

FRIENDLY NEWSCASTER

December 2025 (V15-12)

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YA newsletter Calendar

We are gathered together as a family of faith to share God's love by: Inviting and welcoming all people of God's creation. Worshiping and praising God. Teaching and preaching the Good News. Caring for the needs of one another, the community, and the world.

December 2025 Newscaster

Anticipation

On November 30 this year, the church season of Advent begins. Advent means “coming.”

When I was growing up, “coming attractions” were often advertised in the movie theatre or the community newspaper. Whether the “coming attraction” was a soon to be released movie or a carnival in the town park, these were events my friends and I eagerly anticipated. Church did not offer “coming attractions,” but in my mind, Advent was a churchy synonym. Advent was a countdown to Christmas Day, to Jesus’ birthday, to time with distant relatives, sharing special gifts and special meals. And we even had Advent calendars, sometimes with cardstock doors that opened to verses of scripture, and other times that opened to chocolate Advent symbols and pictures.

Only in adolescence did it occur to me to wonder that if Jesus had already been born, why wasn’t the season leading up to it called “remembering” instead of Advent? Was there something that was coming, something to be anticipated in Advent, beside a celebration?

Indeed, in faith, there is. The coming of Christ, when God’s reign of love, justice, and peace will come in its fullness. God’s reign began with Jesus’ birth, life, ministry, death, and rising but it has not yet come in its fullness. We live in an in-between time when there is much suffering and brokenness in the world and in our lives.

Advent reminds us that in this in-between time, we are called to anticipate, to lean into, Christ’s return and the fullness of God’s reign. Our Advent scripture readings and worship songs all aid us in anticipating and preparing ourselves. What is the Good News of

anticipation in Advent? According to Matthew’s Gospel it is to keep awake and alert for signs of Christ’s coming—in part by living lives of compassion, mercy, and peace-making ourselves. It is to repent, meaning to open our minds to God’s wider purposes. It is to go and tell others that indeed much healing and mercy is being done now in Jesus’ name. It is to rejoice that righteousness in the form of mercy allows Jesus to be born in our lives again and again. Now that is something to anticipate this Advent.

Peace, Pastor Dave



Worship Helpers, December 2025

If you would like to serve in worship as a Scripture reader, please let Pastor Dave know. And if you would like to help with our audio-visual system, please talk with Chip Hoover. We would love to have your assistance.

Date	Acolyte	AV & Streaming	Read Scripture	Greeters	Head Usher	Communion Preparation
Dec. 7	Grant H.	Chip H. Terry M.	Jen M.		Steve M.	na
Dec. 14	Josh B.	Chip H. Terry M.	Sharon S.		Steve M.	na
Dec. 21	Lauren H.	Chip H. Terry M.	Joy G.		Steve M.	TBD
Dec. 24	Emily G.	Chip H. Terry M.	Darlene H.		Steve M.	na
Dec. 28	Grant H.	Chip H. Terry M.	Meredith H.		Steve M.	na
Jan. 4	Josh B.	Chip H. Terry M.	Sharon S.			na

Events & Announcements

Women's Bible Study: Our Women's Bible Study group will not be meeting in December. If you have questions, please contact either Joyce Kain at 717-817-0914 or Jane Bankert at 717-225-3738.

You're Invited!: The choir invites you to sing with us on Christmas Eve. We rehearse on Wednesdays at 7:15 and would love for others to join us as we celebrate Christ's birth! Contact Joy Gobrecht with questions at 717-309-6704.

Soon and Very Soon UCC Advent Devotional: Our Advent devotional theme is *Soon and Very Soon*. The theme acknowledges our need for radical hope, and encourages us to prepare for God's best. *Soon and Very Soon* reflects the tenor of Romans 13:11-12, "Salvation is nearer to us than when we became believers. The night is far gone; the day is near." These devotionals will be emailed daily through Advent. Printed copies will also be made available to our shut-ins.

Christmas Joy Project Returns: We will be repeating the Christmas Joy Gift Card project again this year! The Stewardship Committee feels this fundraiser is a way to help families in our local school district who are experiencing homelessness or are in great financial need. You can help by sponsoring Walmart or Target gift cards in the amount of \$10 or \$25. Take a tag from the little tree in the narthex, then return the tag in a Special Offering envelope along with the cash or a check payable to St. Paul's UCC. If you aren't able to pick up a tag, simply mail your check to the church, marking "Christmas Joy" in the memo line. Gifts are due back to the church by Sunday, Dec. 7. Thank you for all your support in the past! It is greatly appreciated by the social workers in the Spring Grove School District.

Support Homewood!

