



# The Clen-Moore Messenger



**JANUARY 2025**

Dear Church Family,

As we look to 2025, there are a few new things on the horizon. First, I am excited to share that Stephen Cowher will be taking on the primary teaching role in our combined adult Sunday school class. For those who may not know, Stephen has a Master's of Divinity, the same education required as our Presbyterian pastors, making him more than qualified to do so. I believe he is a better teacher and student of the Bible than me, and I am deeply grateful for his willingness to share his gifts with the congregation. If you have not regularly attended adult Sunday school, I would encourage you to give it a shot this new year as we welcome Stephen into this role.

One advantage of this change is that it frees me up to offer a youth confirmation class this winter and spring. We are a few years overdue for one. This class is open to all young people in grade 7 or older. We will host an informational meeting for parents and youth at 9:30am during the Sunday school hour on Sunday, January 12. Please let me know if your young person hopes to participate. This class will entail several Sundays of learning about the Bible, theology, the Presbyterian church, and of course, what it means to be a member of a local church.

Additionally, if you are an adult who has been regularly attending and would be interested in joining our church as a member, please contact me. Third, I want to introduce a short preaching series for January based on the book "The Expectation Gap" by Steve Cuss. I read it this Fall, and was captivated by its simplicity and practicality. The premise is one we all experience: We believe strongly that Jesus is our Lord and Savior and devote our lives to an experience of grace with God offered through the Son. However, there is a disconnect or gap between what we believe and what we experience in our faith.

This series will address three major thoughts outlined in the book:

1. I believe God loves me, but I don't feel it.
2. I believe God is with me, but I don't see Him.
3. I thought I'd be farther along by now.

If you find yourself nodding in agreement with one or more of these statements, then this series (and book) are for you. I imagine that we all experience each of these thoughts from time to time. The intangible nature of faith can be a challenge, but as we remembered and celebrated this Christmas, God came down to us in human form to share in the joys and pains of our broken lives (see Philippians 2:5-11!) As we begin this series, I encourage you to focus on the incarnation of Jesus. We may not have Jesus physically present in the world, but through the power of the Holy Spirit, our relationship with God can be as real and intimate as the ones we share with one another.

Bless and be blessed this New Year!

-Michael



## UPCOMING Events



Wednesday, January 1st	Happy New Year	Tuesday, January 14th	Session mtg. 7:00pm
Sunday, January 5th	Prayer Team in Library 9:00am Sunday School 9:30am Worship with communion 10:30am Children in Worship Taking down Christmas decorations	Thursday, January 16th	Staff mtg. 11:00am
Tuesday, January 7th	No Bible Study until Tuesday, March 11, 2025 Ministry & Mission Team mtg. 6:00pm Admin. Team mtg. 7:00pm	Sunday, January 19th	Prayer Team in Library 9:00am Sunday School 9:30am Worship 10:30am Children in Worship Deacon's mtg. after worship
Sunday, January 12th	Prayer Team in Library 9:00am Sunday School 9:30am Confirmation Class mtg. 9:30am Worship 10:30am Installation of Elders during worship Children in Worship	Sunday, January 26th	Prayer Team in Library 9:00am Sunday School 9:30am Worship 10:30am Children in Worship



May the faith of God be with you this year.  
May the peace of God surround you,  
and may you be blessed each day!  
Happy New Year!



**Deadline for February is January 24th**



**December 2024**  
Health Tip from the  
Health Ministry Deacons



"A study from the University of Michigan shows how even a small amount of exercise can lead to changes in happiness. Researchers who reviewed 23 different studies found that those who did just 10 minutes of exercise per week were markedly happier than those who did none. The more exercise people got — up to 300 minutes a week — the bigger their happiness gains! And the happier you get, the more activity you will naturally crave. If this sounds daunting, just know that you can do a little every day, broken up throughout the day, or a longer workout a few times a week. The goal is simply to move your body more, and try to enjoy at least parts of your exercise of choice!"

