Center Presbyterian Church 211 Center St. Slippery Rock, PA 16057

Center Church Weekly E-Blurb

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December 10, 2023 Edition



Prayers this week

Please continue to pray for Mike Formeck's cousin, Arlene, who was diagnosed with brain cancer.

Mary Jane Snyder in hospice at Autumn Grove. She'd love a card! Please keep her in your prayers.

Julie Powell is asking for prayers for her brother, Jim Mahan who continues to recover and needs your prayers.

Martie and Phil are asking for prayers for one of Phil's co-workers who suffered a stroke over the weekend. He was not able to get treatment right away so keep him, his family and the doctors and the nurses in your prayers.

Martie and Phil are asking for prayers for a friend from the former West Liberty U.P. Who is having health problems and needs prayer.

Sandy Montgomery updated Maggie's progress; she had an MRI in October and her tumor is shrinking. No treatment is needed at this time. She will have regular testing going forward.

Sandy Montgomery updated us in the progress of Drew their cousin. He was accepted in the trial treatment and the last test showed the tumor shrinking.

Please keep the Klink family in your prayers. They are friends from John and Jody Sperry's old church and their 2-year-old grandson died unexpectedly last week. His father could not wake him from his nap.

Bonnie Renick's friend Michelle Sauer has a mass on her pancreas. She is only 58 years old. Please keep her and the family in your prayers.

Please keep Barb Harp, (exercise instructor during the week) her husband and their family in your prayers her mother-n-law went to be with the Lord.

Remember to keep these people in your prayers:

Jannie Budd
Shirley Cook
Denise Brydon
Nancy Harris
Joann Orr (Bill Elliott's sister)
Mary Jane Snyder
Mary Decker's great-grandson
Edna Mae Tissue
John Sperry's nephew, Ben
Robyn Gregg's daughter, Lyndsey
Mason Martin (KC Football player)

Ramona Marks
Pam Uber
Bill Mills
Ramona Marks
Mason Martin (the Karns City football player)

New This Week Prayers

Grace Steele is having some health issues please keep her in your prayers.

Please keep Pam, a longtime friend of Martie Cooper in your prayers she is having some serious health issues.

Please remember to update your prayers as needed. We would like to keep everyone up to date on the status.

Pastor Bill's Message Sunday, December 10, 2023

This week, "The Light of Peace" joins "The Light of Hope" during our worship service.

Peace can be hard to find during this time of year.

Here is a reading that I find helpful.

"Relinquish expectations for holidays that are without conflict or problems or challenges.

Christmas is about embracing human life-with all its shortcomings, mistakes, and struggles."

From Christmas Therapy by Karen Katafiasz

In the Bible, God always promised to do something about all the hurt and pain in our world.

He certainly did! He sent the Prince of Peace to come, and do what we can't do for ourselves.

Jesus gives us new, true, and everlasting peace.

This is what we celebrate during Advent.

On the very first Christmas Eve, an angel said:

¹⁴ "Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests." Luke 2:14 NIV

My prayer is that we may know God's promise of peace this Advent and Christmas! God bless you and see you in church!

Rev. William C. Mamaw 11

December 10, 2023

Prelude Angels We Have Heard On High Arr. Joel Raney Piano

Introit Arise Ye People

Welcome and Announcements

Praise Sentences

- L: In this season of Advent, we celebrate God's peace.
- P: Jesus Christ, born the Prince of Peace, leads us in the way of peace.
- L: We call one another to honesty and humility, and respond to each other with abundant grace and forgiveness.
- P: As Christians, we value relationships.
- L: We live in harmony with one another even when we disagree.
- P: We strive to glorify God in everything we do.
- L: Together, we are a sign of God's peace in the world.

Opening Hymn – #56 "The First Noel" "Presbyterian Hymnal"

Opening Prayer – (Unison)

Lord, in a season when every heart should be happy, many of us are struggling with the heaviness of life—burdens that steal the light out of our lives. An inner voice whispers, "Be afraid!" Lord, never have we needed Your peace more than now. Thank You for the gift of Jesus, our Immanuel, the Word made flesh. You've promised rest for the weary, victory for the battle-scarred, peace for the anxious, and acceptance for the broken hearted—not just at Advent, but every day of every year. In a world where worry, not peace, prevails, stir up that good news again. We know that peace on earth can only come when all hearts find peace with You. Your name is still called "Wonderful," "Counselor," "The Mighty God," "The Everlasting Father," and "The Prince of Peace." This Advent, bring Your peace to our lives, in some new and astonishing ways.

Moment of Silent Prayer

Pastor's Amen

Church Song of Response Thou Didst Leave Thy Throne LBB #2100 Verse 5

<u>Time with Children</u> Away in a Manger

Reflection Hymn #49 "Once In Royal David's City Presbyterian Hymnal

Advent Wreath Candle-lighting "PEACE" -

Scripture Isaiah9:1-7, 11:1-10

9 Nevertheless, there will be no more gloom for those who were in distress. In the past he humbled the land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, but in the future he will honor Galilee of the nations, by the Way of the Sea, beyond the Jordan—² The people walking in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the land of deep darkness a light has dawned. ³ You have enlarged the nation and increased their joy; they rejoice before you as people rejoice at the harvest, as warriors rejoice when

dividing the plunder. ⁴ For as in the day of Midian's defeat, you have shattered the yoke that burdens them, the bar across their shoulders, the rod of their oppressor. ⁵ Every warrior's boot used in battle and every garment rolled in blood will be destined for burning, will be fuel for the fire. ⁶ For to 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. ⁷ Of the greatness of his government and peace there will be no end. He will reign on David's throne and over his kingdom, establishing and upholding it with justice and righteousness from that time on and forever. The zeal of the LORD Almighty will accomplish this.

