

The Messenger

December 2014



The Presbyterian Church

Of Johnstown

Minister's Message



HOLIDAY STRESS

Black Friday is now behind us for this year and we are into the full swing of the Christmas season with all of the planning, shopping, wrapping, decorating and everything else that has become "the norm" during this time of year. Though there are a number of explanations for referring to the day after Thanksgiving as "Black Friday" one common understanding is that it refers to the time in the year when many businesses experience such an increase in sales that they move from being in the red to being in the black (profitable).

Regardless of the original meaning, however, it seems that this name given to the day that kicks off the Christmas shopping season is appropriate as it seems to usher in a dark cloud of confusion and stress that has become so common and characteristic in our experience of the Christmas season in our culture. In a poll done by the American Psychological Association (APA) it was discovered that almost three-quarters of Americans described experiencing a level of stress that they deemed to be above normal.

So preoccupied are we as a culture with experiencing everything to its fullest potential that we easily ignore our own internal mechanisms prompting us to slow down and to take care of ourselves. Instead we refuel on caffeine and adrenaline and plow through our days and our schedules in pursuit of the "joy and the peace" that are so readily quoted in relation to Christmas, and we regularly achieve neither. Instead we often come to the end of the Christmas season feeling tired, fatigued and stressed out as we sort through the aftermath of the items we now have to find space for in our homes and the overextended spending that we now have to find the funds to cover.

From a Christian perspective and from a health perspective - it would seem that our culture needs a revival of sorts that allows the focus of this time of year to be restored to its intent. This season should not exist to showcase materialism (although we do recognize that gift giving can be a redemptive and meaningful thing) - it exists to showcase the immeasurable love and grace of God who gave the greatest gift known to mankind! But... to get there... it will take an intentional effort to slow down our lives - to resist the swelling tide of consumerism - and to consciously refocus our hearts and our minds toward that which brings lasting joy and peace and hope - Jesus Christ.

How do we slow it all down and avoid being overcome by the stress? Here are a few suggestions...

1. **Set Realistic Expectations** - when making plans for visiting, shopping, having family or guests over, and other events... be intentional about looking at your schedule and committing to only those things that will fit without overextending yourself. This goes for finances as well - make sure you set a budget that is realistic and "do-able" for your situation and stick to it.
2. **Take Time to Recharge** - with all of the things that will be competing for your time and energy during the Christmas season, make sure that you are scheduling regular time to do the things that allow you to restore your own energy. Depending on your personality type this could be anything from taking time to be alone to read a good book or relax to your favorite music to catching a movie you've been wanting to see - to spending some quality time with some close friends that you enjoy being around. Whatever it is that re-energizes you - plan for it.
3. **Be Charitable First** - this is one of the best ways to regain perspective on the Christmas season. Whether its donating money to a good cause, or giving your time to help with a mission (like serving meals, or buying gifts for a family in need, or going caroling at a nursing home, etc.), or wherever else you might discover that you can serve others - schedule these things early and with intention and you'll find that you will naturally be drawn toward a better understanding of the true meaning of Christmas.
4. **Seek Help** - whether it's sharing your stress and your fears with a couple of close friends or family that you trust or seeking professional help for the more overwhelming and challenging feelings of depression and sadness - don't allow yourself to go through it alone.

Ultimately, those of us who call ourselves followers of Christ really ought to be making it a point to showcase him and through our own actions and behaviors be leaders in reorienting our lives and our culture back toward the truth of what we are truly celebrating at Christmas. If we connect with the hope and the joy and the peace of a savior who is given to us, then we can reveal those same truths to others when we move through the holidays by keeping that primary focus!





A Note from the Clerk...

Luke 2:10-11 The angel said to them, “Do not be afraid. I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. Today in the city of David a Savior has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord.”

Session met on Tuesday, November 11, 2014 in the conference room. Pastor Kevin opened the meeting with prayer. Session approved the baptism of Wesley Cox, Lyra Irwin and Phillip Wahlenmaier. We also approved the membership of the Confirmation Class. We welcome Wesley, Lyra, Sidney, Moriah, Phoebe, David, Benjamin, and Nathan as our newest members.

