

December
2018



St. Peter's Reformed Church

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A PUBLICATION OF ST. PETER'S REFORMED CHURCH

The Joyful Noiseletter



His Presence (vs) Christmas Presents

*“The virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son, and they will call him Emmanuel—
which means “God with us.” Matthew 1:23*

Warm Christmas Greetings!

If you are like me and Kendra, every time you get into the car you put on the radio to hear the familiar Christmas classics like *White Christmas* or *Santa Claus is Coming to Town* or one of our favorites, *Baby, It's Cold Outside!* But there is no denying, *It's Beginning to Look a lot Like Christmas* everywhere you go. I love the lights, the decorations, and the music—the crowds, not so much! I love the Hallmark and Lifetime movies surrounding the theme of Christmas—even though you already know what the outcome of the movie is going to be when ‘the girl’ bumps into ‘the guy’ at the local coffee shop! I love memories of Christmas’ past, of family get-togethers, of parties with friends, and being woken at ungodly hours to see what Santa brought!

I love Christmas! I also love it because I am a pastor who gets to spread Christmas cheer to that parent who may find it tough to buy gifts for the kids or to that senior citizen who may find it tough to put food on the table or that family who is finding that the stresses of the holiday’s are bringing them down. I also love that I get to answer the question, “What’s the big deal about a baby in a manger?” You see, the older I get (thanks to my AARP Card, I’m reminded every time I open my wallet) the more I realize that Christmas is NOT about the Christmas “presents”, but it’s all about His “presence!”

I want you to think about something with me as you prepare for this most blessed season of the year. God knows what it is like to be human. He came in the form of a baby, wrapped in swaddling clothes, and laid in a manger. He worked along side his earthly father in the carpentry shop, and I’m sure he smacked his thumb with a hammer or got a splinter or two. He has been ridiculed and mocked for being ‘different’ and for believing in love and forgiveness. He has been here and he has walked where you have walked or may be walking right now. Because of His presence some two thousand years ago, I know that I have a friend in heaven. I know that I have a Savior in heaven. You see, the child in the cradle became the King on the cross.

It brings me great comfort knowing that God is always near. Always for us. Always in us. We may forget him, but God will never forget us. After all, the scriptures tell us that

his name is “Emmanuel” (which means ‘God with us’). Not just “God made us.” Not just “God thinks of us.” Not just “God above us.” But God *with* us. God is where you are . . . right now: at the office trying to make that deadline, at the doctor’s office waiting for news on a test result, or in your bedroom hearing you cry yourself to sleep. God is with us!

This Advent season, we are looking at some of the prophetic “Songs of Christmas”. I hope and pray that you will join us. God was with those first Christmas characters - Mary’s Song, Zechariah’s Christmas Chorus, the Angels Alleluia, and Simeon’s Salvation Song - and their lives were impacted and changed because of His presence. Your life could be impacted and changed as well! I don’t want you to forget that Christmas is about CHRIST! The presents are nice and thoughtful, but His ‘presence’ is what is most needed if we ever hope to experience real hope, peace, love and joy! Christmas is not Christmas unless or until you receive the message in the manger! The manger invites us, even dares us to believe the best is yet to be. And it could all begin today. May I encourage you to pick up your bible—or if you need one, please see me - turn to the Gospel of Matthew (1:18-2:12) and then to the Gospel of Luke (1:1-2:40). Read and meditate on the beginning of God’s wonderful plan of salvation for all who call upon His Name. You will read the heart-shaping promises of a God who loves you so much that He would send His only Son, Jesus - whose name means “will save them from their sins” (Matt 1:21).

You see, Christmas is all about Jesus! To quote a Christmas cliché, “He is the reason for the season”. I look forward to seeing you this Christmas as we celebrate together in His ‘presence’!

Because of the Manger,

Pastor Jim



Christmas Eve 2018
December 24th ~ 9:00 PM
Candlelight Communion
“The Night Love Was Born”

Join us once again as we travel together back to that first Christmas in a small stable where the Son of God would be born.

With the beauty of the sanctuary, the familiar hymns, the story being told through the reading of scripture, the special music selections, and the sharing of the bread and the cup at the Lord’s Table, we will be transported back in time as we are reminded of God’s greatest gift to you ~ His Son, Jesus!

John 3:16 reminds us “For God so loved the world that He GAVE His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life.”

Christmas is all about Christ!
Come, join us on this most holy of nights!