We will be collecting Christmas cards for Homewood residents in skilled and personal care. The cards may be signed and include personal notes but not addressed or sealed. We are also collecting prizes that will be used throughout the year for bingo. Items such as word search puzzle books, costume jewelry, dove soap bars, small soft stuffed animals, and small holiday trinkets for all seasons would be appropriate. Items are due Sunday, December 7th.

Intergenerational Confirmation Faith Discussions: Voices of Advent

Please join us for a special Advent series, *Voices of Advent*. In *Voices of Advent*, Matthew L. Skinner leads us through biblical texts and explores how they shape our lives and Christmas celebrations. We listen as Jesus promises to return to us in the future, to John the Baptist as he prepares the way for the Messiah, to the faithful people and poets who anticipate the magnificence of Jesus's birth, and to the angels and visionaries who praise God when Christmas dawns. Listen carefully to the Bible's various perspectives that shape our preparations for Christmas; you'll hear **hope** in all of them. *Voices of Advent* helps readers experience Advent not only as the start of the Christian Church Year, but also as the powerful overture that sets the tone for the incredible story of Jesus.

1. Voice of Jesus: Beginning at the End
2. Voice of John the Baptizer: Preparing the Way of the Lord
3. Voices of Mary, Zechariah, and the Gospel of John: Clarifying New Discoveries with Old Insights
4. Voices of Angels and Prophets: Revealing the Messiah

We meet every Sunday at 9:00 am. You are welcome to join us for any or all of our discussions at any time! If you have questions, please contact Pastor Dave.

Christmas Caroling for our Shut-ins

Join us for singing Christmas carols for the following people! We will likely be singing outside for Sue and Clair; we'll meet in the lobbies for Sarah and Fay. Following our caroling on Wednesdays, we'll return to the church sanctuary for our Advent and Christmas choir rehearsals. Questions? Contact Joy Gobrecht.

Wed, Dec. 3, 6:00 pm: Sue Howes, 1302 Pleasant View Dr, Spring Grove

Wed, Dec. 10, 6:00 pm: Sarah Senft at North York Skilled Nursing, 1770 Barley Rd, York

Sun, Dec. 14, 2:30 pm: Fay Herman at Seaton Springwood, 2321 Freedom Way, York

Wed, Dec. 17, 6:00 pm: Clair Fritz, 68 Main St, Seven Valleys



Upcoming Fellowship Events

- **Dec. 7 – First Sunday Fellowship, December birthday recognitions, and Christmas Cookies:** 'Tis the season for... Christmas cookies! For the first Sunday of December's after worship fellowship time, we are asking EVERYONE to bring a plate of cookies to share. Homemade or store bought, it doesn't matter. Size of the plate, that doesn't matter either! And no worries if you come on December 7 without any, we trust there will be enough for all! Milk will be provided.
- **Dec. 13 – Progressive Dinner:** A Progressive Dinner is being held on Saturday, December 13, with start times at 4, 4:30, and 5 pm. A sign-up sheet, as well as directions for each of the houses, is in the Connection Corner in the narthex. If anyone just wishes to join in for the final course of dessert in the church basement, feel free to stop by between 6 and 7:30. Please see Jen Miller with any questions.
- Jan. 4 – *First Sunday Fellowship and January birthday recognitions*
- Jan. 17 – **Save the date!** The annual Winter Banquet will be held *Saturday, January 17 at 6 PM* in the church basement. It's sure to be an evening of great food and fellowship - you won't want to miss it! Look for more information in the weekly church emails and a sign-up sheet in the Connection Corner in the narthex soon!
- Feb. 1 – *Souper Sunday following worship*

Our December Birthdays

Our December birthdays include the following: Sara Grove (1), Joyce Dubbs (2), Kimberly Henry (3), Terry Gruver (4), Mitchell Helf (9), Lucinda Gruver (10), Clair Fritz (11), Wyatt Brenneman (12), Bryce Thoman (13), James Wherley (18), Jennifer Miller (20), Hudson Helf (20), MacKenzie Fritz (24), Christina Stough (28), Mark Hull (30).

Call to St. Paul's UCC's Annual Meeting

The Annual Meeting of St. Paul's UCC (Stoverstown) will follow worship on Sunday, December 14, 2025. All confirmed members of the congregation are encouraged to participate; as per our Constitution the "governing body of this church shall be the confirmed membership assembled in church meeting." Friends of the congregation are welcome to observe and ask questions.

The agenda for the meeting will include a discussion and vote on the proposed 2026 church budget; election of new Consistory member; election of other church members to Planned Giving Committee, Keystone Conference representatives and York Association representatives; discussion and vote to allow the Church to borrow up to \$25,000 to install a stairlift in the main stairwell along with replacing the stair flooring and obtain any permits and cover all related costs.

