

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*

Information Deadline for the  
SPRING 2025 (March/April) NEWSLETTER  
is Sunday, February 16!!

★ God  
★ Jesus  
★ Emmanuel  
★ Master  
★ King of Kings  
★ Everlasting  
★ Alpha and Omega  
★ Heavenly Father  
★ Holy One of Israel  
Redeemer

FIRST CHURCH HERALD

Vol. 43, Issue 6

Newsletter of First UCC

Sch. Haven, PA

WINTER 2024/25 (DEC-JAN-FEB)

# A Messy Manger for a Messy World



# 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

**SUMMER OFFICE HOURS** – 9 AM - 1 PM (Monday-Thursday)

**EMAIL** – [firstuccschuylkillhaven@verizon.net](mailto:firstuccschuylkillhaven@verizon.net)

**WEBSITE** – [www.firstucc-haven.org](http://www.firstucc-haven.org)

## **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**

**Music Director** – Jacqueline Engel

**Church Secretary & Treasurer** – Jen Semanco

**Church Sexton** – Sue McGovern

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

## **2025 CONSISTORY MEMBERS**

Harris Bradley, Vice President; Rebecca Hillje; Carole Lee; Theresa Luckenbill; Mikey McCormick; Todd Roberts; Penny Shade, President; Darren Walbridge; Lora Yoder, Secretary; & Peggy Zechman.

## **PHONE & EMAIL NOTIFICATIONS**

Phone & email are the quickest and easiest ways of getting information to church members. Please notify us of your current phone number and email.

## **CHURCH OFFICE DROP BOX**

Reminder: a black drop box was installed to the left of the office door. This is a locked/secure box and a safe location and contactless way for you to deliver items outside of (or during) office hours. The box is checked daily.

## **SPONSORS NEEDED**

This is a great way to note an important event or honor a loved one. Sponsor the bulletin (\$12), newsletter (\$12), or flowers (\$35). Call Jen to reserve your date (570-385-2049). Order forms are in the Narthex.

## **SALUTATIONS FROM SHAWN**

### **A Messy Manger for a Messy World**

Life is messy.

The past few months confirmed that truth as we endured economic strain, devastating hurricanes, debilitating drought, and a contentious political cycle. It's been anything but calm and bright.

Then again Jesus' birth was messy like every other human birth, or more so, really, as he was surrounded by animals and laid to rest in straw. The Word became flesh and blood. The Christian faith is about flesh and blood human beings, about the human story interacting with the divine story, about you and me as we at times follow Jesus well and other times...

Well, it's messy. We're messy. Yet through the grace of God and the gift of Christ, we keep trying our best, serving God and Christ to know a little of heaven on earth, that same bit of heaven we know when we hold a newborn baby, even when though they are very messy.

God sent Jesus into the world to invite us to be part of God's story, to continue to live the faith story begun in the Bible stories, full of imperfect, messy people. We are in good company with Abraham and Sarah, Moses and Miriam, and Joseph and Mary. Through their stories, their examples of faith, we hold hope that we too can serve God faithfully if imperfectly.

As imperfect people in a messy world, let's not put pressure on ourselves to try to make this holy season perfect. There's no reason to set ourselves up for disappointment. Instead, let's cherish each messy moment with our loved ones, each cup of hot chocolate spilled, each gift clumsily wrapped (but with lots of love), and each turkey overcooked. As we feast, let's give thanks that we can enjoy the bounties of God's earth which God provides for our needs, especially a perfect Savior to save an imperfect people.

Life is messy. We are messy. God loves us still. Glory to God in the highest!

Merry Messy Christmas!

*Pastor Shawn*

While I am on vacation December 27 through January 2, Rev. Ken McDowell, St. Paul's Summer Hill, will provide pastoral care. Pastor Ken McDowell is on call at 610-207-4783.