“Hope to Cope”

~ A Service of Remembrance ~

In conjunction with Boylan's Funeral Home, St. Peter's will be offering a service on **Sunday, December 2nd at 3:00 p.m. at St. Peter's** to prepare the hearts of those who have lost loved ones this past year in dealing with the emotions of the Christmas holiday. It's a journey of healing that can take a long time to travel and our desire is to walk alongside family and friends by preparing them for the journey. A personalized Christmas ornament will be provide to the family as a way to encourage them on their journey.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED: Helping to usher and greet members and visitors is both necessary and a privilege. You'll not only help the consistory members, but this is a great way to get to know others. I thank all that helped me during the month of November and would like to encourage others to join the new usher ministry committee being formed.

St. Peter's needs ALL of us—EVERYONE has a gift to share! Cath Rape

(Please read the article below regarding St. Peter's Usher Ministry)

[Volunteer Usher Ministry](#)

We are looking for folks interested in being put on a list of volunteers to conduct Usher duties during a St. Peter's church service beginning January 2019.

This list of volunteers would be provided to the Head Usher (Consistory Member) who would contact potential volunteers to usher for a specific Sunday or special church service. You can volunteer for one Sunday or for a month of Sundays.

Duties include:

- Opportunities for both the regular services and any special service
- Distribute bulletins and greet entering worshipers
- Provide assistance, if needed, for those entering or exiting the church
- Assist those arriving late to open seats
- Collect offering
- Arrive one-half hour prior to church service

A half hour training session for all volunteers would be conducted once the volunteer list is developed.

So, if you have a welcoming smile and the willingness to volunteer, please drop a note in the offering plate or in the “Compliments and Concerns Box” near the back entrance of the church.

If you have any questions, please contact Wendy Grubbs at 724/316-0676 or via email at wgrubbs@p-r-i.org.



Community Fellowship Dinner

Jesus didn't come to be served, HE came to SERVE.

THE GREATEST AMONG YOU MUST BE A SERVANT.

