



Among Friends

DECEMBER, 2022



FROM OUR PASTOR'S DESK



Greetings;

We have all heard of Easter, the day we celebrate and remember the resurrection of Jesus. We all know about the Lord's supper, the day we share a special meal together and remember what Jesus has done for us. But do you know what Purim is? Purim is a Jewish holiday that commemorates the saving of the Jewish people from the evil Haman. The story is told in the Book of Esther. According to the Hebrew calendar, Purim is celebrated on the 14th day of the Hebrew month of Adar. Gifts of food and drink are exchanged, donations are given to the poor, a special meal is given and the story of Esther is read. All of this, so that the Jewish people will never forget that God saved his people.

And now, here we are, it is almost Christmas. Once again, we are called to remember.

*"Today in the town of David a Savior
has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord.
This will be a sign to you; You will find a baby
wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger."
Luke 2:11-12*

We are called to remember that a Savior, our Savior, was born. Yet, I'm not sure that everyone remembers. More and more, I am hearing about churches not having services on Christmas day. I can only conclude that those congregations are too busy opening packages from Santa, too busy preparing a great feast, too busy getting ready for

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- 1 Pastor's Message
- 2 Look for the Sign
Online Worship Link
- 3 What's Happening at
FPC
Wreath's Across
America Ceremony
- 4 Pray On the Armor
of God
Sunday School Update
- 5 Missions Update
- 6 Joys and Concerns
- 7 Just for Fun



JANUARY
Newsletter
Deadline

DECEMBER 27

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2



(((ONLINE WORSHIP)))

Click Here

www.friendshippresbyterianchurch.weebly.com

CHRISTIAN SYMBOL



EVERGREEN—These trees, which keep their green leaves year-round, are symbolic of Christmas, eternal life and God’s everlasting love. In the Bible, evergreen trees are called the “cedars of Lebanon,” suggesting growth (Psalm 92:12), height (Amos 2:9), fragrance (Hosea 14:6) and steadfast faith.

Deadline for
JANUARY
submission of
information is
DECEMBER 27

Submit to:
Sue Datt via
“Snail Mail”
324 S. Main St.
Harrisville, PA 16038
E-mail:
suedatt70@gmail.com
Phone:
724-991-5863

From Our Pastor’s Desk (continued)

company that they just don’t have time to worship Jesus on one of the most HOLY days of the year. And I wonder... what do non-believers think about church doors being closed on Christmas Sunday. I think that they must conclude that Jesus isn’t really all that important to Christians that other things just come first. That makes me really sad.

I want you to know, Friendship will be open and ready to worship Jesus, our Savior, on Christmas day. Folks, we can be an example to our families, to our friends and to the world that our Savior is important to us and that he comes first in our lives.

I hope that I see each and every one of you Christmas Sunday. I can’t think of any place else I rather be or anything else that I would rather do. Please remember why we worship!

For unto us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.
Isaiah 9:6



Merry Christmas to all of you!
Diane

LOOK FOR THE SIGN!

Submitted by Evelyn Vargo

When driving past the Community Center don’t forget to watch for the signs of humor and encouragement.



FRIENDSHIP PRESBYTERIAN COMMUNITY CENTER

**WISE MEN
STILL SEEK HIM**

To Book Call: 724-738-0953

FRIENDSHIP PRESBYTERIAN COMMUNITY CENTER

**GIVE THE GIFTS OF
HOPE, LOVE, PEACE
AND JOY**

To Book Call: 724-738-0953

WHAT'S HAPPENING AT FPC?

SPECIAL DATES AND UPCOMING EVENTS

- | | |
|-------------|--|
| December 4 | SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT
Communion and Worship Service, 11:00 a.m., Sunday school at 9:45 a.m., Worship Center |
| December 11 | THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT
Worship Service, 11:00 a.m., Sunday school at 9:45 a.m., Worship Center |
| December 14 | FPC Presbyterian Women Christmas Party , 7:00 p.m., Community Center, All attending are asked to bring a "white elephant" gift for those who wish to participate. We will also be choosing "secret sisters" for those who wish to participate. Hostesses for the evening are Cindy Solman and Michelle Whitehouse. All women of the church are invited! |
| DECEMBER 17 | WREATH'S ACROSS AMERICA WREATH LAYING CEREMONY at noon. (Ceremony will be held inside the Community Center.) |
| December 19 | FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT
Worship Service, 11:00 a.m., Sunday school at 9:45 a.m., Worship Center |
| December 21 | FIRST DAY OF WINTER |
| December 23 | Bell Ringing for the Salvation Army, Giant Eagle. Sign up sheet located on the table in the vestibule. |
| December 24 | Christmas Eve Candlelight Service , 6:00 p.m., Worship Center |
| December 25 | CHRISTMAS DAY
Worship Service, 11:00 a.m., Sunday school at 9:45 a.m., Worship Center |
| December 31 | NEW YEAR'S EVE |

WREATHS ACROSS AMERICA CEREMONY



Jeff Cross and Michelle Whitehouse would like to thank everyone who sponsored wreaths to honor the veterans at rest in Wolf Creek Cemetery. This year we have 56 wreaths which means 70% of our veterans will have a wreath placed on their grave. We consider this a great number for our first year and a late start.

