

FIRST UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST  
110 ROUTE 61 SOUTH  
SCHUYLKILL HAVEN, PA 17972  
Rev. Ms. Shawn D. VanDyke, Pastor  
ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

*Serving God through Christ; Serving Others with Love*

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*Information Deadline for the LENT & EASTER 2017 (MAR/APR/MAY) NEWSLETTER  
is Sunday, February 5!*



**FIRST CHURCH HERALD**  
Vol. 35, Issue 6      Newsletter of First UCC      Sch. Haven, PA  
**DECEMBER 2016, JANUARY & FEBRUARY 2017**

*All is Well...*

עִמָּנוּאֵל



*emmanuel*

G O D W I T H U S

FIRST UNITED CHURCH of CHRIST  
*Serving God through Christ; Serving Others with Love*  
110 Route 61 South, Schuylkill Haven, PA 17972

**PHONE** – (570) 385-2049      **FAX #** – (570) 385-3019  
**OFFICE HOURS** – 9 AM - 1 PM (Monday-Friday)  
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**WEBSITE** – [www.firstucc-haven.org](http://www.firstucc-haven.org)

*If we are not in the office or have stepped away from the phone,  
please leave a message on the answering machine  
and we will get back to you as soon as possible.*

**Rev. Ms. Shawn D. VanDyke, Pastor**  
25 S. Margaretta St., Schuylkill Haven, PA 17972  
(570) 385-5425      [firstuccpastor@verizon.net](mailto:firstuccpastor@verizon.net)      Cell 570-617-7185

**OTHER STAFF**

**Minister of Music – Chris Evans**  
([chrisevans838@gmail.com](mailto:chrisevans838@gmail.com) or 717-329-6904)

**Church Secretary – Jen Semanco**  
**Sexton – Linda Lopez**

**WORSHIP** – Sundays, 9:30 AM  
**CHILDREN'S CHURCH** – Sundays, 9:30 AM

**2016 CONSISTORY MEMBERS**

**Elders**- Harris Bradley (385-1494), Bobbie Donati (385-7956), Linda Pritiskutch (366-2032), Kim Quinn (622-8650), Kelly Schaeffer (385-0953) & Rusty Searle (385-2533)

**Deacons**- Brian Edling (385-7343), Keith Edling (385-1199), George Hosler (366-1400), Carrie Ann Klinger (385-5979), Kenny Klinger (385-5979), & Kris Sonon (294-1243)

**2016 CONSISTORY OFFICERS**

**President** – Keith Edling      **Vice President** – Kim Quinn  
**Recording Secretary** – Bobbie Donati  
**Treasurer** – Carrie Ann Klinger ([firstucctreasurer@verizon.net](mailto:firstucctreasurer@verizon.net))  
**Special Funds Treasurer** – Jen Semanco

**SALUTATIONS FROM SHAWN**

**All Is Well**

"God's in His Heaven, all's right with the world."

These words of faith come from the English poet Robert Browning who lived from 1812 to 1889. While we admire Browning's complete trust in God, you have to wonder if he lived in a simpler time. All's right with the world? You couldn't prove it by me as I listen to the news of the nation and world.

"God's in His Heaven." Maybe that's where we go wrong. Jesus came to earth a fragile baby called "Emmanuel" which means "God is with us." Maybe too often we think of God as remote and removed, somewhere in the ether above us. God isn't just there; God is everywhere. God is with us always.

As Advent arrives and we prepare for Christmas, we can discipline ourselves to look for "God-with-us". In the young woman raking leaves off her elderly neighbor's yard. In the CEO who takes time out of his day for his Little Brother. In the staff members of charities who accept low pay in order to serve their neighbors in need.

Where have you seen God today? Where do you see darkness falling into light and rejoicing over goodness? Where do you hear hope proclaimed as voices lift in song? Where do you see evidence that a child was born to us to be our Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father and Prince of Peace?

God is in heaven and God is in the world. God is with us. The world is not always a wonderful place. Our lives are often full of struggle. Jesus' life was the same; he knew sorrow and was acquainted with grief. Jesus also knew God's love, a gift so immense he could not keep it to himself. So he prepared the Holy Way, a path of everlasting joy and gladness leading home, leading to God.

God loves us. God is with us. All is well.

Yours in Christ,  
*Pastor Shawn*

While I am on vacation December 26 through January 2, Pastor Jim Fidler will provide pastoral care. Please call the church office if someone is ill or enters the hospital. You may reach Pastor Fidler at Faith Reformed Church in Landingville: 570-366-3650.

## WORSHIP IN ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS

### ADVENT 2016 – EPIPHANY 2017

With a nation in turmoil, struggling with internal and external conflict, people yearn for hope, joy and peace just as they did when Jesus was born. The One named "Emmanuel" ("God is with us") reminds us today that "All Is Well" for we have received a "Foolish and Impossible Grace."