2026 Budget Highlights

- 2026 total budget is \$176,484 which is a \$2,875 increase over 2025
- Proposed reduction in OCWM budgeted giving from \$9,000 to \$8,000
- 6.2% increase in Pastor's salary/housing to move toward Conference guidelines
- Reduction in Pastor's health insurance costs

Renovation Project Final Cost Highlights

- Actual cost was \$113,136 versus original budget of \$136,170
- Most savings in carpentry and audio-visual costs
- Funding from Building funds, Special Gift Funds, You the Congregation and line of credit
- Current line of credit balance of \$42,082

Stairlift Information

- Proposed to be installed on the main stairwell along with new flooring
- Current and Future need for members and visitors
- Lifeway Mobility is the vendor selected
- Cost of stairlift is \$17,785; carpet of \$2,040 and permits/other costs of approximately \$500 for a total of \$20,325
- Requesting to borrow up to \$25,000 in case prices increase or other fees/costs are required

Additional, more detailed documents on these topics is available in the narthex.

Monthly Mission Offering: The Christmas Fund for the Veterans of the Cross and the Emergency Fund

"Grace upon Grace." John 1:16

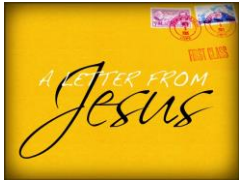
The Christmas Fund has been caring for active and retired clergy and lay employees of the United Church of Christ for over 100 years, providing emergency grants, supplementation of small annuities and health premiums, and Christmas "Thank You" gift checks each December to our lower-income retirees.

United Church of Christ congregations and members have blessed the Christmas Fund with their generosity for many years. This year, your care and compassion will be especially appreciated by those servants of the church who are facing a time of need. Thank you!



Dear Friends,

The first week of December is National Hand Washing Week to provide hand hygiene as a simple and effective way to prevent the spread of germs and illness. It is also Vaccine Week to emphasize the importance of getting vaccination against flu which is typically peak during the winter months.



I came across this letter from Jesus I would like to share with you.

Letter from Jesus about Christmas

It has come to my attention that many of you are upset that folks are taking my name out of the season.

How I personally feel about this celebration can probably be most easily understood by those of you who have been blessed with children of your own. I don't care what you call the day. If you want to celebrate my birth just GET ALONG AND LOVE ONE ANOTHER.

Now having said that let me go on. If it bothers you that the town in which you live doesn't allow a scene depicting my birth, then just get rid of a couple of Santas and snowmen and put in a small Nativity scene on your own front lawn. If all my followers did that then there wouldn't be any need for such a scene on the town square because there would be many of them all around town.

Stop worrying about the fact that people are calling the tree a holiday tree, instead of a Christmas tree. It was I who made all trees. You can remember me anytime you see any tree. Decorate a grape vine if you wish. I actually spoke of that one in a teaching, explaining who I am in relation to you and what each of our tasks were. If you have forgotten that one look up John 15:1-8.

If you want to give me a present in remembrance of my birth here is my wish list. Choose something from it.

1. Instead of writing protest letters objecting to the way my birthday is being celebrated, write letters of love and hope to soldiers away from home. They are terribly afraid and lonely this time of year. I know, they tell me all the time.
2. Visit someone in a nursing home. You don't have to know them personally. They just need to know that someone cares about them.
3. Instead of writing the President complaining about the wording on the cards his staff sent out this year, why don't you write and tell him that you'll be praying for him and his family this year. Then follow up. It will be nice hearing from you again.
4. Instead of giving your children a lot of gifts you can't afford and they don't need, spend time with them. Tell them the story of my birth, and why I came to live with you down here. Hold them in your arms and remind them that I love them.
5. Pick someone that has hurt you in the past and forgive him or her.
6. Did you know that someone in your town will attempt to take their own life this season because they feel so alone and hopeless? Since you don't know who that person is, try giving everyone you meet a warm smile: it could make a difference.
7. Instead of nit picking about what the retailer in your town calls the holiday, be patient with the people who work there. Give them a warm smile and a kind word. Even if they aren't allowed to wish you a 'Merry Christmas' that doesn't keep you from wishing them one. Then stop shopping there on Sunday. If the store didn't make so much money on that day, they'd close and let their employees spend the day at home with their families, or go to enjoy a time of encouragement from my word.
8. If you really want to make a difference, support a missionary—especially one who takes my love and Good News to those who have never heard my name.
9. Here's a good one. There are individuals and whole families in your town who not only will have no 'Christmas' tree, but neither will they have any presents to give or receive. If you don't know them,

buy some food and a few gifts and give them to the Salvation Army or some other charity which believes in me, and they will make the delivery for you.