The wreath laying ceremony will be held at the Community Center on December 17 at noon when we will be joining cemeteries across America in honoring our service members, remember our fallen, and teach our children.

The ceremony will be held inside and will be followed by the laying of wreaths on the gravesites.



How to Pray on the Armor of God

Submitted by Ruth Keith

God equips us with spiritual armor. Through prayer we can stand against attacks of discouragement and doubt.

“Put on” the Armor of God with this prayer based on Paul’s exhortation in Ephesians 6:10–18, using God’s Word, the sword of the Spirit, as we struggle, “not against flesh and blood, but against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms” (v. 12).

Equip me, Lord:

- **With the belt of truth** (v. 14). May your truth rule in my heart and be in my mind and on my lips today.
- **With the breastplate of righteousness** (v. 14). Apart from You there is no righteousness, but through Jesus I have been “born again” and made righteous in Your sight. May I live as a righteous person.
- **With feet fitted with the readiness** that comes from the Gospel of peace (v. 15). May I reflect the Gospel in my words and actions, that through me, with my every encounter, others may be drawn one step closer to You.
- **With the shield of faith** (v.16). May I take You at Your word concerning promises about the present and future—promises of everlasting love, abundant life, and so much more.
- **With the helmet of salvation** (v. 17). Remind me that nothing can separate me from Your love and that I’ve been saved by grace. In Your grace, help me to say “no” to all ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live a self-controlled, upright, and godly life (Titus 2:12,13).
- **And with the sword of the Spirit**, the Word of God (v. 17). May Your Holy Spirit reign in my life and bring to my mind just the right Bible verses to be in my heart and on my lips. May I be “filled with the Spirit” and ready with Scripture as You were, Jesus, when the devil tempted You.
- **Finally, keep me in an attitude of prayer** (v. 18). Remind me to “pray in the Spirit on all occasions.” Cause me to be alert and always praying for the saints; to be joyful and to give thanks in everything (see 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18).



ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL:

December, starts a new quarter which begins with lessons from Luke on Zechariah, John the Baptist, and on Mary’s song, as she rejoices in the news that God has chosen the humble over the proud in the sending of His son. During this quarter, we will study some biblical principles that we can apply to our own life situations. To name a few they include:

- Believe it or not, God’s promises are sure.
- Teach others to glorify the Most High.
- Christ is coming—repent and prepare your heart!
- Rejoice in God our Savior.
- Bear witness! God, the only God, loves you.

You are invited to join us for a time of Bible study, discussion and fellowship. Class begins at 9:45 a.m.

YOUNG ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL:

The young adult Sunday school will be studying God’s fulfillment of his plan. They will learn about His plan to save the Israelites through Jesus and His plan to save us through Jesus, and discover more about God and following Him. We meet in the church basement at 9:45 a.m. each week.



MISSIONS

across the street &
around the world



Operation Christmas Child demonstrates God's love to children in need worldwide by delivering gift-filled shoeboxes and the good news of Jesus Christ! Once again this year our Community Center served as a drop-off center and received 445 boxes. While that is a little less than last year, the Butler/Armstrong area collected 423 shoeboxes more this year with a total of 10,854. Our church collected 45 shoeboxes. The church youth packed 21 boxes while helping to receive boxes on Saturday, November 19. Thank you to those who worked as volunteers at the center. Looking forward to next year!



Each year during the Advent and Christmas season, we turn our eyes to Bethlehem and celebrate the wondrous gift of Jesus Christ, our Savior.

By giving to the Christmas Joy Offering, you honor God's gift of Jesus Christ by providing assistance to current and retired church workers in their time of need and developing our future leaders at Presbyterian-related schools and colleges equipping communities of color.

Watch the weekly bulletin for more information on this offering. Envelopes will be made available for your donation.



Since 1891, Salvation Army red kettles have helped the most vulnerable. In 2022, they're still here, fighting for GOOD. Your donation gives real help in real time to neighbors who need us most at Christmas and beyond.

When you give to The Salvation Army, you put a present under someone's tree today and a roof over someone's head tomorrow.



Bell Ringers Needed!
It's that time of year when scores of volunteers can be seen ringing bells across the nation in order to raise money

for the annual Red Kettle Campaign. **Friendship Presbyterian Day for "Bell Ringing" is December 23.** The sign up sheet is located on the table in the vestibule at the Worship Center.



'TIS THE SEASON TO BE JOLLY!

What did Adam say the day before Christmas?
It's Christmas, Eve!

What does the gingerbread man put on his bed?
Cookie sheets.

What goes "Oh, Oh, Oh"?
Santa walking backward.

Why did Rudolph get a bad report card?
Because he went down in history.

