



# The Highlander

The Presbyterian Church of Punxsutawney  
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December 2017

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*Please stop in, call or email the office by **TUESDAY JANUARY 2<sup>ND</sup>** with any information, announcements, updates, etc. that you would like to see in January's newsletter!*

# Christmastime is Here!



*Join us during the wonderful season of Advent with celebrations of song, food, and fellowship! It all leads up to our annual Candlelight Christmas Eve Service at 8 P.M. on December 24<sup>th</sup>*

*Advent Specials this year include:  
December 3<sup>rd</sup> ~ "Signs of Christ's Coming"  
December 10<sup>th</sup> ~ Deacon Salad Luncheon  
December 17<sup>th</sup> ~ Children's Christmas Service  
December 24<sup>th</sup> ~ Morning AND Evening Worship*

## **THANK YOU to all our WORSHIP volunteers!**

Have a question, or would you like to volunteer to help with some part of worship?  
Contact either Chairperson Roberta Dinsmore or the office!

With the daunting expectation that PCOP will be without a minister for some unforeseeable months to come, a plea for help is forthcoming. Church members need rather quickly to offer suggestions, programs, and yes, themselves to fill our pulpit on Sunday morning.

Presently, minus any hitches, the pulpit situation is covered through the end of the year, but, the year 2018 looms big on the horizon. Several church members already have graciously offered not only useful suggestions but their time in the pulpit. Please give a thought to this offer of helping your church not only with mind and thoughts but also with your heart strings. You never know. Sometimes the heart can overrule the mind and there you are up in the pulpit.

*Roberta Dinsmore, Worship Committee*

DATE	DECEMBER 3 - Advent #1	DECEMBER 10 - Advent #2	DECEMBER 17 - Advent #3 & Children's Service
PASTOR/LEADER	Debra Dinsmore	Ben Fitzgerald-Fye	Children & Youth
LITURGIST	Lee Blose	Kathi Cessna	Debra Dinsmore
**SCREEN & SOUND	<b>OPEN</b>	Nick Suntheimer	<b>OPEN</b>
ACOLYTE			
NURSERY	Dee Blose	Deb Himes	
FLOWERS	Debra Dinsmore	Sean Fitzgerald-Fye	Jennifer Gaston
USHERS	R. Barrett, W. Divelbiss, D. Forsythe, J. Hughes	J. Haire, T. Fezell, C. Haire, P. Young	R. Dinsmore, R. Fetterman, R. Dinsmore, B. Burkett
DATE	DECEMBER 24 - Advent #4 (morning)	DECEMBER 24 - Candlelight Christmas Eve	DECEMBER 31 - Epiphany Sunday Hymn Sing
PASTOR/LEADER	Ben Fitzgerald-Fye		
LITURGIST	Sean Fitzgerald-Fye		
**SCREEN & SOUND	<b>OPEN</b>	<b>OPEN</b>	Nick Suntheimer
ACOLYTE			
NURSERY			
FLOWERS	Poinsettias	Poinsettias	
USHERS	K. Hughes, R. Lettie, D. Hartman, L. Lettie		K. Hughes, R. Lettie, D. Hartman, L. Lettie

**\*\*More volunteers for running the screen and sound Sunday morning are needed!\*\***  
It's as simple as coming to worship and clicking a button on a laptop!  
Please contact the office or ask a current screen volunteer for more information.

## FINANCE & GENEROSITY

Thank you for donating funds, time, and energy to PCOP!