## WORSHIP IN ADVENT, CHRISTMAS & EPIPHANY

### ADVENT THEME – A Messy Manger for a Messy World

#### December 1

First Sunday of Advent; Hanging of the Greens; Communion  
 Jeremiah 33:14-16  
 1 Thessalonians 3:9-13  
 Luke 21:25-36

#### The Promise of Hope

The Days are Coming  
 Joy in the Presence of God  
 Fear and Foreboding

#### December 8

Second Sunday of Advent; Praise & Healing  
 Malachi 3:1-4  
 Philippians 1:3-11  
 Luke 3:1-6

#### Prepare Peace

Prepare the Way  
 What Really Matters  
 Proclaiming Repentance



#### December 15

Third Sunday of Advent; Youth Sunday  
 Zephaniah 3:14-20  
 Philippians 4:4-7  
 Luke 3:7-18

#### Proclaim Joy

The Lord Your God is with You  
 Do Not Be Anxious  
 Flee from the Coming Wrath

#### December 22

Fourth Sunday of Advent; Bell Choir  
 Micah 5:2-5a  
 Hebrews 10:5-10  
 Luke 1:39-55

#### Live Love

A Promised Ruler from Bethlehem  
 Sanctified by the Body  
 Blessed is She Who Believed

#### December 24, 4 PM & 7 PM The Messiah in the Manger

Christmas Eve Worship: Candlelight, Carols and Communion  
 Isaiah 9:2-7  
 Luke 2:1-20

The Righteous Reign of the Prince of Peace  
 The Birth of Jesus

#### December 29

First Sunday after Christmas Day; Carol Sing  
 Ecclesiastes 3:1-13  
 Colossians 3:12-17  
 Luke 2:41-52

#### All People and Angels Praise!

A Time for Every Purpose  
 Principles of Christian Living  
 Jesus Speaks with Religious Leaders

### EPIPHANY THEME – New in the Spirit

#### January 5

Epiphany Sunday; Communion; New Year; Everybody Birthday Party  
 Isaiah 60:1-6  
 Ephesians 3:1-12  
 Matthew 2:1-12

#### Spirit of Mystery and Grace

Promises of Glory for God's People  
 Knowing Christ  
 Visitors from the East

## WORSHIP IN EPIPHANY

#### January 12

1<sup>st</sup> Sunday after Epiphany; Baptism of Christ; Renewal of Baptismal Vows  
 Isaiah 43:1-7  
 1 Corinthians 2:1-13  
 Luke 3:15-17, 21-22

#### Spirit of Wisdom

No Other Savior  
 The Spirit Gives Wisdom  
 Jesus' Baptism

#### January 19

2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday after Epiphany; Installation of Consistory  
 Isaiah 62:1-5  
 1 Corinthians 12:1-11  
 John 2:1-11

#### Spirit for Good

Isaiah Prays for Jerusalem  
 About Spiritual Gifts  
 Jesus Turns Water into Wine

#### January 26

3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday after Epiphany  
 Nehemiah 8:1-10  
 1 Corinthians 12:12-31  
 Luke 4:14-21

#### Spirit of Unity

Ezra Reads the Law  
 Believers are the Body of Christ  
 Jesus Preaches in Galilee



#### February 2

4<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Epiphany; Communion; 2024 Financial Reports in Narthex  
 Jeremiah 1:4-10  
 1 Corinthians 13:1-13  
 Luke 4:21-30

#### Spirit of Faith, Hope & Love

God Calls Jeremiah  
 The Characteristics of Love  
 Jesus Rejected at Nazareth

#### February 9

5<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Epiphany; Souper Bowl of Caring  
 Isaiah 6:1-8  
 1 Corinthians 15:1-11  
 Luke 5:1-11

#### Spirit for the Least

God Commissions Isaiah  
 The Resurrection of Christ  
 A Miraculous Catch

#### February 16

6<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Epiphany; Financial Congregational Meeting  
 Jeremiah 17:5-10  
 1 Corinthians 15:12-20  
 Luke 6:17-26

#### Spirit of the Dead

Jeremiah Warns the People  
 The Resurrection of the Dead  
 Jesus Gives the Beatitudes

