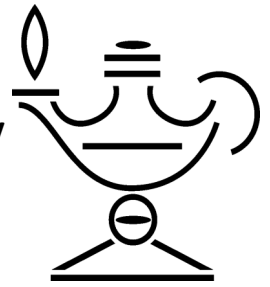


# THE LAMP

A Newsletter of The Juniata Valley Shared Ministry

DECEMBER 2020

www.jvsm.org and www.facebook.com/jvsm2016



## THOUGHTS FROM THE PASTOR



SOME PEOPLE ARE SAYING THAT CHRISTMAS JUST WON'T BE CHRISTMAS THIS YEAR! They cite things like:

- \*people are afraid to leave their homes due to COVID
- \*there's nothing to be joyful about in 2020
- \*many have lost their jobs or have reduced income
- \*family after family have lost loved ones
- \*and our country is so divided along political and racial lines

## WHAT'S TO CELEBRATE?

I truly understand where people are coming from when they say Christmas just won't be Christmas. It has been a very difficult year: emotionally, physically and economically. We need to be aware that so many are hurting, so many are experiencing depression and anxiety. As the church we need to make an extra effort to reach out in comfort and compassion to everyone around us. We cannot let the issues that tend to fracture us into groups keep us from incarnating Jesus Christ to those in need. Within our own church families, we may have differences, things that divide us – but we come together around the one who is born in Bethlehem. We come together over our united ministry to LOVE OUR NEIGHBOR AND IN PROCLAIMING THE GOOD NEWS OF THE CHILD OF BETHLEHEM.



## CHRISTMAS IS STILL CHRISTMAS!

The days of Caesar Augustus (when Jesus was born) were dark days. There was a great divide between the wealthy and the poor. The nation was divided between those who supported Rome and those who didn't. There was anxiety for the future, a struggle just to survive and hopelessness reigned.

It is into that world, which sounds an awful lot like ours, that Jesus came. The arrival of Emmanuel did not require fanfare, fancy decorations, or joyful crowds. Emmanuel came into a dark and troubled world, born in barn, to poor parents. Emmanuel came to bring hope into the hopelessness, love into the anger and frustration, joy into the depression and anxiety and peace into the divided world.

It is this that we celebrate at Christmas, this year more than ever! We celebrate the arrival of the light of the world that shatters the darkness! In fact, this year more than ever CHRISTMAS IS CHRISTMAS! Our hearts are warmed and strengthened with the absolute reality that God is with us! Not just in words, or empty promises, but in the flesh. Come to show us a way to live – where all our loved, the poor are cared for, the different are welcomed, where even our biggest mistakes are forgiven. THIS IS CHRISTMAS!

EMMANUEL – GOD IS WITH US!

**HIGHLAND**

11 Church Road  
Newport, PA 17074

**E-mail:**

hupcsecretary@embarqmail.com

Phone #: (717) 567-9577

**Pastor**

**Rev. Nancy McClure**

**Clerk of Session**

Patricia Shutt

**Church Secretary**

Linda Bitting

**Church Treasurer**

Kathy Smith

**Financial Secretary**

Dennis Tressler

**ELDERS ON SESSION**

Donald Barlup

Cindy McHenry

Nancy Campbell

Janice Zaring

Kathy Smith

Joyce Heintzelman

James Turner

Patricia Shutt

Cecile Willet

**DEACONS**

Darlene Adams

Linda Bitting

Jessica Bryson

Becky Wudtke

Kim Drum

Austin Neidigh

Elaine Buffington

Courtney Archibald

Karen Turner

**HIGHLAND UNITED**



		<b>ANNIVERSARIES</b>	
Dec. 1	Beatrice Myers Donald McClure		
4	Janet Clark Colby Little	Dec. 4	Christopher and Jeniffer Bates
6	Carrol Hench Courtney Archibald	19	David and Marjory Miller
8	Dennis Tressler	24	Bill and Betty Baker
11	Linda Barlup	27	James and Karen Turner
12	Darla Page		
14	Laurie Zaring		
24	Shirley Weibley Judy Landis		
27	Amos Miller		

**TREASURER VOLUNTEER NEEDED:** Highland is looking for a volunteer to take over the job as Treasurer. Please see or call Kathy Smith if interested 717-645-1015,

**CONGREGATIONAL MEETING:** The Session has called a congregational meeting for December 13th following worship for the purpose of making changes in Pastor Nancy's terms of call caused by the closing of Perry Valley.