Date	Attendance in worship	Weekly offering	% to Current Fund
November 5	57	\$4,470.00	91.72%
November 12	88	\$1,650.00	86.67%
November 19	60	\$2,956.00	93.03%
November 26	50	\$1,564.00	93.22%

NOVEMBER 2017 FINANCIAL HEALTH			
	Current	Year to Date	2017 Total Budget
Receipts			\$183,142.00
Expenses			
Excess or [Deficient]			

**\*\*November 2017 Financial Health Report will be printed in the next newsletter!\*\***

*During the season of Advent, PCOP has two unique ways for congregations to give back to their community, country, and beyond: the Christmas Joy offering and the Presbyterian Giving Catalog mission tree.*

**The Giving Catalog** is available throughout the year from PCUSA's Mission Agency. The variety of gifts that can be purchased are used by the ministries of Presbyterian Mission to fulfill the basic needs of families and communities here in America and abroad. Our Advent mission tree's ornaments highlight some of these gifts and allow you to choose a gift that really speaks to you personally. Examples of these gifts include: farm animals like chickens or piglets, water filters, farming tools, seeds, sewing machines, linens and blankets, and assistance with education and grocery expenses.

**The Christmas Joy offering** is one of four special offerings throughout the year. It is collected on Christmas Eve and supports church workers in times of critical need as well as the education and development of future Presbyterian leaders. Purple offering envelopes specially marked for Christmas Joy will be placed in the bulletins for Christmas Eve. There will also be specialty bulletin reminders the preceding two Sundays with more information on how your generosity makes an impact.

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**Monthly Giving  
Spotlight:  
Our Mission Tree  
&  
Christmas Joy  
Offering**

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# MEMBERSHIP & PCOP UPDATES

Birthdays, prayer requests, moving and more!



*Update your directory!*

Brett Swanson, Kate Hopta & Zoey Swanson-Hopta  
1367 North 64<sup>th</sup> Street  
Wauwatosa WI 53213

brett@tosapres.com

## *Those Needing Our Prayers*

Angie Barkley	DJ Bianco	Scott Black
Betty Brumbaugh	Pam Carr	Betty Cessna
Annabelle Divelbiss	Gillen Geary	The Graham Family
Jacob Hielman	John Hughes	Martha Irvin
Dorothy Jenks	Marie Jenks	Joe Karetski
Kathy Kopp	Guy & Gloria Lester	The Ward Family
The White Family	Those Recovering	Those Who Mourn



**HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO...**



December 11	Kerrin Roberts Maryl McGinley
December 16	Martha Irvin
December 19	Kathi Cessna
December 30	Butch Philliber
December 31	Cookie White

**THANK YOU**

I'd like to extend my heartfelt thanks for the cards, calls, food, prayers and concerns during my time of convalescing. It warms my heart to be a recipient of the love and concern that our church family extends to those during a challenging time. Hugs to you all,  
Donna Anderson



*Our Christian Sympathies to Donna Kengersky and her family on the passing of her father*



# SESSION & THE BOARD OF DEACONS

Keeping up with the committees and officers of PCOP!



## MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

The next meeting of Session (Unicameral Board) will be:

**MONDAY DECEMBER 4<sup>TH</sup>**

**6:30 p.m.**

**Lester Seminar Room**

The date/time of the  
**CONGREGATIONAL MEETING**  
will be decided at the Session meeting!



## Annual Christmas Deacon Salad Luncheon

**Sunday, December 10<sup>th</sup>**  
**following worship in dining room**

Join the Board of Deacons as we celebrate the season with food and fellowship!

Enjoy traditional offerings of festive salads, delicious cookies, tasty desserts, and holiday punch.

*Don't miss this opportunity to enjoy the company of your church family!*

## HOMEBOUND COMMUNION

is an outreach that we as a congregation must not let go. The dates depend on when we have communion and that will depend on when we have a visiting minister who is able to serve. I met with Brett prior to his leaving and he said the next date may be January 7. With that tentative date in mind, I'm asking you if you will consider being a member of one of our teams. Keep in mind that you don't have to be a current Deacon or Elder. If you have been trained, you are "good to go." Giving you this tentative date this early will, I hope, give you time to think about your availability. As in the past, the materials will be prepared for you and I will have the communion kits filled.

Kathi Cessna  
Homebound Communion Coordinator

### *Beautiful the sanctuary with flowers*

Write "Deacons Flowers" in check memo line (\$25) and call the office to place your order. Available dates:

December 3, 17, 31

*New schedule coming in 2018!*

## MISSION & OUTREACH

A "Choose Your Own Adventure" to get more involved at PCOP!

