

December 17, 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 Pam, a longtime friend of Martie Cooper in your prayers she is having some serious health issues.

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)
Grace Steele

New This Week Prayers

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 17, 2023

On Sunday, I shared a reading from "Christian Therapy" by Karen Katafiaz about finding "Advent Peace" this month.

She writes, *"When the seasons commercialism becomes too oppressive, place yourself in spirit in the simple and earthly surroundings of Jesus Birth. Remind yourself what really matters."*

- *Reflect on how peace can be found in that those words and their application.*

During Advent so far, we have looked at "The Light of Hope", and "The Light of Peace" during worship.

This week our theme is "Joy"!

We will have Joy in seeing the children in worship.

We will hear the word "Joy" in the scriptures, liturgy and hymns.

We will light the third candle in the Advent Wreath with more of our youth serving as readers.

Come to church, and you will see and experience, the "Light of Joy" shining brightly!

God bless you and see you in church!

Rev. William C. Mumaw II

December 17, 2023

Prelude *Bells O Sing a Song of Bethlehem Arr. Kathleen Wissinger*

Introit *Arise Ye People*

Welcome and Announcements

Praise Sentences

L: Our joy is in the Lord who blesses us.

P: Shout for joy, for the Lord is near!

L: Joy to the world, the Lord is come!

P: Joy to the World, the Savior reigns!

L: Henri Nouwen said it this way: “Joy does not simply happen to us. We have to choose joy, and keep choosing it every day.”

Opening Hymn – #169 “O Come, O Come Emmanuel” “Hymns For the Family of God”

Opening Prayer – (Unison)

Lord, on this third Sunday of Advent, let us remember that the news of Jesus’ birth has the power to bring us great joy. Our joy isn’t dependent on what is going on in our life, in our world, or the people that we are with. Our joy comes from You. Remind us that the same joy that flooded the hearts of the shepherds, still has the power to overwhelm our hearts with rejoicing. Father, you offer that same joy to us now if we know You, and recognize Jesus as our Savior and Lord. Forgive us for our lack of joy, and our poor attitudes and hurtful words. Flood our hearts with joy this Advent season as we reflect on the best and most special gift that You gave us, on that very first Christmas, in Jesus Christ.

Moment of Silent Prayer

Pastor’s Amen

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

Time with Children *Away in a Manger*

Reflection Hymn #174 “Lo How a Rose E’er Blooming Hymns For the Family of God

Advent Wreath Candle-lighting “Joy” – Kasey and Owen Yeager

Scripture Luke 1:39-45

³⁹ At that time Mary got ready and hurried to a town in the hill country of Judea, ⁴⁰ where she entered Zechariah’s home and greeted Elizabeth. ⁴¹ When Elizabeth heard Mary’s greeting, the baby leaped in her womb, and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit. ⁴² In a loud voice she exclaimed: “Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the child you will bear! ⁴³ But why am I so favored, that the mother of my Lord should come to me? ⁴⁴ As soon as the sound of your greeting reached my ears, the baby in my womb leaped for joy. ⁴⁵ Blessed is she who has believed that the Lord would fulfill his promises to her!”

Message

Choir Anthem Love Came Down At Christmas Mark Burrows

Pastoral Prayer and The Lord’s Prayer

Offering Sentence

Offering Music *Bells He Is Born Kathleen Wissinger*

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

Prayer of Dedication

Closing Hymn – **#194** "Infant Holy, Infant Lowly" "Hymns For the Family of God"

Blessing

Benediction Response *The First Nowell PH 56 Refrain Only*

Postlude *Angels From the Realms of Glory Arr. John Innes*



Calvin (The not so famous church mouse)

!!! Advent is a time for so many things. Music, baking favorite recipes, decorations, traditions and attending church are all a special part of this time of year.

Also, we can learn things during Advent.

I would like to share a little "Advent Lesson" with you.

Maybe you can call me "Professor Calvin" for a day?

Let me start with a question.

How many times have you written, or seen,

"Merry Xmas"?

What is wrong with that method that includes the "X"?

The answer is actually, nothing!

I have known many people that make comments about the use of "X", instead of writing out the whole word "Christmas".

Did you know that the "X" in Xmas is not an "X" at all, but the Greek letter Chi, the first letter in the Greek word for Christ, which has been used as a special symbol for Christ since the times of the early Christian church.

So, saying (or writing) "Merry Xmas" is not at all equivalent to tossing the name of Christ out of the season.

You can decide how you would like to sign your cards, or type your messages!

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 17th. Also, on December 17th we will have a decorating the tree and pizza afterwards. So, plan on attending.



**REGISTER TO
RING**

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



Stats for November

Families: 104 Total Family Members: 207 Adults: 91 Children: 47
Seniors: 69 New Families: 10
Slippery Rock Boro: 33 Families Slippery Rock Area: 54

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

Beaver-Butler Presbytery YOUTH GROUP BOWLING PARTY



SUNDAY January 28, 2024
3pm -5pm
Family Bowlaway Fun Center
540 Fairground Hill Rd, Butler, PA 16001

YOU MUST RSVP to Diana to attend the event.
Deadline to RSVP is 1/15/24
dianamermon@beaverbutler.org
 or 412-915-2097