

## STAFF

Marci Tenney  
Secretary

## SESSION MEMBERS

Paul Bengs  
Jo Coulter  
Connie Jewell, Clerk  
Jean Walter

## DEACONS

Brenda Bengs  
Cathy Donaldson  
Karen Ohler  
Mary Ryan  
Marcie Treese

## TRUSTEES

Scott Duncan  
Brian Jewell  
Noel Ryan  
Dave Steele  
Pete Treese

## Ebenezer Presbyterian Church

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**Articles and information  
for the next newsletter  
are due the 3<sup>rd</sup> week of  
each month.**



## No Room at the Inn

by  
Cathy Donaldson



*And she gave birth to her firstborn, a son, She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in the manger, because there was no room for them in the inn.*

- Luke 2:7

At this time of year when we are busy wrapping our gifts and decorating and entertaining, we tend to put aside the most important gift that we can receive. We see all the expensive gifts and decorations and busyness, but we overlook the simple life-changing gift that is priceless and free.

When Christ came to us, he came as a defenseless infant, born of poor parents in very modest circumstances. We pay more attention to great fanfare events, celebrity appearances and royal weddings. We don't take time to make room in our lives for the blessings that come disguised and wrapped in simple cloths.

How full is your inn? Have you filled all your rooms with the things that break, rust, dent or spoil? How many of the gifts that you received last year do you remember? What would it take to refocus your attention on the eternal instead of the temporal?

Revelation 3:20 *"Here I am! I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in and eat with him, and he with me."*

Jesus is standing at your door. He is knocking. He is waiting for you to open your door to Him so that He can come in. He wants you to make room at your inn so that He can fill you with blessings, satisfy your hunger, and heal your broken places. Make room in your inn for the Prince of Peace, the Wonderful Counselor. He has been patient with us for a very long time. He is waiting for us to make a place for Him in our hearts and minds and lives.

Make this the year that you receive the greatest gift that will not be forgotten. This gift is an ongoing gift. It is new every morning and never loses its value. It is free but it is also priceless. Receive the gift and the Giver. Spend an eternity celebrating with the One who loves us enough to come to an inn that has no room. He knocks and patiently waits for us to open the door. He loves You.

**THE EVERGREEN** as the name suggests, stays green all throughout the year, even during the winter. When every other tree and plant dies, it remains alive, defying the dreary, chilly weather and bringing color to an otherwise dark world.



Every Christmas, when we put up an evergreen tree in our homes, we are acknowledging the eternal life we have because of Jesus. After all, when the King of Kings and Lord of Lords took on the form of a baby, He began the work of salvation – a divine work that would ultimately reconcile us to God and give us eternal life in the kingdom of heaven.

The Christmas tree represents the promise of heaven. It serves to remind us of the everlasting hope we have because of Jesus, who willingly died so that we can live for eternity.

The Christmas tree is a befitting symbol of Jesus' birth. Full of life and promise, trees signify the hope and new beginnings that we often associate with the Nativity. Interestingly, trees can also serve as a symbol of Jesus' death. After all, wood was used to fashion the cross – the very instrument of Jesus' atoning sacrifice.

The Christmas tree, therefore, symbolizes Jesus' birth as much as it foreshadows His crucifixion. In fact, it can represent God's whole divine plan of salvation – a plan that was inaugurated when Jesus was born and culminated when He died on the cross.

May your Christmas tree serve as a long-lasting reminder of God's great love for you, as well as the eternal hope we have because of His Son, Jesus.

"Our task is to stand tall in God's love, secure in our place, sparkling in kindness, surrounded by his goodness, freely giving to all who come our way," wrote Max Lucado, Christian author and minister. "You, me, and the Christmas tree. Picked, purchased, and pruned." -Roma Maitlall

★  
For  
God so  
loved the  
world He gave  
His one and only  
Son that whoever  
believes in Him shall not  
perish but have eternal life  
John  
3:16

**Christmas Carol Sing**  
December 15<sup>th</sup>  
at 4:00 p.m. with a light meal to  
follow. Please bring a salad or dessert.

**Christmas Eve Service**  
December 24<sup>th</sup>  
at 4:00 p.m.

**Christmas Flower Order**  
forms are available on the round  
table and in the bulletins. Orders  
are due by December 9<sup>th</sup>.