Where Is PCOP's Place in Our Community?



This question was presented to me the other day and it gave me pause. I then realized that our monthly First Tuesday Community Meal is our local mission and outreach for which we have become known. I was also asked if our community meals would continue. It never occurred to me that they might come to an end. The truth is the meals will **never end** as long as we continue to have the volunteers that help plan, shop, prepare, serve, and clean up these meals. The community meals provide more than nutritious food. These meals provide an opportunity for camaraderie among the workers and the diners alike, as well as providing a sense of family and community . . . a feel good, win-win opportunity for all those involved in any way.

With that being said, the request is that our volunteerism and donation of time and recipe prep will continue. Keep in mind that **every month** new recipes will be posted with the month's menu. If you are unable to be in church to check out the postings, please call Keri to have a recipe mailed out or stop by mid-week to check out the bulletin board and pick up a recipe. Our continued success for the First Tuesday Community Meal is up to each one of us. Let's each do our share in keeping PCOP a viable component in our Punxsutawney community.

With personal gratitude for the many volunteers,  
Donna Anderson



**PRESBYTERIAN  
DISASTER  
ASSISTANCE**

OUT OF CHAOS, HOPE

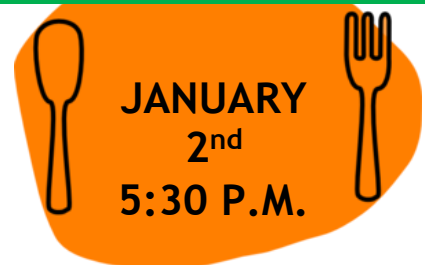
### THANK YOU!

Thanks to all of you for making our hygiene kits campaign a success. On November 17, 100 hygiene kits were sent to Disaster Relief to restock after the recent onslaught of floods and hurricanes. Each kit contained: washcloth, face towel, toothbrush, bar of soap, comb, nail clipper, and five Band-Aids.

Special thanks to Bev Divelbiss for organizing and implementing this project. Wick Divelbiss, Barb Burkett, Joan Wachob, Debby Elder, Nancy Pearce, and Donna Kengersky pitched in to sort, package, and transport the kits. So many members and friends of our congregation donated money and materials to achieve our goal.

*They will know we are Christians by our love . . .*

*Volunteers are always  
welcome to help at the next  
First Tuesday  
Community Meal!*



*Soup de Jour*

*Stuffed Pepper Soup*

*Chicken Rice Soup*

*French Bread with butter*

*Kathy's Applesauce Cake*

# FELLOWSHIP

Have fun and spend time with your PCOP family!



## MEN'S BREAKFAST

Saturday, December 16<sup>th</sup>  
@ 8 A.M.

***\*\*Note this is a week earlier than usual due to the holiday!\*\****

Questions? Ask Keith Hughes or Rex Lettie

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## Saturday Friends Out

Saturday, December 16<sup>th</sup>  
@ 11:45 A.M.

Join us @ Gimmick's Restaurant  
(no reservations!)

Questions? Ask Ann Mumper



PITTSBURGH  
THEOLOGICAL  
SEMINARY

Grab a friend for Advent reading and grow in faith together!

Advent devotionals from the Pittsburgh Theological Seminary are available again this year beginning Sunday, December 3<sup>rd</sup>

Copies will be placed in the Memorial Parlor

## YOUTH & CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

How to love God, share the gospel, and live as Disciples of Christ



### CALLING ALL YOUTH MEMBERS!

Any child interested in participating in the Christmas play on December 17<sup>th</sup> during church: *please come to the music room upstairs on Sunday, December 3<sup>rd</sup>, at 9:45.*

We will organize and practice from 9:45 to 10:25 a.m. If you are unable to attend, but want to be in the program, please call or text Nancy Pearce at 591-6325.

Please join us for this opportunity!



## LIVING THE QUESTIONS

*A DVD and Discussion based exploration of an open and broad-minded mature faith*

Offered two days a week in the Lester Seminar Room:  
Tuesdays @ 10 a.m. ~ Sundays @ 9:45 a.m.

