

# The Messenger

## January 2016



# The Presbyterian Church Of Johnstown

# Minister's Message



We are officially beginning yet another year. Most of us are probably already wondering where 2015 went. It seems to have flown by so quickly, and I know I am left contemplating if I used my time as wisely and meaningfully as I wanted to.

As most of us take an inventory of all that we did in 2015, I'm sure there is a mixed bag of things that we did that were fun and fulfilling and perhaps some things that we wish we had done differently or ways that we had spent our time better. Regardless of how we look back on the last year, it is very common for people to take that inventory and then make a new resolve for the coming year - we call these New Year's Resolutions. Generally a New Year's Resolution is when someone dedicates themselves to doing something different, or new or better in the coming year. This is a noble and edifying thing for us to pursue.

The sad reality, though, is that of all the people who make a new year's resolution (which is about 1/2 of all Americans) only about 8% actually keep those resolutions. The other 92% drop their commitment somewhere along the way - usually within the first couple of months of the year. And the reason that these commitments are dropped is most likely because they were pretty big endeavors - since most resolutions are centered on things like health (dieting, exercise, etc.), money (saving more, paying off debt), and relationships (spending more time with family, strengthening a marriage, etc.).

So... what type of resolve should we have as we go into the New Year? Well... the truth is that when we look at the Bible, there is no support for or against making a New Year's Resolution. What we do find there though is a psalmist speaking to God and saying,

*"Search me, God, and know my heart; test me and know my anxious thoughts. See if there is any offensive way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting." (Psalm 139:23-24, NIV)*

It would seem that rather than being preoccupied with a specific time of year and making a resolution, the primary goal of the psalmist is to resolve to always be trying to overcome any "offensive" aspect to his life and to ultimately live in a way that is "everlasting." And this seems like the general idea that is behind most resolutions in our lives at the beginning of a new year. Whether we choose to eat healthier, pay off debt, or strengthen relationships... these are all efforts to live in ways that are more kingdom focused (everlasting).

So as we enter into the year 2016, perhaps rather than making a specific resolution to do a specific thing, we should just offer the same prayer as that of the psalmist... that God might search and know our hearts and that we might follow His lead as he steers us in a better direction and a way that is everlasting.

Looking forward to a great 2016 with you all!

Pastor Kevin



# A Note from the Clerk...

Psalm 146 Blessed is he whose help is the God of Jacob, whose hope is in the Lord his God, the Maker of heaven and earth, the sea, and everything in them – the Lord, who remains faithful forever.

Session met on December 8, 2015. Pastor Kevin opened the meeting with prayer. Elders-elect Dianne Alexander, Marie Fleming and Bill Mitchell attended the meeting. Their ordination and installation will be on January 17, 2016. (Note: Bill is already an ordained elder) The Annual Congregational Meeting will be on January 24, 2016 following the worship service.

Pastor Kevin received an \$1100 grant from Presbytery to fund dinners for a Youth for Christ meeting once a month. See Jane Muller or sign up in the hallway outside the office if you would like to participate in this rewarding ministry.

A new monitor has been purchased and has been installed in the hallway and also additional handicapped parking spaces will be provided with funds donated in memory of Norma Duncan.

Thank you for your generous contributions to the Food Pantry (juice collection) and the Mitten Tree.

Pastor Kevin and Mark Trimble will meet in January to discuss plans for Mission Trips in 2016.


Our next Session meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, January 19, 2016 at 6:00pm.

On a personal note, it has been my pleasure to serve as your Clerk of Session for the past six years. I thank you for this opportunity and hope that I have helped to keep you informed of the work being done by the Session. God bless each and every one of you and grant you a happy, healthy New Year.