### 2016 ADVENT THEME – ALL IS WELL

#### November 27 **All Is Well: Darkness Fell into Light**

First Sunday of Advent; Hanging of the Greens  
Romans 13:11-14 An Urgent Appeal  
Matthew 24:36-44 The Necessity for Watchfulness

#### December 4 **All Is Well: Angels and Earth Rejoice**

Second Sunday of Advent; Communion; Angel Tree Gifts Due  
Romans 15:4-13 The Gospel for Jews and Gentiles  
Matthew 3:1-12 The Proclamation of John the Baptist

#### December 11 **All Is Well: Go and Tell**

Third Sunday of Advent; CE Advent Worship  
James 5:7-10 Patience in Suffering  
Matthew 11:2-11 Messengers from John the Baptist

#### December 18 **All Is Well: Lift Up Your Voice and Sing**

Fourth Sunday of Advent; Bells and Carols  
Romans 1:1-7 Grace and Apostleship  
Matthew 1:18-25 The Birth of Jesus the Messiah

#### December 24 **All Is Well: Born Is Now Emmanuel**

#### Christmas Eve (Saturday) 7:30 PM and 11 PM

Candlelight, Carols and Communion  
Titus 2:11-14 The Grace of God Appeared  
Luke 2:1-20 The Birth of Jesus

#### December 25 **All Is Well: Peace on Earth**

Christmas Day; Scripture; Music; Communion  
Titus 2:11-14 The Grace of God Appeared  
Luke 2:1-20 The Birth of Jesus  
NO Children's Church; NO Confirmation Class



### 2017 EPIPHANY THEME – FOOLISH AND IMPOSSIBLE GRACE

#### January 1 **Foolish and Impossible Grace: Mystery Revealed**

Epiphany Sunday; New Year Celebration; Everybody Birthday  
Ephesians 3:1-12 The Mystery of God's Grace  
Matthew 2:1-12 Visitors from the East  
NO Children's Church; NO Confirmation Class

## WORSHIP IN EPIPHANY

#### January 8 **Foolish and Impossible Grace: Baptism of Forgiveness**

1<sup>st</sup> Sunday after Epiphany; Renewal of Baptismal Vows; Communion  
Acts 10:34-43 Hear the Good News  
Matthew 3:13-17 The Baptism of Jesus

#### January 15 **Foolish and Impossible Grace: Called into Fellowship**

2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday after Epiphany; Installation of Consistory  
1 Corinthians 1:1-9 Thanks to God Always  
John 1:29-42 The Lamb of God

#### January 22 **Foolish and Impossible Grace: United in the Same Mind**

3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday after Epiphany; Ecumenical Sunday  
1 Corinthians 1:10-18 Division in the Church  
Matthew 4:12-23 Jesus Begins His Ministry in Galilee

#### January 29 **Foolish and Impossible Grace: Blessed in Weakness**

4<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Epiphany; Healing Service  
1 Corinthians 1:18-31 The Foolishness of God  
Matthew 5:1-12 The Beatitudes

#### February 5 **Foolish and Impossible Grace: Salt and Light**

Fifth Sunday after Epiphany; Communion; Souper Bowl of Caring  
1 Corinthians 2:1-12 Proclaiming Christ Crucified  
Matthew 5:13-20 Salt and Light

#### February 12 **Foolish and Impossible Grace: Merely Human**

Sixth Sunday after Epiphany - Septuagesima  
1 Corinthians 3:1-9 On Divisions in the Church  
Matthew 5:21-37 Concerning Anger

#### February 19 **Foolish and Impossible Grace: Give to Everyone**

Seventh Sunday after Epiphany - Sexagesima  
1 Corinthians 3:10-23 The Foundation of Christ  
Matthew 5:38-48 Concerning Retaliation

#### February 26 **Foolish and Impossible Grace: Witnesses of Majesty**

Transfiguration Sunday - Quinquagesima  
2 Peter 1:16-21 Witnesses of Christ's Glory  
Matthew 17:1-9 The Transfiguration



## OFFERINGS

### Communion & Food Pantry Donations

**December 4**

As we come to be fed at the Lord's Table, we remember those in our community who have difficulty feeding themselves. Our donations of non-perishable foods to the SH Food Pantry are much needed and appreciated.

### Bethany Children's Home

**December 11**

Our gifts support Bethany's ministry to neglected and at-risk teens who can no longer live at home. At Bethany they receive love and education that teaches them to be self-sufficient. Your offerings provide a home for children in need.

### The Compassion Fund

**Dec. 18, Jan. 15 & Feb. 19**

This Special Offering is placed in an emergency fund for church members' use.

### Christmas Fund

**God's Love Colors Everything**

**Dec. 18**

A ministry of the Pension Boards, the offering provides direct financial assistance to retired and active UCC authorized ministers and lay employees and their surviving spouses, including pension and health premium supplementation, emergency assistance, and Christmas thank-you checks.

### OCWM (Our Church's Wider Mission)

**January 29**

The OCWM offering is used within the PSEC for local ministries.

### Blanket Sunday

**February 12**

Through Church World Service, a gift of just **\$10** will provide a blanket for someone in need. For some people, this blanket may be their only shelter.

### Advent Offering Envelopes

Advent offering envelopes will be sent out as part of a special mailer. The envelope offerings collected for the **Advent Offering** will be used to support the on-going ministry of First UCC.

