

THE CARILLON

Volume 66 Issue 12 December 2025
St. Mark's United Church of Christ
426 North Eighth Street
Lebanon, PA 17046
(717) 273-0151

E-mail: st.marks426@verizon.net
www.saintmarksucc.com

Office Hours – Tuesday through Friday – 9:30 AM to 1:30 PM

STAFF

Rev. David A. Jones, Pastor
Cindy Klahr, Secretary
Sam Brandt, Custodian
Cynthia Johnson, Organist
Kenneth Shultz – Music Director
Todd Ryland, Consistory President
Ron Follett, Church Treasurer
Dawn Shultz, Consistory Secretary
Pine Acres

(717) 272-5011



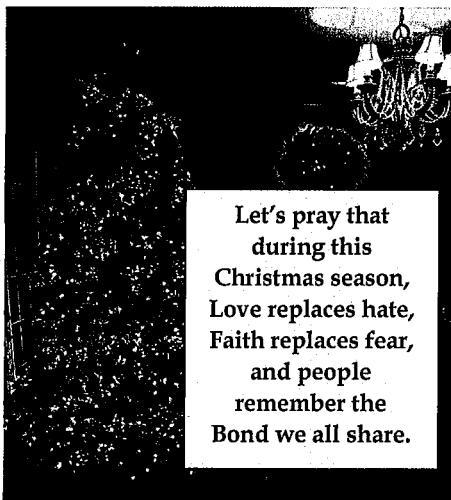
CHRISTMAS PRAYER

Heavenly Father, thank You for all the blessings in my life and for the gift of Jesus, whose birth brings hope to the world. As I celebrate this Christmas season and look ahead to the uncertainties of the new year, help me to stay grounded in Your love and to trust in Your plan, even when the road ahead feels unclear. Give me the strength and courage to face each day's challenges, and fill my heart with the peace and joy that only You can provide. May my thoughts, words, and actions reflect the love and truth of Christ, shining brightly in this season and in the year to come. In Jesus' name,

Amen

MERRY
Christmas

*The greatest gift didn't come in a sleigh.
He came in a manger.*



Let's pray that
during this
Christmas season,
Love replaces hate,
Faith replaces fear,
and people
remember the
Bond we all share.

A Night That Changed The World

A night that changed the world-
In the sky shone a great light-
The Miracle Child was born-
God named him Jesus Christ.

O' Holy Night they sang -
The angels hovered above
At witness to this birth
The Child of God's Love

Unto the world was given -
The Holiest of Kings -
Miracle of Miracles
Eternal life his offering.

The world in celebration
Unto this very day
The birth of the Miracle Child
Is marked each Christmas Day

On that day we exchange gifts -
Witness the joy of boys and girls -
But remember each day as a gift
From a night that changed the world.

Scriptures for the Christmas Season

"Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign: The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and will call him Immanuel."
Isaiah 7:14

"Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among men with whom he is pleased!"
Luke 2:14

"For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life."
John 3:16

"But Mary treasured up all these things and pondered them in her heart."
Luke 2:19

"For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given, and the government shall be upon his shoulder, and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace." Isaiah 9:6

The best gifts of Christmas are not bought.
They are the blessings of love, peace and
happiness that are felt deep in our soul and
remain there forever. May your Christmas have
such feelings of warmth and joy.



May you have Warm hugs to greet you,
Fun times to meet you, Joy in whatever you do,
God's love to guide you, Good friends beside you,
And happiness -
All season through!!



Every time we are kind, every time we are thoughtful,
everytime we forgive, every time we are generous...
It's Christmas!

The Journey Continues...

I've been noticing people have been grumpy lately. Some are grumpy because their favorite sports teams aren't playing well (like the Steelers and the Nittany Lions). Some are grumpy because the world we live in is crazy and it's getting crazier everyday. Hey, I get it, I'm not too happy about that stuff, either. But something that universally makes people grumpy this time of year is the sun setting before 5pm. I've never met anyone who likes having shorter days, and our days will keep getting shorter until December 21st when we reach the Winter Solstice.

Before humans discovered the earth was round and orbited around the sun, I'm sure people struggled even more with having shorter days than we struggle today. Back then, people believed the earth was flat, and that the earth was stationary. Since they had no idea why the days were colder and shorter, they probably assumed God was punishing them. But their assumptions couldn't be any further from the truth. And thanks to a little research, I was able to put some perspective on the miracle of God's creation.

