



# The Highlander

The Presbyterian Church of Punxsutawney  
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(814) 938-5560

December 2018

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- 1 Welcome to December!
- 2 Worship Schedule
- 3 Finance & Generosity
- 4 Membership & PCOP Updates
- 5 Session & The Board of Deacons
- 6 Mission & Outreach
- 7 Fellowship
- 8 Youth & Christian Education
- 9 Who Do I Contact?
- 10 Calendar



**MERRY CHRISTMAS TO OUR PCOP FAMILY**  
We look forward to seeing you at 8 PM  
on December 24<sup>th</sup> for our annual  
Candlelight Christmas Eve service!

Advent worship schedule & volunteers: pages 2 & 7  
Christmas Joy special offering info: page 3  
Holiday office closings: page 10  
**\*\*SPECIAL OPPORTUNITY FOR YOUTH\*\*:**  
page 11 (back page)  
Looking ahead to 2019: page 4

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

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## **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!

**\*\*We NEED more volunteers for screen and sound on Sundays!\*\*  
It's as simple as coming to worship and clicking a button on a laptop!  
There is even an instruction sheet!**

**Please contact the office or ask a current screen volunteer  
for more information.**

DATE	DECEMBER 2 1 <sup>st</sup> Sunday of Advent	DECEMBER 9 2 <sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Advent	DECEMBER 16 3 <sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Advent
PASTOR/LEADER	Ben Fitzgerald-Fye	Rev. Dr. Clair Lundberg	Ben Fitzgerald-Fye
LITURGIST	Barbara Endress	Madilyn Fye	Holly Hartman
<b>**SCREEN &amp; SOUND</b>			
ACOLYTE			
NURSERY	Dee Blose		
FLOWERS	Melissa Polczynski	Greg Gaston	Pam Hogan
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 23 4 <sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent	DECEMBER 24  Christmas Eve with the Celebration of the Lord's Supper  @ 8 P.M.	DECEMBER 30
PASTOR/LEADER	PCOP Children & Youth		Hymn Sing
LITURGIST	Dana Hartman		Donna Kengersky
<b>**SCREEN &amp; SOUND</b>			
ACOLYTE			
NURSERY			
FLOWERS	*Poinsettias		*Poinsettias
USHERS	K. Hughes, R. Lettie, D. Hartman, L. Lettie		R. Barrett, W. Divelbiss, D. Forsythe, J. Hughes

*Since some of our supply ministers do not choose  
hymns, we would like to use YOUR favorites!*

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*If you have a hymn that you would like to sing in  
church or at a hymn sing, please let Nancy know.  
You can email her at [npearce@hotmail.com](mailto:npearce@hotmail.com) or  
write the name and give it to her at church.*

## FINANCE & GENEROSITY

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

Date	Attendance in worship	Weekly offering	% to Current Fund
November 4	49	\$3,699.00	93.13%
November 11	61	\$14,459.00	19.61%
November 18	45	\$959.00	86.03%
November 25	48	\$2,210.00	87.33%
NOVEMBER 2018 FINANCIAL HEALTH			
	Current	Year to Date	2018 Total Budget
Receipts	\$21,327.50	\$150,012.18	\$163,584.00
Expenses	\$14,226.56	\$108,436.45	
Excess or [Deficient]	\$7,100.94	\$41,575.73	

The **Christmas Joy special offering**, as part of the season of Advent, provides financial assistance to individuals and families who have dedicated their lives to the church, and supports leadership development and education for students attending Presbyterian-related racial ethnic schools and colleges.

Donations received are split equally into two areas:  
 --**50%** goes to providing opportunities for leadership development and education at Presbyterian-related racial ethnic schools and colleges.

--**50%** is given back as part of the assistance program of the Board of Pensions for critical financial support and grants for current and retired Presbyterian church workers and their families in their time of need.

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**Monthly Giving  
Spotlight:  
Christmas Joy  
Offering**

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This year, the Christmas Joy special offering will be collected as part of the **Fourth Sunday of Advent, December 23**.

More information about the Christmas Joy offering can be found in the two special bulletin inserts on December 9 and 16, or online at [PresbyterianMission.org/ChristmasJoy](http://PresbyterianMission.org/ChristmasJoy)

# MEMBERSHIP & PCOP UPDATES

Birthdays, prayer requests, moving and more!