### Special Offering Envelopes

The envelope offerings collected for **Christmas Eve** (December 24), **Christmas Day** (December 25), and **Epiphany** (January 1) will be used to support the on-going ministry of First UCC. The envelope offerings collected for **Meat Bingo** (January 22) will be used to help supplement the fundraiser.

### Initial Offering

The money collected for **\$5 Initial Offering** is used to offset the cost of printing the offering envelopes.

### Church Change Special Offering

Our Church Change offering will be donated to the Schuylkill Haven Council of Churches Community Ministries.

## CHILDREN'S CHURCH

November 27 No Children's Church  
First Sunday of Advent; Hanging of the Greens

December 4 Go and Tell

December 11 No Children's Church  
BCE Advent Worship: the children, confirmands and teens will lead worship. Please arrive at church by 8:45 AM for rehearsal.

December 18 Born Is Now Emmanuel

December 25 No Children's Church

January 1 No Children's Church



**For the Season of Epiphany, the children will learn about the stories of the Apostle Peter recorded in the Book of Acts.**

January 8 Peter Heals a Crippled Beggar Acts 3

January 15 Peter and John in Prison Acts 4

January 22 Peter and John in Samaria Acts 8

January 29 Peter Heals Acts 9

February 5 Peter and Cornelius Acts 10

February 12 Peter Explains His Ministry Acts 11

February 19 An Angel Rescues Peter Acts 12

February 26 No Children's Church



Thank you to our faithful teachers who share God's love with our children: Austin Boyer, Delia Edling, Lisa Edling, Linda Lopez, Malaki Nye, Kera Paul and Lora Yoder.

### **SERVICE CANCELLATIONS**

When it snows we may need to cancel Sunday services. If this situation should arise we will notify local radio stations. Please listen to 1360 AM or 105.5 FM for any cancellation information. We will also have cancellation information on the church answering machine and our Facebook page.

## ADULT GATHERINGS

### Monday Bible Study, 10-11 AM in the Weiser Board Room

As we prepare for Christmas, we are reading through the Book of Isaiah, often described as the Fifth Gospel because of the many prophecies which seem to point to Jesus. December 26 and January 2 we will not meet, resuming weekly gatherings on January 9. Drop in whenever it fits your schedule; weekly participation is not essential. If you need a Bible, please talk to Pastor Shawn.

### Listening to Jesus: Loving Ourselves

#### Third Thursday, January 19 and February 16, 7 PM

Jesus' great commandments are that we should love God with our heart, mind, soul and strength, and that we should love our neighbors **as we love ourselves**. (Matthew 22:34-40) We're so busy we often don't take time to care for ourselves. We won't meet in December since we don't need more stress. A not-too-scientific study has determined the third Monday in January is the most depressing day of the year so on January 19 we will talk about depression. Logically it follows that February 16 we should talk about love, specifically self-love. A healthy dose of humor will be served at every session. "Let us love one another as we have first been loved." (John 13:34)

## ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

### NOTICE OF ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

The Annual Congregational meeting to approve the 2017 Proposed Budget, 2016 Committee Reports, and 2017 Consistory members is scheduled for:

**Sunday, November 20, 2016**

Please plan to attend and participate in the important issues to be addressed. Annual Reports are in the Narthex.

## ANNUAL FINANCIAL CONGREGATIONAL MTG

The vote for the Kline Fund Tithe will take place Sunday, February 19, when the final 2016 YTD Financial Report will be presented for approval. 2016 Financial Reports will be available in the Narthex on Sunday, February 5.

The contents of this newsletter can be found on the church's website, [www.firstucc-haven.org](http://www.firstucc-haven.org), so that you can access it easily on line.

## CHRISTIAN PASSAGES / SPIRITUAL JOURNEYS

**Births** – **Jaxon Corby**, born August 17, is the son of **Bill and Heather**. He was also welcomed by big sister **Lizzie** and grandpa **Bob**. Congratulations!!

**Sullivan Cash Storm**, born November 4, is the son of Amy & Mike. He was also welcomed by big brother Grayson, grandmother **Gail Kershner**, and aunt **Sarah DeCaluwe**.

## CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT & COMMUNION

### Saturday, December 24 - TWO WORSHIP SERVICES 7:30 PM AND 11 PM

With beloved carols and special music, with communion and candlelight, we will celebrate the birth of our Savior as we gather on Christmas Eve. In addition to our traditional 7:30 PM worship service, we will offer an 11 PM worship service. This service ends at midnight as we greet the first minutes of the day of Christ's birth with grateful praise.

*All this took place to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet Isaiah: "Look the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel," which means, "God is with us." --Mt. 1:22-23*

## EVIDENCE OF STEWARDSHIP

The following totals are up to and including the end of October 2016 plus a comparison to October 2015 & 2014.