#### February 23

7<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Epiphany  
 Genesis 43:3-15  
 1 Corinthians 15:35-50  
 Luke 6:27-38

#### Spirit of Imperishability

Jacob Lets Benjamin Go  
 The Resurrection Body  
 Jesus Teaches about Loving Enemies

#### March 2

Transfiguration Sunday; Communion  
 Exodus 34:29-35  
 2 Corinthians 3:12-4:2  
 Luke 9:28-36

#### Spirit of Glory

Moses Veiled  
 God Gives Light  
 Transfiguration on the Mountain

## OFFERING ENVELOPES

### Communion & Food Pantry Donations Dec. 1, Jan. 5 & Feb. 2

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 8

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. 15, Jan. 19 & Feb. 16

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

### Christmas Fund December 22

For over one hundred years, The Christmas Fund has provided direct financial assistance to retired and active UCC pastors, church workers and their families, to secure their physical, financial, and spiritual health in times of need. Secure online gifts may be made at [www.christmasfund.org](http://www.christmasfund.org).

### Blanket Sunday January 26

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.

### OCWM (Our Church's Wider Mission) February 9

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

### 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), **Epiphany** (January 12), **Meat Bingo** (February 23) will be used to support the on-going ministry and general budget of First UCC.

### 2025 Initial Offering

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

If you are unable to join us for worship, please mail your offering envelopes to First UCC, 110 Route 61 South, Schuylkill Haven PA 17972; or if you do online banking arrange to send a check to the church.

## EVIDENCE OF STEWARDSHIP

The following totals are up to and including the end of October 2024 plus a comparison to October 2023 & 2022.

	<u>Oct 2024</u>	<u>Oct 2023</u>	<u>Oct 2022</u>
TOTAL EXPENSES –	\$213,275.20	\$210,531.15	\$207,907.72
REVENUE –	\$ 66,020.30	\$ 61,482.37	\$ 57,894.33
Resources from Kline Fund –	\$165,405.00	\$144,846.80	\$144,700.00
TOTAL REVENUE –	\$231,425.30	\$206,329.17	\$202,594.33
Gain/Loss –	\$ 18,150.10	\$ -4,201.98	\$ -5,313.39

**\*\* Please note that the documenting of some monetary transfers are being done differently than past years. \*\***

## ADULT SMALL GROUPS

### **Adult Bible Study, Wednesdays at 4 PM.**

We are working our way through the Bible, astonished at how much we are learning. Recently we read about Solomon and are moving on to the other kings of Israel and Judah. Please talk to Pastor Shawn if you are interested, to share topics and times that interest you. Bible study will not be held on December 25 and January 1.

## ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING REPORT

On Sunday, November 17, the congregation approved the 2024 financial report-to-date, 2024 committee reports, Consistory's actions on the congregation's behalf in the past year, and the 2025 proposed budget. Mikey McCormick and Carole Lee were elected to fill elder's terms. Rebecca Hillje, Penny Shade and Darren Walbridge were re-elected as deacons and Todd Roberts was elected to serve as a deacon. Harris Bradley, Terri Luckenbill, Lora Yoder, and Peggy Zechman will continue to serve on Consistory. Thanks are extended to Brian Fred Edling and Keith Edling who have completed many years of service, and to Carrie Ann Klinger, Kenny Klinger, and Rusty Searle who resigned earlier in the year.

The congregation also voted to resume normal limit of terms for Consistory members up to three consecutive terms. Terms were changed from three years to two years. In early 2025, the congregation will submit recommendations for proposed recipients of the 2024 Kline Fund Tithe, to be selected on Sunday, February 16, at the 2025 Annual Financial Meeting.

At the reorganizational meeting following the congregational meeting, Consistory elected Penny Shade to serve as President, Harris Bradley to continue as Vice President, and Lora Yoder to serve as secretary.

