

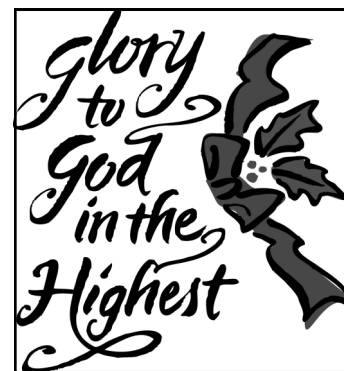


# THE PRESS...BYTERIAN

A Publication of the Presbyterian Congregation  
Union and Water Streets  
Middletown, PA 17057

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Kykotsmovi, Arizona  
Personal Interest Partnership



**WORSHIP SERVICE**  
Sundays at 10:30 A.M.  
  
*Christmas Eve Service*  
*at 6pm & 8 pm*

**DECEMBER 2011**

### Greeters:

- Dec 4 Carol Heiser & Vivian Kilroy
- Dec 11 Francis & Rose Ann Yeich
- Dec 18 Glenice Marsala & Ruth Sweigart
- Dec 24 6 pm Greg, Jenn, Ryan and Ethan Schick
- Dec 24 11pm Stephen Frommell and John McDonald
- Dec 25 Margie Collins and Virginia Olsen

### Nursery Duty:

- Dec 4 Suson and Hayli Grace Akakpo-Martin
- Dec 11 Tom and Kelly Rotondo
- Dec 18 Joanne Harter & Carol Waple
- Dec 24 None
- Dec 25 Open

\*\*Nursery Attendants are needed for the nursery. Please consider helping out so that others may enjoy church services as well. Thank You for your help and continued support.

### Acolyte:

- Dec 4 Shelby Luther
- Dec 11 Noah Yeich
- Dec 18 Hayli Grace Akakpo-Martin
- Dec 24 (6pm) Ryan Schick
- Dec 24 (8pm) Open
- Dec 25 Open

### December Chancel Flowers

- Dec. 4 In loving memory of our parents, Jane and Paul Mory, Jr, and Robert and Sarah Davidson, by Stephany and John Davidson.
- Dec. 11 In loving memory of all my deceased relatives.
- Dec 18 In memory of their pap, Robert M. Rowe, Sr. from Kristy Mock Jen Judy, Andrew Rowe, and Caitlin Warner.

Centerpiece: In loving memory of James Kilroy by Vivian and children

Dec 25 Christmas Poinsettias



### ( November Correction)

Nov. 13 In honor of my Mom's 86th birthday on 11-11-11 from the Pearce family.

### December Ushers

Gary And Nancy Shank  
Bob and Margo Mathis

### Christmas Eve

- |      |                               |                                   |
|------|-------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 6pm  | Gloria Elberti<br>Carol Waple | Mary Ellen Baer<br>Rose Ann Yeich |
| 11pm | Judy Biesecker<br>Jane Neff   | Margo Mathias<br>Jean Fuss        |



*Merry Christmas*

**A FEW REMINDERS:**

**CANCELLATION OF CHURCH ACTIVITIES DUE TO WINTER WEATHER:**



In event we have to cancel church services or activities please tune in to ABC27 SNOW WATCH

\*\*\*\*\*

**Chancel Flowers**

The Deacons Committee will send a reminder postcard to each Chancel flower sponsor at the time of the order. The cost of the CHANCEL FLOWERS is still \$22.50 per order. Please make the check payable to The Presbyterian Congregation with the date of the Sunday sponsored in the memo section of the check to assist Diane with recording the payment. The check should be put into a separate envelope marked Chancel Flowers and either mailed to the church office or placed in the offering plate on Sunday.

If at anytime you would like to add a Centerpiece or have any questions or concerns, please call church office 944-4322

\*\*\*\*\*

**Christmas Greetings from your Church Staff**

May the miracle of Christmas bring that peace for which the world long. We wish you a blessed Christmas season.

**Pastor Potter, Diane, Jay, Shirley and Atah**



\*\*\*\*\*

**OUR MISSION STATEMENT**

*The Presbyterian Congregation is ...  
A body of Christian people who reach out to others by sharing God's Word, love and fellowship.*

\*\*\*\*\*

Please place your articles or information either in the offering plate (mark it "newsletter"), or in mailbox marked "NEWSLETTER."