**ADVENT BIBLE STUDY VIA ZOOM**

LET'S WRAP OURSELVES IN HOPE AND JOY THIS ADVENT SEASON. For three Saturdays in December we will be offering a zoom Bible study that will be focusing on hope, peace and love of this season. The zoom will take place at 8:30am on December 5,12,19. Grab a blanket, a cup of coffee and join us this Saturday and every Saturday in Advent. The zoom connection is: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/324595358?pwd=WEpaSGt5dnJRRHQ0Nzk2Y3pVTGM0UT09>

**SOUP FOR SALE:** Highland is selling the following: Soups—Turkey Corn and Ham and Bean for \$6.00 each. Please see Linda Bitting or Kathy Smith if you would to purchase any soup.

## HIGHLAND UNITED CONTINUED

**HIGHLAND UNITED FINANCES:**



<u>Date</u>	<u>G. Fund</u>	<u>B. Fund</u>	<u>Mission</u>	<u>K. Ministry</u>	<u>Per Capita</u>
10/04/20	\$ 1,368.00	\$ 250.00	\$ 45.00	\$ 0.00	\$ 162.00
10/11/20	\$ 876.00	\$ 75.00	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00
10/18/20	\$ 1,315.00	\$ 100.00	\$ 50.00	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00
10/25/20	<u>\$ 1,032.25</u>	<u>\$ 205.00</u>	<u>\$ 50.00</u>	<u>\$ 91.00</u>	<u>\$ 0.00</u>
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>\$ 4,591.25</b>	<b>\$ 630.00</b>	<b>\$ 145.00</b>	<b>\$ 91.00</b>	<b>\$ 162.00</b>

Per Capita Assessment for 2020 is for 111 members @ \$27.20/member-\$3,019.20. Total given to date for 2020—\$768.54.

**OCTOBER MISSIONS**    Camp Krislund—\$145.00  
**SEPTEMBER MISSIONS**    Presbytery Church USA—\$125.00



### YOUTH SUNDAY SCHOOL SCHEDULE AT HIGHLAND

- December 6th**    All children will be in Clark Hall. We will be making Advent Wreaths and continue talking about Advent.
- December 13th**    Pastor Nancy will begin lesson during the Children’s sermon. Grades Pre-K – 3rd grade will finish the lesson with Pam Adams. Grades 4-7 will participate in Youth Pastor Sunday. The children will assist Pastor Nancy with the Worship Service.
- December 20th**    GO! Lesson -Pastor Nancy will begin lesson during the Children’s sermon. Grades Pre-K – 3rd grade will finish the lesson with Pam Adams. Grades 4-7 will be in the kitchen to prepare a grab and go Coffee Hour snack. **Will someone please volunteer for this day?**
- December 27th**    **NO SUNDAY SCHOOL**

**WORSHIP AND MUSIC COMMITTEE:** The meetings have changed from 2nd Wednesday to 1st Wednesday of the month at 6:00 p.m.

**SESSION MEETINGS:** This meeting has been changed from the 1st Wednesday to the 2nd Tuesday of the month at 6:30 p.m. via zoom.

## HIGHLAND UNITED CONTINUED



### ADVENT SCHEDULE:

12/12, 19      ZOOM ADVENT BIBLE STUDY...grab a cup of coffee, build a fire in the fire place and join us via zoom at 8:30am for our three week Advent study. We'll be talking about Advent in this post-election/pandemic era. Can Christmas still be Christmas? Does the hope of Christmas stand up to all that is going on in our world?

12/6, 13, 20    WORSHIP SERVICES AT 10AM each Sunday and zooming worship.  
12/24           CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP            6PM

### HIGHLAND'S MISSION MOMENTS:

The Mission Team has some sad news, due to COVID we are no longer collecting magazines. Evidently due to lack of volunteers they asked us to hold off on bringing magazines down for awhile. Also, we were going to work with Salvation Army bell ringing at Karns and that also has been canceled due to COVID.

**DID YOU KNOW...** The Perry County Food Bank grew out of cheese. Or, more precisely, a cheese give away. In the early 1980s, the Central Pennsylvania Food Bank sent a letter to the County about a cheese giveaway for seniors. Yes, government cheese came to Perry County through the Office of Aging first, and by 1984 the program outgrew the Office of Aging's ability to administer it. Then, the growing program, more than just cheese by this time, moved into the county's churches for administration, with The National Guard and Campbell's Trucking providing transportation through 1997. Then, the program moved back to the County to administer. It has grown steadily since, in staff, space, and unfortunately, need.

**THANK YOU:** On Sunday, November 8, six children from Highland went to Mutzabaugh's and collected donations of food for the Perry County Food Bank. After three hours, we had collected 792 pounds of food and \$101 in donations. In a time where everything on the news is so negative, we had an amazing day and got to shine God's light in our community. Thank you to the children who helped, Jessica Bryson and Dana Bryan who assisted, and all of the people who donated food. We were overwhelmed with everyone's generosity!!