Rhonda Piper, Chair of Christian Education, has everything planned for the Confirmation class to be accepted into Church membership.

Jeanne Voigt, Chair of Congregational Care, reports that there will be a Food Pantry Sunday each month beginning in January. More details to follow. The Mitten Tree is being decorated with hats and mittens for the Food Pantry.

Fellowship Committee Chair, Karen Blair and her team have begun planning a Progressive Dinner scheduled for February 14, 2015. On January 15, 2015 there will be Father/kid bowling after church – pizza provided. Gift certificates are available for the Women’s Retreat in May.

Chair of the Membership Committee, Cille Childers, says that the next membership class will be in January.

Bob Pardee, the Mission Committee chair, organized the refreshments for the Pre-School Thanksgiving Program.

Rhonda Piper and the Nominating Committee have completed their task for the coming year. There will be a congregational meeting on Sunday, December 7 to vote for Elders for the Class of 2018.

Personnel Committee met with our organist, Barbara Derenburger and our custodian, Jeannie Kerns.

Property Chair, Lee Mansell tells us that Dick Uhde has repaired the leaded glass in the front entrance door. Thank you Dick! Duff Goodman has been contracted to remove snow this winter.

The Stewardship Committee Chair, Scott Lockwood, is happy to announce that your gifts have increased and we are in a better state financially. We must maintain this level of giving to continue to pay financial obligations and maintain outreach programs.

Jeremy Derenberger, Chair of the Worship Committee, reports that new Christmas decorations have been donated. The adult choir is singing and the youth choir is rehearsing their Christmas musical.

Our next Session meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, December 9 at 6:30 PM at the home of Scott Lockwood.

Thanking God for all of you, Diane Frazier



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1 4pm Prayer Walk at the Bike Path *weather permitting	2 9am Tuesday Morning Bible Study 6:00 TOPS	3 5:15-6:45 Jr Choir 7:45-8:30 Adult Choir	4 6:30pm Angel Program	5	6
7 Sunday School 9:15am Adult SS 9:30 kids SS 10:30 Worship Service and communion 11:30 Congregational Meeting	8 4pm Prayer Walk at the Bike Path *weather permitting 6:30 pm Pre-School Board Mtg	9 9am Tuesday Morning Bible Study 6:00 TOPS 7pm Session	10 5:15-6:45 Jr Choir 7:45-8:30 Adult Choir	11	12 TBA Jr Choir Play Practice	13
14 Sunday School 9:15am Adult SS 9:30 kids SS 10:30 Worship Service with the Junior Choir Play 6-8pm Youth Group Christmas party	15 4pm Prayer Walk at the Bike Path *weather permitting	16 9am Tuesday Morning Bible Study 6:00 TOPS	17 7:45-8:30 Adult Choir 1pm Elizabeth Circle @ the Hot Spot	18	19	20
21 Sunday School 9:15am Adult SS 9:30 kids SS 10:30 Worship Service	22 4pm Prayer Walk at the Bike Path *weather permitting	23 9am Tuesday Morning Bible Study 6:00 TOPS	24 7:45-8:30 Adult Choir 7pm and 10pm Christmas Eve Services	25 Office closed	26 Office closed	27
28 Sunday School 9:15am Adult SS 9:30 kids SS 10:30 Worship Service with a worship drama	29 Office closed 4pm Prayer Walk at the Bike Path *weather permitting	30 Office closed 9am Tuesday Morning Bible Study 6:00 TOPS	31 Office closed 7:45-8:30 Adult Choir			

Volunteer Ministries for December

GREETERS:

7 th	the Kisner Family
14 th	the Miller Family
21 st	Jeanne Voigt
24 th early	
24 th late	Dick & Ann Moseley
28 th	Mike Derenburger

ACOLYTES:

7 th	Emma Kisner
14 th	Megan Miller
21 st	Reagan Deeds
24 th early	Megan Miller
24 th late	Grace Almendinger
28 th	Emma Kisner