The Branch From Jesse

11 A shoot will come up from the stump of Jesse; from his roots a Branch will bear fruit. ² The Spirit of the LORD will rest on him—the Spirit of wisdom and of understanding, the Spirit of counsel and of might, the Spirit of the knowledge and fear of the LORD— ³ and he will delight in the fear of the LORD. He will not judge by what he sees with his eyes, or decide by what he hears with his ears; 4 but with righteousness he will judge the needy, with justice he will give decisions for the poor of the earth. He will strike the earth with the rod of his mouth; with the breath of his lips he will slay the wicked. ⁵ Righteousness will be his belt and faithfulness the sash around his waist. ⁶ The wolf will live with the lamb, the leopard will lie down with the goat, the calf and the lion and the yearling together; and a little child will lead them. ⁷ The cow will feed with the bear, their young will lie down together, and the lion will eat straw like the ox. 8 The infant will play near the cobra's den, and the young child will put its hand into the viper's nest. ⁹ They will neither harm nor destroy on all my holy mountain, for the earth will be filled with the knowledge of the LORD as the waters cover the sea. ¹⁰ In that day the Root of Jesse will stand as a banner for the peoples; the nations will rally to him, and his resting place will be glorious.

Message

Choir Anthem Welcome To Our World Chris Rice

Pastoral Prayer and The Lord's Prayer

Offering Sentence

Offering Music Christmas Medley Arr. Bill Wolaver (Piano)

Doxology Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow #592 "Presbyterian Hymnal"

Prayer of Dedication

<u>Closing Hymn –</u> #38 "It Came Upon A Midnight Clear" "Presbyterian Hymnal"

Blessing

Benediction Response The First Nowell PH 56 Refrain Only

Postlude On God Rest You" Arr. Gordon Young

Calvin (The not so famous church mouse)

December is so busy. Pastor Bill mentioned in his sermon that he would share this. I figured I would help him. Also, from the same sermon, remember to look for "The Light of Peace".

This Christmas end a quarrel. Seek out a forgotten friend. Dismiss suspicion, and replace it with trust. Write a love letter. Share some treasure. Give a soft answer. Keep a promise. Find the time. Forgo a grudge. Forgive an enemy. Listen. Apologize if you were wrong. Try to understand. Examine your demands on others. Think first of someone else. Be kind; be gentle. Appreciate. Laugh a little. Laugh a little more. Express your gratitude. Gladden the heart of a child. Welcome a stranger. Take pleasure in the beauty and the wonder of Earth. Speak your love. Speak it again. Speak it yet Once again. lessonslearnedinlife.com

BYE!



Knotty Ladies

The Knotty Ladies are starting up again after a summer hiatus. If anyone is interested in joining us, we are meeting Wednesday at 1:00 p.m. in Fellowship Hall, on the stage, starting Wednesday 9/28/23. We will be making baby quilts for Butler Memorial Hospital to distribute to all new

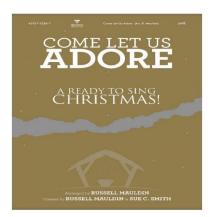
babies. If you can't join us to tie our quilts, we will accept any finished quilts. BMH said they need to be 36" x 36". We will also accept quilt tops that need to be sandwiched & tied, and

donations of batting. Join us for fun and fellowship, the only skill necessary is to be able to tie a square knot!

Children's practices will be held after worship service for and play on December 10th and December 17th. Also, on December 17th we will have a decorating the tree and pizza afterwards. So, plan on attending.



Ring the bell on Thursday, December 14th at Giant Eagle.



Presented by **ACTS Choir and Orchestra**

Saturday, December 9, 2023 Mt. Chestnut Presbyterian Church Butler, Pa. PERFORMANCE TIME 7:00 p.m.

Sunday, December 10, 2023 **Center Presbyterian Church** Slippery Rock, Pa.

PERFORMANCE TIME 3:00 p.m.

Contact us at:

Website www.adoringchristthrusong.com Facebook - Adoring Christ Thru Song

Director - Kate Cotter k.s.eberle@gmail.com or 724-496-0118



Stats for November

Families: 104 **Total Family Members: 207** Adults: 91 Children: 47

New Families: 10 Seniors: 69

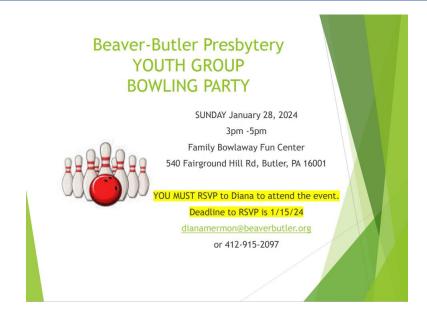
Slippery Rock Boro: 33 Families Slippery Rock Area: 54

134 Families received a turkey, gift card and all the" fixins" for Harrisville: 17 Families

Thanksgiving dinner which included 207 Adults and 63 Children

Wish List for December: Popcorn, Hot Chocolate mix, Marshmallows

If you know of someone in need, please tell them to call the Feed My Sheep Food Cupboard at 724-421-5274



The Bach Society

Under the direction of Leo Sayles

Invites you to attend their choral concert

A Wonder in the Heaven



Friday, December 8th at Center Presbyterian Church Slippery Rock

Saturday, December 9th at Tower Presbyterian Church Grove City

Both concerts start at 7:30 pm and are free to the public For more information go to www.bachsocietycommunitychoir.com