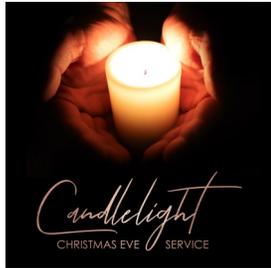


THE MUSTARD SEED



Christmas Eve at Salem Church. A Family Candlelight Service of Lessons & Carols designed for families of all ages, will be held on Saturday, December 24 at 7 p.m. The evening will include Christmas carols, candlelight and festive poinsettias. Come to celebrate the birth of our Savior, who is Christ the Lord. After the service visit the choir room for Christmas cookies and sparkling punch as we wish one another “A Merry Christmas”. We ask our bakers to bring a plate of Christmas cookies to share. Should Christmas visitors attend, invite them to join us,. Before leaving, don’t forget to take your cookie plates and/or containers home.



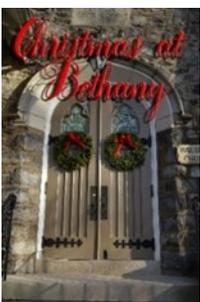
This is a Thanksgiving Tree made by our Children & Youth during Sunday School on November 20th. The Bible story was about Ruth and Naomi and her commitment to caring for her. Since family is usually one of the things we are most thankful for, it fit into their celebration of the Thanksgiving holiday. Creating the tree was an opportunity for the kids to think about what is important in their lives that they are thankful for. .



Also, The youth and children of Salem UCC participated in the denomination-wide 2022 Climate Hope art contest sponsored by the Environmental Justice Ministries of our national church. Winners will be chosen after November 29.

Winning art in the contest will be converted to postcards and collected by UCC congregations to use in urging our Congress and White House to take more action toward the ongoing climate and environmental justice issues we face today. The artwork can be seen on our webpage.

Christmas gifts for the children of Bethany will be collected through **Sunday, December 11**. Our support



of and relationship with Bethany Children’s Home has been a longstanding tradition at Salem. At Bethany, the mission is to aid in the healing journey of the children and youth who come to Bethany. The journey includes providing opportunities that the children and youth may not have ever had. Some of them have never truly experienced holiday traditions or the joy of opening a special gift. Over the years here at Salem, we have strived to make the holidays extra special for the children and youth at Bethany. A complete list of requested gift items can be found at <https://bethanyhome.org/holidays-at-bethany/> and also on the designated table in the west foyer. **New and unwrapped gifts** may then be brought to Salem and placed on the table in the west foyer. Thank you for your loving generosity and support as we help to bring the joy of the season to the children and youth at Bethany.



In the Mailbag!

The Caring Cupboard would like to thank you for making a difference in our community by your recent gift of \$150. Your support enables them to provide individuals and families in our area with the nutritious food they need to thrive and for that they are truly grateful.

United Church of Christ Homes thanks you for your recent gifts of \$200 & \$240 which were placed in their Benevolent Fund. Without congregations like ours, so many people would not be able to receive the assistance they need.

Lancaster Seminary would like to thank you for your gift of \$60 to their Annual Fund. Your gift provides support of Lancaster Seminary's mission "to educate and nurture leaders to join God's redemptive and liberating work so that all creation may flourish"



It is the most wonderful time of the year! The members of Salem are asked again this year to provide special Christmas gifts to children within the Palmyra School District who may not receive much for Christmas. We have set the tree with tags in the West Narthex. Please take a tag, purchase the gift, wrap it, ATTACH THE TAG, and **the return it to the table in the Narthex by December 11th.** The gifts will then be given to the school district to distribute to the children. Also, if you would like to purchase gift cards for random students, they will accept those also. Some suggestions are Walmart, Target, Amazon, Palmyra Bowling or Flagship Cinema. If you decide to purchase extra gift cards, please make sure that they are noted as extra! If you have any questions please contact Lee Ann Ream (717) 574-9040 or momsmile@aol.com



Overwhelmed with Joy - The Christmas Fund Offering will be received on **Sunday, December 18.** This offering is an expression of appreciation and caring to the clergy and lay leaders who have given their time, treasure, and talents for the work of the church. For over 100 years, this Offering has helped retired clergy and lay employees who have been in need to receive quality health care, adequate retirement income, and emergency assistance in times of financial crises along with Christmas "Thank You" gift checks each December to lower-income retirees. Thank you for your heartfelt support and generosity as we join with others in the United Church of Christ to bring **joy** to those who have given so much to our church.



