

# The Gazetteer

Glen Reformed Church

State Highway 161, Fultonville, NY 12072 in the hamlet of Glen

4 miles south of Fultonville

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## The Things of Christmas



*A few moments with Thomas...*

“Out with the old and in with the new.” Yep, I said it! No, I am not talking about the elderly. I am talking about things in life.

I read a light hearted article the other day about the best things December has to offer. So, I immediately made my own list. Of course, high up there on the the list must be ME. I am a “Christmas Baby,” and this year I will turn the “Big 50.”

Also on my best things of December is the snow, the cookies, the movies, the carols, the parties, the sights, sounds, and smells, the food. Oh, and did I mention the cookies? And then, there is Jesus Christ. Yes, He is at the top of my Best of December List.

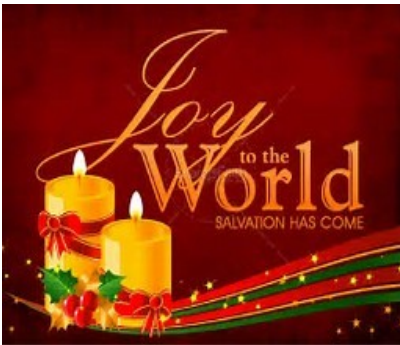
Yes, I know that there can and will be sadness and loneliness, too, in December. Not just for me, but for many others, too, especially for all of us who have experienced unexpected losses, and sudden turns of events that have changed our lives in unimaginable ways. That list lingers, too. But for the moment, I wish to focus on the best things December has to offer.

And yes, because this is a Christmas letter you expect it to have the birth of the Christ child mentioned. It goes without saying, so here goes.

*Isaiah 9:6-7 King James Version (KJV)*

***6 For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace.***

***7 Of the increase of his government and peace there shall be no end, upon the throne of David, and upon his kingdom, to order it, and to establish it with judgment and with justice from henceforth even forever. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will perform this.***



**December 2018  
January 2019**

continue



*Thomas J. Flander, Jr.  
Preaching Elder Commissioned to  
Glen Reformed Church*

My list does not stop here. I think one of the most exciting things December has to offer, especially for me, is that it's the end of the year and January is the beginning of ....wait for it....a "New Year." Ta-Da !!!!

Maybe 2018 wasn't your year. December marks the last month of the year, which means you are closer than ever to 2019 and all of the new beginnings that come with it. Including a new me and a new you.

The Word of God speaks of "new things" in many scriptures. So as this year comes to a close and a new year is just beginning, take time to see **you** through the eyes of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Here are just a few scriptures to get you started.

*Isaiah 43:18-19*

*<sup>18</sup> "Do not remember the former things, nor consider the things of old.  
<sup>19</sup> Behold, I will do a new thing, Now it shall spring forth; Shall you not know it?  
I will even make a road in the wilderness And rivers in the desert."*

*Ezekiel 36:26*

*<sup>26</sup> "I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit within you;  
I will take the heart of stone out of your flesh and give you a heart of flesh."*

*Jeremiah 29:11*

*<sup>11</sup> "For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, says the LORD,  
thoughts of peace and not of evil, to give you a future and a hope."*

*Lamentations 3:22-24*

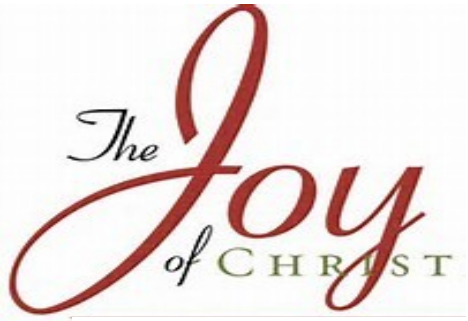
*<sup>22</sup> "Through the LORD's mercies we are not consumed, because His compassions fail not.  
<sup>23</sup> They are new every morning; Great is Your faithfulness.  
<sup>24</sup> "The LORD is my portion," says my soul, "Therefore I hope in Him!"*

*2 Corinthians 5:17*

*<sup>17</sup> Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation;  
old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.*

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year  
from my family to yours, Thomas.





*Advent and Christmas are a journey to joy. We invite you to find your path, joining us as we take this journey to the joy of Christ together. We welcome you!*

### *1st Sunday of Advent, December 2*

We mark the season of Advent and the beginning of the church year with the lighting of the first candle on the Advent wreath. We will celebrate The Lord's Supper. Come and experience forgiveness and peace.

### *2nd Sunday of Advent, December 9*

We celebrate the joy of Christ as the Sunday School children present a Christmas message during worship. We praise God for their excitement to tell the story. We continue the celebration with a pot-luck brunch immediately following the service in the common room downstairs. In case of inclement weather, the Sunday School program will be held on December 16th.

### *3rd Sunday of Advent, December 16*

We welcome a guest preacher, Rev. Bert Mayne, as worship leader on this day and the third candle on the Advent wreath will be lit. At 3:00 p.m. we will gather at the church, board a hay wagon, and leave for Christmas caroling in the hamlet. We are grateful to Ken Coyne of Bellinger's Orchards for again this year providing the tractor and wagon. Hot dogs and hot chocolate will follow at the church.

### *4th Sunday of Advent, December 23*

As we draw closer to Christmas the excitement of celebrating God's gift of Christ and his transforming love builds in our hearts. We share that excitement as we worship together. The fourth candle on the Advent wreath will be lit.

### *Christmas Eve, December 24*

This night we mark the birth of our Savior Jesus Christ with a traditional family candlelight worship beginning at 7:00 p.m. Traditional hymns and special music, Bible readings and messages of love, hope and peace will share the light of Christ with all.

