

The Messenger December 2013



The Presbyterian Church
Of Johnstown

MINISTER'S MESSAGE



As Christians... we know why we celebrate Christmas. We know that above all else, the reason we celebrate is because God took on the form of a baby that was born to a young woman in a manger amongst livestock. And throughout the Christmas season (Advent) we do our best to focus on the hope, peace, joy and love that arise in knowing that God came to us.

Christmas, however, is an interesting time of year. We have found that over time in our culture that it is celebrated in so many different ways. Families have their traditions of getting together for meals and exchanging gifts. Children anticipate the bounty that awaits them under the tree on Christmas morning. Decorations are hung throughout our homes, yards, churches, and along city streets. And if you dare to venture out on "Black Friday" you would see that Christmas is celebrated by long lines and jockeying for position in an effort to get a bargain.

A catch phrase that is often articulated around this time of year in an effort to keep the focus on the true meaning of Christmas is that we need to "put Christ back in Christmas." Basically, the goal of a statement like this is to suggest that we need to truly return to the truest reason we celebrate this holiday - that indeed we shouldn't just call it a "holiday" but a Christian holiday that celebrates the most basic tenet of our faith - that God took the form of a human - that God became Emmanuel which means "God with us!" That he lowered Himself and became a servant to all humanity!

So...how do we accomplish this? How do we keep the focus on Christ through Christmas? How do we convey a message of hope, peace, joy and love in the midst of shopping, baking, wrapping, decorating and giving gifts?

Well...some suggestions given that I found online are as follows and would certainly be a meaningful way to ensure that we don't lose our focus. They are...

1. **Practice "Good Will"** - do some act of outreach or service that benefits another individual, family or group. You might want to help serve meals to the homeless, adopt-a-family that needs support, do some yard work/snow shoveling for a neighbor who might need help, or perhaps write letters and cards to soldiers overseas.
2. **Go Caroling** - take a group and visit a local nursing home or hospital and sing the songs of Christmas that celebrate our Lord!
3. **Give Unique Gifts** - in addition to (or instead of) gifts of tangible items like toys and clothing, do something for family and friends. You could perhaps run errands, offer to do some cleaning, offer to bake for them, or help do a needed home project.
4. **Read the Christmas Story** - in addition to any other tradition you might have in your family, take time to pause and read the story of Christ's birth from the Gospels (especially in the Gospel of Luke) and ensure that they understand the priority of what we celebrate.

Ultimately, there are many ways that the person of Jesus Christ can be showcased during the Christmas season. In our thoughts about what the perfect gift might be to give someone, I can think of nothing that would carry greater weight than the gift of knowing our savior was born!
Blessings & Merry Christmas!!

Kevin

A Note from the Clerk...



Acts 17:25 And He is not served by human hands, as if He needed anything, because He Himself gives all men life and breath and everything else.

Session met on November 18, 2013, with Pastor Kevin moderating and opening the meeting with prayer.

The Congregational Care Committee's Mitten Tree Challenge was a huge success thanks to your generosity. Also, the Operation Christmas Child collected a record number of shoeboxes this year. You are a loving and giving congregation. Remember the Adopt-A-Family information will be posted in the bulletin.

Plans are being made for Pastor Kevin's Installation Ceremony on the afternoon of January 5, 2014.

The Membership Development Committee is planning a New Member class to be held on January 12, 19 and 26, during the Sunday-School hour, with new members being received on February 2. Please let Lee Mansell or Pastor Kevin know if you are interested.

Please check your bulletin to keep up with all the Fellowship Team activities that are being planned.

The Nominating Committee has submitted a Slate of Officers which was approved by Session. We will have a Special Congregational Meeting on Sunday, December 8 to elect the Elders of the Class of 2017.

The Stewardship Committee has proposed the Budget for 2014. Session will have additional discussion and vote on it at the December meeting.

After examining several options, Session voted to set the times for Christmas Eve Services at 7pm and 10pm.

Our next Session meeting is scheduled for Monday, December 9 at 7:00PM, at the home of Chris and Karen Blair.

Thanking God for all of you, Diane Frazier

Kids Page

Sunday-School is held from 9:15-10:15 each Sunday morning for Pre-School through High School.