MATTHEW 23:11 NLT

~~~~~  
Community Dinner Friday, December 14, 2018

5:00-6:30 p.m.

December's Menu is:

Ham, Scalloped Potatoes, Green Beans, Cole Slaw, Desserts and Beverages

## Sweet Blessings

December 8, 2018 ~ 9:00 am to noon (Fellowship Room)

Please join us to bring "Sweet Blessings" to others through fellowship and baking. Participants are asked to donate their favorite cookie to our cookie bank, where we will then distribute them to others who may need a little extra Christmas Cheer!

Please contact Amy George at 724-816-7534 or [amygeorge@zoominternet.net](mailto:amygeorge@zoominternet.net) or Karen Thomas at 724-368-8474 or [curlycues36@aol.com](mailto:curlycues36@aol.com) for more information.



## KIDS CHRISTMAS PARTY

12/7 6:00 – 9:00pm

Sign up at Welcome Center.

We will have dinner/movie/songs/craft.

See Kathryn Marley or Heather Zeigler for details.

## Women's Ministry News

Please come on December 8th to join Amy George and Karen Thomas in bringing "Sweet Blessings" to others through fellowship and baking. They are meeting in the fellowship room at 9 am to noon. Bring several dozens of your favorite cookie!

Following the packaging of the cookies we will be making Christmas cards for St. Peter's "We Care" group. PLEASE BRING SCISSORS with you. Sue Frankenstein has graciously donated the materials for the cards. She would like Women's Ministry to give a donation to the Sunday School to aid in funding students to attend church camp in the summer.

### PLANNING AHEAD:

January 12, 2019 We will hold a work day to clean the church kitchen and the Women's Ministry closet. We will meet at 9 am for this project.

February 9, 2019 We will have the Secret Sister Reveal and another event to be determined. Please watch the January Newsletter and church bulletin for this information.

Now that the Christmas Season is upon us let us remember JOY in serving.

J: Jesus first, O: Others second, and Y: Yourself last.

Wishing you a blessed Christmas!

Marla Clouse



### MARK YOUR CALENDARS!!

St. Peter's will once again be hosting a recital under the auspices of Tanya Satteson, concertmistress of the Butler Symphony and creator of the Butler County Recital Series. 'An Evening of Chamber Music' will take place in our sanctuary on **Saturday, January 19, 2019** at **7:00pm** and you are invited to come and bring some classical music-loving friends with you to enjoy listening to some great chamber ensemble music. Once again, violinist Tanya will be welcoming Nancy DeSalvo from Westminster College back to the piano and they will be joined this time by cellist Katya Janpoladyan. Tickets for the recital are \$16.50 for adults and \$11.50 for children, and you can buy your tickets on the website at [www.butlercountyrecitalseries.org](http://www.butlercountyrecitalseries.org) or purchase them at the door (if you purchase them at the door, you will need to pay cash). We hope to see many of you here at the church for this inspiring evening of music!



## CONSISTORY UPDATE

- Consistory Approved the Proposed 2019 St. Peter's Budget
- Investigating the Replacement of the Church Roof & Removal of the Chimney
- Approved the Slate for Election of New Consistory Members
  - Elder - Ron Double, Keith Stauffer and Bill Allmann
  - Deacon – Tonya Reynolds, Pete Butcher
  - Trustee: Jeff Bichler, Shawn Maust
- Security Committee Moving Forward on the Committee Initiatives
- Facilities Usage Moving Forward on the Committee Initiatives

If you have any questions, please contact me at 724-316-0676 or via email at [wgrubbs@p-r-i.org](mailto:wgrubbs@p-r-i.org).

Thank you,  
Wendy Grubbs  
Consistory Secretary

## Mom 2 Mom Ministry ~ Save the Date Events

Attention all Mom's with children at home, we are looking for you to join Mom 2 Mom Ministry at the following activities this fall.

Tuesday, December 18<sup>th</sup> Serving the Southwest Butler Food Cupboard

Please see Becky Bichler with any questions or contact her at [becky.bichler@gmail.com](mailto:becky.bichler@gmail.com) or (724) 991-2442



## KIDS PJ PARTY

12/30<sup>th</sup> 9:00 – 11:15am

Come in your PJs have breakfast and a movie with your friends.

**SUNDAY SCHOOL NURSERY, WORSHIP NURSERY  
& JR. CHURCH SCHEDULE  
FOR DECEMBER & JANUARY**

Please remember to always clean up space after you are done on your assigned schedule. Place nursery items in bins/shelves. All Jr. Church supplies/material belong in the hallway closet, please do not leave lay on tables/desks in rooms. Jr. Church lesson will be emailed to you the week of your assigned date.

Switch among yourselves if the date assigned does not work with your schedule. We ALL need to keep this commitment, families are counting on you to show up.

**SUNDAY SCHOOL NURSERY**

|                           |              |
|---------------------------|--------------|
| 12/2 Clouse               | 1/6 Fisher   |
| 12/9 Fisher               | 1/13 Clouse  |
| 12/16 Caldwell            | 1/20 Bichler |
| 12/23 Fogel 12/30 Zeigler | 1/27 Fogel   |

**WORSHIP NURSERY**

12/2 Hill  
12/9 Kraynik  
12/16 Bichler  
12/23 J. Caldwell  
12/30 NO NURSERY

**JR. CHURCH**

12/2 Butcher and Williams TEEN Megan  
12/9 Cogliano and Caldwell  
12/16 Hill TEEN Gracen  
12/23 McGuinness and Jacobs TEEN Liz  
12/30 NO JR. CHURCH

|                              |                                          |
|------------------------------|------------------------------------------|
| 1/6 Caldwell, helper Carly   | 1/6 Palmer, teen helper Holly            |
| 1/13 Cowin, helper Holly     | 1/13 Zalar & Cogliano, teen helper Jenna |
| 1/20 George, helper Madi     | 1/20 Marley, teen helper Megan           |
