

THE CARILLON

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STAFF

Rev. David A. Jones, Pastor
Cindy Klahr, Secretary
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Cynthia Johnson, Organist
Jim Conzelmann, Music Director
Todd Ryland, Consistory President
Ron Follett, Church Treasurer
Dawn Shultz, Consistory Secretary
Pine Acres

(717) 272-5011

A Prayer for the New Year

Dear God,

Whether I leave behind
a year of joy or of trials and difficulties,
I pause to give thanks.

Thank you for being with me
every day of every year.

Thank you for making all things new
and for giving me the grace of
fresh starts
and new beginnings.

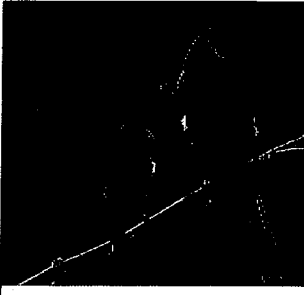
Remind me of your presence
in the days to come,
even when I feel pushed and rushed by
busyness.

Be glorified in my life this year.

Amen.



BLESSINGS FOR A HAPPY AND HEALTHY NEW YEAR



NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTIONS

- Smile** – a little bigger
- Laugh** – a little louder
- Give** – a little more
- Forgive** – a little quicker
- Love** – a little deeper
- Ride** – through life a little slower

This January, why not start the year with an empty jar and fill it with notes about good things that happen. Then, on New Years Eve, empty it and see what awesome things happened throughout the year.

New Year Wishes and Messages

Cheers to new memories and brighter days ahead
A year to cherish and create unforgettable moments
Here's to a year full of new adventures
Wishing you endless joy and laughter this year
May every day bring a special moment to treasure
Another year, another chapter of beautiful memories
Here's to new beginnings and cherished memories
Let this year be a journey of unforgettable moments

Last year went by so fast.
 Time is so valuable. This year, 2026, I'm going to make the most of it.
 Here's to a New Year being filled with:
 Less stress and more faith.
 Genuine friendships and less forced interactions.
 More laughter and less tears.
 Zero drama.
 Hard work, success and time to do the things that matter.

Scriptures for the New Year

"The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases; his mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness."
Lamentations 3:22-23

"Behold, I am doing a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it? I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert."
Isaiah 43:19

"Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come." 2 Corinthians 5:17

"Be renewed in the spirit of your minds, and put on the new self, created to be like God in true righteousness and holiness."
Ephesians 4:23-24

Our hope is not in the new year but in the ONE who makes all things new.



The Journey Continues...

As I am taking down my 2025 calendar, I've been pondering all that will take place by the time we arrive at this point *next* year. There are lots and lots of things that can (and will) happen. In the field of sports, we will be cheering on team USA in the Winter Olympics which are going to be held in Milano Cortina in Northern Italy this year. We'll also crown a new Super Bowl champion (or maybe the Eagles will win again?), plus we'll have the March Madness college basketball tournament, the Stanley Cup, the NBA Championship, the FIFA World Cup, the World Series, plus the major championships in golf and tennis.

In the fields of history and politics, two big events will take place this year. The first will be the 250th anniversary of our nation's independence in July. The second will be an all-important mid term election in November. I think it's safe to assume we will be hearing A LOT about the November election once the summer months arrive.

In our personal lives, there are many things we know will happen. For example: if we own or rent our homes, we know we'll receive 12 electric bills, 12 phone bills, plus all the other bills and payments that will come due throughout the year. Hopefully, we'll have a vacation or two, but we know we'll have birthdays and anniversaries to celebrate (or mourn) along with holidays we can celebrate with friends and family.

For all of the things that are predictable, there are just as many things that are unpredictable. I'm sure by this time next year, we will hear about several catastrophic weather events and tragic accidents, but we don't know when or where they will be. Nor will we know how many miles we'll travel or how many phone calls, texts, or emails we'll receive. And there is no way to predict if people reaching out will be sharing good news or bad news.

But to go along with everything that is unpredictable, is something that is guaranteed. As sure as the sun will rise in the east and set in the west 365 consecutive days throughout 2026, we know God will be with us every day, in every moment, and in every event. So we can't (and shouldn't) worry about stuff that is outside of our control. God's got this. All we can do, is the best we can do. And may we focus our attention on the blessings or challenges of the day, giving God our thanks and praise for all that we have been given. I pray this will be our inspiration this day and every day as...

The Journey Continues...

Pastor Dave

As we close 2025 and turn the calendar to 2026, I hope this past year was a good one for you and that the new year will be even better. Personally, I think 2025 was a very good year for St. Marks UCC. A lot of positive things happened at St. Marks in 2025, and a lot of people had a hand in making those things happen.