	<b>Oct 2016</b>	<b>Oct 2015</b>	<b>Oct 2014</b>
TOTAL EXPENSES –	\$175,409.26	\$187,760.81	\$197,699.05
REVENUE –	\$ 66,040.62	\$ 67,185.39	\$ 64,434.50
Resources from Kline Fund –	\$107,991.00	\$118,950.00	\$130,875.00
TOTAL REVENUE –	\$174,031.62	\$186,135.39	\$195,309.50
Gain/Loss –	\$ -1,377.64	\$ -1,625.42	\$ -2,389.55

**2017 Offering Envelopes** will soon be in the hall next to the Sanctuary. Please pick up your envelopes & those of friends and family. This will save the church mailing expenses. If you do not find envelopes for yourself or someone else who wants envelopes, **PLEASE CALL THE CHURCH OFFICE (385-2049)**. If you are unable to pick up your envelopes by the end of January and wish to have them mailed to you, please call the church office.

## COMMUNITY EVENTS

### Opportunity House

Supportive services are offered for veterans who are homeless or facing homelessness. Services may include: housing/rental expenses; moving expenses; transportation; child care; VA Benefit referrals; education, health care and legal referrals. For more information call 570-604-6948.

### Surviving the Holidays Seminar

Tuesday November 22, 7-9 PM

Sunday, December 18, 1:30-3:30 PM

Bethesda EC Church Library, Reedsville.

This seminar helps those who are grieving to find hope. For more information, call Bethesda EC at 570-739-2241 or call Paul at 570-294-0778.

Regular GriefShare Meetings are held the 2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Sundays at 1:30 PM.



### Wreaths Across America

Thursday, December 15, NOON

*Remember the Fallen, Honor Those Who Serve*

Schuylkill Haven American Legion and Auxiliary Post 38 will welcome the Wreaths Across American Convoy on its way to Arlington Cemetery. Wreaths will be placed at the Vietnam Veterans Memorial to represent each branch of the military. The community is invited for the ceremony.

## COMMUNITY RESOURCES

**Al-Anon Meetings, Wednesdays and Fridays.** Two meetings are offered weekly in Schuylkill Haven for families and friends of alcoholics: Wednesday evenings here at First Church and Friday evenings at Grace EC Church. For info call Sara 570-449-1830 or Tanya 570-497-0356.

**LIHEAP.** The Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program, known as LIHEAP, helps low-income families pay their heating bills. Apply online at [www.compass.state.pa.us](http://www.compass.state.pa.us) or call 877-306-5439.

## PSEC-UCC

**PSEC Fall Meeting Summary.** Sunday, November 13, the Pennsylvania SE Conference gathered for worship, prayer, and shared visioning about our ministry in service to Christ. A 2017 budget was approved. The Habakkuk 2017 General Synod Resolution calling for testing of the new Manual on Ministry passed. A new Associate Conference Minister for Congregational Development will be introduced on January 21 at a Special Meeting of the PSEC at St. Paul's UCC in Amityville.

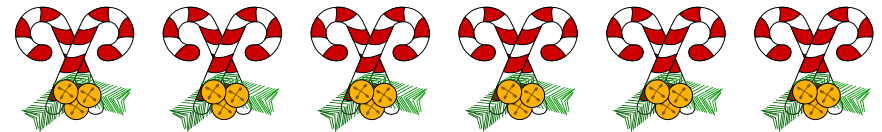
## CONFIRMATION

**Confirmation Class** meets in the Weiser Board Room Sundays after worship until noon. Special dates of importance include:

- Hanging of the Greens Service Project -- November 20 until 1:30 PM
- BCE Advent Worship -- Sunday, December 11, 8:45 AM Walk-Thru
- NO CLASS – Sunday, December 25. Merry Christmas!
- NO CLASS – Sunday, January 1. Happy New Year!
- January Classes resume SUNDAY, JANUARY 8 after worship.

**See the "Fellowship" & "Youth & Teens" pages for more information.**

If a confirmand is ill or will be absent from either class or worship, please call Pastor Shawn. Church: 570-385-2049. Home: 570-385-5425.



## EVANGELISM

### All Is Well: All Are Welcome

Evangelism is the heart of God's mission. The primary mission of the local church is to proclaim the gospel of Jesus Christ. This is the time of year when people visit churches looking for a church home. Church growth research is clear: visitors form opinions about churches within thirty seconds of walking through the door. If you notice someone you haven't met before, please greet them. Even if they are church members who are unable to attend worship regularly, they will appreciate your friendliness.

## MEAT BINGO

Saturday, January 28, 1 PM

Doors open at 11 AM

Tickets - \$15

Raffles & Specials are extra  
Food & Drinks are available



## FELLOWSHIP AND FUN

**Annual Christmas Party** **Friday, December 2, 6:30 PM**  
**All ages are welcome.** Adults and teens participate in a gift exchange and Chris leads us in caroling as we wait for the arrival of Santa. Parents and grandparents, **SANTA WOULD LIKE TO GIVE A GIFT TO EVERY CHILD BUT THE CHURCH DOES NOT PROVIDE GIFTS:** please call the church office if you have any questions about this. Adults and teens, please bring a wrapped gift costing \$5 or less suitable for male or female for the gift exchange. Hess Catering will provide the food. Please sign up by Sunday, November 27. A free will offering will be received to help defray the cost of the meal.