Thanking God for all of you, Diane Frazier, Clerk of Session

# JANUARY



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					1 	2
3 8:30 Teen Bells 9:00 Teen Choir Sunday School 9:15 Adult 10:30 Worship	4 4pm Prayer Walk at the Bike Path *weather permitting 6-8 GS	5 9am Bible Study 1pm Tabitha sewing circle 5:15 Jr Choir/Joy Ringers 7pm Adult Choir	6	7 8 am men's coffee Hour  6-7:30 Scouts	8	9
10 8:30 Teen Bells 9:00 Teen Choir Sunday School 9:15 Adult 9:30 kids 10:30 Worship 5 pm Stewardship meeting	11 4pm Prayer Walk at the Bike Path *weather permitting	12 9am Bible Study 1pm Tabitha sewing circle 6:00 TOPS 7pm Adult Choir	13  6-7:30 Scouts	14  8 am men's coffee hour  6-7:30 Scouts	15	16
17 8:30 Teen Bells 9:00 Teen Choir 9:00 new member breakfast Sunday School 9:15 Adult 9:30 kids 10:30 Worship &	18 4pm Prayer Walk at the Bike Path *weather permitting 6-8 GS	19 9am Bible Study 1pm Tabitha sewing circle 6:00 Session 6:00 TOPS 7pm Adult Choir	20  1:00 Elizabeth Circle @ the Hot Spot	21  8 am men's coffee hour  6-7:30 Scouts	22	23
24 8:30 Teen Bells 9:00 Teen Choir Sunday School 9:15 Adult 9:30 kids 10:30 Worship 11:30 Annual Meeting/Potluck	25 4pm Prayer Walk at the Bike Path *weather permitting	26 9am Bible Study 1pm Tabitha sewing circle 6:00 TOPS 7pm Adult Choir	27	28  8 am men's coffee hour  6-7:30 Scouts	29	30
31 8:30 Teen Bells 9:00 Teen Choir Sunday School 9:15 Adult 9:30 kids 10:30 Worship						

# Volunteer Ministries for January

## **GREETERS:**

3<sup>rd</sup> Scott & Andra Kisner  
10<sup>th</sup> Dan & Melissa Wittmer  
17<sup>th</sup>  
24<sup>th</sup> Marie Richards  
31<sup>st</sup>

## **ACOLYTES:**

3<sup>rd</sup> Megan Miller  
10<sup>th</sup> Alexis Diehl  
17<sup>th</sup>  
24<sup>th</sup> Charlie Richards  
31<sup>st</sup> Grace Almendinger

## **NURSERY:**

3<sup>rd</sup> Maci Ashbrook  
10<sup>th</sup> Wesley Cox & Sabrina Schirtzinger  
17<sup>th</sup> Phoebe Richards  
24<sup>th</sup> Sidney Blair  
31<sup>st</sup> Haley Trimble & Heather Mansell

## **JUNIOR CHURCH:**

3<sup>rd</sup> Hazel Almendinger  
10<sup>th</sup> Marie Richards  
17<sup>th</sup> Carrie Almendinger  
24<sup>th</sup> Kathy Trimble & Rhonda Piper  
31<sup>st</sup> Marianne Derenberger

## **CHILDREN'S MESSAGE:**

3<sup>rd</sup> Pastor Kevin  
10<sup>th</sup> Katie Miller  
17<sup>th</sup> Jane Muller  
24<sup>th</sup> Chris Blair  
31<sup>st</sup> Barbara Jo Almendinger

## **WORSHIP LEADER:**

3<sup>rd</sup> Karen Blair  
10<sup>th</sup> Logan Willeke  
17<sup>th</sup> Scott Lockwood  
24<sup>th</sup> Cille Childers  
31<sup>st</sup> Mark Trimble

# Birthdays and Anniversaries



3<sup>rd</sup> Norma Johnson

5<sup>th</sup> Heather Mansell

6<sup>th</sup> Lewie Main

8<sup>th</sup> Brad Ashbrook  
John & Penny Replogle

9<sup>th</sup> Chris Blair  
Ashley Speck

10<sup>th</sup> Tanya Weaver

11<sup>th</sup> Claire Almendinger

14<sup>th</sup> Kate Kisner  
Courtney Walser

15<sup>th</sup> Hayden Wagner

17<sup>th</sup> Reagan Deeds

18<sup>th</sup> Jim & Pat Blair

21<sup>st</sup> Jesse Farley  
Aletha Irwin

24<sup>th</sup> Kathy Trimble

27<sup>th</sup> Jane Muller

30<sup>th</sup> Kevin Frazier

31<sup>st</sup> Pat Speck

# Our Church Groups



## **ELIZABETH CIRCLE**

This group meets the 3<sup>rd</sup> 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: January 13<sup>th</sup>, 1:00**



## **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.

**Sewing is on a weather permitting schedule during winter.**

**Contact Carolyn Friedberg if you need weekly information.**



## **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](mailto:JPCPrayerRequest@hotmail.com).



## **Men's Coffee Hour**

The men meet at the Hot Spot Coffee House each Thursday morning at 8am to fellowship.