Requirements for being a member at St. Marks include attending worship services, partaking in the sacraments of communion, and contributing financially to the mission of the church. However, if all our members saw those requirements as the only things needed to be a member of St. Marks, the church would struggle. We need members who are willing to dig in and get involved outside of simply showing up on a Sunday for worship.

In 2026, I encourage each of you to contemplate what being a member of St. Marks means to you, and I challenge you to take on a more active role at St. Marks. There are a host of opportunities for service at St. Marks including (but not limited to):

- Serving on a committee
- Helping with one or more of our community meals
- Helping with sno-cone day at the end of the school year
- Participating in the mission trips
- Serving on Consistory
- Helping with children's church
- Helping with the upkeep at Pine Acres

I'm sure I've missed some other opportunities for our members to serve but hopefully that should be enough to get you thinking about how you can take a more active role at St. Marks.

To those that are already actively serving in one or more opportunities at St. Marks I offer a sincere "Thank You". But I also challenge you to warmly welcome new members who have expressed an interest in serving and I encourage you to be open to the new ways of thinking and/or doing things that these members might bring to the table.

If St. Marks is going to survive and thrive, we need active participation from a greater percentage of our members and we need to be receptive to change. If we're all working together, we can accomplish many things that will improve our church and our community.

Respectfully,

Todd Ryland

Report of the Consistory - December 2025

The rubber roofing project has been completed. The bill exceeded the funds available and will be covered by a member of the congregation. They will be reimbursed when the funds are available from the 2026 Endowment Fund monies. The leases for both the day care and the Spanish church end as of December 31, 2025. Both leases have been renewed and a \$50 per month rent increase was negotiated for the day care and a \$25 per month rent increase for the Spanish church was negotiated before the leases were signed. Both leases continue through December 31, 2026. Due to continued issues with the elevator contract and lack of communication from the elevator company, attorney Heather Eggert will be contacted to see if she can resolve the issues. James Conzelmann will be assuming the role of Music Coordinator on January 1, 2026, pending all clearances. He and his wife will be transferring their membership to the church. Kenneth Shultz will continue to direct the bell choir until James settles into his new role with the senior choir. The revised budget for 2026 was reviewed and approved for presentation to the congregation in advance of the annual meeting on January 25, 2026. The pastor's housing allowance was set for 2025.

Kid's Team/Youth/Young Adults Corner

Kid's Team

Kid's Team will be heading to Mt Gretna on Sunday, January 18th to go roller skating. Time is 1:30. This will be during open skating and is not exclusive to St Mark's. Liability forms are required and will be included with the paperwork given to Kid's Team members.

Look for the date in February or March to head to the Lancaster Science Factory.

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 winter/spring of 2026:

Game Night – January 3rd – 6:30 – 9:00 PM

Palm Cross creation – March 28th – 6:00 PM

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

Next meeting for this trip is February 1st after service in Fellowship Hall. Working on menu and paperwork.

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. Organizational meeting will be January 4th after church in Fellowship Hall. If interested, but not able to attend, please see Kathy.

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

Thank you to all who helped/donated with dinner at the Rescue Mission on Sunday December 14th. Jenny was very surprised of the support with the bad weather of the day and the power outages just added to our day.

April 19th – our next time at the LRM

September TBD – a grill night with the men at the LRM

November 1st – our second Sunday at the LRM

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:

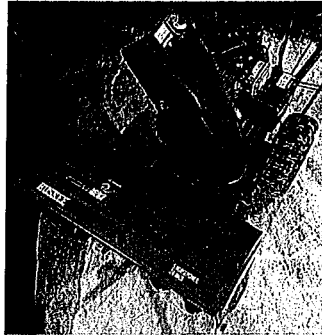
January – January 3 and 17

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.

Pine Acres News

- For Sale – a Huskee snow blower. It has an electric start, 5 horsepower, 24 “ snowblower that has been at Pine Acres. As we are past the years of snow blowing the lane, looking for a good home. \$75 or best offer. See Kathy for more information.



- We're in the process of dropping dead trees. We will need help splitting wood and stacking for future firewood. We are working around the snow. If interested, see Kathy as day may not be a Thursday over the winter.

SOUPER BOWL SUNDAY

The Good Samaritan Committee will be collecting cans of soup for Souper Bowl Sunday. We will start collecting January 11th to February 9th. We will be delivering the cans of soup to Lebanon County Christian Ministries.



ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

Mark your calendar - the Annual Congregational Meeting is scheduled for Sunday, January 25th immediately after the worship service. Please plan on attending this meeting.