| 1/27 K. Bertoti, helper Lucy | 1/27 E. Bertoti, teen helper Sarah       |

*Happy December Anniversary to:*

*Ken and Judy Williams ~ December 20 ~ 60 years*



*Happy December Birthday to:*

*Frank Szakelyhidí ~ December 3 ~ 98 years young*  
*Betty Lighthiser ~ December 7 ~ 86 years young*  
*Ruth Gross ~ December 15 ~ 83 years young*  
*Mary Lou Burkett ~ December 23 ~ 92 years young*  
*Flo Gross ~ December 23 ~ 86 years young*



## Christian Education News

Merry Christmas,

Christian Ed Department had an exciting fall season. The Trunk or Treat event was a success even though the weather was wet and cold. We served over 200 children. Our thanksgiving tree was a great visual as to show just how blessed we are. Lots to be thankful for.

Looking ahead into December we are starting right off with fun and excitement. We would love to have new faces involved in all the activities planned. I offer a variety of ideas and will continue in order to get everyone involved. Christian Ed isn't just from 9:00 – 10:00am each Sunday. I picked a mission project for this season to give back locally. We will be collecting nonperishable items for the NET in Butler, Pa. See the list printed in newsletter and donate.

December 7<sup>th</sup> we will be having a Kids Christmas Party. We will have dinner/movie/crafts and outreach project. Sign your children up at the Welcome Center or see Kathryn Marley or myself. Ages 3 and up. 6:00 – 9:00 pm

On December 9<sup>th</sup> is Youth Sunday. This service will include ALL the children this time. Lots of exciting things planned to bring you into the Lords presence. 10:15 am

The book club will be having breakfast together on December 9<sup>th</sup>. This will be a great time to come together for fellowship over a book and a bagel. It is not to late to start reading and join us. 9:00 am

December 23<sup>rd</sup> during the Sunday School hour each class will have a light breakfast within their classrooms to celebrate the birth of our Savior. Please feel free to stop into any class for the celebration. 9:00 am

Break out your pajamas kids. December 30<sup>th</sup> we will be having a PJ party to end the year. 9:00 – 11:30 am We will have a light breakfast and a movie.

I wish you and your family a very Merry Christmas. What a wonderful gift we have all been given, A Savior.

Serving HIM together,

Heather Zeigler



## Youth Ministry Updates

The Youth have been busy preparing for our December Youth Sunday. Prepare to be wowed once again on Sunday, Dec. 9<sup>th</sup> as our students preach about what the holiday season means to teens and adults, sing, and dance! Thank you for your continued support!

### Save the Date

Mission Trip (Erie) – Sunday July 14<sup>th</sup> – Friday July 19<sup>th</sup>, 2019

### Youth Fundraisers:

2019 Wall Calendars with Scripture Verses - \$6 each. Available before and after church in Gathering Area

AmazonSmile – when placing an order on Amazon, be sure to go through this link:

<https://smile.amazon.com/ch/25-6050542>. By doing this, the Youth will receive .5% of your purchase back towards our mission trip!

### Coming up in December:

#### Youth Group:

Meeting – Sunday 12/2 6-8pm (dinner – Marley)

Stuff-a-Truck Gift Wrapping – Wednesday 12/5 7pm @ Harmony Fire Department

Church Service at The Cross – Erie – Sunday 12/9, leave church 3:15pm

Bible Study – Wednesday 12/12, 7-8pm (Genesis 20-24)

Family Dinner – Bertoti House, 12/13, 6:30-8pm

Stuff-a-Truck Gift Delivery – Saturday 12/15, time TBA

Christmas Celebration – Saturday 12/22, leave church 4pm

#### TNT:

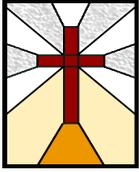
Meetings (6:30-8pm) Monday 12/10 (snack – Uber)

Christmas Party – Tuesday 12/18, 5:30-7:30pm \*\*\*note date change!

By His Grace,  
Aubrey Rader, Director of Youth Ministries

Advent Communion will be on **Sunday, December 2nd** and our communion offering has been designated for Bethany Outreach Center which is a volunteer driven Christian organization, rooted in Erie's east side, reaching out to ALL people who need a hand up and hope for life change. Our broad based ministries address the material, vocational and spiritual needs for people on the edge. This is also one of the organizations our youth group helped out during this past summers Mission Trip, they worked at their Food Pantry and Clothes Closet.





**SOUTHWEST BUTLER FOOD CUPBOARD**

557 Perry Highway  
Harmony, PA 16037  
Phone: 724.453.4184

Website: [www.swbfoodcupboard.org](http://www.swbfoodcupboard.org)

**SPECIAL NOTE FROM CATH RAPE, OUR FOOD CUPBOARD REPRESENTATIVE OF ST. PETER'S**

St. Peter's has two times next year to help out with the Food Cupboard distribution, January 15, 2019 and again on June 18, 2019. Please see Cath Rape for additional information.

**Thank you, Cath Rape**

The Southwest Butler Food Cupboard is gearing up for the Holiday season. It is our busiest time of the year. The number of people needing food always increases around this time. Keeping that in mind, below is a list of food needs for December. Please help us get the word out. Thank you.

- |                   |                |                     |                |
|-------------------|----------------|---------------------|----------------|
| Canned fruit      | Soup           | Dessert mixes       | Toiletries     |
| Stuffing Mix      | Boxed potatoes | Canned chicken      | Paper products |
| Gravy             | Sloppy Joe mix | Tuna                |                |
| Cereal            | Helper meals   | Egg noodle          |                |
| Canned Vegetables | Rice           | Juice               |                |
