

MCKOWNVILLE CHURCH NEWS

Volume 7 No.9

Love God, Follow Jesus and Pass It On!

December 2016

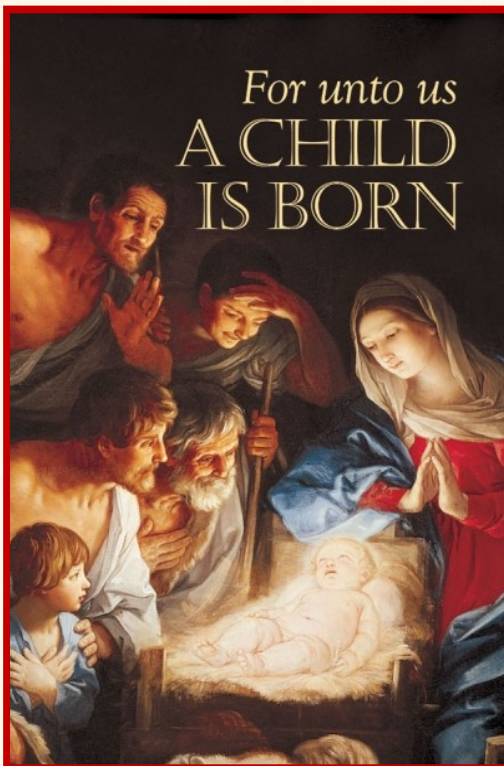
Spirit Filled, Mission Driven

**Articles for the
January
Newsletter are
due by
December 15th.**



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Dates to Remember (Not that you could forget!)

December 24th -

Two services, 6:00 pm and 8:00 pm

December 25th -

One service, 11:00 am

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<https://www.facebook.com/RedDoorsChurch/>



Time flies really fast. We are already in Advent season and I am writing my Pastor's Message for this year's last Newsletter. Last Sunday we lit the first candle of Advent and it is called "hope." We live on hope. Advent means "coming," and we wait for Christ who is coming as hope as people a long time ago waited for the coming of Christ. We are not merely waiting; we are waiting and preparing ourselves.

A few weeks ago a prominent PBS News Program anchor died of cancer. It was sad to lose her. But I also was deeply touched by her life and faith. New York Times delivered a tribute on her life written by a columnist, who had been friends with her through their journalism careers for many years. In the tribute he described her as a woman of balanced character and strong Christian faith. He wrote that she had demonstrated strong and steady commitment to her faith in God. Let me quote a part of his tribute, "A spirit as deep and ebullient as hers needed nourishment and care, and when it came out, it came out in her smile, which was totalistic and unrestrained." While reading this article, I thought that we need such an example of faith and life as hers, although we should admit no one can meet the standard of God.

Over the last several months, questions and thoughts have come up to my mind through both observing and being a part of what was going in our society. One of many questions I raised to myself was, "Is faith important for people? If it is important, how important it is for them? Or for me?" On one occasion, in particular, my mind was almost uncontrollably boggled by the saying of a self-avowed Christian. He, a famous politician talking almost always about the significance of faith and God, said at a TV talk show that we should put aside our faith and character issues when we are in a really critical situation. And we instead consider only the ability factor in casting a vote."

Living as a faithful Christian becomes harder and harder, not only because our society becomes more and more secularized, not because our wisdom to discern what is wrong and what is right, but because our own understanding of faith and God becomes fuzzier and more unconvincing. There is no One God any longer. There is only the one god I like or the one god you like. It seems that the chasm between theological differences gets bigger and bigger and that the difference of interpreting and applying biblical value to life becomes more in conflict and irreconcilable.

Certainly our time is more complicated than Jesus' era and it is evident that there is no clear-cut Christian approach to socio-political matters. But one thing has not been changed, I believe. No matter how much we are confused and befuddled by what we see in our society, we are called to follow Jesus' footsteps in every bit of life.

A new year is coming. Life is full of uncertainty and unpredictability. And fear crouches in the corner and seeks a time to unleash its relentless power on our minds. Here again my favorite words of our Lord for us, "I will never leave you, or forsake you." And so, against all odds, in spite of all negativities in our way, we walk in stride with confidence and faith in God no matter what we see in the coming year. Living as Christians means living on God's promises. We are Christians, and nothing will take this honor and privilege of living as a Christian from us. May God bless you all!



