



The First Presbyterian Church of Sharon, Pa.

E m p h a s i s

JANUARY

2026

“In the Glow of the Lights”

I was talking with my mom about a week before Christmas. We were talking about all the “getting ready for Christmas” activities for family and 1st Church. There was still lots to do, lots to enjoy, and lots to plan. And then it would be over. Life moves on to New Year’s Day.

I commented that all the “getting ready” is really Advent in the Church seasons. And that Christmas is really the 12 days following Christmas. So Christmas really isn’t over on December 26th. She said she knew that.. But, she added thoughtfully, “Christmas lights just don’t seem to shine as bright after Christmas.”

I think that’s right for most people. There is a lot of doing, planning, and anticipating for Christmas. And then Christmas Day itself marks a time of conclusion. It’s over. And if decorations aren’t immediately put away, most people mentally move on. Christmas has happened.

A friend, Rev. Rick Vogeley, shared a story I’m still pondering. Here’s a shortened version:

A little boy wanted to meet God. He knew it was a long journey. So he packed a small suitcase with potato chips and a six pack of root beer. And off he went.

When he had gone about three blocks he saw an old woman. She was sitting on a park bench watching the pigeons. The boy sat down by the old woman and opened his suitcase. He thought the old woman looked hungry. So he offered her some of his chips. Without saying a word she gratefully accepted and smiled.

The boy thought her smile was so beautiful he wanted to see it again. So he offered her a root beer. Again she quietly accepted and smiled. And they passed the afternoon, eating chips and root beer, smiling and never saying a word.

As the sun began to set the boy packed everything up and started back home. But before he had gone more than a few steps he ran back and gave the old woman a hug. She gave him her biggest smile.

When the boy got home his mother was surprised to see how happy he seemed. So she asked, “What did you do today that made you so happy?” The boy replied, “I had lunch with God. And do you know she has the most beautiful smile!”

Meanwhile the old woman returned to her home. Her son was stunned to see the look of peace and joy on her face. So he asked, “What did you do today that made you so happy?” She replied, “I ate potato chips and root beer in the park with God. And do you know, he’s much younger than I expected.”

January 2026 Preaching and Worship Schedule

- 4 Boar’s Head Sunday/Epiphany. Matthew 2:1-12. Dr. Hink preaching. Boar’s Head costumes and music.
3:30—18th Annual Boar’s Head and Yule Log Festival.
- 11 Winter Communion Sunday. Isaiah 42:6-9; 49:6; 52:7-10; Luke 2:25-35. Dr. Hink preaching.
- 18 Isaiah 40:1-5; Luke 3:1-10. Dr. Crooks preaching.
- 25 Isaiah 58:6-8; 61:1-4; Luke 4:14-30. Dr. Hink preaching.

January Worship Notes

*The Christmas season concludes at 1st Church with the 18th Annual Boar’s Head Festival on January 4th. Boar’s Head costumes and music will be a part of 11:00AM worship. The beautiful costumes and wonderful music will once again tell the Christmas Story in a powerful way. The Shenango Valley Chorale Madrigals will be a part of the cast.

*It is a tradition at 1st Church to begin with New Year with communion. Communion will be shared during worship on January 11th.

*The Old Testament book of Isaiah plays a significant part in Luke’s telling of the story of Jesus Christ. The January and February sermon series in worship will explore that connection and why Luke may have drawn on Isaiah so heavily.

A Look Ahead at Worship

*February 15-Scout Sunday. We will once again welcome the Scouts from Troop 3 and their families.

***February 18-7:00PM—Ash Wednesday.** The 40-day season of Lent will begin with a special service. The service includes the imposition of ashes for anyone who seeks that sign of repentance, mortality, and preparation.

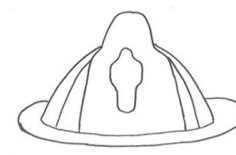
*February 22-1st Sunday of Lent and Communion.



Music and Worship Thanks

*The Advent and Christmas seasons included wonderful music at 1st Church. From Handel’s “Messiah” to the “Boar’s Head Festival” special music with concerts, musicians and singers filled the 1st Church sanctuary with beauty and people attending. Special thanks to Director of Music Stephen Barr, 1st Church Organist/Pianist Nicole Cochran and the 1st Church choir and bell choir for leading this special season of music @1st. It was a wonderful gift to our community once again.

MISSION TEAM PRAYER PROGRAM



Sharon Police Department
January Adopt-a-Cop
Chief Edward Stabile

Sharon Fire Department
January Adopt-a-Firefighter
Mark A. Collings



- | | |
|-------------------|---------------------|
| 5 Beth Pyle | 17 Maria Ackley |
| 5 Matthew Goodwin | 19 Carole Swogger |
| 6 Ruth Leone | 19 Mallory Nucerino |
| 7 Marcy Frantz | 22 Robbie Arnold |
| 8 Erica Dillinger | 24 Dorothy Davis |
| 9 Linda Frei | 25 Millie Milheim |
| 11 Terry Leonard | 25 Meredith Warren |
| 11 Kaylen Woods | 27 Carey Shaffer |
| 14 Ken Baird | |
| 16 Nancy Nugent | |



Snowflake SNACK CAKES

Celebrate the beauty of winter with these fun snowflake-inspired treats!