| Pasta             | Rice sides     | Chef Boyardee       |                |
| Pasta sauce       | Pasta sides    | Peanut Butter/Jelly |                |

Blessings,  
Sharon Klaiber, Director  
Southwest Butler Food Cupboard

**THANK YOU'S**

Dear St. Peter's Family,

*Thank you so much for your warmest thoughts, concerns and prayers concerning the passing of my mother. Please know that your support and kindness is greatly appreciated.*



Sincerely,  
Dick Williams

Dear St. Peter's,

*On behalf of the Veterans at VA Butler Healthcare, I wish to offer our sincere thanks and appreciation for you and your organizations recent donation of comfort and personal care items. Please know that your donation will be used for the benefit and well-being of our Veterans assisted through the various programs at VA Butler.*

Sincerely,  
Paula McCarl

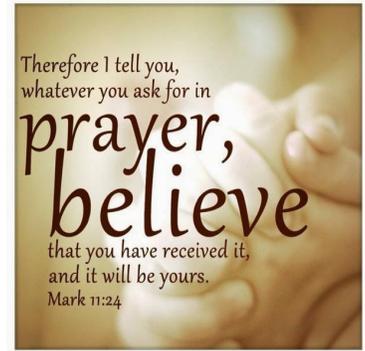
Dear St. Peter's Family,

*Thanks for all the cards and calls we received on our birthdays.*

Merry Christmas,  
Dale & Ruth Thomas

# Volunteer Ministry News

## *From the pen of Pam*



### **A VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY FOR EVERYONE**

We have been hearing throughout the year about the second mission trip that Randy Herbe is leading to Uganda, and as the time gets closer for the team to leave (they will be going on December 28th and coming back home on January 13th), the excitement has been building as all of us contemplate the great work that God will do with these people who have committed their time to serving Him in many of the ways they did on their first missionary journey as well as during this trip concentrating on ministering in some of the villages in the area (you can find out more details of all that the team will be involved with when you read Randy's article that is found elsewhere in the newsletter). There has been an outpouring of support already for the mission trip as people have participated in various fundraisers and given other monetary contributions along with collecting various items that will be given to the Ugandan children and their families. Much of the funding has already come through, so it is a huge blessing that the financial needs are being met. But just as there was for last year's trip, again this year there is another crucial part to supporting this mission endeavor and the team that is being charged to do God's work, and that is where EVERYONE at St. Peter's can come into the picture, even if you have not been able to help financially. What the team really needs and seeks from our church family is prayer, and that is what we need to be about in all the days prior to the trip, all the days that the team is in Uganda, and even after they get back home. If you have already been praying for the team and the trip, that's great, but the team members really need to know now that in this next six weeks EVERYONE in our church is going to be praying for them. The privilege of getting to do this work of prayer is awesome, and it helps everyone of us to realize that even though we haven't been the ones called to have 'boots on the ground' for this particular mission field at this time, we bear the responsibility to lift those who have been called up to God. If you might not yet know everyone on the team except for Randy Herbe (team leader), here are their names: Denise Herbe, Darla Frederick, Pastor Wil Goetze and his son David, Les Gutzwiller, Peter Martin, and Jim Schulz. Individually, they all have unique talents and skills that collectively they will put to the use of building God's Kingdom while they are in Uganda. Please pray that they will use all that they have been gifted with to the best of their ability, pray that they will continually seek God's favor for blessing the work and ministry set for each day, pray that every native Ugandan that they will see again or meet for the first time will see God's love emanating from them and that they will share the Good News of the Gospel boldly when opportunities come. Please also pray for those things that we would naturally think of: safety in travel, not just in the air but also on land, good health for the team prior to going and also while in Uganda, and for the team to bond in such a way that they will feel a 'oneness' in purpose and unity all of the time. In addition to praying for all of these people and all of the needs mentioned, please pray for all of the people who will be ministered to throughout all of the days that the team will be in Uganda. For these past months, I have been praying for all of the people and all of the things mentioned, but as I did last year and plan to do again, throughout December and January, I will also on each day of the week pick one of the team members to pray for specifically - since there are seven days in a week and eight team members this year I will pray for Randy and Denise on the same day, and each of the others on the each of the other days of the week. Last year I found this to be an easy and effective way to bathe the team in prayer. But no matter how you do it, as the title of this article states, this is a volunteer opportunity for EVERYONE, so please, please volunteer - I can guarantee that God will bless your efforts and because of all our prayers, this team will do mighty things in His name!

### **THANKS TO OUR MOM 2 MOM MINISTRY**

This past Sunday after church, members of the Mom 2 Mom ministry gathered together in the kitchen to make cookies and pack all the items they collected for our college students so that they could brighten the kids' spirits during their hectic end of semester completion of projects and finals. Thanks to Becky Bichler and all the other ladies who took part in this outreach as well as those who contributed items or gave money for postage. Because of the generosity of those who participated, 10 of our St. Peter's students will know that their church cares about them!