There will be a  
CONGREGATIONAL MEETING  
 following worship on  
SUNDAY DECEMBER 9  
 Along with the Deacons' Salad Luncheon  
*Please join us for this important day!*

## Those Needing Our Prayers

Arianna Aires	Betty Brumbaugh	Duane & Pam Carr
Betty Cessna	Gillen Geary	The Graham Family
Jacob Hielman	John Hughes	Martha Irvin
Dorothy Jenks	Marie Jenks	Kathy Kopp
Geraldine VanWhy	The Ward Family	The White Family



## 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

**PCOP materials for 2019 will be available outside the Memorial Parlor beginning in mid-December!**

These include the updated **directory** and new boxes of **offering envelopes**

***PLEASE contact the office before December 13<sup>th</sup> if you need to update any of your information for 2019!***



# SESSION & THE BOARD OF DEACONS

Keeping up with the committees and officers of PCOP!



## MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

The next meeting of the Board of Deacons will be:  
**SUNDAY DECEMBER 16<sup>th</sup>**  
10:00 a.m.  
Memorial Parlor

The next meeting of Session (Unicameral Board)  
will be:  
**MONDAY DECEMBER 17<sup>th</sup>**  
7:00 p.m.  
Lester Seminar Room

## *Hurricane Harvey Disaster Response Trip 2019*

**The Kiskiminetas Presbytery is organizing  
a mission trip to Corpus Christi TX from February 24 to March 2, 2019.  
This effort is to assist in recovery from the damage  
caused by Hurricane Harvey in 2017.**

**Participants will fly out of Pittsburgh International Airport  
and will be housed at the Parkway Presbyterian Church in Corpus Christi,  
and will be transported to and from job sites.**

### **Tasks include:**

**To help repair and rebuild homes ~ To be a listening ear ~ To use our gifts for  
God's glory ~ To be blessed ~ To respond as a Presbytery with volunteer labor**

**The total cost of the trip is approximately \$600  
and a \$100 "Hold My Spot" fee is due no later than December 29.**

**Anyone from our church who may be interested in going should contact  
Rex Lettie, Mission Chair, at (814) 938-4743 or via email at  
mocha2000@verizon.net**



### *Beautiful the sanctuary with flowers*

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

December 2, 16, 30  
January 6, 13, 20



## MISSION & OUTREACH

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

### Prayer Chain

Our email prayer chain is up and running and we are now accepting prayer requests. Simply email your request to:

[pcop.prayer.chain@gmail.com](mailto:pcop.prayer.chain@gmail.com)

If you don't have an email account, you can also call the church office.

Additional volunteers are always welcome. To sign up, simply send an email with your name to the same email address. You can also write down your name and email address and hand them to Rex Lettie at church.

Contact Rex Lettie, Mission Chair, with any questions.



PRESBYTERIAN  
DISASTER ASSISTANCE

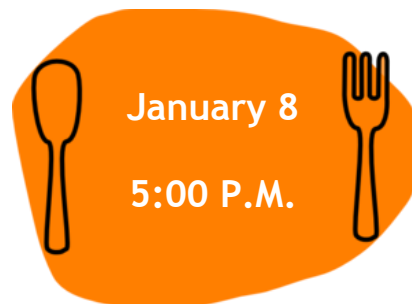
OUT OF CHAOS, HOPE

#### Presbyterian Disaster Assistance - California Wildfires

Special bulletin inserts will be available through the month of December with information on how you can help those impacted by the recent wildfires in California. Donations should be attached to the insert, and dropped in the offering plate or directly mailed to PDA.

*God's people are once again called on to stand in the "GAP"—Give. Act. Pray.*

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



*Beef Stew*

*Biscuits*

*Boston Cream Pie Poke Cake*

*\*Recipes and sign-up sheets for food, kitchen help, serving, and clean-up are located on the bulletin board outside the Memorial Parlor\**

**Crosstown Ministries Food Pantry  
Woodland Avenue United Methodist Church  
203 Woodland Ave.  
December 17<sup>th</sup> @ 5:30 P.M.**

Volunteers are always needed throughout the month to: donate food, unload the food truck, prepare boxes for the distribution, and distribute the boxes to those who need them

*Please contact Pastor Clint Phillips @ (814) 938-8160 for more information*



## FELLOWSHIP

Have fun and spend time with your PCOP family!