## ANNUAL FINANCIAL CONGREGATIONAL MTG

The vote for the Kline Fund Tithes is scheduled to take place Sunday, February 16, 2025, when the final 2024 YTD Financial Report will be presented for approval. 2024 Financial Reports will be available in the Narthex on Sunday, February 2, 2025.

## CHILDREN'S CHURCH

Children's Church is offered on request during Sunday worship. Delia Edling will share a Bible lesson with the children, along with crafts and other activities. We thank Delia who faithfully teaches the children about God, Jesus, and the Holy Spirit. Children's Church will not be offered on December 1, when we hang the greens, and December 15, when the youth lead worship.

## CHRISTIAN PASSAGES / SPIRITUAL JOURNEYS

**Baptism** – Mason John Donati, son of Brandon & Shelby Donati, who was baptized on Sunday, October 13, 2024. Mason's sponsors are Brittany Donati & Tyler Osatchuck.

## CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT, CAROLS & COMMUNION

**The Messiah in the Manger**  
**Tuesday, December 24 - 4 PM and 7 PM**  
**In the Sanctuary and on Facebook**



The shepherds must have been surprised when they found the Messiah lying in a manger, the feeding trough of animals. When the shepherds told people what they had found, however, all who heard it were amazed. The child born under strange circumstances in a messy manger was indeed God's promised Savior. We gather in worship to receive this good news with carols, communion, and candlelight. Invite your family and friends!

## SERVICE CANCELLATIONS

The last couple of winters we used an automated call service for worship cancellations. Did you receive a phone call when we had to cancel worship? If you didn't, please call Jen in the church office so that our records can be updated with your current phone number. We will also have cancellation information on the church answering machine and our Facebook page.

## CHURCH FUNDRAISERS

**Meat Bingo.** Stay tuned for Meat BINGO Dates for early 2025!! \$2,989 was raised at the November 16 Meat Bingo! Thank you to everyone who has donated, promoted, worked or played at our bingos. In 2024 an overall total of \$11,781 was raised through 4 Meat BINGOs!! Your help is greatly appreciated!

**Shank's Vanilla.** 8 oz. bottles of vanilla are being sold for \$7 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, have your tag scanned. Boyer's tallies the readings and sends 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. **(Please note that a volunteer is needed to add up all of receipts for submission to Redners.)**

## CHURCH OFFICE UPDATES

### Church Office Closed:

**Tues, Dec 24** (Christmas Eve) & **Wed, Dec 25** (Christmas Day)  
**Th, Dec 26; Fri, Dec 27; & Mon, Dec 30** (Staff Vacations)  
**Tues, Dec 31** (New Year's Eve) & **Wed, Jan 1** (New Year's Day)

### Staff Vacations:

Pastor Shawn: Thurs, Dec 26 – Thurs, Jan 2  
Jen: Thurs, Dec 26 – Mon, Dec 30

## EVANGELISM

### Expecting Guests at the First UCC Inn

While we expect the glory of Christmas to shine in our lives during the Season of Advent, we can also expect guests. While people prepare for parties, wrap gifts, and make travel plans, the story of Jesus' birth seeps through the external trappings, calling people to worship and praise. Those who have not been raised in a church may be curious about the real reason for Christmas celebrations. If you see people at church you don't recognize, simply say hello. When we welcome others with friendly warmth, they will experience the peace, hope, joy and love of Jesus Christ guiding them into God's glory.

## FELLOWSHIP

### **Annual Christmas Party** **Friday, December 6, 6:30 PM**

Call the church (570-385-2049) to let us know you are attending. Mrs. Claus will join us to give gifts to children. (Please ask about gifts for the children if you have not attended the party before.) Teens and adults will have a white gift exchange of items costing \$5 or less. While the church is providing dinner, everyone is asked to bring a dessert to share. *If you don't have a chance to sign up in advance, come anyway. We always have plenty of food.*

## MISSION AND OUTREACH

### **Salvation Army Angel Tree Gifts** **Sunday, December 1**

Please return your Salvation Army gifts, unwrapped and with the gift card attached, by Sunday, December 1.