By Charlie Yang

Find what you were looking for ??

Well, it's here again. The Christmas shopping season is in full gear. We'll see more sales advertised than we can keep track of for the next few weeks, and the stores, malls and on-line shopping websites will be jammed. Can we all find what we're looking for? *Do we really know what it is we're looking for??* Maybe if we just keep walking the malls and looking on-line, we'll come upon that special gift for that special someone.

Finding what we're looking for can certainly be a challenge. We can put a lot of pressure on ourselves, and quickly feel overwhelmed if we convince ourselves that this is our "one chance" for the year to find that special gift. We don't want to drop the ball on this one!

Perhaps the Christmas shopping season isn't the only time of the year we feel at a loss of finding what we're looking for. Whether it's looking for a gift, a new job, or perhaps building a relationship; there are those times when we're just not sure where we should start looking, and not quite sure of what we expect to find!

Fortunately, Christmas provides us with the answer for our Holiday searching, and for any other time of the year as well. For all of us, the perfect answer to the search of what we're looking for was given to us on that first Christmas Day when Jesus entered our world.

As the Christmas season clock ticks toward the last day of shopping, and as we put the final touches on our homes, meals and presents, let's take a few minutes and reflect on Jesus. *Are we really finding what we're looking for??* The answer is a resounding "yes", if we start with Him.

What a wonderful feeling of peace we can all share when we reflect on the gift God gave us in His Son. When we have Jesus in our hearts, we'll always have the perfect answer to the question, "Did you find what you were looking for?" Because once we have found Him, we have found everything we'll ever need, for today, tomorrow, for Christmas and forever.

Have a wonderful Holiday Season and God Bless you all,

Dom Perfetti

HISTORICAL NOTE

Mission in and through McKownville Methodist Church - What We Did

McKownville UMC was founded in 1866 as a mission of the Guilderland Methodist Episcopal Church. While mission has been constant, mission emphases have evolved over the years.

1911:

Harold Sugden Metcalfe, the preacher in charge of the Guilderland + McKownville churches, noted in his January 1912 annual report: The time of the pastor has been drawn upon quite heavily by labors outside his Charge, assisting other brethren in special services, lecturing, aiding in E.L. [Epworth League] Institute and Chapters [youth and young adults], Temperance work, and some work in connection with the Albany + Schenectady YMCA's [Young Men's Christian Association].

Charitable collections for 1911 were for the *Board of Foreign Missions*, *Board of Home Missions & Church Extension*, *Board of Education* (Children's Friend), *Board of Sunday Schools*, *Freedman's Aid Society*, *American Bible Society*, *Anti-Saloon League*, *M. E. Hospital Brooklyn*, *W.H.M.S* and *W.F.M.S.* [Women's Home Missionary & Women's Foreign Missionary Societies].

1951:

Pastor Robert J. L. Williams extolled to the March 1951 Fourth Quarterly Conference: the organization of Methodist Men, increase in personal devotional living by families, and start of an adult educational small group in "The College of Living Knowledge." Other annual reports received included ones from *Methodist Men* [newly formed February 1951 as a "service organization"], *W.S.C.S.* [Woman's Society of Christian Service with its new activities being two women sent to the Summer Institute at Poultney, Vermont and serving meals to the Methodist Men], *Sunshine Class* [youth/young adult women's group which met monthly], *Methodist Youth Fellowship* [whose Intermediate and Senior groups met Sunday evenings], representative to Albany *Federation of Churches*, and *Girl Scouts*, *Boy Scouts*, & *Cub Scouts*. The volunteer choir got new robes (partly through their own contributions and sale of Memorial Plates of the church, etc.) and did Xmas caroling to the shut-ins of the community. The Music Committee investigated purchase of an electronic organ or remodeling of present pipe organ and recommended the former.