10. Finally, if you want to make a statement about your belief in and loyalty to me, then behave like a Christian. Don't do things in secret that you wouldn't do in my presence. Let people know by your actions that you are one of mine.

Don't forget I am God and can take care of myself. Just love me and do what I have told you to do. I'll take care of all the rest. Check out the list above and get to work, time is short. I'll help you, but the ball is now in your court. And do have a most blessed Christmas with all those whom you love and remember:

I LOVE YOU, JESUS

*I hope you have a Merry and Blessed
Christmas, Maryann*



Thank Yous from...

Hi Pastor Dave, I would just like to say thank you to you and everyone involved on the making of my care package! I am very, very grateful to have been thought of. I know my schedule is messy and busy, but I am going to try to come to church very soon! Have a lovely night, *Emily Ramsay*

Thank you for letting us use your facility for the election. *The North Codorus 2 staff.*

Dear People of St. Paul's, thank you so much for your continued support of Spring Grove's Backpack Program. The families are always so grateful for the hygiene bags. I really appreciate your continued partnership! Thank you~! Sincerely, *Teresa Weaver*

Thank Yous to...

Maryann Brenneman and Bonnie Martin for preparing lunch for the York Association Annual meeting here on November 9. Chip Hoover for providing AV support, and Darlene Hoover for playing the piano.

Steve Miller for his slides and presentation on our proposed 2026 budget, the final expenses and financing of our sanctuary renovation, and the proposed stair glide.

Congratulations to...

Carly Bosley (her great grandparents are Joyce and Bob Dubbs) and Jacob Moor on the birth of their son, Jensen Anthony Moor. Jensen was born a month prematurely (he was due on Dec. 19), and is receiving neonatal intensive care while his lungs develop.

Haley and Mitchell Helf on the baptism of their son, Lockland Mitchell Helf on November 30, 2025. Lockland's maternal grandparents are: Susan and Edward Davis. His paternal grandparents: Carol and Christian Helf. His Godparents are: Nathan Ferguson and Elyssa Holmes. Haley's grandparents are Joyce and Bob Dubbs. The Helfs recently moved to Mt. Wolf and will be seeking a new church home there in which to live out the promises they made on Lockland's behalf.

Kayla (Thoman) and Scott Gross on the birth of their son Hunter on November 26!





Please pray with us!

So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand. -- Isaiah 41:10

Holy One, we pray for:

Those shut in their homes/assisted living: Liz Chubb, Clair Fritz, Fay Herman, Sarah Senft

Those who need healing:

Sara Bare, Rick Beck, Tom Bering, Bob Brennehan, Rylan Borys, Ken Church, Robin Gentzler, Sue Howes, David Klinedinst, Erin Trayer

All those longing for peace in the world, refugees escaping terror, people suffering from disasters

All those struggling to pay their utility bills, rent, mortgage, and groceries.

All those struggling with domestic abuse.

Our college and graduate students:

Mackenzie Fritz, Darren Gobrecht, Holden Gobrecht, Hannah Mansfield, Luke Miller, Rachel Miller, Emily Ramsay, Bryce Thoman



Scripture Readings for December

Date (YC)	Notes	Scriptures
Dec. 7	Second Sunday in Advent; Repent	Isaiah 11:1-10; Matthew 3:1-12
Dec. 14	Third Sunday in Advent; Go and Tell	Isaiah 35:1-10; Luke 1:46-55; Matthew 11:2-11
Dec. 21	Fourth Sunday in Advent; Rejoice; <i>Communion</i>	Isaiah 7:10-16; Matthew 1:18-25
Dec. 24	Christmas Eve	John 1:1-14
Dec. 28	First Sunday after Christmas; Cosmic Praise; <i>St. Paul's Players</i>	Psalms 148
Jan. 4	Second Sunday after Christmas/ <i>Epiphany Sunday</i> ; Seeking God's Guidance	Isaiah 60:1-6; Psalm 72; Ephesians 3:1-12; Matthew 2:1-12



Contact Information

Church Office Hours

Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, 9 - 11:30 am.

Pastor's Office Hours

Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday mornings.

Prayer Chain Contact Pastor Dave (716-946-7349), Jane Bankert (717-225-3738), or Darlene Hoover (717-792-3153) to begin the prayer chain. To add a name to our printed prayer list, contact the church office.

Emergency Pastoral Needs For more immediate care, please contact Pastor Dave at 716-946-7349 (cell).