Junior Church is following the Children's Message and is for kids Pre-K through 4th grade.

Nursery is provided to children up to Kindergarten.

Christmas Poem

Once upon a time
A long, long time ago
Begins the story of a baby
That most of you should know

His daddy's name was Joseph
And Mary was His mom
This babe was very special
He was God's only Son



Christmas Cornflake Wreath Cookies

Total Time: 20 mins

Yield: 16 wreaths

Ingredients

- 1/3 cup butter
- 1 (10 ounce) packages regular marshmallows or 4 cups miniature marshmallows
- 1 teaspoon green food coloring
- 6 cups corn flakes
- red cinnamon candies

Directions

1. In large saucepan, melt butter over low heat.
2. Add marshmallows and stir until completely melted. Remove from heat. Stir in food coloring.
3. Add corn flakes cereal. Stir until well coated
4. Using 1/4 cup dry measure coated with cooking spray, evenly portion warm cereal mixture. Using buttered fingers, quickly shape into individual wreaths. Dot with cinnamon candies.

Unscramble the letters to find the words in our

Christmas Anagram

Word List:

angels, animals, frankincense, Jesus, manger,
nativity, newborn, shepherds, shining star, stable



bennorw _____

ghiinns arst _____

deehprss _____

aceefiknnrs _____

aiinttv _____

aeglms _____

abelst _____

aegmnr _____

aailmns _____

ejsu _____



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1 8:30 Teen Bells/Choir 9:15am Sunday School 10:30 Worship Service/communion 5:30 Youth Group	2 4pm Prayer Walk at the Bike Path *weather permitting	3 9am Bible Study 1:00 Tabitha Sewing Circle 5:30 TOPS 7:30 Adult Choir	4 5:15-6:45pm Joy Ringers & Jr. Choir	5	6	7 3:30pm scrap/craft night in fellowship hall
8 8:30 Teen Bells/Choir 9:15am Sunday School & breakfast for primary ages 10:30 Worship Service 11:30 Congregational Meeting	9 4pm Prayer Walk at the Bike Path *weather permitting 7pm Session	10 9am Bible Study 12:00 Tabitha Circle Annual X-mas luncheon at Ann Moseley's home 5:30 TOPS	11 5:15-6:45pm Joy Ringers & Jr. Choir 7:30 Adult Choir	12 6:30pm Angel Program	13	14
15 8:30 Teen Bells/Choir 9:15am Sunday School 10:30 Worship Service with Jr Choir Christmas play	16 4pm Prayer Walk at the Bike Path *weather permitting 7pm Pre-School board meeting	17 9am Bible Study 5:30 TOPS	18 7:30 Adult Choir	19 Young at Heart Luncheon	20	21
22 8:30am Teen Bells/Choir 9:15am Sunday School 10:30 Worship Service	23 4pm Prayer Walk at the Bike Path *weather permitting	24 7pm Christmas Eve service 10pm Christmas Eve service and communion	25 Christmas 	26 January newsletter deadline	27	28
29 8:30am Teen Bells/Choir 9:15am Sunday School 10:30 Worship Service & Teen Service	30 4pm Prayer Walk at the Bike Path *weather permitting	31 New Year's Eve				

VOLUNTEER MINISTRIES FOR SEPTEMBER

FLOWERS:

December 1 Jim & Pat Blair, Glory to God for the joys of the season.
December 8-29 Poinsettias

ACOLYTES:

December 1 Wesley Cox
December 8 Phoebe Richards
December 15 Charlie Richards
December 22 Grace Almendinger
December 24 early Phoebe & Charlie Richards
December 24 late Adeline Almendinger and Madison Blair
December 29 Sidney Blair

NURSERY:

December 1 Amy Wagner
December 8 Jenny Cartwright
December 15 Mike & Sabrina Schirtzinger
December 22 Stephanie Mack & Ashley Speck
December 29

GREETERS:

December 1 Roy & Mona Hilderman
December 8 Jeanne Voigt
December 15 Marie, Phoebe, & Charlie Richards
December 22 Jim & Pat Blair
December 24 early the Voigt-Wahlenmaier Family
December 24 late Dick & Ann Moseley
December 29 Ashley, Connor, and Andrew Speck