# Church Happenings

## New Year Potluck

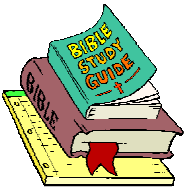


Start your Church New Year off right and join us Sunday January 3, 2016 at 9:15 am for a pot luck breakfast. Bring your own table service, and a dish to share. Beverages will be provided by the Fellowship committee.



## Sunday-School News

There will be no children's Sunday-School on Sunday, January 3<sup>rd</sup>. This will allow our teachers a Christmas break. We have a wonderful faithful group of teachers, and we thank you for all you do for our youth.



## Tuesday Morning Bible Study

We will be taking a two week break from our Bible studies. We will resume on Tuesday, January 5<sup>th</sup>. New faces are always welcome!



## Annual Reports

Annual reports are due to Marie in the office by Friday, January 15<sup>th</sup>. The annual meeting is scheduled for Sunday, January 24<sup>th</sup> following our Worship Service.

## Office Hours



Pastor Kevin and Marie will be out of the office the week between Christmas and New Year. If you need anything please leave a message or e-mail the church. Marie will be stopping in to answer the phone, e-mail and prepare the bulletin. Normal hours will resume Tuesday, January 5<sup>th</sup>.

## Thank you!



We were a small but mighty group Mon. morning and evening, when we took down our Christmas decorations and removed the wax from all our pews. Thanks to: Barbara Jo Almendinger, Adeline Almendinger, Claire Almendinger, Kris Almendinger, Pat Blair, Cille Childers, Mike Derenburger, Linda Lockwood and Jeff Uhde, and Sally Uhde for helping and coming out on such a nasty day and night!!.

We wish all of you at JPC a very Happy and Blessed New Year!!!

Barbara Derenburger

A huge thank you goes to all who participated in Operation Christmas Child. This year we collected 49 boxes. Thank You!

Katie Miller



## Our Beautiful Poinsettias were Sponsored by:



Alice & Lewie Main in memory of our parents.

George & Karen Dreisbach in memory of our parents;  
George & JoAnn Dreisbach and Ed & Myrtle Page.

Margaret Jolley and Family in memory of Tom Jolley.

Jim & Pat Blair in honor of the Christ child.

The Brown Family in memory of Richard Brown.

The Speck Family in memory of Ray Speck Sr.

The Irwin Family in memory of David Irwin.

Dick & Norma Johnson to the glory of our Lord and Savior.

The McMillan Family in honor of the JPC and in memory of all those lost or suffering this past year.

John & Jane Muller in honor of our grandchildren.

The Venard Family in memory of Ed Venard.

Scott & Linda Lockwood in honor of the birth of Jesus Christ our Lord.

Mark, Katie, Megan & Peyton Miller in memory of our grandparents.

The Shaffer Family in memory of Bob Shaffer.

Mike & Barbara Derenburger in memory of Robert & Marie Young and Charles & Pat Derenburger.

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

Barbara Trick in honor of my parents Richard & Norma Johnson.

John & Jane Muller in memory of Bob & Jean Muller and Herb Hover.

# Prayer Requests December 2015

**JPCPrayerRequest@hotmail.com**

## Continued Prayers

- Our governmental leaders
- ISIS terror attack in Paris and the downed Russian airplane killing 224.

## Healing

- Rhonda Deeds recovering from surgery Monday, December 28.
- Mildred Boccock, Ken Weaver's sister, had emergency surgery, December 9 for a bleeding ulcer. She is now in rehabilitation.
- Marjorie Stires, friend of Hazel Almendinger, has several health issues.
- Dan Montgomery, former superintendent of Johnstown schools, had pancreatic surgery.
- Doug Boggs, husband of Carolyn Friedberg's friend Marsha, had a leg amputation because of serious bone infection. This is the second leg to have been amputated.
- Mark Deeds, Reagan's dad, Mark, recovering from heart surgery on Wednesday, November 25.
- Hazel Almendinger's sister Clara was hospitalized after a fall.
- Mildred Boccock, Ken Weaver's sister, had surgery for a bleeding ulcer on December 9. She is now in a nursing home for rehabilitation.
- John Alexander fractured his pelvis when he fell from a barn.
- Steven LeClaire fell through scaffolding at his home in Tennessee. His rib area is still tender, but he is recovering well,
- Nancy Venard is home and doing well after having back surgery.
- Sam Maynard. Dianne Alexander's brother is in rehabilitation at Villa Angela Nursing Home, Columbus, because of severe injuries suffered after being run over by a truck.