The Ladies' Mite Society

One of the oldest and most productive of the organizations of St. Mark's was the Ladies' Mite Society. It began not with the establishment of St. Mark's, but was an extension of the Mite Society Society of Tabor. When the mission activity began on the north side of town, the active women of the movement canvassed their community for new members and began holding regular meetings. Since there were still strong relationships with the "Mother Church", the Societies of both churches resolved to meet together once a month to maintain old relationships and ties.

It was the Mite Society of Tabor who presented St. Mark's with its first communion service.

Although relatively small in number, these women of St. Mark's did more for the financial success of the young congregation than any other segment. Their weekly meetings usually generated a ten-to-twelve-dollar collection; this increased when the ladies began making and offering various items for sale at the meetings. It wasn't long before they were including entertainments, sociables, festivals, and suppers in their ventures. The first large one was a festival held September 4, 1888, at the residence of Mrs. Henry Swope at the corner of Eighth and Guilford Streets. It was held on the lawn and cleared the neat sum of \$88.36.

Since the Chapel had no social hall, the Society's events were held throughout the community. Do you remember these meeting places? The Samuel Light's building, Ninth & the P. & R. Railroad*; a building on Eighth next to the P. & R. Depot; the Market House, Ninth & Lehman Sts**.; "Rise's" block, opposite the C. & L. Railroad Depot; and the Central Market House, Ninth & the P. & R. Railroad.

An announcement in ***St. Mark's Observer***, May 1896 stated: "The Ladies' Mite Society will hold a Rainbow Sociable...on Thursday, May 21st. If you want to see a Rainbow at night, just go to the Market House and you will surely see it. Admission (is) 10 and 5 cents, but worth their face value at any of the tables."

When money was needed the Mite Society was there. These women helped retire the debt on the Chapel, constructed a study, laid a sidewalk, extended the Chapel and built a sanctuary. They not only made money but invented it as well as was noted in the October & November 1900 issue of the ***Observer***. "Some years ago the (Mite) Society concluded to accumulate monies for a new church. The plan was to maintain a number of shares of Building and Loan Association stocks. Ten of these shares have matured several years ago. They again re-invested the monies that had accrued. On October 1st five shares matured and the Society received a check for \$875. This money was paid into the Building Fund treasury. They still have ten more shares which will mature at different periods. We can here see what quiet, systematic giving has done, and would remind the members of the congregation that more ought to associate themselves with the Society."

Today we salute these noble women!

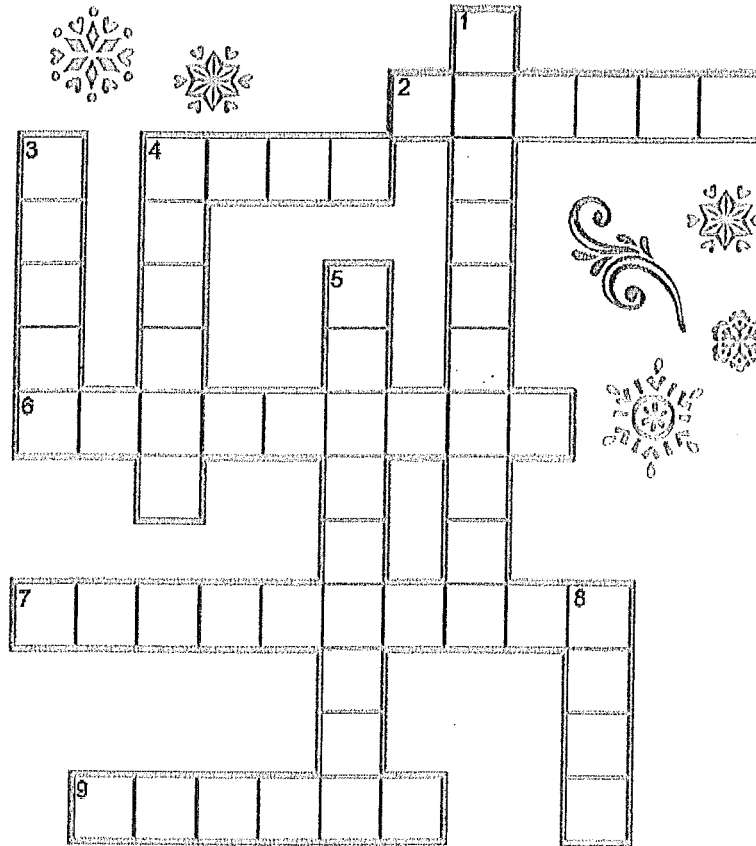
(*The P. & R. Railroad is the Pennsylvania & Reading Railroad, later the Reading Railroad, which was built down the middle of Scull Street - the main tracks through Lebanon.)