Scientists have been able to determine that the earth is spinning at a speed of 1,037 miles per hour. All day, every day, 1,037 miles per hour. That alone is incredible. But there's more, because the earth is also traveling on it's path around the sun (orbiting) at a speed of 67,000 miles per hour. Can you imagine that? We are moving around the sun at a speed of 67,000 miles per hour!! To put that into perspective, if we flew from New York City to Honolulu, Hawaii on an airplane traveling 67,000 miles per hour, then our flight would only take 4 ½ minutes!! Isn't that crazy? But I have one more mind blowing number to share with you. As the earth is traveling 67,000 miles per hour, the distance we cover on our orbit around the sun is approximately 584 million miles. So that means if we live to be 100 years old, we will have traveled 58.4 *billion* miles around the sun over our lifetimes. These kinds of speeds and distances seem impossible to wrap our heads around. But God not only understands these numbers, this is how God has created life to be.

There are still two more things to consider as we approach December 21st and the shortest day of the year. First of all, the earth is tilted on it's axis at 23 ½ degrees. And it maintains that tilt during the entire orbit around the sun. Now as we get closer to December 21st, we are tilting away from the sun which explains why our days are shorter. But something else to consider is that the earth's orbit isn't a perfect circle, it is elliptical. So, on top of tilting away from the sun, when we reach December 21st, the earth will be as far away from the sun as possible.

Isn't it interesting though, that as we approach our farthest distance from the sun, and as we are experiencing the shortest days, that this is the time of year we celebrate the birth of Jesus. Just when things seem to be as bad as they can get (in terms of temperature and amount of daylight), that's when God sent his Son to be the Light of the world. I don't know about you, but I take great comfort in knowing that our God has created this amazing world, and God has sent his Son to give us hope just when things seem as bad as they can possibly be. I pray that you find that hope in these dark times, and that you share that hope everywhere you go. And I pray we stop and give thanks for all God has done as we've completed another amazing journey around the sun.

The Journey Continues... (at 67,000 miles per hour)

Pastor Dave

As we approach the Christmas Holiday season and prepare for celebrations with family and friends, it seems fitting that we should take a moment to celebrate some of the great things that have been happening at St. Marks.

Some of those things include:

- The beginning of a new confirmation class.
- The completion of the larger roof project
- The candy making crew
- The continuing great working relationship we have with the people who are renting part of our space
- A fun Christmas bottle painting event
- A meaningful and safe youth and young adult retreat
- The end to another successful rental season at Pine Acres

As we head into the Holiday season, it is so easy to get caught up in the hustle and bustle of the season. Remember to take time, slow down, and celebrate the positive things in your personal life and the life of your church, St. Marks.

Please join us at church on Sundays throughout advent but particularly for the Christmas Family Day celebration on December 14 (plan to stay for lunch as well) and also the Christmas Eve service at 7:00pm on December 24.

Regards,

Todd Ryland

Report of the Consistory - November 2025

Pastor Jones requested and received approval for the use of the kitchen and Fellowship Hall to prepare meals on Thanksgiving Day (November 27, 2025), Christmas Day (December 25, 2025) and Easter Sunday (April 5, 2026) for members of the congregation who wish to attend. The dates for Kids Kamp 2026 were approved. It will be held July 13-16, 2026, at Pine Acres. The Evangelism and Mission committee presented a calendar of events for 2026 for approval. This includes two mission trips, a community picnic in July, meals at the Rescue Mission and several other activities and events. They will be announced to the congregation in a timely manner. \$1,000 is being donated to Lebanon County Christian Ministries from the Good Samaritan committee. The congregation is being asked to donate additional monies if they want to support the food bank. The roofing project is getting close to completion. An unexpected issue was found and requires an additional \$775.00 to correct. Monies are still needed for the next phase of the roofing project. The Christmas Eve service will begin at 7:30 pm on Wednesday, December 24, 2025.

Kid's Team/Youth/Young Adults Corner

Kid's Team

Kid's Team will be celebrating the holidays with an activity Friday December 19th. Please see Marilyn or Meredith if you didn't get a flyer about the activity. Please see the signup sheet in the narthex if you're interested.

Look for details about roller skating coming in 2026.

If you aren't sure the age for Kid's Team and have a child or grandchild that might be looking to join, most Kid's Team activities are planned for ages K-4 through 6th grade. If you aren't already receiving Kid's Team announcements, please check in with Kathy Follett or Meredith Myers.