NURSERY:

7 th	Jamie Pardee
14 th	Maci Ashbrook
21 st	Phoebe Richards
24 th early	Rhonda Piper
24 th late	
28 th	Marianne Derenberger

JUNIOR CHURCH:

7 th	Marie & Phoebe Richards
14 th	No Junior Church due to the Choir Christmas Play
21 st	Dani Cox
24 th early	not provided
24 th late	not provided
28 th	

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE:

7 th – 28 th	Katie Miller
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WORSHIP LEADER:

7 th	Jeanne Voigt
14 th	Adeline Almendinger
21 st	Bob Pardee
24 th early	Diane Frazier
24 th late	Karen Blair
28 th	Rhonda Piper

Birthdays and Anniversaries



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

Our Church Groups



Leadership Night

The Church Committees meet at the church once a month, at 7pm. There is a brief meeting in the sanctuary and then the committees split off into individual groups

We would love to see you join one of our committees; it is never too late to join.

Next meeting will be in January



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!

Next meeting: December 17th, 1:00pm



Tabitha Sewing Circle

The sewing Circle meets each Tuesday at 1:00pm in our sewing room (off the Fellowship Hall). The group makes lap quilts and baby quilts, which are donated to local charities.

The circle is currently on winter hiatus.



Tuesday Morning Bible Study

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



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



AN EVENT NOT TO BE MISSED.....

The Women's Association ANGEL PROGRAM will be held THURSDAY, DECEMBER 4, 6:30 pm. This program is always joyous, musical and very inspirational. The evening begins with a dessert buffet and coffee bar. All women of the church are invited.

Congregational Meeting

There will be a short congregational meeting after the Service on Sunday, December 7th for the purpose of approving a refinance loan on the 122 S. Oregon Street property. We will also approve two new elders.

Confirmation

Pastor Kevin and session would like to welcome our newest members; Sidney Blair, Wesley Cox, Moriah Fleming, Ben Heckathorn, Nathan Heckathorn, Lyra Irwin, David Mansell, and Phoebe Richards.



Adopt-a-Family

Adopt-A-Family gift tags are available in the office. We have 8 kids that we are sponsoring this year from 3 families.

What to do? Take a tree tag with the family number and gift.....Shop.....Bring back the unwrapped gift with the tree tag taped to it.

Gifts are due back by December 7th. Thank you for your generosity!!



December 14th is the Junior Choir's Christmas production.
Please join us for our Worship Service that day
And enjoy the WONDERFUL show.

Children's Sunday School-Christmas Break

There will be no youth Sunday school on December 28th or on January 4th. This break will allow our dedicated teachers and students a Christmas break.



FOOD PANTRY DECEMBER MISSION

This December we have two Missions
for the Johnstown Area Food Pantry



MITTEN TREE - Our Goal is 100 pairs of Mittens and Hats. Already there are 45 pairs of gloves and mittens on the tree. We are sharing our blessings!

HOLIDAY FOOD BAGS – December 7th our youth will be providing grocery bags for the congregation. Please fill the bag with 1 or 20 items and bring it back the following Sunday. Let's help our less fortunate neighbors have a wonderful Christmas!

We share God's love abundantly. Thank you for being a loving congregation.



Operation Christmas Child

Thank you to all who contributed boxes to Operation Christmas Child. We collected/delivered 34 boxes this year. These boxes can make such a difference to children here and abroad. Thank you for your participation in this mission.

Thank you,
Katie Miller



Celebrate Roy and Mona's 65th wedding anniversary

The families of Roy and Mona Hilderman extend an invitation to the congregation to celebrate Roy and Mona's 65th wedding anniversary.

The celebration will be an open house on Friday, December 26, from 4:00-7:00 pm. at the home of David and Rebecca Keck, 218 Autumn Leaves Way, in Johnstown.

Your presence will be the gift that the couple requests.

