



The First Presbyterian Church of Sharon, Pa.

E m p h a s i s

JANUARY 2025

Keeping Christmas Well



One of my Christmas traditions is to read Charles Dickens' *A Christmas Carol*. Though I know the story well I usually find something new. And I also enjoy the comfort of the familiar story and rhythm of the words.

The ending of the story caught my attention this year. The last two paragraphs include a description of the change in Ebenezer Scrooge:

“He became as good a friend, as good a master, and as good a man, as the good old city knew, or any other good old city, town, or borough, in the good old world...and it was always said of him, that he knew how to keep Christmas well, if any man alive possessed the knowledge.”

In short, the change in Scrooge was not just a “Christmas season” thing, but a new way of life thing. The joy, generosity, and new life he discovered with the help of the 3 spirits on Christmas Eve shaped this life long after the season had ended. The “good man” was not packed away with the decorations.

And so as the Christmas season once again comes to a close I ponder “keeping Christmas well.” I don’t think it necessarily means keeping a Christmas tree up and playing carols year round. But I do think it could mean living with the message of Christmas planted deep in our hearts. And maybe the light of the Advent Wreath Candles shows the way; living with hope, love, joy and peace. And as such we might discover the truth of Tiny Tim’s benediction; “God bless us everyone.”

Glenn

January 2025 Preaching and Worship Schedule

5 2nd Sunday of Christmas. “Boar’s Head Sunday.” Matthew 2:1-12.
3:30—17th Annual Boar’s Head and Yule Log Festival.

12 Communion. I Samuel 1:1-28.

19 I Samuel 2:1-11. Rev. Dr. Crooks preaching.

26 I Samuel 2:12-16.

January Worship Notes

*Sermon Series. In January Dr. Hink and Dr. Crooks will begin a new sermon series in I Samuel. This Old Testament book tells the interesting stories of Samuel, Saul, and David. It’s about the transition of a loose confederation of ancient tribes to a nation united under a king. The stories invite reflection and conversation about the relationship of religion and politics, leadership and humility.

*Boar’s Head Sunday. Costumes and music from the Boar’s Head Festival will be part of worship on January 5th as we celebrate the 17th annual Boar’s Head and Yule Log Festival. Plan to attend the afternoon Boar’s Head Festival and share in all the costumes, music, and drama.

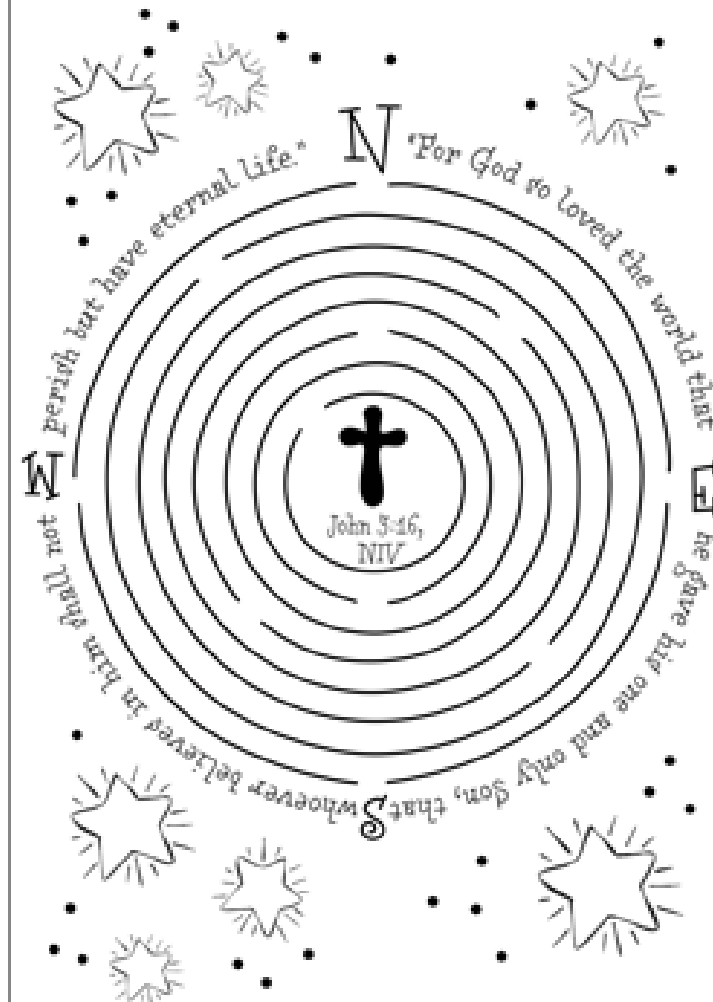
*1st Church Online. All 1st Church worship services continue to be available online. Online worship can either be watched “live” or as a recorded service later in the week. Many 1st Church members and friends enjoy worship online: those who are away, those who are working on Sunday morning, and those who find it “hard to get going” on Sunday morning. Many “thanks” to our 1st Church Tech Team and Sound Team who do such a good job with our On-Line service.