What you need:

- Graham cracker squares or sugar cookies
- White frosting or marshmallow fluff
- Pretzel sticks (snowflake arms)
- Shredded coconut or white sprinkles
- Mini marshmallows or candy pearls

What you do:

1. Frost each cracker or cookie.
2. Arrange pretzel sticks in a crisscross for the snowflake base.
3. Sprinkle with coconut or sprinkles for snow.
4. Add marshmallows or candy pearls to the ends for detail.

Lesson tie-in:

Remind kids that God made each of us unique—just like no two snowflakes are alike! (Psalm 139:14, KJV)

Puzzle!

In the New Testament, followers of Christ are called by many names. Use the hints to fill in the blanks. Need help? Check an NIV Bible for the missing letters.

D _____ s
(Acts 6:7)



C _____ n P _____ e
(1 Peter 2:9)



S _____ s of C _____ t
(1 Corinthians 4:1)

C _____ s
(Acts 11: 26)

B _____ s and S _____ s
(1 Thessalonians 4:9-10)

B _____ s
(Acts 5:14)

W _____ s
(Acts 1:8)



Answers: Disciples, Church People, Servants of Christ, Christians, Brothers and Sisters, Believers, Witnesses



Ridgewood 724-347-0998
One Elston Way, Hermitage, PA 16148
Gail Hink, 206

The Meadows
308 W Warren St., RM 108
Cadiz, OH 43907
Betty Hudson

St. Paul's The Villas
339 E. Jamestown Rd.
Greenville, PA 16125
Jean Meyer



Nan Warren
December 18, 2025

JANUARY

SPECIAL DATES

- ♦ New Year's Day, January 1
- ♦ Epiphany, January 6
- ♦ Baptism of the Lord, January 11
- ♦ Martin Luther King Jr.'s Birthday, January 19

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The message of Christmas is: "And his name shall be Emmanuel, which means 'God with us.'" (Matthew 1:23) Christmas is not just about the God who came, but also the God who continues to come. And maybe in these days when "Christmas lights just don't seem to shine as bright after Christmas," there's still enough glow to catch a glimpse of "Emmaneul" here and there.

—Glenn



Stewardship Season Report

Special thanks to all the 1st Church members and friends who returned their Pledge Cards. The most recent totals (12/3/25) are: 77 Pledge Cards totaling \$165,920 for Operations and \$15,426 for Mission. That is a "7 Card" increase from a comparable date in 2024, a \$32,000 increase for Operations, and a \$500 increase for Mission. The faithfulness and generosity of 1st Church members enable having gifted people on staff, extensive programs for church and community, and care of our wonderful building. Good and faithful stewardship is a tradition at 1st Church. Thanks for being part of the tradition.



After a "Christmas break," adult Sunday School will resume on Sunday, January 18th, 10:00AM in Fellowship Hall. Dr. Crooks and Dr. Hink will once again be team teaching the class. The biblical topic will be the 8th C BCE prophets, Hosea, Amos, Isaiah, and Micah. The Prophets play a significant role in scripture, faith, and theology. To better understand that significant role, some study of history and culture, along with text, is required. The Prophets are not necessarily "easy." But with a little study, the power and challenge of their message begins to become evident. In a day when religion was politics and politics was religion, the Prophets dare to speak God's truth to power. Everyone is invited to come and share in the discussion.



Church Attendance for November 2025

2024		2025		Online
3rd	94	2nd	104	87 views
10th	98	9th	111	77 views
17th	101	16th	92	52 views
24th	74	23rd	87	67 views
	367	30th	84	58 views
	34%		478	341 views
			36%	

Financial Giving News
November 2025

Operations Budget		Mission Budget	
1st Sunday	2,953.83	1st Sunday	214.50
2nd Sunday	4,108.40	2nd Sunday	1,812.00
3rd Sunday	6,771.40	3rd Sunday	1,117.00
4th Sunday	4,823.40	4th Sunday	92.00
5th Sunday	12,968.40	5th Sunday	107.00
Total for November	31,625.43	Total for November	3,342.50
Budget for November	14,904.17	Budget for November	1,385.50
Balance for November	16,721.26	Balance for November	1,957.00
Total for Year to Date	177,512.23	Total for Year to Date	20,527.50
Budget for Year to Date	163,945.83	Budget for Year to Date	15,240.50
Balance for Yr to Date	13,566.40	Balance for Yr to Date	5,287.00

Mission Corner

“Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters, you did for me.”—Mathew 25:40

Update!

- ♦ Missionaries all over the world were called back home by the PCUSA due to a new model of witnessing as well as a lack of funding availability. Our church will remain connected to Autumn Marshall and Jim Leuenberger.
- ♦ Our food collection was directed to some rural areas in Mercer County that were in great need of supplies.

What’s Coming Up?