### **Christmas Gifts for Rosewood Veterans** **Sunday, December 15**

Seventeen veterans, sixteen men and one woman, need socks (men), slipper socks (woman), body wash, shampoo, lotions, deodorant, and hand cream. No bar soap or aerosol products, please. Donations are needed by Sunday, December 15. Drop them in the box in the Narthex or at the church office.

### **Family Christmas Meals** **Sunday, December 22**

We will provide Christmas dinner for two local families. Sign up in worship or call the church office to ask about donations. The family meal donations need to be returned by Sunday, December 22. Place them on the cart in the Narthex or drop them at the church office Monday-Friday, 9 AM to 1 PM.

### **Undie Sunday** **Sunday, January 19**

First Church's decades-old tradition continues of collecting men's, women's, and children's NEW underwear still in its packaging, in all sizes, to pass on to Servants to All, a non-profit in Pottsville working with homeless people. Place your donations in the marked box in the Narthex or drop at the office.

### **Souper Bowl of Caring** **Sunday, February 9**

We are combining our efforts with all Schuylkill Haven Area Council of Churches to support the Council's Food Pantry. Most people meet on Super Bowl Sunday to watch the game and stuff our faces with tasty snacks. Many people in our area are unable to feed themselves, so we are asking everyone who attends worship on February 9 to bring a dollar (or more!) for a special collection for the Food Pantry as we strive to feed our neighbors in need.

## PROPERTY UPDATES

### **Boiler Fund Update**

In October 2019, when we needed to replace the very old boiler, the congregation decided we would buy it ourselves, rather than utilizing the Kline Fund. While the initial payment was borrowed from the Kline Fund, we are working to reimburse it. To date, we have repaid \$10,282 of the \$37,000 expense. Consistory proposes that we work to repay this debt in 2025.

## PENNSYLVANIA SE CONFERENCE (PSEC)

### **What is OCWM?**

**Our Church's Wider Mission (OCWM)** is the name used to describe the mission work of the UCC beyond the local church, through conferences, national ministries, and related institutions. OCWM provides training for clergy and lay leaders, congregational development and technology for churches, resources for stewardship, funds for the Pennsylvania Academy of Ministry, Search and Call, Youth Ministry, and more. In the PSEC, OCWM supports Ministry Teams addressing Addiction & Recovery, Climate Justice, Emotional and Spiritual Care, Environmental Justice, Disaster Ministries, and Racial Justice. If you are interested in learning more, visit [www.psec.org](http://www.psec.org).

### **Support OCWM on Giving Tuesday, December 3**

The Pennsylvania Southeast Conference is part of this Giving Tuesday movement! Using the "Giving Tuesday" button on the PSEC Donate page (<https://secure.myvanco.com/L-ZJ53/home>), you can support Our Church's Wider Mission. OCWM supports mission taskforces, disaster response, new ministries, search and call, pastor trainings, justice work, and so much more!

### **Keystone Conference - Together We Are Stronger**

On Nov. 9, each of the four United Church of Christ conferences in Pennsylvania passed the same motion requesting authorization from the UCC General Synod to become one conference. "We were all looking at ways to optimize the resources we had and to help our congregations feel better supported and more connected," said Rev. Bonnie Bates, conference minister of Penn Northeast.

## **CHRISTMAS EVE POINSETTIA PLANTS – 2024**

Orders for Christmas Eve Poinsettias are due by Sunday, December 1. The cost is \$12 per plant (Red, White, Pink, Marble). Payment is due with your order. Order forms are in the Narthex and Church Office.

## SOUL (SENIORS OUT TO LUNCH)

All adults are welcome to join SOUL for lunch at 1 PM on the second THURSDAY of the month. Check worship bulletins for any updates. For the winter months, SOUL will stay in the Schuylkill Haven area.

Thursday, December 12 – Hoss's in Cressona

Tuesday, January 8 – Red Lion in Pine Grove

Thursday, February 13 – Ruby Tuesday in Pottsville

**2025 Offering Envelopes** are in the hallway next to the Sanctuary. Please pick up your envelopes & those of friends and family. If you are unable to attend worship, please call the church office to arrange a day for you to pick up your envelopes. 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.

