



Dec. 2024

THE LAMPLIGHTER NEWSLETTER

Elders Class of 2024

Sue Butchinski
Joyce Wheeler
John Hrizuk
Kevin Justice

Elders Class of 2025

Gail Rhinehart
Scott Kramlich
John Faisetty
Jennifer Hartman

Elders Class of 2026

Sally Heffner
Carol Clancy
Eileen Tremblay

Deacons Class of 2024

Troy Guzenski
Sue Hoke
Karen Sentiwany

Deacons Class of 2025

Melody Faisetty
Maddie Stettler
Gail Kramlich

Deacons Class of 2026

Louise Juretus
Deb Snyder

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF HOKENDAQUA

SERVICE LED BY REV. CHUCK MONTS



OFFICE HOURS: Monday
through Thursday, 9am–Noon;
PHONE NUMBER: 610-264-9693.

WEBSITE: Hokeypres.org

EMAIL: hokeypres.org

ORGANIST: Megan Justice

CHOIR DIRECTOR: Joanne Matthews

SECRETARY: Connie Overby

LIVE STREAM OP: Tammy Seidick

PASTOR: Chuck Monts

PASTORS OFFICE HRS. Mon., Wed., and
Thurs. 9:30am-11:30am

PASTORS PHONE: 814-696-4687

PASTORS EMAIL: pastor@hokeypres.org

A Word from Pastor

Chuck



As children, we woke up on Christmas morning to what appeared to be an overflowing mountain of gifts tumbling out from beneath the Christmas tree. As young adults, we realized we needed to cut back, focus on being family together, and not spend so much. So, we picked a name out of a hat, and each person took just one family member to give gifts to. Some tried hand-made gifts for their special pick. Here is my simple gift to you, regarding the miracle and meaning of Christmas -- two poems by Ann Weems:

IN SEARCH OF OUR KNEELING PLACES

In each heart lies a Bethlehem, an inn where we must ultimately answer whether there is room or not. When we are Bethlehem-bound, we experience our own advent in his. When we are Bethlehem-bound, we can no longer look the other way conveniently not seeing stars, not hearing angel voices. We can no longer excuse ourselves by busily tending our sheep or our kingdoms. This Advent, let's go to Bethlehem and see this things that the Lord has made known to us.

In the midst of shopping sprees, let's ponder in our hearts the Gift of Gifts. Through the tinsel, let's look for the gold of the Christmas Star. In the excitement and confusion, in the merry chaos, let's listen for the brush of angels' wings. This Advent, let's go to Bethlehem and find our kneeling places. THE COMING OF GOD Our God is the One who comes to us in a burning bush, in an angel's song, in a newborn child. Our God is the One who cannot be found locked in the church, not even in the sanctuary. Our God will be where God will be with no constraints, no predictability. Our God lives where our God lives, and destruction has no power and even death cannot stop the living. Our God will be born where God will be born, but there is no place to look for the One who comes to us. When God is ready, God will come, even to a godforsaken place like a stable in Bethlehem. Watch...for you know not when God comes. Watch, that you might be found...wherever... wherever...God comes.

Joy in the Journey, Chuck

CHURCH FINANCES: FINIANCIAL REPORT FOR Oct. 2024:

SUE BUTCHINSKI, TREASURER

October

MTD: Actual Budget Over/Under

Income:

Expense:

YTD:

Income

Expense

Per capita apportionment for 2024 is \$48 per member





BIRTHDAYS:

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1. Shannon McNeill | 16. Robert Schlosser |
| 3. Tori Snyder and
Michael Woodling | 17. Katie Dyer |
| 6. Jack Wheeler and Krista
Meyers | 18. Tiffany Bennett Janis
Jasmine Aguila |
| 7. Andrew Snyder | 21. Ethan Guzenski |
| 8. Karen Sentiwany | 23. Connie Overby |
| 9. Wilson Scheirer | 27. Carol Steigerwalt
Janet Ward |
| 12. Dave Micio | Chris Mebane |
| 15. Kathy Fenstermaker | 30. Erin Matthews-Ducko |

Greeters / Ushers for December

- Dec. 1: Jen Hartman and Bonnie Smith and family
Dec. 8: Carol Clancy and Sue Butchinski
Dec. 15: Connie and Phil Overby
Dec. 22: Tom and Carol Steigerwalt
Dec. 29: John and Melody Faisetty



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What's Going On

Girl Scouts meet here every Monday at 6PM.