A Look Back at Advent and Christmas

The Advent and Christmas seasons were once again filled with wonderful music at 1st Church. It all began with the Shenango Valley Chorale’s presentation of Handel’s “Messiah.” It then moved on to include The Youngstown Fine Arts Brass, the 1st Church Bell Choir, “Nicole and Friends Christmas Concert,” Shenango Valley Chorale Classic Christmas Concert, Terry Leonard’s “One Night in a Stable,” harp, violin, and wonderful anthems by our 1st Church Choir. And it will conclude with all the wonder and beauty of the “Boar’s Head.” It is all a gift 1st Church gives to our community. Special thanks to Director of Music Stephen Barr and the many who help him.

Puzzle!

Complete the maze to help people from all directions hear the good news. Then, starting at the N (north) and going clockwise, read John 3:16, NIV.



A HUGE CATCH

Make a catch of fish to show what happens when Jesus calls his first disciples.

What you need:

- Cardboard egg carton
- Acrylic paint
- Paintbrush
- Darning needle
- Fishing twine
- Scissors
- Googly eyes or buttons
- Glue

What you do:

1. From the egg carton, cut out the 12 cups. From the lid, cut out two fish tails.
2. On a protected surface, turn the cups upside down. Paint the outside of each cup and both sides of the tails. Let dry.
3. Thread the needle with an arm’s length of twine. Tie a knot at the end.
4. Thread the needle through the end of the tail. Tie another knot an inch from the tail.
5. Thread the needle through one upside-down cup. Pull the twine through until the cup rests on the knot.
6. Continue tying knots an inch above each cup and threading on another cup until you’ve strung six cups. Tie a knot above the last cup and leave a long string to hang the fish. (You can make two fish with each egg carton.)
7. Add googly eyes or buttons to the last cup to make a face.



MISSION TEAM PRAYER PROGRAM

Adopt-A-Cop is an international prayer protection ministry for law enforcement officers.

It was founded by Chaplain Sgt. Ken Rochell of Michigan State Police in 1998 to serve as a bridge between local churches and their local law enforcement agencies.

The purpose of **Adopt-a-Cop** is to assign law enforcement officers to a group, or individual who will pray daily for them. While 1st Church is not involved directly or officially with this Ministry, the Mission Team wanted to maintain the spirit and encourage the congregation to pray for our own local police officers. The Team will announce a new officer each month and ask for prayers for them and their family. Our youth will make cards and the Mission Team will include a \$25 gift card for each officer of the month.

January
Andrew P. O'Shall
Sharon Police Department



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

Betty Hudson, 202
Gail Hink, 206
Shirley Sankey, 303
Mary Ellen Foltz, 305



JANUARY *birthdays*

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	23 Philip Myers
9 Linda Frei	24 Dorothy Davis
11 Terry Leonard	25 Millie Milheim
11 Kaylen Woods	25 Meredith Warren
14 Ken Baird	26 Kristen McBride
16 Nancy Nugent	27 Carey Shaffer

JANUARY

SPECIAL DATES

- ♦ New Year's Day, January 1
- ♦ Epiphany, January 6
- ♦ Baptism of the Lord, January 12
- ♦ Martin Luther King Jr. Day, January 20



The Adult Sunday School Class taught by Dr. Crooks and Dr. Hink on Jesus' parables will resume on February 2nd, 10:00-10:45AM in Fellowship Hall. The in-depth class looks at the literary, historical, and theological contexts to discuss Jesus' teachings about the Kingdom of God and following Jesus as a disciple. Everyone is welcome.

Have you been visiting 1st Church and wonder about the church and how to become a member? Dr. Hink will be leading a membership class on a Sunday morning in February (date yet to be finalized). The 1 hour class will discuss the history of 1st Church, its mission and vision statements, its ministries and missions, and the membership process. It's a "no pressure," fun discussion. If you are interested in the class, contact Nancy in the church office (office@1stpcs.org or 724-981-2211 ext. 1).



The Deacons are currently engaged in taking 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.