Youth/Young Adults

Here are the upcoming activities for the Youth/Young Adults for the next few months of 2025:

Christmas Cookie Baking – Friday December 19th – Saturday December 20th

Game Night – looking for a January date

Palm Cross creation – March date

Prayer Vigil – April 4th – April 5th

Spring Retreat – May 29-31 – Penn Lake in the Poconos

If you know of someone between 7th grade and 30 that is currently not receiving the Youth/Young Adults information, please contact Kathy Follett.

Mission Corner

Hammer & Heart Mission Trip

Formerly known as the Asheville trip, we'll refer to the spring mission trip as Hammer & Heart. The team agreed to return to work in the Black Mountain/Swannanoa NC area. We'll be working again with Hammer and Heart. We depart on Wednesday May 13th, work Thursday-Saturday, returning home on Sunday May 17th. This trip is for those 18 and above. If you weren't able to make the meeting, but are interested, please see Kathy. More details will come in the new year of how to help.

WARM Mission Trip

The WARM mission trip will be from August 1st through August 8th. Look for an organizational meeting in January to determine who is interested.

Non-Mission Trip Mission News

The Community dinners

March 21st – community dinner planned. Look for more information closer to the date.

July 25th – community picnic is planned. Look for more information closer to the date.

Dinner at the Rescue Mission

December 14th – Our next Sunday evening meal at the Lebanon Rescue Mission. Please see signup sheets in the narthex for needs and availability to help on that day. Please note, if you are not feeling well on that day, the Rescue Mission kindly asks you to stay home and help us in 2026.

We have two Sundays in 2026 reserved on the Rescue Mission calendar and also are planning a grill night. Stay tuned for those dates.

Jigsaw Evangelism

Last year, we tried something new and that was making jigsaw puzzles to get out of the house in those cold/snowy months of January, February and March. In 2026, we will again be gathering for jigsaw evangelism.

All dates are a Saturday. We will meet anytime after 9:00 with a short fellowship time (coffee and donuts) before we get started at 9:30. We end somewhere between 11:00-11:30. Enter through the Fellowship Hall door. If elevator access is needed, just let us know you're coming.

Save the dates:

January – January 3 and 17

February – February 7 and 21

March – March 7 and 21. The 21st is if needed as we also are planning a community dinner that day.

The Interior of a New Sanctuary

The windows for the new sanctuary, the ones which we now enjoy, came from the Luminous Prism Company of Chicago and measure 16 by 26 feet. The Resurrection window was given by Abraham H. Miller and his family. Mr. Miller who was the first Sunday School Superintendent, also served as the chairman of the building committee. The Ascension window was placed in memory of Mrs. Eliza Goodman who was the first Lady Assistant Superintendent of the School and whose \$500 bequest helped finance the new building. Mrs. S. S. Horst presented the "Clinging to the Cross" window, and Miss Sallie Lantz gave the "Good Shepard". The "Madonna" window came from Mr. & Mrs. William D. Fox, and three Sunday School Classes purchased "Christ Knocking at the Door" in honor of Rev. Fisher and his family.

The new lights which were Mitchel-Vance chandeliers were given by Mrs. Harry H. Light. They consisted of 72 electric lights, 56 gas lights, and another 14 lights of some kind in the pulpit arch.

The mighty Mite Society again did more than its share by raising money for the pews which were made in Michigan by the Grand Rapids Furniture Company. The two-ton green velvet carpet came from Gimbel Brothers, Philadelphia.

The interior finish was gulf cypress in natural finish. Do you remember the davenport which was in the chancel area? This was a gift of Cyrus G. Mark who must have been related to Cyrus K. Mark, whose bequest of \$5,000 began the whole construction project.

Other gifts were: pulpit, Mr. & Mrs. G. Gardner; the communion table, Mr. & Mrs. Nathaniel Witmeyer; the chancel chairs, Mr. & Mrs. N.D. Lamn; and the pulpit Bible, Mrs. Harry A. Miller & Katharine E. Miller.

Price Tag for a New Sanctuary and a Remodeled Chapel

During the planning of the sanctuary Rev. Fisher stressed the need for a debt which would not tax the future finances of the congregation. His calculations set the church's assets for the construction at \$17,000. Certainly the total project should not exceed \$25,000!