**SOUL (Seniors Out to Lunch)** **Second Tuesday, Noon**  
 SOUL consists of senior members of the congregation who like to get together at local restaurants. If you would like to join SOUL for any of their upcoming luncheons, call Iris Weller (366-0897) so that they can save a seat for you!  
**Tuesday, December 13, Noon – Country Squire**  
**Tuesday, January 10 – JA Chinese Buffet, Hamburg**  
**Tuesday, February 14 – Roman Delight, Orwigsburg**

**Christian Rock-N-Bowl** **Sunday, November 27, 2-4 PM**  
**Strike Zone Alleys, Pottsville** **Sunday, January 29, 2-4 PM**  
 \$10 covers unlimited games for two hours and shoe rental. Bring extra money for snacks. The Board of Christian Education will cover the cost of bowling for church teens and children who are in high school or younger.

## HEALING SERVICES

**Sunday, December 18 and Sunday, January 29**  
 For people who have experienced the death of a loved one, the loss of a job, the pain of illness or a broken relationship, the holiday season can be anything but joyful. Depression is not an uncommon experience over the holidays. During worship on December 18, the Fourth Sunday of Advent, we will offer a special prayer for healing of those who struggle to find hope.  
 On January 29 we will seek God’s healing and restoration as winter’s darkness gives way to new light with a fifth Sunday Order for Healing. Through prayer we turn to God to fill our needs, knowing God sent Jesus Christ the great healer to live among us for this reason.



## MEAT BINGOS

The profit from the September 10 Meat Bingo was \$1449.86, plus \$148 collected in offering envelopes. The profit from the November 12 Meat Bingo was approximately \$2500. Profits from the bingos are placed in the church’s general budget to be used towards the everyday expenses.

**Our next Meat BINGO is scheduled for Saturday, January 28.** Doors open at 11 AM; games begin at 1 PM. The prizes will be packages of meat. There will be 20 games for \$15. Specials & Raffles are extra. Food and refreshments will be available. We are also looking for helpers age 13 and older. Please call the church office if you are able to volunteer.

**PARKING:** When parking for our fundraisers, we ask that all workers park in the upper lot so the spots in the lower lot are available for our patrons.

## MUSIC MINISTRY

**Bell Choir Rehearsal in December**  
 Recently we explored a new approach for Bell Choir and will do the same for December. Since people can’t always make long-term commitments, three or four practice sessions will precede each presentation in worship. Rehearsal will be held Sunday mornings at 8:15 AM in the Music Room.  
 Rehearsal: November 27, December 4, 11 & 18  
 Performance: December 18

Even if you don’t know how to read music, you are welcome to join the Bell Choir. New members are needed for the Praise Band as well. You can reach Chris Evans, our Minister of Music, at 717-329-6904 or email him at [chrisevans838@gmail.com](mailto:chrisevans838@gmail.com).

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**BOARD OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATION MEETINGS: 6 PM**  
 Tuesday, December 6  
 January (NO Meeting)  
 Tuesday, February 7

Church members are welcome to attend BCE Meetings as we work together to provide Christian nurture to all ages in the congregation.

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**CONISTORY MEETINGS: 6:30 PM**  
 Wednesday, December 14 – Christmas Dinner @ Hoss’s  
 Wednesday, January 11  
 Wednesday, February 8

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## MISSION OPPORTUNITIES

**Giving Tuesday.** Thanksgiving is followed by "Black Friday", "Small Business Saturday" (when we shop locally to support our community), and "Cyber Monday" for those who prefer to buy online. "Giving Tuesday" on November 29 is designated as a day to give to charities working to feed the hungry, fight disease, support veterans, and more, when we support God's people in need. A charitable contribution to honor family or friends might be the perfect gift. Visit "Charity Navigator" or "giving.org" to verify legitimate charities.

**Angel Tree Gifts.** Gift cards are hanging on the Angel Tree in the Narthex for children from the Pottsville Salvation Army, the Gaudenzia Treatment Center in Ashland and for two local families. The cards note the age and gender of the children along with their clothing size and wish list. Gift cards would also be welcomed for the parents. In addition, cards will list food items needed for a Christmas meal. Please return your gifts, unwrapped and with the gift card attached, by December 4 so they can be distributed by Christmas.

**Christmas Treat Donations** **Sunday, December 11**  
As you make Christmas cookies this year, please donate a dozen to share with the church. The cookies will be enjoyed at fellowship after worship and will be shared with the residents at Rosewood. Please sign-up in worship or call the church office if you can donate Christmas treats.

**Visit to Rosewood** **Sunday, December 11, after Worship**  
Meet in the Narthex to organize a carpool up the hill to distribute the cookies and offer a few carols to the residents.

**Undie Sunday** **December 18**  
Our tradition continues of collecting men's, women's and children's new underwear, in all sizes, to pass on to Servants to All, a non-profit in Pottsville working with the homeless and those threatened by homelessness, and Schuylkill Women in Crisis, which helps individuals leaving abusive situations. Please place your donations in the marked box in the Narthex.