### **SECRET SIS NEWS**

For everyone who is a Women's Ministry secret sis, please remember to continue to pray for the person whose name you have, and if you want to surprise that person by giving her something for Christmas, you may place anything on the Welcome Center counter during December and I will see that she gets it. The big 'reveal' will be at the Women's Ministry meeting in February, so you still have a few months to keep your secret and lift up your 'sis' to the Lord in prayer!

Greetings St. Peter's,

Just wanted to fill you all in on our Uganda Mission trip. First of all, thanks to all who supported our trip with all your generous donations. We are in pretty good shape with all that we have received and all of our major expenses are covered. We also raised enough money to purchase and install a fresh water holding tank for God's Love and Care School and Orphanage that we visit and support. We have been in contact with the medical team and all is coming together. I also want to thank all who attended our dinner at camp Kon O Kwee, it was a huge success and we couldn't have done it without you!! We are going to try to make this an annual event and have it grow each year. I hope all that attended had a great time. To all the volunteers who spent tireless hours putting it together and making it work (Cindy and Nancy especially) we couldn't have done it without you. The Uganda Mission team is proud to serve our God and represent St. Peter's Church halfway across the world. Again, we can't thank you all enough for the support you have given us this year. It is wonderful to know that this trip means as much to our church as it means to us. Pray for safe travels for us and the ability to do God's work in Uganda.

Yours in Christ,  
The Uganda Mission Trip Team



## HUGGING

**Hugging is healthy: It helps the body's immunity system, it keeps you healthier, it cures depression, it reduces stress, it induces sleep, it's invigorating, it's rejuvenating, it has no unpleasant side effects, and hugging is nothing less than a miracle drug.**

**Hugging is all natural: It is organic, naturally sweet, no pesticides, no preservatives, no artificial ingredients and 100 percent wholesome.**

**Hugging is practically perfect: There are no movable parts, no batteries to wear out, no periodic checkups, low energy consumption, high energy yield, inflation proof, non-fattening, no monthly payments, no insurance requirements, theft-proof, non-taxable, non-polluting and, of course, fully returnable.**

## Library Highlights for December - READ All About It!!

Deck the halls with...one of the great books from our library! However, in this very busy season of Advent that is now upon us, it is highly unlikely that any of us has much free time - sometimes, though, it's good just to take a break - and what I would suggest is that your break would involve reading one (or more) of our interesting Christian fiction books. Here are some titles (with their book jacket synopses) that have just been added to the library:



Author Irene Hannon has written the third book in the 'Men of Valor' series - the title is **"Tangled Webs"** and this one might keep you on the edge of your seat: 'After a disastrous Middle East mission ends his six-year Army Ranger career, Finn McGregor needs some downtime. A peaceful month in the woods sounds like the perfect way to decompress. But peace isn't on the agenda once he crosses paths with publishing executive Dana Lewis, a neighbor who is nursing wounds of her own. Someone seems bent on disrupting her stay in the lakeside cabin she inherited from her grandfather. As Finn and Dana work together to discover who is behind the disquieting pranks, the incidents begin to take on a menacing tone. And when it becomes apparent Dana's foe may have deadly intent, Finn finds himself back in the thick of the action...ready or not!'

Another book of Hannon's is **"Dangerous Illusions"**, the first one in the 'Code of Honor' series, and you can bet that it will also keep you on the edge of your seat: 'Trish Bailey is on overload trying to deal with a demanding job, an ailing mother, and a healing heart. When a series of unsettling memory lapses leads to a tragic death - and puts Trish under police scrutiny - her world is once again thrown into turmoil. Detective Colin Flynn isn't certain what to think of the facts he uncovers during his investigation. Did Trish simply make a terrible mistake, or is there more to the case than meets the eye? As he searches for answers, disturbing information begins to emerge - and if the forces at work are as evil as he suspects, the situation isn't just dangerous...it's deadly.'

From Lynette Eason comes **"Called to Protect"**, the second book in the 'Blue Justice' series. This is another novel that you won't want to put down: 'After being dumped by her fiancé, Chloe St. John has decided that the only male she likes is her K-9 German shepherd partner, Hank. But being over the whole romance thing has perks - like giving full attention to her job. Attention that she's definitely going to need because a case of human trafficking with connections to her missing cousin just landed in her lap. Deputy US Marshall Blake MacCallum is in a race against the clock to rescue his kidnapped daughter when Chloe and Hank are asked to be a part of the task force assembled to bring down the traffickers. Chloe finds herself attracted to the silent, suffering man. But can she trust him? And can Blake trust himself around this firecracker of a woman?'