1991:

In 1991 (125th year) the church sponsored a new Scout Troop and the Narcotics Anonymous group as well as providing meeting space to a Lupus group, a personal growth group and others. Food was collected for *Guilderland Food Pantry* (Interfaith Council) and Albany United Methodist Society (AUMS), there was hands on ministry at AUMS and other locations, and folks walked in the annual *CROP Walk* and ate at the second annual Mother's Day Breakfast (McKownville Sunday School). Conference Askings paid for the year were for World Church & Conference Benevolences, Ministerial Education Fund, Black Conference Fund, and African University Fund (and special offerings). The church's own Benevolences were for *Missionary Support* (Pak family in Korea), *Gateway Home for Children* (in Williamsville), *Albany United Methodist Society*, *John Wesley Scholarship Fund*, *Skye Farm* (Adult Retreat Center project), *Charlton School* (residential treatment for girls), *Exit "8" Ministries* (new church project), and *Capital Area Council of Churches*.

150th Celebration of McKownville United Methodist Church 1866 - 2016

Sunday, November 6, 2016



four pastors in 150th Sunday worship service

current & three former McKownville pastors



Charlie Yang, Steve Butler, Rich Weihing (now Albany District Superintendent), Terry O'Neill



reception after 150th worship service



three-sided kiosk covered with pictures



enjoying new memorial patio



150th Celebration of McKownville United Methodist Church 1866 - 2016

Saturday, November 19, 2016



Recent McKownville pastors - updated 2016
& mounted near stairs to Celebration Center



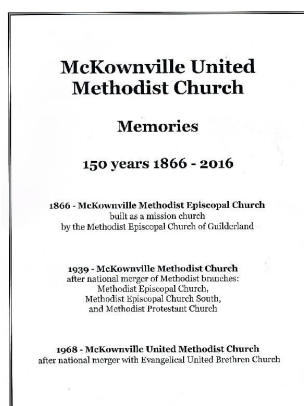
Alcove exhibit from Dr. Norman Swanson
- old sanctuary pew end piece + a tin ceiling tile



Nov. 19 celebration banquet



Former tin ceiling squares of 1898 sanctuary



150th historical booklet



Nov. 19 celebration program included a historical skit

YOUTH NEWS

Guilderland Youth Group is an open gathering of youth in grades 8-12. We meet to relate, to be social, to empower young people as world-changing disciples of Jesus Christ, to nurture faith development, and to equip young leaders. We meet 3-4 times per month for FUN, SERVICE, LEARNING and WORSHIP experiences. If you are looking for a group of young people to GO and DO – this is for you!!!

December 4th – No Youth Group meeting. Worship at Christ the King Advent service at 4pm

December 11th – 7pm Music Shapes Us

December 18th – 7pm Holiday Party – bring your favorite cookies to share! I'll make the hot cocoa ;-)

Friday, January 6th – MARK YOUR CALENDARS! Guilderland Youth Group will be hosting a District Wide **Jello Olympics**

Youth Groups from all over our area will be coming to our church to participate in this fun, exciting game night! Plan to bring your friends. Cost is **\$5 per person and a non perishable food item** for the food pantry.





Adult Study

The Christmas Candles

By: Max Lucado

Sunday 12/18 start at 0900

Monday 12/19 stay to 8:30pm

Gladstone is an ordinary 19th-century English village---except at Christmas-time, when an angel visits the home of humble candlemaker Edward Haddington and bestows a precious gift. The divinely blessed taper can impart an extraordinary blessing. But with the dawn of the electric age will this centuries-old tradition fade away? Features singing sensation Susan Boyle. Dove approved. Rated PG.

*Approx. 100 minutes



Advent Lessons and Carols!

Guilderland Interfaith Council's Advent Lessons and Carols program to benefit the Guilderland Food Pantry will take place Sunday, December 4th at 4:00 p.m. at Christ the King Church, Sumter Avenue, Guilderland. Anthems by vocal and handbell choirs from Guilderland churches, a combined choir of more than 100 singers, carols sung by all, and a reception afterwards are all included. The offering collected will go to the Guilderland Food Pantry.



Christmas Poinsettias!

Honor those who mean the most to you with the gift of a flower! Both memorials and honorariums accepted in multiple price ranges. See order form for details. Orders due no later than Sunday, Dec. 11th, 2016. Contact Angela Stott to place your order or if you have questions! Flowers will be on display Dec 24th thru Dec 31st and can be picked up after the Christmas Eve worship service, after worship on Sunday, Dec 25th or donated to be delivered to a shut in.