**Hillside SPCA.** Hillside SPCA has daily needs for newspapers (no inserts, please), old towels, old sheets and blankets, and pet food. If you can't deliver the donations yourself, bring them to church and we will take them to Hillside.

**Souper Bowl of Caring** **Sunday, February 5, 2017**  
Most of us will gather that day to watch the Super Bowl, stuffing our faces with tasty snacks. Many people in our county are unable to feed themselves, so we are asking everyone who attends worship on February 5 to bring a dollar for a special collection for the Schuylkill Haven Food Pantry as we strive to feed our neighbors in need.

## SCHUYLKILL ASSOCIATION

### Fall Meeting Report

At the fall meeting of the Schuylkill Association, held Sunday, October 30, members of the association decided not to merge with the East Berks, Reading and Heidelberg Associations, pending further review of the benefits of a merger. The Schuylkill Association Executive Committee will determine how to proceed with additional study.

### Cydney N. R. Van Dyke Ordination and Installation

Cydney Van Dyke, a child of this congregation, was ordained into Christian ministry on Saturday, November 19, at the United Parish in Brookline, MA. The congregation is invited to Cydney's installation as Assistant Pastor at New Goshenhoppen UCC, 1070 Church Road, East Greenville, PA, 18041, on Sunday, December 11 at 5 PM.

## SCHUYLKILL HAVEN COUNCIL OF CHURCHES

### CROP Walk Report, Sunday, October 2

Thank you for your support of the CROP Walk. The confirmands raised more money to feed the hungry than Pastor Shawn, due greatly to the efforts of Gavin Fry, so she was coated in whipped cream after worship on October 23. First Church's total contribution to fight hunger was \$1200, nearly double last year's donation, with the generous help of \$500 designated by Seeds to Grow from church mission money. Thank you all!

### Monthly Food Pantry **Third Friday, 1 PM** **December 16, January 20 & February 17**

The Council offers free food to those in need in the community. The Food Pantry is located on Market Street, behind Evans Delivery on Columbia Street (the old Walkin Shoe Factory).

### Bi-Monthly Council of Churches Meeting **Tues., Jan. 24, 7 PM**

The Church of the Nazarene will host the Council of Churches as members meet to ensure that the food pantry, blood mobile, and other community ministries continue to meet local needs. If you are interested in learning more about Council, please talk to Pastor Shawn.

### Bloodmobile **Thursday, January 5, 12:30-5:30 PM**

Every two seconds someone in America needs blood. Council holds a Bloodmobile for the American Red Cross every other month at Jerusalem Lutheran Church. You must be at least 17 years of age, weigh at least 110 pounds and be healthy in order to be able to donate blood.



## STEWARDSHIP

St. Francis of Assisi said, "Stewardship is everything I do after I say I believe." Stewardship is a way of life. God created the world to live in shalom (wholeness and well-being). Our mission, our purpose for being in the world, is to manage God's creation to assure shalom.

**Stewards of Our Relationship with God:** as the celebration of Christ's birth approaches we begin a new church year and anticipate a new calendar year. In January we can renew our relationship with God. We belong to God. Through worship, prayer, Bible study, fasting, gratitude, compassion, care for our bodies, and love for self and others, we show our dedication to God. We become what we practice; we encounter God in life-renewing ways.

**Stewards of Our Relationships with One Another:** we belong to God and we belong to one another as we are part of the body of Christ. In February, the month of love, we can practice the incredible hospitality Jesus showed. Starting with our most personal and intimate relationships, we can move through expanding circles of friends, church, co-workers, neighbors, and even strangers extending the love of God we have received through Christ in spiritual practices of forgiveness, reconciliation, and justice.

## STEWARDSHIP – CHURCH FUNDRAISERS

**Meat BINGO, Saturday, January 28.** Please sign up to donate food items to sell and/or donate your time to help with the event.

**Shank's Vanilla.** 8 oz. bottles of vanilla are being sold for \$6 per bottle. The vanilla is a great ingredient for baking.

**Boyer's Tag.** Boyer's SKU Tags are available in the Narthex. When you purchase groceries at Boyer's, ask to have your tag read. Periodically, Boyer's will tally the readings and send a check to the church. (No need to hand in Boyer's receipts.)

**Redner's Save-A-Tape.** Pick up a Save-A-Tape card at Redner's and use it whenever you buy groceries. Hand in your Redner's receipts by placing them in the box in the Narthex. Totals of the tapes will be submitted to Redner's who will then provide the church with a check.

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### ***Facebook***

If you are a Facebook user, please "LIKE" the church's Facebook page. This will allow you to receive regular updates and messages from the church office.

\*\*\*\*\*

## YOUTH & TEENS (Grades 5-12)

**HG Service Project      Sunday, November 20, Noon to 1:30 PM**  
Join the confirmands for pizza at noon. Then we'll prepare the sanctuary for Hanging of the Greens on November 27. We should have time for games in the Teen Room as well.

**Annual Church Christmas Party      Friday, December 2, 6:30 PM**  
This party is for all ages! Invite your friends to come for good food, carols and a gift exchange. Bring a wrapped but anonymous gift costing less than \$5 to exchange with other teens and/or adults.

