

PENNSBURG UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

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December 2020 Newsletter

Worship with PUCC every Sunday Morning at 9:30 a.m.

Pennsburg United Church of Christ mission statement:

We are a welcoming congregation that celebrates and shares God’s unconditional love with each other, the community and the world.



Consistory Officers & Employees:

- President.....Jane Bernhard
- Vice President.....Dana Heimbach
- TreasurerSharon Burns
- SecretaryPaula Sell
- Director of Music:Audrey Reinhart
- Custodian.....Lynn Sturdevant
- Administrative Assistant.....Jane MacNeill





Christmas greetings,

As I sat down to write this Christmas message to all of you, it occurred to me that the greatest thing we need in our lives, this and every season, is to know that God the Father is with us. This truly is the message of Christmas and thus the message of our faith. As Charles J. Chaput states:

“What begins in the stable, ends in our salvation. That’s why we celebrate Christmas, and it’s the best and only reason the human heart needs”.

Jesus is with us! This is what we really need to know. Jesus is not only the Babe of Bethlehem, but He is also the Son who was born to live for our righteousness and to die for our sins. Christ is the missing piece to the puzzle of life. Without Him, our lives are incomplete. With Him, our lives even in their most complex or disappointing parts make sense.

As we continue our journey together as a church, there are three things we should remember:

1. Remember that we are a Christmas congregation and that Jesus is present in every act of love and kindness we extend to one another.
2. Remember that we are an Easter congregation and we know that God can reach us beyond all the barriers the world can create.
3. Remember that we are a Pentecost congregation who know that the Holy Spirit can revive us and who will be our strength in times of great distress.

As we go through the Christmas season, and into the New Year, my hope is for our church family to embrace the changes that are coming and continue to celebrate a never-ending Christmas season to represent Jesus to those around us. So, when we love Him by loving others, in every little or big way, we know every day of the year, He sees a birthday gift, and the joy continues.

In closing, as the story of Jesus teaches us, Christmas can be the start of great things. I hope there are many great things in store for all of us in the coming year.

I wish you peace, love, good will and all the other blessings of Christmas.

Have a very Merry and Blessed Christmas,

Dana Heimbach
Consistory Vice-President

Things to Know

Rev. Nick Pence is our minister on call. He can be reached at 267-374-5691 if you have a pastoral emergency.

Our Administrative Assistant, Jane, is in the church office, Monday, Wednesday and Fridays from 9 to 11 am. if you need to talk to her. Or call 215-679-7513 and leave a message or email her at pennsburgucc@gmail.com. Jane will get back to you the next time she is in the office.



Zoom Worship

To connect to our worship service on Sunday morning, you can either go to this link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/3285264749>

or, call this number: 1-929-205-6099 and enter the Meeting ID: **328 526 4749**

or visit Calvary UCC Facebook page at 9:30 for a live broadcast or visit Calvary UCC's website to watch the services anytime.



Community Meal

1st Monday Meal

First Monday meal will be held December 7th. The meal will be Meat Loaf, mac & cheese, green beans and dessert. New Goshenhoppen UCC will be serving. This will be a drive-thru meal.





Birthdays

12/2: Derik Wimmer
12/3: Clinton Haney
12/9: Robert Burns
12/11: Frank Falk
12/13: Grace Grubb
12/14: Rachael Ruth
12/19: Jana Butler
12/21: Donald Way
12/26: Jacob Busch, Adam Conrad, Donna Haws
12/28: David Weller
12/29: Matthew Cron
12/30: Grace Cleary, Benjamin Royer
12/31: Todd Dallas

Anniversaries

12/8: Larry & Emily Hoff (63)
12/9: Raymond & Eileen Koffroth (57)
12/21: Scott & Paula Wehr (52)
12/24: Dennis & Joyce Hess (49)

A sincere thank you to all the volunteers who came out to help prepare the pickled red beets. It was good to see all of you again and spend time "catching up" during this hiatus of the pandemic .

The Fellowship Committee





Adopt-A-Family - As with everything else, The Open Link has modified the Adopt-A-Family program for this year. Instead of getting a needs/wish list from each child, The Open Link is requesting that we provide a \$100 gift card or multiple gift cards that add up to \$100 for each child. Last year we began asking the members of the congregation to participate in the program that in the past the Christian Ed committee took care of on behalf of Pennsburg UCC. We are inviting you to once again participate in the Adopt-A-Family program by either donating a gift card in whatever amount you would like, or a monetary donation. Please place your gift card or monetary donation in an envelope that is clearly marked "**Adopt-A-Family**" in the offering plate or mail it to the church. Monetary donations will be used to purchase the remaining gift cards needed for our assigned family. **Please make sure the donations are at church by Sunday, December 6** so that they may be given to our family in time for Christmas. If you have any questions, please see Wendy Smedley or Jane Bernhard.

October 2020 Financials

Income - \$4,107.00

Expenses - \$4852.74

Thank you to everyone who has been supporting PUCC with generous donations.

Sharon Burns/PUCC Treasurer

Need Financial Help?