**The market house is today the property of Covenant Church where contemporary services are held today.)

Jim Schucker

KID'S KORNER

WINTER WORDS CROSSWORD PUZZLE



ACROSS

- activity that involves sliding down a snow covered hill on a circular object
- something you light to keep warm
- movement or motion people sometimes do to try to keep warm
- clusters of ice crystals that fall from the sky
- hand tool used to remove snow from sidewalks or driveways

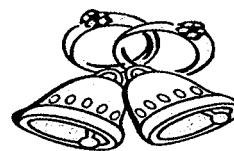
DOWN

- clothing item that people often wear under a sweater or shirt during winter
- footwear designed to keep feet and lower legs warm
- descriptive term for extremely cold weather
- location in a home that wood or gas logs are used in to create warmth
- food that is believed to be warming; comes in various flavors

CABBAGE HAMBURGER

Saute 1 medium onion, chopped in 3 tablespoons butter. Brown 1 pound ground beef, salt and pepper. Spread in 2 qt. baking dish – 3 cups coarsely shredded cabbage. Cover with meat mixture. Top with 3 more cups coarsely shredded cabbage. Pour a 10 ½ oz. can condensed tomato soup over this. You can use spaghetti sauce in place of tomato soup. Bake covered in 350 degrees for 1 hour.

This recipe is in the St. Mark's U.C.C. Mothers Class Recipe Book and is from Juanita Fuhrman.



JANUARY BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

Birthday		Anniversary
January 1	Izayah Raiger	None
January 2	David Musselwhite	
January 3	LuAnn Schneider	
January 5	Graham Musselwhite	
January 10	Logan Whitman	
January 11	Abigail Eggert Kenneth Wengert	
January 12	Ronald Follett Larry Houser	
January 13	Stephen Wentzel Kaylee Ann Wise	
January 15	Heather Eggert	
January 16	Karen Musselwhite J. Scot Ruffner	
January 20	Lowell Sherman	
January 22	Jeanette Heim	
January 23	Paul Whitman	
January 24	Carol Ruffner	
January 25	Jeanine Keefer Candace Wentzel	
January 26	Juanita Fuhrman Matthew Mills	
January 29	Kathy Burke	
January 30	Wyatt Fox	
January 31	Debbie Zamonsky	

SENIOR CORNER

Betty Bartal
Lebanon Valley Home
550 E. Main Street
Annville, PA 17003
717-867-8549

Nancy Basselgia
100 Cottage Drive, #202
Palmyra, PA 17078
717-641-4105

Please send notes, cards or give them a phone call. Let Betty and Nancy know that St. Mark's has not forgotten about them. Thank you.

JANUARY

PRAYER AND EVENTS CALENDAR

2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 Kimberly Balmer New Year's Day	2 Betty Bartal	3 Keith Bartal Jigsaw Evangelism - 9 - 11:30 AM Youth/Young Adult Game Night - 6:30 PM
4 Nancy Basselgia Choir Rehearsal - 8:30 AM Worship - 10 AM Holy Communion WARM Mission Trip Mtg.	5 Bob & Kelly Bell	6 Nathaniel Bell Epiphany Bell Rehearsal - 6:30 PM	7 Zachary Bell Bible Study - 10 AM	8 Karen Bennett Spiritual Council Mtg. 6:30 PM Consistory Mtg. - 7 PM	9 Linda & John Bering	10 Sarah, Dylan & Roman Blauch
11 Judy Blouch Choir Rehearsal - 8:30 AM Worship - 10 AM	12 Barry & Cathy Bossler	13 Casey Bossler Bell Rehearsal - 6:30 PM	14 Ruth Boyer Bible Study - 10 AM	15 Kenneth Brandt	16 Mary Brandt	17 Samuel & Holly Brandt Jigsaw Evangelism - 9 - 11:30 AM
18 Fred Brown Worship - 10 AM Christian Ed Mtg. Kid's Team Roller Skating - 1:30 PM	19 Timothy Brown Martin Luther King, Jr. Day	20 Kathy Burke	21 Roxanne Carpenter Bible Study - 10 AM	22 Kathryn Ceresini	23 Destiny Chernich	24 Matthew Chernich Leb. Comm. Band - 9 AM - 12 PM
25 Ruth Clark Worship - 10 AM Congregational Annual Meeting	26 Rebecca Colban	27 Gerald Collins	28 Colin Daub Bible Study - 10 AM	29 Michael & Heather Daub	30 Ryan Daub	31 Kathryn Dissinger