## STEWARDSHIP

### Coming Soon! Online Giving

#### Financial Giving Expresses Thankfulness to God

While our national observance of Thanksgiving fell on November 28 this year, as Christians our thankfulness to God is expressed every day, every week, every month, always. As Advent begins, we give thanks for the birth of our Savior, the one who taught us how to live fully. Through our daily and special offerings, we put God first in our lives because Jesus put us first in his life, dying for us. We thank God for our spiritual blessings and for our material possessions as we give in gratitude for all we have received. After Jesus' birth, his parents followed the Law of Moses and took their firstborn male child to the Temple to dedicate to the Lord (Exodus 13:2-12). Their first act after the birth of their son, the Savior of the world, was to express gratitude to God. In our gratitude for the birth, life, death, and resurrection of Jesus, son of Mary and Joseph, we give of our talent, time, and money to continue the ministry of First UCC as *"we serve God through Christ and serve others with love."*

## MUSIC MINISTRY

**Bell Choir** practice is held in the music room after worship each Sunday. If you can count to four, if you enjoy being with other people, and if you like to make joyful noise, talk to Jacquie Engel, our music director, about joining Bell Choir.

## SCHUYLKILL HAVEN COUNCIL OF CHURCHES

### Monthly Food Pantry Friday, Dec 20, Jan 17 & Feb 21, 1 PM

During the holidays, the Schuylkill Haven Council of Churches Food Pantry sees an increased need for food. Donate your favorite non-perishable holiday food to share with others. On the third Friday of the month, the Schuylkill Haven Council of Churches distributes food at their Food Pantry, located on Market Street behind Evans Delivery. Food is distributed from noon to 3 PM.

### Council of Churches Meeting Tuesday, January 28, 7 PM Here at First UCC

The Schuylkill Haven Council of Churches organizes a monthly food pantry for our community, supports a bi-monthly blood drive, provides emergency housing for homeless people, and assists with utilities for families in need on a one-time basis. First Church needs lay representatives to serve on the Council. Talk to Pastor Shawn if you are interested in community ministry.

## COMMUNITY RESOURCES

### Life Beyond Suicide

The Life Beyond Suicide Support Group offers hope and support to those affected by the loss of a loved one to suicide. Meetings are held on the second and fourth Monday of each month from 6:30-8 PM. For meeting locations, call of text Deborah Generella, 484-773-3940, [lifebeyondsuicide@gmail.com](mailto:lifebeyondsuicide@gmail.com).

### Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program

This government program, known as LIHEAP, helps low-income families pay their heating bills. (Unfortunately, it does not cover propane.) From November 4, 2024, to April 4, 2025, you can apply for a cash grant to help pay your heating bill, receiving from \$200 to \$1,000 based on your household. The grant is a one-time payment sent directly to your utility provider or fuel company to be credited on your bill. The income limit for an individual is \$22,590; for a family of four it is \$46,800. Apply at [www.compass.state.pa.us](http://www.compass.state.pa.us) for LIHEAP and more. Call the Schuylkill County office at 877-306-5439.

### Penn State Extension Mental Wellness Series Webinars

From stress to grief to addiction, understanding mental health is crucial when faced with difficult times. The "Mental Wellness Series" is a free webinar series designed for concerned citizens, family members, social workers, mental health workers, medical professionals, teachers, and college students. Access for free at <https://extension.psu.edu/campaigns/mental-wellness-series>.

## THANK YOU!

Bridge 127 Inc., which supports foster children and their families, thanked the church for its Church Change gift of \$55.25 from the summer months.

The Blue Mountain School District nurses are grateful for the Church Change donation of \$128.25 to meet the emergency needs of students.

The Schuylkill Haven Food Pantry offered thanks for hundreds of food items donated along with a monetary gift of \$55.50.