**BCE Advent Worship      Sunday, December 11, 8:45 AM**  
Walk through the worship service before you lead worship at 9:30 AM.

We're looking for ideas for activities for January and February. Email your suggestions to Pastor Shawn at [firstuccpastor@verizon.net](mailto:firstuccpastor@verizon.net) or send her a Facebook message.

Check the "Fellowship" page for details on other activities.



### **NURSING HOME PARISHIONERS**

**Orwigsburg Manor, Orwigsburg PA 17961**  
1000 Orwigsburg Manor Drive      David Nye      (Room 117)

**Pinebrook Personal Care Center, Orwigsburg PA 17961**  
2 Woodbridge Drive      Bernice Roberts      (Room 26)  
Jim Stripe

### **HOMEBOUND PARISHIONERS**

Phyllis Ebling; 532 Holiday Drive; Schuylkill Haven, PA 17972  
Jim Madenfort; 2240 Tonto Drive; Auburn, PA 17922  
Jean McCord; 101 E. Chestnut St., Apt. #105; High Point Manor;  
Frackville PA 17931  
June Schoffstall; 285 Blue Mountain Road; Schuylkill Haven, PA 17972

**\*\*Please note:** If you are homebound and wish to receive home communion, please contact the church office. If you know of someone not on either the Nursing Home or Homebound list, please notify the church office.

## THANK YOU!

Thank you to **EVERYONE** who has participated in the church's ministry and mission throughout the year. Thank you to those who **send** Care Cards, who **make** telephone calls, **prepare** communion, and **greet** worshippers at the door to the church. Thank you to those who **mow** the lawn, **weed** the flower beds, and **maintain** the building and grounds. Thank to those who **serve** on Consistory and the Board of Christian Education. Thank you to those who **care** for animals at the SPCA, who **raise** funds for non-profits in our community, who **give** change to the Council of Churches of Schuylkill Haven and Vicinity. Thank you to those who **open** and **close** the building so that others, like Al-Anon, Big Brothers and Big Sisters, and Brownies have a free and warm place to meet. Thank you to those who **organize** the sanctuary for the changing of seasons, from Epiphany to Advent. Thank you to those who **ring** bells and chimes. Thank you for being the **Body of Christ in action**, reaching out into the world, reminding us the church is more than a building.

## THANK YOU NOTES!!

**Thank you** to **everyone** for your wonderful support during November for the Meat BINGO and Filling Sale!!!! Your help was greatly appreciated!!!!

"Thank You" notes were received over the last couple of months. All of the notes/letters are posted on the bulletin board by the offices. Messages of thanks were received from:

Servants to All  
Blanche Koehler  
PSU Schuylkill's Business Society

\*\*\*\*\*

### **Call the church office 570-385-2049 when:**

- **Someone is admitted to the hospital**
  - **You plan a meeting**
  - **You are moving**
- **A new baby arrives or a death occurs**
- **Your telephone number or address has changed**

**If you reach the answering machine, please leave a message.**

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### **Hospitalization**

When someone in your home is hospitalized, please call the church office to let us know. Most hospitals **DO NOT** call the church office when members are admitted.

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## HAPPY BIRTHDAY!!!