**Saturday, December 15<sup>th</sup>  
@ 8 A.M.**

Questions? Ask Keith Hughes or Rex Lettie  
Men's Breakfast meets 4<sup>th</sup> Saturday of every month!  
*(unless otherwise noted)*

## MEN'S BREAKFAST

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### *Saturday Friends Out*

**Saturday, December 15<sup>th</sup>  
@ 11:45 A.M.**

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

Questions? Ask Ann Mumper  
Saturday Friends Out meets 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday of every month!



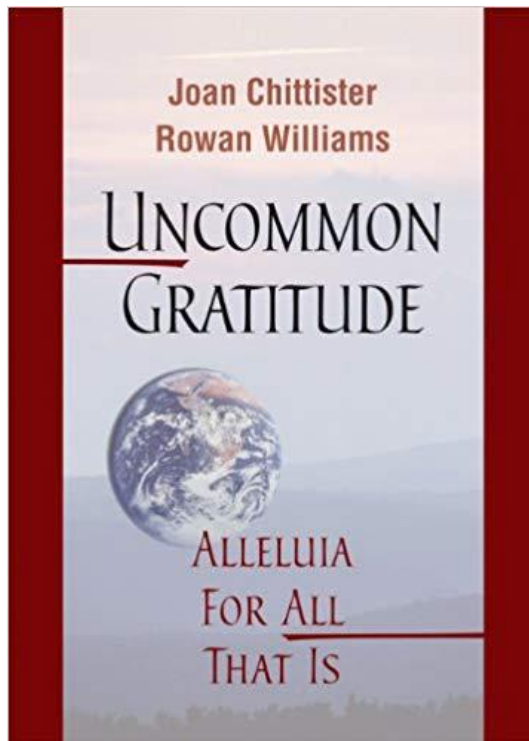
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**THANK YOU** to all our volunteers for  
**Light Up Your Eyes:**  
A Candle Lighting Ceremony for Advent

December 2 (Light of Hope):  
**Donna Grabany, Carole Haire, Barbara Hanley**  
December 9 (Light of Peace):  
Barbara Endress, Muriel Grube, Kathy Henry  
December 16 (Light of Love):  
**The Hughes Family**  
December 23 (Light of Joy):  
The Gaston Family  
December 24 (Light of Christ):  
**The Hartman Family**