Bring in an Ornament or Two to Decorate our "Church Family Christmas Tree" this season! Everyone is invited to bring in an ornament or two from each person in your home to decorate our Church Family Christmas Tree this season. Whenever you arrive for worship over the next few weeks, feel free to come forward and place it on the tree. The ornaments will be available to take home on Epiphany Sunday, January 8, 2023. Be sure not to bring ornaments that are extremely fragile or too valued by your family, but if you have one or two others that you'd like to beautify the tree in our sanctuary this year, we'd appreciate you sharing them for the season



Carols for the Cupboard returns! Sunday, Dec. 18, 2022 from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m. at Mount Gretna Craft Brewery in partnership with Salem UCC. If you'd like to donate a basket or gift card item for a raffle to raise funds for the Caring Cupboard foodbank, please contact Pastor Dwight. We'll have a Christmas carol sing-a-long and some holiday trivia. It is always fun for the whole family, as we join the community for food, fun and Christmas cheer. Reservations through the brewery website are highly recommended.



The Book Club is scheduled to meet Monday, Dec. 19th at 7 p.m. they will be discussing "The Christmas Bookshop" by Jenny Colgan. The book for January is "Remarkably Bright Creatures" by Shelby Van Pelt. If you have any questions, please contact Carin Kaag. Her e-mail is cas207@yahoo.com.

CHRISTMAS CONCERTS



The Heritage Choral of Lancaster presents “Mid-winter Glow” on December 4th, 4 p.m. at Mt. Calvary Lutheran Church, 308 Petersburg Rd, Lititz; Sunday, December 11th, 4 p.m. at Ascension Lutheran Church, 600 Penn Grant Rd, Willow Street and Sunday, January 8, 4 p.m., at Holy Spirit Lutheran Church, 3131 Columbia Ave, Lancaster. A free will offering will be taken. Please see Louise Adams who is a member, with any questions

The Lebanon County Choral Society will present the Holiday concert "Songs of Ice and Fire" on Sunday, December 11 at 3pm at Palm Lutheran Church, 11 W. Cherry St., Palmyra. Our own Jane Long and Karen Umberger are members. Karen also directs the LCCS Youth Chorus, who will also perform. Guest musician is Mary-Kate Spring Lee, a Celtic harpist. Tickets are \$15 for adults and \$3 for students. Visit lccsmusic.org to purchase.

The Hershey Handbell Ensemble, a fifteen-member auditioned community group, will be presented in concert Friday, December 9, 2022 at 7:30 PM at First United Methodist Church, 64 West Chocolate Avenue, Hershey, Pennsylvania. Included in the concert will be arrangements of holiday music and Christmas carols, as well as an original work. The ensemble, under the direction of Dr. Shawn Gingrich, was formed in 2004 and is committed to advancing the art of handbell ringing through performance, education, and community, while uniting people through this musical art. They will ring on seven and a half octaves of Malmark handbells as well as six octaves of Malmark Choirchimes, four octaves of Petit and Fritsen handbells, two octaves of Schulmerich Silver Melody Bells, and other instruments. At the concert their CD recordings will be for sale, including their newest CD “Just for Fun.” For more information on Hershey Handbell Ensemble visit www.hersheyhandbellensemble.org or call 717-298-7071.

Looking for some great holiday music? The Hershey High School winter band, choir and orchestra concert will be held Dec 7 at 7:30. This is free and open to the public. It is held in the HHS auditorium.

Looking for something a little different? Try the 2022 Merry Tuba Christmas concert! It will be held on Friday December 16 at 7 p.m. at the Hershey MIDDLE school auditorium. This concert is also free and open to the public, and is a really fun time. (Any and all euphonium, baritone, tuba, and sousaphone players, all ages, are also welcome to join in. Registration starts at 5:30 in the HMS lobby.)



God came to earth in the Christmas birth of a tiny baby boy,
Whose life and death are redeeming us yet with blessings, grace and joy.

Our minds may know this history but stand in awe at mystery.
So faith becomes the way to make our hearts like “manger hearts”
where Christ can dwell and God imparts his wondrous love each day.