Laurie Zaring

### PERRY VALLEY

**PERRY VALLEY**

301 Old Ferry Road

Millerstown, PA 17062

**E-mail:**

pcpv@pa.net

**Church Secretary**

Sharon Delancey

**Church Treasurer**

Lori Comp

**Clerk of Session**

Pro Tempe

**Director of Sunday School**

Sharon Delancey

**Financial Secretary**

Peg Bolton

Sally Tengeres

Doris LaForce

**ELDERS ON SESSION**

Linda Fleisher

Russ LaForce

Doris LaForce

Sharon Delancey

**DEACONS**

Linda Sanderson

Nancy Sweger

Sally Tengeres



## ADVENT BIBLE STUDY VIA ZOOM

LET'S WRAP OURSELVES IN HOPE AND JOY THIS ADVENT SEASON. For three Saturdays in December we will be offering a zoom Bible study that will be focusing on hope, peace and love of this season. The zoom will take place at 8:30am on December 5,12,19. Grab a blanket, a cup of coffee and join us this Saturday and every Saturday in Advent. The zoom connection is: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/324595358?pwd=WEpaSGt5dnJRRHQ0Nzk2Y3pVTGM0UT0p>

**PRAYER CONCERNS:** Bob Sweger, Dave Foose, Helen Herr Atticks, Bob Miller, Jane Ann Baney, all of our Church family, our community and country.



The list of thank you's this month is long because so many of you do so much to help our church and community and you do it without expecting thanks and fanfare. Thank you: to all those who donated to Harvest Home, to those who helped with decorating the sanctuary, to our deacons who do so much behind the scenes, to Tom Ulsh who does so many things for us, to all of you for your continued love for God and God's church.



If any of our currently active members want to take a memento from the church, please reach out to Sharon Delancey, Linda Fleisher or Doris and Russ LaForce and we will put your request on a list. Items may be removed after 12/27.

### ADVENT SCHEDULE:



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12/6, 13, 20 WORSHIP SERVICES AT 8:45 AM each Sunday and zooming worship.  
12/24 CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP 10PM

**WESTMINSTER**

3rd and Lemon Streets  
Mifflintown, PA 17059

**E-mail:**

westmin-sterupc@gmail.com

**Clerk of Session**

Gabe Book

**Church Secretary**

Judy Armstrong

**Church Treasurer**

**Sunday School**

**Superintendent**

John Shirk

**Sunday School Treasurer**

Diane Marshall

**ELDERS ON**

**SESSION**

Aaron Geedey

Shelly Horning

Deb Heisey

Rich Swab

Jan Manbeck

Gabe Book

Kathy Brown

**WESTMINSTER UNITED**

**Dec. Birthdays:** 1 Don McClure 12 Meghan Geedey 16 David Patton 20 Pete Swab  
25 Jill Seward 31 Joy Abram

**Dec. Anniversaries:** 21 Aaron and Meghan Geedey 27 Joseph and Connie Benner



**HOLIDAY MEAL DONATIONS** - (These are the foods that are hard for us to get): Turkeys, Turkey Breasts, Hams (3-5 lbs.), canned Sweet Potatoes, and Fruit Cocktail. A donation of \$20.00 will purchase one complete meal!



Our blessings box continues to offer support to folks in our community that need help during these times. In fact, we are in the process of building a bigger blessings box! Please continue to place your donations in the box in the fellowship hall. WE ARE BLESSED TO BE A BLESSING.



**COMMUNITY OUTREACH:** Anyone needing meals for shut-ins, please call one of the Deacons.

**OFFERING ENVELOPES:** Anyone who would like offering envelopes for 2021, please call the church office (717-436-2219).

**A SEXTON IS NEEDED AT WESTMINSTER** – Position is open to either a church member or member of the community. If interested, please contact Jane Shirk at 717-953-5310.

## WESTMINSTER UNITED CONTINUED



### ADVENT BIBLE STUDY VIA ZOOM

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AGAIN THIS YEAR THE FOOD PANTRY will join forces with the Boy Scouts, Kiwanis, and **YOU** to bring Thanksgiving and Christmas meals to as many Juniata County families living in poverty as possible. When the Boy Scouts come to your door in November for their annual food drive, please give generously. If you can help us to start stockpiling the following foods for the holidays, we would really appreciate it. Our goal is to provide 800 meals: 400 for Thanksgiving and 400 for Christmas.



### ADVENT SEASON AT WESTMINSTER:

12/12, 19 ZOOM ADVENT BIBLE STUDY...grab a cup of coffee, build a fire in the fire place and join us via zoom at 8:30am for our three week Advent study. We'll be talking about Advent in this post-election/pandemic era. Can Christmas still be Christmas? Does the hope of Christmas stand up to all that is going on in our world?