(Taken from "The All-Natural Happiness Pill"  
pp 66-7, Woman's Day, Dec., 2024)

Scripture: "These things I have spoken to you, that My joy may remain in you, and that your joy may be full." John 15:11.



**Food Pantry/Blessing Box Collection**  
**(Month 9) – January 2025**

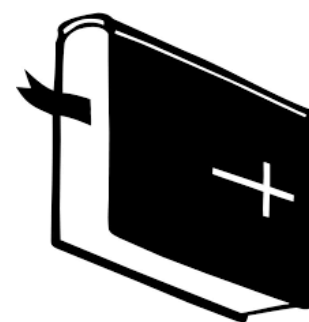


- |                            |                    |
|----------------------------|--------------------|
| Confectioner's Sugar – bag | Salt               |
| Vegetable Oil              | Peach Slices – can |
| Chicken Breast – can       | Pineapple Chunks   |
| Cream Cheese Frosting      | Wide Egg Noodles   |
| Pumpkin Pie Filling        | Brown Sugar        |
| Cream of Mushroom Soup     | Carrots – can      |

**HAPPY NEW YEAR**  
**2025!**



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**Mission Spotlight**  
**JANUARY—Cru**

Randel and Megan Veccia are a husband and wife ministry team who work together through Cru to serve and evangelize college students at Slippery Rock and other local colleges.

**Here are some of their highlights from 2024:**

- Last spring we took 16 students on a mission trip to Panama City Beach, FL over spring break. While there, students were trained on evangelism and would spend several hours each day on the beach having spiritual conversations with other spring break college students. Here is what God did: 1,246 Spiritual Conversations; 430 Gospel Presentations; 108 Received Christ as Lord and Savior (this is from the entire mission, not just our group).
- This summer we were assigned to work towards gaining new financial partners. God literally just placed people in our path that began to partner with us and saw about \$1000 of monthly support come in.
- We are seeing continued success of discipling students who are discipling others.
- God is drawing students himself in unique ways:  
At the start of this fall, we gave away more Bibles than ever before. Students kept coming up to our tables and asking if they could take a Bible!  
One student shared how they have been reading the Bible for the first time since downloading a Bible app on a whim.  
Another student who identified as atheist a semester ago shared how purposeless she felt, so she began to look into some of the major world religions. She went on to share that she is now agnostic and was about halfway done reading through the Old Testament.

Continued...



**Mission Spotlight**  
**JANUARY—Cru**  
**Continued...**

**Looking ahead to 2025:**

- Randel is scheduled to have open-heart surgery on January 7th. The surgery is to replace his aortic valve, and it is a surgery that he has had before. He will be stepping off campus for at least a month and then return to work as he is able.
- The students will be gathering at the start of the year to plan and prepare for the semester ahead. Please pray that they have a fruitful weekend that will bind them together in the Lord.
- Please pray as they plan another mission trip to Panama City Beach, FL this spring.
- There will be a combined Vision Dinner with the Pitt Metro Cru Team on Saturday, April 5th, 5:30pm @ The Camelot Banquet Hall in Wexford, PA. They hope to raise \$50,000 for their ministries.
- Randel is grateful to have been accepted into a VA Program that will allow him to go to seminary for free! He will begin taking classes in the fall in addition to his work with Cru.

**Confirmation Class 2025**

Attention families of students 7th grade and older--if your young person is interested in confirmation class and joining the church, Pastor Michael will be leading a class this winter and spring. It will consist of 4-5 classes over this timeframe during Sunday school and a Saturday retreat. Families are encouraged to attend an informational meeting on **Sunday, January 12 at 9:30am** in the conference room across from Pastor Michael's office. If you cannot make the meeting, please contact Michael by **Sunday, January 19th** to enroll.

**Communion will be served on:**  
Sunday, January 5, 2025