Set in Regency England and filled with intrigue is **"Brentwood's Ward"**, written by Michelle Griep: 'It takes a criminal to catch one, and Nicholas Brentwood is just the man for the job. Reformed in more ways than one, the rough-around-the-edges Brentwood is a member of the Bow Street Runners, London's early nineteenth-century fledgling police force. There's none better than Brentwood at catching the felons who ravage the city's streets, and there's nothing he loves more than seeing justice served. Beautiful and beguiling, Miss Emily Payne is not the sort of miscreant Brentwood usually hunts down. When he is assigned as her bodyguard, he vows to protect her from her father's enemies, who will stop at nothing to carry out their mission fueled by greed and revenge. All her life, Emily has longed for love, but it remains beyond her grasp. This season she's determined to find a husband, which is quite the undertaking with a hound-dog guardian like Brentwood watching her every step. If he would just give her some measure of freedom, she is sure she could win the heart of society's most eligible bachelor. Emily's headstrong persistence challenges Nicholas in ways he doesn't expect, but of one thing he's certain - of all the cunning criminals he's dealt with in the past, this time he's met his match.'

## LIBRARY HIGHLIGHTS continued...

And to round out this colorful group of novels that have been previewed is **"To the Moon and Back"**, an unforgettable stand-alone love story in the Baxter family collection of books written by beloved author Karen Kingsbury: 'Brady Bradshaw was a child when the Oklahoma City bombing killed his mother. More than a decade ago, Brady met Jenna Phillips, whose parents were also killed in the attack. For a handful of beautiful hours, Brady and Jenna shared a deep heart connection. But since high school, Brady has lived alone and he likes it that way. He's hardly ever home because when he isn't fighting fires in Oklahoma City, he's volunteering throughout his community, both of which give him purpose. Because if God isn't going to help the people of Oklahoma City, then Brady will step in. Helping others is what he lives for...that and one other thing - the hope that someday, somehow, he might find the girl he hasn't seen in more than a decade - a girl named Jenna.'

If these accounts sound as interesting to you as they do to me, think about stopping in the library to check out at least one of them, and I think you'll be tempted to come back for more. In this season of what seems to be non-stop shopping and buying, the beauty of a library is that you can 'borrow' a book - no expense at all - and if you like it, you can recommend it to someone else who is also an avid reader for them to check it out - again, no expense at all - and that process can continue on and on with all the books that are available in our multi-faceted church library!

There will be more books to share with you in the coming new year, so happy reading in this wonderful month (and if you are truly limited in your reading opportunities in the days ahead, at least find some time to read parts of the greatest book of all - I believe you know which one I'm thinking of!!)

## SUNDAY SCHOOL CHRISTMAS MISSION

This year's Christmas mission project to reach the least the lost and the lonely will be for a local mission, THE NET in Butler, Pa. The Net provides lodging and a hot meal for the homeless of Butler, Pa. Each class will be asked to donate items the whole month of December. This is a great way to give the gift of Christmas. Please simply leave your donations outside of your classroom and I will gather them each Sunday until December 23<sup>rd</sup>.

FIDELITY – Kleenex boxes  
BASIC – Dinner Napkins  
BEREAN – Plastic Silverware  
FRIENDS FAITH FELLOWSHIP – Cases of Water  
PRE K – K – Toilet Paper  
1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> – Hot Cups with Lids  
3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> – Paper Plates  
5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> – Paper Towels  
CONFIRMATION – Paper Bowls  
7<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> – 13 oz Trash Bags





# December 2018

| Sun                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     | Mon                                                                                                                             | Tue                                                                                                                                | Wed                                                                                                                                                                         | Thu                                 | Fri                                                                                | Sat                                                                                                       |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         | Sunday School<br>9:00am<br>Worship<br>10:15am                                                                                   |                                                                                                                                    | Head Usher<br>For<br>December<br>Youth Group                                                                                                                                |                                     |                                                                                    | 1<br>10-2pm Moms of<br>Multiples<br>Christmas Party ~<br>Fellowship Rm.                                   |