Ways to Support St. Paul's UCC

Grocery Cards Giant, Weis and Kennie's cards are available in amounts from \$10 to \$100. The church receives 5% of your purchase toward our expenses. Call Maryann Brenneman (717-225-4497) for additional information.

Submission due dates:

Newsletter:

Refer to Calendar

Sunday bulletin requests:

Tuesday of each week

Committee minutes:

Tuesday prior to Consistory meeting

Requests for use of the church building:

Forms are in the narthex tray.



ADDRESS: St. Paul's United Church of Christ Stoverstown
2173 Stoverstown Rd, Spring Grove PA 17362-7829
WEBSITE: www.stpaulsstoverstown.org
E-MAIL: stpaulsstoverstown@comcast.net
FACEBOOK PAGE: <https://www.facebook.com/stpaulsucc>
CHURCH CALENDAR: <http://tinyurl.com/spucccalendar>
CHURCH OFFICE E-MAIL: stpaulsstoverstown@comcast.net
CHURCH OFFICE PHONE: (717) 225-6357

Please "like" us on Facebook and refer us to your friends.

God is still speaking,
**UNITED CHURCH
OF CHRIST**





*Partners in Blessing - Cooperative Mission,
Cooperative Ministry*

NEWS of the 23 Churches of the York Association

Like us on Facebook: [yorkucc](#)

Website: www.yorkassociationucc.org

YA Email: info@yorkassociationucc.org

DECEMBER 2025 – Newsletter

Mission Statement

We, the members of the York Association of the United Church of Christ, are called by God and empowered by the Holy Spirit to represent Christ by:

- supporting one another in our covenantal relationship;
- calling clergy and laity to mutual accountability to the faith and order of the church;
- witnessing together to God's redeeming love. (Adopted April 28, 1991)

Significant Actions of Council 2025

The York Association Council met six times over the course of 2025 both in person and by ZOOM. Its significant actions included:

- Created and distributed a York Association Directory.
- Rethought the purpose of the Parish Life Committee and provisionally renamed it the Gathering Community Team.
- Authorized the acquisition of a credit card for York Association business, in particular for the work of our Social Media Coordinators.
- Proposed a significantly reduced 2026 budget for the York Association in order to reduce our deficit, and face the reality of the Association's declining membership and covenant contributions.

Developed a position description for a Coordinator for the Care of Authorized Clergy-- care that was provided by the PCCUCC but will not be provided by the Keystone Conference.

Increased Boundary Training requirements for active Authorized Ministers:

Policy #407: Diversity Training Requirement for Authorized Ministers: Embracing Christ's call to love our vulnerable and diverse neighbors with compassion, justice, fairness and kindness (Luke 10:25-37), and to address societal barriers to our neighbor's dignity that arise from fear and injustice, authorized ministers will be required to receive three (3) hours of anti-racism training or cross-cultural competency or diversity training every three (3) years beginning in 2026. Any UCC sponsored training on anti-racism or cross-cultural competency will be approved. Other training, book studies, etc. will need approval by the York Association COM. This is in addition to the yearly boundary training that is currently required.

York Association 63rd Annual Meeting Recap

Thank you to the 34 lay people and clergy representing 17 of our 22 churches who attended in-person or via Zoom our York Association Annual Meeting at St. Paul's UCC! And thanks to the good people of St. Paul's UCC who provided lunch and AV services and music for our meeting. And to Andrew Boyer of Starview UCC, who served as our Zoom moderator.

We were also blessed to have two special guests: the Rev. Kevin McLemore, who will be our Regional Conference Minister in the new Keystone Conference, and the Rev. Dr. Carrie Call, who will be our Transitional Keystone Conference Minister. Kevin is serving the Penn Southeast Conference as an Association Conference Minister and will provide support to associations and churches in that area as well as in the Lancaster, Lebanon, and York Associations. We should expect to see Conference representation at our future Association Annual meetings, but much less at other Association and church meetings. More than ever, our churches, lay and authorized ministers, will have to put more planning and effort into supporting one another in covenant than we have in the past—each of us matters, because we are stronger together!