How much did Santa pay for his sleigh?
Nothing. It was on the house!

What kind of photos do Santa's helpers take?
Elfies.

Prayer List

*“Is any one of you sick? He should call the elders of the church to pray over him and anoint him with oil in the name of the Lord.”
James 5:16*

Anne D.
April and Todd
Bonnie of Georgia
Christy
The Alben Family
Gary Allison
Jane Allison
Carly Atkisson
Zachary Barto
Candy Boulanger
Kayla Brundige
Tyler Burson
Joanne Campbell
Martie Cooper
Phyllis Cooper
Louise Corbett
Jeff & Cindy Cross
Heather Datt
William Datt
Jim Dickey
Mark Doerr
Blanche English
Jennifer Gilliland

Donna Grossman
Timothy James
Rev. & Mrs. William Jamieson
Jesse Kelley
Graham Larimore
Landry Lawson
Ed Lind
Joe Lowers
Amber Matteo
Will McCoy
Mary Messer
Kevin Michael
Willard Morse
Randy Morgan
David Parker
Bernie Rihel
Bill & Chris Schroeder
Cindy Solman’s Mother and Sister
George Sonnet & Family
Joe Vivelo
Seth Vogan

Donna Walker
Joan West
Woman from Michigan
Our military at home & abroad
Persecuted Christians around the world
Alpha Omega Center
Feed My Sheep Food Cupboard
Beaver Butler Presbytery
Cooperstown Church
Friendship Church
Trevor Wood’s Ministry

All those who have been Impacted by COVID19

The people of Ukraine and Russia, their leaders, the world leaders and the world’s people.

HOW TO KEEP CHRISTMAS

Inspirational author Wilferd Peterson pondered ways to “best keep Christmas” and “defeat the little bit of Scrooge in all of us.”

After reading his suggestions, add your own!

- By following the Star ... to stand again in awe and wonder before the Babe in the manger.
- By rediscovering the faith and simplicity of a little child.
- By being still and listening to the angels sing within our hearts.
- By quietly evaluating our lives according to the Master’s standards as set forth in the Sermon on the Mount.
- By resolving to give ourselves away to others.
- By using the light of Christmas to guide us through ... the coming year.

DECEMBER

BIRTHDAYS

Damien Frampton, 12/7
Cindy Cross, 12/9
Donna Grossman, 12/10
Jesus, 12/25
Nancy Natili, 12/28

ANNIVERSARIES

Jeremy and Michelle Whitehouse 12/13
Paul and Donna Yanosy 12/30



Keep Christ in
Christmas!
Have a
blessed holiday!

JUST FOR FUN

Story stones



Share the good news of Jesus' birth in a creative way.



What you need:

- Newspaper
- Bible
- Smooth, clean stones
- Pencil
- Oil paint pens
- Adult help



What you do:

1. In a well-ventilated area, cover a work surface with newspaper
2. Read Luke 2:1-20 and choose key people and places to draw.
3. In pencil, sketch one drawing on each stone
4. Follow directions on paint pens to fill drawings with color. Let dry,
5. Hide stones for your family to find, set out a new stone each day or order them in a row and tell the Nativity story.



PUZZLE

Seeking the story

Angels joyfully announced a special arrival in Bethlehem at Christmas.

Directions: Find the words listed below. Then unscramble the intersecting letters to complete Luke 2:11, NIV.



WORD BANK

- Shepherds
- Child
- Nazareth
- Census
- Baby
- David
- Mary
- Travel
- Town
- Register
- Born
- Night

T	B	W	Y	A	Z	K	E	S	H	N	G	D	J	K
Q	O	Y	A	P	R	A	L	B	F	P	I	C	Q	L
N	R	W	X	B	E	Y	R	M	B	D	M	O	E	E
S	N	O	N	W	G	A	I	B	A	C	D	O	T	D
R	G	X	J	F	I	W	M	V	B	R	R	C	E	O
P	S	C	E	N	S	U	S	H	Y	U	Y	F	P	N
O	T	P	I	G	T	Q	C	N	T	G	M	U	S	T
O	A	N	D	B	E	C	H	I	L	D	N	Z	F	A
A	T	B	A	U	R	W	H	G	F	V	A	B	U	M
T	R	A	V	E	L	J	C	H	V	O	Z	G	N	H
F	B	Q	I	W	D	X	P	T	E	N	A	O	L	Q
Z	C	R	D	Q	S	H	E	P	H	E	R	D	S	V
R	U	V	Y	K	N	I	R	T	K	G	E	Y	I	R
K	V	A	Z	X	L	S	H	Y	T	P	T	J	S	K
L	L	E	S	M	J	Z	L	Q	R	U	H	V	W	X

“Today in the town of David a _____ has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord.”

LUKE 2:11, NIV

ANSWER: DAVID





FRIENDSHIP PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
877 Franklin Road
Slippery Rock, PA 16057



*From Our Gingerbread House to Yours,
Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!
Sue and Heather Datt (and her little dog too!)*