- ♦ Mission Trip 2026 revealed! A group of youth and chaperones (9) will travel to Niagara, New York to work with Youth Works. This is a highly recommended mission organization. Our group will remain together as they participate.
- ♦ Mission Committee will meet January 8, 2026, for a Soup Night. We will discuss the new year. Please drop a note in the offering plate if you are interested in joining us!

How Can I Help?

- ♦ Make a commitment in 2026 to read the bulletin board and note the Mission Of The Month! Haiti was highlighted in December. Check out January!
- ♦ Support Presbyterian Women (PW) who are assisting Sharon Pantry with personal items in January.

Outside Opportunities!

There are adult mission opportunities through Westminster College, PCUSA and our local Presbytery. Drop a note in the offering basket if you want information.



The 1st Church Tech Team does a professional job putting worship services and special events on-line. Through this technology people can either watch a worship service live, or watch it at a later date as a recorded service. Online worship began during COVID as a way to share worship. It continued because some people found it valuable. Any given worship service may have 75-90 views. That probably means 100+ people are sharing in worship via on-line. Special thanks to our Tech Team for providing this ministry.

1st Church is also in the process of getting a new website. The current website has served 1st Church well for many years. But times change and it's time for something new. Look for the new website around spring. To visit the current site go to www.1stpcs.org.

If you are on Facebook, you probably know 1st Church has a Facebook Page. On this Page is posted the most recent information on ministry and programs, and pictures from various events. If you haven't discovered the 1st Church Facebook page check it out. Thanks to the Administrators who oversee the Page.



The Deacons regularly take home communion to our shut-ins. If you or someone you know would desire this ministry, please call the church office and let us know. We will gladly add your name to our list and contact you as soon as possible.



What We Really Need

Twelve ministers were on a flight headed to a conference in Seattle when the plane hit a fierce storm. Trying to calm their nerves, they told the flight attendant, "Let the pilot know everything's fine — there are twelve ministers on board!"

A few minutes later, the flight attendant returned from the cockpit.

"Well?" one of the pastors asked with a grin. "What did the pilot say?"

She smiled and replied, "He said he was glad to have 12 ministers aboard, but he would rather have four good engines."



A new Bible study group, Five O'clock Somewhere, will be meeting every other Tuesday at 5:00 pm as a home study. Our study will begin on the book: *For Such A Time As This: An Emergency Devotional* by Hanna Reichel. The book can be purchased on Amazon. If you don't want to purchase the book, we can share. The next meeting will be January 13. If you would like more information and to sign up, call or text Debbie Derrenbacher at 724/866-1588.



PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

Are collecting supplies for the SHARON SCHOOLS PANTRY PROGRAM

We are asking for your support of the Sharon Schools Pantry Program with the following supplies. The collection will be during the month of January. There will be boxes in the Library/Coffee house and the hallway outside the Sanctuary. They will then be taken to the High School Pantry for distribution as needed through the schools.

Hats	Gloves
Toothbrush	Socks, all sizes
Umbrellas	Underwear –women (S/M/L)
Travel size tissues	Travel size hand sanitizers
Chapstick	Hair ties
Laundry detergent	
Toothpaste including the travel size	
Plain gray/black T-shirts (XXL-4XL)	
Deodorant for men and women, particularly the small size	



Anyone who has been visiting 1st Church and is interested in finding out about church membership is encouraged to contact Dr. Hink. A 1-hour discussion will then be scheduled to talk about 1st Church history, Presbyterian theology, the organization and programs and staff at 1st Church, and the process of becoming a member. Visitors are also encouraged to bring any questions they might have about 1st Church. To contact Dr. Hink either email (pastor@1stpcs.org) or call (724-981-2211 ext. 2).

JANUARY 2026



January Jollies



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Sunday Worship @ 1st 9:00 Choir Practice-303 10:00 Adult Sunday School Class-FH—Begins January 18 11:00 Worship in the Sanctuary 12:00 Fellowship @ 1st in the Library FH=Fellowship Hall CR=Conference Room				1 Church closed 	2	3
4 Lunch and Dress Rehearsal for Actors 3:30 Boar's Head and Yule Log Festival Reception	5 6:00 Scouts	6	7 7:00 Men's Fellowship-Panera 1:00 Staff Meeting-106 6:30 Admin Team-106	8	9 7:00 Scout Sleepover	10
11 12:00 Worship Team-Parlor 12:00 Mission Team-FH 12:00 Deacons-106	12 5:00 Presbytery Operations Team-CR 6:00 Scouts	13	14 12:00 Mary Martha Circle-FH 1:00 Program Staff-CR	15	16	17 10:00 SVC Board -206
18 6:00 Session-206	19 6:30 Scouts	20 11:30 Memorial Committee-106	21 7:00 Men's Fellowship-Panera 1:00 Staff Meeting-106	22	23	24
25	26 6:30 Scouts 6:00 FLOW Mtg.-Library 7:00 SVC Rehearsal -FH	27 1:00 PWCT-106 6:00 Amateur Radio -FH	28	29	30	31