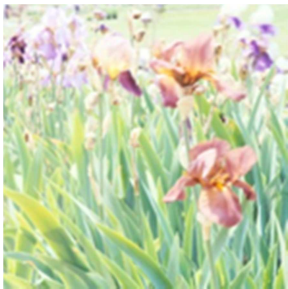
We hope that you will be able to join us.

Any questions may be sent to Rebecca Keck at 740-809-8099.



Decorations Stored For Another Year

We will Un-decorate our church quickly on Monday, Dec. 29 at 6:30. Please take a moment to help us put the Christmas Decorations away. Come and help us. It takes a village to make all these wonderful things happen in our church. A nice turnout makes this task so much easier. See you Monday, Dec. 29 at 6:30.



Hello Girlfriends!

Are you looking for time away from your business of life? For time to stop and smell the roses? Join us for our Garden Getaway retreat and experience this and more.

Garden Getaway is a relaxing garden themed retreat for the women of our church. Included are worship, Bible study, and time for laughter and reflection.

Friday, May 1, 2015 we will begin with dinner and end around 4pm on the 2nd. Deer Creek State Park is our destination this year. The cost is \$105-

\$135 depending on the room occupancy. Meals are included.

A \$20 non-refundable deposit is due by January 11th. Please see Melanie Main or Karen Blair for more information.



New Member Class

We will be offering a new member class this January. Pastor Kevin will meet with the class for three weeks during the Sunday-School hour. If you are interested please call the office to sign up.

Missed a sermon?



Were you traveling? Feeling ill? Or simply wanting to hear one of Pastor Kevin's sermons again? They are now being posted on the Presbyterian Church of Johnstown website. Simply:

1. Go to www.thejpc.org
2. Select the RESOURCE tab
3. Select the SERMONS tab and choose the sermon you want to hear.



Thank you Notes...

We would like to thank the Willeke family for allowing us to use their Christmas tree for many years. As per their suggestion, we are offering it to anyone, who might need a large 9' pre-lit tree with individual branching. It does need some extra lighting.

We are fortunate to have a lighter weight, narrower, pre-lit tree with attached branching gifted to our church. This tree will allow us to be able to view the projection that now enhances our Worship Service.

We will decorate the tree and the church on Nov. at 6:30.

Please call the church if you need a Christmas tree.

What a wonderful church we have filled with so many friends that turn out on a blustery Monday night to help put up our Christmas decorations. Thank you!!!

A big thank you to those who donated cookies, popcorn and drinks!

A special thank you to Phyllis Kraner for her beautiful stunning bronze nativity set. We have never had anything for our floating shelf in the narthex and it is perfect!

It is wonderful to have our Chismons, made by Mary K. Almendinger, adorning one of our trees in the sanctuary! The evening was so much fun and our church has never looked prettier. We dedicate all to the glory of God in honor and thanksgiving for the birth of his Son, Jesus Christ!





Sponsor a Poinsettia



Once again our lovely silk poinsettias will adorn our sanctuary for the Christmas Season. As has been our tradition for a number of years, we will continue our special dedications to family and friends. For each poinsettia that you would like to sponsor we are requesting a donation of \$7.00. The money raised will go toward the Building Fund. Please make your check payable to The Presbyterian Church of Johnstown with a note in the memo that this donation is for a poinsettia and place it in Sunday's offering plate along with this filled out form during the month of November. The deadline to sponsor a poinsettia is Sunday, December 7. The silk poinsettias will remain at church for use next Christmas.

Name _____

Dedication:

In honor of: _____

In memory of: _____

Print this sheet and drop off in the office.

Prayer Chain Requests for November 2014

JPCPrayerRequest@hotmail.com

CONTINUED PRAYERS

- Our Governmental Leaders.
- ISIL threat and Middle violence
- The Ebola outbreak in Africa

THANKSGIVING AND PRAISES

- Marilyn and Steve LeClair and Marilyn's son Eston Wenger will be going on their medical mission trip to the Dominican Republic on November 20 through November 26. There has been severe flooding and some violence since scheduling their trip.