12/6, 13, 20 WORSHIP SERVICES AT 10AM each Sunday and zooming worship.

12/24 CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP 6PM

Link for this service will be forthcoming



## JUNIATA VALLEY SHARED MINISTRY



### **Please keep in prayer our church members and our friends:**

Colton Cook, Peg Tressler, Sherry Rolston, Robert Rolston, Jason Barlup, Martha Beatty (at William Penn, Lewistown), Fred Marshall (at Locust Grove), Bob Sweger, David Foose, Robbie Lauver, Jan Landis, Barry Cornell, Eddi Kay Gill, Eleanor Stallman, George Yohn, Bob Mikesell, Jane Ann Baney, Glenda Dillman, Mark Campbell, Jane Fogleman, Jane Shirk, Norma Parker, Joe Benner, Rich Brunner and Steve Adams.



### **ADVENT BIBLE STUDY VIA ZOOM**

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<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/324595358?pwd=WEpaSGt5dnJRRHQ0Nzk2Y3pVTGM0UT09>



Each Sunday in Advent in person worship will take place as follows: 8:45 Perry Valley, 10am Highland 11am Westminster. ZOOM SERVICE will be streamed from the Highland Sanctuary at 10am. Here is our connection for worship this Sunday.

<https://zoom.us/j/912154723?pwd=cHI2eVJBVWM0azV4U0MzZ1NtdHEzUT09>

IF YOU ARE USING A CELL OR LAND LINE:

[+1 929 205 6099](tel:+19292056099)



## JUNIATA VALLEY SHARED MINISTRY CONTINUED



### ADVENT 2020

December 5 <sup>th</sup>	Advent Bible Study via zoom Cookie Sale at Highland	8:30am 9:00am
December 6 <sup>th</sup>	Advent II Worship Perry Valley Highland and Zoom Westminster	8:45am 10:00am 11:00am
December 12 <sup>th</sup>	Advent Bible Study via zoom	8:30am
December 13 <sup>th</sup>	Advent III Worship Perry Valley Highland and Zoom Congregational Meeting following worship Westminster	8:45am 10:00am 11:00am
December 19 <sup>th</sup>	Advent Bible Study via zoom	8:30am
December 20 <sup>th</sup>	Advent III Worship Perry Valley Highland and Zoom Westminster Congregational Meeting following worship	8:45am 10:00am 11:00am
December 24 <sup>th</sup>	Christmas Eve Highland and Zoom Westminster Perry Valley	6:00pm 8:00pm 10:00pm

\*\*\*schedule may change due to COVID

## JVSM DECEMBER CALENDAR

<b>Sun</b>	<b>Mon</b>	<b>Tue</b>	<b>Wed</b>	<b>Thu</b>	<b>Fri</b>	<b>Sat</b>
		<i>1</i>	<i>2 Worship/Mission H Zoom 6:00 Congreg. Mtg. 7:00 W</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>4</i>	<i>5 Bible Study— 8:30 a.m. ZOOM Cookie Sale H 9:00 –2:00</i>
<i>6 H Adult Sunday School 9:00 a.m. and Zoom Worship AT 10:00 a.m. and Zoom 8:45 a.m. PV 11:00 a.m. W</i>	<i>7</i>	<i>8 Session H 6:30 Zoom Trustees W 6:00</i>	<i>9</i>	<i>10 Session Mtg. PV 5:30</i>	<i>11</i>	<i>12 Bible Study—8:30 a.m. ZOOM</i>
<i>13 H Adult Sunday School 9:00 a.m. Worship 10:00 a.m. H and Zoom 8:45 a.m. PV 11:00 a.m. W</i>	<i>14</i>	<i>15</i>	<i>16 Session W 6:30</i>	<i>17</i>	<i>18</i>	<i>19 Bible Study— 8:30 a.m. ZOOM</i>
<i>20 H Adult Sunday School 9:00 a.m. Worship 10:00 a.m. H and Zoom 8:45 a.m. PV 11:00 a.m. W</i>	<i>21</i>	<i>22</i>	<i>23</i>	<i>24 Christ- mas Eve 6:00 H 8:00 W 10:00 PV</i>	<i>25 Christ- mas</i>	<i>26</i>
<i>29 H Adult Sunday School 9:00 a.m. Worship 10:00 a.m. H and Zoom 8:45 .m. PV 11:00 a.m. W</i>	<i>28</i>	<i>29</i>	<i>30</i>	<i>31</i>		

**Highland United Presbyterian Church**

11 Church Road

Newport, PA 17074