\*\*\*\*\* **IMPORTANT CHANGE** \*\*\*\*\*

Please note change in e-mail for newsletter editor...Please submit any articles to

**AAMSAM1106@gmail.com**

**Please make the change the old email address is no longer in use. Articles sent to the old address will not be received.**

**Thank you for your attention on this matter.**

**Newsletter Deadlines for 2011/2012**

- Dec 20- Deadline for January newsletter
- Dec 27- mail out newsletter
- Jan 17- Deadline for Feb newsletter
- Jan 24- mail out newsletter
- Feb 21- Deadline for March newsletter
- Feb 28- mail out newsletter
- March 20- Deadline for April newsletter
- March 27- mail out newsletter
- April 17 - Deadline for May newsletter
- April 24 - mail out newsletter
- May 22 - Deadline for June /July newsletter
- May 29- mail out newsletter
- July 17 - Deadline for Aug/Sept newsletter
- July 24 - mail out newsletter

\*\*\*\*\*





**NEWS and NOTES**

**NOW HEAR THIS....**

**Christmas Joy Offering**

During Advent and Christmas, the Presbyterian Church (USA) will receive the annual *CHRISTMAS JOY OFFERING*. The offering is divided equally between supplementing the income of needy retired church workers, and providing scholarships at the following Presbyterian-related racial ethnic schools and colleges: Barber-Scotia College, Concord, NC, Cook Native American Ministries, Tempe, AZ, Knoxville College, Knoxville, TN, Menaul School, Albuquerque, NM, Presbyterian Pan American School, Kingsville, TX and Stillman College, Tuscaloosa, AL. In 2010 the offering across the church totaled \$4,240,750. Our congregation gave \$872 in 2010, and we thank those who gave! The *Christmas Joy Offering* will be dedicated December 18, but gifts can be made during December and early January. Use the attached envelop or mark your gift accordingly. This year's theme is "Great News of Great Joy!" You can be part of sharing the great news as you give. Thank you.

**Church Officer Orientation**

Members of the church who were elected to be Deacons and Elders in the Class of 2014 are reminded to attend two orientation meetings set for December 11 and 18. The meetings will be held from 9:15- 10:10AM each week in the Pastor's study and will help orient elected leaders for their duties in serving the church. The rite of ordination and installation will be held Sunday, January 8th during worship.

**Sea of Gifts Ingathering**

December 11 is the day to return wrapped and tagged gifts for distribution by the Middletown Red Cross. As you bring your gifts to the church, place all wrapped gifts in the chancel for dedication during worship. Special THANKS to Mary Leisey who is again coordinating this project. And we are grateful to ALL who take part in buying and wrapping gifts for those in need of our community. God bless you!

**Christmas Covered Dish Dinner & Children's Program**

Don't be left out! Join us December 11 at 6PM in Fellowship Hall for the annual Christmas covered dish dinner. Bring a generous meat or vegetable covered dish, or dessert to share. Invite a friend, too... and come enjoy. After dinner, we will enjoy a great Christmas program by the puppeteers of Deny Presbyterian Church, Hershey, "God's Hidden Hands."

They are middle school students who are learning set design, prop masters, sound effect engineering, inventors and actors. Their purpose is to spread the good news of Jesus using puppets. They will present two short programs for us December 11. AND, there will also be a surprise visitor at the conclusion of the program. Come and Celebrate!

**SAGE December Lunch**

All are invited to the "Dutch treat" Senior Adult Group Exchange lunch Wednesday, December 14 at 1 PM at Brownstone Cafe. This annual event gives us a chance to be together before the holiday rush for a great meal. There is no program, but sign-up is required by 12/11 so the restaurant knows how many will attend. We order from the menu and get separate checks. Come along!

SAGE December 14th Brownstone Christmas Lunch

\_\_\_\_\_ Yes, I/we plan to attend the lunch at the Brownstone Cafe.

Print name \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

+Registration due to Pastor Potter by December 11h

**CHRISTMAS DAY WORSHIP**

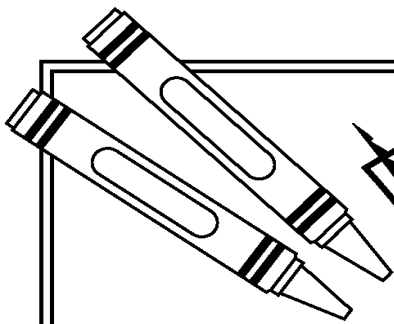
Don't stay home on Christmas morning! Come to worship as we welcome the members and Pastor of Wesley United Methodist Church to our sanctuary. This year Wesley folks will be with us for worship at 10:30AM. The combined choirs will present special music, along with numerous congregational carols, scripture and prayers. On this special day of joy and gladness, let us remember whose birthday it really is. Come share in praising God for the gift of Jesus Christ, born of Mary! (There will be no Church School December 25 or January 1, 2012.)