If any members or church neighbors are facing any financial hardship, please contact the church office or a member of Consistory for help.

There is money set aside from PSEC gifts to be used for this purpose.

Calvary UCC News

Do you, or someone that you know need a helping hand? Have they been displaced due to a tragedy or victim of a disaster? Maybe rebuilding their lives after a life event or a hardship? Calvary's Closet is here to help those affected by such events. Open by appointment, and available to help those within our community. We can provide things such as clothing, linens, household items, and toys. If you have a specific need, please contact us as we may have it available! For questions, inquires for a need, donations or help, please contact us at: CalvarysClosetBarto@gmail.com or the Church office phone number is 610-652-5023, and if Heather is not in the office, she will return the voicemail as soon as possible.





Advent Worship Schedule

Rev. Jane Kropa will be leading our First Sunday in Advent worship and communion service on November 29th at PUCC at 9:30 am. Individual communion elements will be used. FYI, the wafer bread is in the top portion of the cup.

Rev. Tony Villareal will be leading our 2nd & 3rd Advent worship services on Dec. 6th at Calvary UCC and on Dec. 13th at PUCC. Both services begin at 9:30 am.

Rev. Meagan McLeod will be leading the 4th Advent worship service at Calvary UCC on Dec. 20th at 9:30 am.

Rev. Daniel Moser will be leading our Christmas Eve worship service at 7:00 pm on Dec. 24th. Holy Communion will be served, in individual cups, and candles will be lit during the singing of Silent Night.

Rev. Rebecca Stephens will be leading our worship on Sunday, Dec. 27th at PUCC at 9:30.

During this Advent season, the candles representing Hope, Peace, Love and Joy will be lit as we prepare for the celebration of the birth of our Savior, Jesus.

Calvary UCC together with Pennsburg UCC invite you to join us for a FREE Community To-Go Meal and Coat Give-away!

Saturday, December 5, from noon-1pm

Free coats & hats, free meals, free gloves & scarves!

Held at Calvary UCC, 1231 Route 100, Barto

www.CalvaryUccBarto.com

610-652-5023 calvaryucc@gmail.com

A reminder from the Cemetery Committee to please remove all spring & summer decorations.





Take home Advent Workshop kits

The Combined Youth Group of Pennsburg UCC and Calvary UCC met on Sunday, November 8. Since we are unable to have our Annual Advent Workshop with the Outreach and Growth Committee, we decided to make kits to allow our families to have their own Advent Workshop at home. At our meeting the youth we assembled 60 Take-Home Advent Workshop Kits. Each kit contains the supplies and instructions to make 5 Christmas ornaments. We spent a good portion of our October meeting selecting what ornaments would be included. The kits will be available for families of both Pennsburg U.C.C. and Calvary U.C.C. at our in-person worship services. We began handing them out on November 15 at Pennsburg UCC. We will continue to hand them out at Calvary UCC on November 22. Any remaining kits will be available at church for anyone who still needs them throughout December or by special arrangements.

Recycle Calendars

I know we may be tired of hearing this..... due to the current situation....

Pucc will NOT be collecting those calendars you receive in the mail. Hopefully you can find another use for them. Here's praying 2021 will be a better year!

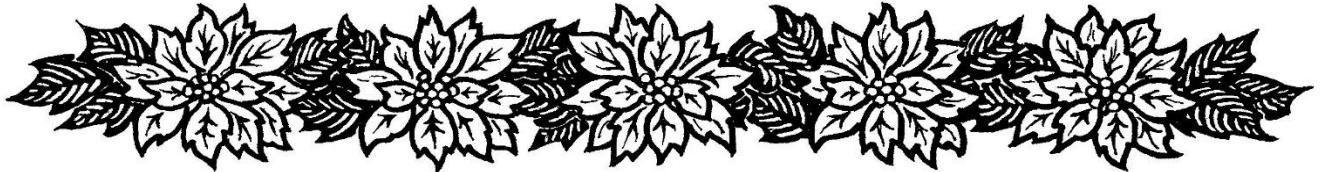
Update from the Transition Team

After an interview in October, the transition team presented a strong candidate to the combined consistories on Nov 10. Both consistories approved the candidate and an offer was made. However, the candidate requested additional compensation which exceeded our original offer by tens of thousands of dollars which neither church was agreeable nor financially able to divide. Therefore, the candidate declined the position and we are moving on. We will wait for additional profiles to review as there are no other potential candidates at this time. Although this is discouraging news, we need to remember to be patient until God sends more candidates our way. Please keep the transition team in your prayers.

Thanks,
Holly Lash



2020 CHRISTMAS POINSETTIA
ORDER FORM



6" Red Pots - \$7.00 each

Presented by _____

In Honor of _____

In Memory of _____

Number Wanted _____ @ \$7.00 = \$ _____

Please return Order Form to Kathy Badman, Sharon Burns,
Mary Jane May or Ginger Witman by
Sunday, November 29, 2020

or call Kathy Badman to place order at 215-679-7658

Flowers may be picked up after the Christmas Eve Worship Service.
Please make out checks to Pennsburg UCC