*"There is therefore now, no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus." Romans 8:1*  
We invite YOU to come, experience the peace in your heart that only Christ can give you.

**December & January Calendar**  
**Clip, save & post at home.**

**Semi-Annual  
 Congregational Meeting  
 November 18, 2018**

**Worship Schedule for December**

Date	Greeter	Lay Reader
<b>December 2</b> <i>Holy Communion</i>	Margaret McRedmond	Kim Flander
<b>December 9</b> <i>Christmas Play &amp; Pot Luck Brunch</i>	Children's Ministry	Children's Ministry
<b>December 16</b> <i>Play Snowdate</i>	Moran Family	Biff Kirk
<b>December 23</b>	Cindy & Charlie Yurkewecz	Kim Flander
<b>December 30</b>	Flander Family	Kim Flander

**Worship Schedule for January**

Date	Greeter	Lay Reader
<b>January 6</b> <i>Holy Communion</i>	Allan Taylor	Kim Flander
<b>January 13</b>	Allan Taylor	Norma Sheldon
<b>January 20</b>	Norma Sheldon Jack, John & Jacob	Karen Kosinski
<b>January 27</b>	Karen Kosinski	<b>Reader Needed</b>

Glen Reformed Church held its semi-annual congregational meeting following worship on Sunday, November 18, 2018. Commissioned Preaching Elder Thomas J. Flander, Jr. opened the meeting with prayer.

The preaching elder commented that it has been nearly five years that he has been at Glen. In that time he has found meetings to be fruitful and for the good of the church, the congregation, the community and the RCA. He thanked outgoing consistory members for their faithful service and welcomed incoming members, looking forward to their service.

New consistory members were elected: Deacons: Margaret Mc Redmond and Ronald Wilmot; Elders: Arlene Macek and Tammy Moran. The congregation thanked the nominating committee for their work.

Representing the finance committee, Bernie Kirk, Jr. presented the 2019 budget. Noted was the increase in the heating line item explained by the increase in usage of the church for activities during the week. An increase in fundraising in 2019 would help the bottom line of the budget. The congregation expressed thank you to Bernie for his work on the budget.

In other business Tom announced that Classis had renewed his commissioning as preaching elder at Glen for another two years. He further announced that Classis Ministry Care Committee has identified a source for him to pursue education to become a Minister of Word and Sacrament. He expects to begin online work in January.

**December**

- 2 Carolyn Hart
- 4 Jack Summerfield
- 9 Tina Taylor
- 12 Daryl Kosinski
- 17 Norma Sheldon
- 18 Pastor Tom
- 21 Gregory Kirk
- 26 Cindy Yurkewicz
- 29 Sue Summerfield

**January**

- 8 Abigail Gamble
- Phyllis Kirk
- Cheryl Rohling
- 13 Ron Wilmot
- Alice Kirk
- 24 Priscilla Gamble
- 26 Marlene Smith
- 30 Seth Gifford





# YOUTH MINISTRY

## Youth Group



Yes, we survived the first big snowstorm up north at Camp Fowler in early November. Even though it was a tricky ride up to Speculator, the electric going out just as we were eating dinner, the propane going out, and some nice friends joining us, we had a fun weekend. We even managed our yearly walk...even though it was shorter than usual due to snow and wind. As you can see we had an awesome time.

THANK  
YOU!

Thank you once again for supporting our youth group so we can go to Camp Fowler!



We hope you can join us as we travel through the hamlet of Glen on Sunday, December 16 from 3-5 p.m. for our annual Christmas caroling. We will have goodies following our ride through town.

*Sue Summerfield*



## Sunday School

The new Sunday School curriculum is working well. The students love the felt stories!

We are still working on our cookbook. It is coming along and should be ready for Christmas!

I would like to send out a big thank you for everyone who helped and was a part of our haunted house. It was a huge success with a lot of people attending and lots of fun!

Our Christmas play, "The 12 Symbols of Christmas" will be presented on Sunday, December 9th. We are rehearsing twice a week. Also, we would like to invite everyone after the play to a brunch. Please bring a dish to pass if you can.

The Sunday school students and teachers will be going to the Veterans Hospital in Albany on January 20th. We will hand them some gifts and sing some holiday songs.

We have moved our Sunday school classes back downstairs as the walls and ceiling are finished now.

*Jen Wilmot*

Glen Reformed Church  
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Fultonville, NY 12072



**TO:**



When snow and ice cover Glen's winding roads in winter, we may see changes in our regular Sunday morning worship.

We are all grateful to the people who plow the roads and keep us safe. Our preaching elder is one of those people, and that means he cannot be present in the pulpit when he gets called into work. At those times the elders are prepared to lead worship.

In the event that Sunday worship must be cancelled consistency uses a telephone chain for notification.

There are times that meetings and other gatherings can get cancelled. It is important to know who needs to be notified in those cases. Please be kind and RSVP or sign up when asked so that you can receive word if this happens.



## A new year.....everything is new again!

A new year upon us can feel exhilarating and give us a rush of new hope for the coming year. Do you feel it? It is written in 1 Corinthians 5:17, *"Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new."* The hope just soars!

In the new year 2019 new consistency members will be installed and will take their places at the table and will undertake new responsibilities in the congregation. They will need your prayerful support and your physical help. Research has shown that when a person or group acts intentionally success occurs more often. We ask you to act intentionally by prayerfully

discerning what God wants you to do in support of your congregation.

Serving God is very personal—some service is public, other service is invisible, but most is somewhere in-between. Where is God leading you? What talents and strengths has He given to you to use for His glory? Standing committees are: Property, Worship & Music, Finance, Community Outreach, Local & World Missions, Christian Education and Congregational Care. Please read Romans 15: 1-6. Feel the rush of new hope for your Christian life in service.