As we soon round out the year of 2011, we have been grateful for your faithful stewardship faithfulness. If you are in a position to give a special end-of-year financial gift, please do so. Committees have been diligent in keeping expenses down throughout the year. We rely on the generosity of each member throughout the year as we serve the mission of Jesus Christ.

**PYC NEWS**

The 6th-12th grade Presbyterian Youth Connection will be going Christmas Caroling December 4 from 4-5:30PM. All youth and anyone else interested is invited. Come to the church by 4PM to car-pool to Frey Village and Middletown Home. Bring some soft fruit: oranges, bananas, etc. to be handed out to residents. AND, after we're done singing, we will go to Dairy Queen for ice-cream...so bring some extra \$\$\$ *"Come, let us adore him"*





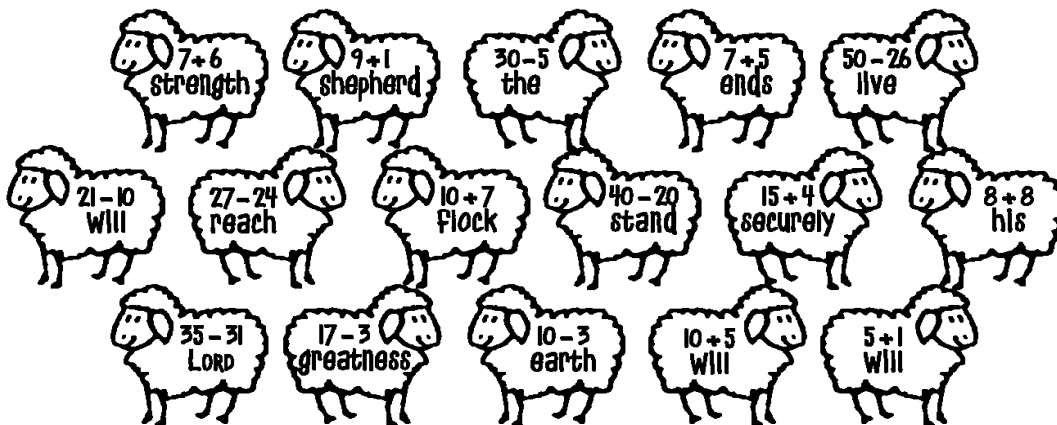
# PUZZLE



## A PROMISED RULER

Prophets told of Jesus' birth hundreds of years before it happened. Never had a baby's arrival come with such a promise.

**Directions:** To read what one prophet (Micah 5:4, NIV) said about Jesus, complete the math problems below. Then fill in the words, using the math solutions as your guide.



"He \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ his \_\_\_\_\_  
15                      20                      10                      17

in the \_\_\_\_\_ of the \_\_\_\_\_ .... And they \_\_\_\_\_  
13                      4                      11                      24

\_\_\_\_\_, for then \_\_\_\_\_  
19                      16                      14                      6

\_\_\_\_\_ to the \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_."  
3                      12                      25                      7

MICAH 5:4, NIV

Answers: "He will stand and shepherd his flock in the strength of the Lord ... And they will live securely, for then his greatness will reach to the ends of the earth." Micah 5:4, NIV

CHRISTMAS LIGHTS  
DONATION



Hoffer Park provided Christmas Lights by the Yard Sale! Yes, indeed. Hoffer Park Christmas lights were ruined by the flood! Since the Yard Sale had loads of Christmas Lights donated, Hoffer Park was asked if they would like them, and they said yes! So the lights were donated to a good cause!

**Christmas Cantata  
News**



The Chancel Choir and aug-menters will perform the Christmas Cantata "Winter's Grace" by Joseph M. Martin during wor-ship on **Sunday, December 18 at 10:30 AM.**

Each year, as winter takes hold and covers our days with its silent wonder, we are called to re-flection. As the shadows grow longer and the nights deepen, we gather at church seeking the comfort found in the assurance of God's Word. We light our candles of hope. We sing our songs of gathering; we read the words of the prophets and cling to every promise as we await the com-ing of our Messiah, Jesus.

The choir and I invite you to join us as we learn this beautiful cantata. It will prepare us when we gather and worship at the cradle of the newborn King on Christmas Eve.

Rehearsals will begin on Wednesday, **November 2** during our regular choir rehearsals. Please con-tact Shirley if you would like to join the choir for this event. We would love to have you sing with us!