JUNIOR CHURCH:

December 1 Carrie almendinger
December 8 Rhonda Piper
December 15 No Jr. Church due to the Jr. Choir Musical
December 22
December 29

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE:

December 1-29 Pat Blair

WORSHIP LEADER:

December 1 Diane Frazier
December 8 Madison Blair
December 15 Scott Lockwood
December 22 Lee Mansell
December 24 early no worship leader
December 24 late Jeremy Derenberger
December 29 Karen Blair

Birthdays and Anniversaries in December



2 nd	Chuck Booher	18 th	Gale Schaile
5 th	Sabrina Schirtzinger Delaney Childers Troy Willeke	20 th	Karen Mansell John Alexander Jim Frazier Jim & Diane Frazier John Alexander Brenda Schaile
9 th	Tami Ashbrook		
11 th	Troy & Crissy Willeke		
12 th	Jacob Hill Bob Maibach	23 rd	Sharon Jones
14 th	Barbara Jo Sole	24 th	Roy & Mona Hilderman
16 th	Austin Alexander	27 th	Scott Lockwood Madison Neff
17 th	Ray & Susie Speck	30 th	Adeline Almendinger Kim Hill

Our Church Groups

Fellowship Committee

The Fellowship Committee meets in the choir room once a month, at 7pm. We would love to see you there. It is never too late to join this committee!!!

Next meeting: Tuesday, December 17th at 7:30pm

Upcoming events: Saturday, December 7th at 3:30, Scrapbooking in the Fellowship Hall



ELIZABETH CIRCLE

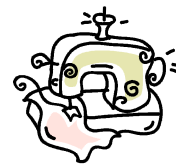
This group meets the 3rd Wednesday of each month at the Hot Spot coffee house. The group has a short bible study and plenty of fellowship time. Come and see what we are all about!

Our next meeting is December 18th at 1:00pm at the Hot Spot Coffee House.

Tabitha Sewing Circle

Our sewing circle is back in action! We meet at 1:00pm in the sewing room which is off the Fellowship Hall. We welcome anyone who can sew, tie a knot, or use scissors. Our circle makes lap blankets and baby blankets which are donated to local charities.

The circle will be on hiatus beginning December 10th.



Tuesday Morning Bible Study

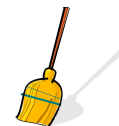


Our Tuesday morning Bible study group meets at the church on Tuesday from 9am-10am. We welcome any new faces.

We will meet through December 17th, then take a break. We will resume on Tuesday, January 7th, 2014

Women's Association

The Women's Association is selling their cookbooks and brooms. The new price is \$5 for the cookbooks, and \$8 for the brooms. You can purchase these through Norma Johnson, or bring the money into the office during office hours.



PRAYER CHAIN

Please send all prayer chain requests to Carolyn Friedberg.

The email address is JPCPrayerRequest@hotmail.com.



Church Happenings

Congregational Meeting

On Dec 8th following our Worship Service we will hold a Congregational meeting to elect the Class of 2017 elders.



New Member Class

There will be a new member class offered in January. Classes will be on January 12th, 19th, and 26th, Sunday mornings beginning at 9:15 am. For your convenience we will be providing childcare during these classes. If you are interested or have questions please contact Pastor Kevin at pastorkevin@thejpc.org or Lee Mansell at jlmansell@aep.com.

2014 Lenten Devotional--The 33rd Edition!

As the year comes close to an end and before the busy holiday season begins, it might be good to consider the blessings you have received this year by writing a devotional to be put into the Lenten Devotional booklet. There is not a better time than Thanksgiving to consider an article for the 2014 Lenten Devotional! You don't have to wait to turn it in--they can be turned in now.



Rhonda Deeds will be assisting this coming year with publishing the Devotional. If anyone else would like to assist in proofreading typing or compilation in this short term project prior to Easter, please let me know. We need a lot of writing, so send your devotional, or any questions you may have, to me at scottnlinda@columbus.rr.com. Follow the example of the Upper Room Devotional which can be found in the magazine rack. Blessings, Linda Lockwood



Angel Program

Set aside the evening of December 12th to attend our annual Angel Program. We will continue with many of the traditions of the past years and perhaps add new idea.