Salem Council Meeting

September 12, 2022 - 7 pm Hybrid

Present: Melissa Krieder, Joan Alger, Kristin Vines, Shirley Beck, Garrett Bear, David Bushnell, Tom Peiffer, Louise Adams, Beth Gingrich, Lisa Smith, Pat Steely

Absent: Tara Jankouskas, Talie Kaag

Call Meeting to Order - Garrett Bear 7:04 pm

Opening Devotions by Garrett Bear

Secretary's report from July 11, 2022 was passed with unanimous consent.

Treasurer's report - giving is down. Treasurer's report was passed with unanimous consent.

Pastor's report -

Dave has been here 6 weeks now and Faith has kept him informed on hospitalizations. He is connected with those who are having surgery. Things are going well and he's grateful for everyone's support.

Old Business:

CDC Recommendations - Garrett thanks everyone for quickly responding to emails regarding masking/levels in Lebanon County. Will continue to watch and make recommendations.

New Business:

Parking Lot Rental - the new neighbor in the Gemistry building had requested a parking space at the end of July. Tom Peiffer followed up with that and the neighbors decided that they did not want to rent a space. There are two apartments that are being rented to traveling nurses. No business will be going in as of now.

Air Purifying System - estimate on Air Purifier through Bowman's. Will wait for Dwight's return to seek other estimates. Estimate come in at just under \$1K, they currently service our HVAC. In-duct air purifier Committee Liaison Reports:

Building, Grounds, Cemetery - Garrett Bear, Tom Peiffer

No meeting, but south parking lot was re-sealed and lines were painted, and the crosswalk across Hinkle road was repainted as well. Front door was painted by Sandy Goss and Tom Peiffer, Ron Cline changed some lightbulbs. The front door lock was repaired.

Christian Education - Lisa Smith - Met July 26.

Discussed feedback from the interest poll from teachers. Pool of 7 teachers. Only 3 regularly attending elementary age children, decided to include older children as well through September. Will meet next week and decide how to move forward. Also talked through what type of curriculum we might pick up as we move forward with more frequency. May align with lectionary schedule. Adult Sunday school is on pause because of Dave's sessions. The CWS Health kits were delivered in July

Nursery status remains the same - leave it open for families to use but no nursery attendant. Planning monthly family events. September will be a hike. October is the hayride. November will be volunteer opportunity and Dec probably a movie/craft night. Discussed VBS event, very low attendance. Much better turnout for second night. Next meeting is September 20 at 7 pm.

Fellowship - Joan Alger –

Church Picnic - wonderful to be able to share food again! Dave's first day. Weather was great and had a fun time. Two fellowship activities planned for two last Sundays in October.

Finance and Stewardship – Tom Peiffer

Things coming up - 2023 budget worksheets will be out soon. Got two volunteers for Redner's Receipts, Cindy Steger and Don Umberger.

Membership Committee – Tara Jankouskas

Missions - Carin Kaag, Kristin Vines, Pat Steely -

CWS hygiene kits collected and taken to CWS. Wittle Farm visit successful. Blanket Sunday - well over goal, great response. Palmyra's Great Give is coming up. UCC Homes Sunday is coming up. Neighbors in Need is coming up. Volunteer opportunities: meal at Lebanon Rescue Mission. Harvest Home collection on Saturday and Sunday before Thanksgiving. Advent/Christmas items coming up. Will meet again Mid-October. \$284 collected from Community Aid and given to Caring Cupboard. Tom and Jan Peiffer will take over bringing items to the Caring Cupboard (formerly done by Don and Florence Umberger.). Looking into expanding what else we collect to recycle.

Moyer Fund - Garrett Bear, Shirley Beck - Meeting Sept 24 at 9 am

PACC & Interfaith Manor - Tom Peiffer (PACC) Carin Kaag (IM Rep).

PACC met July 19, nothing too significant to report. IM continues to work on renovations and opening up units.

Pastoral Relations – Louise Adams - haven't met

Women's Fellowship – Shirley Beck –

Haven't met but will sell Boscov's discount passes. \$5, each organization keeps all money from passes. Friends Helping Friends Day is October 19. The funds will be used to purchase items for Christmas stockings instead of asking congregation to donate items.