### *Children's In-worship Sunday School* Following "A Time for Young Worshippers"

December 3	Christmas Play Practice
December 10	Christmas Play Practice
December 17	Children & Youth Christmas Celebration
December 24 & 31	TBD

**VOLUNTEER**  
to be a Sunday School Teacher!  
Help lead our kids in faith and fun!

Interested? Ask Janey London



# WHO DO I CONTACT?

“I have a question about . . .”

Schedules, quarterly financial statement, newsletter, ordering flowers, bulletin information, ordering church supplies, using church facilities, etc. <i>And anything else!</i>	Keri in PCOP office
Hospitalizations, Emergencies, Member Care	Keri in PCOP Office Board of Deacons
Worship information, pulpit supply	Worship Committee Chair Roberta Dinsmore
Baptisms & Weddings	Clerk of Session Doug Chambers
Funerals & Memorial Services	Keri in PCOP Office Funeral Director
Mission Opportunities	Mission Chair Donna Kengersky
Youth Group & Children's Sunday School	Youth Group—Dana Hartman Christian Education Chair—Janey London
Finances & Giving	Finance Chair Richard Fetterman
New Members (Joining PCOP)	Clerk of Session Doug Chambers
Choir & Music	Music Director Nancy Pearce
First Tuesday Community Meal	Donna Anderson
Current Members of Session	Doug Chambers, Donna Kengersky, Richard Fetterman, Keith Hughes, George West, Roberta Dinsmore, Janey London, Rick Nesbitt
Current Board of Deacons	Richard Cessna, Debra Dinsmore, Sean Fitzgerald-Fye, Jennifer Gaston, Carole Haire, Melissa Polczynski, Greg Gaston, Pam Hogan, Kay Nesbitt

# DECEMBER 2017 CALENDAR

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					1	2
3 First Sunday of Advent	4 6:30 P.M. Session	5 10 A.M. Tues @ 10  5:30 P.M. Community Meal	6	7 7 P.M. Choir	8	9
10 Second Sunday of Advent  Deacon Salad Luncheon	11	12  10 A.M. Tues @ 10	13	14  7 P.M. Choir	15	16
17 Third Sunday of Advent & Children's Christmas Service	18 5:30 P.M. Crosstown Food Pantry	19  10 A.M. Tues @ 10	20	21  7 P.M. Choir	22	23
24 Fourth Sunday of Advent  8 P.M. Christmas Eve w/Communion	25 <b>MERRY CHRISTMAS!</b> Office is closed	26  10 A.M. Tues @ 10	27	28  7 P.M. Choir	29	30
31  Epiphany Sunday Hymn Sing	Jan. 1, 2018 <b>HAPPY NEW YEAR!</b> Office is closed	Jan. 2, 2018 Newsletter info deadline				

## ~ Sunday Morning Schedule ~

9:45 A.M. Adult Sunday School in Lester Seminar Room

11:00 A.M. Worship in Sanctuary

Youth Sunday School following "A Time for Young Worshipers"



106 East Union Street  
Punxsutawney, PA 15767

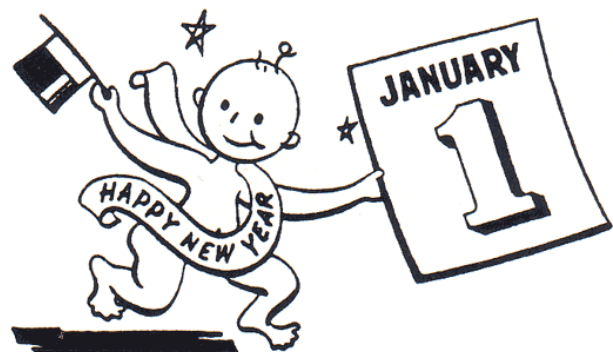
Office hours: 9 A.M. to 1 P.M.  
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MERRY  
CHRISTMAS



Scan this code with your  
smartphone for online giving  
this season!