

The Announcer

December 2016

Florence Hollinger, Co-Editor

Cynthia Oberholtzer, Co-Editor

Rev. Carlotta Madison, Pastor

Our Vision is to be the church that displays the love of Christ and connects with people of all walks of life through our ministry, creative services, discipleship and outreach.

Our Mission is to be faithful disciples of Jesus Christ and share God's love with others.

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I bring you good news of a great joy which will come to all the people; for to you is born this day in the City of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord.

Luke 2:10-11

Lectionary Readings

December 04, 2016 [Purple]

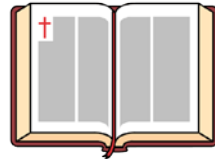
2nd Sunday of Advent

Isaiah 11:1-10

Psalm 72:1-7, 18-19 (UMH 795)

Romans 15:4-13

Matthew 3:1-12



December 18, 2016 [Purple]

4th Sunday of Advent

Isaiah 7:10-16

Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19 (UMH 801)

Romans 1:1-7

Matthew 1:18-25

December 11, 2016 [Purple]

3rd Sunday of Advent

Isaiah 65:1-10

Luke 1:47-55 (UMH 199)

James 5:7-10

Matthew 11:2-11

December 24, 2016 [White]

Christmas Eve

Isaiah 9:2-7

Psalm 96 (UMH 815)

Titus 2:11-14

Luke 2:1-20

December 25, 2016 [White]

Christmas Day

Isaiah 52:7-10

Psalm 98 (UMH 818)

Hebrews 1:1-4 (5-12)

John 1:1-14

December 2016 Liturgists & Scripture Readers

(Tentative Schedule)

December 04, 2016

Brooke Myers & Faith Myers

December 11, 2016

Wendy Kinsey & Catherine Maddoni

December 18, 2016

John Keenan & Linda Keenan

December 24, 2016

Jessie Mallory & Dennis McCoy

December 25, 2016

Deb Kontra & Marilynn Ziegler



Fellowship Hour

December 4, 2016

January 1, 2017

February 5, 2017

March 5, 2017

Church Council

Finance

Staff

Chancel Choir

Fellowship Hour is the first Sunday of each month. Please arrive before worship to set up, provide simple snacks and clean up after fellowship time.

December Birthdays



04	Ed Schulz
06	Laurie Gustavios
11	Susan Hollinger
11	James Hollinger
21	Kimberly Curll
25	Mary Ann Swire
27	William Myers

Central District Information

Last Minute Opportunity for both Laity & Clergy: Register Today

Real Talk about Racism

December 3, 2016 9:00 am -3:30pm- Lunch provided

Phoenixville First United Methodist Church, 865 S. Main St, Phoenixville, PA 19460

Cost: \$10.00 if registered by November 30, 2016, \$15.00 on the day of the event

Registration Link: <https://epaumc.churchcenteronline.com/registrations/events/46034>

Women's Group Christmas Luncheon

The Women's Group will meet at 12:30 P.M. Wednesday, the 7th, at Dante's Restaurant in the Hillcrest Plaza, Germantown Pike and Swede Road in East Norriton. Their menu is varied from soup to dessert, and all of the food is good. Since lunches are billed individually, menu selection is completely open.

Women's Group Christmas Project

In memory and honor of Irma Brooks, the Women's Group will be donating new pajamas and toys to the Salvation Army for Christmas distribution.

The idea of a women's group originated with Anne Taylor and with Irma's "God Bless You" encouragement, the group came into being. Since Irma supported the Salvation Army's Christmas Drive, we felt this would be an appropriate way to remember her.

If you would like contribute, a gift box will be in the narthex until Sunday, December 11, 2016.

Ginny Williamson will deliver the gifts to the Salvation Army.



Operation Christmas Child

Thanks to everyone who participated in the Women's Group Samaritan's Purse Shoebox project.

Asbury filled 40 shoeboxes and with the 20 boxes contributed by Lansdale Methodist Church, Ginny Williamson delivered 60 boxes to the Operation Christmas Child collection location.

Special thanks to Ginny for all of her time and effort in coordinating this outreach project.

Bible Study

Our study of the Old Testament continues at 8:30 AM in the Annex. Each Sunday features a video presentation by Amy Jill Levine, a professor at Vanderbilt University Divinity School, Department of Religious Studies and Graduate Department of Religion. Bill Gildea, our facilitator, is knowledgeable and adds interesting insights to each chapter.

Please join us!

Committee Meetings

The Trustees meet the second Monday of the month at 7:00 PM in the Annex. Church Council meets the third Monday at 2:00 PM in the Annex. If you have any concerns, this is the place to state them. Both committee meetings are open to the congregation, although voting privileges are limited to committee members. If there is a change in either schedule an announcement is usually made in church the preceding Sunday.

Book Readers

A few easy reading action books are being circulated among the congregation. All that is being asked is that, when given a book, you read it, take a few notes [including the book's title] regarding what you think might work at Asbury or if there are no helpful ideas, then pass the book on to someone else and give your notes to Cynthia or Florence to be collated for a congregational discussion in early 2017. Please do not refuse to accept a book unless you have already read it. By reading more than one book you will help to present a broader spectrum of thoughts which might generate ideas on which we can build.