Leadership Changes

The Annual meeting did elect the following persons to serve:

- ASSOCIATION COUNCIL MEMBERS:
Cory Nade, Treasurer, Dover, Dover
Rev. Rick Pulling, Chair of COM. St Johns Blymire, York
Rev. Susan Emmons, Council Clergy Member at Large, Shiloh, York
- COMMITTEE on MINISTRY (COM):
Rev. Rick Pulling, Chair of COM. St Johns Blymire, York
Rev. Laura Bair-Baker, Starview, Mt Wolf
Rev. Cam Richesson, Dover, Dover (filling out Cathy Sherry's term)
Jim Dow, lay person, St John's Red Lion
- GATHERING COMMUNITY TEAM (formerly Parish Life Committee)
Lisa Young, Chairperson, Hayshire, York
Equilla Curry, Faith, York
Cory Nade, Dover, Dover, York

The Annual meeting did renew the terms of:

- ASSOCIATION COUNCIL MEMBERS:
Equilla Curry, Secretary, Faith, York
Joy Gobrecht, Co-Chair Community Outreach, St Paul's, Stoverstown
Barbara Crum, Council Lay Member at Large, Hayshire, York

- COMMUNITY OUTREACH COMMITTEE
Joy Gobrecht, Co-Chair Community Outreach, St Paul's, Stoverstown
- NOMINATING COMMITTEE
Andrew Boyer, Starview, Mt Wolf

Thank you to the following persons who fulfilled their terms.
Well done, good and faithful servants!

- Charles Eisenhart, Treasurer, Hayshire, York
- Eva O'Diam, Chair of COM, Dover, Dover
- Rev. Kelly Shiflett, Council Clergy Member at Large, Trinity, Hellam
- Pam Rutledge, COM, Dover, Dover
- Rev. Martha Boyer, Starview, Mt Wolf
- Rev. Cathy Sherry COM, Hayshire, York

Budget

The Annual meeting did approve the proposed budget of \$11,720 for 2026. Recommended contributions of \$2.00 per member remain the same. Church Treasurers, please send your recommended contributions to our new Association Treasurer, Cory Nade, at least quarterly.

Diversity Training Policy Accepted

The Annual Meeting also accepted Policy #407: Diversity Training Requirement for Authorized Ministers. The text of this policy and its authorizations will appear on the York Association website, <https://www.yorkassociationucc.org/resources>, under Association Policy Manual.

Your Piece Matters Presentation and Puzzle Piece Prayers

Thanks to the Rev. Equilla Curry of St. John's UCC for the creative way in which she reminded us that in covenant, each of us, churches, lay leaders, authorized ministers, members and friends, all matter very much to the well-being of one another, and the ability of one another to do ministry and mission over the long-term. Equilla provided palm-sized blank puzzle pieces on which to write responses to the following prompts: "What would you like to see happen in the Association in this next season?" And "What is your prayer, hope or dream for someone in the Association?"

Puzzle Piece Prayers and Call to Action: The following are the responses that were shared. Please prayerfully consider them, and how they resonate with you and your congregation, and what concrete steps you could take with God's blessings and guidance to make them happen.

- A deepening connection to The Living God!
- Community
- I would like to see the Association grow a tighter bond with local churches.
- More cross pollination—sharing resources, gatherings, joy between churches.
- More shared ministry/ies, missions, and special services.
- That we serve more closely together.
- More churches work together.
- Closer relations between churches.
- Like to see more in Association: opportunities and guidance and encouragement for church collaboration of ministries.
- For churches to cooperate with leadership, perhaps the same leaders serving several congregations.

- I would like to see, in the next season, the Keystone Conference startup [and] facilitate collaboration and joint activities among our churches through the collection and use of best practices the making available of these.
- More pastors to serve in the York Association.
- Many more in attendance at [Association or church?] service. Many more pastors for all the churches—so churches can have a full-time pastor.
- That our neighboring congregations have or find the pastoral leadership they need.
- I would like to see more diversity in the gatherings.
- Leadership Development/Parish Diversity Training
- I would like to see that the Committee on Ministry and the York Association Council continue to encourage churches to explore the possibility of lay ministry and ordained clergy working together to form a new partnership. —Curt Weber
- Active Parish Life Committee within Association.
- Major gathering event (Association-wide) fellowship.
- A revival of the leadership banquet for anyone who would like to come.
- As an Association, to host at least two (churchwide) services or a book study together. "We are stronger together."
- Some additional Association social/mission project activity.
- For the York Association: Help Emmanuel York to install our lay minister! Better communication, and better and stronger commitment to social justice and climate justice action. Active support for the disenfranchised and marginalized.
- I would like the Association to come together to provide help for the North American Welcome Center and the people they serve. Deborah Detzel, their director, is a great speaker.
- Greater Outreach to the area—more [people] coming through our doors—Being louder in the community.
- Draw in those not present.
- I am praying that the membership of the UCC grows!
- Form relationships with the other associations in our new Conference "region" while keeping our relationships strong with those we have a history with.
- We all work together as one Keystone Conference.