Staff Christmas Gift

To show our appreciation for all the work that the staff of McKownville UMC do the Staff Parish team will be collecting money for a staff Christmas gift. Members of the team will be collecting Sunday morning between 9:30 am and 10:00 am for the following weeks: December 4, December 11.

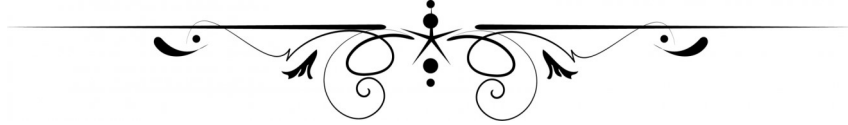
Greeters/Ushers Coordinator

We are still looking for someone to take over the position of Greeters/Ushers coordinator. Please contact Pauline Martin for details about the job. blundyp379@aol.com

Bring in new mittens and hats for the "mitten tree"!



Mission Oppertunities



Christmas Care ministries for Seniors:

Anyone interested in sending a Christmas care to our Shut-ins or Seniors of the church, below are the addresses. They would love to receive cards and notes from their church family. Any questions or changes to this list, please contact Senior Ministries team leader, Darcianne Leizer, 456-1063 or ennaicrad@juno.com

Vera Brooks

1 Brooks Rd.
Albany, NY 12203

Christina Cook

Teresian House Memory Unit
200 Washtington Ave. Extension
Albany, NY 12203

Mary Ellen Hall

Ingersoll Place
3359 Consaul Rd.
Niskayuna, NY 12304

Julien LeVine

9 Shady Lane
Albany, NY 12203

Maggie Quintyne

Doreen Moore
3 Medaille Dr., Apt. 3B
Watervliet, NY 12189

Isabel Schempp

C/O Good Samaritan Rehab Ctr.
125 Rockafuller Rd., #B45
Delmar, NY 12054

Bill Seims

Daughters of Sarah Nursing Home
Green Hall Rm 309
180 Washington Ave. Ext.
Albany, NY 12203

Doris Walter

Room B-229
Kingsway Arms Nursing Center
323 Kings Road
Schenectady, NY
12304-3645



Guilderland Food Pantry Needs:

- | | |
|---------------------|--------------------------|
| ♥ Jell-O | ♥ Canned Corn |
| ♥ Oil | ♥ Canned Fruit |
| ♥ Stuffing Mix | ♥ Canned Peas |
| ♥ Dish Soap | ♥ Canned Cranberry Sauce |
| ♥ Laundry Detergent | ♥ Canned Stew |
| ♥ Juice | ♥ Canned Hash |
| ♥ Tooth Brushes | ♥ Canned Chili |
| ♥ Coffee | |



**Last month we donated 72 pounds of food!
Thank You!**

Christmas Poinsettias!

Please fill out your order and hand it with your check to Angela Stott **or mail the form and check to ANGELA STOTT, 65 WILLOW ST., GUILDERLAND, NY 12084.** Please make your checks payable to McKownville United Methodist Church, do not send cash.

Deadline is December 11th

\$ 5.75 Poinsettia _____ Red _____ Pink No preference _____

\$15.75 Poinsettia _____ Red _____ _NA_ Pink No preference _____

\$25.00 Poinsettia _____ Red only

In Memory of _____

In Honor of _____

Given by _____

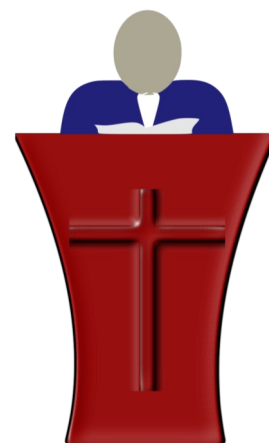
___ I will pick up plant after Christmas Eve Service

___ please give my plant to a shut-in.



DECEMBER DUTIES CALENDAR

<u>DATE</u>	<u>GREETERS/ USHERS</u>	<u>LAY WORSHIP LEADER</u>
December 4	Susan and Bill Burns	Tom Myers
December 11	Sue Pett, Angela Stott	Tricia Stott
December 18	Bob Griffin, Todd Nemic	Doug Arnott
December 24	Linda Faulkner, Kimberly Keane (Looking for two more volunteers!)	Paul Scoville (Second service at 8 p.m.)
December 25	Linda Faulkner, Tom Myers	Dasol Yang (One service 11 a.m.)