| 2 Communion<br>9am Confirmation<br>11:30am Angels<br>dance practice ~<br>Sanctuary<br>3pm Hope to Cope<br>Service ~ Sanctuary<br>6-8pm Youth Group<br>Mtg. ~ Youth Room                                                                 | 3<br>5:30pm AA Mtg. ~<br>Fellowship Rm<br>6pm Ding-a-Lings<br>bell practice ~ Bell<br>Rm.<br>6:30pm Elder's Mtg.<br>~ Ed. Bldg. | 4                                                                                                                                  | 5<br>9am Prayer Group<br>7pm Choir<br>practice<br>7pm The Journey                                                                                                           | 6<br>5:30pm Video<br>Announcements  | 7<br>6-9pm Movie &<br>Christmas Party<br>for kids ~<br>Fellowship<br>Rm./Sanctuary | 8<br>9-1pm Sweet<br>Blessings Cookie<br>Collection ~ FR                                                   |
| 9<br>9am Confirmation<br>9am Book Club<br>Discussion ~<br>Church Office<br>11:30am<br>Congregational<br>Mtg.<br>11:30am Angels<br>dance practice ~<br>Sanctuary<br>3:15pm Youth<br>Group trip to "The<br>Cross"                         | 10<br>12-2pm Valerie<br>McMahon using<br>Fellowship Rm.<br>5:30pm AA Mtg. ~<br>Fellowship Rm<br>6:30pm TNT Mtg. ~<br>Youth Rm.  | 11<br>12:30-3pm "We<br>Care" Visitations<br>1:30pm 500 Card<br>Club ~ F. R.<br>7pm Consistory<br>Mtg. (All Welcome)<br>~ Ed. Bldg. | 12<br>9am Prayer Group<br>12:30-3pm "We<br>Care" Visitations<br>4pm Feed My<br>Sheep<br>7pm Choir<br>Practice<br>7pm The Journey<br>7pm Youth Bible<br>Study ~ Youth<br>Rm. | 13<br>5:30pm Video<br>Announcements | 14<br>5pm Community<br>Dinner ~ FR                                                 | 15<br>9am COF setting<br>up for concert ~<br>Sanctuary<br>3pm Circle of<br>Friends Concert ~<br>Sanctuary |
| 16<br>8:30am Ding-a-<br>Lings bell pract. ~<br>Sanctuary<br>9am Confirmation<br>11:30am Angels<br>dance practice ~<br>Sanctuary<br>12-3pm Vance<br>Williams using<br>Fellowship Room<br>7pm Circle of<br>Friends Concert ~<br>Sanctuary | 17<br>5:30pm AA Mtg. ~<br>Fellowship Rm                                                                                         | 18<br>5:30-7:30pm TNT<br>Christmas Party ~<br>Youth Rm.                                                                            | 19<br>9am Prayer Group<br>4pm Feed My<br>Sheep<br>7pm Choir<br>practice<br>7pm The Journey<br>7pm AFSP<br>Support Group ~<br>Ed. Bldg.                                      | 20<br>5:30pm Video<br>Announcements | 21                                                                                 | 22<br>4-9pm Youth<br>Group Christmas<br>Celebration ~<br>Pittsburgh                                       |
| 23                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      | 24<br>9:00pm Christmas<br>Eve Service<br>(Communion)                                                                            | 25<br>9-3pm Feed My<br>Sheep Christmas<br>prep ~ Kitchen                                                                           | 26<br>9am Prayer Group<br>7pm The Journey                                                                                                                                   | 27<br>5:30pm Video<br>Announcements | 28<br>6pm Baptism<br>(Taylor Family)<br>~ Sanctuary                                | 29                                                                                                        |
| 30<br>9am Kids Pajama<br>Party ~ F. Rm.                                                                                                                                                                                                 | 31<br>5:30pm AA Mtg. ~<br>Fellowship Rm.                                                                                        |                                                 |                                                                                                                                                                             |                                     |                                                                                    |                                                                                                           |

# A CIRCLE OF FRIENDS CHOIRS



Invites you to join us as we celebrate the season of giving...

**Friday, Dec. 7, 2018 - 7:30 pm**

HOPE LUTHERAN CHURCH  
8070 ROWAN ROAD  
CRANBERRY TOWNSHIP, PA 16066  
CONCERT BENEFIT: LUTHERLYN CAMP

**Saturday, Dec. 8, 2018 - 7:00 pm**

CLEN MOORE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
220 E. CLEN-MOORE BLVD.  
NEW CASTLE, PA 16105  
CONCERT BENEFIT: LAWRENCE COUNTY BACKPACKING PROGRAM

**Sunday, Dec. 9, 2018 - 7:00 pm**

MERIDIAN PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
4150 HIGHLAND AVE.  
BUTLER, PA 16001  
CONCERT BENEFIT: THE LIGHTHOUSE FOUNDATION

**Friday, Dec. 14, 2018 - 7:30 pm**

BAKERSTOWN UNITED METHODIST CHURCH  
5760 WILLIAM FLYNN HWY  
GIBSONIA, PA 15044  
CONCERT BENEFIT: THE LIGHTHOUSE FOUNDATION

**Saturday, Dec. 15, 2018 - 3:00 pm**

ST. PETER'S REFORMED CHURCH (HOSTING FOR ENGLISH  
EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH)  
320 EAST GRANDVIEW AVE.  
ZELIENOPLE, PA 16063  
CONCERT BENEFIT: ABIDING MINISTRIES

**Sunday, Dec. 16, 2018 - 7:00 pm**

ST. PETER'S REFORMED CHURCH  
320 EAST GRANDVIEW AVE.  
ZELIENOPLE, PA 16063  
CONCERT BENEFIT: A CIRCLE OF FRIENDS CHOIRS