## VETERANS RECOGNITION

### Wreaths Across America Thursday, December 12, Noon

The Wreaths Across America Convey will stop in Schuylkill Haven on Thursday, December 12, at St. Ambrose Roman Catholic Church, 201 Randall Street at noon. The community will be invited to welcome the truck convoy of wreaths as it travels from Maine to Arlington National Cemetery. Wreaths Across America asks us to REMEMBER our fallen veterans, HONOR those who serve, and TEACH the value of freedom.

## YOUTH MATTERS

Sunday, November 17, we met to plan future activities and had a lot of ideas. We hope other youth grades 5 through 12 will join us for our initial activities and provide their own ideas for the future. – Lilly, Macy, and Matt

Here's what we planned so far:

Sunday, December 15: lead worship for the Third Sunday of Advent.

Arrive at church by 8:45 AM to walk through the service together. Pastor Shawn will be in touch before then to ask what we want to do.

Sunday, December 15: after worship, stay for food, cocoa and a Christmas movie as we make cookies for homebound church members.

Sunday, January 19: 12:30-3:30, head over to Roller Roost for roller skating. Admission \$10 including skate rental.

Sunday, February 9: bring food and money for the Souper Bowl of Caring to support the Schuylkill Haven Council of Churches Food Pantry.

Sunday, February 16: The Art of Escape, Pine Grove, Noon. Cost \$25. Reservations required. (We talked about axe throwing in Pottsville, but people need to be 13 and accompanied by a parent. Maybe this could be a family or all church activity.)

## HAPPY BIRTHDAY!!!

- |                                  |                                     |
|----------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 12/8- Lilly Edling (2006)        | 1/14- Renee Mohl (1970)             |
| 12/9- Penny Shade                | 1/16- Dale Mordosky (1942)          |
| 12/10- Kali Sonon (2015)         | 1/19- Kath Owens (1949)             |
| 12/11- Treasure Reichert (1972)  | 1/21- Richard Rohrer (1958)         |
| 12/16- Katie Miholics (2008)     | Rich Scott (1966)                   |
| 12/18- Donna Spotts (1959)       | 1/23- Cindy Fisher (1957)           |
| 12/21- Bobby Riegel (1959)       | 1/28- Tina Kluge (1972)             |
| 12/23- Mary Cramer (1963)        | 1/30- Robbie Wensel (1991)          |
| 12/26- Sierra Pritiskutch (1993) | 1/31- Tricia (Moyer) Mentzer (1981) |
| 12/27- Austin Keller (1993)      | 2/1- Julia Kluge (2003)             |
| Angela Moyer (1974)              | Kristen Ludwig (1987)               |
| 12/28- Bill Coffey               | 2/2- Don McCormick (1951)           |
| Jacob Moyer (1995)               | 2/3- Peg Spotts (1940)              |
| 12/29- Molly Marmas (2016)       | 2/5- Becky Devlin (1990)            |
| Carrie Ann Klinger (1952)        | 2/9- Kyle Wingle (1995)             |
| Greg Semanco (1969)              | 2/11- Megan Ditzler (1998)          |
| 1/1 Lisa Edling (1964)           | 2/13- Mary Ann Gable                |
| 1/2- Bud Lopez (1950)            | Deb McCormick (1952)                |
| 1/4- Carol Donati (1949)         | 2/17- Keith Edling (1958)           |
| 1/6- Mary Achenbach (1936)       | 2/18- Tim Burian (1957)             |
| 1/7- Cole Paul (2006)            | Bev Scott (1967)                    |
| 1/11- Gary Keller (1964)         | 2/20- Tracy Lang (1974)             |
| 1/13- Patsy Wingle (1973)        | 2/23- Ann Risser (1942)             |
| 1/14- Scott Lopez (1970)         |                                     |

## HAPPY ANNIVERSARY!!!



- 12/22- Jay & Diane Newswanger (2001)  
1/14- Scott Lopez & Melissa Fox (2012)  
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 or anniversary, 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.*