## Cancer

- Victoria Boals, New Albany teenager who has been fighting brain cancer for the last year or two, had brain surgery early November. The surgery was successful; however, she is having trouble with her left eye not moving, and also her right side.
- Caroline Mitchell, two-year-old granddaughter of Barb and Bill Mitchell, being treated for leukemia. The doctors anticipate two years of treatment.
- Larry Pool, cousin of Alice Main, was diagnosed with a rare form of blood cancer. It is not curable but treatable.
- Lea Ann Snyder, friend of Roger & Donna Hines, Barbara & Bill Mitchell, and Phyllis Kraner, has cancer throughout her body.
- Dana Logan, acquaintance of Kaye Cook, has Stage 4 lung cancer. The cancer has spread to her bones. She is now on hospice care.

- Henry Webster, friend of Katie Miller, suffering from seizures. He was operated for a brain tumor. He has had a subsequent scan which indicated the brain tumor has shrunk. He will continue on chemo for the next several months.
- Maelee Leonard, who is only 8 months old, is recovering from a malignant tumor removal from her bladder. She started getting chemotherapy treatments on August 10th. She is the daughter of Macee Leonard, a coworker of Katie Almendinger.
- Donna Clark, friend of Hazel Almendinger, has leukemia.
- Cathy Wine, Alice Main's cousin, is being treated for colon cancer.
- Monica Piper, Rhonda Piper's sister-in-law, will have radiation and 10 years of anti-cancer drugs for her stage 1 breast cancer.
- Aly Cline, friend for Katie Miller, was recently diagnosed with tumors that surround the nerves in her lower back. She will have surgery soon.
- Aly's mother, Susan was diagnosed with a brain tumor.

### **Long Term Illnesses or Disabilities**

- Maxine Pardee myasthenia gravis and extreme pain.
- Ed Carlson, the younger and Maxine Pardee's grandson, has Marfan Syndrome, a rare genetic condition which affects the heart and breathing.
- Brian Eckstein, Brandon and Adam Eckstein's father has ongoing serious issues.
- Emma Kisner has been having absence seizures. Pray she will soon outgrow them.
- Rev. Edward Carlson, Maxine Pardee's son-in-law, has ongoing medical issues that need prayer.
- Bill Kraner, Phyllis Kraner's husband, has ongoing health problems.

### **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.
- Betty Ford, Marion, OH.
- Margie Wheaton, Betty Ford's daughter, is in a nursing facility because of her Parkinson's disease.
- Lawrence Bishop at Sharonbrooke Sr. Living Center, 920 Sharon Valley Road, OH 43055
- Ellen Howell, Hazel Almendinger's sister, is house bound. She is in pain management for spinal stenosis.
- Cecil and Maryann Grimes, brother and sister-in-law to Maxine Pardee, Cecil has worsening Alzheimer's and Maryann has a lung condition.
- 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

# 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](mailto:pastorkevin@thejpc.org)

Our email is [johnstownpres@gmail.com](mailto:johnstownpres@gmail.com)

Prayer Chain email is [JPCPrayerRequest@hotmail.com](mailto:JPCPrayerRequest@hotmail.com)

[www.thejpc.org](http://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 church office

**Greeters:** contact Marie Richards

**Acolytes:** contact Marie Richards

**Nursery & Jr. Church:** contact Hazel Almendinger

**Children's Message:** contact Marianne Derenberger

**Special Music:** contact Katie Miller

**Property Maintenance:** contact Lee Mansell

**Church Sign:** contact Marie Richards

**Wedding Coordinator:** contact Sally Uhde

## FLOWERS IN THE SANCTUARY



You may sign up to place flowers in our chancel for a special remembrance on Sunday mornings. The cost of each bouquet is \$15.00. Please put your \$15.00 for your flowers in an envelope marked "Flowers" and put it in the offertory plate when you sign up. We appreciate the beauty of your generous donation. The flowers are yours to take home after worship service on Sunday. Please return your vase to the church office.

## Finances



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