**Schedule of Rehearsals**

Wednesday, November 2 7:45 – 8:45 pm  
Wednesday, November 9 7:45 – 8:45 pm  
Wednesday, November 16 7:45 – 8:45 pm  
Wednesday, December 7 7:45 – 8:45 pm  
Wednesday, December 14 7:45 – 8:45 pm  
Saturday, December 17 9:30 – 11:30 am  
Sunday, December 18 9:45 – 10:25 am

**ADULT FORUM \* December 2011 \***

*You are invited!*

Sunday mornings before worship in Fellowship Hall \* 9:15-10:15 am  
If nursery is needed, call Erika Lauffer at 944-4713 a week in advance.

**Theme - ADVENT JOURNEY**

**Talking About God**

How do you experience God? Everybody has his/her own ideas about God, even those who don't claim to believe in God. Advent is a wonderful sea-son to talk about our relationship with God. As we busy ourselves with holiday events and family activi-ties, we often seem to run on "empty". Take time to reflect, refresh and reconnect spiritually this Advent!

Beginning November 27, the first Sunday in Advent, and continuing on **December 4, 11 and 18, Phil Susemihl and Pastor Don Potter** will lead dis-cussion which will be prompted by this "**Talking About God**" DVD series.

Topics for discussion include:

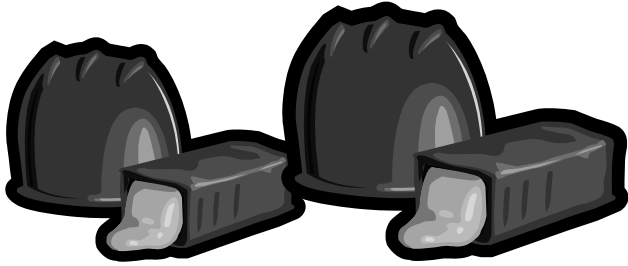
- What's Your Experience Of God?
- What Are We To God?
- What is God Doing?
- How Can Believers Live Together?

This is a good series for spiritual self-care in this hec-tic season.

Bring a friend and join the Advent journey!

**On Christmas day there will be a worship service only.  
NO ADULT FORUM until January 8,  
2012!**

## Christian Sisters in Action Fundraiser



### **Homemade Christmas Candy**

The Christian Sisters will be making delicious chocolate candies just in time for the Christmas season.

*We will be making an assortment of chocolates ( milk and dark chocolate), Peanut clusters, Raisins clusters, Peanut Butter cluster, Peanut Butter Melt-aways, or Assorted box.*

Price is 8.00per pound. There will be a sign up sheet in the Sundays bulletin and Newsletter or call Joanne Harter Deadline for ordering is December 12th.

Candy pick up dates are: Saturday, December 17th and Sunday, December 18th



### *SEA OF GIFTS*

*The Adult Forum is pleased to announce the annual partnership of our congregation with the Middletown Red Cross to provide Christmas gifts to needy families in our town. Suggested gift items can be selected from our giving tree at the front of the sanctuary after November 13. Since the goal is to provide each person, whether adult or child, with three gifts, each person has at least three gift tags on the tree. Each gift is to be wrapped and include a gift receipt. Our "Sea of Gifts" will be collected on December 11 at the church and then given anonymously through the Red Cross.*

## Mary's Circle: Be in the Know, and Stay Informed, Here is the Latest News:

Now News from Mary's Circle:

Mary's Circle finished their study of Revelation. It is certainly one of the most difficult books of the Bible, full of mysterious symbolism. However, we learned that Revelation is most of all, one of hope. Hope is the message that has sustained countless Christians in situations of tyranny and oppression throughout the ages. The vision of hope in Revelation also speaks to us today. Now in March 2012, we will start our new study of the Beatitudes, and we hope you will join us. Remember, we do not meet in December, January or February due to the winter weather.

We want to extend our appreciation to everyone who helped out in any way (setup, breakdown, sellers, baggers, bakers, donating items, the pricing and hauling of everything throughout these months), to make this sale a success. Despite the historic snow storm that fell upon us and the outage of the electricity during the sale, the people continued to shop in the dark! Much to our surprise the results were a little over \$1300 .00!! FYI- all leftover books were donated to the Middletown library and driven there by the Bob Mathias Family, and the remaining items were picked up by Blue Mountain Ministries in Annville for their Thrift Shop.

If you want to mark your 2012 calendars, the Spring Yard & Bake Sale will be Saturday, April 14, 2012, and donations of items have already started. Special thanks to Rose Ann Yeich and Carol Waple who work tirelessly for months on this project.

Since you are prepping for 2012, the All Daughters Banquet will be Saturday, May 5, 2012, at 6PM in Fellowship Hall. More information will be shared in 2012.