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <p>12/3- Herm Morgan, Jr. (1949)<br/>12/8- Ronnie Alexander (1977)<br/>Lilly Edling (2006)<br/>Stacey Ebling (1983)<br/>12/10- Kali Sonon (2015)<br/>12/11- Treasure Reichert (1972)<br/>12/13- Ewen Dougherty (2007)<br/>12/15- Russ Coover (1961)<br/>12/16- Mike Gossard (1975)<br/>Olivia Lang (2003)<br/>Katie Miholics (2008)<br/>Tim McCord (1969)<br/>12/18- Donna Spotts (1959)<br/>12/20- Doug Stewart (1984)<br/>12/21- Elleona Pritiskutch (2001)<br/>Bobby Riegel (1959)<br/>12/22- William Spotts (1985)<br/>12/23- Mary Cramer (1963)<br/>John Donati (1947)<br/>Michael Madenfort (1963)<br/>12/24- Joseph Mattera Jr. (1979)<br/>12/25- David Nye (1945)<br/>12/26- Dennis Truscott<br/>Sierra Pritiskutch (1993)<br/>Amanda Gossard (1983)<br/>12/27- Adriana Darcangelo (2006)<br/>Austin Keller (1993)<br/>Angela Moyer (1974)<br/>12/28- Bill Coffey<br/>Jacob Moyer (1995)<br/>Kelly Schaeffer (1968)<br/>Shirley Wildermuth (1946)<br/>12/29- Carrie Ann Klinger (1952)<br/>Greg Semanco (1969)<br/>12/30- Jim Watkins (1982)<br/>12/31- Emily Reichert (2002)<br/>1/01- Elizabeth Reichert (2001)<br/>Lisa Edling (1964)<br/>1/02- Cindy Brozana<br/>Bud Lopez (1950)<br/>1/04- Carol Donati (1949)<br/>1/05- Casey Moyer (1976)<br/>1/06- Mary Achenbach (1936)</p> | <p>1/07- Cole Paul (2006)<br/>1/08- Gil Beury (1957)<br/>Russell Coover III (1987)<br/>1/10- Pam Strong (1964)<br/>1/11- Gary Keller (1964)<br/>1/13- Patsy Wingle (1973)<br/>1/14- Scott Lopez (1970)<br/>Renee Mohl (1970)<br/>1/16- Jon Spotts<br/>1/17- Matthew Madenfort<br/>1/18- Elizabeth Harner (2002)<br/>Dale Mordosky (1942)<br/>1/19- Kath Owens (1949)<br/>1/21- Richard Rohrer (1958)<br/>1/22- Mae Deatrich (1928)<br/>Joe Mattera, Sr. (1955)<br/>Rich Scott (1966)<br/>1/23- Cindy Fisher (1957)<br/>1/24- Michelle Dougherty (1980)<br/>1/26- Norah Dougherty (2009)<br/>1/27- Agnes Masler (1931)<br/>1/28- Tina Kluge (1972)<br/>1/29- Harold Schrader (1942)<br/>1/30- Tom Stewart, Sr. (1954)<br/>Pam Swirsky (1974)<br/>Robbie Wensel (1991)<br/>1/31- Tricia (Moyer) Mentzer (1981)<br/>2/01- Julia Kluge (2003)<br/>Kristen Ludwig (1987)<br/>2/02- Don McCormick (1951)<br/>Bill Schaeffer, Jr. (1969)<br/>2/03- Peg Spotts (1940)<br/>2/05- Becky Devlin (1990)<br/>2/09- Kyle Wingle (1995)<br/>2/11- Rebecca Andrefski (1950)<br/>Megan Ditzler (1998)<br/>Irene Mordosky (1943)<br/>2/13- Deb McCormick (1952)<br/>2/17- Keith Edling (1958)<br/>2/18- Kaden Bayliff (2005)<br/>Tim Burian (1957)<br/>Bev Scott (1967)<br/>2/19- Jodi Buffington-Reardon (1983)</p> |
|--|--|

## HAPPY BIRTHDAY!!! Cont'd.

2/20- Tracy Lang (1974)  
 2/22- Charles Shappell (1987)  
 Gary Ebling (1952)  
 2/23- Ann Risser (1942)  
 2/24- Ashley Shappell (1988)

2/25- Brayden Murphy (2008)  
 2/26- Jack Fultz (2001)  
 Kathleen Miner (1944)  
 2/27- Addison Watkins (2009)

## HAPPY ANNIVERSARY!!!



12/17- Tim & Robin Bayliff (1983)  
 12/22- Jay & Diane Newswanger (2001)

1/07- Bob & Jeanne Gordon (1951)  
 1/24- Scott Lopez & Melissa Fox (2011)  
 1/24- Jim & Cindy Fisher (1976)

2/02- Dave & Janene Ditzler (1991)  
 2/12- Kenny & Carrie Ann Klinger (1999)  
 2/18- Mike & Bobbie Donati (2006)  
 2/24- Glenn & Deb Spotts (1979)

*If we missed a birthday, listed an incorrect date or do not have the year, please call the church office so that we are able to correct and/or update our records.*

## Church Christmas Party

*For All Ages*



Friday, December 2, 6:30 PM



Gather together for a great meal, some Christmas carols and everyone's special guest...Santa Claus.

Consistory asks that you register by calling the church office (385-2049) or signing up in the narthex by Sunday, November 27. A free will offering will be taken to help defray the cost of the meal. Bring your favorite dessert to share.

## CHRISTMAS POINSETTIA PLANTS – 2016

The Advent Season is beginning and our Christmas Eve Services are not far behind. We are taking orders for the Christmas Poinsettia Plants. The plants will adorn the Sanctuary on Christmas Eve Saturday, December 24<sup>th</sup>. The poinsettias will be in a 6" inch pot. Please specify the color you would like. We will do our best, but cannot guarantee the color choice.

**Please take a few moments to complete the form below.**

PLEASE USE A SEPARATE FORM FOR EACH ORDER.

**SPONSOR** \_\_\_\_\_

**Phone #** \_\_\_\_\_

### SPECIFY COLOR

**RED** \_\_\_\_\_ **WHITE** \_\_\_\_\_ **PINK** \_\_\_\_\_

In **HONOR** of \_\_\_\_\_

In **MEMORY** of \_\_\_\_\_

Please use the exact wording you want to appear in the Flower Bulletin.

**COST: \$7/plant & PAYMENT MUST ACCOMPANY ORDER!!!**

***THE DEADLINE FOR ORDERS IS SUNDAY, DECEMBER 4***

Please return your order and payment to the church office by mail or place the order and payment in the Church Secretary's mailbox located by the offices or in the offering plate.

**Please check one of the following:**

\_\_\_\_\_ I will take my flowers home.  
 \_\_\_\_\_ I do not want my flowers. The church can use them.

If you cannot pick up your flowers, the flowers will be kept in the church for 1-2 weeks. Flowers can be picked up during office hours. Any flowers that have not been claimed will be given away.