

**This Sunday** is the third Sunday of Advent, the season when our worship and prayers emphasize our relationship with real people and our responsibilities to help care for them. During Advent, each Sunday we offer a special collection. For this Sunday, designated **JOY Sunday**, our collection will be offered to The Center on Bleecker Street in Utica. The Mohawk Valley Resource Center for Refugees (MVRRCR) has rebranded itself as The Center, a multi-faceted agency whose goal is to assist refugees, immigrants, and those with limited English language proficiency become integrated and independent as citizens of the greater Utica area.

**The Longest Night Ecumenical Service** will be hosted at Katherine Lutheran Home Chapel at 6:00 p.m. on 12/21/25 supported by The Clinton Area Ministerium. This service is for those experiencing grief, loss or hardship during the holiday season. Dealing with the death of a loved one, facing life after divorce or **separation, coping** with the loss of a job, living with cancer, among other things can be difficult. The pain of loss is felt by many at this time of year and this service offers a sacred, gentle space to gather, remember, and comfort. It will be in-person and streamed on Facebook Live. Afterwards we will have light refreshments.

**The Fair Trade Shoppe:** Make it a December to remember! Experience the warmth of the season. Believe in the magic of Christmas! Make someone’s Christmas special with jewelry from us. Put a little enchantment under the tree this year! Show off your refined tastes with our Intuition Earrings from India featuring labradorite stone wrapped in gold-colored wire. These earrings are crafted by the makers at Tara Projects, building stronger communities through fair trade opportunities. Colorful thread is spun on a series of hoops and accented with bright glass beads to make our Dream Catching Necklace from India. The artfulness of the creator’s hand shows through each circle, granting the dreams of the wearer and artisan alike. Keep the memory of loved ones close with our Hand-carved Cardinal Bracelet. This handcrafted bracelet features a beautiful, hand-carved cardinal made of natural, locally sourced gourd on a sweet card with a heartfelt message of remembrance. Its adjustable knot allows for the perfect fit. Handmade in Colombia, this bracelet is a unique and meaningful accessory that supports local artisans there.

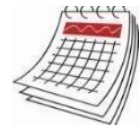
**Country Pantry** The Country Pantry continues to strive to meet the needs of the community. Through your generous donations, we served 710 families within one week. The Pantry also has a food truck named Grace. From the food truck we served charcutier cups on the last two distribution days, bags of fruit on Halloween and 205 ham & cheese sandwiches on the special distribution on November 2nd. **Needed:** canned protein items such as tuna, chicken, chili, PB, beef stew, spam, cereal, oatmeal, ramen noodles, canned fruit & vegetables as well as jam/jelly. Thank you for the gift of blankets as each family will receive one new blanket for Christmas. Please help me fill my car on the 3rd Sunday of every month. Blessed are those who give!!

**Hope House** continues to serve the unhoused and needy of Utica with three meals a day and as a place for daytime shelter. We at Stone Church join their mission once a month by sending three volunteers to serve dinner there. As you know, we also have a Sunday (the 4th of the month) designated as an opportunity to bring in items for Hope House and their guests. Their needs for this month continue

to be sugar and coffee, as well as full-sized personal items like shampoo, conditioner, and bar soap. Also, in these winter months they could use mittens/gloves and hand warmers. We're always looking for more people willing to spend a couple of hours (3-5 pm) with us on the **4th Monday of the month** serving dinner at Hope House. If you'd like to join us, you can use the sign-up sheet in the back of the sanctuary or contact Lora Schilder at 315-790-1945 or lschilde@hamilton.edu.



CALENDAR



Today – 12/14/25:	After Worship	Gift Wrapping Party
Tuesday – 12/16/25:	12:15 p.m. – 1:15 p.m.	CAM Meeting
Thursday – 12/18/25:	10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.	Fair Trade Shoppe
Saturday – 12/20/25:	10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.	Fair Trade Shoppe
Sunday – 12/21/25:	9:30 a.m.	Choir
Sunday – 12/21/25:	10:30 a.m.	Worship-Peg Ward Preaching



Want to see what else is on the calendar? Go to our Web page – stonepres.org & click on the “CALENDAR ICON”

**Greeter & Host:** Mary Chamberlain

**Members/Friends of the Week:**

Pat & Buzz Joseph  
Ruth Cosgrove  
Dennis & Sue Dewey



**Prayer Request:**

Tom Mannino & Family  
Matt Schementi  
Grace & Frank Whittemore  
Bev Miller  
John Stiefvater  
Mary Ann Stiefvater  
Larry Bakos  
Helen Leonard  
Tom & Ewa Lawrence  
Phil Conley  
Ruth Hughes  
Andrew Bering