## Clerk's Corner:

- ❖ Approval for Mandi Duncan and Brooke Deniker to initiate a program for children during Sunday morning church service.
- ❖ Approval for Mandi and Brooke to hold a Bible Study on Wednesday evenings.
- ❖ Pulpit Supply is filled through December 31, 2024.
- ❖ Approval to donate \$500.00 to Samaritan's Purse. Congregation may also donate.
- ❖ An incomplete slate of officers was presented at the Congregational Meeting. The Nominating Committee is still seeking two trustees and one person for the Nominating Committee. Those names presented were approved.

-Connie Jewell, Clerk

## Treasurer's Report:      **October 2024**

Beginning Balance 10/01/24      \$ 9,666.35

Receipts: \$3,493.00

Beginning Balance Plus Receipts      \$13,159.35

Less Expenses      \$ 4,835.62

Balance 10/31/2024      \$ 8,323.73

Balance Includes:

Trustees Endowment      \$ 1,764.60

Missions Endowment      \$ 965.14

90<sup>th</sup> Birthday Fund      \$ 867.74

Deacons Account      \$ 1,306.28

Missions:

Local      \$ 60.00

Saunders      \$ 90.00

Dan Schall      \$ 40.00

Shenango Presbytery Mission \$ 25.00

Available Undesignated Funds

For General Use 10/31//2024      \$ 3,204.97

-Joan Coulter, Treasurer

## Mission Focus:

The Mission Focus

For **December** is

Joshua's Haven City Mission a faith-based ministry dedicated to bringing the life-changing Gospel of Jesus Christ to the poor, needy and homeless by providing food, shelter, support services and spiritual programs.



## **COMING UP IN DECEMBER:**

December 9 – Session Meeting at 12:30 p.m.

December 15 – Christmas Carol Sing at 4:00 p.m. with a light meal to follow.

December 24 – Christmas Eve Service at 4:00 p.m.

The 2024 Stocking Drive is underway. The filled stockings will be donated to local outreach centers, Veteran's shelters, and those less fortunate. Items recommended are: deodorant & soap, laundry detergent, toothpaste & toothbrush, hats & gloves, socks & scarves, diapers & wipes, children's snow boots, new or gently used winter coats & snow boots (of any age/size). The deadline to bring in items is December 8<sup>th</sup>.

# NATIVITY WORD SEARCH



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

- MAGI
- CHRISTMAS
- JOSEPH
- WISE MEN
- DONKEY
- GIFTS
- FRANKINCENSE
- MYRRH
- CENSUS
- NAZARETH
- STABLE
- SHEPHERDS
- JESUS
- NATIVITY
- CRECHE
- CAMELS
- ANGELS
- BIRTH
- BABY
- TIDINGS
- MARY
- HOLY
- MANGER
- GOLD



## Reverend Billy Graham's words on Christmas:

“There’s so much more to Christmas than what we see and hear on the radio and television. The whole thing is about Jesus. At Christmas we celebrate the fact of Christ’s coming into the world. He was born as a helpless baby to a poor woman and her husband in an insignificant part of the Roman Empire. And yet that baby was different from every other baby who had ever been born, or ever would be born for He was God in human flesh. From all eternity He was God but on that first Christmas He entered time, and He walked among us. As the Bible says, ‘The Word was God... [and] the Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us.’” John 1:1, 14



# DECEMBER 2024



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2	3	4	5 Jayne Coulter	6	7
8 Jean Walter	9 Session Meeting at 12:30 p.m.	10 Shirley Jenkins Austin Minor	11	12 Gladys Bengs Mary Lou Riddle	13	14
15 Christmas Carol Sing at 4:00 p.m. – light meal to follow Noel Ryan	16 Chuck Montgomery	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24 Christmas Eve Service at 4:00 p.m.	25 	26 Jean Park	27 Don Elliott	28
29	30	31	<b>Birthdays:</b> 5 – Jayne Coulter 8 – Jean Walter 10 – Shirley Jenkins 10 – Austin Minor 11 – Gladys Bengs 11 – Mary Lou Riddle		<b>Birthdays cont.:</b> 15 – Noel Ryan 16 – Chuck Montgomery 26 – Jean Park 27 – Don Elliott	

*“Oh Holy Night, the stars were brightly shining”*





The Bach Society invites you to attend their anniversary choral concert

**40 Years of Christmas Cheer.**

- Friday, December 6<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 p.m. at Center Presb. Church, Slippery Rock
- Saturday, December 7<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 p.m. at Tower Presb. Church, Grove City

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