



Hanging the Greens

We will be meeting **Saturday December 1st** at 9:00 to decorate the church for Advent and Christmas. Many hands make light work. Any help is greatly appreciated!

Winterfest

Saturday December 1st is Winterfest aka Victorian Night in downtown Berwick! Lots of activities are being planned including the opening of the boulevard. Our youth group will be participating by selling baked goods and hot chocolate from 4-8. Come out, enjoy the festivities support our youth and get in the holiday spirit!

Gingerbread and Fellowship

The Deacons will be hosting a Christmas social which will include decorating gingerbread houses **Sunday December 2nd** following worship. Everyone is welcome to join us as we celebrate and prepare for Christmas!

The Most Important Person at Christmas

On **December 2nd** during worship our youth group will be performing a skit for your viewing pleasure. Who is the most important person at Christmas? In this interactive skit YOU the congregation get to be the judge.

Office Closed

The office will be closed December 24th through December 28th while Heather is on vacation.

In this Issue

Finance

Deacons

Girl Scouts

Who's in the Pulpit?

December

Birthdays/Anniversary's

December Assistants



A Posting from the Pastor

Unless I've miscounted, this will be the third time we've shared Advent together, the first as your fill-in and the last two as pastor. It's a reminder that time seems to pass more quickly the further up the age scale we wander.

Some two thousand years have passed since the actual birth, a relatively simple and common experience in those days. The re-telling of it added rings of meaning: the shepherds 'watching their flocks by night'; the angels appearing, singing 'Glory to God in the highest!'; above them, a star doing more than twinkling; then the Wise Ones, teachers from the East whose arrival found Jesus already a child.

Across the centuries people of good will and heart have contributed more rings of celebration: trees festively decked out, garlands hung, candles glowing, carols and hymns, Advent calendars, the creation of a jolly gift giver making rounds through every culture, and the participation in the frenzy of buying, wrapping, surprising and celebrating with gifts. Hollywood has scripted dozens of movies to promote the hope for goodwill, peace and joy – though Scrooges and Grinches try to ruin things.

What is your part in this grand festival? How has it changed across the years? Some dearly love this season, eagerly pulling down boxes from the attic and stringing lights inside and out, playing Christmas CD's with melodies and lyrics that trigger memories and longing. The idea of watching grandchildren with wide eyes brings back images of their parents doing the same thing – and of our own happiness bounding into the room where tree and presents made the waiting worthwhile.

For some, it is a mixed blessing. The loss of loved ones, family, friends and other changes creates pangs of sadness. Traditions get harder and harder to keep as newer generations create their own. We may not have the capacity to be generous as we would like or once were – or we throw caution to the winds, knowing the piper will have to be paid later. The perfectionists among us struggle, losing the luster in efforts to make everything 'just right'.

I hope you will use these images to help make contact with what makes Christmas special and wondrous or difficult and blue for you. The adage is often spoken in these times: *come home for Christmas*. Set aside time to simply be with all these rings of remembrance, to be still enough to hear hooves on the roof, to imagine coming to the manger and seeing Emmanuel, the child who gifts changed everything. And in his name and for his sake, be kind and caring beyond the circle of family – be a witness to the Good News which became flesh and dwelt among us, full of glory.

God bless you as we journey together as a congregation. Worship will help prepare us and keep us centered and I hope you will make it an important part of your Christmas experience this year.

Pastor Steve

Per Capita

A note from finance. The per capita has raised from \$25 to \$35 for 2019. When you submit your blue envelopes in 2019 please be sure to make that change. A reminder will also be in each box.

2019 Offering Envelopes

It is hard to believe that we are a few weeks closer to the new 2019 year. Be on the lookout this month on the back table of the sanctuary for your 2019 offering envelopes.

Be an Angel to a Child in Need

Christmas will be here before we know it, along with all the traditions we love and cherish, like putting up the tree. What's your favorite ornament? Chances are it's not the fanciest one, but one with great personal meaning. One tradition we have here in the church is the Angel Tree tags that are placed on the Christmas tree each year. You will notice a tag for a needy child right here in our area. Please take a tag if you are able and make a child's Christmas a little brighter. **Please bring the gifts back to the church by Sunday December 16th unwrapped with the tag.** The Deacons will deliver your gifts to the Salvation Army. Thank you in advance for your continued support!

Dine to Donate

Our Girl Scout troop 32455 will be holding their next Dine to Donate **Monday December 10th from 5pm-8pm** at Wendy's Rt. 11 Bloomsburg. Wendy's will donate 10% of all sales but you have to tell them you are there for Girl Scout troop 32455 so they receive credit. Thank you in advance for your support of the scouts!

Thanksgiving Food Collection

The Deacons identified 9 families needing help this Thanksgiving season and with monetary donations from the congregation food was purchased including turkeys. The food was displayed on a table in front of the sanctuary for Thanksgiving Day food baskets. The Deacon's boxed up the food after worship November 18th and made the deliveries. Thank you, Deacons, and thank you to everyone who donated to this cause. The boxes were well received and greatly appreciated. (photo below)

Who's in the Pulpit?

We welcome back Judy Wadsworth as our guest preacher December 30th.



Communion Dates 2018
December 24



Winterfest Fundraiser
December 1st 4-8

Reason for the Season
Study
**December 16th during
worship
&
Christmas party
3pm**



December Birthdays

MaryAnn Marshman	12/1
Carol Ross	12/12

Happy Birthday!

December Assistants

Greeters: Janice Moskaluk
Ushers: Steve Hiller, Dave Force
Assisting Elder: Barb Huntington
Acolyte: Giuliana Force

December 9

Greeters: Walter & Alison Hause
Ushers: Al West, Keith Botto
Assisting Elder: Joan Thomas
Acolyte: Morgan West

December 16

Greeters: Bill & Shirley Birt
Ushers: Joan Thomas, Eugeniu Grigorescu
Assisting Elder: Penny Siesko
Acolyte: Tyrone Birt

December 23

Greeters: Carol Ross
Ushers: Kevin White, Jim Ross
Assisting Elder: Jim Ross
Acolyte: Emma Botto

December 24

Greeters: youth group
Candle Ushers: Mike Doll, Miles Doll

December 30

Greeters: Ernie & Joan Botto
Ushers: Tom & Barb Huntington
Assisting Elder: Eugeniu Grigorescu
Acolyte: Robbie D'Angelo

Deacon Visitor for December: Keith Botto

Have a wonderful month with family and friends!

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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Worship service 10:15am

Sunday school for all ages during worship

Salt + Light Youth Group

Nursery available