Greeters & Ushers Coordinator: Looking for a new volunteer!!

Coffee Hour Coordinator: Chris Steffens - 608-5300

Lay Worship Leader Coordinator: Nancy Rutenber - 456-0412

* Please note that Greeters and Ushers duties are now combined.

DECEMBER ANNIVERSARIES & BIRTHDAYS

Anniversaries

Birthdays

16 – Nancy & Robert Wertman
28 – Terry & Barbara O'Neill
28 – Matthew & Leith Mead



2 – Tim Roske
3 – Colleen LaFave
4 – Paul Scoville
6 – Barbara Cullen
7 – Megan Scolaro
11 – Cheryl Arnott
13 – Wendy Fox
13 – Arthur Van Buren
17 – Nancy Wertman
18 – Phil Atwood
19 – Noreen Van Doren
19 – Evelyn Fink
19 – Pamela Scattareggia

21 – Lucy Gee
21 – Walter Breakell
22 – Sierra Liotta
22 – Kristine Richardson
23 – Julian Levine
25 – Dorothy Ellinwood
26 – Kylie Culver
26 – Janna Neitzel
27 – Matt Stillman
28 – Christina Cook
28 – Geoffrey Fox
30 – Jason Moon

DECEMBER 2016

Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

<div> <p><u>Sundays</u></p> <p>9:30am—Praise 4:00pm—Quintessence</p> <p>9:45am—Sunday School 4:30pm—Wesley Ringers</p> <p>11:00am—Worship 5:45pm—New Song</p> <p>2:45 pm—Praise Team 6:30pm—Higher Up</p> <p>Rehearsal</p> </div>				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Contemporary Praise Service 9:30 am Traditional Worship Service 11:00 am Adult Forum 9:30 a.m.	Adult Forum 7:00 pm	A.A. 4:30 pm Yoga 6:00 pm	Yoga 10:00 am Yoga 5:30 pm Narcotics Anonymous 7:00 pm Choir Rehearsal 7:00 pm	TOT Hill Gang 9:30 am Yoga 5:30 pm	Narcotics Anonymous 6:00 pm	A.A. 7:00 am
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
Contemporary Praise Service 9:30 am Traditional Worship Service 11:00 am Adult Forum 9:30 a.m. Jesus Birthday Party!	Adult Forum 7:00 pm	A.A. 4:30 pm Yoga 6:00 pm	Yoga 10:00 am Yoga 5:30 pm Narcotics Anonymous 7:00 pm Choir Rehearsal 7:00 pm	TOT Hill Gang 9:30 am Yoga 5:30 pm	Narcotics Anonymous 6:00 pm	A.A. 7:00 am
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
Contemporary Praise Service 9:30 am Traditional Worship Service 11:00 am Adult Forum 9:30 a.m.	Adult Forum 7:00 pm	A.A. 4:30 pm Yoga 6:00 pm	Yoga 10:00 am Yoga 5:30 pm Narcotics Anonymous 7:00 pm Choir Rehearsal 7:00 pm	TOT Hill Gang 9:30 am American Sewing Guild 12:30 pm Yoga 5:30 pm	Narcotics Anonymous 6:00 pm	A.A. 7:00 am Christmas Eve Service 8:00 pm
25	26	27	28	29	30	31
Traditional Worship Service 11:00 am (1 service)	Adult Forum 7:00 pm	A.A. 4:30 pm Yoga 6:00 pm	Yoga 10:00 am Yoga 5:30 pm Narcotics Anonymous 7:00 pm Choir Rehearsal 7:00 pm	TOT Hill Gang 9:30 am Yoga 5:30 pm	Narcotics Anonymous 6:00 pm	A.A. 7:00 am New Year's Eve!





“**Advent** is a time of preparation for the coming of Jesus Christ. A United Methodist pastor wrote a special prayer which is easy for individuals, churches, or families to use during this season of anticipation.”