A letter was received from our Palestinian Christian girl, Lilian Yousef Khalil, 12 years old, via the Holy Land Christian Ecumenical Foundation. She sent a gift of a children's book written in English and Arabic and will be available to all in our Church Library.

Final Thrift Shop dates for our church are December 19, 20, 21, 22, and 23.



COMMUNITY DINNER

Don't miss the next Community Dinner hosted by our church, Monday, **December 5th** from 4:30– 6:30pm in Fellowship Hall. The menu includes baked ziti and all the trimmings. Cost is \$7. adults, \$3. children.

Workers are needed to help set-up, serve and clean-up. Sign up sheets for workers and donations of desserts are in the tower entrance. Your help is appreciated.

## Christmas Poinsettia Order Form

Deadline for ordering - December 11th



### **I would like to order:**

\_\_\_\_\_ Poinsettia(s) with Memorial Line in  
bulletin (\$10)\*

\_\_\_\_\_ Memorial Line in bulletin only (\$5)

(\* - Flowers MUST be picked up after the  
Christmas Eve worship service)

PRESENTED BY \_\_\_\_\_

IN HONOR OF \_\_\_\_\_

IN MEMORY OF \_\_\_\_\_

Please enclose a check for \$10.00 per flower  
and \$5.00 per memorial line, made out to the  
**Presbyterian Congregation**. Place your order  
in the box in the back of the sanctuary, or mail  
to Judy Biesecker, 24 Conway Drive, Middle-  
town, PA 17057 by December 11th. Thanks!

## Deacon's Corner

On Wednesday, November 9<sup>th</sup>, the Deacons sponsored another dinner for the victims of the recent flood. Thank you to everyone who helped to provide a warm meal. Good food and fellowship were enjoyed by all who attended.

Christmas poinsettias can be ordered through the Deacons. Please look in your bulletin for order forms. They can be reserved in honor of, or in memory of, a loved one and the cost is \$10. We always look forward to the beauty of the poinsettias as they fill the Sanctuary at Christmas.

Christmas "goodie" baskets will be delivered to our homebound members in December. The Deacons look forward to this project and welcome any donations to help fill the baskets. Items include toiletries, fruit, crossword puzzles/word search books, cookies and whatever creative item that you think they might enjoy. The items can be brought to the church the first two Sundays in December. We have six homebound members so six of the same item would be appreciated. The items can be given to any Deacon or placed in the Conference room. Please put your items in a bag and mark DEACONS on the outside. We thank you in advance for your generosity and kindness. Our homebound members are always delighted to receive these baskets.



"He's today's greeter."



Birthdays and Anniversaries

We would like to wish a very Happy Birthday to the following members and friends:

December

<i>Marilyn Pearce</i>	<i>12-2</i>
<i>Cole Heiser</i>	<i>12-4</i>
<i>Stephany Davidson</i>	<i>12-9</i>
<i>Jeanette Bloes</i>	<i>12-9</i>
<i>Mary Moore</i>	<i>12-13</i>
<i>John Davidson</i>	<i>12-13</i>
<i>Deakin Reyes</i>	<i>12-14</i>
<i>Ethel Higgins</i>	<i>12-14</i>
<i>Jody Koenecke</i>	<i>12-14</i>
<i>Vanessa White</i>	<i>12-15</i>
<i>Nancy Ross</i>	<i>12-18</i>
<i>Louise Feats</i>	<i>12-21</i>
<i>Carol Heiser</i>	<i>12-22</i>
<i>Richard Lewis</i>	<i>12-23</i>
<i>Gladys Kleinfelter</i>	<i>12-29</i>
<i>Pam Price</i>	<i>12-29</i>
<i>Jamie Side</i>	<i>12-29</i>

*We would also like to wish a Happy Anniversary to:*

December

<i>Ruth and John Dodson</i>	<i>12-26</i>
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I want to thank all of you for your many cards, telephone calls, visits and flowers following my recent knee replacement. Until you are on the receiving end of these actions, one does not fully appreciate how these gestures can brighten a person's day. It is comforting to know that we are surrounded by so many caring and compassionate people.

Thanks be to God.

Marlin Biesecker

Sincere Thanks to everyone for the prayers and cards sent to us during our time of mourning.

Thanks to those who gave their time at the funeral service and luncheon. A special "Thank You" to Rev. Potter for doing the service even though our brother was not a member of this congregation.

With out true appreciation for your thoughtfulness

Carol Wilsbach  
Myrna Matesevac

THE PRESBYTERIAN CONGREGATION  
UNION AND WATER STREETS  
MIDDLETOWN, PA 17057

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



2011