Submitted by: Rev David Martin, President York Association

Congratulations and blessings to the Rev. Equilla Curry and St. John's UCC for the unanimous call she received on Sunday to serve as their settled Pastor.

Attn: York Association UCC Clergy & MIDs

York Ministerium will gather for its annual Christmas dinner on **Wednesday, December 10 at 6 p.m. at Olive Garden in York.** Please contact Rev. Chris Anderson to reserve seats. There will be no daytime meeting due to this evening event.

Submitted by Rev. Susan Emmons

The next newsletter, JANUARY, will be emailed Dec 20. Please send articles to news@yorkassociationucc.org by Dec 18.

Thank You!

Around the Association

Starview UCC
4832 N. Sherman Street Ext'd
Mount Wolf, PA 17347

Shadows to Sunshine – Mental Health Support Group

We all walk through seasons when shadows feel long and heavy. *Shadows to Sunshine* is a mental health support group created to remind us that no one has to face those seasons alone. Together, we share a safe, confidential space for listening, learning, and supporting one another.

Our journey begins with an informational meeting on Sunday, November 9 at 11:30am. After that, gatherings will be held on **Mondays – December 1, December 15, and December 29 at 6:00 pm** – upstairs in the church parlor.

This December, we will host a **Blue Christmas service on Sunday, December 21 at 3:00pm**, offering space for reflection and hope during a season that can sometimes feel especially difficult.

Pub, Grub, and God

Looking for a place where faith and everyday life meet over good food and conversation? *Pub, Grub, and God* is a safe and welcoming space for honest, challenging discussions.

We meet at 6:00 PM on the 3rd Tuesday of each month, rotating among local restaurants:

- **December 16 – Olive Garden, 1340 Kenneth Road, York, PA**

Bring your questions, your curiosity, and your appetite. Everyone is welcome — no preparation required, just come as you are!



Locust Grove UCC,
1035 Locust Grove Rd, York
Christmas Eve and Candlelight Service
Locust Grove UCC will hold its Christmas Eve & Candlelight Service on **Wednesday, December 24, 2025, at 7 pm**. Christmas Carols will be played on the organ by Stephen Foye 15 minutes before the service. All are welcome. Blessings for a safe holiday!

New Hope Fissel's UCC
3426 Fissels Church Rd, Glen Rock

Upcoming Events:

- Community Thanksgiving Service Please join us for the community Thanksgiving Service at New Hope on **Tuesday, November 25th, at 7 pm** as we worship with our neighboring churches. Pastor Rodger Snyder will be preaching.
- Thanksgiving Morning Devotional Join us for our 6th Annual Thanksgiving Morning Devotional and Hike on **Thursday, November 27, at 7:30 am at Railroad Park**. We'll gather for prayer and praise to give thanks to God. After the devotional, we will take a short walk on the Rail Trail from Kirchner Road to Pleasant Avenue and back. If you're unable to walk, we warmly invite you to join us for the devotional at 7:30 AM. It's an excellent way to start your Thanksgiving Day! Everyone is welcome — please ask your family and friends to join us. Ruth Stewart will once again be leading the devotions.
- Healing Service Pastor Arthur Grahe will be holding a healing service on **Sunday, November 30, at 10 am**.
- Special Music - Diane Susek, National Christian Recording Artist, will be joining New Hope on **December 7th** for the second Sunday of Advent.
- Troy D. Winemiller, Holiday Benefit Concert with Special Guest, SYC String Ensemble, will take place on **Sunday, December 7th, at 3:00 pm** with a Prelude beginning at 2:40. There will be a reception to follow.
- Third Sunday of Advent (**12/14/25**) with Concert Pianist Carole Knisely beginning at 9:45, followed by a Happy Birthday Jesus Party!
- Fourth Sunday of Advent (**12/21/25**) with Vocalist Tom Wakeland @ 10 am.
- Christmas Eve service (**12/24/25**) @ 6:45 with Handbell Soloist Ron Bellamy, Concert Pianist Bonita Wagner Grady, New Hope Adult Choir, & Vocalist Troy Winemiller

Heidelberg UCC
47 W Philadelphia St, York



Heidelberg UCC, York PA
An Open & Affirming Faith Community



First Friday
HEIDELBEAN
COFFEEHOUSE
Holiday Edition



DECEMBER 5, 2025
47 W. PHILADELPHIA STREET
6:00 PM - 9:00 PM

ENTERTAINMENT: "3 AMIGOS + FRANK, BRAHMII & TIM" (CHRIS ANDERSON, DAVID SEARS, AND WICK BARNES)

ART SHOWCASE: PAUL GODFREY

HARPISTS: ANNA SMITH & BRYNN OLDEN

SANTA & MRS. CLAUSE AT 7:00 PM
BOARDGAMES, SNACKS,
& GUILT FREE FAMILY FUN!