Advent Devotion

by the Rev. Jerry Chism

*Oh Immanuel, God with us, truly in this Advent season we celebrate that you are not hidden in some faraway cloud,
but you chose to be with us in the blur and mystery of our lives.*

*In the midst of lists and rush, you are with us as a song that echoes in our minds, as the light of a candle,
as a card from a friend. They are signs of your presence.*

*We turn to you this season and pray that you would birth joy and healing, blessing and hope in us.
Let something wonderful begin in us — something surprising and holy.*

*May your hand be upon us. Let your love fill us. Let your joy overwhelm us.
Let our longing for you be met on a coming holy night. Immanuel with us once again.*

Amen.

Spread the Love



For many of us, the holiday season would seem a little hollow if we didn't give back to those in need. There are many ways you can offer your help and support for the needy this season by attending a fundraising event, or simply donating your time or money to a great local charity. The following is a list of local charity events and organizations.

10th Annual Schenectady Festival of Trees

Visit beautifully decorated trees in the YWCA and the Schenectady County Historical Society. Community organizations, schools, groups, clubs, businesses, and families are welcome to decorate a tree. When: Sat, Dec 3, 2016 until Sun, Dec 18, 2016 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM. Where: Schenectady County Historical Society, 32 Washington Avenue, Schenectady, NY 12305 & YWCA, 44 Washington Avenue, Schenectady, NY 12305
Cost: *Adults \$5, Children \$2, Under 5 Free*

St. Peters Cardiac & Vascular Center Last Run 5K


The 20th Annual St. Peter's Cardiac & Vascular Center Albany Last Run 5K is a great race for all ages, featuring a beautiful course through Capital Holiday Lights in Washington Park and a spectacular fireworks show! Following the race, awards recognition and posting of results takes place at the Empire State Plaza Concourse at the base of the Egg, featuring age-based divisional awards and random prize drawings. When: Sat, Dec 10, 2016 5:00 PM. Where: Downtown Albany, NY 12207. Cost: \$25 - \$35

The Damien Center Albany - The Damien Center is a community center for individuals and families living with and affected by HIV/AIDS. Programs and activities offered are designed to improve health, reduce stress, and increase the sufferers' quality of life. The Damien Center was wrecked by a fire in the summer of 2013, and continues to rally to rebuild and provide programs.
646 State Street, Albany, NY 12203
518.449.7119

Northern Rivers Family of Services - This is a parent organization to the Northeast Parent & Child Society and Parsons Child & Family Center. Together they are a family of human service agencies who work to provide life changing care to those they serve. For the 2016 holiday season, they're looking for helpers to provide 3,000 gifts for 1,000 children and families in their care.
60 Academy Road, Albany, NY 12208
518.426.2849

Toys For Tots - The mission of the Toys for Tots Program is to collect new, unwrapped toys during October, November, and December each year, and distribute those toys as Christmas gifts to needy children in the community.
745 Albany Shaker Road, Latham, NY 12110
518.698.2560

Please visit <http://www.albany.com/holiday/charity.cfm> to view more local holiday charity opportunities and for more information, reservations and registration for these events.




JOIN US FOR A HOLIDAY OPEN HOUSE


benefiting Ronald McDonald House Charities
of the Capital Region, Inc.

DECEMBER 9, 2016 • 7-12PM


Half of all
ticket proceeds
will benefit



RONALD McDONALD
HOUSE CHARITIES
OF THE CAPITAL REGION, INC.