Worship and Music – Joan Alger, Melissa Kreider –

Met in August, reviewed recent services and checked with Pastor Dave about his services. People stepped up to help out. Choir and chimes are starting. Cindy will be helping Darrell conduct on Sundays when he is playing. The Altar guild has brought to attention that the springs in the candelabras are getting old and can't be replaced. May need to replace the candelabras. Set a tentative meeting date of Oct 27 after Dwight returns. Talked about ideas for improving the sound system without spending a lot of money. Darrell was going to reach out to the pastor at Christ Church in Annville about that. Dave shared about his sermon on Caste and racial justice issues.

Youth Fellowship – Talie Kaag - no report

Open Comment

Meeting Adjournment by Unanimous Consent at 8:03 pm.

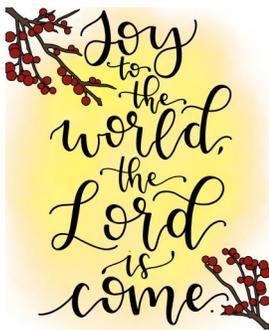
Closing: Mizpah Benediction

Next Meeting November 14, 7 pm, Hybrid



Sunday	Dec. 4	Family Worship 10:30 a.m. Craft Time for Children/Youth after Church In Basement Fellowship Hall
Wednesday	Dec. 7	Chimes Rehearsal 7 p.m.
Thursday	Dec. 8	4-H Club 7 p.m. Basement
Sunday	Dec. 11	Family Worship 10:30 a.m. Chimes Play Christmas Gifts for Bethany & Palmyra School District Due
Wednesday	Dec. 14	Choir Rehearsal 7:15 pm.
Thursday	Dec. 15	Bethany Christmas Gift Wrapping 10 a.m.—noon Carpooling from church at 9:15 a.m.
Sunday	Dec. 18	Family Worship 10:30 a.m., Choir Sings Sunday School after Children’s Time Christmas Fund Offering.
Wednesday	Dec. 21	Choir Rehearsal 7:15 p.m.
Saturday	Dec. 24	Christmas Eve Candlelight Service 7 p.m.
Sunday	Dec, 25	Christmas Day No Service at the Church

**All Worship Services will also be livestreamed on Facebook Live and our web page
www.salemucccampbelltown.org*



A collaboration across time and place

For Christmas Day worship, many churches use Psalm 98. It is fitting, then, that Isaac Watts, who interpreted 132 psalms as hymn texts, based a now-beloved carol on it. Watts (1674-1748) was a student of language, religion and philosophy. He wanted to make Scripture more relevant to lay people and thought hymns could help. Watts composed more than 600 hymn texts, many still in use. But Psalm 98:4-9, “Joy to the World,” needed music to fit its words.

Enter Lowell Mason (1792-1872), an American choir director. He came across Watts’ Psalm 98 hymn text and sought inspiration for a melody from the famous oratorio *Messiah* by George F. Handel (1685-1759). Mason pulled musical phrases from sections of Handel’s work, resulting in the tune we now recognize as “Joy to the World.” So it is that three men who lived across three centuries and never met — along with the composer of the original psalm more than two millennia earlier — together produced a hymn to the Christ-child, which millions have sung and continue to love.