It did, however. When the construction and the remodeling was complete, the cost rose to \$34,973.93. Here is a partial list of the expenditures made:

A.A. Richer, Architect's fee - - - - -	\$ 700.00
George W. Beard & Co., general contract for the Sanctuary -	25,137.00
George W. Beard & Co., altering the Chapel - - - - -	240.00
A.H. Witmer, excavating cellar - - - - -	370.00
J.M. Kase & Co., new windows for the Chapel - - - - -	162.10
Henry S. Tice, painting the Chapel and south side of church* - -	59.50
Dan A. Frantz, 6 dozen kindergarten chairs - - - - -	30.00
C.F. Copenhaver, 66 Bible Class chairs - - - - -	70.50
Charles Stohler, laying pavement and building wall on Eighth Street -	20.00
William E. Swanger, pavement contract - - - - -	724.36
George Krause & Co., chandeliers, electrical supplies, gas bracket -	-515.94
J.B. Van Sciver & Co., pulpit and chancel chairs - - - - -	168.00
Grand Rapids Furniture Co., 78 opera chairs for Young Men's Classes -	171.00
Pulpit Bible and Hymnals - - - - -	23.00
Grand Rapids Furniture Co., pews - - - - -	1,800.00
Luminous Prism Co., windows in sanctuary - - - - -	1,561.00
Reinoehl Lumber Co., chancel rail, pulpit furniture, organ front -	394.19
Gimbel Brothers, carpet for sanctuary - - - - -	611.39
Miller Organ Co., rebuilding organ, 2 Chapel organs, collection plates, pew ends for Chapel pews - - - - -	654.48

(*The southern wall of the new church, where the Narthex is now located, was brick instead of stone to allow for future expansion. A small grassy area was located here to the the south with a walkway leading from Eighth St. to the side rear of the Chapel.)

Jim Schucker

KID'S KORNER

Celebrate Christmas: The birth of Jesus!

Across

[1] What did Mary use for Jesus' bed?

[4] What did wise men see that lead them to Jesus?

[5] Town where Jesus was born

[7] Appeared to tell good news of the Savior's birth

[9] King who wanted to kill Jesus

Down

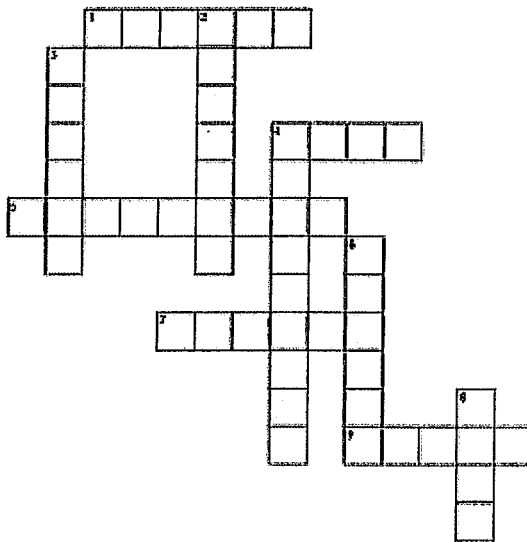
[2] Name of angel who appeared to Mary (Gabriel or Michael?)

[3] An animal that Mary possibly rode on

[4] Who visited Joseph, Mary, and Jesus on the night He was born?

[6] Who was Mary engaged to?

[8] The wise men brought this gift along with Frankincense and Myrrh



OLD FASHIONED SUGAR COOKIES

Ingredients:

2 cups flour

$\frac{3}{4}$ teaspoon baking powder

$\frac{3}{4}$ cup sugar

$\frac{3}{4}$ teaspoon vanilla

$\frac{2}{3}$ cup shortening

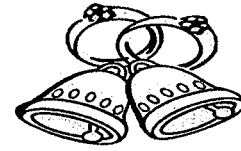
$\frac{1}{4}$ teaspoon salt

2 eggs

Instructions:

Sift dry ingredients together. Add shortening mixing in with a fork. Add eggs and vanilla. Roll out very thin on floured board and cut with floured cooky cutters. Decorate tops if desired. Bake in preheated oven at 400 degrees for 8 to 12 minutes. Makes 4 dozen cookies.

This recipe is in the St. Mark's Evangelical and Reformed Church Recipe Book and is from Mrs. Lizzie Meiser.



DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

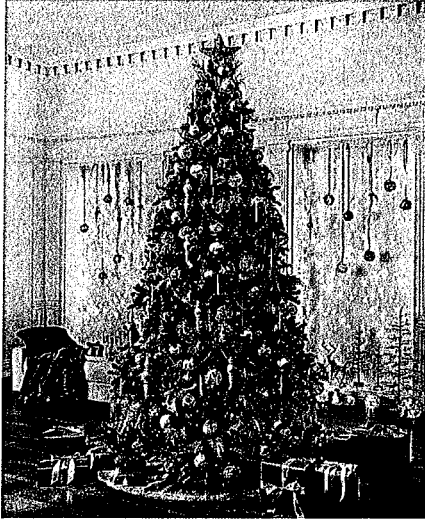
	Birthday		Anniversary
12/1/25	Seth Trovinger	12/2/25	Paul & Jennifer Whitman
12/2/25	Kimberly Balmer	12/21/25	Melissa & Luther Furman
12/5/25	Austen Kline	12/24/25	Dale & Barbara Wise
	Steve Snyder	12/25/25	Ken & Charlotte Wengert
12/6/25	Blaine Hummel	12/26/25	Samuel & Holly Brandt
12/7/25	Caroline Manbeck		
12/8/25	Gayle Olden		
12/10/25	Kathy Andrews		
	Robert Raynes		
12/11/25	Ryan Daub		
12/12/25	Betty Bartal		
	Meredith Myers		
	Charleigh Myers		
12/14/25	Brenda Hummel		
12/16/25	Faye Fox		
	Kim Sullivan		
12/18/25	Carol Houser		
	Alyssa Mills		
12/19/25	Holly Eggert		
12/21/25	Allen Scholl		
12/22/25	Nathan Trovinger		
12/28/25	Rebecca Colban		
12/29/25	Betty Hackman		
12/31/25	William Trovinger		

SENIOR CORNER

Linda & Kevin Waldron
1725 Grace Avenue
Lebanon, PA 17046
717-865-7245

Charlotte & Ken Wengert
Cornwall Manor,
PO Box 125, Apt. 109
Bradley Hall
Cornwall, PA 17016
717-273-0218

Please send notes, cards or give them a phone call. Let Linda & Kevin and Charlotte & Ken know that St. Mark's has not forgotten about them. Thank you.



CHRISTMAS FAMILY DAY

DECEMBER 14, 2025

10:00 AM

ST. MARK'S U.C.C.

- Koffee Klatsch in the Narthex
- Christmas Program by Members of St. Mark's Family
- Recognition of Staff Members
- Covered Dish Luncheon – Fellowship Hall
- Raffle Baskets
- Special Visit from Santa



NEW CHRISTMAS TRADITION

Beginning December 1st,
Read one chapter of
The Book of Luke in the Bible
each evening.
There are 24 chapters.
**On Christmas Eve you will have read
an entire account of Jesus's Life
and wake up Christmas Morning
Knowing WHO and WHY
We Celebrate!!**

FAMILY TRADITIONS FOR THE CHRISTMAS SEASON

1. **Carol at a nursing home or go door to door with some other friends or family.** This is a wonderful way to bless others and teach kids how to interact with people of different ages.
2. **Shop for a family in need.** This is a great way to show you care about your community.
3. **Set up a nativity set in a reachable spot** and let your children play with it throughout December.
4. **FaceTime with grandparents** or other special family members who are far away and sing some Christmas carols with them (or just sing to them!)

CORNWALL MANOR – 1 Boyd Street, PO Box 125
Cornwall, PA 17016

Robert Trautman – c/o Terry Trautman
Health Center 112 Lexington Drive,
Room 117 Annville, PA 17003
*April 23

Ken & Charlotte Wengert – Cornwall Manor,
1 Boyd Street,
* Ken – Jan. 11 PO Box 125,
Health Center, N. View 2 Bradley Hall, Apt. 109
* Charlotte – June 28 Cornwall, PA 17016

Lowell Sherman *January 20
Health Center – Northview 2
Room 213

CEDAR HAVEN – 590 S. 5th Avenue
Lebanon, PA 17042

Sue Kline – Room #415 * April 24
Betty Showalter – #3C, Room #12 * Sept. 11

LONDONDERRY VILLAGE

Nancy Basselgia *July 2
100 Cottage Drive, #202
Palmyra, PA 17078

Stoneridge Retirement Living

Janet Lehman *Nov. 30
440 East Lincoln Ave., #330
Myerstown, PA 17067

Colette Aurentz *Oct. 28
440 East Lincoln Ave., #363
Myerstown, PA 17067
717-866-3446