NA: Will continue to meet here every Thursday at 7PM

Adult Sunday School meets after church service on Sundays. They will begin a more in-depth study of Revelation on Sunday, Nov. 3, at 11am in the Chapel, immediately following the Worship Service.

Note: Choir practice is held every Wednesday of the month except the third Wednesday due to Session meeting. The choir will sing on the 1st and 3rd Sunday of each month.

Tuesday Fellowship will meet at Dunderbak's at Lehigh Valley Mall on December 3rd. at 1pm. Everyone is invited. On December 17 we will have fellowship at the church. Bring a \$10 gift, and if you want to you may make a small craft that will be available.

New Elders and Deacon's elected for 2027: Deacons: Class of 2027 - Connie Overby, Sue Hoke, Karen Sentiwany, and Troy Guzenski. Elders class of 2027: Kevin Justice, Mary Ann Miller, Phil Overby and John Hrizuk.

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service 6:30 PM

FREE COMMUNITY MEAL: We held our final Free Community Meal in November. We were out of food in about an hour, so it was a successful event. We have been doing these dinners since 2016 with the exception of 2020 due to Covid. Thanks to everyone for their assistance over the years.

CHRISTMAS CANDY SALE: Another final event is our holiday candy sales. Christmas will be the last time we will be making candy. As much as we have enjoyed doing it, we're not as young as we used to be so this will be your last chance to enjoy our handmade candies. The order sheet is on the bulletin board and the absolute final day for ordering candy is December 1.

Please drop a card or note to our members who, because of health or transportation problems, find it difficult to worship with us Sunday morning.



Shirley Adams	Sacred Heart Assisted Living by the Creek, 602 E. 21st Street, Apt. 318, Northampton, PA 18067
Janet Bloszinsky	5998 Coplay Rd. Apt. #1, Coplay, PA 18037
Donald DeWalt	276 Circle Drive, Catasauqua, PA 18032
Linda DeWalt	Cedarbrook, 350 S. Cedarbrook Rd., Room 322, Allentown, PA 18104
Dolly Kramlich	Above & Beyond at the Knights, 1545 Greenleaf St., #206, Allentown, PA 18102
Marie Lychak	Gino J. Merli Veteran's Center, 401 Penn Ave., Scranton, PA 18503
Dorothy Somers	3000 Fellowship Drive, Rm 102, Whitehall, PA 18052
Jim Shedlauskas	Cedar Crest Post Acute, 1265 S. Cedar Crest Blvd., Room 312B, Allentown 18013

Stephanie Baily

Karen Becker

Elizabeth Connors

Kathy Cutter

Michael Dobry

Dolly Dougherty

Alisa Gashi

Peter Gilbert

Steve Glick

Raina Gomez

Maria Gontkosky

Charlie Grim

Larry Hein

Louise Hein

Pamela Henckel

Matthew Hess

Nicky Hudack

Shelly Hillpot

Bill Jodry

Lois Jodry

Joe Kanusky

Raymond Kern

Barbara Knarr

Linda Kramaranko

Tom Krause

Rosemary Kravenko

Caroline Laudhorn

Jaden Leiby

Marie Lychak

Ivy Lynch

Todd Messner

Krista Overby & Family

Angie Pontician

Jacob Rivera

Ben Sammak

Rowan Sharrar

Jim Shedlauskas

Joanne Sienkiewicz

Tristen Suloman

Carol Steigerwalt

Jane Tremblay

Donna Walck

Carol Wal

Mike Woodling

Vance Woodley

People suffering from depression.

