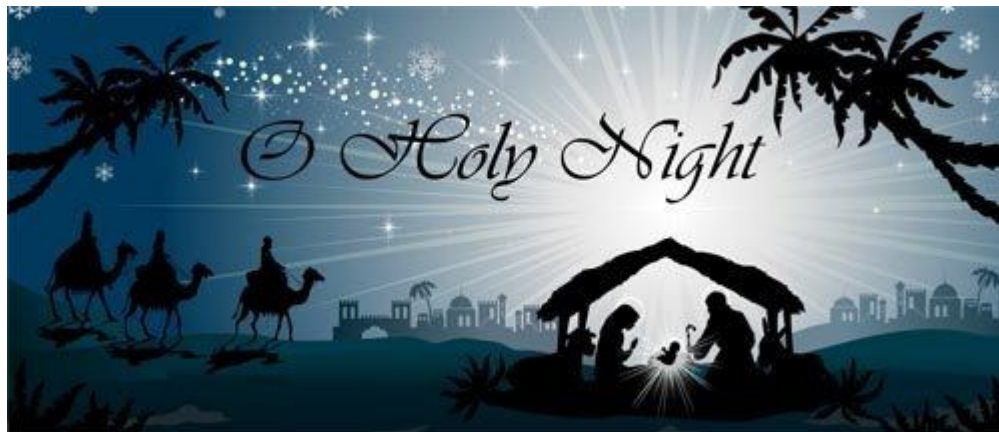
²The people walking in darkness
have seen a great light;
on those living in the land of deep darkness
a light has dawned.

I was reflecting on the darkness of this world...which brought me to this verse in Isaiah. The prophet Isaiah tells us why the birth of Jesus is such great news for the world. This good news comes to people who were "walking in darkness." But now those same people "have seen a great light." In our world and in our lives, it can sometimes feel as though the darkness is overwhelming. It can seem as though sadness and sin have the upper hand while the light of goodness and joy are hidden in the shadow.

But God's Word promises us that light is coming to the world in JESUS. Isaiah promises a Savior who will rule the world. "He will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, and Prince of Peace." His reign will bring peace and joy to the world. **Jesus rules the whole world, and his rule is one of peace. That news is light for a darkened world today!**

God of promise, we look forward to celebrating the birth of Jesus again this year. We thank you for the light of hope you have given us in him. In his holy name we pray. Amen

--Connie Biggs





Christmas is a beautiful time of the year when we remember the birth of Jesus in Bethlehem.

Christmas is the story of God becoming man. It is the story of God's great love for you and for me.

Christmas is a time we give gifts to each other to celebrate God's gift of Jesus to the whole world.

Christmas is good news of great joy because Jesus came to shed his blood on a cross. Through Jesus we have eternal life. This is the great hope of Christmas.

It's almost time! Yes, it's almost time for our Annual Children's Christmas Program here at SCC. The program will be held this year on December 10th during our worship service.

What a wonderful time it is for the Children as they share the various words and songs that celebrate the birth of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. Some of you might remember "way back" when you were part of a program and how much it meant to look out and see the place packed with people. Please share this Good New message with your family and friends. We wish you all a joyful and blessed **Christmas**.





DECEMBER

- 6 - Scott Klahn
- 9 - Mark Gillette, Dale Hice
- 15 - MacKenzie Roberts
- 17 - Margaret Chadwick
- 20 - Stacy Shattuck
- 21 - Tom Westbrook

- 24 - Jim Lóser,
Dorothy McMaster

Let the office know if your name is missing and you would like it included.

Thank you to all who helped with the annual Fall Clean-Up on November 18th!



SCC Monthly Prayer List



Cancer:

Jo Bellgraph	Pam Briest	Brad Edwards
David Briest	Paula DeYoung	Jan Renwick

Medical:

Kelley Becker	Valerie Emelander	Terri McCready	
Sawyer & Daxton Blain	Richard Grieves	Terri Powers	Colin & Eleanor Williams
Sharon Blanchard	Kevin Hielman	Jess Spychiger	Pat Zander
Catherine Cove	Sue Hendrick	Harvey & Estelle Stark	Scott Zeeryp
Emma Dawson	Nancy Justice	Karen Taylor	
David Downs	Lasby Family	Carol Washburn	
	Aliviah Maag	Dave Washburn	