The program will begin at 6:30 pm with refreshments and Cille's wonderful coffee bar in our Fellowship Hall. Immediately afterwards, we will proceed to the Sanctuary for the remainder of the program. The JHS Apogee Choir will be performing once again for us. Please try to come as it is a beautiful evening.



Johnstown Christian Pre-School News

This year Annie Britton, a preschool parent, has volunteered to make a "Wishing Tree" for the preschool. The tree will be located on the hallway bulletin board. Preschool and church families are invited to participate. All you need to do is take an ornament and purchase the preschool "wish" that is on it. On the other side of the ornament is a teacher's name. Wrap the gift (optional) and place the ornament with the teacher's name on top and place the gift in the box located near the preschool office. Remember to place your name under the teacher's name so we know who the gift is from.

Thank you for your support and Merry Christmas!

Food Pantry

I want to thank you all for the support that the Food Pantry has gotten from all of you. Down at the Food Pantry, Ruth Krumm and her helpers have been working and they almost have all of the boxes ready to be picked up Saturday for Thanksgiving.

What they need now is peanut butter & jelly and toilet paper.

They wanted me to express to all of you their appreciation for all that we have done. Good job!

In God's name,

Karen & George Dreisbach

Undecorating

We will undecorate the church on Monday December 30 at 6:30. Please return to help us put everything away for next year! Thank you on advance for all your help!!!





Tabitha Sewing Circle

Tabitha Circle will have their annual Christmas luncheon at noon on Tuesday, December 10 at the home of Ann Moseley.



News from Christian Education

There will be **NO** children's Sunday school on December 29th. This will give our teachers and students a Christmas break.

January 5, 2014 is the first Sunday of the New Year. There will be a Sunday-School pancake breakfast for the Sunday-School classes. If you are new to our church (or have been thinking of joining a Sunday-School class) plan to join us and start your New Year off right!!

The holidays are here, and there are a lot of new little faces in Sunday school and the nursery.

We thought it would be helpful to list a few of the Sunday morning happenings.

8:30 am Sounds of Celebration & Teen Choir

9:15 am Sunday-School

10:30 am Worship Hour - Nursery is provided during worship

Following the Children's message, age pre-k - 4th grade may attend Jr. Church

The worship bags are in the entry near the doors and are available for the children's entertainment.

Youth Group

December 1st Regular meeting dinner provided/bring your own drink

December 22nd 6-9pm Christmas Caroling and party

Hearing Assist Devices Available

Having trouble hearing during the worship service? We have hearing assist devices available to make you worship more enjoyable. Simply ask for one from the sound system operator.



Save the Date!!!



Saturday, January 25th we will be holding a murder mystery dinner here in our Fellowship Hall. The theme this year is Murder in Maui. All the fun begins at 5:30 pm.

Our Lovely Poinsettias Were Donated by:

The McMillan Family

Norma Duncan in memory of John Duncan.

The Cartwright Family in memory of Thelma Shisler.

Scott & Linda Lockwood in honor of Christ Jesus.

Nancy Venard in memory of Ed Venard.

Gale & Brenda Schaile in memory of our parents, Hazel Chase and Darrell & Virginia Blair.

The Speck Family in memory of Darren & Cathy Carr.

Jim & Pat Blair in memory of Darrell & Virginia Blair.

Mr. & Mrs. Richard Johnson to the Glory of God.

Steven & Marilyn LeClair in honor of Haitian refugees in the Dominican Republic and in memory of our parents.

George & Karen Dreisbach in memory of our parents, Ed & Myrtle Page and George & Jo Ann Dreisbach.

The Brown Family in memory of Richard Brown.

Don & Dolly Orr in honor of Jesus, our Savior.

Jeanne Voigt in memory of my parents, Bob & Betty Doughten.

The Fleming Family in memory of Dad and Papa Dale Collins.

Tom & Margaret Jolley in memory of Our Parents.