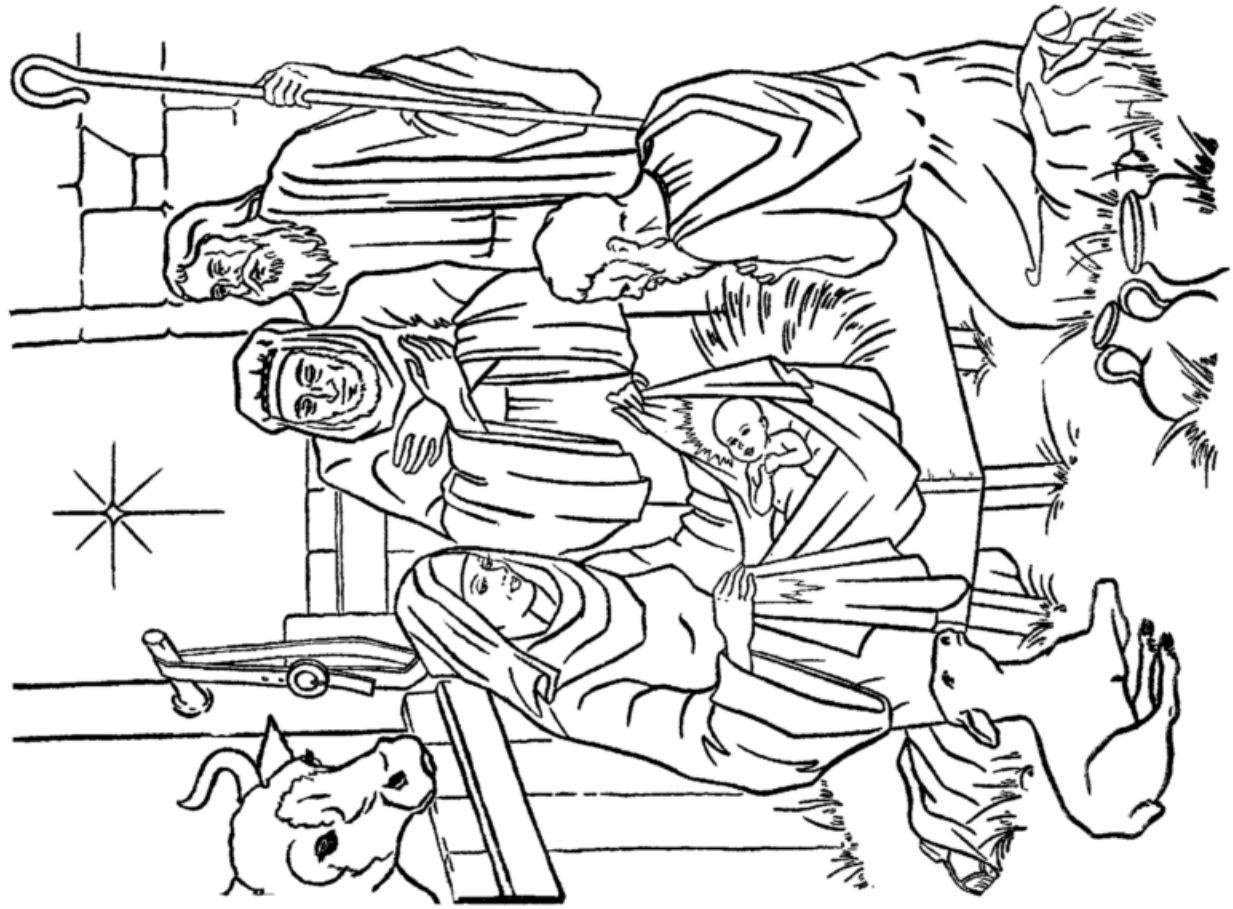
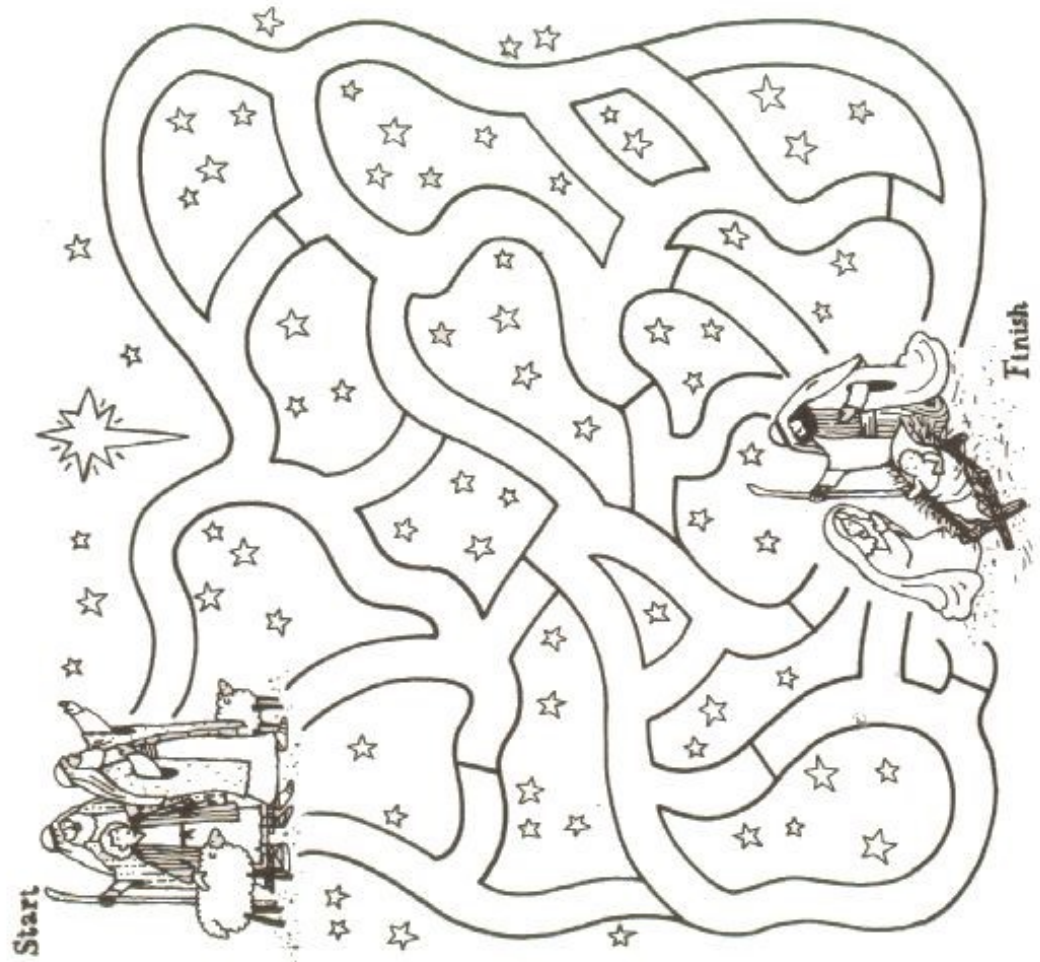
Adam Wakefield
musician and
NBC's "The Voice" runner up