UPDATES: This list reflects current needs that we are aware of. Please contact the office if your name (or the name of your loved one/friend) should be on the list. Also let us know if names can be removed. (We will need permission prior to posting any prayer requests.) **THANK YOU!**

Military

Friends:

Riley Bedard	Jared Johnson	Conor Talcott
Zach Bevington	Tyler Johnson	Cody Westbrook
Kristin Carl	Ben Littlejohn	Robert Westover
Jasmine Chadwick	Andy Lytle	Jim Whittum
Kameron Conroe	Ian Manion	Jayne Wilson
Alec Doll	Trey Matthews	Bryant Zander
Tyler Gorby	Charlie Miller	
Landon Hall	Patrick Miller	
Audra Hawkins	Maverick Musser	
Kyle Hill	Jon Powers	
Levi Jackson	Richie Sands	
	Mitchell Simmons	
	Ryan Sweet	
	Brian Swiger	





Food Pantry closed Dec. 21

Next Food Truck Dec. 28 (4:30pm)

Please save your egg cartons **at home** - we will let you know when we are in need of them again.

The Christmas Food Pantry will be open on Thursdays, December 7 & 14, 2-4 PM, to help Christmas time be happier for needy Saranac-Clarksville area residents. Last year we served about 120 families/singles. We will be serving people in their cars at the Food Pantry Canopy entrance. People may choose only one of the days we are serving. The Feeding America Mobile Pantry Truck will also be here on Dec. 28 serving at 4:30; people may use the SCC pantry one time and the truck as well.

Along with a generous food box, people will receive a turkey, ham or chicken, hamburger and venison if they choose it, fresh fruit & vegetables and personal care & cleaning items. We will have some coats, bedding and other items available as well. If you know of someone who could benefit from this service, please call the church office, 616-642-6322.

Volunteers are needed on Wednesdays (Dec. 6, 1-4 PM, and Dec. 13, 10 AM-12 PM if needed) to prepare for the following day. On Thursdays we need volunteers from 1:00 pm until 4:00. If you can give one hour or several, it all helps!! Please sign up on the sheet in the narthex or Call Margaret Chadwick at 616-642-9818. Please pray for all concerned too. We appreciate everyone's help to reach out to our neighbors in need with Christ's love. Thank you, SCC Family!

~Margaret Chadwick
616-642-6322

Steward Report: Below is the giving report for the year through April 30, 2023

Annual Budgeted Worship Offering Income: \$250,000

Year-To-Date Need \$84,906

Year-To-Date Received \$80,588

Difference \$(4,318)

We praise God for the faithful giving of His people!

Steward Report: Below is the giving report for the year through May 30, 2023

Annual Budgeted Worship Offering Income: \$250,000

Year-To-Date Need \$98,774

Year-To-Date Received \$91,358

Difference \$(7,416)

“Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.” 2 Corinthians 9:7

Steward Report: Below is the giving report for the year through June 25, 2023

Annual Budgeted Worship Offering Income: \$250,000

Year-To-Date Need \$122,641

Year-To-Date Received \$105,557

Difference \$(17,084)

“Honor the Lord with your wealth and with the firstfruits of all your produce;” Proverbs 3:9

Steward Report: Below is the giving report for the year through July 30, 2023

Annual Budgeted Worship Offering Income: \$250,000

Year-To-Date Need \$146,226

Year-To-Date Received \$127,502

Difference \$(18,724)

Jesus said, “...freely you have received, freely give.” Matthew 10:8

No report for August

Steward Report: Below is the giving report for the year through September 30, 2023

Annual Budgeted Worship Offering Income: \$250,000

Year-To-Date Need \$179,245

Year-To-Date Received \$160,660

Difference \$(18,585)

We praise God for the faithful giving of His people!

Steward Report: Below is the giving report for the year through October 31, 2023

Annual Budgeted Worship Offering Income: \$250,000

Year-To-Date Need \$193,396

Year-To-Date Received \$174,390

Difference \$(19,006)

As faithful givers may we finish the year by reaching our budgeted goal of \$250,000!

Steward Report: Below is the giving report for the year through November 26, 2023

Annual Budgeted Worship Offering Income: \$250,000

Year-To-Date Need \$226,415

Year-To-Date Received \$199,041

Difference \$(27,374)

We have five Sundays in December. Let us finish well!