People in the Military.

People suffering Because of wars.



Scenes from the Chili Cook-Off



Clockwise: Judges, Donna Fink, add, Troy Guzanski. Kids who helped and the crowd who turned out.



80+ people attended

Awards for 1st Place \$200, Second Place \$150, and third Place \$100

Chili Cook-Off Contest:

- Judges Panel Awarded 1st Place to: **Simply Smooth Catering** (Sample #4)
- Judges Panel Awarded 2nd Place to: **Liesel Miksits** (Sample #6)
- Judges Panel Awarded 3rd Place to: **Joanne Matthews** (Sample #1)

People's Choice Awards:

- 1st Place to: **Samuel Owens Restaurant** (Sample #9)
- 2nd Place to: **Joanne Matthews** (Sample #1)
- 3rd Place to: **Simply Smooth Catering** (Sample #4)

Deacons News:

The mitten tree is now in place in fellowship hall. Donated Children's items are going to The Early Childhood Learning Center of Phillipsburg School District where deacon Troy Guzinski teaches.

Adult items will be given to the Warming Station at the Allentown YMCA. That shelter is the Deacons' Christmas and winter project this year. Items needed: ground coffee, sugar packets, granola bars, instant oatmeal packs, Ramen noodle packs, Velveeta microwavable 2.4 oz. Cups, Men's cotton briefs (size m-xl), Gildan heavy cotton tee shirts (adult), hand warmers, lip balm, razors, deodorant, lip balm. Items should be placed in the boxes by the mitten tree. Cash donations will also be accepted; please mark them "Deacons Christmas". Mitten tree deadline is December 15. The Warming Station items will be collected throughout winter.

Zephyr Apartment residents are in our Christmas plans, as are the children of Malawi.

Thanks, as always, for your generosity in making our projects successful.

Tuesday Fellowship for December: December 3 we will meet at the Dunderbak for lunch at 1PM.

Book Club meets Mondays at 10am in Fellowship Hall. We are studying a Presbyterian Women study titled "Celebrating Sabbath." Come join us!

To all members of our church family: may your hearts be warmed by the simple blessings of Christmas and may your new year be a healthy and happy one.

Sunday School meets every Sunday at 9AM, right now we are studying the stories in the New Testament.

Keep feeding your fish, the children are looking forward to choosing the gift they want to give.

We are the pasta Church !!! We have set our goal each month a 100 boxes of pasta--your participation is greatly appreciated.

Isaiah wrote the prophecy. The Lord Himself gave a sign. A virgin conceives, a son is born... she called him Emmanuel.



: *Thanksgiving Service: Was held Monday, Nov. 25. Holy Trinity Memorial Lutheran Church Catasauqua, Pa. Photo to the*



December 2024

SUN

MON


TUE

WED

THU

FRI

SAT

1 1st Sunday of Advent Family Promise will speak. Communion. Food Bank. Advent Candle Readings: Eileen Tremblay and Carol Clancy.	2	3 Tuesday Fellowship: Dunderbark's at 1PM	4	5	6	7
8 Second Sunday of Advent Joyful Noise Advent Candle Readings: Gail Rhinehart and Kevin Justice.	9	10 Carpet Cleaning 10AM.	11	12	13	14
15 Third Sunday of Advent Mission Sunday. Advent Candle Readings: Jen Hartman and Joyce Wheeler.	16	17 Fire Protection check-up Fellowship-bring \$10 gift.	18	19	20	21
22 Fourth Sunday of Advent Deacon's Sunday. Advent Candle Readings: Sally and Tom Heffner.	23	24 Christmas Eve Candlelight Service 6:30PM. Advent candle readings: Sue Butchinski and	25 Christmas Day 	26	27	28