SREETER CREEK

Food – Cocktails – Fun

Help the shepherds find the path to Jesus.



Color in!

MICROSOFT

1565 Western Avenue
Albany, New York 12203-4222

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

POSTMASTER: DATED MATERIAL
PLEASE EXPEDITE

2 stamps

Phone: 518-456-1148
Fax: 518-869-5250
E-mail: mckownumc@verizon.net
Web: www.McKownvilleChurch.com
Facebook: RedDoorsChurch
Twitter: McKownville Church
@McKownvilleUMC

The Rev. Charlie Yang, Pastor
E-mail: pastorcyang@gmail.com

Office Hours:
Monday—Friday: 9am-1pm

Ministry and Team Leaders of the McKownville United Methodist Church

Board of Trustees:

Chair & Sexton Liaison: James Stott

Vice-Chair & Furnishings,
Building Use Coordinator: Kelly Visker:

Grounds & Planned
Maintenance: Chris Brewer, Chris Spencer

Insurance: Matt Gillam

Leases & Legal Affairs: Noreen Van Doren

Ministry Teams:

Leadership Council: Paul Krekeler, Team Leader

Staff/Parish Relations: Patti Krekeler & George Jeneczko, Team Leaders; Tara Brewer, Ruth Candolario, Emma Herendeen, Alan Longshore, Oakley Neitzel, Scott Rosecrans, Nancy Rutenber, Patricia Stott, Liz Wiseman

Finance: Paul Scoville, Team Leader
Treasurer & Payroll: Tim Pierce
Finance Secretary: Barbara O'Neill

Worship: Charlie Yang, Team Leader

Evangelism through Outreach: Jim Bowen,
Team Leader

Christian Education: Kim Keane, Team Leader

Memorials & Gifts: Nancy Pullen, Team Leader

Senior Ministries: Darcianne Leizer,
Team Leader