Is 'Xmas' Disrespectful?

Did you ever wonder where the use of 'Xmas' originated? Unless you know the history, it isn't what you may think. The "X" is not an attempt to get away from associating "Christ" with Christmas. Its origin is actually very religious in nature. The Greek word that gives us the English word "Christ" started with the letter "chi" or "X". The word "Xmas" has been used since the mid-1500s.



Did You Know?

The classic Animal Crackers Box, introduced in 1902, was designed with a string handle because it was intended to be hung on a Christmas tree.

The Twelve Days of Christmas

Have you ever wondered if there was a religious significance to the gifts in this favorite Christmas Carol? The answer is yes! Enjoy the explanation.



The partridge in a pear tree represented Jesus.

The two turtle doves represented the Old and the New Testaments.

The three French hens represented faith, hope and love.

The four calling birds represented the four gospels of Matthew, Mark, Luke and John.



The five golden rings recalled the Torah or Law- the first five books of the Old Testament.

The six geese a laying represented the six days of creation.

The seven swans a-swimming represented the sevenfold gifts of the Holy Spirit- Prophecy, Serving, Teaching, Exhortation, Contribution, Leadership and Mercy.

The eight maids a-milking were the eight beatitudes.



The nine ladies dancing represented the nine fruits of the Holy Spirit- Love, Joy, Peace, Patience, Kindness, Goodness, Faithfulness, Gentleness and Self Control.

The ten lords a-leaping represented the Ten Commandments.

The eleven pipers represented the eleven faithful disciples.

The twelve drummers drumming represented the twelve points of belief in the Apostles Creed.

Dateline: December 14, 1799

Two hundred and seventeen years ago, our nation was comprised of sixteen states that were not yet connected by telegraph or other means of immediate communication. Yet the news that 'General Washington is dead' was spread rapidly. The word was carried by **Methodist Circuit Riders**, stage coach passengers, wagon masters, and post riders as well as deckhands on coastal waters. The news was met with shock and deep mourning. The young country had lost its father.

Names of Jesus Word Search Puzzle

see page 8 for solution

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

ALPHAANDOMEGA	IMMANUEL	SAVIOR
BELOVEDSON	KINGOFKINGS	SONOFDAVID
BREADFROMHEAVEN	LAMBOFGOD	SONOFGOD
BREADOFLIFE	LIGHTOFWORLD	SONOFMAN
BRIDEGROOM	LIONOFJUDA	THELIFE
CHRIST	LIVINGWATER	THETRUEVINE
COUNSELOR	LORD	THETRUTH
DELIVERER	MESSIAH	THEWAY
GOODSHEPHERD	MIGHTYGOD	THEWORD
HEADOFTHEBODY	OURPASSEVER	TRUELIGHT
HEALER	PRINCEOFPEACE	WONDERFUL
HIGHPRIEST	PROPHET	WORDBECAMEFLESH
HOLYONE	RABBI	WORTHY
IAM	REDEEMER	
IMAGEOFGOD	RIGHTEOUSJUDGE	

T'was the Night Before by Lance Corporal James M. Schmidt

T'was the night before Christmas,
He lived all alone, in a one bedroom house made of plaster and stone.
I had come down the chimney with presents to give,
And to see just who in this house did live.
I looked all about, a strange sight I did see,
No tinsel, no presents, not even a tree.

No stocking by mantle, just boots filled with sand,
And on the wall pictures of far distant lands.
With medal and badges, awards of all kinds,
A sobering thought came to my mind.
For this house was different, so dark and so dreary,
The home of a soldier, now I could see clearly.

The soldier lay sleeping, silent, alone,
Curled up on the floor in this one bedroom home.
The face was so gentle, the room in such disorder,
Not how I pictured a United States soldier.
Was this the hero of whom I'd just read?
Curled up on a poncho, the floor for a bed?

I realized the families that I saw this night,
Owed their lives to these soldiers who were willing to fight.
Soon round the world, the children would play,
And grownups would celebrate a bright Christmas day.
They all enjoyed freedom each month of the year,
Because of the soldiers, like the one lying here.

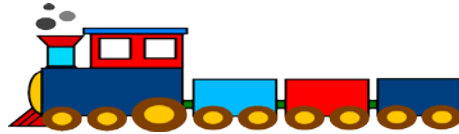
I couldn't help wonder how many lay alone,
On a cold Christmas eve in a land far from home.
The very thought brought a tear to my eye,
I dropped to my knees and started to cry.
The soldier awakened and I heard a rough voice,
Santa, don't cry, this life is my choice.

I fight for freedom, I don't ask for more,
My life is my God, my country my corps.
The soldier rolled over and soon drifted to sleep,
I couldn't control it, I continued to weep.
I kept watch for hours, so silent and still,
And we both shivered from the cold evening's chill.