Kenneth & Jean Weaver in memory of our parents, Carl & Ruth Walker and Carl & Lulu Weaver.

John & Margie Billman in memory of our parents.

Dick & Norma Clark in memory of Beverly Harmon, Norma's sister-in-law, and in memory of Barbara Harmon Gualtieri, Norma's niece.





Poinsettias continued

Mark, Katie, Megan, & Peyton Miller in memory of Mary Lou Pfeiffer-Saunway, Mary Ellen Miller, Irene Kosakowski, and Billie Frazier.

Kevin & Rhonda Piper in memory of Mildred Piper and John & Joyce Keeran.



Letters and Notes

Dear Congregation,

Thank you for kind hearts and caring ways. We asked for 55 pairs, and you so generously exceeded that number. The Mitten Tree has never looked so beautiful.

Many hands will be warm, and our children's choirs and Sunday-School will have their breakfast. Sharing our blessings and faith is happiness.

Thanking God for all of you,
Jeanne



Dear Friends,

What a wonderful surprise to receive such beautiful flowers from you all. Coming home from the hospital and having them reminding me/us of friends who have your back. I cherish you all and thank God for you all.

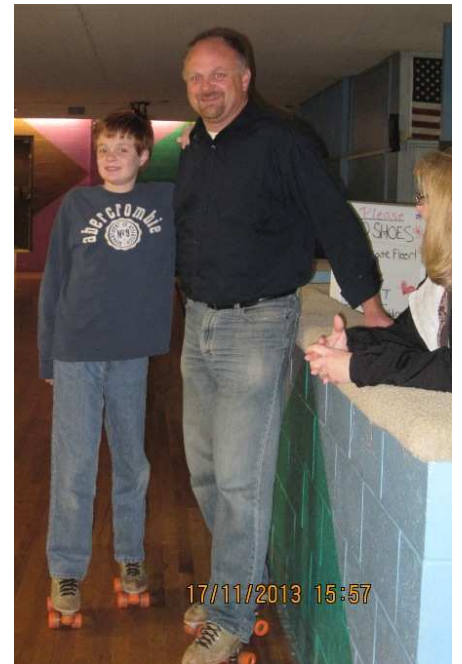
Love, Oluf

The Women's Association Benefit Lunch in November was a huge success. Thank you for your very generous support. Tabitha Circle, of our church, is one benefactor of your good-will. Thank you so much!

Mona, Nancy, Norma, Levene, and Jeanne

Photos

Pizza and Roller Skating Party



Prayer Chain Requests for November 2013

JPCPrayerRequest@hotmail.com

JOYS/THANKSGIVINGS/SUPPORT:

- Birth of Lincoln Daniel Derenberger on November 1.
- Shalon Pardee married and the couple is expecting their first baby.

CONTINUED PRAYERS

- Our Governmental Leaders.
- The Filipinos' situation after the typhoon Haiyan.

PRAYERS FOR ILLNESS, SURGERY, EMERGENCIES:

- Lucy Heller, Ed and Teri Heller's daughter and granddaughter of Nancy Heller, had the first of two surgeries Nov. 14. She went home November 20 but is facing lots of healing.
- Jim Schisler, Ruth Ann Booher's brother, had successful bypass surgery. He has been staying with the Boohers until he is well enough to go home.
- Melody Frazier Dickens was in a car accident and was seriously injured. She has been moved from rehab to her home.
- Oluf Kongshaug had a mild stroke November 14.

THOSE SHUT IN OR CONFINED TO THEIR HOMES:

- Roy H. Sarbaugh (Carol Hoff's father)
- Alice Neibarger
- Arthur Miller (Kathy Trimble's father) has dementia
- Betty Ford, 65 S. Williams St., Apt 214, Johnstown 43031. It is wonderful to see her at church on some Sundays.
- Lawrence Bishop at Sharonbrooke Senior Living Center in Newark.
- Cecil and Maryann Grimes, brother and sister-in-law to Maxine Pardee, are having difficulty caring for each other. Maryann has a lung condition and Cecil has worsening Alzheimer's disease.