WORSHIP SCRIPTURES

December 4 **Second Sunday of Advent**

Isaiah 11:1-10
Psalm 2:1-7, 18-19
Romans 15:4-13
Matthew 3:1-12

December 11 **Third Sunday of Advent**

Isiah 65:17-25
Psalm 98
2 Thessalonians 3:6-13
Luke 21:5-19

December 18 **Fourth Sunday of Advent**

Isaiah 7:10-16
Psalm 8:1-7, 17-19
Romans 1:1-7
Matthew 1:18-25

December 25 **Christmas Day**

Isaiah 52:7-10
Psalm 98
Hebrews 1:1-4, (5-12)
John 1:1-14

January 1 **First Sunday after Christmas Day**

Isaiah 63:7-9
Psalm 148
Hebrews 2:10-18
Matthew 2:13-23

January 8 **Baptism of Christ**

Isaiah 41:1-9
Psalm 29
Acts 10:34-43
Matthew 3:13-17

January 15 **Second Sunday after Epiphany**

Isaiah 49:1-7
Psalm 40:1-11
1 Corinthians 1:1-9
John 1:26-42

January 22 **Third Sunday after Epiphany**

Isaiah 9:1-4
Psalm 27:1, 4-9
1 Corinthians 1:10-18
Matthew 4:12-23

January 29 **Fourth Sunday after Epiphany**

Micah 6:1-8
Psalm 15
1 Corinthians 1:18-31
Matthew 5:1-12

THE MUSTARD SEED

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DECEMBER

BIRTHDAYS

- 1 Sydney Flory
- 2 Liz Brandt
- 2 Garrett Bear
- 7 Kathy Binkley
- 11 Kelley Frew
- 12 Earl Garrett
- 16 Susan Mitchell
- 18 Daryl Alger
- 19 Roxann Albright
- 19 Arlene Yantz
- 21 Virginia Ream
- 22 Dwight Hein
- 23 Kimberly Kozelsky
- 23 Jenna Van Hout
- 26 Jarrett Smith
- 29 Lily Miller



JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

- 1 Gordon Wirth
- 2 Kelly Hein
- 4 David Barb
- 5 Brittany Devine
- 5 Griffin Weidler
- 7 Cynthia Steger
- 7 Florence Umberger
- 7 Wilson Frew
- 8 Christy Umberger
- 13 Robert Smith
- 18 Jared Cooper
- 19 Jeannie Wirth
- 21 Brenda Davy
- 21 Gretchen Monahan
- 21 Kelsey Smith
- 24 Scott Aungst
- 25 Kevin Flory
- 31 Lisa Smith



Christmas crackups

Enjoy these kid-friendly holiday jokes!

What did Adam say the day before Christmas?

It's Christmas, Eve!

What does the gingerbread man put on his bed?

Cookie sheets.

What do you sing at a snowman's birthday party?

"Freeze a jolly good fellow!"

What is a Christmas tree's favorite candy?

Ornamints.

What goes "Oh, Oh, Oh"?

Santa walking backward.

Why did Rudolph get a bad report card?

Because he went down in history.

What is an elf's favorite kind of music?

Wrap music!

How much did Santa pay for his sleigh?

Nothing. It was on the house!

What kind of photos do Santa's helpers take?

Elfies.

SALEM COLLECTIONS -

The Caring Cupboard is a community food pantry, that has grown into a community necessity, that currently serves over 350 families living primarily in the Palmyra and Annville-Cleona School Districts. Products to be given to the Caring Cupboard may be placed on the designated shelves found at the end of the northwest hallway of Salem Church.

Community Aid (Missions Committee) is a nonprofit organization with the primary purpose of raising funds for distribution to local schools, churches, synagogues, temples and nonprofit charitable organizations. A complete list of items accepted is on the west wing table. Our collection bin can be found in the rear of the Salem Church parking lot on Horseshoe Pike between the Campbelltown United Methodist Church and The Londonderry Inn. All donations must fit in the collection bin. Proceeds from our collection bin benefit the Caring Cupboard.

Pop Tab Collection Program (Matt Waller) Ronald McDonald House. The collection of aluminum beverage tabs began in 1996. The aluminum tabs are sold to a local recycling company and their proceeds help with daily operating expenses at the Ronald McDonald House. The generous amount from the tabs collected has been very beneficial to the House and the families they serve. They are averaging \$1,000 monthly just from these tiny tabs. You can help raise money by pulling tabs from any aluminum container. Pop Tabs may be placed in the designated box on the shelf above the coat rack in the bell tower entrance.

Redner's Cash Register Receipts (Cindy Steger) By using the Save-A-Tape card you picked up at Customer Service Desk each time you purchase merchandise at Redner's Warehouse Markets, your receipt will be designated as a Save-A-Tape customer receipt. When you come to Salem Church, place your **entire register/sales receipt (DO NOT CUT!)** in the designated box on the shelf above the coat rack in the bell tower entrance. Salem Church will receive a check for 1% of the total amount of tapes submitted, excluding items controlled by the government, such as tax, milk and tobacco products.

Clothing Recycling We are again collecting old clothing for recycling. These should be clothes that are too worn to be passed along. No underwear. Simply place your worn-out clothes in the box in the west narthex and we will do the rest! (Clothing in good condition should be donated in the collection bin in our auxiliary parking lot.)