I didn't want to leave on that cold, dark, night,
This guardian of honor so willing to fight.
Then the soldier rolled over, with a voice soft and pure,
Whispered "Carry on Santa, it's Christmas day all secure."
One look at my watch and I knew he was right.
"Merry Christmas, my friend, and to all a good night."

A Little Christmas Humor

Fred was hired as a store Santa and in a few days he realized a lot of children were asking for electric train sets. Being realistic, he started to tell the children "You know, if I leave a train set your dad will want to play with it too. Is that okay?" The answer was always "yes" until one little boy didn't answer. He seemed to be deep in thought. "Is there something else you would like to have?" Fred asked. The boy replied hopefully "Another set of trains?"



Sam and Donna were expecting holiday guests and Donna was anxious to make the house as festive as possible. As soon as the Christmas tree was decorated, she placed three houses of a miniature Dickens era village under it. Each time she went shopping at the mall, the village grew. First it was a school, then a gazebo for school concerts. Next she purchased a church so the villagers could worship, and then a grocery store. At that point, she asked her husband what he thought of the village. He quickly replied, "It needs a Board of Trustees to control the spending."

After Millie celebrated her 90th birthday, she began to realize that shopping was becoming more difficult. Therefore, rather than shop for Christmas gifts she decided to send checks to everyone. Her note, written on each card, read "Buy your own present." She mailed the cards early. Millie enjoyed all the family festivities over Christmas and it wasn't until the holiday was over that she had time to clear off her cluttered desk. When she moved a stack of papers she was horrified to find the gift checks which she had forgotten to enclose.

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

Salvation Army Food Collection

Thanks to everyone who continues to contribute to this ongoing project. After a blessing by Pastor Carlotta at our Sunday services, the baskets are packed up and delivered to the Salvation Army by Ginny Williamson. This is a continuing outreach project organized by our Women's Group. Please continue to donate the items on the list. The donation basket is located in the Narthex.



Keep saving twist off tabs from canned foods, soda cans and pet food cans.

*For the benefit of the Shriners Children's
"Love to the Rescue"
Hospital Transportation Program*

Again, many thanks are extended to everyone who is saving can tabs for this ministry. As you already know, the tabs are donated to the Shriners for use in their children's hospital transportation fund, or more specifically, as the Shriners call it, the *Shepherd's Unit Transportation Fund for Shriners Hospital, Pull-Tab Collection Program*.

Items Needed

Peanut Butter and Jelly
Cereal- Boxes or Bags
Instant Mashed Potatoes
Boxed Mac and Cheese
Spaghetti Sauce
Boxed Pasta or Rice
Hamburger or Tuna Helper
Pancake Mix and Syrup
Juice
Toilet Paper / Paper Towels
Baby Food and Diapers- all sizes
Napkins
Liquid Laundry Detergent
(Unscented)
Toiletry Items

Canned Items

Soups- Stews- Fruit-Vegetables
Tuna (packed in water)

Forteniters Toiletries Collection

The "Toiletries Box" in the Pine Street vestibule is an adjunct to the annual dinner. There is an on-going need for grooming products which can be distributed to the group's members. These personal grooming items include: combs, brushes, toothbrushes, toothpaste, dental floss, shaving cream, shampoo, deodorant, emery boards, nail files and clippers, bobby pins, chap stick, bar soap, hand and body lotion, talcum powder, etc., (but no nail polish, that would require an acetone based remover.) **THE ONLY REQUIREMENT IS THAT NONE OF THE PRODUCTS CONTAIN ALCOHOL**. If you have any questions as to whether a certain product is suitable or not, speak with Linda or John Keenan before you make the purchase.

December 2016

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 7:30 pm Cub Scouts	2	3
4 8:30 am Bible Study 10:15 am Worship <i>The Hanging of the Greens</i>	5	6 7:30 pm Choir Rehearsal 7:30 pm Cub Scouts	7 12:30pm Women's Group <i>Christmas Luncheon</i> <i>Pearl Harbor Day</i>	8 7:30 pm Cub Scouts	9	10
11 8:30 am Bible Study 10:15 am Worship	12 7:00 pm Trustees	13 7:30 pm Choir Rehearsal 7:30 pm Cub Scouts	14	15 7:30 pm Cub Scouts	16	17
18 8:30 am Bible Study 10:15 am Worship	19 2:00 pm Church Council	20 7:30 pm Choir Rehearsal 7:30 pm Cub Scouts	21  <i>Winter Begins</i>	22 7:30 pm Cub Scouts	23	24 7:00 pm <i>Christmas Eve Worship</i> 
25 10:15 am Worship  <i>Christmas Day</i>	26	27 7:30 pm Choir Rehearsal 7:30 pm Cub Scouts	28	29 7:30 pm Cub Scouts	30	31 <i>New Year's Eve</i>

The deadline for the next Announcer is **December 15, 2016**

If you've something that you would like included in the Announcer, submission is easy.

Email the item to Florence at copyme124@hotmail.com or to Cynthia at cyntober@aol.com.

Please include "Announcer" in the subject Line.

If you don't have access to a computer, hand deliver to Florence or drop your item in her mailbox located in the Pine Street vestibule.

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