CONTINUE PRAYERS FOR HEALING:

- Scott Lockwood
- Barbara Haines has a serious autoimmune disorder. She is still on a feeding tube but can have some broth types of food. She is doing better and is hopeful.
- Paul Dorsey's leg still is now healing. He is getting intravenous antibiotics and wound evacuation.
- Ron Goodman (brother-in-law to Jane Muller) has the latter stages of Parkinson's disease.
- Gary Weaver needs a knee replacement (Ken Weaver's brother)
- Ellen Howell, Hazel Almendinger's sister, is house bound. She is in pain management.
- Jane, Aunt of Susie Speck, stroke
- Mike Robison, paralyzed from the waist down.
- Maxine Pardee continued strength and healing of myasthenia gravis
- Gene and Joan Shellenbarger frail health
- Rev. Edward Carlson, Maxine Pardee's son-in-law, now has a heart monitor. He has other serious medical issues.

CONTINUE PRAYERS FOR HEALING OF CANCER:

- David Irwin had surgery July 16 for colon cancer. His doctor is very pleased with his progress.
- Bob Maibach is staying at Heartland of Westerville while receiving treatments and the James.
- Colton Zigo, Northridge graduate. Second round of chemotherapy. Pray for success and his healing.
- Kathy, Roger & Carl -- Susie Speck's cousins
- Diane Crooks and Nancy Wiseman, friends of Suzy Sayer, have been diagnosed with ovarian cancer.
- Brian Fisher, friend of the Miller's and the Frazier's, diagnosed with colon cancer. Had surgery and cancer has spread to lymph nodes. The blood clots have cleared up. As of November 13, he had 3 chemo treatments left.
- Brandin O'Keefe (friend of Jeremy Derenberger) has brain cancer. Now on light duty.
- Val Kauahi, Northridge resident.
- Amy Walters, friend of Diane Frazier, is facing a second round of a rare form of ovarian cancer. She is facing surgery shortly.
- Megan Johnson Cervi, daughter of Bill Johnson, is having treatment for two areas of melanoma cancer.
- Mike McLaughlin, friend of Maxine Pardee, has terminal cancer.
- Milt Jordan, cancer has returned.
- Mary Michels, Rhonda Deeds' sister, has been recently diagnosed with lung cancer and it has spread to other parts of her body.

Deaths

- Cloetta Lockwood, Scott Lockwood's mother, died the afternoon of November 6. There will be a memorial service on December 7th, at 11:00 AM at the Second Presbyterian Church in Newark, OH.
- Peggy Mittman, a long time, dedicated member of the Tabitha Circle, died November 3.

FOR YOUR INFORMATION

Office hours & Contacts

Pastor Kevin will be in the office Monday through Thursday.

Marie's hours are Monday–Friday from 9am to Noon.

Our phone number is 967-7541

Pastor Kevin's email address is pastorkevin@thejpc.org

Our email is johnstownpres@gmail.com

Prayer Chain email is JPCPrayerRequest@hotmail.com

www.thejpc.org

We present to you many opportunities to get involved in the church life. There are sign-up sheets for ministry involvement that need volunteers in our foyer. Take a chance and sign up! You will be blessed. Here are the names to contact if you have any questions.

Flowers for Worship:	contact the Office
Greeters:	contact Karen Blair
Acolytes:	contact Marie Richards
Ushers:	contact John Alexander
Nursery & Jr. Church:	contact Rhonda Piper
Children's Message:	contact Marianne Derenberger
Special Music:	contact Marilyn LeClair
Property Maintenance:	contact John Alexander
Church Sign:	contact Tami Ashbrook
Wedding Coordinator:	contact Sally Uhde

FLOWERS IN THE SANCTUARY



If you signed up to place flowers in our chancel for a special remembrance on Sunday mornings, please don't forget to put your \$17.00 donation for cut flowers, or \$25.00 for Planters in an envelope marked "Flowers" and place it in the offertory plate on that Sunday, or before. We appreciate the beauty of your generous donation and hope to know your tender "remembrances" and make them as special to our church family as they are to you. You may take the flowers home after the Sunday morning service.

Finances

Monthly financial information may be picked up or viewed in the church office.