KINDRED PLACE – One Kindred Place
Annville, PA 17003

Nancy Freed * May 31
38 Kindred Place, Annville, PA 17003
717-867-8538

Karen Bennett * October 10
72 Kindred Place, Annville, PA 17003
717-269-6166

LEBANON VALLEY HOME – 550 E. Main St.
Annville, PA 17003

Betty Bartal * Dec. 14
Ruth Boyer
Juanita Fuhrman – *January 26 - 24B, F Wing
Jeanette Heim * Jan. 22

LuAnn Schneider * January 3
St. Anne's Retirement Community
Room PC123L
3952 Columbia Avenue
West Hempfield Twp.,
Columbia, PA 17512
717-285-6141

ALPINE VALLEY HEALTHCARE–
945 Duke Street
Lebanon, PA 17042

Jeanine Keefer – Room 103 (No flowers)
* January 25 484-561-9709
Paul & Kay Peiffer – Room 127
*Paul – April 18
*Kay – July 3 717-644-9279

Tremont Health & Rehab.

Gayle & Ed Olden
44 Donaldson Road
Tremont, PA 17981

*Gayle – Dec. 8
*Ed – April 2

Please send notes or cards to our Shut-in and Homebound members of St. Marks. Let's show everyone that we haven't forgotten about them and brighten up their days. Thank you.

* Birthday

ST. MARK'S SHUT-IN/HOMEBOUND LIST
(Page 2)

Jake Brewer * April 3
913 Tulpehocken Rd.
Richland, PA 17087
717-866-2825

Ginny Gruber * July 18
306 S. 5th St.
Lebanon, PA 17042
717-272-2020

Eva Miller * June 21
845 Mt. Zion Rd.
Lebanon, PA 17046
717-272-4973

Shirley Runkel
732 Soliday Court
Lebanon, PA 17046
717-272-8618

Lois Shuey * Sept. 18
594 Doris Drive
Lebanon, PA 17046
717-273-5996

Gloria Simmers
2000 Walnut Street
Lebanon, PA 17042 * Nov. 21
717-272-3313

Linda Waldron * October 24
1725 Grace Avenue
Lebanon, PA 17046
717-865-7245

Melvin Werner * Nov. 2
134 Hearthstone Lane
Lebanon, PA 17042
717-273-4470

* Birthday

DECEMBER

PRAYER AND EVENTS CALENDAR

2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 Josh Trovinger	2 Lauren Trovinger Bell Rehearsal - 6:30 PM	3 Nathan Trovinger Bible Study - 10 AM	4 Scott & Jen Trovinger	5 Seth Trovinger	6 Brenda Van Winkle
7 Diane Vogel Choir Rehearsal - 8:30 AM Worship - 10 AM	8 Kevin & Linda Waldron	9 Chuck & Sharon Warfel Bell Rehearsal - 6:30 PM	10 Joann Webster Bible Study - 10 AM	11 Sharon Weihrauch Spiritual Council Mtg. 6:15 PM Consistory Mtg. - 7 PM	12 Carol Weise	13 Jason Wengert
14 Ken & Charlotte Wengert Worship - 10 AM Family Day Luncheon Rescue Mission Meal - 2 - 6 PM	15 Jill Wenrich	16 Candace & Stephen Wentzel Bell Rehearsal - 6:30 PM	17 Melvin Werner Bible Study - 10 AM Blue Christmas Service - 7 PM (Online only)	18 Paul, Jennifer, Logan & Olivia Whitman	19 Gail & Dick Winters Youth/Young Adult Cookie Bake	20 Dale & Barbara Wise Youth/Young Adult Cookie Bake
21 Doreen Wise Choir Rehearsal - 8:30 AM Worship - 10 AM	22 Stephanie, Justin, Kaylee, & Cora Wise	23 Steven Wise	24 John Witter Bible Study - 10 AM Christmas Eve Service - 7:30 PM - Cookies @ 7 PM	25 Karl Wolf Pastor Dave & MJ's Dinner - 4:30 PM Christmas Day Merry Christmas!	26 Peter & Theresa Wolf	27 Priscilla (Bish) Wolf
28 Deb Zamonsky Worship - 10 AM	29 Stephanie & Alex Andreozzi	30 Gary & Kathy Andrews	31 David & Lynn Balmer Bible Study - 10 AM New Year's Eve Pastor Will's Service - 10 - 12 PM			