# YOUTH & CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

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



Join Tuesdays @ 10  
in December  
to read and discuss

*Uncommon Gratitude:  
Alleluia for All That Is*

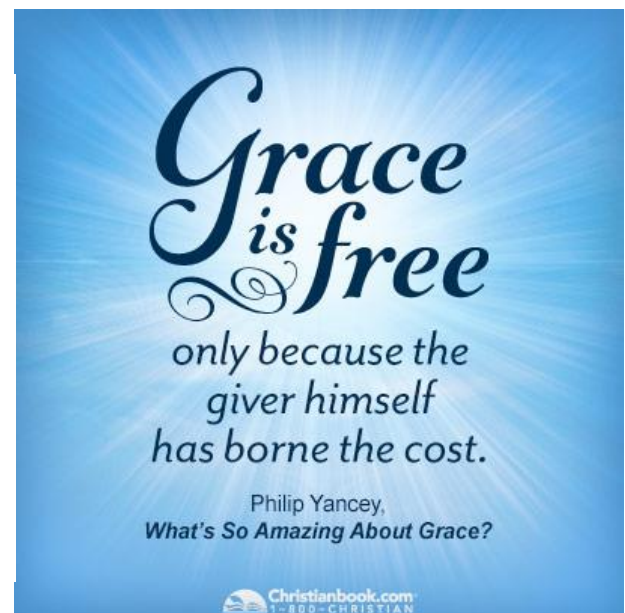
by Joan Chittister and  
Rowan Williams

## Adult Sunday School

*What's So Amazing About Grace?*  
by Philip Yancey

Offered Sundays @ 9:45 a.m.  
in the Lester Seminar Room

**\*All are welcome to participate\***





## 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
PCOP Property & Grounds, maintenance requests	Property Co-Chairs Dana Hartman & William Cooper
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 & Fellowship Opportunities	Mission Chair—Rex Lettie Fellowship Chair—Keith Hughes
Youth Group & Children’s Sunday School	Youth Group—Dana Hartman Christian Education Chair—Janey London
Finances & Giving	Finance/Stewardship 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	Richard Fetterman, Keith Hughes, George West, Roberta Dinsmore, Janey London, Rick Nesbitt, William Cooper, Dana Hartman, Rex Lettie
Current Board of Deacons	Jennifer Gaston, Carole Haire, Melissa Polczynski, Greg Gaston, Pam Hogan, Kay Nesbitt, Lee Blose, Kathi Cessna, Jean Hughes

# DECEMBER 2018 CALENDAR

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<b><i>Be sure to check the bulletin board for coffee hour sign-ups! Everyone loves cookies and coffee!</i></b>						1
2 1 <sup>st</sup> Sunday of Advent	3	4 10 A.M. Tues @ 10  5 P.M. Community Meal	5	6 7 P.M. Choir Practice	7	8
9 2 <sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Advent  Congregational Meeting & Deacons Salad Luncheon	10 Human Rights Day	11 10 A.M. Tues @ 10	12	13 7 P.M. Choir Practice	14	15 8 A.M. Men's Breakfast  11:45 A.M. Saturday Friends Out @ Gimmick's
16 3 <sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Advent  10 A.M. Board of Deacons meeting	17 5:30 P.M. Crosstown Food Pantry  7 P.M. Session Meeting	18 10 A.M. Tues @ 10	19	20 7 P.M. Choir Practice	21	22
23 4 <sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent & Children's Christmas Service	24 8 P.M. Christmas Eve Worship  Office is CLOSED	25 Christmas Day  Office is CLOSED	26	27	28	29
30 1 <sup>st</sup> Sunday after Christmas Day & Hymn Sing	31 New Year's Eve - Office is CLOSED	January 1 New Year's Day - Office is CLOSED	January 2 January newsletter info deadline			

## *~ Sunday Morning Schedule ~*

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

11:00 A.M. Worship in Sanctuary

During worship: A Time for Young Worshippers

Fellowship Coffee Hour following Worship



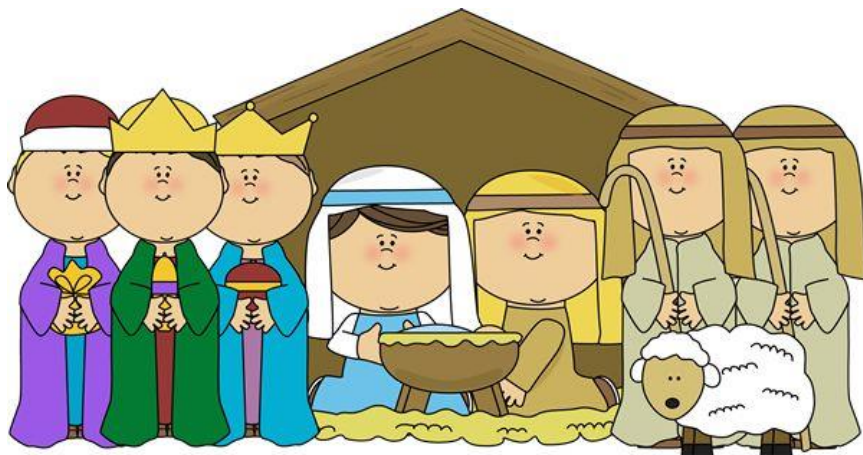
106 East Union Street  
Punxsutawney, PA 15767

Office hours: 9 A.M. to 1 P.M.  
Monday thru Friday

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Visit online at [www.punxsypc.net](http://www.punxsypc.net)



The youth of the church—preschool through high school—will provide the service on *Sunday, December 23<sup>rd</sup>*.

***We look forward to seeing everyone!***

The first rehearsal will be *Sunday, December 2<sup>nd</sup> in the sanctuary*. *Everyone* is welcome to participate even if unable to attend all rehearsals!

*Any questions, please contact Nancy Pearce at (814) 591-6325*