~Submitted by Bruce Chadwick



Karen and Steve Hassevoort
365 W 1st St
Suttons Bay, MI 49682
khassevoort@gmail.com

Saranac Community Church
Bridge St
Saranac, MI 48881

To the warm and caring people of Saranac Community Church,

On behalf of our family, we really appreciate your gifts of time, talents and resources for Dad's Memorial Service and Celebration of Life! The music lead by Nancy Downs and the Men's Quartet was beautiful and meaningful. Thank you to the behind-the-scenes people who handled the details of the service and for providing the recording – we'll treasure it! The kitchen and baking crew who worked the lunch provided warm and delicious hospitality as we shared memories and time together. Your efforts and work felt like a big hug from everyone at SCC. Dad felt your caring and joined with you in fellowship even as he was away from you. He appreciated each prayer and card.

Peace and gratitude,

Karen and Steve Hassevoort and family
Larry Biggs, III



Welcome Helena (Lena) Margot Dotson to the world! Congratulations to the Dotson Family! Lena was born on November 17th at 11:14 AM weighing in at 7lbs, 7oz and 20 1/4 inches long!



This is your final chance to order scrip for your Christmas shopping and gift giving. We are looking for an additional person or two to help promote and coordinate the RaiseRight scrip program. Earn rebates to help cover costs for the 2024 camp season, UNITE, DR Mission Trip etc.. Due date for our next RaiseRight scrip gift card order is **Sunday, December 10th**, which will be available December 14th at the church office. Delivery of cards can also be arranged. Contact Mark with your order or order online by visiting www.raiseright.com. Contact the Scrip coordinator if you need Saranac Community Church's enrollment code. It is very easy to do this and your order is automatically sent to our church scrip coordinator. You may also bring your payment to church or pay online for a small 29¢ fee. Remember, you can reload or print many cards at **any time** during the month if you enroll in PrestoPay. Use the RaiseRight scrip phone app to make ordering easier. Scrip also now offers the option of having select gift cards shipped directly to you any time during the month for an additional fee. **There are usually a limited number of Meijer and Speedway scrip cards available for purchase in the church office as well.** If you have any questions on how this program works please contact Scrip Coordinator Mark Fritsma (MarkF@wowway.com). **Earn rebates to reduce the cost of sending SCC kids to Portage Lake, Branch Adventures or a similar camp. UNITE (CHIC) returns in 2024 as well. You can still participate and help build the scholarship fund even if you do not have a camp aged child. We also consider scholarship requests for church related functions, such as retreats and mission trips, from adults as well.** Due date for next month's order is January 14th.



Mission & History

SCC had 61 shoeboxes dedicated!

Mission

"Let the children come to Me; do not hinder them, for to such belongs the kingdom of God."
Mark 10:14, ESV

The mission of Operation Christmas Child is to demonstrate God's love in a tangible way to children in need around the world. Through this project, Samaritan's Purse partners with the local church worldwide to share the Good News of Jesus Christ and make disciples of the nations.

Welcome New Members to Our SCC Family!



(From L-R: Bob and Chris Parks, Jacob Walter, Bart and Jennifer Denny, Marlene Denny, Brad, Catherine Brent and Breia DeVries, Susan Carter, David Carter) and Jordan & Melody Dotson (not pictured)



Advent Candle Lighting:

- 1) December 3, 2023: Hope (purple candle)
- 2) December 10, 2023: Peace (purple candle)
- 3) December 17, 2023: Joy (pink candle)
- 4) December 24, 2023: Love (purple candle)
- 5) December 25, 2023: Christ Candle (white candle)

Staying Connected...

There are several ways to stay connected with SCC. If you would like to receive communications via texts and/or email, you will need to contact Jim Lóser (616-642-6322 or churchoffice@saranacchurch.org). If you are not receiving any form of communication, it's likely we don't have your contact information. Communications include the following options:

- ♦ Weekly Announcements (via email)
- ♦ Monthly Snapshot (updates via email)
- ♦ Prayer Chain (texts)

SEEK CHRIST TOGETHER In WORSHIP **SUNDAY'S at 10am in person or on the** **SCC Facebook page**

You can join us for worship on Sunday's if you are unable to attend in person by logging onto the Saranac Community Church Facebook page at 10am.

Interim Pastor: Darin Youngs
pastordarin@saranacchurch.org

Office Manager: Jim Lóser
churchoffice@saranacchurch.org ~ 616-642-6322
Office hours: Monday-Friday 10am-3pm
www.saranacchurch.org