Church Attendance for November 2024

2023		2024		Online
5th	80	3rd	94	50 views
12th	78	10th	98	56 views
19th	84	17th	101	45 views
26th	58	24th	74	41 views
	300		367	192 views
	28%		34%	

- ◆ How are we helping the homeless?
- ◆ Keep on the lookout for ways/times to plug into supporting/helping
- ◆ Buhl Park, Sharon Development; Farmer's Market
- ◆ Continue to support Blue Coats
- ◆ Keep supporting the Lot outreach/activities at 5th & Fullerton
- ◆ Continue significant support of the “pantry program”
- ◆ Computer needed for improved live stream at the church
- ◆ Continue to piggyback on community mission projects of other organizations
- ◆ Continue to increase publicity for events to grow attendance Recycling should be reinstated at the church
- ◆ Support missions on 3 levels: international, national, and local
- ◆ Single women with children
- ◆ Hunger!!!

In September, the Mission Committee created a list of goals for the coming year. Many pieces of scripture can guide a church toward the work of Christ. We took our cue from Mathew 25:31-40 which concludes with “And the King shall answer and say unto them, Verily I say unto you, in as much as ye have done it unto the least of these my brethren, ye have done it to me.” Through your Stewardship giving, you follow Jesus’ request.

Financial Giving News
November 2024

Operations Budget		Mission Budget	
1st Sunday	3,740.00	1st Sunday	93.75
2nd Sunday	4,984.50	2nd Sunday	351.25
3rd Sunday	2,311.00	3rd Sunday	88.75
4th Sunday	2,981.00	4th Sunday	188.75
Total for November		Total for November	722.50
Budget for November	14,902.08	Budget for November	1,180.00
Balance for November	(885.58)	Balance for November	(457.50)
Total for Year to Date		Total for Year to Date	12,885.00
Budget for Year to Date	163,922.92	Budget for Year to Date	12,980.00
Balance for Yr to Date	(991.42)	Balance for Yr to Date	(95.00)



SAVE THE DATE !
Sunday February 2, 2025
Chili & Soup Cook-off.



Agnes “Aggie” McIntyre
December 5, 2024
Charles J. Moyer
December 13, 2024



Mission Team 2025

HOT DOGS AND HOT TOPICS!

The Mission Committee held a Holiday Hot Dog Night and had great fun and great participation. Our goal was to gather information. WOW! Diners did not disappoint! Below is list of suggestions and all will be discussed within the Committee. Additional ideas are welcome!

- ♦ Keep doing trunk or treat
- ♦ Bible Study at Fullerton Anything involving children
- ♦ Food Warehouse?
- ♦ SV Chorale (2)
- ♦ Sharon Football and Basketball
- ♦ Robotics Team
- ♦ Buhl Club (2)—Volunteers and Funds needed
- ♦ Sharon Marching Band
- ♦ Girl Scouts
- ♦ Help people understand what mission is—not enough distinction from evangelizing
- ♦ We are doing a great job reaching out/keep it up!
- ♦ Do cleanup work and small home tasks at senior citizen's homes, i.e., cut grass, yard work, raking leaves, carrying boxes
- ♦ Shenango Valley Foundation
- ♦ Linden Pointe Development
- ♦ Community Hope Investment Partnership
- ♦ PEO (Woman's Carillon Choir Education Trust Fund)—supports women's scholarships
- ♦ Deacons—visitation needed
- ♦ The church needs to do a better job of recycling and encouraging conservation.
- ♦ Veterans and immigrant causes
- ♦ Fix old houses for the poor



PASTA MAKING CLASS January 21 OR 23 at 6:00 PM

In about 3 hours, we will:
make our dough and as it rests,
we will watch a 24-minute inspirational
video (YOU'LL LOVE IT!)

- then shape our cavetelli and boil them (if you want),
- then clean the kitchen.

PLEASE bring a cookie sheet, rolling pin, 6 eggs, take-out container.

It is FINE TO BRING NOTHING. We have supplies, rolling machines, and boards! We will have homemade spaghetti sauce for you to take with your cavetellies.



ROCK THE DOME LASER LIGHT SHOW. Join us for this adult-only event Saturday January 18th Rock the Dome Laser Light Show at Ward Beecher Planetarium located on the YSU campus. We will travel to YSU at 3:00p.m. for show tokens, then walk to Nobel Creature Ales & Lagers to enjoy food and drinks. Show kicks off at 5pm with Queen as the headline. Please sign-up in the library coffee house. Barnabus will be available. Please mark on the sign-up sheet if you want to take the bus. Parking is \$5 per vehicle at the University parking garage.

JANUARY 2025



January Jollies



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