Rev. D. Marie Tribble, Senior Pastor
www.heidelbergyork.com



St John's UCC
161 N Main St, Red Lion

St. John's United Church of Christ
Red Lion



JOIN US FOR A
Christmas
cantata

HOPE IN A MANGER

THE NIGHT LOVE WAS BORN

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 7, 2025 | 10:15 AM
WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 10, 2025 | 7:00 PM

161 N. MAIN STREET
RED LION PA 17356

<https://www.stjohns-ucc.com>



HEIDELBERG UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

HEIDEL-HOLIDAY
JINGLE
COMMUNITY BREAKFAST FUNDRAISER

DEC. 6TH

47 W. PHILADELPHIA STREET 2PM-6PM

JOIN US FOR
CRAFTING & CAROLING FOR ALL AGES



PICTURES W SANTA & MRS CLAUSE 4:00 PM
SNACKS, LIVE MUSIC, HOLIDAY CHEER & MORE...

FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION CONTACT 717-854-7125
REV. D. MARIE TRIBBLE, PASTOR

ADULTS \$25
KIDS \$15

TICKETS



St. John's UCC - Red Lion cordially invites you to our

Blue
Christmas
Service

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 17, 2025
AT 7:00 PM

A Time of Fellowship with light refreshments will follow the service.

161 N MAIN ST.
RED LION, PA 17356

JOIN US FOR A BLUE CHRISTMAS SERVICE, A SACRED SPACE WHERE WE CAN COME TOGETHER TO ACKNOWLEDGE OUR PAIN, FIND HOPE IN GOD'S PROMISES, AND BE REMINDED OF THE LIGHT THAT SHINES IN THE DARKNESS.



St. John's UCC - Red Lion
161 N Main St, Red Lion, PA 17356

You're Invited!

**Christmas Eve
Service**

Wednesday, December 24, 2025
Ensemble - 5:00pm
Candlelight Worship with
Communion - 10:00 pm



ST. JOHN'S UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
161 N. Main Street Red Lion PA 17356

JOIN US FOR OUR

**TABLE
WORSHIP
SERVICE**

DEC 28TH BREAKFAST
HYMN SINGS
HOT CHOCOLATE STATION

BREAKFAST BEGINS AT 9:00 AM
WORSHIP AT THE TABLE STARTS AT 10:15 AM
IN OUR SOCIAL HALL

<https://www.stjohns-ucc.com> RSVP 717-244-5031

St. Paul's UCC - Stoverstown

December 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
30 First Sunday of Advent 9:00am Intergenerational Confirmation Faith Discussion 10:15am Worship ✝ Joy Gobrecht 🏠 Emily Howard	1 7:00pm Worship & Christian Education Committee 🏠 Sara Grove	2 ✝ Sara Hartman 🏠 Joyce Dubbs	3 6:00pm Fellowship & Outreach Committee 6:00pm Caroling 7:15pm Shalom Choir 🏠 Kimberly Henry	4 🏠 Terry Gruver	5 ✝ David Klinedinst, Greyson Stough	6
7 Second Sunday of Advent 9:00am Intergenerational Confirmation Faith Discussion 10:15am Worship 11:30am First Sunday Fellowship ✝ Deborah Henry, Noah Church	8	9 🏠 Mitchell Helf	10 6:00pm Caroling 7:15pm Shalom Choir 💎 Scott Young & Jacquie Church-Young 🏠 Lucinda Gruver ✝ Karlee Bosley, Tanner Hoffman	11 🏠 Clair Fritz	12 🏠 Wyatt Brenneman	13 Progressive Dinner 🏠 Bryce Thoman
14 Third Sunday of Advent 9:00am Intergenerational Confirmation Faith Discussion 10:15am Worship 11:30am Annual Meeting 2:30pm Caroling	15 First day of Chanukah 7:00pm Consistory 💎 Christina & Bradley Stough	16 Newsletter deadline	17 6:00pm Caroling 7:15pm Shalom Choir	18 ✝ Jena Hull 🏠 James Wherley	19	20 🏠 Jennifer Miller, Hudson Helf
21 Fourth Sunday of Advent 9:00am Intergenerational Confirmation Faith Discussion 10:15am Worship with Communion	22	23	24 Christmas Eve 7:00pm Christmas Eve Service 🏠 MacKenzie Fritz	25 Christmas Day	26	27
28 10:15am Worship 🏠 Christina Stough	29	30 🏠 Mark Hull	31 New Year's Eve	1 New Year's Day	2	3