CONTINUE PRAYERS FOR HEALING

- Don Orr has had some surgeries for dermatological issues.
- John Replogle has been diagnosed with a brain tumor. There is expected surgery for his problem near Thanksgiving.
- Kimberly Baughn is recovering from major surgery.
- Margaret Bobo, neighbor and friend of Maxinde Pardee, had a stroke July 26.
- Brian Eckstein, Brandon and Adam Eckstein's father is progressing. He has returned to work.
- Ron Goodman, Jane Muller's brother-in-law, has the latter stages of Parkinson's disease.
- Mike Robinson who is paralyzed from the waist down as a result of a tree falling on him.
- Maxine Pardee myasthenia gravis and extreme pain. She is awaiting results of heart tests.
- Rev. Edward Carlson, Maxine Pardee's son-in-law, has serious medical issues.
- Megan Carlson, Maxine Pardee's granddaughter, has been hospitalized to determine the cause of pain.
- Barbara Haines, a former member of this church, has a serious autoimmune disorder. She had surgery the week of November 17 to have a feeding tube inserted.
- Norma Duncan needs continued prayer. Her conditions have been causing additional trouble. It has been gratifying to see her well enough to attend church on occasion.
- Margie Wheaten, Betty Ford's daughter, is in a nursing facility because of her Parkinson's.
- Gloria Miller, friend of Kaye Cook, has severe kidney disorder.
- Judy Schultz, Suzy Sayer's mother, recovering from neck and back surgery.
- Jeff Dunlap, son of Jeanette Dunlap, had surgery on his bowel October 23. He will be off work for 2 to 3 months.
- Mike Spangler, Marie Fleming's brother-in-law, has Stevens-Johnston Syndrome. It is a rare, serious skin disorder resulting from a reaction to a drug.
- Gwen and John Haspels, Presbyterian missionaries in Ethiopia who were attacked and injured by armed bandits October 1, have been taken to Presbyterian Hospital in New York City, for reconstructive surgery.

CONTINUE PRAYERS FOR HEALING OF CANCER

- Victoria Boals, New Albany High student has been getting chemo treatments for a brain tumor. Her doctors have changed their minds and do not consider her terminal. In January she will have another MRI to decide whether or not to continue chemo treatments.
- Megan Johnson Cervi, daughter of Bill Johnson, is having treatment for melanoma cancer.
- Charles "Copper" Thacker has advanced lung cancer.
- Sharon Johnson, friend of Hazel Almendinger, went back into the hospital for a complete breast removal. Her daughter and granddaughter, both have cancer.
- Rod Lunt, friend of the Almendingers grandson Matt in Kansas, has melanoma
- Turney Williamson has chronic leukemia.
- Lea Ann Snyder, friend of Roger & Donna Hines, Barbara & Bill Mitchell, and Phyllis Kraner, has cancer throughout her body.
- Patty Oyler, friend of Kaye Cook, has colon cancer. This is the second round.
- Brian Fisher, friend of Mark and Katie Miller, has a cancerous spot on his left lung. He had been on our prayer chain as late as this March for colon cancer.

THOSE SHUT IN OR CONFINED TO THEIR HOMES

- Roy H. Sarbaugh, Carol Hoff's father
- Alice Neibarger, New Albany Gardens and Care Center, Columbus, OH 43230
- Arthur Miller, Kathy Trimble's father, has dementia.
- Betty Ford, Presidential Center, 524 James Way, Marion, OH 43302
- Lawrence Bishop at Sharonbrooke Senior Living Center in Newark.
- Rev. Tom Jackman, former minister of the Johnstown Presbyterian church in the late 60's and early 70's, 200 Cottage Dr. Apt 302, Palmyra Pa. 17078-3608.
- 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.
- Margie Wheaton, Betty Ford's daughter, is in a nursing facility in Newark because of her Parkinson's.

Death

- Joe Urdock died November 15 of colon cancer. Funeral was November 20.



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
Nursery & Jr. Church:	contact Rhonda Piper
Children's Message:	contact Marianne Derenberger
Special Music:	contact Marilyn LeClair
Property Maintenance:	contact Lee Mansell
Church Sign:	contact Marie Richards
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.

